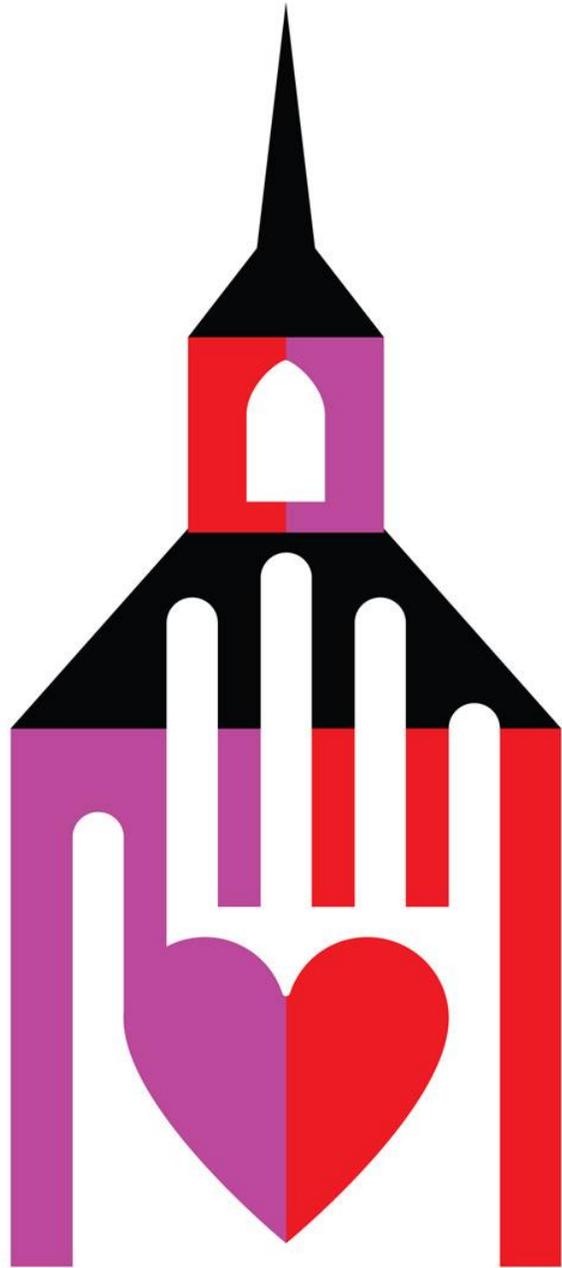


November 2016



**GIVING
EMPOWERS
LOVE**

THE WARNER MEMO

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
OF WARNER MEMORIAL
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

www.warnermemorial.org
[Online Calendar](#)

WORSHIPING TOGETHER IN NOVEMBER

Sunday, November 6

All Saints' Sunday; Communion

Psalm 145:1-13a; 2Thessalonians 2:13-17

“Eternal Comfort and Good Hope”

Sunday, November 13

Pledge Sunday

1 Corinthians 13:1-7; 2Timothy 1:1-7

“Giving Empowers Love”

Sunday, November 20

Reign of Christ Sunday

Colossians 1:11-20; Luke 23:33-43

“Reigning From a Cross”

Tuesday, November 22

- Interfaith Thanksgiving Service -

Organized by the Kensington/North Chevy Chase Ministerium

To be held at Christ Episcopal Church,

4001 Franklin Street, Kensington, at 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, November 27

First Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 2:1-5; Romans 13:11-14

“The Light of the Lord”

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,

James Phillips Noble wrote a reflection piece entitled “Our Building Stones” that I share with you here:

*God gives us stones to build.
We can do with them what we will.*

*Some seek to build a structure that reaches to the sky,
And like the tower of Babel confusion reigns.*

*Some build a high containing wall around their own happiness
To shut out the intrusion of God or others.*

*Some build a personal mansion of pride, and install a drawbridge over a moat,
Hoping for safety from all alarms.*

*But there are some who build a solid and ample house, and from it they lay stepping
stones,
And each day they walk out upon these set stones on errands of love and mercy.*

*God gives us stones to build.
We can do with them what we will.*

Among the stones God provides to us is the ability to give. The giving to Warner Church lays out stepping stones by which we can journey upon errands of love and mercy. Our Stewardship theme this year is “Giving Empowers Love.” It is taken from 2 Timothy 1:7 – “For God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline.” Where will that triple spirit of power, love, and self-discipline lead us? I dare say it will lead us to use the stones placed in our care to enable the journey of love and mercy. When that happens, love is empowered and the gospel gets proclaimed.

