



# HILLTOPICS –MARCH 2018

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

## MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR...

Please think about us, Tom and me. We are going to try and grow my favorite perennial from seeds. Do we absolutely know what we are doing? Not really. But, we are up for the adventure. These are very special seeds, too. I have always loved Rose Campions. Because the Rose Champion is not an easy perennial to find, for Christmas Tom gave me a couple of packets of these very special seeds. He actually had to order them from Monticello where Thomas Jefferson had such a passion for gardening. Just think, in a few months we are going to be admiring historic Presidential Rose Campions in our garden (if we can actually make this work...stay tuned)!

A seed is a marvelous phenomenon of nature to ponder. You look at this small, even tiny bit of “something” and you look at the flower or vegetable or tree or whatever comes from it, and you can’t help but think, “how was that flower or vegetable or tree inside *there*???” All that was added were the right conditions like soil, water, light, and time, and the end result is nothing short of spectacular given what you started out with. Not only that, my mind can’t wrap around the sheer massive number of different types of seeds naturally produced (or coaxed along) on our planet earth.

Recently we received a big, thick seed catalog in the mail. After being a little put out because I realized we are now on *that* mailing list, I opened up the book, *Johnny’s Selected Seeds, An Employee-Owned Company Serving Growers Since 1973*. Oh, my! There were vegetable and flower seeds listed which I would have never heard about in this life if I had not opened the cover of *Johnny’s Selected Seeds*. I had this undeniable urge to grow them ALL! (Don’t worry, I waited a few moments and the feeling passed.) On those beautiful and colorful 240 pages, I saw everything from Purple Graffiti Cauliflower seeds, to Striped Armenian Cucumber seeds, to Matt’s Wild Cherry Tomato seeds. I tell you it looks like you can grow mighty fine chili peppers from Flaming Flare Fresno seeds. Don’t you love the name? In addition, I saw flower seeds too many to count: Cupcakes Blush Cosmos, Galilee Mixture Larkspur, Empress of India Nasturtium. Are you feeling a little blue or life seems like too much these days? Find yourself a quality seed catalog and let your eyes be opened up to such beauty, such mystery!

Jesus was always noticing what went on in the natural world. And, in John 12:24 we read Jesus says, “Very truly I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain, but if it dies it bears much fruit.” Hmmm... *seeds “dying” in the earth in order to bring forth life and much fruit*...there are a million sermons in those few words. As you continue your Lenten journey, as you walk the days of Holy Week with us, as you then join us in celebrating Easter; won’t you keep in mind the way of the seed? Sometimes it’s a little hard to wrap our minds around the concepts of death and resurrection as they apply either to our daily lives, or the end of our lives, or to Jesus. Don’t forget the wonderful and grand teachers that are seeds!

Faithfully Yours, Barbara

## Communion Sunday The Sacrament of Communion



March 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.*

## SOUP SUPPERS AND CHAPEL SERVICES DURING LENT...

We are carrying on our wonderful tradition of holding Soup Suppers and Chapel Services during Lent! This year’s theme will be **The Marks of Discipleship**. The suppers and services will be held on **Wednesdays, February 28, March 7, 14, 21**. We will gather at **6:30pm** in Fisher Hall for a simple, tasty meal of homemade soup, bread and dessert. Following the supper there will be a service of prayer, music and reflection in the Chapel from **7:30-8:15pm** (approximately). Of course, you are welcome to come just to the supper or service. You will be nourished by this series in which we enjoy food for the body and soul!

## UPCOMING “WHAT’S BREWING?” PROGRAM 11:20AM IN THE SANCTUARY...

On **March 11<sup>th</sup>**, join us as we learn about **Homefirst** from Karla Spivey, Director of Hillside Family Success Center. Homefirst’s mission is to deliver comprehensive solutions to end homelessness by creating a pathway out of poverty. They provide transitional, supportive and permanent affordable housing, homeless prevention assistance and family support services in the Plainfield area and beyond. We support Homefirst through our outreach budget each year.

## An Invitation to Our Holy Week Services

March 25th, Palm Sunday  
Confirmation During Service

March 29th, Maundy Thursday  
Communion Service 7:30 pm in the Sanctuary

March 30<sup>th</sup>, Good Friday  
Worship Service 7:30pm in the Sanctuary

April 1<sup>st</sup>, Easter Sunday Worship Service 10am  
Come and Celebrate This Joyful Day With Us!

