



HILLTOPICS – JANUARY 2018

WILSON MEMORIAL UNION CHURCH WATCHUNG, NJ 07069 (908) 755-5020

MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR...

Happy New Year to one and all!

About a month ago, I was startled by the comment someone in our church family made. This person said, “You know, I was walking around the building, and I went in the Chapel. That’s the first time I’ve ever been in there. I was struck by how beautiful it is!” We do have a beautiful Chapel, and I am always surprised when someone says something like that. Maybe you, like me, take for granted the fact that everybody has to know about our Chapel.

It never hurts to review a little history. For many years, our Chapel was the only place worship services were held. I hope you know that the beginning of our Chapel, and our congregation, actually go back to when there was only the Washingtonville Sunday School Association in our area that met in the local schoolhouse. As we have recounted on our website,

In 1886, a drive was initiated for a permanent home for the Sunday School Association. An initial \$2,000 was raised for the land and the chapel. It was enough to get started. The young men of the Sunday School dug the foundation by moonlight and lantern light. The whole community joined in hauling the stones from the first and second Watchung Mountains to lay the initial foundation. The workers attracted the attention of Colonel J.F. Wilson, a frequent visitor and a Plainfield newspaper editor. His wife, Mary E. Wilson, had, prior to her death, been especially interested in the young people here. He offered a substantial donation of \$3,500 needed to complete the construction. In 1897, the Sunday School Association had a new debt free home. It was named the Mary E. Wilson Memorial Chapel, in honor of Col. Wilson's wife Mary.

Our Chapel is just over 120 years old, and it has never lost its original and inspiring beauty. Often visitors remark about the Chapel’s amazing woodwork and lovely windows. And, if only its walls could talk! We would hear about the faithful and generous people who recommitted themselves to God’s work every Sunday. We would hear about all the weddings and funeral services that have taken place in this sacred space. Time has certainly marched on, but our hearts will always be full with our enduring and meaningful past.

Let’s celebrate our Chapel, Sunday, January 21, 2018 with our morning Worship Service actually in the Chapel! For those of you who remember when every service was held there, maybe it will be a little trip down memory lane. And, for those of you who have never experienced a service there, why not avail yourself of this opportunity? What a wonderful way to celebrate our heritage at this the beginning of another new year! Will I see you in our Chapel on January 21st? I hope so!

Faithfully Yours, Barbara

Communion Sunday The Sacrament of Communion



January 7th, 2018

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.

“WHAT’S BREWING?” JANUARY 14, 2018...

Join us in the Sanctuary for our “What’s Brewing?” program at 11:20am. Barbara will speak on the topic, **Let’s Talk About Grief**. Her presentation will be based on her training as a Grief Recovery Specialist with the Grief Recovery Method.

Did you know there are over forty different types of losses we experience in life ranging from death of a loved one to divorce, loss of health or job, or loss of a pet? Grieving is natural, but well-meaning advice from friends or cultural norms fails to give us the tools we need to bring our grief to completion. Learn what is helpful or not helpful when connecting with the personal grief we experience in life, or with the grief of someone else.

CONFIRMATION BEGINS!

All parents and students in eighth grade and above are welcome to attend an information meeting about our 2018 Confirmation program on Sunday, January 21st at 6:00p.m. At 6:30p.m. the students will meet for their first class and will be finished by 7:15p.m. It is imperative that Barbara knows as soon as possible if you would like your daughter or son in the program. Please email her at stirlingpeters@verizon.net. Thank you!

Wilson Memorial Church Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of our Congregation will be held **January 28th, 2018** immediately following our Worship Service.

Please remember that **all** committees and groups that normally report on their yearly activities in the Annual Report must have these reports in by **January 5th** in order to give the office sufficient time to prepare for the Annual Meeting. Note: Please whenever possible send your report in online to Wilsonchurch@verizon.net

A MESSAGE FROM OUR YOUTH DIRECTOR...

