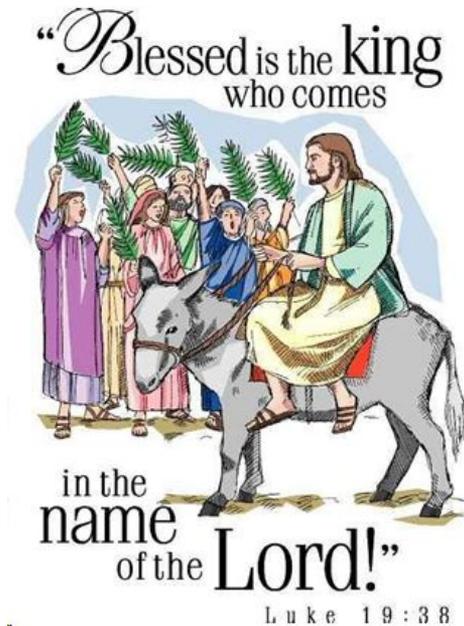


March 2019

THE WARNER MEMO



THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF
WARNER MEMORIAL
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

[March Calendar](#)

FROM THE PASTOR - Another Update



A while back, I used this article to provide an update on the interim period. Having approved a Mission Study Team in Session last summer, completed another CAT Scan and received a very interesting interpretation from two Presbytery colleagues this fall and just recently completed over 50 one-to-one interviews during a fellowship hour after worship, I thought it was time to provide another update.

First and foremost, thank you! For your willingness to complete more than 80 CAT Scans, as well as your attendance at our November congregational meeting to hear what those CATs said. The truth be told, Warner is an interesting congregation. And those aren't my words, church, that's what one of our interpreters said. Overall, our church is healthy. In fact, energy levels and levels of satisfaction in the church put us in the most desirable church ranking. Adaptability, another key characteristic measured by the CAT, was improved over 2016. All of that bodes well for Warner. But as you've heard in both print and voice by now, there were almost no drivers of energy and satisfaction. Honestly, according to our interpretation and the interpretations I've done, that's a little strange. Which is why your Mission Study Team decided we need to dig a little deeper.

Part of that digging deeper started after church on Sunday, February 17th. And thank you again for turning out in such strong numbers. We know it was a little loud down in the Social Hall, we understand you didn't get a chance to think about the questions ahead of time, we get that there were a limited number of questions to answer, but we're thankful for your feedback. Because before we can get started with

our pastoral search process, before we can approve a mission statement and before we can begin to focus our ministry, we need to know if such a focus exists, we need to determine what our mission really is and we need know what we're looking for in our next pastor. Your feedback is invaluable in helping answer some of those questions.

I know this process is taking some time. But I want you to know that we're getting there. And one way or another, we're going to continue to move forward in the months ahead. I can see a search committee, mission statement and focus in the near future. We're going to do a little more with our one-to-ones to make sure all members and friends get a chance to share, we're going to continue to investigate areas of church life such as our finances and we're also going to look closely at our official membership, but please know that we're moving in the right direction. And I look forward to seeing what the future will bring you.

In Christ,
Rev. Todd

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

(Subject to change, by the Holy Spirit!)

Sunday, March 3

Acts 17:16-34
"Athenian Idol"

Wednesday, March 6

Ash Wednesday
Luke 4:1-13
"Preparation"

Sunday, March 10

Celebrate the Gifts of Women
Rev. Mary Gaut, Guest Preacher

Sunday, March 17

Second Sunday in Lent
First Thessalonians 1:1-10
"You Are the Message"

Sunday, March 24

Third Sunday in Lent

First Thessalonians 2:1-12

“Word and Deed”

Sunday, March 31

Fourth Sunday in Lent

First Thessalonians 4:1-12

“More and More”

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

2019 Lenten Dinner Series

During Lent we journey with Christ to the cross and devote time to assess ourselves in light of Christ’s living sacrifice in the Church. Embracing the bodily reality of God’s economy, in this season especially, many have adopted Lenten disciplines to usher in new ways of being into their lives and into the world. It is better done together. Our CE curriculum for this year’s Lenten Dinner Series is created by the Presbyterian Hunger Program.[1] It is a meditation on Luke 12:34 (“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also”) and an invitation to carefully evaluate our human economies in light of God’s economy. We invite you to journey with CE in Lenten devotional study during our Wednesday Night...

