

December 2017

THE WARNER MEMO

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
OF WARNER MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



[December Calendar](#)

FROM THE PASTOR

Giving Thanks

Two little words, church--that's all it takes. Just two little words: *Thank You!* And whether you say that to God, a family member, your neighbor, a friend, somebody at church or even a total stranger, those two little words make a huge difference. And not just for those we thank, but for ourselves, as well.

As I've mentioned in my sermons the past couple of weeks, I love Thanksgiving! Honestly, that would've been pretty hard to miss. So, some of you have heard it before, but what's not to love? Turkey, green bean casserole, macaroni and cheese, cranberry sauce from a can and, of course, mashed potatoes and gravy? Seriously, what's not to love? Time off of work spent with family and friends watching football? That's the very definition of lovely. At least it is for me. And as far as the football goes, it's not just Thursday--it's Friday, Saturday and Sunday, too. So, yes, I love Thanksgiving.

But, it's not just the food and family, free time and football. Actually, all that is really just a bonus. It's the opportunity to think about all the things we're thankful for, and the opportunity to say *Thank You*. That seems so simple, doesn't it? And yet it's so easy to take things for granted. It's human nature, church; we get used to things. Many of us have been blessed. Very. We've always had a home, enough to eat, health insurance, people who love us and the list goes on. And because we've always had those things, we can forget what wonderful gifts they all are. It's also easy during this time of year (especially with Christmas just around the corner) to get so busy that we just forget to say thanks; to run out of time or fall out from exhaustion at the end of a long day ... without saying thanks. By the way, don't beat yourself up over all this. If that happens, well, it happens. God is gracious. Remember that, and say "thanks be to God"!

I don't know if you've ever heard this little phrase, but some in our faith community like to talk about an *attitude of gratitude*. Sort of

like the whole *reason for the season* thing, it's the kind of phrase that can suffer from overuse. But stop and think about it, because it really is quite powerful. Church, that sort of attitude, focus, outlook, spirit really, can change our life, not to mention making an impact on the lives of others.

So, before I end this column, let's practice just a bit. Thank you, God, for another great Thanksgiving. And thank you for a delicious Harvest Brunch the Sunday before. And thanks for all of our pledges and offerings, time and talents. Thank you for all of our gifts, God, especially the gift of Jesus.

Thanks be to God!
Rev. Todd

WORSHIPING TOGETHER

Lessons and Carols, and a scripture and sermon series planned for Advent, Christmas, Epiphany and Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Sunday, December 3rd

*First Sunday in Advent/
Lord's Supper
Luke 1:26-56
"Mary: A Nobody from
Nowhere"*

Sunday, December 10th

*Second Sunday in Advent
Matthew 1
"Joseph: Jesus' Other
Father"*

Sunday, December 17th

*Third Sunday in Advent
Meditation in Music
A Festival of Readings and
Carols*

Sunday Morning,

December 24th

*Fourth Sunday in Advent
Family Service*



Sunday Evening,

December 24th

*Christmas Eve
Luke 2:1-20
"The Shepherds: Night
Shift"*

Sunday, December 31st

1st Sunday after Christmas

Luke 2:21-40

“Devout Mr. Simeon and Ms. Anna the Prophet: Church People”



Sunday, January 7th

Epiphany Sunday/Lord's Supper

Isaiah 60:1-7,

Matthew 2:1-12

“The Magi: Baby Shower”

Sunday, January 14th

Second Sunday after Epiphany/Martin Luther King, Jr. Sunday

Exodus 14:1-18,

Matthew 2:13-23

“Joseph, Mary and Jesus, A Refugee Family: Called Out”

Every day of the year, you can help the M.U.M. food pantry by bringing in cans and packages of non-perishable food for our barrel in the church narthex. Thank you for helping our neighbors in need!

WORSHIP AND MUSIC

Christmas Eve Services at 11 a.m. and 11 p.m.

Because Christmas Eve is on Sunday this year, we will be modifying the schedule for our services on Dec. 24. Rather than having three services, our Sunday morning (11:00 a.m.) service will be our special Christmas Eve service for children. *There will be no 7:00 p.m. service.* The candlelight service will continue to be at 11:00 p.m.