Happy New Year everyone! I hope you had a wonderful Christmas season and feel renewed. I'm always struck after Christmas of the work we have ahead. In many ways, the work is challenging, but it is such a good work. We have another year of Second Sundays, Sunday school, service projects, Vacation Bible School, and mission trips. I wanted to let everyone know that we had our first intergenerational team meeting this past month. It was a wonderful time of dreaming together. I look forward to the many ways we will be growing together as a church family. One big event on the horizon is our church-wide mission trip this summer. Usually, mission trips are focused on high school students, but the hurricanes this past season have provided an opportunity for us to get relief to people who truly need it. We will be heading to a small town in Texas called Port Arthur that was devastated by the hurricane. As we remember with Sandy, the rebuilding doesn't happen within a few months, it takes years. We will be traveling there August 6 through August 11. Right now, the most important work is to form a team that can help us accomplish the host of logistics. The trip will be open to anyone 13 years old and above. That means that many of you can do it as a whole family trip. There are very few more meaningful experiences for families then to serve together. Please let me know ASAP if you would like to be on the planning team. That team will be formed in January and sign-ups will be available by the month end and a dedicated webpage on our new site. It is a large undertaking for our church but one that will be meaningful for years to come for everyone involved.

Blessings, Michael

A MESSAGE FROM OUR BOARD PRESIDENT...

In the beginning of December, I had a call from a church saint that had moved away – Rose Ann Barr, who for so many years was in charge of decorating our church for every holiday. She was very concerned that the church would be decorated properly for the Advent season. I reassured her that it would. I confess, I was a little nervous that morning when I arrived early to make sure the church was open and ready to go. Would enough folks come help? Suddenly, many families, old and new friends showed, along with a wonderful group of teens, and the church was transformed with a glow in record time. The day continued with our Shop for Good Sale and the next set up for the Pasta Dinner, (which was open to anyone wishing to share a meal before the town Tree of Lights Festival). Sunday continued with another group of angels who helped Lisa Renaud organize and complete the hundreds of bags for the Gifts for United Family and Children's Society. Our Ost Memorial Bell Choir, which went through a transition of losing members who have moved away, has swelled with new ringers, young and old, and sound wonderful (our chancel choir needs members too, so if you have a voice and can read music, please consider!). Our services have been blessed with young members as well as mentors stepping in to join in the service. The Wilson Memorial Church new website is now active and is a shining example of another group of church saints stepping in to show our community what we have to offer. It warms my heart to see the next chapter of our church family grow and show God's love. Our church board is filled with dedicated members, and while some may move on to other endeavors, we know the saints that take their place will be equal to filling those shoes.

Change can be hard, but it is harder if you do not have the faith that it will be better and lead to new beginnings!

Continuity gives us roots; change gives us branches, letting us stretch and grow and reach new heights. ~Pauline R. Kezer

Have you seen our new website?
Check out a few of our new features!
Same address, new look!
www.wilsonmemorialchurch.org



The screenshot shows the website's navigation bar with links for HOME, I'M NEW, ABOUT US, MINISTRIES, CONNECT, MEDIA, and GIVE. Below the navigation bar are two feature boxes: 'CONNECT!' with sub-links for CALENDAR, INVITE A FRIEND, SPECIAL EVENTS, PRAYER REQUEST, and CONTACT US; and 'ONLINE GIVING!' with sub-links for ONLINE GIVING and STEWARDSHIP. Arrows point from the 'CONNECT' and 'GIVE' navigation links to their respective feature boxes.

We are working on new features everyday!
Since this is a work in progress, please address any edits to Carolyn Musacchio. Carolyn will be handling updates.
Please contact at: carolynmusacchio@gmail.com

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS...

Wishing everyone a blessed 2018 full of family, fellowship and faith.

Jan. 7th

We open the next Sunday School session with the story of "The Disciples". The Sunday School children will hear the story and the teachers will have an art session about the lessons told in the story of 'The Disciples'.

Jan. 14th Second Sunday: Kids Church

Our Kids Church will be held in the sanctuary as a "Family Friendly Service".

Jan. 21st

We continue the Bible story and lessons of "The Disciples" and the teachers will then continue the lesson of "The Disciples" with a creative drama class.

Jan. 28th

This session will conclude the story of "The Disciples" and the teachers will then have a computer session related to the story. 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 always appreciate if parents are able to offer a little additional help in the Sunday School as a team teacher, substitute or helper.

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

CHAPEL WEDNESDAYS...

Chapel Wednesdays are designed as a way to ground ourselves in prayerful reflection and silence. Join us on the first Wednesday of the month. The time is **7:15pm-8:00pm** and begins with music, a very brief reading or spoken reflection on the theme of the night, a guided meditation and then a period of silence which you are welcome to use for your own private prayer practice. Printed instructions are available for the practice of Centering Prayer. Future **Chapel Wednesdays** and themes are as follows: **February 7th**, “**Emptying**”; **May 2nd**, “**Courage**”; and **June 6th**, “**Rest**”. Please take advantage of this monthly mini-retreat intended as an intentional time for refreshment and renewal! In addition, spread the word about *Chapel Wednesdays* with anyone you think might be interested but isn't necessarily connected to Wilson Memorial! There will not be a Chapel Wednesday in March or April.

