

April 2019

THE WARNER MEMO



THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF
WARNER MEMORIAL
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

[April Calendar](#)

FROM THE PASTOR - Per Capita



I know, I know, I'm starting to sound like a broken record. LOL. But seriously, if you've been in worship during the past couple of months, you've probably heard me talk about per capita. And not just a few times, but a lot. Like every week a lot. Like I said, broken record. But I promise, church, this is it. This is the last time I talk about the way we fund the larger church.

According to General Assembly Minutes from 1995, "Per capita is an opportunity for all communicant members of the Presbyterian church through the governing bodies to participate equally, responsibly and interdependently by sharing the cost of coordination and evaluation of mission; and of performing ecclesiastical, legislative and judicial functions that identify a Reformed Church, while at the same time strengthening the sense of community among all Presbyterians." In other words, per capita is a set amount of money (based on official church membership numbers from the preceding year) that congregations provide to support the larger church.

As you may have heard in worship, our per capita apportionment for 2019 is a just few cents shy of \$42. To make it easy on you, we've gone ahead and called it \$42. That's \$42 for every official member of the church to support the ministry of our larger church via National Capital Presbytery, the Synod of the Mid Atlantic and the Office of the General Assembly. By the way, if you're not on the official membership rolls, but you worship regularly and participate actively, even irregularly and not as actively, we'll gladly accept your \$42. I mean, you might not be able to vote or hold office, but you do just about everything else! And you know that you're a beloved member of our Warner family. So pay up! Just kidding. Well, kind of. Listen, I'm not trying to guilt you into it, I just want us to remember that

we're a part of something larger. This isn't about Warner, this is about our denomination. I hope we remember that and, yes, fund that.

Last year, we received \$3,336 in per capita offerings. To all those who gave, thank you! But guess what? Our portion here at Warner was over \$8,000. Sounds like we've got some work to do, church, more like some funds to raise. And this year is no different. So far, through February, we've received a little more than \$2,500 in per capita offerings. Again, thank you for your gifts! Still, we've got some more larger-church funding to do. This year, by my calculations anyways, the church will be expected to contribute closer to \$9,000. Please help us do that.

In closing, let me say one more thing. This isn't just about per capita. Honestly, it's more about stewardship as a whole. Warner is full of generous people. We fund all sorts of mission projects. This is a mission project—the mission of our larger church. And as with every other church mission, we need your support. Thank you!

Peace,
Rev. Todd

WORSHIP SCHEDULE **(Subject to change, by the Holy Spirit!)**

Sunday, April 7

Fifth Sunday in Lent

First Thessalonians 5:16-24

Waiting Room Faith

Sunday, April 14

Palm and Passion Sunday

Luke 19:28-40, Luke 23:13-25,

Luke 23:33-49

Three Crowds

Thursday, April 18, 7:30 p.m.

Maundy Thursday

Luke 22

Lessons & Hymns with
the Lord's Supper

Friday, April 19, 12:00 noon

Good Friday

Luke 23:46

Into Your Hands!

Sunday, April 21, 8:00, 11:00 a.m.

Easter Sunrise & Easter Sunday

Luke 24:1-12

Six Buts

Sunday, April 28

Second Sunday of Easter

Scripture: TBD

Guest Preacher

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Lenten Dinner Series Reflection

After being sent into the wilderness on Ash Wednesday, we now are sent into the city to face the coming of Good Friday and Easter Sunday. But how do we reconcile the death of Friday with the resurrection of Sunday? Preaching at 4th Presbyterian Church, John Buchanan notes:

We are Easter people, we Christians are, but we live in a Good Friday world. Many have said that (see Anne Lamott, p. 12). We know what it means. Easter is coming, but not until Good Friday. (Mar 20, 2005, [link](#))

“We are an Easter People living in a Good Friday World.” Like any good preaching hook, the phrase has a long shelf-life and attribution proves difficult. Buchanan’s sermon acknowledges wide use of the phrase, and cites p.12 of Lamott’s 2004 book titled *Plan B: Further Thoughts on Faith* for more detail. Of course, p.12 was hidden from Google preview, but p.140 was not, and there the saying was attributed to Barbara Johnson. This attribution was repeated in an April 18, 2011 NPR interview with Lamott ([link](#)).

