

May 2025

# THE WARNER MEMO



Image by [anita\\_peter](#) from Pixabay

THE NEWSLETTER OF  
WARNER MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

[https://warnermemorial.org/  
Calendar](https://warnermemorial.org/Calendar)

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## PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Dear Warner Family of Faith,

As you know, a lot of mainline churches in the US are in the same boat—they are active in faith and meaningful in mission, AND they are shouldering the financial realities of large church buildings built by generations past. WMPC is in this boat—but it's not a sinking ship!

At the Session meeting on March 2, we learned about the [Missional Incubator](#) program operated by the National Capital Presbytery. Rev. Tara Spuhler McCabe (our preacher for that day and guest at the meeting) invited us to consider participating in the program over the course of the next program year (September 2025-June 2026). (more info on the program is on pgs 13-16)

Since that meeting, the Session and I have spent a significant amount of time learning more about the program and listening to the experiences of participants. Here's what we've learned:

From the pastors who are currently participating in the program: Every single pastor engaged in the program delights in the theological and creative conversation about their unique congregations. They appreciate the opportunity to both focus on their own church and to be a helpful conversation partner for sister churches. They, in turn, have really appreciated the time in conversation with their own congregation members and Sessions about the creative nature of their ministry together. All of them appreciate that the program encourages (if not requires) participants to make *a* decision—to do *something* new and/or different—though, the boldness of those decisions varies according to each unique congregation. They all appreciate that the decision that is made is native to the congregation and the neighboring area of the church. And, they are appreciative that the presbytery provides support to follow through on determined projects/ministries.

(See pg. 15 to see which pastors and which churches are currently participating)

Recognizing that the ministry of the preschool is intimately intertwined with the life of the church, I spoke with the LCYC leadership as well. They appreciated being looped in. They don't feel the need to be involved in the process of the program but will appreciate being kept abreast of the process and would be happy to participate in conversations episodically, if their presence/input would be helpful. They're good, creative, thoughtful thinkers and I'm grateful for their interest in looking forward together, with the church.

Rev. Brian Clark (the Director of the program) came to WMPC and visited with me for about two hours to discuss the program and our participation in it. He clarified that while I will be the one to attend the weekly meetings (probably Wednesdays), I would then facilitate the conversation among WMPC—in a system/way we decide together—to do the dreaming/discerning for the future ministry here at WMPC. The time I spend with the clergy (weekly) is intended to be brought back to the church and fostered here—this was great encouragement to me to move forward.

Equipped with all this information, and after prayerful consideration, the Session unanimously voted to participate in the program at the meeting held on March 31.

The in-house discernment process looks a little different at each church. The Session had an in-depth conversation about this particular topic as it will be the most formative part of this process. Heeding their call to be the spiritual leaders of the congregation as Ruling Elders, they have elected to have this process take precedence in the Session meetings for the duration of the process. There will be times that the Session will benefit from inviting others into the

conversations—commission chairs, deacons, other volunteers as needed—but rather than have a separate group participate in this creative process, they will take on this task in addition to their existing mandated duties.

In summary, here are the pertinent details of the program for you to be aware of:

- WMPC has been invited into the Missional Incubator program because the Presbytery sees great potential in the ministry of Jesus Christ through this congregation and in this place.
- The program will help us discern what mixed-economy ministry WMPC is being called to. [Click here to learn more about Mixed-Economy Ministry](#) or see pages 13-16.
- I will meet weekly with a cohort of pastors (all are members of the National Capital Presbytery)
- The Session and I will do the work of discernment and planning in our monthly meetings.
- By Spring 2026, we anticipate making a decision that moves WMPC in the direction of being financially sustainable while pursuing spiritual vitality.

The Session and I are committed to keeping the whole congregation in the loop of the discussions/decisions. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me with them.

Our future is bright, here at Warner Memorial Presbyterian Church. As we celebrate Christ's resurrection this season, I am keenly aware that God is doing mysterious and miraculous things among us. Surely, we will delight in God's leading!

Peace, JC

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Press Pause Bible Study - Wednesdays @ noon

Fill your hungry spirit with good things! Take time over lunch in the middle of the week to gather with Warnerites on Zoom to connect and reflect on the scriptures. Bible Study led by Pastor JC.

