

February 2018

THE WARNER MEMO

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
OF WARNER MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Fast



Give



Prepare



Pray



[February Calendar](#)

FROM THE PASTOR

Taking the Time to Stop

With Lent only a couple weeks away, I'm reminded of a story from Matthew. It's found in chapter 20, verses 29 through 34, and I love the way *The Message* paraphrases it:

As they were leaving Jericho, a huge crowd followed. Suddenly they came upon two blind men sitting alongside the road. When they heard it was Jesus passing, they cried out, "Master, have mercy on us! Mercy, Son of David!" The crowd tried to hush them up, but they got all the louder, crying, "Master, have mercy on us! Mercy, Son of David!"

Jesus stopped and called over, "What do you want from me?" They said, "Master, we want our eyes opened. We want to see!" Deeply moved, Jesus touched their eyes. They had their sight back that very instant, and joined the procession.

Many of us have probably heard of Blind Bartimaeus. At the very least, we know the name. He shows up in Mark 10. Honestly, it's almost the exact same story, occurring in the same place and at the same time in the larger story. The one big difference is that Mark names Blind Bartimaeus while Matthew talks about two blind guys. Honestly, I've looked at this text a bunch of times. But it wasn't until a Lenten season a few years ago that I stopped and thought about it. Which is the point, church. In this 24/7, 365 days a year, over-scheduled, rush hour at all hours world we live in, taking the time to stop isn't just counter-cultural, it's Good News!

There are, of course, some temptations in interpreting this text. First, the idea of yelling at Jesus is interesting. Some of us may have experience. Or maybe we just thought about it. Regardless, it takes some chutzpa. These blinds guys have that. Second, we can get caught up in the healing. Blind guys receive their sight. That's pretty cool. And amazing. But I don't think it's the main point. These points are important, and we should think about them. But don't miss what Jesus does. *He stops.*

That's all, church. He just stops. Now, if you think about where he's headed (Jerusalem) and you think about what he's going to do (die on the cross), well, he's got a place to go, people to see and something really big to do. We could understand if he didn't stop for the two guys yelling at him on Jericho Road. I mean, the crowd tells them to shut up. They certainly don't think Jesus has time for them. But Jesus always has time for us. So he takes the time to stop, talks to them, finds out what's going on in their lives and what they need and then he heals them. But it all starts when Jesus stops.

So here's a suggestion as we move into the Lent season this year: *Take some time to stop.* Stop what you're doing and read the Bible. Stop what you're doing and worship God. Stop what you're doing and ask somebody how they're doing. Stop what you're doing and do something for a person in need. Jesus stopped for us, we can stop for him and we can stop for each other.

In Christ,
Rev. Todd

WORSHIPING TOGETHER

Sunday, February 4th

Souper Bowl Sunday/
Lord's Supper

2 Kings 4:38-44 & 1

Corinthians 11:17-34

“Souper Bowl Supper”

Sunday, February 11th

Worship at First Baptist

Church of Ken-Gar/
Transfiguration of the Lord

Psalm 50:1-6, Exodus 24:12-17

& Mark 9:2-9

“Neon Jesus”

Wednesday, February 14th

Ash Wednesday

Isaiah 58:1-12

“A Lenten Feast”

Sunday, February 18th

First Sunday in Lent

Genesis 9:8-17 & Mark 1:9-15

“Forty Days”

Sunday, February 25th

Second Sunday in Lent

Guest Preacher

Scripture: TBA

WORSHIP AND MUSIC

Passing the Peace

Happy Easter! Already? Well, not quite yet but Easter does come early this year (April 1), and the Worship & Music Commission is focused on planning for our Lenten services. This year, during Lent



only, we will again change where we pass the Sign of Peace during our Sunday services. Most of the year we pass the Sign of Peace, along with many other greetings, after our time of confession. During Lent we hope to refocus on the meaning of sharing peace with one another. By passing the Sign of Peace at the beginning of

our services, shortly after having greeted each other before the service begins, we can really focus on what it means to share peace with one another. We can remember how Jesus said to His disciples, "My Peace I give you." He

was giving the disciples a wonderful gift, the gift of calmness, of caring, of Presence, of Peace. During this special time of Lent, let us look each other in the eye as we pass the Sign of Peace at the beginning of our service and remember what this gift really means. Watch for more details about Lenten activities and services in the March Memo.



