

# The Spire

## *December 2018*

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN WESTFIELD'S MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

### Celebrate Advent & Christmas



#### **Sunday, December 2**

Advent Begins with Communion & Lighting of the Advent Wreath Candles at all services.

#### **Sunday, December 9**

Presbyterian Women's Bake/Craft Sale, as well as Zambian Items Sale

Advent Luncheon at 11am in Assembly Hall

Live Nativity at 1pm-2:30pm on the Front Lawn

#### **Tuesday, December 11**

Taize Service at 6:45pm in the Chapel

A brief service of meditative singing, readings, silence and prayer.

#### **Monday, December 24**

Christmas Eve

5pm Family Service in the Sanctuary

8pm Candlelight Service in the Sanctuary

10pm Candlelight Service & Communion in the Sanctuary

#### **Sunday, December 30**

10am Traditional in the Sanctuary

10am Contemporary (wired) in Westminster Hall



#### **In this Issue:**

PNC - 2

How To Partner w/ Next Pastor - 3

Box City 2019 - 3

PCW Youth - 4

Studies for Adults - 5

Upcoming Events - 6 & 7

Taize Service - 8

Xmas Poinsettias - 8

Sunday Lunches - 9

Christmas Dinner - 9

We Celebrate Baptism - 10

Stewardship Lunch - 10

We Extend Christian

Sympathy - 10

Zambia Updates - 11

Session News - 12

Community Corner - 13

December Calendar - 14

December Birthdays - 15

# Pastoral Nominating Committee (PNC) Update

When the PNC started in July 2017 we had a lot of discussion about whether a “call” is a vocation, job or profession. Sam shared an article “Pastor... Profession or Vocation” by Jamin Goggin. Goggin wrote:

“We pastors find ourselves in a professional culture. It is a culture that determines value, status and significance via profession. A person’s profession is their identity...”

What other categories do we have to work with? What biblical images might offer us a better vision? Might I suggest the word, vocation (Eph.4:1)? A vocation is a calling. We are called to be pastors. By viewing our ministry as a vocation/calling our identity ceases to be couched within the confines of professional achievement. Rather, our identity is found in the One who called us.

In viewing the pastoral office as a vocation, we are now constantly reminded that we have not earned our post....

Consequently, just as our initial call was by grace we can only succeed by His grace. “Success” is a matter of doing the will of Him who sent me, rather than accomplishing professional objectives.”

Sam told the PNC that we were a “call” discernment group and that it was important to have spiritual dimensions to the criteria for the search. When the PNC first began to discern who was to be the next Senior Pastor for PCW and what where the key characteristics, we quickly focused on:

- Worship Leadership- substance, impact, challenge, “loving” and confident. Skilled at preparing and delivering impactful sermons.
- Teaching- heart for sharing knowledge, spiritual maturity, innovative and creative. Personal growing and sharing.
- Administration- leads with enthusiasm, energy and vision, stable and confident, inspires, earns respect and works collaboratively.
- Pastoring and Nurturing- Has a heart for congregant care and knows how/when to delegate as well as lead.
- Fellowship /Service- Can inspire by example, is active in mission and community outreach.
- Leadership Development- Positive mentor, develops talent, masters the key “systems” of the church, and inspires high performance and deep engagement.
- Understands the business side of the church with strong administrative and fundraising skills.

As the PNC matured, we reaffirmed these characteristics and added a “strong sense of joy and hope”.

Thank you for the prayers that you wrote at the “Partnering with Our New Pastor” session.

Please continue to pray for the for our next Senior Pastor and your PNC.

Your PCW PNC,

*Jessica Cerino, Carole Cook, Robin Hoy, Josh McMahon, Anita McNamara, David Seaman, Pam Shaw, Alan Smith, Gary Zanfagna*

**PNC Updates Online**  
[westfieldpc.org/pastoral-nominating-committee](http://westfieldpc.org/pastoral-nominating-committee)

# How to Partner With Our Next Pastor!

Were you able to participate in the Session-led “Partnering With Our Next Pastor” lunch on November fourth? If not keep your eyes and ears open for the next one! Over 60 people gathered for lunch, learning and fellowship on the first Sunday in November. The topic? Recognizing the challenges pastors and congregations face and addressing some of the awareness, skills and practices that make strong pastor/congregation partnerships more likely, more fruitful and more fun!

For example, did you know that according recent sources, well over 1000 pastors leave the ministry for good each month (all denominations)? Have you thought about what role confused, conflicting and misplaced expectations (of pastors AND congregations) might play in such a phenomenon? **On the other hand**, what can congregations like PCW do to prepare for and practice our God-given roles in encouraging pastors and one another on the exciting, God-powered journey of faith and ministry?

Among other experiences, PCW members laughed and shared together about the MANY and DIFFERENT expectations we collectively have. We talked about the **crucial difference between a pastoral JOB and a pastoral CALLING**, and the simple powerful ways we can PLAY our unique role in helping our next pastor AND PCW thrive in God’s mission. If you were there November 4<sup>th</sup> tell someone about it. If you weren’t able to be there, consider inviting a friend to the next one!

Join fellow congregants in learning EIGHT key ways to pray for pastors, leaders and church...and in stepping forward in this exciting PCW season to play the part that ONLY YOU can play!

