



HILLTOPICS –APRIL 2018

WILSON MEMORIAL UNION CHURCH WATCHUNG, NJ 07069 (908) 755-5020
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MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR...

So they (the women) departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy.

Matthew 28:8

I've always found this verse from Matthew's account of the Easter story fascinating. And, what's fascinating to me is the description of the women feeling *both* fear and joy. They experienced two, seemingly opposite emotions at the same time? Well, I'm wondering if we understand this more than we realize.

If I'm honest with myself, I know that the emotions I experience at any given time aren't of the "pure bred" variety. Rarely they are. Folks say that it's helpful to think of feelings in a much more highly nuanced way than simply straight talk about being happy, or sad, or excited, or the like. When we do, there's a far greater ability to connect to the reality of what is going on for us. A good reminder is that we literally have hundreds of words available in our vocabulary for all sorts of emotions and states of being. What a far-reaching range of them! We have the choice of using "delighted" or "giddy" depending on which one best fits the smile on our face. We may prefer "irked" over "hopeless" for describing the reason we wear a frown. And, we've all seen how important it is to encourage little ones to be as verbally expressive as possible instead of acting out their state of upset. "Use your words!" we admonish. You and I know that when we can express as specifically as possible what we are feeling, we not only gain clarity and insight about our reaction to any given situation; we have clues as to how move forward.

By saying the women left the tomb "with fear and great joy", the Gospel of Matthew gives us a huge amount of information about their reaction. Rather than picturing them as experiencing two completely opposite types of feelings at the same time (in terms of warring emotions), I wonder if it might be helpful to see their fear and great joy in another way. Perhaps we have known an "anxious joyfulness" at some point in our lives? Or maybe even "joyful anxiousness". What is true is this: fear and joy worked together inside them in such a way that they knew their fear wasn't going to stop them from sharing the news of Jesus' empty tomb with others. There is sometimes an interesting alchemy that happens with important emotions when they get stirred up together, right? As a Minister, I can't help but sometimes ask, what is the source of that stirring up? Who is doing the stirring? And, who might in fact be shoring us up to move forward on new and life-giving paths? Won't you ponder with me this as an answer: "God moves in mysterious ways"? My thinking is God certainly moved in a mysterious way stirring together the joy with the fear in those women at the tomb during those early morning hours. Their fear did not paralyze them. Anxiously joyful or joyfully anxious, however you want to say it, they left and they proclaimed. The rest is history.

Maybe it's time you entrusted to God's work what feels more than a little jumbled up in your heart? Maybe it's time to trust what God can do with it all?

Maybe it's time to restore your confidence in knowing somehow, somewhere you will find the new and life-giving path ahead of **you** that is there waiting for you to find.

Faithfully Yours, Barbara

An Invitation to Our Easter Service



**April 1st, Easter Sunday Worship Service 10am
Come and Celebrate This Joyful Day With Us!**

A MESSAGE FROM OUR YOUTH DIRECTOR...

This is the month where the journey of Lent comes to a close to make way for the new life of the Easter season. We've had a winter that hasn't really wanted to give up, dashing hopes of spring with late season nor'easters that knocked out power both in our homes and our bodies. It was tempting to entertain the idea that we might not have what it takes to get to spring or that spring will never really come. If we compare the season to life, some people survive the struggles of life's winter by resigning themselves to it. If you stop believing in the spring then you are no longer disappointed by the winter still on the ground. We see that in our world all the time, people who only see the struggle and refuse to hope. However, the people of faith who can see beyond the present know that spring always happens. That is the faith that gets us through the long winters. We know that soon we will be laying in the warm grass basking in what we had hoped for. The Easter season reminds us that our faith is not unfounded. As Jesus was raised, so we rise and know that whatever struggles there is to life, there is the warmth of God's love that always comes when it seems we cannot go another step. As a congregation, that is what keeps us in unity and what keeps us committed to passing that faith to the next generation. As the spring months come upon us we begin to make our transition to our summer ministries. April 8th will be our last Second Sunday evening of the year since the second Sunday in May is Mother's Day. Open to all teens and their families, we will gather in Fisher Hall for dinner, celebration, fun, and worship. We hope all of you can join us from 5-7. The end of March was the deadline for Mission Trip signups. If you intended to sign up and missed it, contact Michael right away to see if there is still open space. Our mission trip Spaghetti Dinner will be Sunday, May 20th at 5 PM. Tickets will go on sale at the end of April, so keep an eye out! With all of the weather challenges we've had this year, the schools have had to extend the school year into our VBS week, we are sad to report that our VBS has to be postponed this year. We tried to find another option, but between our church schedule and the schedule of our families, another option didn't work. As much as it breaks our hearts to have to cancel this year, we are already planning some fun family alternatives for the summer. Keep your eyes out for opportunities!