--Kay Gorman

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

All Ages:

Sunday, Dec 3: Intergenerational Sunday School (See below)

Youth Events:

Saturday, Dec 23: Service at DC Books to Prisons & Youth rehearsal for Christmas Eve Service

Wednesday, Dec 27: Brookside Garden light show & Ice-skating

Intergenerational Sunday school on the first Sunday of Advent:

December 3rd, from 9:45 to 10:25 in the Common Room

The season of Advent is upon us, and we move liturgically from ordinary time into a season of waiting and preparation. Advent (December 3rd to 24th) anticipates Christmas day on December 25th. Though Jesus was born some two thousand years ago, Advent devotion is still a timely practice in faithful Christian life. We, the Church, are still living in a time between cross and resurrection, resurrection and eschaton. In this time in between time, we are still invited to be made new, to have our minds renewed as all creation is being made new. During each of the four Sundays of Advent, we light candles. Reflect on the meaning of these candles:

"In the ancient world, various peoples lit fires to mark the turning of the light into winter's season and to pray for the return of the light. The church has Christianized that practice in the lighting of the Advent wreath. To us, these candles are signs of the growing light of Christ who is coming again in all fullness into the darkness of our world. Until the dawning of that Great Day, we watch and wait in Holy Spirit for Christ's coming into the darkness of our world, lighting candles of hope, peace, joy, and love; and remembering the promises of God with prayer." (PC(USA) Office of Theology & Worship)

Join us this Sunday, for our intergenerational Sunday School, where we will construct Advent wreaths for you to take home with you and bring these signs of the light of Christ into your home as we prepare for the daylight of Christmas. We invite families and individuals of all ages to attend. Please bring a vase/bowl/tin to hold a floral foam square (4"x4"), which is the base of the wreath. We will have supplies for one wreath per household.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS

New Landscaping Across the Street

Have you noticed the new landscaping on our grassy parking lot on Prospect Street? It was installed in November by Father Nature Landscaping, LLC, and paid for by the sellers of the new home next door. All of the plants are native or cultivars of native plants that will provide homes and sustenance for urban wildlife, with low maintenance. It will not only provide a screen from Connecticut Avenue for the new owners, but is also a complement to the landscaping next to the church building.



Volunteers Wanted

The Commission on B&G has several projects underway and many small maintenance and repair jobs. Just three examples: leaking faucet, window a/c insulation, cleaning ceiling light fixtures. If you're willing to lend a hand, please contact June Eakin. *"You don't have to wait for workday!"*

–June Eakin

COMMUNITY – MISSION

Be an Angel to Angel Tree Gift Recipients

In ancient Greek, an angel was a messenger. In the New Testament, angels brought "tidings of great joy." The purpose of the Warner 2017 Angel Tree is to bring great joy to many children with the message of love and happiness during this very special Christmas season and throughout the year.

Our Angel Tree will be on the stage in the fellowship hall during Advent. Bring a new gift to the tree for a toddler, teen-ager, or any age in between – a toy, hat or gloves, game, or sporting equipment. Leave the gift unwrapped. Tape an ornament from the tree on your gift and place it under the tree.

You will be a modern-day angel bringing great joy to a child and celebrating the gift of Christ's birth and God's love. Thank you for your generosity and kindness. All donations will be given to Interfaith Works.

–Susan Bresee for The Commission to the Community

2017 Christmas Joy Offering

In December the Commission to the Community will begin collecting the annual PC(USA) **Christmas Joy Offering**.

The purpose of the Joy Offering has always been: 1. To support Presbyterian workers, both active and retired, who have unusual financial needs, and 2. To support five church-related schools and colleges that aim to educate promising students from ethnic or racial minorities.

The printed December MEMO will include gift envelopes; For those of you who receive the MEMO electronically, the envelopes for your use will be found in the pew racks during Advent. May your preparation for the Season of Peace and Joy begin!

