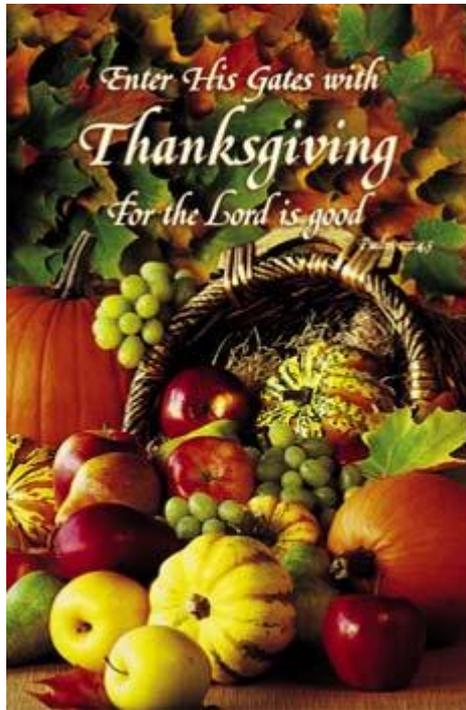


November 2018

# *THE WARNER MEMO*



THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER  
OF WARNER MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

## FROM THE PASTOR

### Thanks Be to God for Some Truly Awful Mashed Potatoes

Did I ever tell you about the time a family member ruined Thanksgiving? Well, that's a bit of an exaggeration. Actually, I think I may have preached about this a while back. Then again, good stories should be told again and again. So here goes.

It happened a long time ago in a state far, far away. It was back in Michigan, and name withheld to protect the guilty said they would bring the mashed potatoes. Little did we know that there was an ulterior motive. You see, unnamed culprit was on one of their health kicks. And their goal that holiday was to take the fat out of Thanksgiving.

What did all of this mean for the mashed potatoes? Well, I've seen a few recipes, but they all have one thing in common. Whether it's butter, half & half, sour cream or D) all of the above, they have lots of tasty fat content. And salt. It's what makes them rich and creamy, flavorful and tasty. Back home, that was a big hit. Especially on Thanksgiving. So when it came time to fix my plate, I went all in with the mashies.

But then after I dug in, well, something didn't taste right. At first, I assumed it was just, well, I didn't know what it was, so I tried again. Nope, there was something wrong. I looked around. After a minute or two, I noticed my brother and Coach. They were also looking around. We stepped away from our TV trays and huddled up around a corner. What was it? What happened to Thanksgiving dinner? *It just doesn't taste right.* That was being nice. *It's like somebody drenched my plate with lemon juice.* That was a little more honest. *Who ruined thanksgiving?* Bingo!

We found out later that it was the mashed potatoes. They had been made sans fat. They had been prepared with non-fat yogurt. It should also be noted that just about all the fat had been removed from the gravy. And very little salt had been used. It might have been some sort of salt substitute. Candidly, we didn't get that far in

our investigation. Sorry, but we couldn't get past the non-fat yogurt, and how awful those mashies were that year.

But here's the thing, church. And yes, there's a thing in all this. A point, I mean. If it hadn't been for those truly awful mashed potatoes, well, I would be down one hilarious sermon illustration. Even more so, our family wouldn't have a story to tell each and every time we get together for Thanksgiving. The mashies that ruined Thanksgiving has become Bechtle lore, a story that is told every 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday in November. And each time it's recounted, there are groans and laughs and sighs. I'm thankful for that. Yes, those mashies ruined a meal, but they've enhanced every other ever since.

An attitude of gratitude is just that. The point being, in hindsight anyways, there's almost always something to give thanks for, church. No matter how bad the mashed potatoes.

Enjoy Your Meal!  
Rev. Todd

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

(Subject to change, by the Holy Spirit!)



**Sunday, November 4<sup>th</sup>**

All Saints Sunday

Hebrews 11:1-12:2

“A Second Grade Sunday School Teacher”

**Sunday, November 11<sup>th</sup>**

CAT Scan Sunday; Veteran's Day

Rev. Karen Chamis, Guest Preacher

Scriptures TBD



**Sunday, November 18<sup>th</sup>**

Pledge Sunday & Harvest Brunch

Luke 19:1-10

“Jesus' Money Laundering Operation”

## Sunday, November 25<sup>th</sup>

The Sunday after Thanksgiving

Luke 15:11-32

“Thanks or No Thanks?”