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. We Re-open Saturday January 6th at 9:30 with our WORLD FAMOUS "Bag Sale" on our household level, you can FILL a level bag with glasses, china, bowls, linens, toys, books, frames, craft items. etc. for only \$10.00 (* Jewelry, designer handbags and a FEW chosen items excluded) NO LIMIT!

Our clothing will also be \$10.00 FILL a level bag, men's, women's and children's items. if an item has a special tag on it , it will become 1/2 \$.Also NO LIMIT! We are planning to have this sale for 3 days, being Sat 1/6/18, Tuesday 1/9/18 and Thurs 1/11/18. Then we will add 100s of more items to our shelves and be ready for PART 2 of our selling year.

The Frippery Thrift Shop AND Wilson's Sunday School raised \$427.00 in donations that were sent to The Somerset County Animal Shelter to help support their work with the animals that were flown here during the time of the hurricanes. Thank you one and all.

FRIPPERY REQUEST - The Frippery could always use your recycled tissue paper after holidays, baby and wedding showers, along with sturdy shopping bags with handles. Another item we use year round are your worn pillowcases, we use them to pack delicate items at estate sales to carry back to the Frippery.

THANK YOU! Lisa Renaud

MARY ANN'S MITTENS...

Our mitten tree is located outside of Fisher Hall, please help support this wonderful ministry in memory of Mary Ann Ingram All hats, gloves, scarfs and mittens will be distributed late January between the Starfish Food Pantry and the Homeless Project in downtown Somerville. We will report back in February's Hilltopics with our final count.

COVENANT COMMITTEE...

The Covenant Committee hopes everyone had a meaningful Christmas and wishes you a Happy New Year.

We will meet in January and then inform you of our spring activities. Enjoy!

Fran Ellis

UNITED FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S SOCIETY...

Once again Wilson Memorial knocked it out of the park helping brighten Christmas morning for someone less fortunate. We had 100 names to shop for and between the bags that were signed up for, cash donations, donated items and donated gift cards, ALL WISHES WERE GRANTED! We have supported this ministry for well over 25 years and it's a wonderful way to kick off the holiday season. I'd like to thank the youth group this year for helping out and making the job a smooth one, special thanks to Laurie Conley, Yvette and Stuart Whitley, Lauren Quinn, Shirley Kreis, Kendal MacTaggart and Jackie Bowers. A special thank you for the pizza goes to Laurie Conley!

Lisa Renaud



SYMPATHY...

We extend our sympathy the family of Ruth Allen of PA who passed away on December 21, 2017. Ruth was a former member of Wilson Memorial Church before moving to Bethlehem, PA. Her husband Jim passed away earlier in the year.



PERSONAL ITEMS...

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

January 2018

Wilson Memorial Church Monthly Activities

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 New Years Day	2	3 Chapel Wednesday 7:15-8:00pm	4	5 Reports Due for Annual Meeting	6 Frippery 9:30am- 12:30pm Blackburn Hall Band Event
7 Worship Service 10am Communion Sunday AA 8:00pm	8 Bells 7:30pm	9 Frippery 9:30am- 12:30pm Boy Scouts Meeting- Library 7:30pm AA/SA 7:30pm	10 Boy Scouts Meeting- Library 7:30pm	11 Frippery 9:30am- 12:30pm Yoga 4:30pm AA 7:30pm	12 AA 8:30pm	13
14 Worship Service 10am "What's Brewing?" 11:20pm Second Sunday Youth Group Fisher Hall 5:00pm GS Meeting 1:30 - 4pm AA 8:00pm	15 Executive Board Meeting 7:30pm Bells 7:30pm	16 Frippery 9:30am- 12:30pm A/SA 7:30pm	17	18 Frippery 9:30am- 12:30pm Yoga 4:30pm AA 7:30pm	19 Men's Breakfast Country Squire 9am AA 8:30pm	20
21 Worship Service 10am Confirmation Meeting 6 - 7:15pm AA 8:00pm	22 Bells 7:30pm	23 Frippery 9:30am- 12:30pm AA/SA 7:30pm	24	25 Frippery 9:30am- 12:30pm Yoga 4:30pm AA 7:30pm	26 AA 8:30pm	27
28 Worship Service 10am Guest Jazz Trio Annual Meeting After Church	29 Bells 7:30pm	30 AA/SA 7:30pm	31			