

January 2017

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# THE WARNER MEMO

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER  
OF WARNER MEMORIAL  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



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[www.warnermemorial.org](http://www.warnermemorial.org)

[Online Calendar](#)

# WORSHIPING TOGETHER IN JANUARY

Sunday, January 1

*Communion*

Isaiah 63:7-14; 1 Peter 1:2-3; Matthew 2:13-23

“The Biggest God, Possible”

Sunday, January 8

*Baptism of the Lord*

Isaiah 42:1-9; Matthew 3:13-17

“Beloved”

Sunday, January 15

Isaiah 49:1-7; John 1:29-42

“Come and See”

Sunday, January 22

*Ordination/installation*

1 Corinthians 1:10-18; Matthew 4:12-23

“Follow and Fish”

Sunday, January 29

Micah 6:1-8; Matthew 5:1-12

“Blessed”

Every day of the week, you can help adults and children in our community who are struggling below the poverty level. Please remember to bring cans and boxes of non-perishable food for the **Mid-County United Ministries’** food pantry in Wheaton. Together, we can continue to fill the big wooden “hunger barrel” in the Warner narthex. Thank you!

# FROM THE PASTOR

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Dear members and friends,

Long-term psychological studies are rare, but there has been one that has gone on over 75 years. It is currently led by a Harvard psychiatrist named Robert Waldinger, who has described what has been learned through the research on a Ted Talk. You can Google it. The study has sought to determine what leads to happier and healthier lives and one finding is quite clear: those satisfied in their relationships were happier and healthier. In his Ted Talk, Waldinger says, “People who are more isolated than they want to be from others find that they are less happy, their health declines earlier in midlife, their brain functioning declines sooner and they live shorter lives than people who are not lonely. And good close relationships seem to buffer us from some of the slings and arrows of getting old.” Waldinger wants people to realize that the commercial projection of a good life – wealth, fame, career success – won’t bring them health or happiness. It’s the work they put into maintaining connections with other human beings that will.

As we enter the beginning of a new year, it is a time to assess what is of value in our lives and what holds less value. Here is a good indication that it makes sense to spend time building up and nurturing good relationships. There’s not much better way to do this than by seeking to love our neighbors (Jesus did not define neighbor by proximity or by similarities) as ourselves. I am thankful for the many positive relationships in and through Warner Church that enrich and benefit (in more ways than one) us all. There are blessings all around us as we enter 2017. That doesn’t mean there aren’t also many challenges, but I am thankful for those who journey in faith together, loving each other and learning from each other. It is a rich way to live.

With more than best wishes for the new year,

Kirby Lawrence Hill

# COMMUNITY -- MISSION

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## YOUR “MISSION COMMISSION” IN ACTION:

By December the tally from the October Peace and Global Witness offering had reached a final total of \$1644. After sending the denomination their portion, we used the rest, as in previous years, for several organizations that we have chosen to support. One of these charities is the Jerusalem International YMCA (JIY), an organization located in the heart of Jerusalem, with a mission that emphasizes promotion of tolerance.



To this end JIY has many activities that bring Jews, Muslims, and Christians living in Israel to work or play side by side. It starts with a Peace Preschool that welcomes children from all faiths (see picture). There are summer camps for grade-school kids. There is a club for teenagers to produce TV presentations, and theatre groups for teenagers who are interested in acting or dancing, and choirs that sing in multiple languages. All these have the effect of allowing young people to do things together with others from different communities.

During the Christmas season there were special activities: The preschool taught the children about the traditions of Hannukkah, Id el Adha, and Christmas. Also, JIY held its annual holiday party, in which about 600 children, including orphans and some with disabilities, were treated to musical entertainment and gifts. Jewish and Christian Arab choirs performed together in interfaith performances. And on Christmas Eve a special concert featured classical holiday music and carol sing-alongs. We are pleased that a portion of our offering can support an organization that so clearly exemplifies peacemaking.

— Cory Atwood for the Commission to the Community



# Presbyterian Women

*Nurture Faith, Support Mission, Work for Justice & Peace, & Build Community*



## ANNUAL PW CHRISTMAS GATHERING

As the days grow shorter and shorter, Warner's women have one event to which to look forward each year during Advent: the yearly assemblage of Cookie bakers, eaters, pianist, and carolers at Lisa Smeallie's home on our usual Joy Circle evening. This year was no exception and as we gathered on December 13<sup>th</sup> we were greeted by beautiful Christmas decorations, the requisite refreshing Peppermint Egg Nog and warm Wassail. Later in the evening we were even joined by the Smeallie pups, Sophie and Desi, who both joined in and added to the Holiday fun. As you can see, the table was heavy laden with home-baked holiday treats, which we also enjoyed at the Cookie Reception the following Sunday, with plenty set aside for the Deacons' baskets!



