

July-August 2016

THE WARNER MEMO

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF WARNER MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Warner Memorial Presbyterian Church

www.warnermemorial.org

[July Calendar](#)

[August Calendar](#)

WORSHIPING TOGETHER IN THE SUMMER

Sunday, July 3

Communion

“A Credible Creed ? :

The Communion of Saints”

Ephesians 1:15-23 ; Hebrews 12:1-3

*(Commissioning of Johnstown Mission
Work Team)*

Sunday, July 10

“A Credible Creed ? :

The Forgiveness of Sins”

Exodus 34:1-9 ; 1 John 1:5-2:2

Sunday, July 17

“A Credible Creed ? :

The Resurrection of the Body”

1 Corinthians 15:1-11 ; John 20:19-31

Sunday, July 24

“A Credible Creed ? :

The Life Everlasting”

John 14:1-3 2 ; Corinthians 4:16-5:5

Sunday, July 31

Colossians 3:1-11 ; Luke 12:13-21

“Rich”

Sunday, August 7

Communion

Rev. Laura Hollister preaching

Sunday, August 14

Hebrews 11:29-40 ; Luke 12:49-56

“Firestarter”

Sunday, August 21

Jeremiah 1:4-10 ; Luke 13:10-17

“Impediments”

Sunday, August 28

Hebrews 13:1-8 ; Jeremiah 2:4-13

“No More Leaky Lives”

During the months of July and August (with the exception of August 7), we will meet for worship outdoors at 8:30 a.m. in the meditation garden behind Temple Emanuel, our neighbors at 10101 Connecticut Ave. This less formal worship time features singing led by guitar and weekly communion. Our regular worship continues at 11:00 a.m. In case of inclement weather, the early service will meet in the Trinity Room.

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear members and friends,

Thanks to the 80 of you who took the C.A.T. (Congregation Assessment Tool) survey! In comparison to our average worship attendance, we were told that is a very high response rate. You gave a lot of information that the Session will mull over in the coming months. The Session has had its initial meeting with interpreters of the information gleaned from the C.A.T. There are additional reports about what you said, which we will review and use in our strategic planning going forward.

Here are the top four goals you chose as we look to the future:

- Make necessary changes to attract families with children and youth to our church.
- Develop and implement a comprehensive strategy to reach new people and incorporate them into the life of the church.
- Work to renew and revitalize the community around the church by building coalitions with partners that share this vision and commitment.
- Develop the spiritual generosity of the people to financially support the ministry of the church.

Those first two goals are tops for 80% of the congregations that have taken the C.A.T. over the last 18 months, so we are not alone there. But clearly there is work to be done. The third goal was significantly stronger for our congregation than it is for most congregations, so that is of interest.

Other goals that were stronger for our congregation than for most:

- Adapt the opportunities provided by the church making them more accessible given the pace and schedule of my life.
- Improve the physical facilities of the church to enhance our ministries.

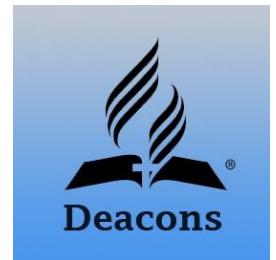
Our demographics are such that if we are not successful on these goals, then we will be a much smaller congregation in ten to twenty years. So it is good that we rated fairly high in satisfaction and in energy. Those measures put a label on our congregation as one that could be able to go through a needed transformation, which is good! There is significant work to be done and I am thankful that so many are invested in the well-being of our congregation, that with God's help, we will be able to work in ways that will strengthen our overall ministry and lead to greater levels of energy and satisfaction for the congregation.

The Session will work with this information in coming months and you will hear more from them about initiatives to respond to your important input. Those who took the survey helped those initiatives to be informed ones, for which we can be very thankful. I am excited to see what God will be doing within and through Warner Memorial in months to come!

Kirby Lawrence Hill

BOARD OF DEACONS

THANKS FOR PAST BLESSINGS; LOOKING FORWARD TO MANY MORE



Warner Memorial's Board of Deacons met on Monday evening, June 27. We all expressed our thanks to the many people who helped us with the big reception in the Social Hall following the memorial service for Ruth McMichael on June 1 afternoon. We also received a note of thanks (to all at our church) from Ruth's family members for that service and reception.