I thank all who give so generously to Warner Memorial Presbyterian Church with their time and energy, along with the sharing of talents and treasure. You will be receiving your 2017 pledge card in the mail soon. Please allow the spirit of power, love, and self-discipline to guide you in filling it out to be turned in on **Pledge Sunday, November 13**, or by mailing it to the church office. Our giving together definitely empowers love!

With deep gratitude,
Kirby Lawrence Hill

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

POST ELECTION POLL

It is not too late to cast your ballot. Beginning November 13, you will have an opportunity to vote for your top three Christmas Carols. The song list for the Sunday, December 4, Carol "Sing-A-Long" will include some of your favorites! Look for ballots and a ballot box in the Warner Narthex soon.

"PARENTS' NIGHT OUT" – THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10

Your Christian Education Commission is glad to sponsor a Parents' Night Out on Thursday evening, November 10, from 6:00 to 8:00.

The November program for children ages 3 to 8 will include a light supper and Thanksgiving themed activities. To sign up your children, and for more information, contact Jan Moody, jdmoody3@gmail.com.

COMMUNITY -- MISSION

YOUR MISSION COMMISSION IN ACTION

In October most of our giving was to the Unified Giving of the Presbyterian Church. (We'll report more on that another time.) However, we also sent two checks to groups that we appreciate very much.

Interfaith Works fights poverty in creative and effective ways in Montgomery County. (See the accompanying article below.) When in August a gas explosion destroyed the Flower Branch Apartment building in the Long Branch area, Interfaith Works began trying to help the survivors. Some had lost loved ones, most had lost possessions, and all had lost their living place. We learned of the activity of Interfaith Works to help these people, and last month we sent \$200 to assist that effort.

Most years we send a small check to the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC). Since 1971 this organization has worked to combat hate groups. They offer legal support to protect those who have been attacked, and do research on which groups are using what tactics to attack whom. They also share this information with the police services that are located in the areas of hate-crime activity. After accounting for funds that we have earmarked for other groups and people, we chose to use the remaining portion of our discretionary budget (\$34.75) for the SPLC.

-- Cory Atwood, for the Commission to the Community

INTERFAITH WORKS SEEKS TO MAKE MONTGOMERY COUNTY HAVE THE LOWEST POVERTY RATE IN MARYLAND

On Sunday, October 23rd, Shane Rock, CEO of Interfaith Works, spent a fascinating hour with the fourteen or so members of Warner who were able to gather to hear him present new initiatives being put in place, which he and his board envision will “provide the foundation for people to lift themselves out of poverty.” The targeted group (those just below and just above the poverty line) will be provided “wraparound” services - addressing each family’s specific obstacles and identifying their unique talents, experiences and abilities. They are already seeing results in their pilot programs, a key element of which is to have families and individuals form small groups and become more successful by helping each other. Their goal is, by 2022 (the 50th anniversary of the organization), to reduce poverty in Montgomery County by 25%.

Formerly known as the Community Ministry of Montgomery County (CMMC), this organization has always been respected for providing a safety net for Montgomery County’s poorest residents. Many of our members have visited their shelters, given clothing to the Interfaith Clothing Center, and volunteered. The Clothing Center will soon open in a new space, more spacious and appearing more like a department store, and on the same floor, in the back, job skills training will be taking place.

The Interfaith Works staff intends to applying science-based interventions to help people who are feeling overwhelmed think in new ways -- learning better decision making skills and learning to reduce stress. Interfaith Works intends to measure the outcomes of its efforts and report on what works and doesn’t work. We will want to follow its progress by often checking their website www.iworksmc.org and by supporting their efforts in as many ways as possible.

