



HILLTOPICS – JUNE 2019

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

“What does the Holy Spirit mean?” That was a question asked by a Confirmation student one year. “Is the Holy Spirit the same as God and Jesus?” he continued. His questions launched me into talking about the whole notion of the Trinity in the Christian Church and that while the word Trinity isn’t used anywhere in the Bible, it refers to three different expressions of the experience of God as Creator, Jesus and Spirit. I heard myself using an old analogy. “Think of water. We experience the different forms of water. There’s liquid, ice and steam. The idea of Trinity was created to describe three expressions of the one God.” I guess my answer seemed to satisfy him for the moment, but I got to thinking about how difficult it always is to try and explain this thing called the Trinity when we seem to talk far more about God and Jesus than the Holy Spirit, especially in Sunday School (and thank goodness using “Holy Ghost” is out of favor...I can’t imagine what it would be like to try and get kids to wrap their minds around a “Holy Ghost”!).

Every year, on Pentecost Sunday, we formally recognize the energizing nature of God’s Spirit which enlivens and emboldens and calls us greatness. This year, Pentecost Sunday falls on June 9th (the date changes from year to year depending on the date of Easter). The Scripture reading for Pentecost Sunday is traditionally Acts 2 where we read about “the rush of a mighty wind” and “tongues of fire” descending on those from different lands gathered together. Such evocative imagery is nothing to pass over with mild interest. We are talking about an energetic force that is far from tame. One can’t read this passage and come away saying, “oh, isn’t that nice.” Wildly motivating empowerment was witnessed to that day. It’s no wonder that this is what tradition traces to as the official birthday of the Church.

The question for each of us today is: where do *we* see the motivating empowerment of God’s Spirit, this Spirit which is so holy, so sacred, so divinely fresh and new? I think these words of Wm. Paul Young capture it best. “*The work of the Holy Spirit in our lives is to reveal to us the truth of our being so that the way of our being can match it.*” Take your time and read those words again! I don’t know about you, but I hear in that something so profound. How difficult it is to access the truth of our being as beloved children of God. And, if we could authentically access it, it stands to reason that the way of our being in the world would naturally reflect such beautiful truth of our being! It certainly takes more than willpower, or personal commitment, or discipline to see the beloved truth of our being as a wildly, unfathomably, preciously loved one of God. That’s why we need help. Enter...the Holy Spirit. Our job is to be open vessels for such good work which can’t be accomplished by ourselves. And, the good work of matching our way of being with this truth of our being is also not a DIY project either. Enter, once again...the Holy Spirit!

May you find the openness needed for all the good and enlivening work I’ve just described. Perhaps the words of this well-known song can guide all of us.

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Faithfully Yours, Barbara

The Sacrament of Communion,



June 2nd, 2019

The Sacrament of Communion will be celebrated in our Sanctuary. If you are wondering whether or not to participate, be assured that you are invited and encouraged to share in Communion as one who loves Christ and seeks to walk with Him.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

The Executive Board of Wilson Memorial Union Church has called for a Special Congregational Meeting after the morning Worship Service, June 9, 2019. The purpose of this meeting is to vote on calling the Rev. Michael Droege as Associate Pastor. You are encouraged to attend!

A MESSAGE FROM OUR YOUTH DIRECTOR...

Happy June! I don’t know if you feel like I do, but June always feels like an excited blur. So much good happening and being anticipated with both finishing seasons well and looking forward to the gifts of the summer. We ended another year of Sunday School with gratitude to our teaching staff: Yvette Whitley, Lisa Shpunder, Carol Droege, Laurie Conley, Lori Goucher, Kim Nunn, and Thomas Henry. Every week they faithfully gathered our young members to teach them Bible stories and connect them to our larger congregation through activities during coffee hour. They are so appreciated. Doing faith formation in our busy culture is a challenge, but their commitment is an encouragement and challenge for us all.

We are well into VBS season now! If you have been wanting to have a part in VBS but have not seen Carol Droege yet to sign up, this is the time! She will begin leaders’ meetings shortly. Keep an eye out for registration information that will be coming this month!

Our week-long participation for Urban Promise in Camden is closed, but there is still time to participate either as a supporter or day-tripper. Our annual Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser will be in the form of LUNCH after our congregational meeting on June 9th. It is such a full day at Wilson we didn’t want to ask people to come back, so we are just making it right here! Stay for a lunch of Spaghetti, bread, and salad and support our congregation’s trip to learn about and support the work in Camden, NJ on August 4th-8th. We hope that your summer is filled with joy and celebration! Blessings Michael

A MESSAGE FROM OUR BOARD PRESIDENT...

I am delighted to announce that the Executive Board of Wilson Memorial Church has offered our dear Pastor Barbara a well-deserved and long overdue opportunity for renewal in the form of a sabbatical, which will likely take place this fall. This three-month leave, the focus of which will be at her discretion, is intended to permit her a moment to step off the proverbial treadmill of her many day to day responsibilities and allow time for inner reflection and growth. A gift from a loving congregation, we hope to provide her with a restful yet vocationally revitalizing experience. In her absence, Michael will be available to cover necessary pastoral duties. Details will follow as plans develop, but in the meantime, please join me in wishing Barbara a refreshing experience of renewal. In faith, Angela Della Ventura

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MAY 13 EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING...