In Anticipation,  
Sam Henderson  
Transitional Pastor



## **What is Box City?**

This unique event offers an opportunity for all members of the PCW community to join together to raise awareness about homelessness, while also raising important funds for the FISH Hospitality Program. Box City is an overnight “camp out style” event, where participants bring and design a cardboard box to sleep in overnight, brave the elements, and experience a small part of what homeless people endure every night.

**Who can participate? EVERYONE!** Families, businesses, school and community clubs, youth groups, sports teams, college students, boy scouts, and girl scouts are all encouraged to participate.

**When and where is it?** Box City will take place on PCW’s front lawn Saturday evening, April 27.

**How do I sign up?** Forms will be available starting January 1, 2019 at the PCW Box City website ([pcwboxcity.com](http://pcwboxcity.com)).

**Can I still participate if I cannot sleep overnight at Box City?** We understand that some participants may not be able to spend the night. “Virtual Residents” can raise funds by securing pledges, but sleep at home. **Or, you are welcome to buy your way out of a box for \$75!**

**Are there other ways to help? YES!** Volunteers are needed to help with planning all aspects of the event: entertainment, hospitality, set-up and clean-up, marketing, outreach, and securing sponsorships, just to name a few. Join in the fun and be a part of Box City!!

**For more information about PCW’s Box City or to volunteer, please contact Jane Collins, Mission Commission Co-Moderator at [jrobcoll@aol.com](mailto:jrobcoll@aol.com).**



# Grades 6-12



This Holiday Season give a gift that gives back. Instead of spending hours at the mall or online looking for gifts for your loved ones make a contribution to the Agape Community Kitchen in their name.

With each gift donated, you will receive a Holiday Greeting Card to give the recipients of your gift. For gifts donated online you can download a PDF of the greeting card and print it at home. In addition, gifts can be purchased in the Church Office from Linnette Cierpial, who can provide you with a pre-printed greeting card.

*Help us spread God's love this Holiday Season by purchasing a gift during the 25 Days of Agape!*

## Blessing Bags for Agape

**November 18-December 16, 2018**

This Christmas season we will be distributing Blessing Bags to our guests at Agape. A Blessing Bag is filled with essential items our guests need on a daily basis. We are looking for your help to fill these bags.

- Pick up an empty bag from the bins located in the Narthex and Westminster Hall
- Fill the bag with the items indicated - instructions are attached to each bag
- Return the filled bags to the bins in the Narthex, Westminster Hall or the Church office.

**All bags should be returned by December 16th**

## Youth & Alumni Christmas Party

**December 16, 6:30pm-8pm**

Put on your craziest Christmas outfit and join us at PCW for our annual Christmas party! There will be food & games!

**We're asking that all students bring a new pair of socks or a \$10 donation for the Agape Community Kitchen Clothing Closet.**

*Invite your friends! See you there!*

## COLLEGE INTERN NEEDED

The Youth Ministry Intern helps to share God's love with PCW Youth by building relationships with the youth, serving as a resource and support person for the youth and infusing each program with playfulness, creativity and enthusiasm.

Applications will be accepted in 2019, TBD. Work will begin in May of 2019 and include the summer mission trips.

**Stay tuned for more information.**

**Middle School Breakfast Club**

**December 4, 11, 18**

**9th Grade Confirmation Class**

**December 4, 11, 18**

**Sunday School & Fellowship**

**December 2, 9, 16**

## ***DECEMBER SCHEDULE***

Calendar of Events may be downloaded online at [westfieldpc.org](http://westfieldpc.org) or contact Linnette Cierpial for a copy at 908-233-0301 ext. 22 or [Imercado@westfieldpc.org](mailto:Imercado@westfieldpc.org).

**Stay Up To Date with PCW Youth on social media!**  
**@pcwyouth**

# Studies for Adults at PCW

*Why is it that new years resolutions are so easy to make and so difficult to keep? We at PCW want you to succeed and so we are providing you with myriad choices of content and day and time. In several cases YOU tell us what you want and when and we'll do our very best, like including child care! So read on and boldly make a resolution that you can keep and will be happy you did! If you need Child care to be able to attend a study group be sure to contact the church office a week in advance and we will try to provide it.*

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## Sundays

**9 AM QUESTERS** - meet in the George Plenty Room and use The Present Word curriculum. In December the study begins with God's demands for our complete and undivided love as shown in passages from Deuteronomy and Psalms. It proceeds with our response to God's love in the advent of Christ, and the Epistles' interpretations of the nature and extent of our responses to God's love in Christ. It concludes with passages from three of the Psalms expressing glorification of God.

**11 AM SERENDIPITY** – meet in Upper Westminster Hall following worship (they use the Serendipity Bible copies are available for all. The class reviews the lectionary readings for the day or, if different, the passage preached.

**BIBLE 101 – BASICS:** We'll begin with a race through the Old and New Testaments that will include: Name of Book, Author, Synopsis- 10 Words or Less, Best Quote (opinion), Interesting Facts, and, "So What Does that Mean for Me Today?" Date & time TBD – contact [ctreger@westfieldpc.org](mailto:ctreger@westfieldpc.org) with your suggestions. We'll try to do the Old Testament in one hour so be flexible. Leaders are Don Williams and Christine Treger.

