ADVENT 2026

THE WARNER MEMO



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THE NEWSLETTER OF
WARNER MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

https://warnermemorial.org/Calendar

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Dear Warnerites,

I've spent a lot of time praying and wondering about how our church life is going to look once The Upper Room is up and running. I'm asking questions of ecclesiology (questions that root us in our faith as a community) and, somewhat to my dismay, I have few answers. *Only time will tell*—time and prayer. In the meantime, however, it's worth asking the questions in order to prepare ourselves for changes in the future.

Admittedly, the questions will sometimes increase my anxiety. You see, I love traditional worship. I love to hear the organ played beautifully in the sanctuary. I love writing sermons and choir anthems fill my cup. If we're not counting on attendance in *The Upper Room* translating to Sunday morning worship attendance, then what will our worship life look like? Will we do both? Will we keep doing what we're doing and add *The Upper Room*? How will I have time to plan all that? Will we end up with two congregations?

OR, will the relationships we build with others in *The Upper Room* lead us to new forms of worship? Will the new relationships we build with those we meet in *The Upper Room* lead us to new understandings and practices of baptism, communion, and community? Will we discover new ways of defining membership and spiritual leadership? And, with these questions, my anxiety reduces as my hopefulness increases.

Church, God is doing something new among us. I hear Isaiah's prophecy (43:19) ring in my ear: *Can you not perceive it?* God is doing a *really* new thing among us and, honestly, I don't know what it's actually going to be. I am, however, confident that God will be at the center of it. I trust in God's steadfast love, which endures forever. I trust in God's provision for God's people. And, I trust you—the WMPC

community. Like Joseph and Mary on their way to Bethlehem, we're doing this together, hand in hand, and I believe we will gain clarity—we will perceive it more clearly—as time passes and we take the best next step together.

As we pass through this season of waiting, let us do so with hope in our bones, peace in our minds, joy in our spirits, and with love in our hearts. Let us do so trusting that God's miraculous love will be made manifest among us–and this will surely be good news for all people!

Peace,

J. C. Cadwallader



WARNER GATHERINGS AND GOINGS-ON

Congregational Conversation

Following worship on Sunday, November 22nd, remain in the sanctuary, or on Zoom, for an update on our newest mission, The Upper Room. We will discuss the latest developments in the next chapter in the life of our building and congregation.



Potluck and Advent Decorating

Following the Congregational Conversation on Sunday, November 22nd, enjoy delicious food and help prepare our sanctuary for the season of Advent. Our "Harvest Nibbles" fellowship hour is certain to veer towards a feast and many hands make light work, whether in the kitchenette for clean-up or the sanctuary for Advent preparations!

Warner Music

Join us for a special service of holiday music from our choirs, along with Chris Kim and Scott Camillo - **Sunday, December 13, at the 11:00 am service**. The various selections will be punctuated by scripture and poetry. Bells will ring and singers will sing! Please join us for the service!

In fact, it's not too late to try out one of Warner's choirs! The Bell Choir meets Thursdays at 7pm, with the Sanctuary Choir following at 8:15pm. We would love to have more voices join us for the holiday music, and we have space in the bell loft for anyone who's interested in trying out ringing - it's a fun and exciting music activity that anyone can learn! To get involved, speak to any choir member or contact Music Director Peter Smeallie - einsteinstage@icloud.com.


The Kensington Interfaith Ministerium invites you to the annual
Interfaith Thanksgiving Worship Service
When: Tuesday, Nov. 24, 2026 @ 7:30pm
Where: St. Paul's United Methodist Church, 10401 Armory Ave, Kensington

Joy Circle

Joy Circle members continue to enjoy the video series, *Searching for the People and Places of the Bible*. The group will pause its study during December and instead gather for a festive evening of fellowship on **Tuesday, December 8, at 7:30 p.m.** at the home of Lisa Smeallie. The evening will feature Christmas carol singing, holiday treats, and Lisa's famous Peppermint Eggnog Punch.

Joy Circle will resume the video series on **Tuesday, January 12, at 7:00 p.m.** in person at the church. All are welcome and encouraged to join us for both gatherings.

Book Group Update for December 2026 and January 2027

The Warner Book Group will meet via Zoom on **Friday, December 4, at 7:00 p.m.** to discuss *The Daughters of Bamboo Grove* by Barbara Demick and via Zoom on **Friday, January 22, at 7:00 p.m.** to discuss *The Song of Achilles* by Madeline Miller. Whether you are a regular participant or joining for the first time, we invite you to share in the discussion.

