Warner Memorial
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sept 15, 2026

Dear Neighbors,

Exciting things are happening at Warner Memorial and we want to be sure to keep all our neighbors in the loop on what's happening!

Some of you may be aware: our current building (on the triangle between CT. Ave, Calvert & Washington) was completed back in 1956 for a burgeoning town. The building was intended to be a community hub–a place where neighbors could practice their faith, but also a place where individuals and families could find connection, friendships, and a deeper sense of community here in Kensington. The Learning Center for Young Children (LCYC) was a part of that vision to support the youngest among us, as well as the parents (mostly mothers at the time). To this day, this vision remains true to our core and we are inspired to create additional ways our church can be of service to the Kensington community.

To that end, we are in the early stages of re-designing the top floor of our education wing to become a recreation hub for the community–an attractive, comfortable, and safe place where people of all ages can play, connect with one another, and strengthen the fabric of our Kensington community. We're developing *The Upper Room*.

At this point, the vision for the physical space includes the following:

- Installing a three-lane bowling alley
- Creating a play-space for small children
- Building out a flexible space that can include:
    - Game-tables for mahjong, bridge, and other games
    - Dart boards
    - Possibly pinball machines

But, what we envision is so much more. We want moms groups and nanny groups to have a reliable and fun place to meet year-round. We want grown-ups and youth to connect through bowling leagues and dart leagues–to get together with a few friends one afternoon or night a week to play, relax, and connect. We want to host fun-filled tournaments to support our partners to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and welcome the stranger in our community. We want you to think of this space as available to you to celebrate the good things in your lives–birthdays, anniversaries, graduations, and other meaningful events.

We understand that people don't come to church the way they used to–that's understandable and we respect that. The membership of Warner Memorial and I do not have any expectation that folks who come to *The Upper Room* will then come to worship on Sunday mornings or will join the church. However, in the spirit of full transparency, the vision of *The Upper Room* is born out of the calling we sense to love our neighbor in ways that you can feel it–and we hope you do!

If you would like to learn more about our project–about the process of what the build-out is going to look like and/or offer any suggestions of activities you and your neighbors would like to see in our space, please do join us for a **Community Conversation on Zoom on Thursday, September 17 at 8pm**. Here's the link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81618221730.

Also, if you're not able to make it to that Zoom conversation but have questions or suggestions, please don't hesitate to reach out to me directly. My email address is pastorjc@warnermemorial.org.

We, at Warner Memorial, are so grateful to be neighbors to and with you. We look forward to connecting with you in new ways and strengthening the fabric of our Kensington community together!

Peace,

Rev. Dr. J.C. Cadwallader, Pastor