Lenten Dinner Series

Four Wednesdays during Lent, March 13 through April 3

6:30 PM – 8:00 PM

Find the schedule on the CE board to offer soup or bread for the potluck dinner! As part of our Lenten Dinner Series, I invite you to participate in a “Carbon Footprint Game” that “was developed and tested by congregations in the national capitol area.”[2] The game is focused on our common call to care for creation. Now it will be offered at WMPC by the Environmental Stewardship Team. For more details, see page 8.

To close, I leave you with some helpful words about Lent (can we say Lentspiration?) from Rev. Barbara Brown Taylor:

"Lent," it is called, from an English word meaning "spring"--not just a reference to the crocuses pushing their ways out of the ground in the season before Easter, but also to the greening of the human soul--pruned with repentance, fertilized with fasting, spritzed with self-appraisal, mulched with prayer. I was at least twenty-five years old before I learned that Lent wasn't about punishing myself for being human--and it took me five more years to figure out that it wasn't about giving up Hershey's or taking on Pilates--so I don't blame anyone who has decided to give Lent a pass. But if you have spent a lot of time and/or money trying to acquire whatever it takes to grow your soul without seeing any new buds, then maybe a little spell in the wilderness is worth a try--a few weeks of choosing to live on less, not more--... not because your regular life is bad but because you want to make sure it is your real life--the one you long to be living... [3]

Dave Grace, DCE

[1] [PHP Considering Our Treasure: A Reflection on Embracing God's Economy](#) (link)

[2] [Carbon Footprint Game](#) (link)

[3] Taylor, Barbara Brown (2010). "The wilderness exam." Day1.org. Retrieved from (link)

COMMISSION TO THE COMMUNITY

Changes In Our Two-Cents-A-Meal Collection



Since September, 1990, Warner has participated in the Presbyterian Church's war on hunger by collecting whatever money our congregation chose to give to the Two-Cents-a-Meal collection taken up on every third Sunday of

every month. Many churches started at the same time that we did, or even earlier, however Warner is the only one we know of that has never faltered in taking up this collection for almost 29 years.

The denomination changed the program's name to Cents-Ability, however we kept the original name because we knew that two cents here and two cents there add up, and we have collected more than \$71,000 over the years. Of course, some persons place larger coins, even paper money and checks, in the little red wagon or in the collection plate, but every little bit is important. There is also a strong connection to the New Testament story of the widow who gave the only two small coins she had.

Until now, we have kept sending 60% of what we collect to Presbytery which keeps some and sends some on to PC(USA), for the Presbyterian Hunger Program, which is the way the program was designed to work, and that money goes to fight hunger world-wide. The 40% we were allowed to keep we directed to local organizations of our own choosing and it has gone to six feeding programs that we know and trust: Rainbow Place, Manna, Shepard's Table, Capital Area Food Bank, F.H.F.H (Farmers and Hunters Feeding the Hungry) and M.U.M. (Mid-County United Ministries).

However, during the last few years two significant changes have taken place:

- 1) The offerings have become smaller, and
- 2) There are fewer persons available to shepherd the program.

So, the Commission to the Community, which is responsible for taking up the collection, thought long and hard about what we should do, took a proposal to Session, and received Session's approval for the following plan:

First: We will count the money donated every other month, rather than every month, so as to require less of a commitment from counters.

Second: Warner is withdrawing from the Cents-Ability program and will be sending 100% of the money our congregation donates to the local feeding programs listed above. We are hopeful that larger amounts will have more impact.

When change happens, we need to celebrate what has been done before, and what we can do in the future.

We celebrate:

- That we belong to a denomination that cares about hungry people, and gives us opportunities to fight hunger not only through this program but also through the One Great Hour of Sharing which devotes 36% of what is collected to The Presbyterian Hunger Program. Warner participates in the OGHS each spring.
- That we are not abandoning this program, we are simply adjusting our focus to concentrate on local agencies.
- That there are many saints who have made this program work. Some of them are still at Warner, but are now otherwise committed, and others have changed their address to heaven. We are grateful for them all.