THANK YOUs

Warner Generously Gave to the 2026 Special Offering for World Communion

In responding so generously to this year's Special Offering for World Communion, Warner has again shown its faithful commitment to racial and gender justice, global witness, ecumenical and interfaith engagement, and peacemaking. On October 4th we joined siblings around the world in dedicating our gifts, and together celebrating World Communion. Each gift to this Special Offering demonstrates your faithfulness to "do justice, … love kindness and walk humbly with your God." Micah 6:8.

~ 4 C's

Warner Honors Those Who Served

If you find yourself at Warner soon, please take a moment to visit the bulletin board display located between the sanctuary and the church office (or **view here**). This display was inspired by Barb Jaquette's message during the July 5th worship service. Barb shared her reflections on America's 250th birthday, expressing her admiration and gratitude for all those who serve our nation.

~ Tim Cook

BUILDING & GROUNDS UPDATES

Incubator Project: Susan Kline, the Eakins, and Pastor JC attended several MD Clean Building Hub sessions (focusing on MD grant programs). Hence, B&G discussed other possible energy-saving projects that could be done with the possible 50%-matching Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) grants. We decided Warner will apply for MEA grants for the top floor project. Mark Eakin may pursue an MEA grant (95% matching) for the church to become a Community Electrical Resilience Hub to provide electricity for our neighbors during an outage.

Our custodian, Juana Tapia will be on vacation 11/15 – 12/1, and Fountain of Mercy (FOM) will provide coverage.

We plan to have several workdays early next year to address: our annual convector inspection, clearing the top floor (especially the counselor's office), making a FOM storage space on the ground floor, and an outdoor spring clean-up. **Please consider how you can help.**

Indoor work accomplished this fall:

- We looked into where FOM might have storage space on the ground floor.
- June bought 7 additional interior WMPC keys.

- Meghan coordinated with Lewis and Hitchcock to purchase 2 new organ keys.
- Meghan has started keeping track of issues that arise most - likely due to outside building users.
- Harvey Hottel completed the semi-annual HVAC maintenance in Oct. They fixed the split unit in the social hall above the closet door that was dripping. Unfortunately, they discovered a leaking pump in the boiler room that will need to be replaced.
- On 9/30, the Narthex doors were adjusted by Glen Echo Contracting so that they hang better and are easier to open.
- Steve Dunn fixed the door closer on the Washington stair door on the top level. **Have you seen the cover for it**?
- Friday AA claimed responsibility for the blue chair in the common room with a broken leg, and, at our request, one of their members repaired it in mid-October.
- Over Labor Day weekend, June and Mark Eakin replaced the valve on the cold-water supply to the boys' bathroom faucet, and cleaned out the pipe there a bit so that the water was no longer running brown and barely a dribble, and it seemed fixed. However, there was no water coming out of the faucet on Wednesday 9/9, so a plumber came and cleaned out the aerator on the faucet.
- FOM fixed the leaking sink trap in the room 4 bathroom on 10/20 and snaked the boiler room sink drain 11/1.
- Fountain of Mercy (FOM) painted above the sanctuary windows and above the entrance by the church office. They will also paint the exterior entryway at the Calvert Place entrance by the office.

<u>Grounds work accomplished this fall</u>:

- June arranged for 2 cubic yards of the mulch removed from the playground to be kept on the grounds. Susan Bresee and June spread it on garden beds, mostly the Shepherd's Garden.

- June and Susan Kline removed a large branch that fell on the playground 9/26.
- On 9/30, The Town of Kensington trimmed both sweet gum street-trees near the LCYC entrance and playground. June, Susan and Barbara Shaw, after much discussion, have requested that TOK plant a paperbark maple to replace the redbud tree along Washington St that died.
- June and Barbara Shaw worked on the gardens facing Connecticut Ave.
- Baumann's pruned the hedge by the Connecticut Ave window well to facilitate FOM's exterior painting.
- The sump pump effluent from the social hall window well has been burbling up and creating a hole in the Calvert Pl conservation garden by the sidewalk to the church office. Mark Eakin and Steve Dunn investigated the problem 10/25, and discovered that the drains to the street are blocked. Mark and Steve found five places where the water is coming up out of the ground. After Steve consulted his father, a former civil engineer, they decided to create a small French drain into the conservation garden so that the water will then flow into the slope. Mark and June finished the project. Steve will install a backflow preventer on the line coming from the sump pump.