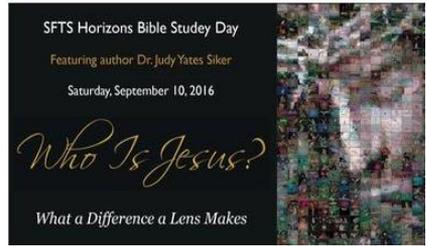
## THIRD ANNUAL GIFT FAIR – ANOTHER SUCCESS... THANKS TO ALL



Thanks again to all who supported our 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Gift Fair. We got a head start on our holiday shopping as we purchased Equal Exchange tea, chocolate, and cocoa, along with Justice Venture International (JVI) jewelry and other gift items, and last but not least, Tim Cook's new Christmas card. We tallied almost \$1,000 in sales this year from the EE and card sales alone. As in years past, the proceeds, which are not yet calculated, from EE and JVI will go toward supporting various Warner PW mission efforts, local, national and international and the proceeds from Tim's card will go to Warner's General Fund.



## 2017 BIBLE STUDY: WHO IS JESUS? WHAT A DIFFERENCE A LENS MAKES...



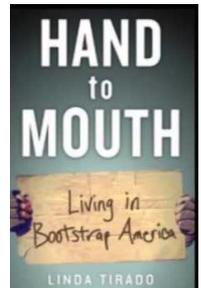
On Tuesday, January 17, Joy Circle will continue the Bible study, “Who is Jesus?” Join us at 7:30 p.m. in the church library when lesson leaders Sue Burns and Ginny Atwood invite us to find Jesus through the Gospel of Matthew and its stories of “Sowers and Seeds and Weeds and Deeds” as we delve into Lesson Two of this 2-year study. Bring a snack if you wish and books are available at the church office or that night.

Reflection Circle: 2nd Sundays at 9:30 am in the Trinity Room,  
Circle leader: Lora McGlade

## JANUARY 2017 PW BOOK CLUB

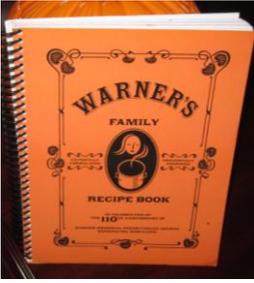


Please plan to join us on Friday, *January 27* for our fourth discussion of the 2016-2017 season. Our book this month is, “*Hand to Mouth*” by Linda



Tirado. Ruth Harvey has graciously offered her home as the gathering spot for our discussion. From the web, “...from the author of the eye-opening and controversial essay on poverty... ‘Nickel and Dime,’ Tirado explains what it is like to be working poor in America, and why poor people make the decisions they do. We in America have certain ideas of what it means to be poor... and, in her signature brutally honest yet personable voice, takes all of these preconceived notions and smashes them to bits. She articulates not only what it is to be working poor in America (yes, you can be poor and live in a house and have a job, even two), but what poverty is truly like on all levels. “I daresay our book group selections continue to be both varied and thought-provoking and always stimulate wonderful discussion. Please join us!

# WORKING ON A NEW WARNER COOKBOOK



Before you tuck away those treasured family cookie recipes or other holiday favorites, could you take a moment to email them to Lisa Smeallie? We are especially seeking recipes that have been enjoyed at any of the various Warner social events, such as Potluck, Salt Shakers, Fellowship Hour, etc. Anyone who is involved in project management will avow that 90% of the work is in the planning and initial phases. We look forward to having an abundance of recipes to curate as we work on this endeavor.

We are always seeking fresh ideas for activities, projects, etc., that would interest two, three, or more Warner women. All it takes is an email or phone call to one other person to get the planning started... don't be shy. Should you have suggestions for new endeavors, please contact any member of the PW Coordinating Team: Sue Burns, Lora McGlade, Karen Cook, JoEllen LaPrade, Lisa Smeallie, June Eakin, Kay Gorman, or Charity Singletary.



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## 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 PEOPLE

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## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Holly Trout
- 3 Laura Hollister, Camern Pinkus, Babs Sausser, Kate Zimmerman
- 5 John Locher
- 6 John Morris
- 7 Clementine Trott, Douglas Victory
- 9 Janet Tennent
- 10 Ben Cope
- 15 Kathy Stell
- 17 Nancy Lawrence Hill
- 18 Sue Maddox
- 21 Max Carroll
- 22 Lillian Garnder
- 25 Virander Datta
- 26 Kyle Smeallie, Usha Soni
- 27 Jackson Trott
- 30 Donna McNeil
- 31 Hilary Bragg

## **NEXT MEMO ISSUE**

Please submit articles and notices for the February 2017 issue of the Warner MEMO by Tuesday, January 24. Meanwhile, to all of our contributors: You may send your material via disk or typed hardcopy to the church office, or via e-mail to

[memo@warnermemorial.org](mailto:memo@warnermemorial.org)

YOU make this newsletter. Thank you for your contributions!

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