A MESSAGE FROM OUR BOARD PRESIDENT...

This spring has been trying – storm after storm, power outages, tree damage, roads closed, uncertainty of wondering where to go for assistance. Where do we go for help? It kind of makes you feel helpless or powerless not knowing where to start. God asks for us to start and end with prayer. It can be a simple prayer, or pray while you are shoveling or cutting up limbs, or waiting in your cold home for the power to be restored. Reaching out to a neighbor to make sure they are ok, or clearing a driveway for someone who is unable will benefit not only that person but yourself as well. By helping others, we help ourselves get past that fear, past the storm and into the calming peace of the Lord.

Psalm 107:28-30 Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress. He made the storm be still, and the waves of the sea were hushed. Then they were glad that the waters were quiet, and he brought them to their desired haven.

BOARD BRIEFS...

1. **MINISTER'S REPORT** – Barbara reported that our church buildings had a very small outage from the storms, and thanked Michael for opening the church as a warming center to our neighbors. Cancelling the soup suppers due to the storms was difficult. She wants to thank Pam Cox for once again being so willing to play for the services, and Sara Brescher who often shares her talent on the flute.
2. Everything went really well with the Covenant Unity Celebration. There was a great spirit and it's a real marker that we have enjoyed our Covenant with St Mary's-Stony Hill for 40 years!
3. Barbara wants to remind you once again of her Grief Recovery Group forming in April. The meetings will be Tuesday evenings, 7-9 for 8 weeks. The dates are Tuesday evenings April 10, 17, 14 and May 1, 8, 15, 22, 29. Please see her if you want to be a part! If you know anyone who might benefit, please have them email her. They certainly don't need to attend Wilson!!
4. Barbara will be away two separate weekends in April for further continuing education work on the Enneagram Personality Theory. The dates are the evening of Thursday, April 5th to the evening of Sunday, April 8 and then again Friday April 27th through Sunday April 29th. She thanks Michael for taking care of the family service April 8th and the regular service April 29th.
5. **YOUTH AND FAMILY DIRECTOR'S REPORT** – Michael reported that he opened the church as a warming center and had several neighbors of the church stop in to take advantage.
6. He and Randy attended a workshop presented by WHRHS Healthy Edge about opiate addiction called "Let's Talk."
7. The VBS dates may have to be changed as the school year has extended into the Monday and Tuesday of the dates scheduled. The team is reviewing options.
8. Michael discussed the Mission trip registration, available through the Church web site and FB pages.
9. **FACILITIES** – Tony Cito reported that a water pipe was repaired in the Frippery basement by Ray Manner. The leak was caught early by Lisa, and fortunately caught before the basement filled. A suggestion was made to install a wetness alarm.
10. The trees in front of the Frippery are scheduled to be taken down by a local company for \$1600.
11. Repair of the sump pump pipe from the corner of Blackburn Hall, is scheduled to be done as soon as the weather warms up.
12. Sample UV films are scheduled to be installed on two of the sliding doors of Fisher Hall, so that folks can view the options in a bigger area.
13. A request has been made to provide some spot lights over the table areas in front of the kitchen in Fisher Hall, to brighten up food displays when the kitchen doors are closed.
14. Roofing companies have been contacted to come back and remediate some of the leaks in both Fisher Hall kitchen and the school wing.
15. Clean-up of the area behind the Blackburn Hall to be scheduled, so that Christmas decorations can be put away, along with spare building supplies. Shelving is to be put up to assist in keeping stuff off the floor and keeping it orderly.
16. **MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE** - The committee has reviewed the membership lists, updating to add members, and remove names of those who have been inactive for several years.
17. **MEMORIAL ENDOWMENT** – We are waiting for the approval from the Scout Council of the Eagle project presented by Enzo Ruta for the History Room. The Board discussed the project proposal from Alex Ruta for placing a fence along the hillside between Fisher Hall and the Manse driveway, along with the addition of benches and planter boxes to enhance the area. The Board requests the project document and that the fence be approved by the Town.
18. **COVENANT COMMITTEE** – Two events- Unity Service was well attended, and in spite of the power outage during the dinner, it was a success. The next Blood Drive is scheduled for Saturday April 21.
19. **PRESIDENT'S REPORT** - The Memorial Garden Committee reported that Pat McPherson is replacing the position of Roseanne Barr in the management of the Memorial Garden.
20. Pam Davis joined Lorri in the review of the Church's insurance plans with the insurance agent, to insure we are covered correctly for all aspects of the Church
21. **NEW BUSINESS** - The Constitution was reviewed by the Board and a motion was proposed by Keith to change the quorum for the annual meeting from 60 to 50 church members. The motion was passed. This will come before the congregation at the next all-church meeting for vote.
22. **PERSONNEL** – Pam discussed the retirement of the Seidels, and the need for a new position for Family Ministry Admin position. The position description was shared to the Board which was approved.
23. **OLD BUSINESS** – Fundraising –Lorri offered to speak at Church on Sunday to ask for more volunteers, with a further explanation of hosting a speaker who is a comedienne.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS...

