

The Spire

January 2022

Happy New Year and welcome to our abbreviated January edition of The Spire! For more information, please contact the church office. 908.233.0301

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Some of us have been looking forward to this new year as a new beginning, a new start where we may finally leave the disruptions and problems of the past couple years in the rear view. Ok, that may not be possible for now. However, there is a lot to be grateful for, if we will only slow down, take stock, and be honest.

Before going on, almost every year I make some new resolution. Sometimes it is to read a certain number of books per month. Sometimes it is to try one new thing per month. Other years it has been to eat better, work out, and all that. This year I am doing something different, and I invite you to join me.

It's the "Word of the Year." There are a number of life coaches out there who push this idea; I first heard of this from a former boss at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Atlanta, where I served prior to coming to Westfield. Each year she would choose a new word to define her experience of the year. They were invariably aspirational, had a sense of adventure, and were meant to make her stay focused on where (or who) she wanted to be at the end of the coming year.

My word of the year for 2022 is *thanks*. That's it. I want to say it more. I want to feel it more.

So much of our culture is strained to the breaking point. It's in our politics and social conversations, it's also in the pressures we are facing with global health issues, economic uncertainty, and generally speaking a sense of mistrust all around. The stress I sense in my neighbors is through the roof. I suppose we could make our word something like *civil*, with some commitment to act like a grown up, but for me, it needed to force me to take daily and immediate action.

Over and over again our scriptures talk about the importance of gratitude in our faith. In fact, the Reformed tradition sees that the heart of our faith has to do with the relationship between God's grace and our response of gratitude. So, here we are... entering a new year, which will bring its own trials, surprises and ups and downs. To which – at least for now – I say, *thanks*.

— Jeremy

Save the Date!

LENTEN SMALL GROUPS

As we've journeyed through the Advent and Christmas season as well as through the New Year, we begin to look ahead to another significant part in our church life: Lent.

Lent comes from the Old English word "lencten" meaning, "spring season." This originally was referring to the lengthening of days that happens in spring, and how there is new life all around us.

Often, it's the time of year where one may give up food or drink, or take on a spiritual practice as a way to journey towards the cross. What if this year was a bit different for you and I? What if your Lenten season included time that was set apart with friends and church family? What if you didn't go through Lent alone?

Join PCW in "Lenten Small Groups" this year so that not only will we celebrate the lengthening of days in our church family...we'll also learn and worship together.

Pastor Marcy will place you into small groups 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 at mryan@westfieldpc.org. Sign up by Wednesday, February 23rd!

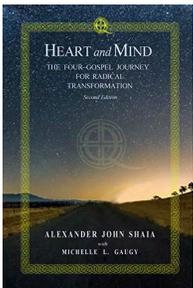
RID-RACIAL INJUSTICE DIALOGUES

Did you know that race is a modern idea, that race has no genetic basis, that skin color is only skin deep, that slavery predates race, that race isn't biological, that America's early economy was based largely on slavery? You can learn more about racial injustice in America along with Susan Dougherty and Carolyn Fleder in a 6-session (1st & 3rd Wednesday evenings) discussion via Zoom. We will 'meet' for one hour at 8 pm starting January 5th to March 16th. It will involve a little reading or listening or viewing of an article, podcast or movie in advance of each session.

Please email or call either Susan at (732-382-5367) or crusadersue@hotmail.com or Carolyn, (908-510-0759) at crfleder@gmail.com for more information and to receive the Zoom invite.



HEART AND MIND BIBLE STUDY



Come to the Heart and Mind Bible Study on Monday, January 17, 2022 at 3pm in the George Plenty Room or via ZOOM at 7:30 pm. We will be reading two sections, *Repentance & Blessing*, and *Saying No to Illusion*. (pages 91-101 in the 3rd edition)



WEDNESDAY WORSHIP

Join us on Wednesdays beginning January 12, from 5pm -6:15pm and listen to stories from your pastors, program directors and volunteers; sing and pray; connect with friends during activities like bingo, art, or yoga, participate in a community service activity each week as well as watch a movie on Movie Night. Please contact Krista at 908-233-0301 ext. 44 or faithformation@westfieldpc.org.

**Wednesday
Worship
returns
January 12!**

THANK YOU!

Farewell from our Interim Parish Associate

Thank you and God bless. . .

I want to express my deepest gratitude to Jeremy, the entire staff, the session and the members of PCW for affording me the opportunity to serve as your interim Parish Associate.

It was my pleasure to share in ministry with you during your time of transition. Your kindness and spirit of hospitality was always evident. I am excited for you as the pastoral staff is now in place with Sara and Marcy. God has wonderful plans in store for you in the days ahead.



