

March 2017

THE WARNER MEMO

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
OF WARNER MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Read about the services and activities that are
planned at Warner during this season of Lent

www.warnermemorial.org

[Online Calendar](#)

WORSHIPING TOGETHER IN MARCH



Ash Wednesday, March 1

Communion

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

“Who is the Audience?”

Sunday, March 5

Communion, First Sunday in Lent

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7; Matthew 4:1-11

“Remembering Whose We Are”

Sunday, March 12

*Celebrate the Gifts of Women Sunday,
Second Sunday in Lent*

Guest Preacher: The Rev. Dr. Shively Smith



Sunday, March 19

Third Sunday in Lent

Genesis 12:1-4a; John 3:1-17

“Divine Initiative”

Sunday, March 26

Fourth Sunday in Lent

John 9:1-41

“Sight”

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

Dear members and friends,

Back in 1994, Warner adopted an affirmation of faith. It was just a year past the centennial celebration of the congregation and it is quite a good statement, even if it is a bit long. A calligraphy copy of it hangs in the narthex (thanks to Sharon Allen) and a needlepoint copy of it hangs in the social hall (thanks to Margaret Carroll). It is also on our church website. Then just a couple of years ago, the Session adopted a welcome statement because we wanted any visitors or guests to know explicitly that we were a welcoming congregation. That statement is on the back of our bulletins each Sunday.

Last year when we were involved with the C.A.T. (Congregational Assessment Tool) survey, there was a question on it that asked about the vision for the church's ministry. We have not had a brief vision statement that defines our identity and our sense of call as a congregation for ourselves and others. So, at the officers' retreat earlier this month, we worked on one. The Session did some additional work on it. It is not a finished product, in part because it is a 'rough' draft, and in part because we have not yet gotten input from the congregation about it. We want this statement to be brief – forty to sixty words. Perhaps it would be on the front of our bulletin sometimes, and certainly it would show up in a prominent place on our website. It would help to identify us to ourselves and to others.

So here is what we have at this point, and in coming weeks, you will have opportunity to give your input about it. ***Reflecting God's grace, Christ's compassion, and fed by the Spirit that inspires us to serve boldly, we offer love and acceptance to all, work for peace and justice, respond to the needs of others, and build a beloved community. We worship God in all we say and do.*** Do those 48 words capture who we are? Does the statement challenge us to be

the best congregation we can be? Does it help others know us and want to be a part of us?

We also have been playing with a tag line which is three words: **Warner feeds people**. That brief phrase reflects who we are literally in our fellowship and mission activities, and it reflects who we are figuratively in our education and worship activities. I don't know how such a tag line might be used in a complementary way with a vision statement, but we will be exploring such things.

I look forward to the next steps in this process involving you, and I am thankful that we as a congregation can seek together to live out the vision God intends for us in this place.

Kirby Lawrence Hill

A Lenten Practice

A focus on the peace of Christ is a very Lenten-y (I know it's not a word) thing to do during the forty days leading up to Easter. To highlight that, and to see how it would feel to have the passing of the peace come in a different place in the worship service, the Worship and Music Commission decided that during the season of Lent, the congregation will be invited to pass the peace of Christ to one another at the beginning of the service after the announcements instead of after the assurance of pardon. There is no intent in starting a war over the passing of the peace – we'll simply be pleased to hear your feedback.

Kirby Lawrence Hill

Please support the Warner Memorial **Deacons' Fund** by contributing on the first Sunday of each month. You may use the special envelopes in the pew racks. Thank you for helping our neighbors in need.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

2017 Lenten Series

In Leviticus, God tells Moses, *“You shall not hate in your heart anyone of your kin; you shall reprove your neighbor, or you will incur guilt yourself. You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself.”* (Leviticus 19:17-18)

Our world today continues to wrestle with how to live out this commandment. The struggle to end the oppressive regime of apartheid in South Africa is a recent example of the ongoing challenge to love your neighbor. The Dutch Reformed Church responded to the injustice of apartheid by writing the Belhar Confession which speaks boldly of the call of the church to serve as a living demonstration of God's intention for all humanity. Belhar affirms that, *“Christ’s work of reconciliation is made manifest in the church as the community of believers who have been reconciled with God and with one another.”* Last June, the 222nd General Assembly of the PC USA adopted the Belhar Confession into the Book of Confessions.