-- Ina Rae Kramer, for the Community Commission

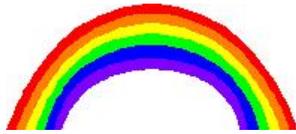
WARNER WELCOMING STATEMENT

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 MEMORIAL NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Following worship on Sunday, October 30, Warner's Nominating Committee Chair, June Eakin, presented the committee's report to the congregation. The officers-elect for the Session Class of 2019 (beginning in January 2017) include Bill Burns, Mary Cameron and Joel DeJesus. Elected for the Deacons: Bill Jackson, Alan Schroeder (currently moderator) and Grace Sooklal. We members of the nominating committee would appreciate any eligible Warner members to come forward, who wish to fill the remaining openings on these boards. We feel that our work isn't done.

BOARD OF DEACONS



At our monthly meeting on Monday, October 24, the Warner deacons planned for the congregation's annual mission of Saturday night meals in November to the Rainbow Place women's shelter service at Rockville Presbyterian Church. The board of deacons coordinates the sign-ups for preparing food, delivering it, and serving the homeless women at the shelter. The roster is complete for Saturday, November 5, but some needs are still unfilled for the remaining Saturdays. Please see the sign-up easel-board in Warner's main hallway near the office.

At our October meeting, we discussed the ongoing monthly need for funds to provide Giant food grocery gift cards for indigent people who come seeking help at Warner Church. From the deacons' fund, we contribute as we are able. We also worked on how best to provide transportation and/or visitation for several people in our congregation. Additionally, the deacons help with Warner's awareness of the ongoing needs of Mid-county United Ministries (MUM).

-- Tiff Carroll, for the Board of Deacons

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.



FALL GATHERING Warner's women were out and about in October – starting with a Fall Gathering at 15th Street Presbyterian Church on October 1st that was as inspiring as the weather was not. Rev. Lucy DerGarabedian led a worship service featuring the women of the Bible in full costume and highlighting their stories, the constant pounding of the rain on the sanctuary roof accompanied us



as well as the music Margaret Washnitzer played on the grand piano. Following worship, we learned about the rich 200 - year history of 15th Street as well the Salvation Army sponsored brown bag lunch program. "Grate Patrol" for which we prepared over 100 bagged meals to be hand-delivered to the homeless on the streets in NW DC.

FALL RETREAT In mid-month, 15 or so of us spent the day in retreat at Bon Secours Conference Center communing with each other and nature; exploring the Cloud of Witnesses that surrounds and supports us, learning about the history of the Bible and being introduced to this year's study, "Who Is Jesus?" The entire program was planned and led by women from Warner and from all reports the wonderful weather was surpassed only by the worship, presentations, discussions, and fellowship.



We wrapped up October mission support by attending the annual MUM fundraiser in Silver Spring on Saturday, October 22, where MUM celebrated its 20th anniversary. Now on to November...

“How precious is your steadfast love, O God. All people may take refuge in the shadow of your wings.” Whatever you did for one of the least of these brother and sisters of mine you did for me” – Psalm 36:7



Thanks to your generous giving to the **2015 Thank Offering**, 22 projects (14 national and 8 international) received and will receive grants in 2016, allowing them to improve the lives of women, children and men in need. The recipients will provide an array of services in their

communities—a food bank in a remote area of Colorado where employment opportunities are limited, expansion of an English as a Second Language program in Texas, a shelter for abused women in Mississippi, a women's agricultural program in South Sudan, a youth training program in Rwanda, and many more. At least 40 percent of the offering funds health ministries. Give generously so more meaningful projects can be funded in the future! The committee selects programs based on merit, regardless of geographic location. **The goal for 2016 is \$900,000; almost double that of last year.** To see more about these and more projects visit www.presbyterianwomen.org/thank.

Warner PW will be collecting its Thank Offering throughout the month of November. Please place your offering (checks payable Presbyterian Women WMPC) in the special Thank Offering envelope and place it in the offering plate or deliver to the church office. Envelopes can be found in the paper edition of the MEMO, on the PW bulletin board, during Fellowship Hour, and in the brochure racks.



Write to Be

PW ANNUAL MEETING We will hold our annual meeting following worship on **Sunday, November 6th** in the Common Room and are eagerly awaiting a report from our own Hilary Bragg, who will be our guest speaker. Hilary will be sharing her experiences

traveling to Haiti as part of the non-profit program, “Write-to-Be”, she and her friends founded to empower girls in Haiti by engaging in “activities around self-esteem, goal setting, girl power, and fun!. Hilary and her colleagues “... envision a world where girls realize their full potential, are not afraid to pursue opportunity, are empowered agents of positive change, and the world recognizes their value. Through positive relationships we engage in conversation to encourage self discovery, cultivate community, and equip girls with the tools to be fearless authors of their own lives. Our pen-pals all call Espwa their home, and have expressed to us their ambitions to be lawyers, doctors, and nurses; all have set goals to work hard in school; and are committed to giving back to their communities...”