[Online November Calendar Link](#)



Please support the good work of our Deacons. Their funding comes only from specially marked, individual donations collected on the first Sunday of each month. Please also bring non-perishable

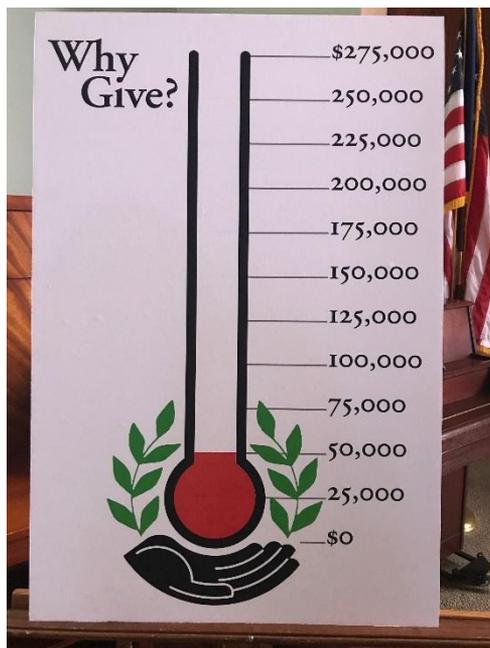
food to our Hunger Barrel in the Narthex. Thank you for helping our neighbors in need!

## STEWARDSHIP

### Why Give?

“Why Give?” is the theme of our Stewardship Campaign this year and the question is meant to make us think. *Just what are our gifts? Do we appreciate them? Do we use them for God's work? Do we thank God for them?*

**By the end of October, we had received almost \$100,000 in pledges for 2019.** (More than is currently reflected on the chart Tim Cook designed for us.) Thank you to those who have already returned their pledge cards. There is still time for you to prayerfully consider your gifts and your pledge!



--Kay Gorman

## **Volunteers for worship services**

We urgently need volunteers to sign up as ushers, greeters, and counters for November and December. Please check your calendars now as you read this and call the office or send an email with as many dates as you can volunteer - the more the better. THANK YOU!

--Kay Gorman

## **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

Presbyterians claim World Communion Sunday as a Presbyterian Gift to the Church – being conceived in Shadyside Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh, PA in 1933 and now celebrated in many churches. On World Communion Sunday, celebrated on October 7<sup>th</sup> this year, we celebrate the global connections of the Church as a union across space. The immediate motivation for this Sunday - in terms of its historical context – is unclear, but striving for unity in the denomination or more locally in Pittsburgh have both been suggested ([PMA](#)). Looking back, we may ask whether the Nazi party's rise to power in Germany played a role in motivating this call to a globally-minded discernment: Hitler's appointment to Chancellor was also in 1933, and the Barmen Declaration – now a PC(USA) confession – was penned one year after, proclaiming the authority of Christ.

To consider what World Communion Sunday means for us today, we need to consider the scriptural basis and ask what communion meant for the Church in its early growth. The Presbyterian Mission Agency description of this Sunday highlights Paul's call to the Corinthians to “discern the body” when they partake in the Lord's Supper (1 Cor 11:29, [PMA](#)). Since Paul's first letter to the Corinthians

discusses the Lord's Supper, and his letters are commonly dated as the earliest books of the New Testament, this is a good starting point for our discernment of the body today. Here we find that disunity is apparent in the Church as Paul notes factions who say they follow Apollos, Cephas, Christ, or Paul himself (1 Cor 1:12). In response, Paul asks, "has Christ been divided?" (1 Cor 1:13). The answer, of course, is *surely not!*

Since Christ has not been divided – following the logic of Paul's appeals to unity - Christ must remain *one body*. We later learn that the Church is "the body of Christ" (1 Cor 12:27). Further, the Lord's Supper provides a sign allowing the Church to perceive its unity as the Body of Christ, as Paul notes, "because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread" (1 Cor 10:17). In Paul's letter, when eating and drinking this Supper, in remembrance of Jesus, we "proclaim the Lord's death until he comes" (1 Cor 11:26).