In addition to our weekly and monthly duties, such as caring for homebound Warner friends and members with flower-visits, assisting with home communion, arranging rides for folks who can't drive, and other actions, the deacons also organize and "spearhead" other events. For example, on Warner's Rally Day, the second Sunday in September, the deacons will take the lead in setting up for the church picnic here on our grounds. (We provide the burgers and hot dogs, but ask others to bring salads and desserts; more details on that and Rally Day as the time grows near.)

On Labor Day, at the Kensington town parade and festival, we will assist Mid-county United Ministries (MUM) with their annual awareness drive – at MUM's booth near the Safeway store.

*** You can help the Warner Memorial Deacons' Fund.** On the first Sunday of every month, we ask for donations to the fund, which helps Warner buy grocery gift cards for indigent people, individuals and families, in our area. You can use the special white envelopes in the pew racks, and note that the donation is for the Deacons Fund. Thank you!

– Tiff Carroll, for the Board of Deacons

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

A GLIMPSE OF VBS ACTIVITY

(Photo taken by Dina Bickel)

During the summer (somewhat hiatus), we can reflect on and rejoice about Warner's dynamic C.E. classes for children, youth, and adults, which met in the past year. These will start again in September.

Meanwhile, as this issue of the MEMO goes "to press," our church building is filled with happy sounds – including singing – from the Vacation Bible School. More than 30 young children "day campers," along with youth helpers and adults (staff and others), have made the week of June 27-July 1 a vibrant celebration of the theme: "Come to God's Table Where All Will Be Fed." **Each day, children donated food and money for Mid-County United Ministries (MUM).**



Thanks to all who made this VBS week a success!

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WARNER'S LEARNING CENTER ACCEPTING FALL 2016 APPLICATIONS; IT'S AN EXCITING OPPORTUNITY IN LEARNING FOR CHILDREN

The Learning Center for Young Children (LCYC) here at our church is accepting applications for enrollment in the 2016-17 school year. LCYC is our play-based, co-operative preschool for children ages 18 months to four years. Enrollment forms are available in the brochure racks in the church hallways. For more information, visit our website -- (warnermemorial.org) or call the LCYC office (301-949-2933).

Every day of the year, you too can help the Mid-County United Ministries food pantry in Wheaton. How? 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 !

COMMUNITY

YOUR “MISSION COMMISSION” IN ACTION

As the school year ends, our Commission thinks especially of ways to help next year’s local school kids who have serious financial needs. This determines our giving in June.

One gift we make each year is for the Interfaith Works School Supplies Drive. Each year this program provides new backpacks and school supplies to more than 2,500 students who are preparing for the new school year. The cost of school supplies can be just too much for a family already struggling to pay for rent, food, utilities and clothing. The contents of the backpacks include packages of lined filler paper, tab dividers, 2-pocket folders, and pencil pouches. And of course, a new backpack will help the child feel less out of place in school. The \$400 gift that Warner made in June will help some kids in Montgomery County get off to a good start.

Also, a few years ago the Commission members felt a concern for school kids who would go hungry when the school lunch program shuts down for the summer. We searched for a group that is stepping into the gap during the summer vacation time, when no school lunches are served. We found that the Capital Area Food Bank runs a Kids Café both after school and throughout the summer, where children can receive free, healthy meals and snacks. Therefore, we now dedicate the discretionary portion of our Two Cents a Meal offerings for June and July to the Capital Area Food Bank to support the Kids Café program.

--Cory Atwood



THANKS FOR YOUR MONTHLY “TWO CENTS-A-MEAL” GIFTS !

On June 19, we collected \$174 in Warner’s “2 Cents-a-Meal” program. Our discretionary 40% for June and July will go to help the Capital Area Food Bank (see above article). Please remember to bring in your coins and dollars on July 17 and August 21. Thanks to all Warner members and friends who donate every month to this effort! – Ann Rakow

YOU CAN TAKE PART IN WARNER’S MISSION TRIP, FROM HOME !

We ask everyone who is part of Warner’s congregation to support the mission work trip to Johnstown, Pennsylvania (July 10-16) with prayers for the Work Team and also prayers for the people whose homes will be repaired by those who seek to be God’s hands at work.

Also, if you would like to make a financial contribution to support the work and workers, please contact the church office. Any donation of any amount will be accepted. Thank you!

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP TEAM

CAN YOU HELP WITH UPKEEP IN WARNER'S GARDEN ?