The phrase sticks with you, as it has stuck with me, and it has apparently stuck with Anne Lamott as well as John Buchanan. Earlier, in 1986 John Paul II wrote “We are an Easter People and Alleluia is our song!” – the phrase was in quotes but without attribution ([link](#)). In 1981, Edmond Cullinan attested to the widespread nature of this saying, and pushed back against the “slogan” in a way that brings us full circle:

We have all heard the slogan: 'We are an Easter people and "Alleluia" is our song'. A more appropriate one would probably be: 'We are an Advent people and "Come Lord Jesus" is our prayer'. We do not always experience the joy of the resurrection.[i]

Several searches yield a popular attribution to the 4th century church father, Augustine, but again without a specific work and my excavations ended there.

What this search demonstrates, I think, is that Christian proclamation of the Easter message has a context. That context is the very real death in today’s world and ongoing sacrifice of human and nonhuman communities. The joy of Easter must not be artificially dislocated from the death of a Good Friday world. Without dislocation, what does it look like to proclaim “Alleluia” today?

Various forms of advertising offer us consumerist images of Christian proclamation. Popular musician, Andy Grammar, proclaims “I think I finally found my Alleluia” in his 2014 song “Good to Be Alive (Hallelujah)” as we watch him drive around in a Lamborghini convertible in the music video.

As a contrast to these consumerist images of Alleluia, I offer two recent General Assembly policies of our denomination – the PC(USA) – that provide some vision of what it means to proclaim an Easter message in a Good Friday world – a world groaning under worsening conditions of climate change. These policies are “The Earth Is the

Lord's—Not Ours to Ruin: Priorities for a New Moral Era” (08-06) and “On Supporting Carbon Pricing” (08-12). The former is a “Call upon the whole church to raise a prophetic voice regarding the urgency of healing the climate of the earth, our home and God’s gift for the future of all life, human and nonhuman” and the latter urges policy advocacy for reducing greenhouse gas emissions through “just carbon pricing.”

On the journey of our Lenten Dinner Series, we are asking what it looks like to embrace God’s economy, the Kingdom of God. We are looking carefully at our food, home energy, transportation, and our stuff. We are also seeking to understand how our individual actions relate to the greater economies we participate in.

Lenten disciplines – traditionally fasting, prayer, almsgiving – are a way of entering into the season to reorder our desires, to embrace God’s economy. In partnership with the Carbon Footprint Game, the Lenten Study is asking us to consider how our Lenten disciplines and our Christian discipleship in general are already a response to climate change: we are seeking to open our eyes to the city and – as Rev. Todd noted on 3/17 – to see that we are a message. May we be an Easter message in this Good Friday world.

Dave Grace, C.E. Director

[i] Cullinan, Edmond. “Reflections on the November Liturgy.” *The Furrow*, vol. 32, no. 11, 1981, pp. 725–733. JSTOR, www.jstor.org/stable/27661246.

COMMISSION TO THE COMMUNITY

Kensington/North Chevy Chase ~ Connected

Did you know that clergy from many of the religious institutions in our area meet together periodically? The group is called the

Kensington/North Chevy Chase Ministerium and it has existed for decades. It even has a [Facebook page](#).

This group exists to foster good relationships among the clergy and their congregations, to share information about what is going on in each place of worship, and to host a joint Thanksgiving Worship Service that is held annually at a different place each year, to which everyone is invited. It always includes lots of wonderful music and singing and a freewill offering is collected for a cause that is agreed on each year by the Ministerium members. If you have never attended one of these evening Thanksgiving Worship Services, you should not let another year go by without marking the date, when it is announced, on your calendar. It is an inspiring experience.