### Joy Circle - Tuesday, May 13th @ 7pm

Joy Circle gathers on Zoom on the 2nd Tuesday of the month to continue our study of *Let Justice Roll Down*, discussing Chapter 8, “Intergenerational Justice.” If you’re willing to lead the discussion or have questions, contact Kay Gorman or June Eakin. Even if you haven’t read the chapter, the discussion is informative!

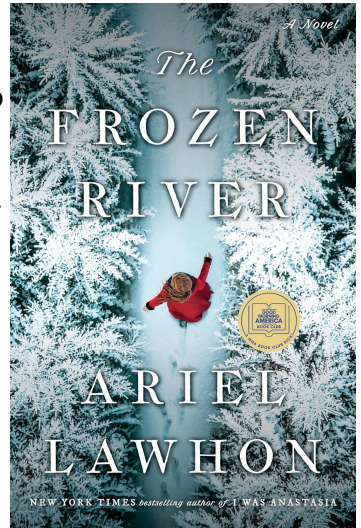
### Book Club - Friday, May 23rd @ 7pm

It’s almost time to turn the page on another year of discussion and community. Book Club discusses the final book of the 24-25 “season” on Zoom on the 4th Friday of the month. This month’s book is *The Frozen River* by Ariel Lawhon.

From Goodreads: A gripping historical mystery inspired by the life and diary of Martha Ballard, a renowned 18th-century midwife who defied the legal system and wrote herself into American history.

You don’t need to finish (or start!) the book to participate.

The Zoom ID for all meetings is 717 127 0266 and the passcode is 10123.



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## BUILDING & GROUNDS UPDATES

Floor buffing was done in the social hall, kitchen and LCYC hallway over spring break.

R.W. Kibler Roofing replaced the leaking elevator tower porch roof with a white Thermoplastic Polyolefin membrane roof.

Thanks to the Eakins and Sharon Allen for removing the solar sign from our yard. June plans to re-use the sign posts as a portal to the gardens on the north point of our property.

The elevator was repaired twice in early April. Sorry for any inconvenience with regard to that.

The plumber also came in early April to repair the main hot water heater and diagnose the problem with the dishwasher hot water heater.

CroppMetcalf completed our spring air conditioning check-up the week after Easter, and there are no problems.

~ Susan Kline

## COMMISSION TO THE COMMUNITY

### Beyond Borders' David Diggs Visits Warner

For many years Warner has supported ministry in Haiti that works “shoulder to shoulder” with some of the poorest people on this earth, empowering them to improve their own lives, in uniquely Haitian ways. Beginning with Peter Graeff, through a 2011 mission trip and the Peter Graeff Memorial Fund, and now with Beyond Borders, Warner is making a difference in Haiti.

On Sunday April 27, David Diggs, Co-Founder and Co-Executive Director of Beyond Borders visited Warner. During a mission moment David expressed his deep and sincere gratitude to Warner for its generosity in gifts and prayer, and most especially for the gift of Peter and the Christian love he spread in Haiti. More than 20 Warnerites remained after worship to learn more about how Beyond Borders is transforming the lives of the poorest of Haiti's poor, including through the Family Graduation Program supported by Warner. Lively questions, answers and conversation followed.

CtC thanks all who helped make the day a special one. On Warner's behalf, in appreciation of David's visit and the work of Beyond Borders, CtC made a financial gift to Beyond Borders. David and his colleague Brian Stevens sent these letters of thanks the next day:

From David:

Thank you so much ...

You really made me feel welcome and made everything go very smoothly.

And please extend my gratitude to Pastor J.C., to your choir, and everyone else there. I really enjoyed the service.

Also, thank you so very much for the gift! I really wasn't expecting it, but we will put it to great use. ...

Thanks again so, so much!

David

And from Brian:

I'm so happy to hear how much this meant to everyone! If I can help in any other way, please reach out anytime. It's just so touching to know that Warner and Beyond Borders have this connection, thanks in large part to Peter, whose legacy is reflected in so much of our work in Haiti. It feels like a fitting tribute to him and a lovely way to honor his memory.