Every garden needs gardeners and our Warner Environmental Stewardship Team (EST) needs your help to make fresh organically - grown vegetables a reality for the hungry people of Silver Spring. (The food that we harvest in our Shepherd's Garden always goes to the Shepherd's Table food program in Silver Spring.) A few dollars of seeds results in many pounds of produce!

June Eakin and Susan Bresee are the lead gardeners and are willing to teach this rewarding activity. Can you offer even one hour a week? Some necessary tasks include weeding, planting, and harvesting. This work goes on until October. Contact June (301-873-4794) if you will be "on call" as a garden helper. Young people can earn SSL hours for school credits.

WATER... DO WE TAKE IT FOR GRANTED ?

Water is vital to sustaining life. Many places on earth suffer from a lack of a good, clean water supply. Sometimes, an abundance of rain water in a short period can cause devastation, as we saw recently in the disastrous floods in West Virginia.

People in all communities need to practice conservation and preservation of water. We can observe these good practices at home and at work. We can be careful about using chemicals, such as household cleansers and lawn treatments. We can support local and state-wide groups that work to clean-up our waterways – streams, lakes and ponds, and the greater Chesapeake Bay. And, of course, we can join with others to plant trees and shrubs that enhance the soil and prevent water runoff and erosion.

-- Tiff Carroll, for the EST

“You make springs gush forth in the valleys; they flow between the hills, giving drink to every wild animal; the wild asses quench their thirst. By the streams the birds of the air have their habitation; they sing among the branches.” -- Psalm 104: 10-12

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



WOMEN OF WARNER TEA – SATURDAY, JULY 23, 1:30 – 3:30 PM



Plans are firming up for our “Women of Warner” Summer Tea. We will be gathering in the **Social Hall at 1:30 PM on Saturday, July 23rd**, to enjoy tea, maybe even iced, along with sandwiches and other tasty morsels. Sheri Daugherty is in charge of transforming the room for that day, June Eakin and Sue Burns will be planning the edibles with help from many others, Peter Smeallie has been enlisted to prepare suitable background music, Lisa and Kyle Smeallie are putting the finishing touches on the invitations, and Jan Moody is helping to prepare a short program. We are relying on you to assist with the preparations in any way you wish, but mostly to don your bonnets, fetch your teacup and saucer, and join us for what we hope will be a delightful afternoon. Contact any member of the PW Coordinating Team if you have questions or want to help. RSVPs will be important once we have sent out the invites. Stay tuned for more information!



2016 – 2017 PW BOOK CLUB



Lisa Smeallie hasn't determined the specific dates for book group meetings next year but here are the titles of the books by the month. Expect the finalized schedule soon. If one of your favorites didn't make the final list, maybe you can add it to your summer reading list! Please remember that you don't have to be a member of any circle to attend the Book Club—any who are interested, may attend. Special thanks to those who made suggestions and to Lisa who so expertly compiled the information and pared down the list from 60 books to 24! The final selections (drum roll please) are...

2016 – 2017 READING LIST

Sept....*Fates & Furies* (Groff)

Oct.....*Becoming Nicole* (Nutt)

Nov.....*The Storied Life of A.J. Fikry* (Zevin)

Jan.....*Hand to Mouth* (Tirado)

Feb.....*Station Eleven* (Mandel)

March...*Can't We Talk About Something More Pleasant?* (Chast)

April....*Orphan Train* (Kline)

May.....*Ruined* (Everhart)

WHO IS JESUS ? WHAT A DIFFERENCE A LENS MAKES...

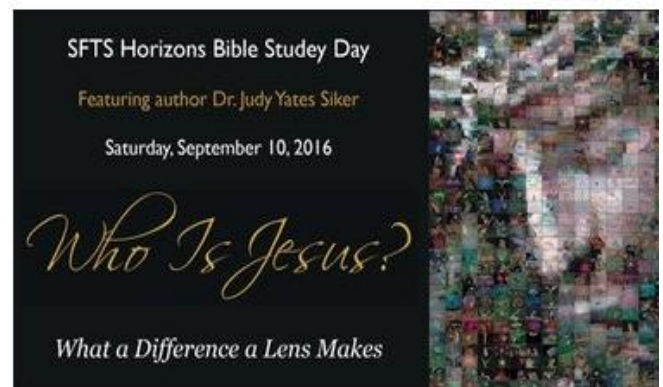
Joy Circle will tackle this question over two years, 2016-2018 with the Horizons Bible Study (2016-17) and its companion DVD.