## During The Week

Are you interested in exploring the Old Testament? ALL are welcome to join the **MONDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY GROUP**. They meet at 11 am in the George Plenty Room on the main level of the Parish House (Brick building). We will be reading biblical passages, listening to a Great Courses DVD lecture and discussing it afterward. You are also welcome to join some members who go to lunch at the Westfield Diner afterward. Each session is relatively independent so one does not need to commit to come every week. Please contact Barbara McLaughlan: 908.273.4775, if you are interested...or, just come!

**THEOLOGICAL READING GROUP** meets in the Lounge on the first and third Mondays of the month at 7:30 -9:00. Currently they are reading, Strength to Love - published in 1963 as a collection of his sermons primarily on the topic of racial segregation in the United States and with a heavy emphasis on permanent religious values.

**TUESDAY MORNING STUDY** a small group experience that meets in the George Plenty Room at 10:30 am. Lead by Merrillyn Crane. **TUESDAYS @ 4 PM:** meets in the George Plenty Room. Currently finishing up John Ortberg and Gary Moon's ETERNITY IS NOW IN SESSION and will begin an Advent Study in December. All are welcome! Just come. We have extra books for you!

**WEDNESDAYS DAWN PATROL** meets at 7 am in the George Plenty Room, upstairs. They are currently using the 'Feasting On The Word' lectionary study.

**COW PARENTS** are reading at home and discussing the chapters of, Happy you, Happy Family. When? Wednesdays while their children are in choir and Bible story/activity. Discussion begins on November 28th. You want to be a loving parent who guides your kids on a life of happiness and success. But the chaos of parenting life leaves you overwhelmed, stressed, or just vaguely annoyed all the time. (Or maybe it's not so vague.) With this practical guide and bonus printable workbook you'll know how to:

- Stop feeling overwhelmed. Get a handle on the swirling chaos of to-do items and appointments and "should"s in your head.
- Set yourself up for a happy day, every day. Find out the ingredients you need in you day in order to become your happiest self.
- Catch yourself before you lose your cool. Learn what to do when you lose your patience with a temper-taming toolkit of proven tools to get you back on track.
- Heal after the storm. For the days when you do lose your cool, you'll get the exact steps to flush the bad mojo from your body and repair the relationship with your child (or your partner).

**FRIDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY** – Each Friday at 9:30 am meet in the George Plenty Room and begin with singing and a snack. The Old Testament - "The Old Testament is endlessly fascinating because it offers everything to explore: myth, saga, and history; tragedy, comedy, and farce; economics and politics; literature and poetry of surpassing beauty; court intrigue and prophetic morality; heavenly miracles and sometimes heavenly silence; questions of theodicy; answers that satisfy and answers that may not; destruction and rebuilding; despair and hope." DVD led with Amy-Jill Levine from: ©2001 The Teaching Company, LLC (P)2001 The Great Courses

# Upcoming Events

- **Theology Discussion Group: December 3 & 17**

We are meeting on December 3 & 17th, 7:30pm-9pm in the Christian Lounge to continue our discussion of our book: Strength in Love - a book of sermons planned by Martin Luther King Jr and published with the approval of his wife Coreta.

December 3rd we will discuss Chapter 3 and December 17 we will discuss Chapter 4.

All are welcome to the group. For more information, please contact Alan Smith (cell 917-239-1667; email [alandsmith518@gmail.com](mailto:alandsmith518@gmail.com)).

- **Contemporary Worship (wired)**



Thanksgiving just past and Christmas just ahead--two seasonal holidays when we can share experiences with friends. If you have a friend who might be drawn to Christ through attending a contemporary service, please share with them about Wired. Any questions, please contact Kevin Wilkin, our Director of Contemporary Worship at [kw@wired4worship.com](mailto:kw@wired4worship.com)

- **Friday Morning Bible Study**

We have coffee/tea at 9:30am, then Bible study focused on this week's Scripture at 10:00am, followed by a teaching on DVD.

This fall we are hearing from Dr. Craig Koester of Luther Seminary, "Reading Biblical Literature: Genesis to Revelation," on literary structures and symbolism in the Bible, including the impact of Bible texts on art, literature, and music. This course offers fresh insights and information from a personable teacher, and as always, requires no homework! Come when you can, all are welcome.

- **Lunch & A Book: January New Book**

Due to the unavailability of the previously selected book, in January we will discuss, "Sea Prayer" by Khaled Hosseini, the author of "The Kite Runner" and "A Thousand Splendid Suns". "Sea Prayer" is a very short book describing the plight of refugees in Syria that should generate some interesting discussion about the refugee problem in the Middle East. Please join us in the church library from 12 -1

Friday, January 11, 2019 to discuss this unique book. All are welcome. Any questions, please contact Lisa Black, [Imb.blacklaw@gmail.com](mailto:Imb.blacklaw@gmail.com).

- **Presbyterian Nursery School & Kindergarten**

Presbyterian Nursery School and Kindergarten is excited to be celebrating its 70th year of educating the children in our community. The kindergarteen and pre-k classes are enjoying the brisk fall weather and the children have loved seeing the foliage in Mindowaskin as well as hearing the 'crunching' of the leaves during their walks. We love having picturesque Mindowaskin as our nature exploration classroom!