As Paul's letter progresses, we can begin to conceptualize the linkage of the Lord's Supper and the unity of the Church as the body of Christ; after reading it in its entirety, the letter can be seen as a meditation on union with Christ. The discussion of the Lord's Supper in chapters 10 and 11 provides for how natural things – bread and cup – allow a true representation of spiritual things, not 'mere symbols' of 'mere humans', but a sign of the coming kingdom of God, sealed in the love of Christ.

We reach the crescendo of Paul's unfolding of the spiritual reality in chapter 15, where Paul describes resurrection: the particular resurrection of Christ, the general resurrection at the end of time, and the nature of the resurrection body. Paul's authority to teach about these things is placed, "not on human wisdom but on the power of God" (1 Cor 2:5). In a similar way, he distinguishes the "spiritual person" from the "natural person" – and notes the

former has “the mind of Christ” (1 Cor 3:16). In a memorable verse, Paul says to “be imitators of me, as I am of Christ” (1 Cor 11:1).

Through this letter, Paul is teaching the church at Corinth, using terms the members can accept, as they grow in faith through increasing their understanding of themselves as members of the body of Christ – a body that extends well beyond Corinth. The pedagogical function of the format I described above is further evidenced in Paul’s memorable statement at the beginning of chapter 3:

*And so, brothers and sisters, I could not speak to you as spiritual people, but rather as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. <sup>2</sup>I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for solid food. Even now you are still not ready, <sup>3</sup>for you are still of the flesh. For as long as there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not of the flesh, and behaving according to human inclinations? <sup>4</sup>For when one says, “I belong to Paul,” and another, “I belong to Apollos,” are you not merely human? (1 Cor 3:1-4)*

Paul does not begin his first letter to the Corinthians with a treatment of the general resurrection; he begins by offering “milk” that will prepare for the “solid food” of the spirit that can be understood through union with Christ.

Thus, Paul’s teaching must loosen the obstacles of the flesh – a sort of sinful garb put on the body – to allow the community to see itself as the body of Christ. This requires the preparation implied in that reformed watchword, knowledge of self – as an aside, you may remember Calvin’s *Institutes* begins “Without knowledge of self, there is no knowledge of God”. This preparation is seen in Paul’s exhortation to the members of the church to self-examination with the sense of self-discernment within view of the Church universal, the body of Christ. In the salutation at the beginning of the letter, we find it is addressed “to the church of God this is in Corinth...

called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours” (1 Cor 1:2). The Corinthian church is sanctified together with the Church universal, through their union with Christ.

New global conditions call for careful discernment of the body within our congregations and presbyteries as well as across them. We also need to discern how our body interacts with other communities of faith and non-belief. Discernment of the body today calls for a knowledge of self and new means of self-discipline informed by the more expansive body of today’s Church. *What fruit will WMPC’s growth in Christ bear for its neighbors and neighborhood?* We often do not know what’s next, but we can be assured that God is still at work here and now. Though, we should remember: good fruit does not fall from the sky – as if from nowhere; it takes healthy roots, it takes time. We need to plant near streams, remembering the source of our nourishment within the larger body. Lastly, when discerning the body, we must remember we may plant, and others may water, but it is “... only God who gives the growth” (1 Cor 3:7).

Reference:

(Presbyterian Mission article ):

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/worship/special-days-and-emphases/world-communion-sunday/>

--Dave Grace, Dir. Christian Education

# CLIMATE CHANGE SCIENCE AND CHRISTIANS

## **Katharine Hayhoe, Ph.D.**

is an accomplished atmospheric scientist who studies one of the most pressing issues facing humanity today: climate change and why it matters to us here and now. She is also a remarkable communicator. But Katharine may be best-known to many people because of how she's bridging the broad, deep gap between scientists and Christians—work she does in part because she's a Christian herself. She's been recognized by Time Magazine as one of the top 100 Most Influential People in the world (2014) and by Foreign Policy as one of the top 100 Global Thinkers; her work was featured on the Emmy award-winning documentary series, *The Years of Living Dangerously*; and she won the American Geophysical Union's award for climate communication. She was named to the POLITICO 50 list of thinkers, doers and visionaries transforming American politics (2016) and named one of FORTUNE's world's greatest leaders (2017).