From the author, Judy Yates Siker, “Who is Jesus? It’s such a good question that we, as Presbyterian Women, are going to spend this study raising that question again and again. We will look for the answer in some likely – and unlikely – places. As you study and learn, as you

discuss your reactions and responses to these various portrayals of Jesus, the question that runs through the whole study is this, “Who do YOU say Jesus is?””

Joy Circle will be changing its meeting night. Please let June Eakin know if you have any preference. Time: 7:30 p.m.: on 1) 3rd Tuesday of each month in the Church Library OR 2) 3rd Wednesday in the Youth Room OR 3) 3rd Wednesday in members’ homes. Right now we are planning our first meeting for September. You can request a study book through JoEllen LaPrade, PW treasurer, or June Eakin, circle leader. Please let us know before August 31st if you want a book.

Reflections Circle will continue to meet at 9:30 a.m. on the second Sunday of the month, although we may change the date in September because of Rally Day. We will also be studying the Horizons Bible Study book “Who is Jesus?” over two years. Reflections Circle is small but serious and I think that those few who attend feel enriched in an intimate way. Let me or JoEllen know if you would like a book and will be attending.



FALL RETREAT – BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND – SAVE THE DATE !

We are very excited to be planning a one-day women's fall retreat at the **Bon Secours Conference Center in Marriottsville, MD**. We have met there several times in past years and are fortunate to have already reserved our favorite Sun Porch room for the day, **Saturday, October 15th**. Cost is ~\$50 per person and includes breakfast and lunch, as well as the use of the grounds for the day. We are planning to kick off the 2016-2017 Horizons Bible study (see above) as the primary focus of the program. We will be arranging carpools and we hope to offer scholarships as well. If you already know you are planning to join us, please let one of the members of the PW CT know ASAP.



BIRTHDAY OFFERING--THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY



We would like to thank everyone who contributed to the 2016 PW Birthday Offering collected throughout the month of May. The total collected was \$765.80, which we believe may be a record for recent years. We appreciate your support of the deserving organizations selected to receive grants this year.

SHARE YOUR IDEAS

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.



WARNER PEOPLE

A STEPHEN MINISTER CAN HELP YOU

There are times when God's love is especially precious to us – for example, when we are seriously ill, or we lose a loved one. For someone who will listen and help you (in strict confidence) find the spiritual resources to get through a tough time, call the Stephen Ministry leader Barbara Jaquette (301-593-2875) or call Rev. Hill at the church office.



WARNER'S SUMMER SINGERS

Everyone is invited to drop in on the Summer Singers – Warner's pickup choir that will sing for Sunday worship services on July 17 and 31, and August 14. We will sing easy anthems that can be rehearsed at the 10:30 warm-up time. Come join the fun and fellowship!

JULY BIRTHDAYS

1 Ginny Atwood

3 Susan Fulton

4 Doris Williams, Edna Wright

6 Sophie deJesus, Shelley Swendiman

8 James Gorman, Rajesh Puri

9 Chris Bragg, Larry Merl

11 Isabelle Koff

12 Helen Hancock, Joel deJesus, Susan Luff



16 Beverly Sceery

17 Douglas Adams, Mary Butts

20 Logan Smeallie

21 James Hancock, John Horman, Remy Winter

25 Elizabeth Ford, Alton Harvey

28 Chris Robins, Betty Sickinger

29 Christopher Burns

31 Nicholas Kuzmyak



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| 2 Bob Koch, Ruth Ness | 18 Marjorie Parce |
| 3 Marlene Montgomery | 19 Jan Moody, Bruce Parce, Beth Whiteman |
| 4 Susan Burns | 20 Robert Vieira |
| 7 Louise Koch | 23 Anne Kirchhoff, Danna Walker |
| 8 Carolyn Hollis, Irene Lee | 24 William Trott |
| 10 Charity Singletary | 26 Robert Brewka |
| 11 Janice Landfair | 28 Pat Brosnan |
| 14 Wilma Dunlap | 31 Evelyn Adams |
| 16 JoEllen LaPrade | |

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.

SEPTEMBER MEMO ISSUE—CHANGE OF DUE DATE!

Please submit articles and notices for the September issue of the Warner MEMO by **Thursday, August 25**. 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 ... and we thank you for your contributions!

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- Please see bulletin boards outside the Main Office -

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