Two years ago the lay leaders of the groups within each institution commissioned to reach out to those in need decided we also would like to begin meeting periodically, to foster good relationships, to share information about what it is each institution does, and to look for ways that we might combine our efforts to strengthen our impact and build community. We met with the Ministerium, and were given a beautiful name: The Kensington/North Chevy Chase Interfaith Consortium for Justice and Compassion (ICJC). We are still very young, but we are getting to know one another better, and when we receive invitations from one another, we post those invitations so that everyone who attends our services can consider whether to show up at our neighbor's place of worship and participate with them. Watch the Commission to the Community bulletin board for ICJC announcements to begin appearing after Easter.

Ina Rae Kramer

One Great Hour of Sharing

Every spring we have the privilege of making a great difference in the lives of people who would otherwise be desperate for help. Through One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) we can help people who are hungry, or

overwhelmed by disaster, or powerless against the forces of a society that has left them behind.

For example, in Puerto Rico, several thousand people have lived along a canal for generations, in family homes often with only informal title to the land. But in recent years wealthy outsiders have tried to move in and push these long-time residents off the land. With OGHS money, the Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People helped the residents form a land trust and stronger communities to protect their homes and livelihoods.

When Hurricane Maria hit in 2017, these communities replaced the roofs on over 1200 homes, and repaired or rebuilt many more. This was made possible with OGHS money channeled through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. The photo shows one resident with his sturdy new roof. As a



visitor said, “To go to this guy’s house and basically have him say, ‘They saved my life,’ and looking up at his roof and seeing that, wow,

this is not just a patched roof, it is an entire structure that these folks have built for this guy ... [that] was really powerful.”

More recently in another part of the world, news reports have called the civil war in Yemen one of the world’s worst humanitarian disasters. The Presbyterian Hunger Program wanted to help, but had no church-related partners there. After investigating various possibilities, they decided to partner with a local development organization, Generations without Qat. This past December, OGHS organizations provided money to support a planned project on the coast of Yemen, which will provide fishing kits and training to almost 500 families of “internally displaced people”, that is, refugees in their own country. These families will then be able to feed themselves and earn money by selling fish in local markets.

This is what OGHS does: It goes where there is great need, gets to the problems’ root causes (land in Puerto Rico, displacement in Yemen), and supports local people who are working on long-term solutions.

Envelopes will be in the pews and in the printed issue of this Memo. Please make any checks out to Warner, and write “OGHS” on the memo line of the check. Thank you very much for your generosity.

Cory Atwood

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

April is Earth month at Warner. It is the time when we celebrate our new life in Christ through the Resurrection, and also a time when our natural environment once again springs forth in abundant life.



April 7 - For [Faith Climate Action Week](#), our Environmental Stewardship Team (EST) will set up information tables during Fellowship Hour. There will be a representative of the new community solar project, Neighborhood Sun. EST members will provide information on the Citizens Climate Lobby (CCL), local plants and invasive weeds, young plants to take home, advocacy cards from Interfaith Power & Light, local recycling guidelines, and the culmination of our Carbon Footprint Game. Bring your curiosity and your hope to Fellowship Hour on Sunday, April 7.

April 28 [Kensington Day of the Book Festival](#) (11:00 - 3:00) - The EST will host a table next to the town's Greenscape committee in Reinhardt Park. We plan to give away worms in a vermiculture demonstration, give away plants, offer information on local recycling and share our message of climate justice.

April 28 Field Trip to the [2019 Montgomery County GreenFest at Brookside Gardens](#) (11:00-4:00) - We are organizing carpools to GreenFest to leave right after worship. We need drivers! If you are interested in attending (as driver or rider), contact anyone on the EST.

June Eakin

BUILDING & GROUNDS

Spring Workday Saturday April 6

From 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m, join in the camaraderie of working side-by-side with your WMPC church family and LCYC parents. Everyone is welcome, we'll find a task to match to your abilities! Lunch will be provided by and for volunteers. Some projects need to be completed on a different day (ie. Clean the kitchen) so contact June Eakin or Susan Kline to choose a project.

If you're reading this too late for Workday – there are always small projects to be accomplished. Sometimes the weather on workday prevents work. So contact a B&G member if you're willing to volunteer to keep up our buildings and grounds occasionally.