- We are working on providing outdoor ashtrays to respond to the neighbors' complaints about loud talking, smoking, and cigarette butts near their homes by some of the recovery groups.
- The holly tree near the Narthex entrance will soon be heavily pruned to prevent roof damage.

~ Susan Kline

COMMISSION for CARE of the CONGREGATION and COMMUNITY

Rainbow Place: A New Location, the Same Warm Welcome

The cold season has arrived, and, as Warner Memorial has done for more than 40 years, we are once again volunteering to prepare and serve meals once a month at Rainbow Place, a shelter for women experiencing homelessness.

This year, however, things are a little different. Rainbow Place's longtime home in downtown Rockville has closed, and the shelter is now located on Gude Drive, on the outskirts of Rockville, but for only one season. Louise kindly gave us a tour of the new facility so we could familiarize ourselves with its kitchen and get accustomed to the new setup.

We quickly discovered that there would be a few adjustments to make! When we plugged in all our crockpots and multicookers to warm up the food, the circuit breaker tripped. A little improvisation and rearranging later, everything was back on track, and dinner preparations continued without further trouble.

The new facility can accommodate up to 50 women. This month, however, we were serving a smaller group of about 15 guests. There was plenty of warm, hearty, and nutritious food to go around thanks to

the many hands from Warner who had responded to the call, and the women clearly enjoyed the meal.

But the evening was about more than just serving dinner. Once everyone had been served, we joined the women around the table and had a chance to talk and get to know one another. There were plenty of good stories, laughter, and meaningful conversations all around.

A new location, a new kitchen, and a few unexpected challenges—but the same spirit of warmth, generosity, and fellowship that has brought Warner Memorial and Rainbow Place together for more than four decades!

Thank God and thank you all,

~ Marc-Henri Winter

Rainbow Place Shelter

Warner Supports MUM's 2026 Food Drive

Food insecurity is great in our community. For 30 years, Mid-County United Ministries ("MUM") has been committed to helping our neighbors who are struggling and facing crises. From July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026, MUM helped more than 2,300 Montgomery County households. Over 200,000 pounds of food (more than half of which was fresh produce) was provided to 2,200 households. MUM also helped 194 of our neighbors avoid eviction, and 266 people keep their utilities on. Additionally, MUM assists our neighbors through resource navigation and referrals to other social service organizations and community resources to help them create pathways toward stability.

Warner's faithful support of MUM continues to make a difference in the lives of Montgomery County residents. Warner and others who share our building continued our partnership with Kensington Park Senior Living (KP) to collect non-perishable food for MUM's Thanksgiving Food Drive. The MUM barrel and LCYC collection boxes were filled many times over! Your generous support of this effort contributed to MUM's free-choice food pantry, providing nutritious groceries to our neighbors experiencing hunger. Monetary gifts are also appreciated, and can be made through MUM's website: https://mumhelp.org/how-you-can-help/cash-donations/. On November 19, KP will celebrate the generosity of all donors as donations are loaded onto a truck for delivery to MUM.



Anyone in need of food assistance or other services is encouraged to contact MUM, as is anyone interested in volunteering for, or donating to, MUM: mumhelp.org; 11002 Veirs Mill Rd., Suite 710, Silver Spring, MD 20902; Phone: (301) 929-8675.

Christmas Joy Offering



Advent is a season of preparation. As we prepare our homes, our gatherings and traditions, we prepare our hearts and minds to receive God's perfect gift to us: Jesus Christ. Through Jesus' birth, God's love was made flesh, and hope was brought to a dark world. During Advent, Warner will collect the Christmas Joy Offering, by which we have the opportunity to give gifts of our own, and send hope to church leaders past, present and future.

The Christmas Joy Offering provides assistance to current and retired church workers and their families facing financial crises, illness or unexpected hardship. The Offering also supports the development of future leaders of color, and Presbyterian--related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. For the first time, this year's Christmas Joy Offering will also support children at risk, as well as youth and young adults through programs like the Young Adult Volunteer program, for which Jenny Koball has been the Peru Site Coordinator since 2013.

Gifts to the Christmas Joy Offering may be made online through the Warner website Donate page, or by cash or check made out to WMPC and noting it is for the Christmas Joy Offering. Donation envelopes will be available in the Sanctuary.

You can find more details and information about the Christmas Joy Offering, and other Special Offerings on the PCUSA website page: https://pcusa.org/giving/special-offerings.