Pastor's Report: Barbara reflected on a meaningful Holy Week and beautiful Easter. Once again, the choir and brass musicians added to the joy of the morning and we continue to thank the Fraternity for funding the brass musicians each year! It was great to have the lilies everyone donated and many thanks go to Russ and Robin Leffert for arranging them year after year.

The weekend of April 26th she was away for more Grief Training. Barbara was happy to learn about a new program from the Grief Recovery Institute: Helping Children with Loss, with an accompanying book, Helping Children Grieve. This is a four part program for adults to learn how to best help children cope and deal with loss in their lives. She would like to share this program in the future.

From Barbara's vantage point, we had a terrific time hosting Susan Sparks, May 4. The team who worked on this was nothing short of dynamic! Susan Sparks was lovely to host and extremely personable. While it would have been wonderful to make a little bit more for Outreach than we did (we made \$300), She believes the event was really worth doing. We gained a lot of visibility in the area especially through social media postings and printed press.

Youth and Family Ministries Report: Michael was away at a conference in London and was not able to report.

Plans for June: Barbara will be doing an afternoon book group on Susan Spark's book *Laugh Your Way to Grace* on June 5, 12 and 19 (Wednesdays at 1pm).

We will be finalizing the Photo Directory, with the first two Sundays in June available, for church families to come in to have photos taken and verify their contact information.

CHAPEL WEDNESDAY...

The next Chapel Wednesday will be June 5th in the Chapel. This is a contemplative time of music, spoken reflection, guided meditation and silence. The theme will be, "Again, Silence". Join us!

LAUGH YOUR WAY TO GRACE BY SUSAN SPARKS BOOK GROUP...

You are invited to celebrate the healing power of humor by reading and discussing Susan Sparks' entertaining book! This will be a day group and will meet on Wednesdays, June 5, June 12, June 19 at 1pm. Please let Barbara know if you are interested.

SUSAN SPARKS OUTREACH BENEFIT EVENT...

On May 4th, Wilson Memorial warmly welcomed Reverend Susan Sparks, Senior Pastor at Madison Avenue Baptist Church, NYC and the author of *Laugh Your Way to Grace*, for a wonderful evening of laughter and community. We sold about 125 tickets, receiving additional donations either through booklet ad sales or by direct donations. Many bakers from our congregation provided treats for after the show, where all had the opportunity to buy Susan's book and have it signed. Susan generously donated 20% of the book proceeds of the evening. This fundraiser was to help boost our church Outreach budget, and while it brought in around \$300, the advertising through print, social media and word of mouth brought in folks from all over the area, including members from our local ICCA Eastern Zone region. In addition to benefiting our outreach, we shared a wonderful experience in our church with our brothers and sisters in Christ. Many thanks to those that dedicated their time and skills to this project. A great team came together to work out all the many details such as social media, advertising, printing, ad sales, ticket sales via the web and in church, along with the bakers in our church who provided the desserts for the event. Lorri Monetti

VBS UPDATE...

We are so excited to bring Wildwood Forest to Wilson Memorial for VBS from July 8- 12th! We will be having two informational meetings for those interested in being on staff; Tuesday June 4th and Thursday, June 27. Both meetings will begin at 7:30 pm.

If you have any time during VBS week and would like to plug into this important ministry to the community, please see Carol Droege or contact her at Veggietalelady@hotmail.com.

SUMMER MUSICIANS...

As summer quickly approaches, we are looking for people to share their talents during Sunday morning worship services. We encourage all musicians, from singers to instrumentalists, to consider taking one of the summer Sundays. Roberta and I are available to accompany if needed. We would especially like some of our talented youth to consider volunteering. To explore this opportunity, just contact me at jwmusacchio@gmail.com as soon as possible. I can promise you, you will never find people more appreciative than your church family. Jim Musacchio, Music Director

A BIG THANK YOU!

On behalf of the Wilson Memorial Choir, I would like to thank all the members of the congregation, the church board, and staff who have supported us during this past season. Your kind expressions of appreciation for our music has made us swell with pride.

Our accomplishments have been achieved due to the generous gift from the Boyd and Jeannette Woodruff Trust that allowed us to hire our wonderful singers, Paul Flood, James Harris, and Sophia Mortensen. So many of you have made a point of telling me, as well as other members of the choir, how much our hired singers have helped to enhance our already talented and dedicated volunteers.

The Woodruff Trust gift will only be able to extend this program through the rest of 2019. After that, the funding for these choir positions will be up to all of us. Jim Musacchio, Music Director

WOMEN'S GUILD

The Women's Guild will hold their June Potluck Picnic on June 6th at noon. Everyone is invited to bring a dish to share. Beverages will be supplied.

SUMMER WORSHIP...

Our summer Worship Services will be held in Fisher Hall beginning Sunday, June 23rd. Plan to join us!

THE FRIPPERY THRIFT SHOP ...