A five-session Lenten series will be offered on Wednesday evenings, 6:30 to 9:00 on March 8, 15, 22, 29, and April 5. The evening includes a simple meal of soup and bread, and a study of the Confession of Belhar. All are invited during the season of Lent to unpack this amazing document with the help of the book, *Lenten Reflections on the Confession of Belhar*. The book includes daily devotions as well as five reflections on the five major sections of the Confession: A Call to Confess; A Call to Unity; A Call to Reconciliation; A Call to Justice; and A Call to Act.

Bill Plitt, moderator of National Capital Presbytery and a delegate to the General Assembly that adopted the Belhar Confession into the Book of Confessions, will lead the first session. Rev. Hill will lead the remaining four sessions.

Kerri Allen who wrote devotions for the book writes, “The timing of this devotional meditation is providential... At a time when the nation is deeply divided and fearful of the unknown, the Belhar Confession reminds the church of Jesus Christ that unity in Christ is dependent on standing in solidarity with the least, the lost, the lonely—the marginalized and the oppressed. These devotions provide the spiritual reflection for the church’s responsibility to prophetic witness in profoundly troubling and complex times.”

A sign-up sheet to order the book is posted outside the C.E. Office. The cost of the book is \$13.00. Checks can be made payable to C.E. and put in the C.E. box in the church office.

There is also a sign-up sheet for those who are able to provide soup for any one of the sessions.

Vacation Bible School 2017: June 26-June 30

Save the date for VBS 2017, *Clean Water for All God’s Children.*

During the week of June 26, from 9 until noon, children, aged four to ten, will explore the many ways that water--God’s life giving resource--can be celebrated and cherished. For more information, or to sign up to volunteer, contact Jan Moody.

COMMUNITY -- MISSION

One Great Hour of Sharing will be collected from March 19th to April 9th. O.G.H.S. is one of the special offerings conducted by PC (USA), which Warner participates in each year. Please consider giving generously. O.G.H.S. benefits Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and the Self-Development of People program, worldwide.

Interfaith Chamber Music Concert to Benefit Interfaith Works

We are pleased to announce that Warner is collaborating with others in our community who worship God in a variety of ways, to bring you a delightful musical experience! (Remember the fall program “Kensington SINGS! and PLAYS! And RINGS!?”). Mark your calendars, and plan to attend the concert in our sanctuary on **Sunday, May 7, at 3 p.m.** The concert will be followed by a cookie

reception. A good-will offering will be collected, which will benefit Interfaith Works Clothing Center. More information to follow.

Celebrate Your Birthday by Giving a Present to a Child!

Have you looked in the toy box in the narthex? It is filling up with presents for children - toddlers to teens - whose families are identified as “the working poor”, and are eligible to get clothing at the Interfaith Clothing Center operated by Interfaith Works.

Whenever the toy box is full, the toys will be taken to the “Birthday Closet” located in the Interfaith Clothing Center. Children whose birthdays are recorded can come in with their parents and chose a gift for themselves. What a joy it is to follow the example of Mary Margaret Gibson who set this example for us by giving a gift to a child on her birthday. The toys, new and unwrapped, will bring delight to a child we’ll never meet, but who will feel special, and it will warm our hearts to know that it is so.

--Articles submitted by Ina Rae Kramer

Last Month’s Giving by Your Mission Commission

In February, the Commission to the Community sent the first half of our \$2,000 annual support for Chaplain Holly Ulmer’s ministry at the University of Maryland. Jan Moody recently went there to see a part of what Holly does, and wrote the following report.