SPECIAL NOTES

Upcoming Events—Read more about these in this Memo!

February 4th: Souper Bowl Sunday collection and Lunch (Check out the Equal Exchange tables during the lunch, too!)

February 10th from 10 a.m.- 2 p.m.: LCYC Winterfest

Saturday nights in February: Warner serves at Rainbow Place (See the sign-up charts outside the main office.)

COMMUNITY – MISSION

Kids in Brazil still get our support

For almost two decades Warner has supported Hope Unlimited for Children, an organization with classes and group homes for Brazilian children who would not have adequate schools or housing, and in many cases, have nothing but life on the streets. We sent a mission team there once, we have hosted visitors from there, and we regularly send contributions to support their work.



Every now and then we get a letter from Hope that makes us aware of how valuable our support is. One such letter came recently from Phillip Smith, the founder of Hope. Some years back, a boy was referred to them by local officials. The boy's body showed evidence of years of brutal treatment. His skin was covered with knife scars. He had trouble talking clearly because the tip of his tongue was missing. He said that he was about 10, but they thought he was probably older, but malnourished. On the street his life expectancy would have been from 3 to 5 more years.

He was welcomed, like every child who is sent there, as an irreplaceable member of the family. He lived in a small family-like group, and received love, education, vocational training, spiritual care, and recreational opportunities. With new friends and role models, he became a very cheerful, helpful person. Upon graduating, he was hired by a local business where his vocational training could be used. Finally, he was encouraged to live in a group apartment with other recent graduates from Hope. Recently, he sent a letter to Phillip Smith announcing that he had

come to know a young woman with a wonderful Christian family, and that they would be married soon.

This is a dramatic example of Hope's success, but not atypical. Overall, 90% of Hope's graduates are employed and in stable living situations two years after graduation. This is why we are glad to continue supporting Hope Unlimited.

Cory Atwood, for the Commission to the Community

Alive Inside

"Alive Inside" is a Sundance 2014 award-winning documentary. The film follows a social worker, Dan Cohen, over a three-year period as he brings "personal music" to individuals with dementia or Alzheimer's. As background, he discusses their loneliness and loss, how Alzheimer's severs memories and the sense of self. Nursing homes try to fix the resultant depression and anxiety with medications that often further dull awareness, senses, and perception.

Personal music, in contrast, connects with our deepest emotions and memories tied together through musical experiences. The film shows multiple scenarios when people previously non-communicative suddenly come alive: They open their eyes, speak, smile, remember details long forgotten, move, and even dance. At those moments, our Warner group of twenty-plus people laughed aloud. People suffering from memory loss **are** alive inside.

Many thanks to Susan Kline, who arranged for the viewing at Warner on January 7, and to Montgomery Hospice, which is providing iPods for personal music to an increasing number of dementia residents. See a trailer of the film at the following website: <http://www.socialworker.com/feature-articles/reviews-commentary/alive-inside-film-review-social-work-music-and-alzheimers/>

Susan Bresee

There is a New Organization in Our Neighborhood!

Have you heard of the group called the Kensington/North Chevy Chase Interfaith Consortium for Justice and Compassion (ICJC)? We hope it will eventually be made up of representatives from all

of the religious institutions under the umbrella of the Kensington/North Chevy Chase Ministerium, which is a gathering of clergy serving diverse faith communities in our area. The Ministerium has been meeting regularly for many years, endorsed this new entity and given it its name.

This is how the ICJC started:

In March of 2017, Warner accepted an invitation from the lay leaders of Christ Episcopal Church's *Outreach Ministry* to have lunch with them, and with others from the religious institutions in the area that are involved in mission and outreach. The goal was to get to know one another, and to share what it is that each group does to serve those in need.

Warner sent the chair of the *Commission to the Community*; Temple Emanuel sent the chair of its *Community Social Action Council*; Christ Church was represented by two members of its *Outreach Ministry*; North Chevy Christian Church sent several from its *Social Justice Team*; and St. Paul's Methodist Church sent two members of its *Justice and Compassion Team*.

It was a productive first meeting: After the opening prayer, our group discussed mission programs (which most call outreach) now being developed at each location. We enthusiastically discussed the possibility of working together on a "Great Day of Service" or another program. We also agreed to support one another by getting the word out about church and temple programs such as movies and speakers that would be of interest to others in the area. We agreed to have a second meeting, and to reach out again to those that did not respond to this initial invitation.

