

The Spire

February 2022

Life Change
Starts Here

On the Horizon

It is odd to think that this month marks a couple of anniversaries: (1) the beginning of my fourth year serving The Presbyterian Church in Westfield; and (2) it is the beginning of the third year this country has been grappling with COVID.

Even sitting to write this, I had to pause at the statement above.

Our community – as a nation, as a region, as a state and county and town, as a church – has been through so much in such a short time. Everyone is exhausted; everyone is “over it.” Hearing reports from nurses across the country, one hears again and again the depletion, the sadness, the emotional and spiritual pain. Reporting from different sources say vastly different things. Some point to signs of the end of pandemic while others suggest COVID is moving to become endemic.

With all that whirling around I, for one, want a little stability in my life; I am looking for some place in my life that I can count on. I can count on my family. I can count on close friends. I can count on this church community, and so can you.

Over the past several months we have discussed plans to continue making it easier and easier for people to be and stay engaged with church regardless of location, regardless of their busy schedules, enabling deep

connection. It is part of our commitment to be your spiritual home. There have been a lot of questions on what this means. I could talk of some of the technical (and technological) solutions we are bringing to support you, things like a new type of software that helps bring all we do at church to your finger-tips, or the updates we are bringing to make in-person and live worship more accessible in your home (be it in Westfield and its environs or the Shore, Florida, and beyond! We could talk about the tech side, but what matters is how it has the power to improve our lives – COVID or no COVID.

This spring we are focusing on gathering together more. We will have small groups organizing over March and early April for Lent, and these will be able to happen at the church, in your homes, even online... whatever makes the most sense for you. We will also be bringing more opportunities for you to find moments of rest from the busy world through retreats (big and small). Across all ages and stages, across all areas of interest, there are more and more opportunities coming for you to find a place to count on in an ever-changing and tumultuous world.

This month marks a couple of big anniversaries for me, but I have never been this excited for what lies on the horizon.

- Jeremy

CLERK'S REPORT

HIGHLIGHTS FROM JANUARY SESSION MEETING

Generosity Update- Bill Tittle reported that 200 pledges totaling \$752,000 have been received. That is up \$30,000 YTD. There is a 14% increase in the pledge amount and 40 new pledges. Engagement has been challenged by the pandemic. Stewardship will be reaching out to 35 people they know who pledged in the past but have not pledged this year. The focus on generosity will continue throughout the year. Ethan Harris said that last year was a big year for mission giving due to people's generosity.

“Call-A-Thon” UPDATE - Will Murtishaw and Dan Swartz reported the Deacons have called half of the congregation! The other half of the congregation is

currently being assigned to Deacons. They are leaving many voice mails. They have discovered, however, that some numbers are out of service, some people are not willing to be in large crowds, and some have moved to other churches. A spreadsheet with current information created will be shared with the church office.

Technology Transformation Project - Session voted to move forward with Michael Hoddy, from Somerset Media Group, as the Lead Project Partner, to begin the final design and implementation of audio visual, streaming, and WIFI throughout the church campus.

Pam Shaw, Clerk of Session

Welcome Home 2022 Pledge Campaign

As of January 24th, we had 202 pledges for 2022 totaling \$760 thousand. We had over twenty new pledges for 2022. Pledges are already \$34 thousand higher than total pledges in 2021. Of those that pledged in both 2021 and 2022, the average increase was 14.6%. That is a very generous response.

The total number of pledges is still 17% below the 242 total pledges last year, and we encourage members who have not yet pledged to prayerfully consider doing so, if they are able.

The 2022 operating budget approved by Session totals \$1.98 million. Over the last three years annual gifts other than pledges have been fairly steady at about \$300 thousand per year. Assuming a similar level in 2022, the projected budget shortfall is \$940 thousand. In the last few years, we have been able to cover the shortfall by a combination of gains in PCW's endowment and pandemic-related Federal grants. It is likely that we will have to dip into the endowment a modest amount in 2022.