God bless you and happy trails until we meet again.

-Tom



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

The Presbyterian Women's Circle #4 met in the Jim Cole Room for their annual Christmas ornament game the second week of December.

If you would like information regarding Circle meetings, please contact the church office.



RETREAT INQUIRY LUNCH

Are you tired or worn out? Needing to take some real rest and enjoy those rhythms of grace? Needing a community to simply be with? So often our lives are filled with busyness and stress, that we don't take time to consider how that may be impacting us as individuals and as a community. **Join us to consider what the next steps are for the future of retreats.**

We will gather and meet after worship on **Sunday, February 6th 2022** for lunch and a time to discuss what kinds of retreats and offerings you would like. We want to know what you think. The cost will be \$5 for lunch, and **we ask that you RSVP to Pastor Marcy at mryan@westfieldpc.org by February 1st.**

All are welcome to join us!

Save the Date!

CAROLS, COOKIES & COCOA

The Christmas Carols, Cookies and Cocoa event on Sunday, December 12 proved fun for the whole family. Reverend Jeremy welcomed everyone, volunteer confirmands donned Santa hats and served refreshments, Kevin Wilkin and Paul Sanner on keyboards got everyone singing. Pastor Sara read a meaningful story about the candy



cane and Pastor Marcy, the coordinator of the afternoon event, reminded the crowd of the meaning of Christmas with the reading of the season!



CHURCH REGISTRY NOVEMBER 2021

Baptisms

November 14, 2021

*Arthur Stephen Elliot
Grace Cynthia Sanders*

Member Death

*Robert (Bob) C. Mill
(December 27, 1926-November 19, 2021)*



DECORATING FOR CHRISTMAS



We hope you enjoyed our sanctuary during the Christmas season.

Many thanks to our elves: *PCW Craftsmen, Jane Francz, Nancy Hevert, Martha & Gerard Kieczkowski, John LaMond (on the ladder), Susan Murtishaw, Pam Shaw, Alan Smith & Nancy Smith, and Faye Sobala.*

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Jan 2

Kenneth Burns

Jan 3

Shannon Crooks
Rodney Ibrahim
Mark Pesapane
Abigail Flaherty

Jan 4

John Kefalonitis
Charles Nary
Jennifer McCall
Douglas Whang
Corinne Walker
Erick Walker
Cassandra Lama

Jan 5

Susan Palma
Julie Ibrahim
Taylor Venturino

Jan 6

Clara Husch
Timothy Doerr
Peter Shepard
Brooke Pastro
Charles Timko

Jan 7

Carolyn Keough

Jan 8

Brooke Pfaus

Jan 9

Evelyn Miller

Jan 10

Sharon Stockwell

Jan 11

James Trimble
Theresa Gonzales
Stephen Johnson
Noelle duToit Coletti

Jan 12

William Hedden

Jan 13

Stephen Park

Jan 14

John LaMond
Mark Socha
Mason Gibbs

Jan 16

Brian Bigelow
Jonah Lamberts

Jan 17

Thomas Miller
Amy Mockbee
Timothy Cook

Jan 19

Brooke May
Amy Buck
Grace Demers

Jan 20

Robert Cook

Jan 21

Cole Swingle
Sidney Swingle

Jan 22

Gerald Armstrong
Lisa Black-Polak
Andrew Christakos

Jan 23

David Rogers
Garrett Verdone
Sabrina Harrison

Jan 24

Leslie DeMartino
David Crenshaw
Gita Dailey
Jennifer Nary
Kurt Gerckens

Jan 25

David Kristiansen
Tamara Shields
Alexandra Liggatt
Elizabeth Ackland
Kathleen Seaman

Jan 26

Cheryl Lowe
Nicole Sandstedt

Jan 27

Pamela Shaw
Amy Maloof

Jan 29

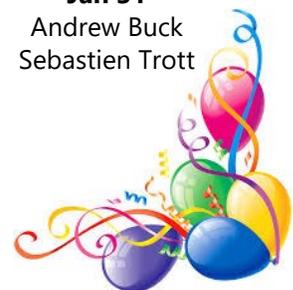
Rebecca Factor
Kevin Yucetepe

Jan 30

Susan Dougherty
Wendy Santoro
John McCauley
Tracy Crosby
Jason Yarusi
Quinn Priscoe

Jan 31

Andrew Buck
Sebastien Trott





140 Mountain Avenue | Westfield, NJ 07090

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

11:00am Middle School Fellowship
Jim Cole Room

CONTACT US

westfieldpc.org | wired4worship.com
908.233.0301 | Office Hours: Monday - Thursday, 9am-5pm, Friday 9am-2pm

@PCWestfield



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Associate Pastor For Congregational Life

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