Since that first meeting, we have met a second time and have plans for a third meeting--this one to be held at Warner.

We are now exchanging flyers and newsletters and, as a result, some from the Consortium attended the screening of *Chasing Coral* that was held at Warner, and several members participated in the Temple Emanuel service honoring the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King,

Jr. We feel certain that this is just the beginning of what we will do as we continue to grow in our knowledge and appreciation of one another.

Please look for flyers posted in the **Coming Up** section of the Commission to the Community Bulletin Board located to the right of the doors to the Common Room. And, please ask me if you have questions about this organization that I haven't covered. It is my intention to share with you some information about every Interfaith opportunity that I hear is being planned for us all to take part in and to enjoy together.

Faithfully reported by Ina Rae Kramer, Chair
The Commission to the Community

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

An enlightening and energetic Environmental Legislation Seminar was attended by 17 Warnerites in January where we learned about a number of faith-based lobby organizations as well as how we can get our voices heard at the local, state, and national levels. Contact June Eakin, Barbara Shaw, or Dave Grace if you're interested in visiting a lawmaker with a group.



In February 2017, **The Maryland Clean Energy Jobs Act of 2016** was written into law, requiring that one-quarter of the state's electricity come from renewable sources by 2020. In light of the recent policy changes of the federal government and the growing risks of climate change, climate lobby organizations are now seeking to increase Maryland's renewable energy goal to one half by 2030. Five other states have already enacted legislation with similar goals of 50% or higher: New York, Oregon, California, Hawaii and D.C. <http://chesapeakeclimate.org/maryland/clean-energy/> On a national front at the same time in 2017, the Presbyterian Church USA issued an [apology](#) as the result of action by the 222nd

General Assembly (2016), which directs, “that the PC(USA) and its members apologize to United States citizens of Native American ancestry, both those within and beyond our denomination. We offer this apology especially to those who were and are part of ‘stolen generations’ during the Indian-assimilation movement, namely former students of Indian boarding schools, their families, and their communities”. The Office of Public Witness continues this work today in lobbying actions supporting American Indians in seeking protections for land, water, and sacred sites. Specifically, and most recently, the change in the Bear’s Ears National Monument and the Dakota Access Pipeline. PCUSA Office of Public Witness: <https://www.facebook.com/PCUSAWashington/>

Respectful discourse is needed now more than ever. Developing a relationship with our elected representatives can result in a path to the beloved community Jesus is calling us to. *If not now, when? If not us, who?*

Want to go solar on your house?

Learn about the 2nd County-wide solar co-op at these in-person opportunities: **Thursday, Feb 8 from 6:30pm - 8:30pm in Burtonsville and Tuesday, Feb 13 from 7pm - 9pm in Takoma Park.** More information about the Montgomery County Solar Co-Op: <https://www.solarunitedneighbors.org/maryland/going-solar-in-maryland/go-solar-in-a-maryland-group/montgomery-county-solar-co-op/>



SAVE-THE-DATE!

Earth Day Fair on the afternoon of **Sunday, April 22**, on our church grounds!

The Temptation of Jesus

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the desert, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. Luke 4:1-2a (NIV)

The puzzle is based on Luke 4:1-13 (NIV).



H O L Y C T W J Q O F D C T D
 T Y C E L R Z N O F G V I L Y
 E E O M W S W E Q R V T I Y F
 M V M Y C T O S T M D V N M G
 P A M P V O R P F A E A E X P
 T B A B L N L I E D W L N I A
 E L N G H E D R X L A M H I U
 D C D D A M B I H S A S X G T
 L U I M N Z K T U U R L N E H
 F I A W G Z J R B O N U Q T O
 W P V B E F E U W Y X G R H R
 G C L E L J D C W H Z E R N I
 Q X I A S U T A H X S X G Y T
 P X M F O R T Y Y E E X U Q Y
 K I N G D O M S D S P E N Z Y

Spirit
 Holy
 desert
 tempted

devil
 live
 temple
 forty

days
 angels
 command
 kingdoms

Jordan
 authority
 bread
 Jerusalem

stone
 worship
 world
 hungry

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

WELCOME to our new PW Officers: Marilynn Victory and Chelsea Cook!

We are excited to have Marilynn joining us as co-moderator and Chelsea as secretary for the upcoming term. Their time and talents will be greatly appreciated, and we look forward to their contributions within the PW committee and our community.

