



HILLTOPICS –NOVEMBER 2018

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

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come into his presence with singing. Psalm 100: 1-2

With November, our thoughts often turn to the power of gratitude and thanksgiving; concepts the Psalmist certainly knew oh so well!

Often we think small about gratitude. The story goes that a teacher asked her 6th grade class to write an essay about what they were thankful for in honor of Thanksgiving. One young boy thought and thought and finally he just put down the only thing that came to his mind. "I am thankful I'm not the turkey," he wrote. Hmmm. I'm glad I wasn't his teacher and had to give him an appropriate grade!

The Bible calls us to celebrate every aspect of God's gracious goodness – be it the fruits of the ground, or the beauty of the woods, or the spectacular glisten of one tiny dew drop, or the love of family and friends that envelop us like a warm blanket on a dark, cold night. I love what Diana Butler Bass has written.

All around us, every day, there are gifts. Whether we are facing a crisis or not, no matter our challenges or feelings, there are gifts, most of which go unnoticed, unappreciated, and often disregarded. Sometimes they take us by surprise—we experience the "aha" of being helped, or we suddenly see a beautiful sunset, and gratitude wells up in our being. Gifts seem to spring upon us like an epiphany, bursting our hearts with that wild mixture of humility and joy that we know as gratitude.

Do we notice? Do we pay attention enough so as to feel grateful? Clearly the author of Psalm 100 had no problem paying attention! The Psalmist truly recognized the abundance of God's goodness. Psalms were originally songs, and picture Psalm 100 being sung by a whole procession of worshipers who were at the point of entering the gates and passing into the courts of the temple with thank offerings visible in their hands. With those offerings, they tangibly acknowledged they were indeed coming into God's presence with thanksgiving. What they were doing was in fact toasting God because their glasses of life were filled to overflowing.

In these days when fear, distress, and negativity seem to be around every corner, I believe we need to challenge ourselves more than ever to experience thankful hearts, and to not gloss over all the good. All around **IS** beauty, sustaining love, an "amazing grace" with a sweet, sweet sound we are beckoned to hear. Such glorious bounty is hard to even fathom. But, those who have eyes to see, do see. Those who have ears to hear, do hear. My prayer is that you can count yourself among those who do.

Faithfully Yours, Barbara

Communion Sunday **The Sacrament of Communion,** **November 4th, 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.

CHAPEL WEDNESDAYS CONTINUE IN NOVEMBER ...

The next chapel Wednesday is November 7th, *Gratitude* and December 5th, *Gift*. **The time is 7:15pm-8:00pm.** Each evening 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 may use for your own private prayer practice. Invite anyone you think may be interested!

"What's Brewing?" **November 11th, 11:20am**

Please join us after our Worship Service at approximately 11:20am in the Sanctuary! The presentation will be on **United Family and Children's Society of Plainfield**. As you are aware, Wilson Memorial has been involved with United Family's Christmas Gift Program for over three decades! Come and hear Eren Moore, LCWS, share with us a little history of the organization and an overview of its programs and services.

Traditional Thanksgiving Breakfast **Sunday, November 18th, 2018, 8:30- 9:30am**



Our traditional Thanksgiving Breakfast will be held in Fisher Hall on Sunday, November 18th (Sunday before Thanksgiving.) Breakfast will be served from 8:30 to 9:30 am. All Invited!

Thanksgiving Service at St. Mary's Stony Hill **Sunday, November 18th, 2018 at 4:00pm**



The Covenant Committee invites all to attend the annual Thanksgiving Service on the Sunday before Thanksgiving, November 18th, 4pm at St. Mary's Stony Hill

A MESSAGE FROM OUR YOUTH DIRECTOR...