~ With grateful thanks from the 4 C's

Leave the Leaves!

As an Earth Care Congregation, Warner Memorial encourages its members to take actions at their homes that will nourish God's Creation. In the autumn, you can support pollinators and other invertebrates by providing them with the shelter they need to survive the winter. Thankfully, that's pretty easy: all you need to do is do less yard work!

Leaves, brush piles, fallen logs, plant stems, and flower heads might not be growing anymore, but they aren't trash — they are natural homes for wildlife. A layer of leaves is vital insulation from the cold for the many animals that hide within (or in the soil beneath), like butterflies and moths. Others, like many native bees, nest within stems, flower heads, or pieces of wood. Taking away all your leaves and other plant material isn't just taking away options for shelter; there's a good chance you're tossing out many animals that have already settled in! Perennial plants will appreciate the extra insulation through the winter, too. That's why this year and every year, we are making the case for leaving the leaves and we are doing the same for our church gardens.

That's not to say you can't do any tidying up. Leaving the leaves and other plant debris doesn't have to mean sacrificing your yard to the

wilderness. A thin layer of leaves is actually healthy for grass, but the leaves don't need to be left exactly where they fall. You can rake them into garden beds, around tree bases, or into other designated areas or just run the mower and let them sift into the lawn. Leaves are great for soil quality: they can suppress weeds, retain moisture, and boost nutrition.

For more information from Montgomery County:
https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/propertycare/organic-lawns/tips/leave-leaves

PW Thank Offering

Each year faithful givers demonstrate their thankfulness to God through giving to the Thank Offering of Presbyterian Women. This program begun in 1888, today lives on as we connect to the women who came before us, demonstrate our gratitude to God, and make real our care for one another. Thank Offering grants make an impact in the USA and abroad for women, children and community health, both mental and physical. Stop by the PW bulletin board to see some of the projects this year. You can send a check using a green Presbyterian Women envelope from the bulletin board outside the church office; or give directly to the Offering at:
https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/giving-funding/give/

~ June Eakin

LIFE of the CHURCH

The LOTC Commission has been meeting regularly this fall, caring for the many ministries that enrich life at Warner, including Worship & Music, Fellowship, Christian Education, and Outreach.

As we look ahead to Advent, a season of preparation, hope, and anticipation, we are excited to begin planning for Advent 2026. We are grateful to the members of our ad hoc planning team who have generously offered their time, creativity, and talents to help make this season meaningful for our congregation.

This year, Rev. JC has chosen the theme **"Making Room for Christ."** Throughout the four Sundays of Advent, we will explore different ways we can make room for Christ in our lives:

- **November 29** - Making Room in Our Hearts
- **December 6** - Making Room in Our Homes
- **December 13** - Making Room in Our Church
- **December 20** - Making Room in Our Community

In planning our Advent journey, we have been intentional about creating opportunities that are meaningful, welcoming, and enjoyable for everyone. Highlights will include:

- **An Advent Tree in the Sanctuary**
  Our tree will begin the season simply adorned with lights and a few ornaments. Each Sunday during worship, worshipers will be invited to add a pre-made ornament inscribed with a personal reflection inspired by that week's theme, creating a visual reminder of how we are making room for Christ throughout the season.
- **A Manger Filled with Acts of Love**
  The manger, lovingly crafted years ago by John Barber, will be

displayed at the front of the sanctuary. Throughout Advent, members will be invited to place strips of cloth in the manger to represent acts of kindness, generosity, and service they have offered during the week.

- **Advent Greetings for Friends Near and Far**
  During Fellowship Hour each week, greeting cards will be available for members to sign and send to our homebound friends and those who join us in worship through Zoom, sharing our prayers and blessings for a joyful Advent and Christmas season.
- **Annual Cookie Reception**
  On **December 13**, we will gather for our annual Cookie Reception during Fellowship Hour while enjoying special music presented by our choir.
- **A Themed Bulletin Board Display**
  The bulletin board across from the church office will serve as another visual expression of our Advent theme, highlighting the many ways we can make room for Christ in our daily lives.

If you would be interested in helping to decorate the Sanctuary for Advent after Fellowship on November 22nd, please just join us, or contact June Eakin or Karen C for more information.

We invite everyone to join us throughout this special season as we prepare our hearts for Christ's coming and celebrate the joy of Advent together with our Warner family.