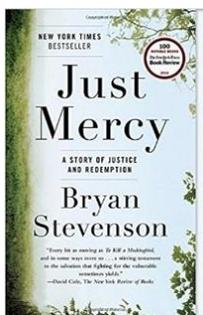
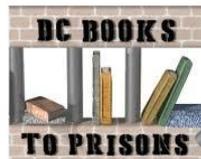


Saturday, February 10th, PW will be bringing food and entertainment (with a Valentine's Day theme) to **Rainbow Place**. We have traditionally made blessing bags that have included things such as chocolates, toiletries, hand warmers and

socks. We welcome donations towards these items or any other token you would like to contribute to these gift bags. We will be preparing these bags Sunday February 4th after our SOUPer Bowl Sunday in the Social Hall. Cooks, servers and drivers needed for preparation on February 10th. Contact Sue Burns for more information on how you can donate or help.

(Susan.Burns@redcross.org)

Saturday February 24th join us as we volunteer with **Books to Prisons** at 9:30 a.m. at the Foundry United Methodist Church in D.C. This outreach to prisoners across the USA is a rewarding experience, especially for those who love to read. Donations of softcover books are always welcome, especially dictionaries. Contact Madalena Aspiras if you'd like to come along or donate. (madalena.aspiras@gmail.com)



Book Club

Tuesday February 27th, PW will be meeting at 7:30pm in the Warner Memorial library to discuss the book **Just Mercy** by **Bryan Stevenson**. The book in three sentences from the web: *“The True measure of our character is how we treat the poor, the disfavored, the accused, the incarcerated, and the condemned. Simply punishing the broken only*

ensures that they remain broken and we do, too. Each of us is more than the worst thing we’ve ever done”. You’re welcome to join us regardless of whether you read the book, finished the book or want to just be a part of the conversation. For more information regarding the upcoming book list and meeting dates, please reach out to Lisa Smeallie. (lcsmeallie@comcast.net)

The 2018 Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women will be held **August 2–5, 2018**, in Louisville, Kentucky. 2018 is also the year that PW celebrates its 30th anniversary! The 2018



Churchwide Gathering registration book is available now! Yes, registration opens on January 15, 2018, but planning (and

daydreaming) begins early! And the booklet has all the information you need to envision, plan and promote all the Gathering has to offer! You can download the registration book or order a copy. If you've ever attended, you know it's an exciting and inspiring event that every Presbyterian Woman should attend at least once! Scholarships are available. Contact June Eakin (june.eakin@mac.com) if you're interested.



The Warner Cookbook is still waiting for your recipes! Have you prepared a dish, baked cookies, or fed your fellow Warnerites? Do you have a family recipe you would like to share? Please send your recipe to Lisa Smeallie or drop off a paper copy to the PW mailbox in the church office.

JOY CIRCLE will meet February 13th at 7:30pm in the Warner Memorial Library.

LCYC Winterfest

Saturday, February 10, 2018 10AM-2PM - free admission

Inside Warner Memorial Presbyterian Church

10123 Connecticut Ave., Kensington, MD 20895

Winterfest is our biggest fundraiser of the year. Please join us for lots of fun including carnival games, moon bounce, lunch, bake sale, crafts, kid's yoga, kids zumba, BearSong, Ukulele by your favorite Noyes Librarians, silent auction, and a special visit from the Storyhouse Bookstore trolley!



WARNER PEOPLE

New address for Major Williams beginning Feb 20, 2018:

2405 Knob Hill Road

York, PA 17403

301-820-5759

February Birthdays

1 Scott Daugherty

2 Sue Colbert, Andrew D'Souza, Cindy Wright

3 Bob McNeil

4 Dana Lemaster, Andrew Stalker

8 Kay Gorman, Telsche Seeley

9 Carol Brewka, Pam Creel

10 Chelsea Cook, Jacqueline Enright

11 Asha Datta

12 Laura Batis, Andrew Letizia

21 Dina Bickel

22 Alina Belenky

23 Jonathan Brodsky, Henry Dunn

25 Blake Landfair, Ann Rakow

26 Sharon Allen

27 Don Bailey, Sasha Letizia

28 Anne Hancock, Sarah McNeil

March 2018 MEMO Issue

Please submit your completed article to

memo@warnermemorial.org

by **Tuesday, February 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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Please see bulletin boards outside the Main Office

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Organist: Sungho Paik

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