Warner Receives Grant from Presbytery

You may know that Warner is, one might say, in the “flock” of the National Capital Presbytery, which oversees 108 churches located in Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia. Karen Chamis, Director of Congregational Development and Mission at National

Capital Presbytery, regularly sends all the churches in our Presbytery information about what other churches are doing to respond to events that affect us all. She helps us to be inspired and encourages us take action to be God's hands in the world.

Rev. Karen told us that one church in our Presbytery had begun serving free soup dinners to furloughed government workers. Another was inviting in persons affected by the shutdown to participate in conversation and prayer in order to reawaken their hope and to feel support. Rev. Karen said that the Mission Coordinating Committee had approved the use of the Presbytery Cents-Ability Fund to offer grants on a first come, first served basis, to those churches that would be operating or contributing to programs for those affected by the shutdown, especially if they were working with an organization that could appropriately use any funds that might be left when the shutdown was over.

Cents-Ability is the successor to the Two-Cents-A-Meal program in which Warner has participated for decades. We traditionally kept 40% of this offering at Warner, sending the other 60% to the Presbytery, which kept part for the local hunger fund and sent part to the Presbyterian Hunger Program of PC(USA).

When the CTC (Commission to the Community) learned that the Deacons had already sent \$500 to MUM, an organization to which we have strong ties and which is well qualified to help people who are hungry, we voted to send MUM \$500 as well, and so we asked Presbytery to provide us with a one-time matching grant for \$1000, which we would also give to MUM. We are happy to say that we were awarded the grant, and that \$2000 has now been sent to MUM: \$1000 from Warner and \$1000 from the Presbytery. The government shutdown is over, but the security of having a government job has

been shaken, and there are still people affected in its aftermath – especially contract employees who will never receive pay for the work they lost.

Ina Rae Kramer

Environmental Stewardship News

The Environmental Stewardship Team invites you to participate in a “Carbon Footprint Game” during Lent. The game is focused on our common call to care for creation, and it allows all community members to say how God calls them to act in the world in terms of the following four subject areas: home energy, food and water, transportation, recycling and reuse.



During Lent a large “Carbon Footprint” display will be set up. For each subject area, there are ideas, inspiration, social justice actions, and STICKERS! The object of the Carbon Footprint game is to cover the big, black Carbon Footprint as much as possible with stickers that you post for each earth care action you already do or pledge to do in future. Reducing this visible black footprint symbolizes the congregation reducing our own carbon footprints.

The goal is for the game to be fun – but it has a serious side as well. Extreme weather and climate change are felt first and most strongly by people who are poor. Immigrants, minorities and poor neighbors are disproportionately exposed to environmental hazards that include pesticides, lead, landfills, polluting industrial facilities, pipelines and incinerators.

The PC(USA) calls each of us to strive to live carbon-neutral lives, so share what YOU are doing! In collaboration with the Christian Education Commission, each Wednesday night in the Lenten Evening Series we will have a chance to learn a bit more about the Carbon Footprint topic of that week.

June Eakin



Harriet Rabbit here!

It is time to think about Easter Baskets! Not just any ole baskets but those made for the Children at the Children's Inn at NIH. Most certainly we will need baskets. Preferably white or natural in color.

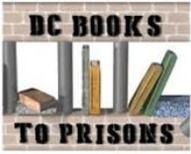


Not too big but maybe 6" x 8", 8x 10" or 8" dia. Then we'll need **green** Easter grass. Most importantly, we'll need Easter candies! And the good stuff! The kids drooled over the candy in the last few years, please don't let them down this year! That means, Lindt, Godiva, Ghirardelli & Hershey! No peanuts, no hard candy and nothing home made. These children are staying at the Inn as out-patients having treatments at the Clinical Center. Personally, I'd rather take their place than have them there. Let's give them baskets to remember! Keep an eye on the PW bulletin board for Easter Basket news!

Love to each & all,

Harriet Rabbit

DC Books To Prisons



One of PW's local mission efforts is supporting DC Books to Prisons, which provides free, donated books to state and federal prisons in 34 states.

Because Books to Prisons operates out of a very small space in Foundry United Methodist Church in DC, there are sometimes more books than space on the shelves. This is currently the case, so for the next few months, PW has decided to contribute postage stamps rather than books as our focus during Lent.

Postage stamps are very much needed, and take up a lot less space than books! PW will happily receive your monetary donations and purchase the stamps for you.