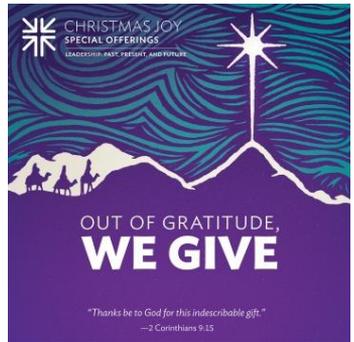
Peace & Global Witness Offering—Collection Update

With gratitude for Warner's generosity, I can report that our total collection for this PC(USA) Special Offering is \$1,455.00.

Thank you for providing support for those whose freedom is in peril, whose dignity is not respected, whose beliefs and practices are not understood or tolerated. Thank you for caring for our brothers and sisters of all ages everywhere who need us to support our denomination's peacemaking efforts, as well as our own.

We have records of Warner's collection of this special offering since 1990. That first year, the congregation gave less than \$1,000 in support of the Peacemaking effort, but ever since, no matter what the size of our congregation, the knowledge of our responsibility to those who need to experience peace has grown as has our giving, and we continue to do what we can to provide help for God's beloved. Thank you for your faithfulness.

--Ina Rae Kramer



BOARD OF DEACONS

Manna Smart Sacks Collection



During the Israelites forty-year journey, God provided food from heaven for them when they were hungry. In Montgomery County, the Manna organization provides food for our hungry, especially for children who are the most vulnerable to lasting health and mental effects of nutritional deprivation. Shockingly for our rich and

comfortable County, almost one-third of school children depend on free and reduced meals at school. On weekends, they must get by with much less. Manna tries to fill the gap between nutritional meals at school and less food on weekends. Manna collects food and then prepares backpacks, called Smart Sacks, of balanced, healthy foods for children to take home on weekends. Nutrition provided now prevents more costly problems later.



For this purpose, our Warner Deacons stood outside the Kensington Safeway for four hours on a windy, chilly day to collect non-perishable food for the Manna Smart Sacks program. The community responded generously and compassionately with more than fifty grocery bags of rice, beans, baby food, pasta, canned meats, fruits, and vegetables. We were delighted! We thank you all for your support of the Deacon ministry of Christ's care and love. "For what you do for the least of these, you do for me."

--article by Susan Bresee, photos from Alan Schroeder

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP



Good News--Energy Use Declines at WMPC

Over the past several years, we have used the EPA Energy Star Portfolio Manager to track energy and water use. The summary results indicate our annual energy use has been trending down since 2014. In 2014, our annual CO₂ emissions were 60 metric tons, falling to 54 in 2015 and to 50 for 2016. Our greatest reduction has been in natural gas use, but we have also had a small reduction in electric. How was this accomplished? An energy audit in 2013 helped us know where to focus our efforts. In 2014, the sanctuary attic received upgraded insulation; in 2015, we replaced the leaking ground floor radiant heat and baseboard heat with wall convectors in classrooms and split system HVAC for the Social Hall, plus the building had a lighting retrofit to LED lighting; and in 2016, efforts moved forward on more LED installations and weatherproofing. We will report the results for 2017 in coming months. These modifications were made possible by your generous giving to the capital campaign (the insulation), a bequest from Chris Maguire, and a grant from PEPCO.

–June Eakin

Save-the-Date for Advocacy

January 21, 2018, 1:30 p.m.-3:00 p.m. the Sunday Speakers Series will feature guests from the PC(USA) Office of Public Witness, Friends Committee on National Legislation, and Interfaith Power and Light. Learn more about federal and state environmental policy and participate in a hands-on training that energizes and informs us about speaking to elected officials about policy that impacts creation. (See following article for more information.)

**Commission to the Community Sunday Speaker Series on
Environmental Legislation**

January 21, 1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Featuring presentations by:

Nora Lecessee: Interim Associate for Domestic Poverty and Environmental Issues, PC(USA) Office of Public Witness (OPW)

Emily Wirzba: Legislative Representative, Sustainable Energy & Environment at Friends Committee on National Legislation (FNCL)

Avery Davis: Program Manager, DC/MD/VA Interfaith Power and Light (IPL)

Learn more about federal and state environmental policy, including:

- The Maryland Clean Energy Jobs campaign, which has three primary facets: (1) Increase the Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) to 50% by 2030, (2) provide increased funding for clean energy jobs programs benefiting minority populations, and (3) remove trash incineration from the RPS. Read more about the campaign here: <https://www.cleanenergyjobs.org/>
- The bipartisan house climate solutions caucus. Read about the FNCL's new center to host bipartisan dialogue, promoting this work <https://t.co/Mr98iDhf7z>

The event will also include a hands-on training that energizes and informs us about speaking to elected officials about policy that impacts creation.