## **FREE PUBLIC LECTURE**

**SUNDAY NOVEMBER 18 AT 7:00 PM**  
SAINT MARK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
10701 OLD GEORGETOWN RD.  
NORTH BETHESDA, MD 20852

Register here:  
<https://bit.ly/2MvzHoY>

Childcare available upon request: 301-530-0600

## **COMMUNITY – MISSION**

### **Two Cents-a-Meal Collected Every Third Sunday**

There is something pleasing to me about an invitation to be involved with very little effort in making a difference in the life of someone who knows hunger, and the knowledge that when we do this, and others do it too, it really matters. Like the old story of the

person walking along a beach who sees thousands of starfish washed up and stoops to take one and throw it back in the water. When an observer asks, “Why did you do that? You can’t save them all!” The person’s answer was, “No, but it mattered to that one.”

Children can understand the concept of saving pennies, and that pennies add up. Teaching children that even though they themselves are little, what they do really matters, and every effort made toward caring for others is important. Adults also need to remind themselves of these important lessons.

However, if we are to continue participating in the collection of Two Cents a Meal, we need more helpers. We need someone who will write a reminder to appear in the bulletin on the second Sunday of each month for the following weeks’ collection, and then someone to write that the little red wagon is here (on collection day), and it is time to put our coins into it. We need counters after church on those third Sundays! We need an occasional MEMO article! And, we need coins to count! If you would like to participate in this, please let us know. It could be the one thing that you, perhaps with other members of your family, can take time for.

Ann Rakow has been heading this effort, but she can’t get to church every third Sunday, and would like a co-chair. Cory and Ginny Atwood have been faithful counters, and they would be glad to teach others how to do this too. It is good to be able to carve out a job that has parameters, both in amount of time it takes, and the length of time one wants to be involved. Maybe just for 2019? Give it some thought, and if you’re interested, let someone know. Ina Rae, Cory, Ginny, Ann, Sharon Allen, Mark Eakin ... all have some experience with this. Hope to hear from you!

–Ina Rae Kramer

## **Planning for our Angel Tree**

Loyce and Bruce Bowen have given us a lovely 6 ft tall tree, already lit, which we plan to erect and decorate during Advent, so that our congregation can bring gifts for children of God who might not

otherwise receive gifts. We are hopeful that with the help of our youth, it will be decorated again ... with angels.

Ideas we are considering--Repeat what we've done for several years: take gifts to the Interfaith Works Birthday Closet, in addition to our Birthday Closet collection; One year, Warner had a "mitten tree" with all sizes of mittens (which are warmer than gloves) to be distributed to homeless persons. I've read that the most frequently asked for gifts that homeless people want is warm socks! Maybe we could have a stocking tree!

The Commission to the Community will be making a decision at our November meeting. We would welcome input if anyone has any thoughts or ideas. If you would like to participate in the Angel Tree experience, please contact me.

Ina Rae Kramer, Chair  
Commission to the Community

### **Successful Fundraiser for Florida Mission Trip**

It was truly a magical night. Those who attended the Signature Dish supper called it, "An enchanted evening!" and said, "It was a lovely evening!" "I loved the restaurant atmosphere." "The food was spectacular!" "It really was a fun, elegant, and delicious evening for a great cause... another example of Warner at its best. Thanks for all that went into it."



On Saturday evening, October 13th, our multipurpose Social Hall was transformed into *Chez Warner*, and members of the Home Team (those who are unable to go on the upcoming mission trip) worked alongside members of Warner's Work Team (those who will set out for Florida to begin working on Monday, November 5th,

repairing damaged homes still made unlivable by Hurricane Irma) and together they put on a unique fundraiser which may become a tradition.



Can we make money and have fun at the same time? *Yes Indeed!* People on whom we've learned to depend for signature dishes, like Ida Yoder (for her *Linzer Torte*), and new members who introduced us to their signature dishes, like Kabara K. Praskavich (who makes a mouthwatering *S'Mores Cake*), and Dave Grace and his wife Ruby Anjum (who together make an amazing *Goat Curry*), opened our eyes to the culinary talents of our congregation! \$885 was collected at the door, and additional donations have been placed in the collection plate on Sundays, bringing our total (as of Oct. 26) to \$1,225.00. Truly, with the help of God, we can do great things!

--Ina Rae Kramer

## Peace and Global Witness Offering

Rev. Todd reminds us often that there are many ways to



give at Warner, and he is right. We are grateful to report, that you have already contributed \$1,274 to Peace and Global Witness, which is one of the three, annual, special offerings through PC(USA) that offers to us a way to unite with our Presbyterian brothers and sisters. Thank you!

