



HILLTOPICS –NOVEMBER 2017

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

MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR...

Do you remember the story about the ten lepers and Jesus? It's in the Gospel of Luke and we read that when Jesus enters a village, he is approached by ten lepers. What do we know about them? Well, this much we know is true. We know these were folks who banded together not because misery loves company, but because they shared in one common lot. We know that nobody wanted them around. We know they were rejected, scorned, relegated to the outer most fringe of society. They were LEPERS after all! That very label evoked fear and trembling, and hushed whispers between parents and children: "You are to never go near one of THEM." "Pitiful," some said. "Disgusting," said others who weren't as polite. Clothed in rags, with oozing skin deformed and contagious, they roamed far enough away from the center of the town so as to be out of sight. But, you can be sure, they stayed close enough so that their dutiful cries of "Unclean, Unclean" could distinctly be heard. These lepers, all 100% of them, we read, get within earshot of Jesus. "Jesus, master, have mercy on us" is the cry which passes through their dry parched lips.

We read of course that Jesus responds. He heals them, restores them to wholeness. OK, this is where the story gets REALLY interesting. There is one individual, a Samaritan, one out of the ten, who rushes back to Jesus with glorious, unmitigated rejoicing. He can't turn back quick enough. Like a series of "AMENS" rising through an expressive congregation, he can't help erupting with shouts of praise. His gratitude is boundless, his heart is full, his joy can't be contained. He is completely energized. He has had the very same experience as the other nine of the group, yet he alone is lost in wonder love and praise. He stands in such sharp contrast to all the nine who continue on their way. Note this: nine of the healed group *managed* the experience they had with Jesus. They saw what happened to them within the context of everything else in their lives, how it was a missing puzzle piece that fit in. But the Samaritan was different. **He saw everything else in life within the context of this experience.** He let his experience be the whole puzzle. Do you see the difference? He let his experience manage him. Let's put this in another way. The nine saw what had happened to them with ordinary, daily vision. The Samaritan, instead, saw with something else. He saw with insight.

November is a month in which we focus on our gratitude. Let's remember the way true gratitude and thanksgiving rise? within us when we see with insight rather than ordinary daily vision. With insight, we see below the surface of things. We recognize the undercurrent of living water and know we are sustained and buoyed up by a loving, gracious and healing God. With insight, we live with the context of gratitude for all of our experience. With insight, gratitude and thanksgiving isn't just something we express (if we remember), it's who we are with all of our being.

Faithfully Yours, Barbara

Communion Sunday The Sacrament of Communion



November 5, 2017

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?"

November 12th, 2017

11:20am in the Sanctuary

At our "What's Brewing?" program on November 12th, we will be hosting a very special guest: Alex Myrl, Principle Director of Children's Academy and Learning Center of Haiti Partners. Join us as we learn first-hand about a wonderful program we have been supporting through onsite volunteerism (through the Haiti young adult trip led by Michael last January) and financial support!

Traditional Thanksgiving Breakfast Sunday, November 19th, 2017, 8:30- 9:30am



The traditional Thanksgiving Breakfast will be held in Fisher Hall on Sunday, November 19th
(Sunday before Thanksgiving.)
Breakfast will be served from 8:30 to 9:30 am. Please Come!

Thanksgiving Service at Wilson Memorial Church Sunday, November 19th, 2017 at 4:00pm



The Covenant Committee invites all to attend the annual Thanksgiving Service on the Sunday before Thanksgiving, November 19th, 4pm at Wilson Memorial Church.

LOOKING AHEAD TO CHRISTMAS EVE...

December 24th is on a Sunday this year! Please note that we will have our regular morning Worship Service at 10:00am. Our Christmas Eve service times will be the same as last year. Our Family Service will be at 5:00pm and our traditional Candlelight Service will be at 10:00pm.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR YOUTH DIRECTOR...

Happy November!

I hope you are enjoying the fall weather and are getting your home ready to hunker down for the cold months. It can be an exciting time for families because it provides opportunities to enjoy each other around hot chocolate, some favorite board games or family video games, or even a family project inside where there is something for everyone to do. We are in the works of developing a "Faith at Home" project for our website that will be a place you can go for some tips and encouragement to deepen your family life. Keep watch for the announcement!

Speaking of Faith at Home, we will be starting a new class for adults simply called "Faith at Home". It's an 8-week course (4 weeks in Nov-Dec followed by 4 weeks in Jan-Feb) that allows parents to explore what it means to develop faith at home. We know that it is hard to add another thing to the calendar, so we are being creative with this. All you need to do is buy the book "Faith at Home" by Wendy Claire Barrie anywhere you buy books and then register with me. From there we decide our meeting schedule and venue. We can chat online or at a schedule that makes sense for you. We will try to get a few of us together in small groups, but it is more valuable for you to read and discuss in the venue that works. We will begin the third week of November and go to the second week of December.