Our students have also been enjoying all of the new inside play equipment in Lower Westminster which was purchased with funds from our "Red Ball". Our generous parents also donated their time to help renovate the space to make it bright and welcoming to all who use it. A portion of the funds raised was donated to the FISH program, who also share this space. They have already started collecting gifts for ABIRTHDAYWISH

We are already getting excited for Christmas and our children have already started practicing for their holiday concert on December 19th. We love watching them in the sanctuary and are always so impressed with how well they sing at such a young age. The Christmas concert always puts everyone in the holiday spirit!

If you are interested in learning more about PNS&K or wish to take a tour, please contact us at (908) 233-0766 or at [pnsandk@verizon.net](mailto:pnsandk@verizon.net).

- **STARTING POINT—A Conversation About Faith.**

This conversational environment is where you can explore faith and experience community. It's a safe place for you to ask questions and to learn about the Bible and Christianity. We believe that God loves you...specifically. And we believe God is big enough to handle your toughest questions, darkest moments, and deepest doubts. We want to honor God and you by creating an environment where you can be open, honest, and transparent.

Starting Point is designed for:

SEEKERS: those who are curious about God, Jesus, the Bible or Christianity.

STARTERS: Those who have just begun a relationship with Jesus Christ.

# Upcoming Events

RETURNERS: Those with church experience but have been away for a while.

Please contact us at [ctreger@westfieldpc.org](mailto:ctreger@westfieldpc.org) to share your 1st & 2nd & 3rd best times and days. We want this to be as convenient as possible and we may even end up with several groups because we want all who want to join to be able to. We'll keep you posted.

- **Westfield Day Care Center**

Westfield Day Care Center is having their Open House on Saturday, Jan. 5th from 11am to 2pm. Call for details (908) 232-6717 or visit [www.westfelddaycarecenter.org](http://www.westfelddaycarecenter.org)

- **Presbyterian Women Christmas Tea**

The annual Christmas Tea hosted by PW board members for all women of PCW will be held on Thursday, December 20 at 1 PM, in the George Plenty Room and Christian Lounge. Our favorite PCW actress, Lisa Black, has a great program for us. Each year the PCW staff members are invited to this event to show our appreciation for all that they do for PW and our church. Come join in the festivities!

- **PW January Outing**

PW is planning a fun outing at the Escape Room in Garwood on Thursday evening, January 24, 2019 at 7 PM. Cost will be \$30/pp. More details next month.

- **Costuming for the 5pm Christmas Eve Family Service and Pageant**

For all who want to participate (3 years-12th grade) will be:

December 9 @ 11am in Assembly Hall

December 16 @ 11am in Assembly Hall

December 19 @ 5pm in Assembly Hall



## FISH BOWL-

*Great news about two of the families who we hosted at the end of October: both have moved into their new apartments and are happily settled in. One family had been in the program since May and after a few false starts, they finally were able to move into a forever home.*

*We give thanks for the many donations we received from our PCW family. The families were very grateful for everything that they received.*

*Stay tuned for our next hosting week!*

- **Calling All Men !**

***Men's Retreat Registrations Open***

***January 25th to January 27th, 2019***

***Friday Night to Sunday Morning***

***Retreat Speaker & Leader:  
Pastor Jim Szeyller***

**Where:** Fellowship Deaconry in Liberty Corner, NJ – twenty minutes from Westfield.

**Timing:** Starts with pizza dinner at 6:30 pm Friday followed by the first retreat session. Concludes at 11:00 am Sunday with worship & communion.

**Cost:** \$185 (if you plan to stay overnight at Fellowship Deaconry); \$160 (if you plan to drive home after the sessions)

For further information, contact Dave Foltz [dfoltz@baf-law.com](mailto:dfoltz@baf-law.com) or Bill Tittle at [wtittle@nexant.com](mailto:wtittle@nexant.com)

See Linnette Cierpial in the church office for a registration form & to make your payment.

Cash, check or credit card accepted.

# From the Music Director

Taize Worship

Tuesday, December 11, 6:45 pm

Chapel

Take a break from busy! Please join us for our Advent Taize service.

The Taize community in France was founded during the distress of World War II -- to be a "sign that God is love, and love alone.. where kindness of heart and simplicity would be at the center of everything."

The Christmas season seems to go by a little bit faster every year. For every opportunity to feel wonder and anticipation as we move toward the celebration of the birth of Jesus, there seems to be an equal and opposite opportunity for anxiety.

A Taize service includes simple music, prayer, scripture and quiet. It is intended to give space for us to listen for God in our lives, and leave us better prepared to block out at least some of the "noise" of the season, that we may find joy in every day as we walk with each other, walking with God.

**Hope to see you on December 11.**

## Christmas Poinsettias

If you wish to give a Christmas Poinsettia in memory of a loved one or to honor a special person or occasion . . .

- Complete the form below and place it in the offering plate or mail the form to the church office along with your check made payable to PCW.
- Please be sure to write 'Christmas Poinsettias' in the memo section on your check.
- The suggested donation is \$25.
- Deadline for giving Christmas Poinsettias is December 19.

**PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY & RETURN THIS PORTION TO CHURCH OFFICE**



I wish to give Christmas Poinsettias in loving memory of:



I wish to give Christmas Poinsettias in honor of:

FROM: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_



# Sunday Lunch Gatherings

## 2018/2019 Schedule

Please make a note on your calendars and we look forward to seeing you!

Please be sure to RSVP monthly to JOY Lunches.

December 9, 2018

**Advent Luncheon** (all church)

March 10, 2019

**Lenten Luncheon** (all church)

January 13, 2019

**JOY Luncheon – Special guests will be our Confirmation Class**

March 31, 2019

**Lenten Luncheon** (all church)

February 10, 2019

**ALL Church Valentine's Day Luncheon**

May 5, 2019

**50 year+ Member Sunday**



*All Church  
Christmas Dinner*  
for Adults  
Hosted by The Presbyterian Women

**December 7**  
6:30pm | 7:30pm Dinner  
**Assembly Hall**

*Catered Dinner  
Entertainment*  
**\$40/pp**

*Tickets available in the church office, at circle meetings and after Sunday services.  
Purchase tickets by Sunday, December 2.*

The Presbyterian Church in Westfield | 140 Mountain Avenue, Westfield, NJ 07090

### Christmas Dinner MENU

#### Entrees

Chicken Marbella: *On the Bone, Marinated in White Wine, Brown Sugar, Capers, Prunes, Olives*

Boneless Beef Short Ribs

#### Vegetarian

Butternut Squash

Spinach Lasagna

#### Sides

Mashed Potatoes

Green Beans with Roasted Fennel & Shallots

#### Dessert

An Assortment of Finger Desserts

# We Celebrate the Baptism Of...

We celebrate the baptism of Rylie Katheryn Wetlesen, daughter of Alexis & Christopher Wetlesen on November 11, 2018.

## Commitment Sunday Luncheon



Photos taken by: Susan Dougherty

## We Extend Christian Sympathy To...



Dr. John A. Price, "Jack," died on Tuesday, November 6, 2018. He was 86 years old and living in Vero Beach, Florida. He died peacefully in the early morning hours at a memory care facility where he lived for four years. Dr. John A. Price and his wife Janet R. Price were Young Life leaders at The Presbyterian Church in Westfield, New Jersey and Young Adult leaders at The Community Church of Vero Beach, Florida. They were very active in retirement. Jack and Janet loved dancing, boating, skiing and traveling to and spending time with their many friends and family around the country and globe.

In lieu of a formal service, the family is planning a celebration in honor of Dr. Price's memory and Mrs. Price's life, in the summer of 2019 along the Saint Lawrence River in Ogdensburg, New York. If desired, the family suggests memorial donations be gifted to Alzheimer's research or to the Save the River fund at <https://savetheriver.org> or to Dr. Price's alma matter, St. Lawrence University at <https://stlawu.edu>. For condolences and other information, please contact [jpricehealthlink@aol.com](mailto:jpricehealthlink@aol.com).

We extend Christian sympathy to the family of William Parkhurst, who passed away on November 24<sup>th</sup>, at the age of 86.

Mr. Parkhurst had been a member of The Presbyterian Church in Westfield for 71 years. No memorial service is planned, and burial will be private.

Please keep his three sons and their wives, his five grandchildren, and the rest of his family in your prayers.

# Zambia Updates

## REGIONAL LIAISON NANCY COLLINS IS RETIRING



Nancy Collins has served as Regional Liaison for East Central Africa for almost 10 years. During these years, she has been working with the churches in Zambia, Malawi, Kenya, and Rwanda - and linking them as brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ with those God has called into partnership. She has been instrumental in fostering our PCW partnership with the CCAP Livingstone congregation. In her farewell letter printed in the Zambia, Zimbabwe, Mozambique Network newsletter, Nancy said *“I have become rich with the spiritual riches of the Southern hemisphere. We may think we are coming to Africa to fix and do - but the reality of the situation is that, when we go, we learn something marvelous about joy and faith of African Christians in the face of poverty, disease and death. What a blessing.”*

Nancy plans to remain in Zambia. She will teach Church History at CCAP Zambia’s Chasefu Theological College in rural eastern Zambia to students in a 3-year diploma program. Nancy has a master’s degree in history and will finish course work for an MTh in Church History at Justo Mwale Theological University in Lusaka at the end of 2018. She will have 2019 to write her dissertation, while teaching.

More from Nancy’s farewell letter – *“My heartfelt thanks to all of you who have supported me during my journey in Zambia and East Central Africa. It has been a wonderful journey. I am grateful to you and to God in Jesus Christ.”* We are grateful for Nancy’s dedication and passion for the work she has done with our brothers and sisters in Africa and the partnerships she has fostered. We wish her Godspeed in her new calling.

## REV. PAULA COOPER NEW REGIONAL LIAISON



The Rev. Paula Cooper is the new Regional Liaison for East Central Africa, effective March 1 2019. She will be working with Nancy Collins who will be retiring at the end of February 2019.

When Paula entered seminary at Pittsburg Theological Seminary in 2006 at the age of 50, she did not fit the profile of the typical matriculating student. Paula’s decades of life experience that had brought her to this stage of her journey had also endowed her with a unique perspective on what it means to follow God and serve alongside her brothers and sisters in Christ.