First of all, I want to thank you all for the celebration of my ordination last month. The love and support for me as I continue to seek God's call is heartwarming and affirming. I will be forever proud to tell people where I was ordained. I love to tell the story of our great little church. The most frequently asked question I've received is "what does it mean to be 'ordained to the gospel ministry'?" That's an easy confusion because it seems it should be ordained to the pastoral ministry, right? The phrase "gospel ministry" is how pastors have been ordained for generations because it reminds us that the ministry that we are being commissioned for is gospel...or "good news". That's all that gospel means; it simply means "good news". It's hard to find good news these days, but that is what the church is supposed to be all about...good news. Study after study shows that we have a generation gap in our country that is disconnecting and dividing us, yet we celebrated our congregation getting to deepen cross-generationally at our first "Grow Together". That's good news. Churches are finding they are losing their teenagers, yet we doubled in size from last year's "Second Sunday" youth group. That's good news. We saw church families and the community come together to finish the Kindness Trail which gives people a place to pray and listen...and then planned our Fairytale Forest as a gift to our town. That's good news. Speaking of the Kindness Trail, it was gratifying to see the team come together to create a fun place for our community children...in spite of the coming rain. Yup, you guessed it, more good news. We are jam-packed with good news. That is how we live out this Gospel every day. I'm looking forward to entering into another season of proclaiming the good news along with you. As our church has demonstrated, "good news" doesn't happen with one person. Good news happens as the church comes together and shows the world that all are invited to come along as well. We have provided some touch points of welcome this upcoming season that I hope you can take advantage of:

Sunday School: is in a season of helping kids discover our worship services and what each part means and how to find their voices in each worship moment. Second Sunday: finds us worshipping together as a whole church family as well as bringing our teens and their family together that evening for our annual "Dinner on the Side" potluck where we enjoy all the side dishes of the holiday. Grow Together was great last month; there is still time to sign up for the rest of the year! The next dinner is November 10th!

Our Advent Potluck is set for December 1, the day of our Watchung Tree lighting. Last year was so much fun as we had dinner together then attended the tree lighting. This year we will have the addition of it coinciding with our Grow Together group. Truly an intergenerational experience.

Thank you again for your love and support as we work so hard to make Wilson the church God has called us to be.
Blessings, Michael

A MESSAGE FROM OUR BOARD PRESIDENT...

"If you want a love message to be heard, it has got to be sent out. To keep a lamp burning, we have to keep putting oil in it." - Mother Teresa

Oh my, have we had so much to celebrate lately! The congregation of Wilson Memorial, together with the Choir and Bell Choir, along with Rev. Phil Tom - Executive Director ICCG, and Kate Ott - Associate Professor, Christian Social Ethics, Drew University, celebrated the Ordination of Michael Droege on Sunday, October 21st. What a lovely and moving service, followed by a wonderful repast hosted by Karen and Tony Cito. Many folks are to be thanked, who gave their time, talents, and elbow grease to make this celebration a wonderful family event. The members of the Ordination Task Force, the Ordination Council, and the folks who came out to help set up and clean up, my thanks to all you!

November is the beginning of our Stewardship Campaign. We are reaching out to our congregational family to continue support Wilson Memorial. Our church is a place where we can come together and worship as a group, join in fellowship, open our doors to service to others, and be a beacon of light in our community, but it is a physical House that needs financial support. Maintaining this building for the future requires our church family to help with this. Please pray on this, and consider your support by commitment to help our church grow.

"Prayer should be the key of the day and the lock of the night." - George Herbert

BOARD BRIEFS...

1. **MINISTER'S REPORT** – Barbara asked you to imagine you had on a button that said on it, "Ask me about Wilson Memorial Church". If someone did ask you, what would you say? Would you stay buttoned up, put on the spot? Would it be hard to come up with something succinct to say about your church knowing you had only a brief amount of time? She wants to invite folks to come up with their own "elevator" speech that would be their individual response.
2. Several of the Board and Personnel Committee attended the Leadership Development Workshop with Karen Johnson on the Enneagram Personality Typing theory on October 6th.
3. We welcomed our new paid choir members. All of them are very personable and it was a joy to have a full choir. All stayed for coffee hour and seemed to really enjoy getting to know folks. Our volunteers in the choir seem so happy about having their additional voices.
4. **YOUTH AND FAMILY DIRECTOR'S REPORT** – Michael spoke about using the materials from postponed Vacation Bible school to transform the school wing into Babylon into a big tent by an oasis, with plants, pillows and rugs, to help bring the atmosphere of Babylon to the kids.
5. Michael spoke about the intergenerational team getting together, gearing up for the "Grow Together" on Saturday night, with about 60 signed up.