Bill Tittle, Stewardship Commission Chair

CARING FRIENDS MEET ONCE A MONTH

Our next meeting is Monday, February 28, at 11am in the Christian Lounge, and we would love to have you join us!

Caring Friends is a group for seniors that get together for coffee, fellowship and fun on the fourth Monday of each month. It is a great opportunity to meet some new friends and get to know old friends better! Contact Nancy Smith, 908-578-4741 or nancyriedsmith@gmail.com for more information.

CHURCH REGISTRY DECEMBER 2021

BAPTISMS

December 12

*Millicent Arianna Ada Andrews
Rosalind Marcella Harriet Andrews*

December 19

Everly Bianca Thompson

IN MEMORIAM

Jean Enes - December 14

PCW & FELLOWSHIP VILLAGE

A PCW-Fellowship Village (FV) connection ministry was launched in late July 2021. Members of PCW who reside at Fellowship Village retirement community in Basking Ridge gather for lunch in their Bistro restaurant with Barbara Ringk on the 4th Wednesday of each month. Members of our Presbyterian Women are baking cookies and writing monthly notes which are shared during the lunches.

Long-time members, Ellen Foster, and her brother, Robert Miller, shared memories about the PCW manse (located on the church property many years ago) and have prompted an interest in learning more about it. With the help of David Rogers, we had more info to share at our next lunch.

Rev. Marcy Ryan attended our December 23, luncheon and enjoyed getting to know these PCW members.

If you would be interested in baking cookies or writing notes, please contact Barbara Ringk at 908-403-3129 or bringk@verizon.net.

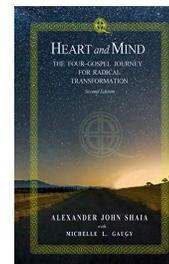


HEART AND MIND BIBLE STUDY

Join us on Monday, February 21, 3pm in the George Plenty Room (hopefully in person) or via Zoom at 7:30pm.

We are reading the *Sermon on the Mount* (pages 102-1107 in the 3rd edition version of Heart and Mind).

If you need more information, please contact Alan Smith, alandsmith518@gmail.com.



Youth in February

- **Monthly High School Fellowship** is February 13, 6-7pm in the Youth Room.
- **Weekly Middle School Fellowship** is 11am-12:15pm in the youth room, every Sunday after church.
- **Confirmation Class**, Thursday's 7:30-9:00 in the youth room.

The Youth Room is located in the upper level of the Parish House.

SPRING NEW MEMBER CLASSES

You've asked, you've wanted to learn more, and now it's here! From Outreach and Welcome, we will be providing a Spring New Members class all for those who are interested in becoming members of the church, or those who are interested in learning more. Mark your calendars for these upcoming important dates:

Information/Inquiry Session: Sunday, March 20th @11:15am: Join us immediately following worship for a time to get to know others who are new to this church, as well as a tour of the facilities. This will be casual- even if you are still discerning if you'd like to join, this is a great opportunity to meet new people!

Hybrid New Member Class: Sunday, March 27th @11:15am: This class is **required** if you are looking to join the church. We will take a deep dive into the life of the church, as well as what it means to be Presbyterian. This is the time to bring forth your questions!

In light of the pandemic, we will be offering this class as a hybrid option. If you are planning to join online, please let Pastor Marcy know by emailing her at mryan@westfieldpc.org

New Member Sunday: Sunday, April 3rd @10am in the Sanctuary or Wired: New members will join this Sunday- please come and worship with us as we welcome those who are joining us today!

If there are questions you have or if you are interested in learning more, please contact Pastor Marcy at mryan@westfieldpc.org or by calling the church office at 908-233-0301.

TOPS (Time Out for Parents)

Coming February 11, registration information on the TOPS program for September 2022! New brochures will be available after 10am services in the Narthex and Westminster Hall.

This church-sponsored preschool is for children age 22 months and older. You may register for two designated mornings each week for approximately \$95 for 5 hours. Church members are guaranteed their first choice of classes if they enroll by February 28, 2022. TOPS follows the public school and PNS&K calendars. For more information, please contact Mary Danskin, Director at mkdanskin@comcast.net.