In gratitude,

Brian





Photo by Sharon Allen  
Peter Graeff is pictured in the onscreen photo

To learn more about Beyond Borders, please ask anyone on CtC, or visit Beyond Borders' website: <https://beyondborders.net/>

## Changes in PCUSA World Mission

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is changing its approach to global ministry work, “designed to building stronger connections with faith communities around the world.” At the end of March, the World Mission ended, and all mission co-workers were relieved of those positions. Some former mission co-workers and others in World Mission administrative roles will transition into new roles as Global Ecumenical Liasons. “The Liasons will be deployed internationally and across the United States to serve as a connecting and ambassadorial resource with PC(USA) partners around the world. The new role will



require working closely with congregations, mid councils and new worshipping communities that are partnered with worldwide ministries. They will also serve as facilitator support for partner programs, relationships, and activities, and will implement local, regional and/or global strategies.” More information about these changes can be found at this link:

<https://pcusa.org/news-storytelling/news/2025/2/5/interim-unified-agency-pcusa-announces-shift-approach-global-ministry-engagement>.

Though additional details are anticipated, this means that Jed and Jenny Koball will no longer minister as mission co-workers. However, they have been selected for the newly created Global Ecumenical Liaison positions, and will remain in Lima. On March 26<sup>th</sup>, Jed wrote to Warner:

[S]ignificant changes are taking place at the national headquarters of the PC(USA). As of this past Monday, the World Mission office officially closed, and all mission personnel positions were terminated, including Jenny’s and mine.

However, both Jenny and I were invited to serve as Global Ecumenical Liaisons within the new denominational office known as Global Ecumenical and Interfaith Engagement. We will continue to live and work from Lima.

There is still a lack of clarity on the precise roles we will play, but we are excited and hopeful. We are humbled as well, knowing that so many of our colleagues were let go. And we feel affirmed having been invited to help build this new model of global ministry that is unfolding.

I do not know what that will mean as far as mission connection letters, but I am confident we will find a way to maintain connection with Warner Memorial!

We are so grateful for the generous and prayerful support and partnership you have blessed us with. We look forward to seeing how that might grow!

Please give my best to all!!

Jed

In their final Mission Connections letter, Jed and Jenny wrote:

As of the end of March, we will no longer be living into our calling in the same way, nor will we be relating with you as we always have.

However, please hear us when we also say this: the story of God's mission in the world through and with Presbyterians does not end here. This is not the end of Presbyterian presence in the world. This is not the end of Presbyterians doing mission in partnership around the world. And, this most certainly is not the end of us (Jenny and Jed) sharing the Good News of God's Love in Jesus Christ throughout the world. Something new is coming! And, this gives us great hope!

But, until that day arrives, now is a time to remember the road we have travelled together – with you and with partners – and to give thanks to God for the immense privilege it has been to serve as mission co-workers of the PC(USA) and to witness gospel inspired transformation.

You can read all of Jed and Jenny's final Mission Connections letter here: <https://pcusa.org/living-our-calling>

Please continue to pray for Jed, Jenny and Thiago as they move into this new ministry.

~ Nancy Recchia

## DEACONS UPDATES

### Why a Youth Shelter?

A small gathering of Warnerites appreciated the enlightening powerpoint and discussion on Sunday March 30 by Olusina “Olu” Adebayo, Rainbow Place Executive Director.

Homelessness is a troubling and overlooked problem for young adults ages 18-25. For example, in Montgomery County Public Schools in April 2024, 421 students were homeless. Can you imagine trying to concentrate at school after sleeping on the street or on a friend’s couch, probably without breakfast, a shower, or clean clothes?

The 2016-2017 Voices of Youth Count Survey found that homelessness for young adults increases with the following:

- 346% higher risk without a high school diploma
- 120% higher risk for LGBT youth
- 162% higher risk with incomes less than \$24,000
- 33% greater risk with experiences in foster care
- 50% greater risk with a history of juvenile detention, jail or prison

Efforts are underway to build a Young Adult Emergency Shelter in the Germantown area, where youth homelessness is the highest. The Shelter would provide meals, laundry facilities, case management, and assistance finding permanent housing. The Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development plans to provide \$1.5 million funding for its construction. Pledges for funding come from area organizations, such as \$50,000 from Rockville United Church and \$500 from the Women’s Club of Chevy Chase.