As we enter this season of Advent and prepare to celebrate Christ's birth, we invite everyone to participate in these opportunities for worship, fellowship, learning, and service. Together, let us make room for Christ in our hearts, our homes, our church, and our community.

"Let every heart prepare Him room." We look forward to sharing this Advent journey with our Warner family.

~ Sue Burns

All Saints Day - In Memoriam

On All Saints Day and throughout November, we pay special honor in memory of those whom we lost from our Warner community during this past year. We also keep in our hearts and prayers the families of these Warner congregants.



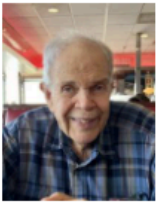
Cory Atwood



Jim Bresee



Pat Brosnan



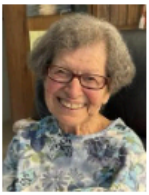
Ed Burr



Vivian Granger



Bill Jackson



Isabelle Merl



Kathy Stell

~ Sharon Allen

SESSION UPDATE

At the Session meeting on 11/1/26, we discussed and approved several items:

- Reception of a bequest from Kathy and Ralph Stell.
- Having a congregational meeting, to be held January 24, 2027, following worship in the Common Room.
- The Stewardship letter that will be sent out to the congregation soon.
- A new WMPC Mission, Vision, and Values statement, which will provide updated language and consistency (since, apparently, we had many statements) for our website, and when applying for different grants for our proposed Upper Room project:

Warner Memorial Presbyterian Church ("Warner Memorial") has been an active part of the Kensington, Maryland community since 1893. Throughout our long history, we have always been a church eager to play an active role in the life of our community, our denomination, and our world. We have dedicated our time and our resources to worthy causes near and far.

Warner Memorial's mission is simple: *to serve God and to love our neighbors.* It is our vision to be an uplifting, accepting community hub that care for believers, seekers, and doubters alike. Our work is guided by our core values:

- ***Compassion and Inclusion*** – Everyone has sacred worth. We offer love and acceptance to all.
- ***Responsible Use of Resources*** – Our impact and longevity requires us to be mindful of our assets and use them faithfully.
- ***Environmental Stewardship*** – We are called to humbly protect and restore the earth for the present and the future.

We also discussed the proposal from JMc Architects for providing architectural, structural, mechanical, electrical, plumbing services required to produce permit documents and provide construction administration services once the construction starts on our Upper Room project. We have been working with JMcA, and have been happy with their work, and this contract would continue that relationship. Session will make a decision about the Upper Room project after we hear the business plan on November 9th.

Food for thought: What will Warner's core church be like after the Upper Room project is operating?

~ Susan Kline



FINANCIAL UPDATE

Below is a high-level view of the church's operating income and expenses compared to the budget, as of September 30, 2026. Note: As of this report the table includes contributions from endowments to show the movement of money from our assets (special funds) to cover expenses.

	September 2026	YTD 2026	YTD 2026 Budget	% of YTD Budget
Pledge Income	$6,205	$176,265	$169,951	104%
Total Income	$8,754	$260,750	$251,388	104%
Total Expenses	$28,970	$309,357	$319,391	97%
Contributions from Endowments	$57,404	$114,874	$68,183	
Difference	$37,189	$66,267	$180	

Total Assets: $629,455; Total Liabilities: $64,043 (AC loan), $18,857 (borrowed from LCYC).

In preparation for funding the Missional Incubator project, A&F provided a simplified structure for the Endowment and Special Funds. Funds were moved from specialized giving, where applicable and available funds, including the former Manse Fund were moved to the Upper Room fund. This was approved by the Session. Pledges and donations to help make the Upper Room a reality may be directed to the Upper Room fund.

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



November, December, and January

Kate Addo
Lena Aspiras
Susan Bates
David Daugherty
Bill Kirchhoff
Steven Kline
Ina Rae Kramer
Ken Kramer
Simran Puri
Harold Shaw
Ajay Soni
Shannon Stalker
Simon Winter

Scott Bunn
Ty Bragg
Finn Cadwallader
Leigh Cook
Tim Cook
Varsha Datta
Sheri Daugherty
Mark Eakin
Laura Kline
Calvin McGlade
Susan Middleswarth
Sungho Paik
Andrei Pinkus
Donald Stalker

Max Carroll
Ben Cope
Virander Datta
John Morris
Camern Pinkus
Babs Sausser
Kyle Smeallie
Usha Soni
Janet Tennent
Holly Trout

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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Musician: Chris Kim
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