April 1st Easter Sunday

There will be no Sunday School classes on Easter Sunday so that the entire congregation may join together in worship.

April 8th Second Sunday: Kids Church Our Kids Church will be held in the sanctuary as a "Family Friendly Service".

April 15th We open the next Sunday School session with the story "Jesus Feeds 5000". The Sunday School children will hear the story and the teachers will have an art session about the lessons told in the story.

April 22nd We continue the Bible story and lessons of "Jesus Feeds 5000" and the teachers will then continue the lesson with some Bible skills and games.

April 29th Our next story and lessons are "Fruit of the Spirit". The classes will have a "cooking" session related to the lessons told in the story.

Mark your calendars for May 20th when we celebrate "Youth Sunday". Our 3rd grade class will receive their personalized Bible during the worship service. This is also the last day of Sunday School for the 2017/2018 session.

We continue to post new pictures each week on the bulletin board outside the Fellowship Hall. They show what the kids have done that day in Sunday School.

We would be happy to answer any questions you may have regarding the Sunday School.

Sunday School office: (908) 755-5020 (Sunday)
Home: (908) 668-0974 (Monday – Saturday)
Love in Christ,
Arlene and Roger Seidel

SEEKING ADMINISTRATOR FOR FAMILY MINISTRY...

SUNDAY SCHOOL is saying goodbye to our faithful leaders Arlene and Roger Seidel this May... so we NEED YOUR HELP! Would you be interested in being an Administrator for Family Ministry here at Wilson Memorial? We are seeking an Administrator(s) to work with the Director of Youth and Family Ministry, Michael, to coordinate the tasks and communications needed to run our Christian Education and Family ministries. If you, or someone you know, would be interested in this *paid position*, please contact Karen in the church office. In addition, if you would like to know more about this position, please contact Michael, our Youth and Family Ministries Director.

Judy Wall, Personnel Committee Chair

CONFIRMATION CLASS 2018...

On Palm Sunday we welcomed four young people into church membership! Congratulations go to the following Confirmation Class students and as well as a big thank you to their Mentors: Doyle J Hunsinger IV (Mentor, Dave Nunn), Meredith Eve Marmolejos (Mentor, Amy Watkins), Lauren Marie Quinn (Mentor, Laurie Conley) and Abby Rose Wighard (Mentor, Lori Goucher).

WOMEN'S GUILD...

The Women's Guild will meet on Thursday, April 5th at 11:30 am. Bring your own sandwich luncheon following the meeting. Dessert and beverages supplied. The Somerset County Park Commission, Environmental Education Center Naturalist Maria Rossi will be presenting a program on DEER WRANGLING at 12:30pm. All are welcome!