Second Sunday Haiti night is November 12th. Alex Myrl from Haiti Partners will be with us for our Second Sunday event from 5-7pm. It will be a great time of being together, eating some Caribbean food, and hearing about the work in Haiti and how we can all be a part. It will be hosted by the teens, but all are invited. See you there! Blessings Michael

A MESSAGE FROM OUR BOARD PRESIDENT...

November! Wilson has so much going on! Chapel Wednesday, What's Brewing?, Second Sunday, Thanksgiving Breakfast, and the Unity Service with Saint Mary's to name a few. The air is crisp, the leaves fall, and pumpkin spice is in EVERYTHING! There is so much to be thankful for. While the holiday of Thanksgiving is one day, the challenge, in the face of the hurricanes, fires, droughts, and any other crises that have assaulted us, is to continue to thank God every day. Can you greet the day counting your blessings, even when faced with the darkness that seems to surround us? It sounds difficult. It isn't, really. God is there to listen, even when we stress about the hardships that face us. I challenge you that when you wake up, the first thing is to thank God. Your intentions do not need to be elaborate. Thank you God for the gift of a child's smile, the warmth of a friend, the blessing of a safe place to shelter and have a meal. Boom – you are on your way with lightness in your heart and the knowledge that God loves you. I believe, I trust, I let go.

Many Blessings, Lorri Monetti

BOARD BRIEFS...

1. MINISTER'S REPORT –Barbara reported that she is excited about our fall offerings! Her book group I Am Malala has begun and it certainly isn't too late to be a part.

2. After church at "What's Brewing?" a few of stayed and watched the film *Girls Rising*. It was an eye-opening experience about the hardships many girls who live in the developing world face in getting an education. The theme dovetails with the struggles outlined in *I Am Malala*. At the "What's Brewing?" on November 12th we will have a very special guest: Alex Myrl, Principle Director of the Children's Academy and Learning Center of Haiti Partners.
3. There will be a fair trade sale (similar to what we have had with Ten Thousand Villages) on December 2. The company Ten Thousand Villages no longer partners with congregations for these kinds of sales in the same way they have in the past, however it looks like we can partner with SERRV as well as Fair Trade Winds. There is a good possibility children from our Sunday School will help make the sale even more meaningful by the contributing items they have made with the money going to Five Talents We are looking at a sale time of 10-2pm, and then the sale will hopefully be ongoing at coffee hours December 3 and December 10.
4. As announced last month and in the Hilltopics, join Barbara in the Chapel on the first Wednesday of the month beginning in November. Chapel Wednesdays are designed as a way to ground ourselves in prayerful reflection and silence. The time will be 7:15-8:00pm and will begin with music, a very brief read or spoke 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 will be available for the practice of Centering Prayer. Spread the word about **Chapel Wednesdays** with anyone you think might be interested but isn't necessarily connected to Wilson Memorial!
5. Barbara was away Friday October 13-16 to attend training in The Grief Recovery Method. Her goal is to further her work with individuals in the congregation, and community, as they deal with loss. This may lead to offering a grief support group here (which other churches have done). She will also be doing further training in the Enneagram Personality Theory (instincts and subtypes), Friday, November 10-November 13.
6. YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRIES REPORT - Michael reported that there has been a start of the youth integration into the Church Worship Service. Shirley Kreis has begun ushering and Alexis Shpunder and Matteus Fontes will be joining bell choir.
7. Trunk or Treat was planned to change into Forest of Fun on October 29. Unfortunately due to the weather, Forest of Fun will have to wait until next year.
8. Second Sunday youth group kickoff for youth and families started on the 3rd Sunday in October with Taco in a Bag – kickoff for kids and families. The November Second Sunday will have Alex Myrl speaking about the ministry in Haiti.
9. The first Saturday in December is the town tree lighting and we are planning a supper at 4:30pm prior the tree lighting, prepared by Donnamama's. Sunday December 3 will be a mini Advent workshop in the Sunday School during the service..
10. 7th and 8th grade will gather on the 1st and 4th Sundays for youth group discussions.
11. FACILITIES REPORT – Tony Cito reported that a cleanup crew hosted by Tony and Cota spent time cleaning up around the building, power-washing and debris removal. Some of the power-washing by the mini parking lot door revealed that quite a bit of maintenance is needed before it can be repainted, and should be done before winter to seal it up. Another cleanup day happened October 21, 8-12pm.