Death of a former member:

*It is with deep sadness we inform you of the passing of former member of PCW, **Claire Violet (Brown) Miller** who died on January 9, 2022.*

A Celebration of Life will be held at the First Presbyterian Church of Tuckerton on Sunday, 7/17/22. Please keep the Miller family in your prayers.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

FEB 1
Eleanor Annis
Georgeanne McMahon
Vlad Marhefka

FEB 2
Mary Pope
Linda Morse
Kelly Lama
Laura Cerria
Kelly Lapham

FEB 3
William Fredericks
Patricia Klofta
Jennifer Wilner

FEB 4
Catherine Matera
Connor Burslem
Jack Hall

FEB 5
Marianne Bredlau
Eric Demers

FEB 6
Lynn Gerckens
Michael Stravach
Ella Johnson

FEB 7
Barbara Ramsden-Nary
Jeffrey Marino

FEB 8
Darlene Husch
Gertrud Cederqvist
Jessica Weaver
Jack Luerssen

FEB 9
Clinton Factor

FEB 10
Kimberly Taylor
Renee Donatelli

FEB 11
Amanda Paden
Dustin Paden

FEB 12
Christine Brown
Michael Ince
Maria Weldon
Benton Cummings

FEB 13
Sarah Miller
Stanley Donatelli
Holly Grom
Timothy Grom

FEB 14
Ralph Maines
Tom Howland
Evan Trott

FEB 16
Thomas Phelan
Pamela Kolb
David Hewit
Randall Speir
Laura Marhefka
Simon Wang

FEB 17
John Taylor

FEB 18
Cathleen LaMond
Jacob Klofta
Robert Fallo

FEB 19
Jeanmarie Keenan
Fiona Quinlan

FEB 20
Margaret Smith
Brenda Eickemeyer
Griffin Embry
William Murtishaw

FEB 21
James Pinkin
Katherine Fleschler
Susan Cunningham
Jeannine Hyman
Christian Grom
Andrew Zanfagna

FEB 22
William Ainslie
Joseph Sobala
Joseph Swingle
Cheryl Pate
Chris Gerckens

FEB 23
Michael Devaney
Philip Zanfagna

FEB 25
Barbara Hannah
Donald Kolterjahn
Pamela Brug-Panton
Matt Dailey
Joanne Kinsella
Matthew Stierhoff

FEB 26
Inger Andreassen
Nancy Hevert
Virginia Perry
Robin Ince
Adam Dix

FEB 27
Emily Howell
Kevin Stock
Kelly Vasel

FEB 28
Ellen Foster
Christopher Lum
Alexander DuMont



IT'S NOT TOO LATE !

Join a PCW "Lenten Small Group" this year!

Pastor Marcy will place you into a small group that will meet each week during the six weeks leading up to Easter, as well as providing resources for study. There's been so much change, loss, and grief in these last couple of years- and so join us for times of connection this upcoming spring season.

Have questions? Interested in learning more? Want to sign up? Contact Pastor Marcy, mryan@westfieldpc.org.
Sign up by Wednesday, February 23rd!

COME WORSHIP WITH US!

Sunday Mornings:

10:00am Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary

10:00am wired Worship in Westminster Hall
(Contemporary Service)

10:00am Sunday School 4yrs—5th Grade
In Assembly Hall and ONLINE

11:00am Middle School Fellowship
Jim Cole Room

IMPORTANT DATES IN FEBRUARY

Feb 3: PW Board Mtg

Feb. 6: Retreat Inquiry Lunch

Feb. 8: Session Meeting

Feb. 10: PW Circles meet

Feb. 21: Presidents Day, Church office closed

Feb. 23: Registration for Lent Small Groups Closes

Feb. 28: Caring Friends

CONTACT US

westfieldpc.org | wired4worship.com

908.233.0301 | Office Hours: Monday - Thursday, 9am- 5pm, Friday 9am-2pm



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