~ Susan Bresee

## ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP TEAM

### Cool Congregations Award

The Earth Stewardship Team met in April to discuss the \$1,000 award we received as a Cool Congregations award winner. Warner is making a \$250 donation to REVE Kandale Foundation, an aid organization at work in the Democratic Republic of Congo focused on water and agriculture. The award funds will also cover costs of our new Earth Care banner we display on our lawn, garden expenses, and other local projects related to Earth care.

### Tips of the Month:

**Saving Energy at Warner:** Our building has zoned heat/cooling, that means each area has heat and air conditioning controls. You can do your part by closing interior doors to promote this efficiency. If you turn on the A/C in a room, you are responsible to turn it off, too! In fine weather, open (and close) a window!

**Saving Energy at Home:** With warmer weather upon us – drying your laundry outdoors is an individual action you may choose. Even if you need to install a laundry rack in your yard, you will recover the cost in electricity in only one season.

**Laundry tip:** save \$\$ and reduce water pollution by substituting WHITE VINEGAR for

commercial fabric softener. Stiffness in line-dried clothes is often due to detergent left after the last rinse. Adding  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup of white vinegar to the softener cup of your washing machine helps to dissolve it.

Not sure how to responsibly dispose of something? Try this link:

<https://www2.montgomerycountymd.gov/dephowdoi/search.aspx>

~ June Eakin (creator of original artwork as well!)



## LCYC

LCYC enrollment is open for the 2025-2026 school year. If you know anyone with a preschooler (2-4 years old) who is looking for a fantastic program in Kensington, encourage them to visit the website (<https://lcycpreschool.org/>) to learn more about the school, book a tour and/or fill out an application.



## MISSIONAL INCUBATOR - MORE INFORMATION

National Capital Presbytery is Missional, Pastoral and Prophetic! We have directed our resources to help our congregations GROW. We will highlight the churches that creatively use initiatives that reach and impact their communities in a new way. . . **“So That Our Churches Can Grow!”** One of these initiatives is the Missional Incubator!

The Incubator’s goal is to develop contextually informed, thoughtfully integrated, mission-hearted new expressions of the one Church. The National Capital Presbytery perceives a need for a more proactive, intentional approach to establishing new worshiping communities and new expressions of existing churches. The decline in church membership, the increasing pace of church closures, and the growing disconnect between current ministries and a postmodern culture create an urgency for a different strategy. This strategy will need to include projects that incorporate a mixed economy ministry which can provide income streams to the mission while, at the same time, increasing opportunities to engage with individuals who would not be attracted to a more traditional church.

What is a mixed economy ministry? One way to look at mixed economy in ministry is to consider the many small towns across the United States that were once factory towns. When the dominant business closes, the entire town suffers. Restaurants, grocery stores, hardware

stores, schools, and churches all suffer because the town was dependent on a single economic stream. Towns that have multiple employers can usually survive the loss of one business. Churches that have only one way to be church suffer when that approach does not resonate with new emerging culture and people. Mixed economy ministry is not that you stop being church as you know it. Rather, it is adding a new way of being church alongside existing church, creating a diversity of ways to engage the ever-changing landscape of the local community. We have established a Missional Incubator that will empower and equip missional leaders and entrepreneurs to create and sustain such mixed-economy worshipping communities. Brian Clark, previously pastor of Riverside, will serve as our director. The Incubator's goal is to develop contextually informed, thoughtfully integrated, mission-hearted new expressions of the one Church. The Incubator will give missional entrepreneurs nine to 12 months and resources to:

- Develop mission plans, including business plans that identify funding and investors.
- Draw on outside experts partnered with the Missional Incubator.
- Create a steady source of contacts and introductions in a local community.
- Develop funding sources for a new expression of church paired with a compelling business.

### The Missional Incubator Today

*Missional: Loving people. Engaging community on their terms and their turf.*

*Incubator: Space to dream. Growing dreams into reality.  
Unless it is the LORD who builds the house, the builders' work is  
pointless. (Psalm 127:1)*



The work of those engaged in the incubator is to do faithful listening to the Holy Spirit. God works in each church community in different ways and at different speeds. Today there are 11 churches participating in the Missional Incubator and each is at a different place in the process. The goal is that by May of 2025 each group has a clearer sense of the compelling business or social enterprise God is asking them to explore. The goal of the Missional Incubator is to dream and then move from dreams to implementation.