6. The Kindness Trail has brought not only those from church out to view the walk, but there have been others from town stop by and enjoy this.
7. **FACILITIES** – Tony Cito reported on the following projects and issues: Bids were obtained for replacing three sets of windows in the Blackburn wing east facing side, (two on the main floor and one set in the basement). A motion was made to have the work performed by Skip Bell.
8. The Fisher Hall kitchen is scheduled for a deep clean prior to the Ordination Celebration.
9. An electrician is scheduled to replace lights in the Fireside room, over the “buffet” tables, and will be asked to see if they would bid on replacing the light bulbs in the Sanctuary, as they would be better suited with the man-power and equipment.
10. **COVENANT COMMITTEE** – Two events- Blood Drive November 17, 8:30am–2pm and the Traditional Unity Service November 18th 4pm.
11. **NEW BUSINESS:** A request was made to get a new Church Directory, with pictures. Keith mentioned that they would be having a membership meeting, and they would investigate.
12. **Church Cleanup** – possibly the best date would be November 3 – (Barbara would not be here) – Lorri to work with Facilities group to identify the list of To-Do’s, such as cleaning the kitchen drawers, including replacing drawer liners, cleaning wood work in hallways, cleaning cobwebs in Sanctuary, etc. The goal is to get the church in order before we decorate for Advent.

FINANCIAL FACTS-NOTE FROM YOUR TREASURER...

From the September report:

- We are 75% of the way through 2018 and our expenses are on track at 74%.
Our September income was about \$6,800 greater than last year and about \$5,700 of that was increased giving, which I hope is an encouraging trend.
- Historically, expenses have exceeded income by about \$10,000 in the month of September. For September 2018, expenses exceeded income by about \$2479. While this is better, it is still a deficit and doesn’t make up for our overall shortage.
- Unfortunately, we still have an over \$28,300 deficit YTD, a number that is over \$7,000 larger than last year’s end of September number.

As we enter the Thanksgiving season, there’s much to be thankful for. We are blessed with two amazing leaders in Barbara Peters and Michael Droege. We have a faithful community that shares and comes together in their common journey to follow Jesus. With all that we have to be grateful for, please consider adding a little extra to your already generous donation to further the work of this, YOUR church.

With gratitude, Pam Davis

WOMAN’S GUILD...

The Women’s Guild will meet Thursday, December 6th at 11:30am-1:30pm in Fisher Hall. The meeting will be followed by a bring your sandwich luncheon at noon. Desserts and beverage supplied. All are welcome.

Do you like to entertain in style?

The Women’s Guild is trying to find a good home for their beloved silverplate tea services and related items!



A free-will donation would be gladly accepted to support the Women’s Guild outreach efforts.

Please contact Pam Davis for details:
908-771-0554 or pambdavis@gmail.com.

JOIN US FOR ADVENT/CHRISTMAS...

The Wilson Memorial Choir would like to invite you to join us for Advent and/or Christmas. Rehearsals begin Thursday, November 8th from 7:30 to 9:00 PM. If you have questions, please see Jim Musacchio, or contact him at jwmusacchio@gmail.com or 610-438-6099.

COVENANT COMMITTEE...

We have a busy weekend coming up in November and want you to know about our events. On Saturday the 17th we will hold our fall Blood Drive at the Firemen’s Exempt Hall on Mountain Blvd. in Watchung. It will be from 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM. All Blood types are needed and we are hoping for at least 60 units that day. We did come in 7th among Faith Based Groups and are hoping to improve our status. Please put this on your calendar and plan to donate. You may also call or sign up in the Narthex! All donations are much appreciated- especially by the recipients! Thank you.

Then on Sunday the 18th we will be holding our annual Unity Service at St. Mary Stony Hill. It will be at 4PM. After the service, refreshments will be served in Murray Hall. It will be an Ecumenical service including adults and children. We all have much to be thankful for so do plan to attend! Fran Ellis

THE FRIPPERY THRIFT SHOP ...

The Frippery is the yellow house in the upper church parking lot. It is Open Tues/Thurs 9:30-12:30 (and the FIRST Sat. Oct-June). Mark your calendars! November 3rd, this month!

Cash sales (checks accepted from church members) Mark your calendars to spend a morning at the Frip! We have Christmas galore for you, your home, your college student, your classroom, decorating your workplace or a nursing home/assisted living for a family member. WHY PAY RETAIL??? 1/4 of our attic is Christmas, so you have to stop in weekly to see the "new items".