12. An evacuation plan is being developed for whole church to gather in the upper parking lot in an emergency. Formal signs will be created for each exit after approval from the FD. The contractor for emergency lighting repair has applied for the permit, with the estimate of \$4,500, which will take about a week to complete. They have been requested to complete the job in a timely manner.
13. An estimate from American Railing has been requested to replace the railing system for the stairs that lead to the upper parking lot.
14. A quote from Porchetta has been given to repair and patch the 17 larger holes in the upper parking lot before December for \$2,800. The long range plan would be to remill and replace the lot, but this is a large expenditure it would have to be in the future.
15. An estimate of \$2,300 has been given to create closet space in the Manse bedrooms, as there are none or are inadequate. This enhances the value of the house.
16. PRESIDENT'S REPORT –a nominating committee is needed for the January annual meeting to replace the outgoing members as well as complete a term.
17. The new church website has been delivered in a development stage. Further work is needed, but it is taking shape.

STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE...

“Christ has no body now but yours. No hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes through which he looks compassion on this world. Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good. Yours are the hands through which he blesses all the world. Yours are the hands, yours are the feet, yours are the eyes, you are his body. Christ has no body now on earth but yours.” — Teresa of Ávila

At Wilson Memorial Church, we believe in the vision and our mission of supporting not only our church as a body, but to shine the light of Jesus through ministry and resources. Our mission is not just for today's needs, but for the future of our congregation and those that we reach through outreach and good works. Our invitation to you is to help us continue this through the investment of your energy, prayers as well as your money. By nurturing the family of the church you will help us to grow and thrive, far beyond what is sowed. Your financial support ensures that we can do what God calls us to do – in good works.

In the Parable of the Talents, Jesus calls us to invest and grow what's been entrusted to us and live out whole-life stewardship. We call you to pledge your financial commitment as the investment toward the ministry of Wilson Memorial Church. Throughout the month of November we will be sharing our vision of stewardship, and encourage you to listen and pray with us.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS...

Have you noticed our “Pet Food Jug” in in Coffee hour? The Sunday School classes are continuing to collect change (\$) each week for the animal shelters in our area. The shelters need our help taking care of our furry friends from Texas and Florida. We will pass the “Pet Food Jug” around in Sunday School and it will be in the coffee hour each Sunday.

November 5th Daylight Savings Time: Fall Back! We will begin the story of “Jonah and the Big Fish”. There will be 3 Sundays with different presentations of the story on those Sundays.

November 12th Second Sunday: Kids Church Our Kids Church will be held in the Sanctuary as a “Family Friendly Service”.

November 19th Thanksgiving Breakfast. Come and enjoy a wonderful Church family breakfast before Church and Sunday School We continue with the story of “Jonah and the Big Fish”.

November 26th The Sunday School children will hear the final story of “Jonah and the Big Fish” and the teachers will have another creative lesson about the story.

Upcoming Events – New this year: December 3rd Instead of our regular Sunday School classes the children will have an Advent Workshop. They will all go to different classrooms to make various crafts.

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 encourage the children to bring the following to Sunday School each week: Their Bible Offering – (the Sunday School offering is used towards supplies and the Sunday School curriculum for all classes. Food for Starfish! (We have a container under the hallway “payphone” to collect food each week). 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

INTRODUCING CHAPEL WEDNESDAYS IN NOVEMBER...

“Everyone of us needs a half hour of prayer a day, except when we are busy. Then we need an hour.” St. Frances de Sales

Join Barbara in the Chapel on the **first Wednesday of the month** beginning in November (in March there will be no **Chapel Wednesday** due to our evening Lenten Soup Supper and service). **Chapel Wednesdays** are designed as a way to ground ourselves in prayerful reflection and silence. The time will be **7:15pm-8:00pm** and will begin 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 will be available for the practice of Centering Prayer. The first **Chapel Wednesday** will be **November 1st** and the theme will be **“Silence”**. Future **Chapel Wednesdays** and themes are as follows: **December 6th**, **“Incarnation”**; **January 3rd**, **“Breath”**; **February 7th**, **“Emptying”**; **April 4th**, **“Identity”**; **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!

WOMEN'S GUILD...

The Women's Guild will hold their meeting on Thursday, November 2nd at 11:30 am in Fisher Hall. The meeting will be followed by "bring your own sandwich" luncheon. Dessert and beverages will be supplied. All are welcome.

COVENANT COMMITTEE BLOOD DRIVE AND THANKSGIVING SERVICE...

The Fall Covenant Blood Drive will be held on **SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18th from 8:00am to 2:00pm** in the Watchung Firemen's Exempt Hall on Mountain Blvd. We are thankful that they are so willing for us to hold this event there! The need for blood never ends so please try to help us reach our goal of 60 units drawn. We and the recipients thank you.