Here are the leaders and the churches engaged in the Incubator today:

1. Alice Tewell – Clarendon Presbyterian Church: The congregation voted to partner with True Ground Housing Partners (formerly known as APAH) to redevelop the entire church property less than half a mile from the Clarendon Metro station to build separate Affordable Senior LGBT+ affirming housing run by True Ground. The redeveloped space will also have space owned by the church to include a church space and preschool space for 40-50 children. The church is in active prayer asking within the church space, What is God asking us to do alongside the affordable housing venture?
2. Bob Melone – Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church: Concerts on the lawn and opening a children's music program in the barn, one of three buildings on our campus, is just the beginning of engaging our community in new ways.
3. Casey Thompson – Idylwood Presbyterian Church: This Fall, four artists have moved into newly renovated rooms above our fellowship hall. Is it time for us to create a coffee café in the fellowship hall combining arts and coffee to create community?
4. Casey Thompson – Knox Presbyterian Church: We have opened a five day a week Bible School for the community and yet there are so many possibilities around us and more that can be done to leverage our facility for a compelling business or social enterprise that creates greater collisions with those not engaged with our church.

5. Sarah Johnson – New York Avenue Presbyterian Church: Close to the White House with a building rich in history in an area with many needs and possibilities, we are exploring how God can use where we are located and the facility that we own.
6. Diane Walton Hendricks – Clifton Presbyterian Church: Located in an historic town we are exploring how we can leverage our beautiful manse to create something that brings people together for something they want.
7. Amanda Brady Vella – Faith Chapel: Faith Chapel offers the Lucketts Community a place to gather for community building, concerts, classes and workshops, meetings, tabletop games, birthday parties, special events and Messy Church. It is the home of the Lucketts Community Food Pantry which provides nourishment and hope to our community.
8. Gloria Yi – Hope Presbyterian Church: We are off a busy street and our electronic signage gets over 30,000 daily views. We have a neighborhood on one side of the property and a farm on another side. On Sundays we have a full house and run out of parking spaces. During the week, aside from food pantry operations, the building and beautiful serene 3 acres of land sits empty!
9. Campbell Hackett – Kirkwood Presbyterian Church: There are many churches and even many Presbyterian churches in our community, so, we are asking what is the unique thing God wants us to do with our beautiful property.
10. Matt Nabinger – Oaklands Presbyterian Church: What does a 3<sup>rd</sup> space, a space where everyone feels welcome, look like in Laurel, Maryland?
11. Casey Wait – John Calvin Presbyterian: We have a park-like setting, a beautiful fellowship hall and sanctuary. We host a pre-school but what else can we do with the land and facility God has provided so that we can positively impact our community?

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Below is a high-level view of the church’s operating income and expenses compared to the budget, as of March 31, 2025.

	March 2025	YTD 2025	YTD 2025 Budget	% of YTD Budget
Pledge Income	\$23,543	\$63,629	\$49,431	129%
Total Income	\$27,426	\$91,712	\$78,842	121%
Total Expenses	\$33,325	\$103,681	\$105,807	98%
Difference	\$5,899	\$11,969	\$26,965	

Total Assets: \$749,155; Total Liabilities: \$72,799 (AC loan), \$11,457 (borrowed from LCYC).

Thanks for your per capita contributions. As part of Warner’s contribution to the operation of the National Capital Presbytery and the PC(USA), Warner is responsible for paying \$50.15 per family member for the 2025 per capita. We appreciate all of you who can contribute your per capita to Warner as it reduces our operating expenses for the year.

If you have yet to submit a pledge for 2025, It’s not too late. You can click the link [here](#) to indicate your pledge on our secured website. You also can leave a pledge card (available Sunday) in the offering tray during worship.

~ Mark Eakin, Elder and Chair of Administration and Finance Commission



**May**

- Ferdinand Addo
- Charlotte Cook
- Barbara Jaquette
- Jed Koball
- Isabelle Merl
- Rohan Puri
- Emma Recchia
- Alan Schroeder
- Barbara Shaw
- Claudia Stalker
- Beatrice Winter
- Marc Henri Winter

**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 Presbyterian Church**

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Music Director: Peter Smeallie

Musician: Chris Kim

Office Manager: Trevor Wind

Director, Learning Center for Young Children: Elizabeth Zannetti

Children's Program Aide: Shervonne Johnson

Technical Director: Peter Brown

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