Paula served in a variety of ministries in her home church, Holy Trinity-Bethlehem Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia – as ruling elder, youth director, Christian education chairperson and worship committee chairperson, among others. She also worked in the “urban mission field” of the Logan community of Philadelphia as the executive director of Youth Project and as a community organizer for Logan Olney Family Support Services.

During seminary, Paula worked with her professor and peers at the Zeitah Excavation site in Israel for six weeks in 2007. That same summer Paula had the opportunity to visit Zambia for two weeks to attend a conference concerning the Church’s responsibility in addressing HIV/AIDS in the region. In 2017, she was named by Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church in NYC as a Phillip Talbot Global Mission Fellow, a position that took her back to Zambia to serve with Theological Education by Extension in Zambia (TEEZ). In training Zambian church leaders in her work with TEEZ, Paula found herself being transformed along with those she was training. Accompanying her Zambian brothers and sisters as they discovered how God can use them, she came to understand more deeply how God can use her.

Paula received her BA at Eastern University in St. Davids, PA and her Master of Divinity and Master of Sacred Theology at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. In addition to her work in mission, she was a hospice chaplain, and from 2014-2017, she served as designated pastor of Curby Memorial Presbyterian Church in St. Louis, MO. She is now a member of the Giddings-Lovejoy Presbytery of St. Louis.

# Session News

## From the Session Meeting of November, 2018

- The annual reports from the Nursery School (PNS&K) and from Time-Out-for-Parents (TOPS) were given to the Session. PNS&K is celebrating its 70th year. Both are missions of the church and have a significant impact on the early education of children in our community with 212 and 35 enrollment respectively. A prayer of thanks for their devotion to children was offered by DCE Christine Treger.
- Searching for our next Pastor-Head of Staff: RE Pam Shaw reiterated the guidelines being followed with respect to the latest compensation rules from the Presbytery and the status of the search schedule.
- Stewardship Sunday - In preparation for November 18 as Stewardship Sunday, RE Bill Golden reviewed the current state of the church finances. Session was pleased to elect Alan Smith to the position of Church Treasurer. Finally, the budget for the 2019 calendar year was approved.
- Membership roles are reviewed annually as we prepare to budget for the per-capita payment to the Presbytery. This payment supports missions of the greater church and the necessary personnel involved. People who have moved from the area are being contacted to see if they have joined another church or wish to be remain affiliated with PCW.
- The Discussion Period for this meeting continued the conversation of “Partnering with Our Next Pastor” and the importance of praying together with pastors and each other.
- Brief Reports: At every Session meeting there is time allocated for brief “One Minute Reports” and for comments from the clergy and administrator. Under those headings:
  - From RE Jane Francz- the annual Christmas Dinner will be held on December 7
  - From RE Lisa DuMont – The agape clothing closet methods have changed. New clothing is now being purchased using contributions for this purpose.

*David Rogers*  
*Clerk of Session*

If you'd like to look back at past Session Meeting Minutes go to:

***[westfieldpc.org/session-meeting-minutes/](http://westfieldpc.org/session-meeting-minutes/)***

Also, remember, anyone can attend a Session Meeting as a listener (not participant) and the minutes will be added on the webpage for review. Session meetings are held the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7:30pm.

Any questions or comments may be directed to David Rogers, Clerk of Session at [hdavrogers@aol.com](mailto:hdavrogers@aol.com).

If you have great news to share with PCW such as, an engagement, anniversary, adoption, baptism, birth, etc., please email a picture and a short paragraph to [spire@westfieldpc.org](mailto:spire@westfieldpc.org) to be featured!

***We'd love to celebrate with you!***

# Community Corner

## Celebrate the Holiday Season with New Jersey Festival Orchestra!

From traditional to pops, choral favorites, renowned tenor fare, and dancing by guests from Dance Theater of Harlem, the winter season of NJ Festival Orchestra concerts will fill the entire family with warmth and cheer.

They're back! On Saturday, December 15, 2018 at The Presbyterian Church, Westfield, special guests The Three Holiday Tenors join NJFO to present a host of much loved tenor songs to welcome the holiday season. Traditional carols, signature versions of familiar fare and wintertime curiosities are also sure to delight.

"There is something for everyone in this concert," says Maestro Wroe. "But above all, our program is for the entire community - children, parents, grandparents and friends - to come together through music and celebrate this unique time of year."

Ticket prices range from \$30 to \$76 for adults and there is a special discount price of only \$15 for students K-12.

On New Year's Eve the NJ Festival Orchestra again presents one of New Jersey's most popular musical events. And this year we're changing it up! The quintessential NYE celebration takes on a brand new dimension as our Broadway vocalists are joined by Dance Theatre of Harlem's Da'von Doane and friends to recreate the song and dance magic of MGM musicals and more. Don't miss Singing and Dancing with the Stars! on Monday December 31 at 7pm, WHS Auditorium, Westfield.

Tickets for both concerts are available on line at [www.njfestivalorchestra.org](http://www.njfestivalorchestra.org). Tickets may also be purchased by calling (908) 232-9400 or by visiting the office at 224 E. Broad Street, Westfield (10am-3pm). Patrons are advised to purchase tickets online – no ticketing or handling fees and it's simple, secure, and possible to select your seats and print tickets.