NOVEMBER SALES.... ALL pictures and paintings now \$3(we have too many) ALL BOOKS 10/\$1.00 (again we have too many) and one item of your choice will be 1/2 price!!! CLOTHING sales, Items that are normally \$4 will be 2/\$5 and special tagged items will be 1/2 price!!! Start your Christmas shopping, we have lovely items. See U at The Frip!

STARFISH ...

Lets help our local food pantry by bringing in items that can be used for Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners, stuffing, boxed mashed potatoes, cans of corn, BOXES of pasteurized milk, many of these items can be found at your local Dollar store too! The Frippery will start us out with 50 items to get us started. Happy Thanksgiving!

UNITED FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S SOCIETY ...

It's that time of year again, starting Sunday November 25th; Lisa will have 100 names of underprivileged individuals and their "WISHES" for Christmas. This is my 22nd year doing this and my mom, Mary Ann Ingram, had been in charge of it for YEARS before me.... The social worker I spoke to said she's been involved for 40 years and Wilson was doing it then!!! I will supply, bags with a wish list attached, YOU get to choose a baby, child, teen or adult (or a family) and you have 2 WEEKS to get the items and bring it back to church (unwrapped) ENDING December 9th... If you cannot shop for a gift, I can ALWAYS USE \$10 gift cards to places like Walmart, Target, Shoprite and CVS, sometimes not all the bags get taken and there's some last minute scrambling to be done! I can also use NEW gifts you may have tucked away, games, candles, toys, baby items, BELIEVE ME, it all gets used, This is a MOMENTOUS job and I could use a few helpers on December 9th for about 4 hours (Pizza will be provided my knees are getting too old for this) Please call or text me at 908-625-5042.

Thank you so much, Lisa Renaud



BAPTISMS...

On October 14th, we shared with joy in the baptism of Joseph Kevin Henry. His Godparents are Meghan Henry MacLeod and Cameron MacLeod. His proud grandparents are Arlene and Roger Seidel and Audrey and Kevin Henry. His proud great grandparents are Elizabeth and Dante Mariani. He was welcomed home by his brother Jack Hennelly and his sister Ava Hennelly.



PERSONAL ITEMS...

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

November 2018

Wilson Memorial Church Monthly Activities

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
				Frippersy 9:30am – 12:30pm Choir 7:30pm AA 7:30pm	AA 8:30pm	Frippersy 9:30am – 12:30pm
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Worship Service 10am Communion AA 8:00pm	Grief Recovery Group Fisher Hall 2:00-4:00pm Bells 7:30pm Women's AA 7:30pm	Election Day Fisher Hall Frippersy 9:30am-12:30pm Book Group 7-9pm Boy Scouts Meeting 7:30pm Library AA/SA 7:30pm	Chapel Wed. 7:15-8:00pm Boy Scouts Meeting 7:30pm Library	Frippersy 9:30 am – 12:30pm Choir 7:30pm AA 7:30pm	AA 8:30pm	Grow Together Gathering 5:30-7:00pm Fisher Hall
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Worship Service 10am "What's Brewing?" 11:20am Girl Scout Meeting Rooms 5 & 6 1:00-2:00pm AA 8:00pm	Grief Recovery Group Fisher Hall 2:00-4:00pm Executive Board Meeting 7:30pm Bells 7:30pm Women's AA 7:30pm	Frippersy 9:30am - 12:30pm AA/SA 7:30pm		Frippersy 9:30am -12:30pm Choir 7:30pm AA 7:30pm	Men's Breakfast Country Squire 9:00am AA 8:30pm	Fall Blood Drive Firemen's Exempt Hall 8:00am – 2:00pm
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Worship Service 10am Annual Thanksgiving Breakfast 8:30-9:30am Fisher Hall Thanksgiving Covenant Service at St. Mary's 4pm AA 8:00pm	Grief Recovery Group Fisher Hall 2:00 - 4:00pm Bells 7:30pm Women's AA 7:30pm	Frippersy 9:30am - 12:30pm AA/SA 7:30pm		Thanksgiving Day AA 7:30pm	AA 8:30pm	
25	26	27	28	29	30	
Worship Service 10am AA 8:00pm	Bells 7:30pm Women's AA 7:30pm	Frippersy 9:30am - 12:30pm AA/SA 7:30pm		Frippersy 9:30am -12:30pm Choir 7:30pm AA 7:30pm		