Please plan to grab some nibbles from Fellowship Hour and join us in the Common Room November 6 to hear from Hilary about this important endeavor.

2016-2017 BIBLE STUDY: WHO IS JESUS? WHAT DIFFERENCE A LENS MAKES...

The women of Warner are embarking on a two year Bible study and discussion to help each of us answer the question that Jesus asks, “Who do you say that I am?” The Bible study book (\$8 from the church office) is written to be used individually or in groups.

From the author, Rev. Judy Yates Siker, “I invite you to join me in a journey to expand our understanding of who Jesus was and is. It is not a journey that will result in a simple answer that we all agree upon. It is instead, a journey of our hearts and minds, a journey that we will take together.”

Joy Circle: 3rd Tuesdays at 7:30 pm. in the church library. All are welcome. Circle leader: June Eakin

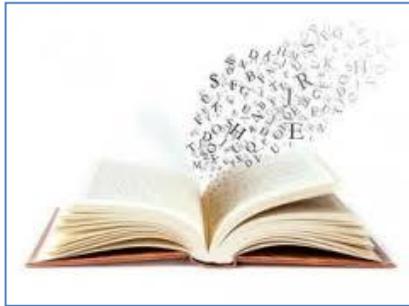
Reflection Circle: 2nd Sundays at 9:30 am in the Trinity Room, Circle leader: Lora McGlade

THIRD ANNUAL GIFT FAIR – SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20th AT THE HARVEST BRUNCH

“If you build it, they will come...” that has been our experience the last two years when we held a Gift Fair in the Social Hall during the Harvest Brunch and we expect the same this year. Justice Venture International is coming back, by popular demand with jewelry and other gift items. In addition, PW will



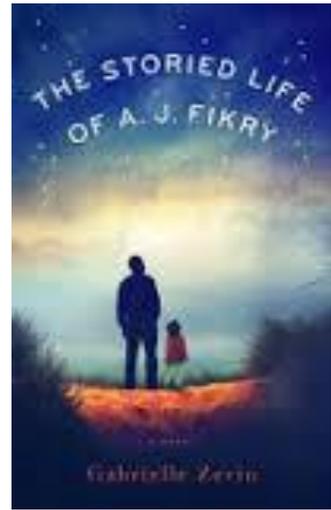
also be selling a variety fairly traded Equal Exchange items as well. As in years past, the proceeds will go toward supporting various Warner PW mission efforts, local, national and international.



NOVEMBER 2016 PW BOOK CLUB

Please plan to join us on Tuesday, **November 29th at 7:30PM**, for our third book discussion of the 2016-2017 season. Our book this month

is, **“The Storied Life of AJ Fikry” by Gabrielle Zevin**. We will be gathering in the church library and Susan Bresee will lead our session that evening. This book is described as, “... Funny, tender, and moving, The Storied Life of A. J.



Fikry reminds us all exactly why we read and why we love.”... A. J. Fikry’s life is not at all what he expected it to be. He lives alone, his bookstore is experiencing the worst sales in its history, and now his prized possession, a rare collection of Poe poems, has been stolen. But when a mysterious package appears at the bookstore, its unexpected arrival gives Fikry the chance to make his life over--and see everything anew.”



PLANS IN PLACE FOR A NEW COOKBOOK

It is that time again... Lisa Smeallie has agreed to head up the next Warner Cookbook and the first ingredient needed is... recipes and lots of them. Please email an electronic (preferable) version of your favorite recipe to her and if there is an interesting history or story related to it, include that information as well. If you have any questions or if you are interested in working on this

endeavor, please contact Lisa directly.

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.



THE LIBRARY COMMITTEE

COME TO A “BOOK TALK” ON BONHOEFFER IN DECEMBER

The Reverend Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the famous German theologian, loved the Christmas season. He felt that it is the time of year that Christians feel closest to God and to their families. He wrote brief devotions on the subject. Now, accompanied by an array of beautiful snowy photographs, a book: Wonder of Wonders: Christmas with Dietrich Bonhoeffer, has been produced from these writings.