The following information is from the DC Books to Prisons website (www.dcbookstoprisoners.org):

"Monetary donations cover the cost of postage and are greatly appreciated. Books to Prisons is a project of the Washington Peace Center. Donations to the Washington Peace Center — a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization — are fully tax-deductible.

If you prefer, you can send self-adhesive postage stamps instead of a check or money order. All denominations are welcome. We especially appreciate stamps worth \$1 or \$2."

Contributions of stamps or money to purchase stamps may be put in an envelope marked for PW and placed in the offering plate. You will find brochures outside of the CE office with more information. Thank you, Warnerites, for supporting this project.

JoEllen LaPrade & Lena Aspiras

Warner Cookbook - 2019 Edition!

The Warner PW Cookbook Committee (Lisa Smeallie, Chelsea Cook, & Sue Burns) are ramping up the planning and getting to the “nitty gritty” work required to get the next Warner Cookbook to press in time to have it available in the fall of 2019. Lisa has been busily sorting and indexing the >240 recipes received thus far, Sue is praying for creative inspiration regarding a title and theme for the introduction, and Chelsea, our technical consultant, will soon be reviewing submissions for accuracy, duplication, and “sensibility”.



You may recall that we are planning to highlight dishes that have been served at various food events at Warner. To that end, we have one last request of all Warnerites: if there any personal favorites that you’ve tasted at a church function and would like to see included in the cookbook or if you have any other recipes of your own that you would still like to submit, please let us know ASAP by sending an email to Lisa (lcsmeallie@comcast.net) or by placing a copy of the recipe in the PW box in the church office. Please indicate the Warner event at which it was served, if you recall. Since the work entailed with publishing a cookbook is considerable, we want to make sure we make the most of this opportunity! We are very excited about this endeavor and hope it will be both popular with, as well as useful to, all Warnerites.

WARNER PEOPLE

Our Newest Arrival



Ovilee Rose Praskavich was born on the last day of 2018, to Kabara and Michael Praskavich. (Pronunciation is easier if you remember that every one of these names is accented on the first syllable.) You may not have met these people, but Kabara has been worshipping as part of the Warner family for about a year. She works as a lawyer with a law firm in Tysons, although she is now on maternity leave at home in the Wheaton area. Ovilee allows her to sleep at night, thanks to a tag team of grandparents.

Directory



Have you moved or changed your email address or phone number? If so, call or email the church office asap. A new directory will be printed in early March.



- 1 Jenny Letizia
- 2 Abby Massey
- 4 Harper Katherine Batis, Louise MacDonald,
Petrina-Nathalie Harrell-Mitchell
- 5 Diane Schroeder
- 6 Antonio Robinson
- 8 Susie Sun
- 9 Bruce Bowen
- 10 Larry Pinkus
- 11 Emily Bragg
- 14 Geoff Cope, Glee Lohm
- 16 Edwin Brown
- 17 Shalini Puri
- 18 Charlie Castner
- 19 Pam Dunn
- 20 Elizabeth Bunn, Alice Castner
- 23 Ghislaine Mogo
- 24 Ida Yoder
- 28 Ruth Harvey
- 29 Hannah Cope, Doug Seeley
- 30 Karen Cook
- 31 Elnora Gloss, Dawn Rhine

WARNER WELCOMING STATEMENT

All people are of sacred worth and God loves everyone without exception. We welcome all people into our worship, fellowship, membership, and leadership. Believers, seekers, and doubters are all welcome at Warner. We are an affirming and supportive spiritual community that celebrates God's infinite love, wisdom, and grace through worship, music, education, mission, and fellowship. Though we are all unique, we are united in loving and praising God and in loving each other. We are committed to communing together in such a way that we give witness to Christ's sacrificial life, redeeming death, and glorious resurrection. Loved and accepted by God, our congregation offers love and acceptance to all.

Warner Memorial Presbyterian Church

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Please see bulletin boards outside the Main Office

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Director of Christian Education: Dave Grace

Director of Music: Peter Smeallie

Organist: Sungho Paik

Learning Center for Young Children: Rana Oriolo

301-949-2933

Office Manager/Administrative Assistant: Dina Bickel

Sunday Morning Preschool/Nursery Aide: Shervonne Johnson

Warner Weekly: outreach@warnermemorial.org

Warner MEMO: memo@warnermemorial.org

The Warner

MEMO

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