The United Campus Ministry (U.C.M.) of the University of Maryland has launched a weekly lunchtime discussion group called *Listening-Learning-Leading (L3) The Power of Purpose*. Chaplain Holly Ulmer facilitates discussion with students in the Student Union on Wednesdays from 12 - 2 p.m.. The conversation honors diverse spiritual, religious, and secular perspectives and dives into questions such as...

- Why are you “here”?
- What unique contributions do you hope to make with your one precious life?
- How do your faith or secular core values influence what you envision for your life now and beyond college?

The invitation is given to discover with others the power of purpose and reflection on connections that matter the most in academic/life/professional callings.

I participated in a session that focused on themes sparked from Parker Palmer's book, *In A Hidden Wholeness, Let Your Life Speak*, where he speaks to our yearning to live undivided lives--lives that are congruent with our inner truth--in a world filled with the forces of fragmentation. The topic resonated with the students that gathered as they explored the challenge of living life in authentic ways in the midst of an often-chaotic world. I was impressed with the honesty and openness of the discussion. The students expressed their gratitude for having an open and safe space to share their experiences with others. For more information about L3 or U.C.M., go to <https://ucmcollegepark.org/>.

Jan Moody

WORSHIP AND MUSIC

On March 15, 2010, the Session of Warner Memorial Presbyterian Church unanimously voted to endorse the Charter for Compassion. At the February meeting of the Worship and Music Commission we agreed that in current times a re-reading of this charter would be a positive reminder of what we believe as a community. The Charter is printed below. Please share your thoughts with our Commission, with others in the congregation and with friends and neighbors.

--Kay Gorman

Charter for Compassion

The principle of compassion lies at the heart of all religious, ethical and spiritual traditions, calling us always to treat all others as we wish to be treated ourselves. Compassion impels us to work tirelessly to alleviate the suffering of our fellow creatures, to dethrone ourselves from the centre of our world and put another there, and to honor the inviolable sanctity of every single human being, treating everybody, without exception, with absolute justice, equity and respect.

It is also necessary in both public and private life to refrain consistently and empathically from inflicting pain. To act or speak violently out of spite, chauvinism, or self-interest, to impoverish, exploit or deny basic rights to anybody, and to incite hatred by denigrating others – even our enemies – is a denial of our common humanity. We acknowledge that we have failed to live compassionately and that some have even increased the sum of human misery in the name of religion.

We therefore call upon all men and women...

~ to restore compassion to the centre of morality and religion

~ to return to the ancient principle that any interpretation of scripture that breeds violence, hatred or disdain is illegitimate

~ to ensure that youth are given accurate and respectful information about other traditions, religions and cultures

~ to encourage a positive appreciation of cultural and religious diversity

~ to cultivate an informed empathy with the suffering of all human beings – even those regarded as enemies.

We urgently need to make compassion a clear, luminous and dynamic force in our polarized world. Rooted in a principled determination to transcend selfishness, compassion can break down political, dogmatic, ideological and religious boundaries. Born of our deep interdependence, compassion is essential to human relationships and to a fulfilled humanity. It is the path to enlightenment, and indispensable to the creation of a just economy and a peaceful global community.

PW Celebrates Valentine's Day at Rainbow Place

For the third year in a row, Warner's women were lucky to snag the Rainbow Place sign-up sheet for a Saturday near Valentine's Day and plan a festive evening of good food, company, entertainment, and SWAG. Thanks to the efforts of many, we provided table flowers, a Valentine tree trimmed with hearts, and gift bags, containing warm and colorful washable wool socks, chap stick, chocolates, and bus tokens for each of the 28 women. Hand-made Valentines rounded out the offerings.