Then on Sunday, November 19th, we will hold our annual Thanksgiving Service at 4:00 PM at Wilson. The joint choirs will sing and the speaker will be Deacon Larry Duffy. We all have much to be thankful for so please join us for the service and then stay for light refreshments in Fisher Hall. Let's remember to give thanks. Fran Ellis

SHOP FOR GOOD SALE, DECEMBER 2ND...

Mark your calendar! Saturday, December 2nd from 10:00am-2:00pm will be our wonderful sale of beautiful handcrafted items from around the world just in time for your holiday gift giving needs! Our **Shop for Good** sale will draw from the same artisans in developing countries as Ten Thousand Villages which we have partnered with in the past. This year, we are now joining up with Fair Trade Winds and SERRV. **Your support will help accomplished artisans pay for food, education, healthcare and housing** in areas where this is the only way they can provide for family needs. In addition to shopping at the sale, **YOUR HELP is needed.** Barbara has a list of specific tasks that will make this sale a successful one. Remember, we want to draw in as many folks from the surrounding community as well, and your involvement is one important way we can make Wilson Memorial known to others! Help is needed with advertising, set-up, selling the day of and eventual packing up of unsold items. If you can give some of your time to this wonderful cause, please speak with Barbara, or send her an email as soon as possible, stirlingpeters@verizon.net. Thank you in advance for your dependable support!

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 Thanksgiving this month from all the Frippettes! We HAVE EVERYTHING you will need for a big holiday dinner! Glasses, crystal, china, dishes, extra bowls, covered serving bowls, knives, silverware, tablecloths, placemats, platters, crockpots (my tip is to make the mashed potatoes in the morning and put them in the crockpot freeing up another burner!) WHY ON EARTH would you pay RETAIL???? Come on over, we'll get you decked out! We even have your Thanksgiving outfit! MOST adult clothing is \$4 per piece you can get a men's suit for \$8! Kids things are generally \$2 per item! Lisa Renaud

UNITED FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S SOCIETY CHRISTMAS GIFT PROJECT...

STARTS the Sunday BEFORE Thanksgiving (Nov. 19) Please help an underprivileged individual or family this holiday season. Each year (for at least the past 25+ yrs.) we have taken 100 names to help brighten Christmas for families, babies, kids, teens, parents and Grandparents, 100 years ago United Families was an adoption agency, currently they are a social service agency trying with therapy and assistance to KEEP families together. Some folks need a little assistance at Christmas time. It's very easy to help

1. You can choose a bag on Nov. 19th that has all the information you will need on it to shop and drop back at Wilson two weeks later.
2. You can help by donating \$10 gift cards to popular shopping places like Walmart, CVS, and ShopRite, even Dunkin Donuts!
3. You can pull NEW items from your home closets such as, clothing WITH TAGS, unopened games, new candles, Bath and Body products, journals, NEW stuffed animals or Beanie Babies, etc.

Sometimes not all bags get taken or even returned on the last day, these extra items enable me to "put together a quick gift" or I can use them to "supplement" bags, especially when I have siblings, I like to gift bags to be comparable. It's a BIG job and I'm looking forward to having the youth group's help this year. Questions? Call Lisa Renaud 908-625-5042

WHAT WE NEED AT STARFISH...

Thank you for continuing to remember Starfish. As I mentioned last month, the Starfish volunteers will be providing holiday meal fixings for about 160 families for Thanksgiving and Christmas. We buy turkeys from the Community Foodbank in Hillside and we buy chickens for smaller families. Starfish also needs to have donated or else buy boxed mashed potatoes, canned sweet potatoes, boxed stuffing, gravy and canned fruit and vegetables. Any of these items that you can provide will help us reduce expenses as we undertake this large distribution of food for the holidays. Thank you all. Hugh Woodruff

BAPTISMS...

On October 22nd, we shared with joy in the baptism of Caroline Marie Dealaman. Caroline was born on April 20th, 2017 to Kristina and Kyle Dealaman. Her Godparents are James Lattoz and Karen Dealaman. Her proud grandparents are Sue and George Dealaman and Joan and Joseph Vrola. Caroline was welcomed home by her sister Paige and brother, Henry.

SYMPATHY ...



Our sympathy is extended to the family of Dorothy Beyer who passed away on October 18th. Dorothy was a long time member of Wilson Memorial Church. A Memorial Service was held in the Sanctuary on October 22nd.

PERSONAL ITEMS...



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

*Wilson Memorial Church
7 Valley Road
Watchung, New Jersey 07069*



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Check out our website: www.wilsonmemorialchurch.com

Email: wilsonchurch@verizon.net