GRIEF RECOVERY GROUP FORMING IN APRIL ...

When you experience loss, people say you have to let go and go on with your life, but they don't tell you how. The Grief Recovery Method Support Group experience teaches you how to recover from loss with supportive guidance every step of the way. Remember, time alone will not heal your broken heart. A Grief Recovery Group will begin in April and will meet once a week for **8 weeks**. To let Barbara know you are interested, or to find out more details, email her at stirlingpeters@verizon.net. The meeting times are as follows: **Tuesday, April 10, 17, 24 and May 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, 7:00-9:00pm.**

COVENANT COMMITTEE NEWS AND BLOOD DRIVE

We had such a wonderful Unity Celebration on March 11th! Mike DeParto and friends provided a great musical program before we joined together for supper in Fisher Hall. It was very special to mark 40 years of our Covenant relationship with St. Mary's Stony Hill. We thank everyone who was able to attend.

Don't forget! Our **Spring Blood Drive** is scheduled for **April 21st, 8:00am-2:00pm** at the Exempt Firemen's Hall on Mountain Blvd. Please give the gift of life! Sign up sheets will be in the Narthex. Walk-ins are also welcome.

AN AFTERNOON WITH THE BELLS...

Mark your calendar for this upcoming event planned for May 6, 2018 at 4:30 PM in the sanctuary. In the past, our Ost Memorial Bell Choir together with the Travnicek Memorial Ringers from the First Presbyterian Church of Stirling, Tom Peters' church, have presented a wonderful afternoon bell choir concert. Something new and exciting has been planned for this year- we have extended the number of bell choirs participating in this concert to three! The bell choir from Union Village Methodist Church will be joining us. Our previous concerts have been enjoyed by all attendees and an additional bell choir will add a new element of excitement to this concert. There will be mass ringing by the combined choirs, solos performed by each individual choir, as well as pieces that include trumpet, flute and organ accompaniment.

Admission to the program is free. Following the concert, a potluck dinner will be held in Fisher Hall. Please bring a dish for the potluck. The members of all three-bell choirs truly hope that you can attend this concert. We are sure it will be an afternoon that you will truly enjoy!! Pam Cox

CHAPEL WEDNESDAYS CONTINUE IN MAY AND JUNE...

Join Barbara on **May 2nd** and **June 6th** in the Chapel from 7:15p.m.-8:00pm. We live such hectic lives, consider this your time for personal renewal. Chapel Wednesdays are held on the first Wednesday of the month as schedules allow. Each evening gathering consists of music, a very brief reading or spoken reflection on the theme of the night, a guided meditation and then a period of silence that you are welcome to use for your own private prayer practice. Printed instructions are always available for the practice of Centering Prayer. The theme for May 2nd is "Courage" and the theme for June 6th is "Rest". Please invite anyone you think might be interested!

ONE EVENING ONLY BOOK GROUP, MAY 23RD ...

Have you wanted to attend a book group but couldn't fit it into your schedule? Here is your opportunity to attend a book group **just for one evening!** On Wednesday May 23rd, we will meet and discuss ***Barking to the Choir*** by Gregory Boyle. You may have read his first book, *Tattoos on the Heart*. In ***Barking to the Choir***, Fr. Greg continues to reveal how compassion is transforming the lives of the gang members he works with. We will meet at **6:30p.m.** for a simple potluck supper (bring a dish to share) and begin the discussion around **7:15p.m.** or so. Please purchase and read ***Barking to the Choir*** ahead of time. It can be found through any bookseller. Let Barbara know you are planning to attend, stirlingpeters@verizon.net.

INTRODUCING NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF ICCC...

The Rev. Phil Tom has been called to be the new Executive Director of the ICCC! Rev. Tom received his M.A. in Community Development from the University of Chicago School of Social Service Administration and his Master of Divinity from McCormick Theological Seminary. Throughout his ministry and working life he has sought partnerships between churches, government and social organizations to develop communities and address such issues as affordable housing, job training, after-school programs for youth, worker justice and community organizing for a cause. In 2010, during the Obama Administration, Phil became Director of the US Department of Labor's Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships. He worked over the next five years with Secretaries of Labor Hilda Solis – then Thomas Perez – to build partnership with faith-based and community-based organizations related to worker justice and workforce development issues and programs. More recently, Rev. Tom served as Interim pastor of the Eastchester Presbyterian Church in Bronx, NY, completing that assignment in January 2018. With gratitude we welcome Rev. Tom's new ministry among us and our fellow ICCC churches!