If you haven't already contributed, remember that we will not refuse a contribution that is a little late. We normally receive around \$1,500 in donations, and you still have time to help Warner reach that goal. Please remember that we use our portion of the P&GW offering to bring peace to families through *The Family Tree*, peace to adults in the DC area through contributing to *The Interfaith*

Conference of Metro Washington, and peace to the diverse religious community served by the Jerusalem International YMCA which sponsors programs that bring Muslims, Christians and Jews together in the Holy Land.

Blessings,

Ina Rae Kramer, Chairperson and Mark Eakin for Commission to the Community



## **Warner Women made connections at Bon Secours Spiritual Center--a busy and informative Fall Retreat**

Lisa Smeallie gave us an introduction to apocryphal gospels; Sue Burns recapped the Bible study “Who Is Jesus?”; June Eakin gave a report on Churchwide P.W.; Dawn Rhine led us in a fun activity to guide our future plans in line with a Warner PW mission statement; and we formed a team to bring together the work we did in small groups.



**2018 Thank Offering to be collected throughout November**

The P.W. Thank Offering is one of Presbyterian

Women’s two offerings. Received in the fall each year, it gives women a tangible way to express their gratitude for the special

blessings in their lives. Thank Offering grants range from \$5,000 to \$50,000. At least 40 percent of the offering funds health ministries. The grants provide food and water, alleviate homelessness, provide educational opportunities, promote health, and improve the lives of women, children and men throughout the world in many ways. Please tuck your offering (checks payable Presbyterian Women W.M.P.C.) in the special Thank Offering envelope and either place it in the offering plate or deliver it to the church office. Envelopes can be found on the P.W. bulletin board and in the brochure racks. See more about the offering on the lovely P.W. Bulletin Board beside the church office.

### **Annual Meeting--Sunday, November 4<sup>th</sup>**

Everyone is invited to join P.W. in the Common Room after worship at about 12:45. In addition to elections of Treasurer and Co-Moderator, we'll vote on our budget, celebrate 30 years of Churchwide P.W. and hear about past and future mission work.

### **Bible Study**

**Joy Circle will meet on Tuesday, November 13 at 7:30 p.m. in the church library.** Kay Gorman will lead our second discussion on Lesson One of the Horizons Bible study "*God's Promise: I Am With You.*" More study books will soon be available. Join us for this two-year walk with God and learn about the most common promise in the Bible.

**Gift Fair--November 18!** While we're enjoying the Harvest Brunch, we can shop to make a difference. P.W. is hosting a Gift Fair with items from Partners for Just Trade, Equal Exchange, and Tim Cook holiday cards. Bring your wallet on Sunday, November 18 to shop Fair Trade and to benefit PW. The wreaths ordered in October are scheduled to be delivered beginning November 25<sup>th</sup>. A few may be available for immediate purchase that day, be ready!

## Saturday, November 24th--Our next visit to D.C. Books to Prisons library

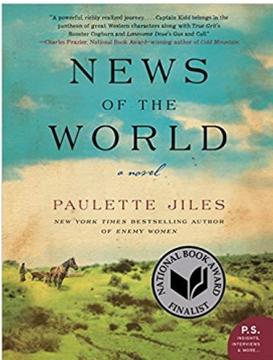
Contact Lena Aspiras if you'd like to join us at Foundry United Methodist Church in Washington, D.C. We carpool!

### P.W. Book Club

November's selection is News of the World by Paulette Jiles. "In the

*aftermath of the Civil War, an aging itinerant news reader agrees to transport a young captive of the Kiowa back to her people in this exquisitely rendered, morally complex, multilayered novel of*

*historical fiction that explores the boundaries of family, responsibility, honor, and trust."* A National Book Award Finalist—Fiction, this novel promises to be both interesting and entertaining. **We will meet to discuss the book on Tuesday, November 27<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. in the Church Library.** As always, all are welcome to join us whether or not you have read the book!



**The next meeting of the Coordinating Team will be Sunday, January 20<sup>th</sup> after worship.**

# WARNER PEOPLE

## December 2018 MEMO Issue

Please submit your completed article to [memo@warnermemorial.org](mailto:memo@warnermemorial.org), anytime from today through Tuesday, November 20, **in order for the Memo team to get it published and distributed by the first of the month.**

Thank you for your contributions!