On Sunday, December 11, after morning worship service, come to the Warner library in the Common Room, where Alan Schroeder, our in-house Bonhoeffer guru, will lead us in appreciation of the man, his theology, and his vision of the holy season. Come and get inspired!

-- Marie Rosche, for the Library Committee

WARNER PEOPLE

IN MEMORIAM—

Larry Merl. On October 11, Larry Merl, longtime Warner member and a friend to all, passed away. Larry was 88 years old, and suffered without complaint from a progressive condition for years. A memorial service was held at Warner on Saturday, October 22. Please keep Isabelle, the children and grandchildren in your prayers and thoughts.

Frances Stambaugh. Also in October, longtime Warner member Frances Stambaugh passed away. Services were held at a church in Gaithersburg on October 22, nearby to Asbury Methodist Village, where Frances had lived for several years. While at Warner, she was a Stephen Minister and (as a retired county librarian) served on the library committee.

Paul Magee. Paul Magee, husband of the late Polly Magee (a Warner member), died in October. Paul occasionally came to Warner Church with the rest of the family, and we shall miss him. Services were held at Holy Redeemer Church in Kensington.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS :

Kate and Ferdinand Addo. On Sunday, October 23, Kate and Ferdinand Addo joined Warner Memorial Church, by Letter of Transfer. Kate is a lawyer; she has been attending Warner for several years (including the Sunday morning class); her husband Ferdinand (a physician) has been on duty in North Dakota. **Please extend a Warner welcome to these folks!**

NEW CONTACT INFORMATION:

Babs Sausser has a new phone number:

301-273-9117

Doris Williams has a new address:

35 East Side Rd

Oak Bluffs, MA 02557

Madalena (Lena) Aspiras has a new address and phone:

1605 Isherwood St., NE

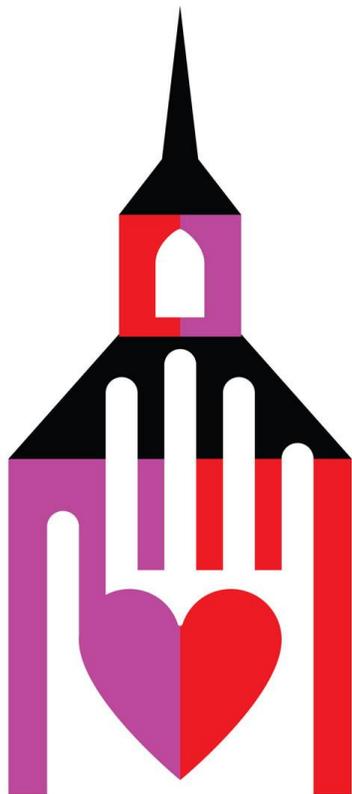
Washington, DC 20002 202-808-5362

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Lois Buitano, Ina Rae Kramer
- 4 Harold Shaw
- 6 Madalena Aspiras
- 8 Laura Avery
- 9 Thomas Bocchetti
- 10 Susan Bates
- 11 Ajay Soni
- 12 Major Williams
- 15 Marie Rosché
- 18 Shane Gillette
- 19 Karen Murphy, Jeffery Simenauer

- 20 Sheldon Butts, David Daugherty
- 22 Steven Kline
- 25 Kenyon Kramer
- 26 Simon Winter
- 27 William Kirchhoff, Peter McGrath, Shannon Stalker
- 28 Simran Puri

STEWARDSHIP



**GIVING
EMPOWERS
LOVE**

November is “Stewardship month.” Our Warner stewardship theme this year comes from 2 Timothy 1:7: “For God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline.”

Pledge Sunday is November 13. Please bring your 2017 pledge card with you to worship on that day. If you can’t make it that Sunday, you may bring the card in at any time to the church office. Our pledges make it possible for Warner to continue providing our outstanding programs, missions and projects. Thank you!

NEXT MEMO ISSUE

Please submit articles and notices for the December issue of the Warner MEMO by Friday, November 25. **(This must be a strict deadline, please!)** 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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Music Director: Peter Smeallie

Organist: Sungho Paik

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