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## Westfield Historical Society





As part of the The Westfield Historical Society's *First Wednesday Luncheon* series, Dr. Jonathan Mercantini, Acting Dean, College of Liberal Arts and Associate Professor of the Department of History at Kean University, will be speaking on the topic Washington's Crossing for the 21st Century on December 5, 2018. The event will begin with check-in at 11:45 am at the Echo Lake Country Club, located at 515 Springfield Avenue, Westfield.

Dr. Mercantini will present a re-telling of Washington's Crossing for the 21st Century. Considering that triumph as an origin story will enable the audience to better understand the legacies of New Jersey's history and prompt a discussion on how that history can better inform the present and influence the future.

Those wishing to attend the luncheon may make a reservation by email to [westfieldhistoricalsociety@gmail.com](mailto:westfieldhistoricalsociety@gmail.com); or, by calling 908-654-1794, before 11:00 am on Friday, November 30. Please advise if there are special dietary needs. The luncheon fee of \$35 (WHS members) or \$40 (non-members) includes a three-course meal, coffee/tea, and gratuity. The luncheon fee should be paid in advance (check payable to Westfield Historical Society) by mailing to Westfield Historical Society, P.O. Box 613, Westfield, NJ 07091; or, online at [www.westfieldhistoricalsociety.org/registration/](http://www.westfieldhistoricalsociety.org/registration/). Payments should be received by Friday prior to the luncheon. Westfield Historical Society memberships will also be available at the luncheon.

# December 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<b>November 30 &amp; December 1, 7:30pm Westminster Hall</b> O. Henry Christmas Performances to benefit FISH & Agape. Tickets are available at the door: \$15/pp				1 12pm Ruby Slippers AA 7:30pm O. Henry Performance
2 8am Worship 9am Questers 9am Youth Sunday School 10am Worship 10am wired 10:05am Sunday School 11:15am Serendipity Bible Study 6:30pm MS & HS Fellowship	3 11am Small Group 7pm Troop 72 Mtg. 7pm Faith Formation Meeting 7:30pm AA 7:30pm Theology Discussion Group	4 7am MS B Club 10am Staff Mtg. 12pm AI-Anon 6:30pm Confirmation 7:30pm Women's AA 7:30pm Mission, Stewardship	5 7am Dawn Patrol 1pm Agape Prep 3:15pm Agape 5pm COW 7pm PNC 7:30pm Chancel Bells 8pm AA	6 9am Craftsmen 9:30am PW Board Mtg. 5:30pm AA 7:30pm Chancel Choir	7 9:30am Bible Study 6:30pm Christmas Dinner 7pm AA	8 12pm Ruby Slippers AA
<b>9 PW Bake Sale</b> 8am Worship 9am Questers 9am Youth Sunday School 10am Worship 10am wired 10:05am Sunday School 11am Advent Lunch 11am Christmas Pageant Costuming 11:15am Serendipity Bible Study 1pm Live Nativity 6:30pm MS & HS Fellowship	10 11am Small Group 1pm Parkinson's Support Group 7pm Troop 72 Mtg. 7:30pm AA	11 7am MS B Club 10am Staff Mtg. 12pm AI-Anon 6:30pm Confirmation 6:45pm Taize Service 7:30pm Session 7:30pm Women's AA 7:30pm Session	12 7am Dawn Patrol 1pm Agape Prep 1pm Senior Network 3:15pm Agape 5pm COW 7pm PNC 7:30pm Chancel Bells 8pm AA	13 9am PW Circles 9am Craftsmen 5:30pm AA 7:30pm Chancel Choir	14 9:30am Bible Study 7pm AA	15 12pm Ruby Slippers AA
16 8am Worship 9am Questers 9am Youth Sunday School 10am Worship 10am wired 10:05am Sunday School 11am Christmas Pageant Costuming 11:15am Serendipity Bible Study 6:30pm MS & HS Fellowship	17 11am Caring Friends 7pm Troop 72 Mtg. 7:30pm AA 7:30pm Theology Discussion Group	18 7am MS B Club 10am Staff Mtg. 10:30am Small Group 12pm AI-Anon 6:30pm Confirmation 7:30pm Office & Property 7:30pm Women's AA	19 7am Dawn Patrol 1pm Agape Prep 3:15pm Agape 5pm COW 5pm Christmas Pageant Costuming 7pm PNC 7:30pm Personnel 7:30pm Chancel Handbells 8pm AA	20 9am Craftsmen 1pm Christmas Tea 5:30pm AA 7:30pm Chancel Choir	21 9:30am Bible Study 10am Alzheimer's Caregivers Support Group 7pm AA	22 12pm Ruby Slippers AA
23 8am Worship 9am Questers 10am Worship 10am wired 10:05am Sunday School 11:15am Serendipity Bible Study	<b>Christmas Eve</b> 5pm Family Worship Service 8pm Candlelight Service 10pm Candlelight Service with Communion 7:30pm AA	<b>Christmas</b> <b>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</b> 	<b>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</b> 7am Dawn Patrol 1pm Agape Prep 3:15pm Agape 8pm AA	27 5:30pm AA 7:30pm Chancel Choir	28 7pm AA	29 12pm Ruby Slippers AA
30 10am Worship 10am wired 11:15am Serendipity Bible Study	<b>NEW YEAR'S EVE</b> 7:30pm AA	<b>Happy New Year</b> 				