With the coming of warmer weather, please remember to shut windows if you open them!

We have two 4-drawer file cabinets (not locking) to give away. Do you know an organization who might want them?

June Eakin



Spring Breakaway

The Bresees have, once again, kindly offered us their lovely mountain home for May 10/11th this year. We plan to take full advantage and leave the hustle and bustle of the DMV behind and head for the hills of West Virginia. If you are interested in joining the fun, please let one of the PW CT members know ASAP.



Carpools will be arranged as needed. Expenses will cover food and will depend on the food selected for dinner, lunch, and breakfast for the weekend. Please contact Sue Burns if you would like to join us.

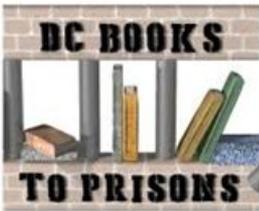
Sue Burns

NCP Presbyterian Women Spring Gathering

Join Sue Burns, June Eakin and JoEllen LaPrade at the National Capital Presbytery PW Spring Gathering on Saturday April 27, 8:30-12:30 at Silver Spring Presbyterian Church. There will be a light breakfast, a program on Racial Equity Communications, the annual meeting, and worship with communion. Cost is \$15, payable at the door. If you'd like to come, please contact Sue Burns by April 19. It's close to us this year, so we're hoping for a good turnout from Warner!

June Eakin

Books to Prisons



Just a reminder that PW has decided to contribute postage stamps rather than books to Books to Prisons 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. All denominations are welcome. Stamps worth \$1 or \$2 are especially appreciated. Place your money or stamps in an envelope marked for PW and place it in the offering plate. You will find brochures outside of the CE office with more information on DC Books to Prisons. Thank you, Warnerites, for supporting this project.

JoEllen LaPrade & Lena Aspiras

Warner Cookbook - 2019 Edition!



The Warner PW Cookbook Committee (Lisa Smeallie, Chelsea Cook, and Sue Burns) are going full-steam ahead toward a late August deadline to submit the cookbook for printing, with plans to have it available for purchase in late November. We would still like you to submit your own recipe or let us know of any personal favorites that you've tasted at a church function and would like to see included in the cookbook. Please let us know **BY 1 MAY** 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. (Don't forget to include your name!) 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.

Sue Burns, Chelsea Cook and Lisa Smeallie

WORSHIP & MUSIC

Do You Come to Church on Sundays?

If you come to church on Sundays, please consider "Serving Warner" as one of your ministries. We need ushers who can come 20-30 minutes early and set up the church for our services. We need ushers who can stay 15 minutes after the service to put everything away and lock up the church doors. It would be great if someone (strong) who comes early for pre-service activities could regularly take out the vehicle drop off signs we place at the curb. Time required - 5 minutes.

Training provided (it's easy)! You are here anyway (no extra driving). You work with other great people like yourself. You serve God and Warnerites. What's to lose? Please sign up on the chart outside the office or contact Kay Gorman.

Kay Gorman

WARNER PEOPLE



- 1 Grace Hill
- 2 Andrew Bresee
- 4 Amy Brammer
- 5 Kathy France, Jeffrey Meredith
- 8 June Eakin
- 9 Mary Lou Armstrong
- 11 Keith Harrell-Mitchell
- 12 John Barber, Karen Buitano
- 20 Ted Rosché
- 23 Ed Burr, Doris Robbins
- 27 Rana Oriolo
- 29 Judy Burr, Adeline Harrell-Mitchell, Lee Perry
- 30 Hati deJesus

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

10123 Connecticut Avenue

Kensington, MD 20895

301-949-2900

FAX 301-933-7704

Home Page: <http://www.warnermemorial.org>

Please see bulletin boards outside the Main Office

Interim Pastor: Rev. Todd Sutton

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
Published monthly by the
Warner Memorial Presbyterian Church
10123 Connecticut Avenue
Kensington, MD 20895
301-949-2900

CHANGE SERVICE
REQUESTED