### November Birthdays

- 2 Lois Buitano, Ina Rae Kramer
- 4 Harold Shaw
- 6 Lena Aspiras
- 8 Laura Avery
- 9 Thomas Bocchetti
- 10 Susan Bates
- 11 Kate Addo, Ajay Soni
- 12 Shervonne Johnson, Major Williams
- 15 Marie Rosche
- 19 Jeffrey Simenauer
- 20 Sheldon Butts, David Daugherty
- 22 Steven Kline
- 25 Ken Kramer
- 26 Simon Winter
- 27 Bill Kirchhoff, Shannon Stalker
- 28 Simran Puri





**We had a baptism on October 28<sup>th</sup>!**

Pictured with Pastor Todd Sutton are Leo Stinelli and his parents, Adam and Shelley. It was wonderful to have the

Swendiman and Stinelli families at Warner for this blessed occasion.

## **Directory Updates: Addresses and phone numbers**

### **Betty Ford**

19208 Abbey Manor Drive, Brookeville, MD 20833  
301-279-0705

### **Brad Hill**

33221 West Edgemoor Street, Lewes, DE 19958  
cell phone: 301.237.3584

### **Susan Luff**

[smkluff@gmail.com](mailto:smkluff@gmail.com)

### **Jeff Meredith**

1090 Milestone Drive, #410, Silver Spring, MD 20904  
301-388-0628

### **Major Williams**

Country Meadows of York-South  
2760 Pine Grove Road, Apartment 320, York, PA 17403  
301-820-5957

## **For All Saints Day--Necrology November 1, 2017- October 31, 2018**

### **Ruth Haverstock Ness**

August 2, 1922 - March 1, 2018

Research chemist and teacher,

devoted wife and mother, and dog lover.

Longtime member of Warner, Sunday School teacher, served on Session and the Commission to the Community.

### **Joan Bannon**

March 14, 1950 - April 13, 2018

Senior Economist at the U.S. Treasury.

Active member of Warner for nearly 30 years.

A mother of two sons, and a grandmother.

Joan was an ordained elder, and a Deacon.

She was a member of Joy Circle.

She served as a greeter, a counter, and

Vacation Bible School and mission trip volunteer.

### **Edna M. Wright**

July 4, 1924 - April 16, 2018

Charter member of Wheaton Presbyterian Church, when it closed, Edna came to WMPC and became an active member.

Volunteered for Meals on Wheels.

Loved music and dancing.

### **Marjorie Joan Hamon Schucker**

September 24, 1930 - June 22, 2018

"All her life Jesus was her guide and friend."

Generous. Adventurous. Lived life of service.

The Salvation Army was her favorite charity.

### **Betty Sickinger**

July 28, 1926 - August 22, 2018

An ordained Elder and Deacon.

**Note: Memorial Service for Betty will be held at Warner,  
December 22, at 3 p.m.**

### **Wilma Dunlap**

August 14, 1926 - September 17, 2018

Home economist, teacher, researcher, traveler,

joyful and loving mother and grandmother.  
Active member of Warner since 1969.

**Marjorie Burgess Parce**

August 18, 1921 - October 12, 2018

Teacher, Reading Specialist Aide,  
Volunteer for Meals on Wheels.

Mother, grandmother and great-grandmother

Stephen Minister, Adult Center volunteer, awarded member of  
Presbyterian Women. Member of Warner since late 1940's.

Instrumental in getting pedestrian traffic light installed  
on Connecticut Avenue.

**Warner Memorial Presbyterian Church**

10123 Connecticut Avenue

Kensington, MD 20895

Phone: 301-949-2900; FAX: 301-933-7704

Home Page: <http://www.warnermemorial.org>

*Please see bulletin boards outside the Main Office*

Interim Pastor: Rev. Todd Sutton

Director of Christian Education: Dave Grace

Director of Music: Peter Smeallie

Organist: Sungho Paik

Director of Learning Center for Young Children: Angela Goolsby

301-949-2933

Office Manager/Administrative Assistant: Dina Bickel

Sunday Morning Preschool/Nursery Aide: Shervonne Johnson

Warner Weekly: [outreach@warnermemorial.org](mailto:outreach@warnermemorial.org)

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