–Dave Grace

HOSPITALITY

Harvest Brunch & Gift Fair Thanks!!



Virtually all Warnerites played a critical role in the fun and enjoyment generated by this year's Warner's Harvest Brunch. Whether you were planning, shopping, chopping, schlepping, stirring, baking, decorating, flower-arranging, pumpkin-placing, or eating.... You were a part of the fun!

Many thanks go to the intrepid team of folk who showed up Saturday morning for the preparation, Sunday morning for final set-up, or stayed afterward on Sunday to clean-up! We were joking, only partially, that helping with clean-up after Harvest Brunch is as special as snow on Christmas Day! I have included a collage of photos taken on Saturday, November 18th, that captures just some of the helpers busy at work, but I know there were many more folk who helped to make for a fun and tasty event ... and thanks to Lora McGlade, June Eakin, and JoEllen LaPrade, we were able to get a jumpstart on our holiday shopping!

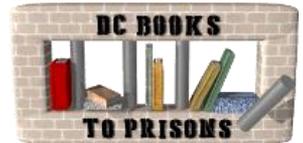


PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Each year in November, Warner PW holds its annual meeting to elect new Coordinating Team Officers for applicable positions, take a bit of time to ponder PW activities and progress over the past twelve months, and feature a guest speaker to inform us about a current topic of interest. On November 12th, we elected and welcomed three new officers: Marilyn Victory as Co-Moderator, Lora McGlade to be Vice Moderator, and Chelsea Cook as our Secretary. On January 21st, they will be installed during worship and officially join Lena Aspiras, our current co-Moderator, and JoEllen LaPrade, who is our current Treasurer. Sue Burns and Karen Cook, as the out-going Co-Moderator and Secretary, respectively, have served for two successive terms. Both plan to remain on the CT as members and are excited to be passing the baton on to such talented and enthusiastic women. Please wish our 2018 CT slate well--and better yet--consider how you may want to participate in 2018.



Our guest speaker this year was Michele Fernandez, who shared information about Books



to Prisons, an organization at which PW have been volunteering in recent months. Promoting both literacy and personal growth is so important and rewarding!

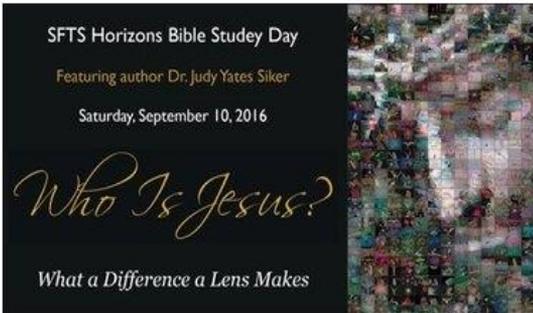


Speaking of volunteering, an intergenerational group of women: Karen, Leigh and Charlotte Cook, Julia Cope, JoEllen LaPrade and June Eakin shook off their post-Thanksgiving fog on Saturday, November 25th to select

books per inmates' requests, and pen a personal note to each as they filled their orders. It was a beautiful day to venture downtown and then enjoy a tasty lunch afterwards at a favorite Greek Bistro, Zorbas. We will publicize future dates so you can have an opportunity to join us. To learn more, check out their website, dcbookstoprisoners.org.