We were so pleased to have both John Horman and Bill Burns provide musical entertainment consisting not only of instrumental keyboard/horn duets but also a Sing-along. June's ukulele-strumming added the top note to the evening. Everyone joined in the group-sing and we even had ladies make requests so they could take a stab at a solo. One woman's rendition of "To Sir with Love" brought the house to a standstill. We just never know what to expect, but know it will be "all good", and it was! No matter how much we do to prepare for this evening, we always come away feeling we have received so much more than we have given. Thanks again to all who shopped, cooked, schlepped, played, served, donated, wrapped or drew!!!

Gifts of Women Sunday, March 12



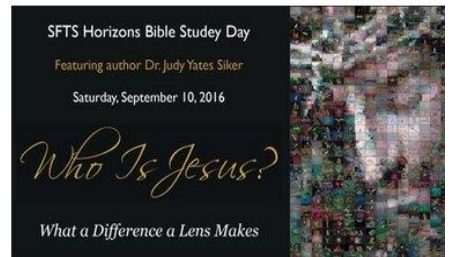
We are pleased and excited to have Reverend Shively T. J. Smith as our guest preacher this year for Gifts of Women Sunday on March 12th. In addition to preaching and leading the worship that day, Dr. Smith will also be teaching a Sunday School class. Dr. Smith

joined the Wesley faculty in New Testament studies in 2014 after completing her doctorate at Emory University. Her work has been supported by organizations such as the Louisville Institute, the Ford Foundation, the Fund for Theological Education, and the Mellon Mays Fellowship Program. She has also studied abroad at Oxford University as an English-Speaking Union (E.S.U.) Luard scholar in the Theology Department. Her research interests include: the General Letters and Luke-Acts, Call Narratives, and biblical discourses on diaspora. Ordained in the African Methodist Episcopal Church (A.M.E.), Dr. Smith has actively worked in ministry and academia for more than 15 years. Please plan to join us for Sunday School and worship!!!

2017 Bible Study: Who Is Jesus? What a difference a lens makes...

We are in the midst of year one of our two-year Bible Study, “Who Is Jesus?” In Lesson One, we studied the Gospel of Mark and “saw” a Jesus who is not the messiah expected, but is indeed God’s son. We learned in Lesson Two that, according to Matthew,

Jesus is the long-awaited Jewish messiah whose teaching opens the kingdom of God to us here and now. In Lesson Three, we will explore the Gospel of Luke. Come and join the discussion in the Library on **Tuesday, March 21st at 7:30 p.m.** in the church library. All are welcome! Circle leader: June Eakin



For the past few years, the **Reflection Circle** has been meeting on the second Sundays at 9:30 a.m. in the Trinity Room. Lora Mc Glade, Circle leader, recently reported that attendance on Sunday morning is waning. The intent of the Circle was to provide an alternative meeting time for Bible Study. If you are interested in proposing a different time that may garner more routine attendance, please contact Lora McGlade.

“Books to Prison” Ministry



You may recall that last Lenten Season, Lena Aspiras asked us to donate books to support the “Books to Prison” Ministry sponsored by the Foundry United Methodist

Church in DC. This year we are continuing our support by not only donating books, but planning to volunteer at the church on **Saturday, March 25th from 9-11:30.** If you are interested in participating, please contact Lena. We will plan to Metro or Uber downtown that morning as parking is at a premium in that area. Hope you can join us. If you would like to donate books, Lena has shared that dictionaries and “how to draw” books are regularly requested by inmates; she also reminded us that paperback books are much preferred. In addition, donations to cover postage are very much appreciated.

PW Bulletin Board

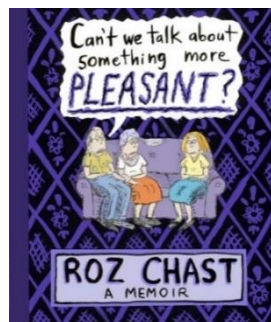
Have you noticed the PW bulletin board as you enter the Calvert Street entrance by the office...? Thanks to Sheri Daugherty for keeping it varied and up-to-date, and for her seemingly bottomless bucket of creativity. She shared that the mirrored background was leftover prop material from one of son Scott’s college movie productions. Not sure when Sheri works her magic, but her creations do seem to magically appear.... Thank you, Sheri.