THE FRIPPERY THRIFT SHOP...

The Frippery is the yellow house in the top parking lot and is open Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:30am-12:30pm and first Saturday of the month, through June, also 9:30am-12:30pm.

Happy Spring! Only a little over 2 months left until the Frippery closes for the summer... STOP IN this week, we are overflowing with great items that WANT YOU TO BUY THEM!!! Beautiful gift items, home decorating, 1000s of items for your vacation home or start stocking up for those kids that will be heading off to college in late August! Our spring and summer wear is out and MOST items run about \$4.00/ \$2.00 for children's items. We will TRY to open an extra day on WEDNESDAY April 18th from 3:30-6:00pm for those of you that can't make it other times (we TRIED doing this in March and both times got snowed out) Checks accepted from church members:) See U at The Frip!

Happy Easter from all The Frippettes

CELEBRATE WITH MICHAEL AND CAROL! ...

Join Michael and Carol for some pre-wedding celebration at their Open House Reception at the Manse on Friday, June 15th. The house will be open from 7 pm till the last person goes home. We have so many people who we want to celebrate with and our post-ceremony reception venue can only hold a limited number, so this was our solution! Please join us! We thank our church for constant support. We look forward to celebrating with you!

LOOK FOR BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS IN THE FALL!

Our church is such a busy place! Because of scheduling issues, we are now planning to hold our **Blessing of the Animals** in the fall. Do you love animals? Would you like to work on planning the celebration? Please don't hesitate to let Barbara know of your interest!



PERSONAL ITEMS...

Al and Fran Ellis appreciate all of the prayers and thoughts for Fran's recovery (she's finally home and doing well). We thank all of you and send our love, Al and Fran.

We continue to pray for those suffering with health problems: Fran Ellis, Diane Ray, Joan Baylis, Russ Funk, Howard Beyer, Janet Meeks, Joyce Possien, Ellie Groves, Gladys Andrews, Joy Jurgens, Eva Wehof and Alison Barr.

April 2018

Wilson Memorial Church Monthly Activities

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Worship Service 10am Easter Sunday AA 8:00pm	2 No Bells	3 Frippery 9:30am-12:30pm Boy Scouts Meeting- Library 7:30pm AA/SA 7:30pm	4 Boy Scouts Meeting- Library 7:30pm No Chapel Wednesday	5 Women's Guild Meeting 11:30am Frippery 9:30am-12:30pm Choir 7:30pm AA 7:30pm	6 AA 8:30pm	7 Frippery 9:30am- 12:30pm
8 Worship Service 10am AA 8:00pm	9 Executive Board Meeting 7:30pm Bells 7:30pm	10 Frippery 9:30am-12:30pm Grief Recovery Class 7-9:00pm Fisher Hall AA/SA 7:30pm	11	12 Frippery 9:30am-12:30pm Choir 7:30pm	13 AA 8:30pm	14
15 Worship Service 10am GS Meeting 1:30 – 4pm AA 8:00pm	16 Executive Board Meeting 7:30pm Bells 7:30pm	17 Frippery 9:30am-12:30pm Grief Recovery Class 7:00-9pm Fisher Hall AA/SA 7:30pm	18	19 Frippery 9:30am-12:30pm Choir 7:30pm AA 7:30pm	20 Men's Breakfast Country Squire 9am AA 8:30pm	21
22 Worship Service 10am AA 8:00pm	23 Bells 7:30pm	24 Frippery 9:30am-12:30pm Grief Recovery Class 7:00-9pm Fisher Hall AA/SA 7:30pm	25	26 Frippery 9:30am-12:30pm Choir 7:30pm AA 7:30pm	27 AA 8:30pm	28 Baby Shower Fisher Hall 2:00-4:00pm
29 Worship Service 10am AA 8:00pm	30 Bells 7:30 pm					