The Frippery Thrift Shop is the yellow house in the top church parking lot. It is open Tues/Thurs and the FIRST Saturday each month 9:30am-12:30pm, through June, cash sales, checks accepted from church members. Frippery (908) 561-8298 (or Lisa Renaud 908-625-5042).

"Come one, come all" to the World's FAMOUS BAG SALE OF ALL!!! Thursday, May 30th and Saturday June 1st you can FILL A LEVEL BAG of china, Lenox, crystal, kitchen items, frames, DVDs (limit 10), CDs (limit 10,) linens, home decor, toys, puzzles, games, candles, and SO MUCH MORE!!! Items too large for a bag will be 50% off!!! OUR clothing will be \$1 per LEVEL Kings bag on June 1st and then if there's any left it gets donated to Agape House in Somerville (a temporary homeless shelter for families). THINK AHEAD for kids heading off to college or those getting an apartment this summer. Also think about vacation homes and boats! *Tuesday June 4, \$5 LEVEL bag of household items (no clothing) Thursday, June 6 and Saturday, June 8th, 90% off everything!!!* Please call or text Lisa about summer donations (908) 625-5042. ******SAVE THE PLANET!** If you are attending a bridal shower or baby shower **SAVE THE TISSUE PAPER FOR US, PLEASE!!!** Bring to church with you and give to a Frippery volunteer, thank you!

On a side note, The Frippery is pleased to donate \$1000 to our Vacation Bible School program this summer so they may have a WONDERFUL time using these funds to enhance their program:) The Frippery is also excited to donate \$2000 to The Summer Mission Trip for transportation needs and other unexpected expenditures Lastly The Frippery loves donating \$2000 each summer to Star Fish to help them get thru the summer months donating to families in need .

STARFISH FOOD PANTRY...

With kids not receiving hot lunches (and sometimes breakfast) at school, your donations are GREATLY NEEDED over the summer months. The Frippery is donating their annual summer giving of \$2000, but this is quickly used for meat, eggs and necessities. The Mother's Day giving seemed to be a success, so let's HONOR DAD by donating a BAGFUL of goodies in his honor or memory for Father's Day. Donation bags will be available in the Narthex.

Keep your eyes open for "**StarFish Summer Challenges**" in the Narthex and weekly bulletin over the summer. THANK YOU all for your generosity!

THE COVENANT COMMITTEE...

The Covenant Committee announces their Summer Blood Drive on SATURDAY August 10th in the Firemen's Exempt Hall on Mountain Blvd. in Watchung. It will be held from 8:00AM - 2PM and all are welcome to donate. Please sign-up in the Narthex or be a welcomed walk-in! The need is always present and much appreciated. We hope for a total of 60 units to be drawn and know it is much needed. Thank You. Fran Ellis

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT...

We would like to announce the birth of Amalia Lindsay Anderson. Amalia was born on Saturday, May 25, 2019 to Jennifer and Matt Anderson. She is welcomed by big brother Wesley. Her proud grandparents are Lisa Renaud and Fred Renaud, along with Mick and Barbara Anderson.



SYMPATHY

Our thoughts continue to be with Don Monetti and his family upon the death of Don Monetti Sr. Don Monetti Sr. passed away in December and a Memorial Service was held in our Sanctuary on May 18, 2019.

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to the family of Russell Funk who passed away May 22, 2019. We especially remember his wife, Judi. A Memorial Service was held at Three Bridges Reformed Church, May 25th.



PERSONAL ITEMS...

We continue to pray for those suffering with health problems, Rev. Ron Miller, Betty Aldrich, Diane Ray, Joan Baylis, Howard Beyer, Janet Meeks, Joyce Possien, Ellie Groves, Joy Jurgens, Eva Wehof and Alison Barr.

Wilson Memorial Church Monthly Activities June 2019 Hilltopics

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Frippery 9:30am - 12:30pm
2 Worship Service 10:00am Communion	3 Bells 7:30pm Women's AA 7:30pm	4 Frippery 9:30am - 12:30pm VBS Teacher's Meeting 7:30pm Primary Election Day 6am-8pm	5 Book Group 1:00pm Chapel Wednesday 7:15pm	6 Frippery 9:30am - 12:30pm Women's Guild Potluck Picnic 12 noon AA 7:30pm	7 AA 8:30pm	8 Frippery 9:30am - 12:30pm
9 Worship Service 10:00am Congregational Meeting after service Girl Scouts 1- 2pm	10 Executive Board Meeting 7:30pm Bells 7:30pm Women's AA 7:30pm	11 AA/SA 7:30pm	12 Book Group 1:00pm	13 AA 7:30pm	14 AA 8:30pm	15
16 Worship Service 10:00am	17 Women's AA 7:30pm	18 AA/SA 7:30pm	19 Book Group 1:00pm	20 AA 7:30pm	21 Men's Breakfast Country Squire 9:00:am AA 8:30pm	22
23 Worship Service 10:00am	24 Summer Office Hours Begin through Labor Day - Tues. Wed. Thurs. 8:30am-1:30pm	25 AA/SA 7:30pm	26	27 VBS Teacher's Meeting 7:30pm AA 7:30pm	28 AA 8:30pm	29
30 Worship Service 10:00am						