March 2017 PW Book Club



Please plan to join us on **Friday, March 24th** for our sixth discussion of the 2016-2017 season. Our book this month is, **“Can’t We Talk about Something More Pleasant”** by Roz Chast, and it is our first foray into the graphic novel genre. From the web (GoodReads), *“In her first memoir, Roz Chast brings her signature wit to the topic of aging parents. Spanning the last several years of their lives and told through four-color cartoons, family photos, and documents, and a narrative as rife with laughs as it is with tears, Chast's memoir is both comfort and comic relief for anyone experiencing the life-altering loss of elderly parents. When it came to her elderly mother and father, Roz held to the practices of denial, avoidance, and distraction. But when Elizabeth Chast climbed a ladder to locate an old souvenir from the "crazy closet"—with predictable results—the tools that had served Roz well through her parents' seventies, eighties, and into their early nineties could no longer be deployed. An amazing portrait of two lives at their end and an only child coping as best she can...”*. I daresay our book group selections are just fabulous and always stimulate wonderful discussion. Please join us!! We are still seeking a venue at which to gather as Warner is not a convenient location on Friday evenings. Please contact Lisa Smeallie if you would like to offer your home for our discussion.



Working on a new Warner Cookbook



Rumor has it that this year’s Lenten Wednesday series will include soup suppers... What better time to pore over your favorite soup recipes and submit them, via email, to Lisa Smeallie? Please indicate if the recipe is one that has been enjoyed at any various Warner social events, such as Potluck, Salt

Shakers, Fellowship Hour, Lenten Suppers, etc. We look forward to having an abundance of recipes to curate as we work on this endeavor.

NIH Easter Baskets

Thanks, once again, to Sheri Daugherty for her endless energy and creativity in gathering items for Easter baskets delivered to the patients and family members at the Children's Inn at NIH. It seems, each year, that Sheri and her Easter Elves up the ante. From the warren of Harriet Rabbit...

"Almost time to think about the Easter Baskets for kids at The Children's Inn at NIH. Think what you can leave in the library. Think baskets. Think green Easter grass.

Think chocolate Easter candy. Think of giving a monetary donation to cover books and activities already purchased. Think about it till Harriet Rabbit visits Warner!" A little bunny has shared that we can look forward to a visit from Harriet on **March 26th**.



IT'S NOT TOO LATE!

It's Not Too Late- A limited quantity of Equal Exchange coffee, tea and chocolate bars is still available for purchase. Contact JoEllen

LaPrade if you are interested in any of these goodies!



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

During the worship service on February 26, Kate Addo was installed as a ruling Elder. Kate had previously been ordained as an Elder in her former church in North Dakota. Many thanks and congratulations to Kate for accepting this important role in our congregation.

March Birthdays

1	Jennifer Letizia	15	Kirby Lawrence Hill,
2	Luke Gillette,		Kimberly Moody
	Abigail Massey	17	Robert Gillette,
4	Matthew Carlson,		Shalini Puri
	Louise MacDonald	18	Charles Castner
5	Diane Schroeder	19	Pamela Dunn
6	Antonio Robinson	20	Elizabeth Bunn,
8	Susie Sun		Alice Castner, Karen Cook
9	Bruce Bowen	24	Ida Yoder
10	Larry Pinkus	25	Ann Jacob Smith
11	Emily Bragg	26	Robert Swendiman
12	Mark Fischetti,	28	Ruth Harvey
	Tim Geiger, Kitty Scott	29	Hannah Cope
14	Joan Bannon,		Douglas Seeley
	Geoff Cope, Glee Lohm	31	Elnora Gloss,
			Dawn Rhine

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.

Next MEMO Issue

Please submit articles and notices for the **April issue** of the Warner MEMO by **Friday, March 24**. 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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