Joy Circle/PW Christmas Gathering



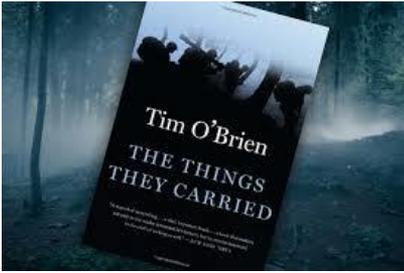
Joy Circle takes a holiday break from their current study, “Who is Jesus?” this month and will meet at Lisa Smeallie’s home on **Tuesday, December 12th at 7:30PM** for our annual **PW Cookie Fest and Carol Sing.**

Please join us and bring along a plate of holiday treats to share. **We would be so happy to have all Warner Women join us!**

Remember to bake extra cookies as we will have our annual PW Cookie Reception the following Sunday, December 17th after worship, and pack up tins of cookies for the Deacons Christmas baskets. If you would like to help with set-up or packing tins, please let one of the PW Coordinating Team members know. We are always in need of cookie tins, so if you have extras, please leave them in the church kitchen by December 16th.



PW Book Group

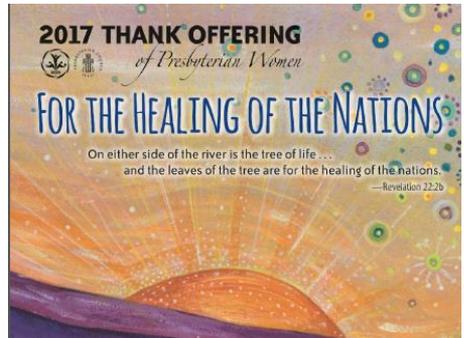


Speaking of holiday breaks, we have no book or book group meeting in December. However, if you would like to take time after the holidays to read ahead, our book for January is, **“The Things They Carried”** by **Tim O’Brien**. From the

web: *“... Only a handful of novels and short stories have managed to clarify, in any lasting way, the meaning of the war in Vietnam for America and for the soldiers who served there... he captures the war's pulsating rhythms and nerve-racking dangers. But he goes much further. By moving beyond the horror of the fighting to examine with sensitivity and insight the nature of courage and fear, by questioning the role that imagination plays in helping to form our memories and our own versions of truth, he places "The Things They Carried" high up on the list of best fiction about any war.”* If you would like the book list or have any questions, please reach out to Lisa Smeallie.

Thanks!

We would like to thank everyone for your generous donations to this year's PW Thank Offering. To date we have received ~\$500 in donations! As you may know, the monies we collect are passed on directly to the PW national office to be disbursed to the organizations selected this year.



--Submitted by Sue Burns

WARNER PEOPLE

- 1 Scott Bunn
- 3 Ty Bragg, Mark Eakin, Carol Fineman, Tim Geiger, Ginger Kleinguenther, Rev. Todd Sutton
- 4 Mary Barber
- 10 Sungho Paik
- 11 Varsha Datta, Sydney Garber, Ted Human
- 14 Mary Landfair, Simona Letizia
- 17 Nasan (Brian) Eakin
- 18 Andrei Pinkus
- 19 Sheri Daugherty
- 20 Brad Hill
- 21 Leigh Cook
- 22 Laura Kline
- 25 Tim Cook, Vol Moody
- 27 Bill Landfair
- 28 Eric Adams, Nathan Bresee, Mary Cameron
- 29 Donald Stalker
- 30 Loyce Bowen, Susan Middleswarth
- 31 Sean Brosnan, Calvin McGlade



Save the date: January 6, 7:30 p.m.

Coming Soon to the Warner Social Hall theater--*Alive Inside* by filmmaker Michael Rossato-Bennett—a joyous documentary chronicling the transformative power of music for people with dementia, mental illness, and physical issues, and the illuminating interviews with medical experts and the patients’ families. This uplifting movie follows a volunteer who is providing individualized music for patients in nursing homes and elsewhere, and shows the revitalizing experience of music for these patients. WOW! Music brings a human connection and healing that medication does not. Please mark your calendars and invite your friends for **Saturday, January 6, 7:30 – 9:00 pm.** *The movie is free, courtesy of our co-sponsor, Montgomery Hospice.*

January 2018 MEMO Issue

Please submit your completed articles to memo@warnermemorial.org, by **Wednesday, December 20 in order for the Memo team to get it published and distributed by the first of the month.**

Thank you for your contributions and timeliness!

Please Note: Volunteers needed for the MEMO!

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