# Happy Birthday



**December 1**

Nemec, Joel  
Finley, Frederique  
Cohen, Jacob

**December 2**

Baker, Deborah  
Pierce, Michelle

**December 3**

Ainslie, Marilyn  
Dembiac, Walter  
Ebel, Alex

**December 4**

Colao, Lisa  
Wright, Christopher  
Mulzoff, Joy

**December 5**

Vierschilling, Barbara  
Purachev, Gregory  
Cunningham, Barry  
Shepard, Lauren  
Crenshaw, William  
Beck, Ryan

**December 6**

Hanscom, Warren  
Degen, Wayne  
McArdle, Carolyn  
Ingrassia, Benjamin

**December 7**

Fredericks, Carol  
Hoffman, Christian  
Grom, Alexander  
Dickey, Jacob

**December 8**

Miller, Douglas  
Hoeft, Chad  
Bracco, Danny  
Sandstedt, John

**December 9**

Jackson, Robert  
Rosengarth, Robert  
Monzella, David  
Smith, Kathleen  
Stockwell, Andrew

**December 10**

Danskin, Mary Kay  
Taylor, Susan

**December 11**

Adams, Ludwig

**December 12**

Wiehl, Lois  
Factor, Carl  
Parkinson, Emily

**December 13**

McMahon, Joshua  
Doyle, Jessica

**December 15**

DuBois, Eleanor  
Vierschilling, James

**December 16**

Finter, Lucille  
Harrison, Anastasia  
Dickey, Michael  
Hoy, Christian  
Mantone, Shea

**December 17**

Serra, Madeline

**December 18**

Hewit, Carol  
Fritz, Cherie  
Siwulec, Anne  
Morgan, Griffin  
Valentine, Scott

**December 19**

Schwarz, Bradford  
Himmel, Anneliese  
Wright, Brennan  
Brown, Daley

**December 20**

Trott, John

**December 21**

Bungerz, Deborah  
Dackow, Susan  
Fahrenthold, Carol

**December 22**

Bischoff, Leslie  
Cook, Carole  
Schwartz, Charlotte

**December 23**

Murtishaw, Thomas  
You, Rongling  
Brown, Tess

**December 24**

Heinbokel, Robert  
Keough, Colum  
Ebel, Sarah  
Becker, Sean

**December 25**

Woodfield, Wendy  
Keough, Aidan

**December 26**

Mill, Robert  
Fraites, Roberta  
Barker, Carol  
Grow, Geoffrey

**December 27**

Klimas, Valerie  
Miller, Catharine  
Henry, Michael  
Henry, Milone  
Anderson, Jake

**December 28**

Posada, Alex  
Peterson, Keith

**December 29**

Jacobsen, Leslie

**December 30**

DePaul, Barbara  
Sinclair, Joan  
Potamouisis, Dimitri

**December 31**

Ehrhardt, Caroline  
Fleming, Adrian



**ONE STARRY NIGHT...**A Savior was born. Special Sunday School Event on 12.16.18 @ 10-11am. The kids will gather in the Assembly Hall to begin the journey where they will experience the sights and sounds of Bethlehem on the night Jesus was born. They'll encounter townspeople as they enter through the Bethlehem city gate, record their names for the census, gaze at constellations in the night sky, and seek lodging at an inn, and follow the shepherds to find baby Jesus.

**NEEDED: Actors & shepherds!** Please contact Christine Treger to volunteer [ctreger@westfieldpc.org](mailto:ctreger@westfieldpc.org). You don't have to be a parent to be involved!

## 'A BIRTHDAY WISH' WRAP-A-THON

A Sunday School Mission project on December 9, 2018. Did you know 3rd-5th grade SS class participates in mission work of this church on the third Sunday of the month. (We're flexible). Class will begin as usual but the 3rd – 5th graders will go to the Assembly Hall after attendance.



**The Presbyterian Church in Westfield**  
**140 Mountain Avenue**  
**Westfield, NJ 07090**

**Sunday Worship Schedule**

8am Traditional  
 Chapel

10am Traditional  
 Sanctuary

10am Contemporary (wired.)  
 Westminster Hall

**Sunday School & Childcare**

**9am Youth Sunday School**  
 Grades 6-12  
 Youth Room (3rd Floor Parish House)

**10am Children's Sunday School**  
 3 years old - 5th Grade  
 Christian Education Building

**9am-11am Childcare**  
 Infants - 3 years old  
 Room 104, Lower Level, Christian Education Building



SPECIAL OFFERINGS  
 CHRISTMAS JOY

Each year during the Advent and Christmas season, we turn our eyes to Bethlehem and celebrate the wondrous gift of Jesus Christ, our Savior. By giving to the Christmas Joy Offering, you honor this gift by providing assistance to current and retired church workers in their time of need and developing our future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.

Inserts can be found in Sunday bulletins.

**CONTACT US**

[westfieldpc.org](http://westfieldpc.org) | [wired4worship.com](http://wired4worship.com)  
 908-233-0301 | Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm



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