### **A MESSAGE FROM OUR YOUTH DIRECTOR...**

Happy Lent? It's hard to know what to say in Lent because it's not supposed to be a "happy" season, right? Lent is about the sadness and sacrifice that comes along with the season before Holy Week where we remember the suffering and death of Christ. It's like saying Merry Good Friday! It just doesn't seem to work. I think it is because we look at suffering and sacrifice as something to be avoided, but I suggest that Jesus never does. Jesus suffered and gave up so much because of what he VALUED. 40 days of fasting and being tempted led Jesus to the man he wanted to be. The suffering of the cross led Jesus to the community (us) he wanted to create. If we can see our little "sacrifices" through the lens of the One we follow, we might find ourselves saying "happy Lent" with enthusiasm because we have now entered the season that gets us closer to the people we want to be. We have a few tools to help in your Lenten journey during the month of March. First, after every soup supper there will be a FAMILY LENTEN SERVICE open to all. We will continue to have our traditional services in the chapel, but this simply provides an opportunity to engage the entire family on the meaning and joy of Lent. Also, a specific opportunity for our teenagers is our annual HOLY WALK through NYC. This is led by me on the Wednesday of Holy Week (28th) from 9:00 am until early evening. We go on a walk looking for Jesus in some of the more out of the way places in NYC. Sign ups for that event will be coming soon or you can email Michael ([wilsonyouthandfamily@gmail.com](mailto:wilsonyouthandfamily@gmail.com)) to sign up early.

Blessings, Michael

### **A MESSAGE FROM OUR BOARD PRESIDENT...**

Forty Years! That is how many years we have had this epic Covenant with Saint Mary's Stony Hill! Forty years of joining together for Thanksgiving Services, Unity Services, Blood Drives, as well as many opportunities for fellowship through youth groups and vacation bible schools. This agreement, which was twelve years in the making, made the New York Times, in its historical significance. Each year our church renews this agreement at our annual meeting. Please come to the Unity Program March 11 to help us celebrate this milestone!

<http://www.nytimes.com/1978/01/23/archives/new-jersey-pages-2-watchung-churches-sign-an-ecumenical-covenant.html>

Tickets are on sale after the Worship Service March 4<sup>th</sup> for \$15.00 (young children are free).

Lorri Monetti

### **BOARD BRIEFS...**

1. MINISTER'S REPORT – Barbara welcomed the new Board Members, Sally Reagan, Lori Goucher, Pam Davis and Jenn Koester. The Confirmation Class began in January and the service of Confirmation will once again be held on Palm Sunday, March 25th. Class members and Mentors are: Doyle Hunsinger, Mentor David Wall; Meredith Marmolejos, Mentor Amy Watkins; Lauren Quinn, Mentor Laurie Conley; and Abby Wighard, Mentor Lori Goucher.
2. Barbara gave a "What's Brewing?" presentation on "The Science of Laughter", a DVD of Dr. Sophie Scott, whom she had the pleasure to hear in person at Chautauqua.

3. In March Karla Spivey will be joining us for "What's Brewing?" program March 11. She will be representing Homefirst, in Plainfield which we support through our Outreach Budget.
4. Barbara hopes to be leading a Grief Recovery group beginning in April for 8 weeks. This will be based on the Grief Recovery Method which Barbara talked about during the January "What's Brewing?" program. The dates are Tuesday evenings April 10, 17, 14 and May 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, 7:00-9:00pm. Please see her if you want to be a part!
5. YOUTH AND FAMILY DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Michael spoke about the positive feedback of including the youth in our Sunday services held in the sanctuary and will explore further discussion on how these services work for families with young children. Michael is continually exploring this process through relationships with colleagues across the country.
6. Michael discussed his visit to Port Arthur, TX, the site of the next Mission Trip, and about the devastation that still remains. Michael has put together packets and will begin introducing this year's mission trip. The packets can be accessed on the church website under ministries.
7. FACILITIES – Tony reported the roof is leaking in the room across from 5/6. Capitol roofing did the roof in fireside room and some drip edges need to be redone. Water may be coming in at the standing seam between there and library. Tony has call into the provider.
8. Tony showed some window film that will be tested on the sliding doors in Fisher hall for sun protection. The film is targeted for better HVAC efficiency, minimizing fabric and rug fading, comfort and visibility for slide shows by stage. Projected costs are \$3k for entire space, \$300 for test on sliding doors.
9. Tony and Paul discussed the posting of signs regarding signage for evacuation planning for any emergency procedure. Such signage and planning is helpful to all, but especially needed for outside groups utilizing our facility.
10. MEMORIAL ENDOWMENT – The Board approved the funding of the Eagle Scout project for Enzo Ruta to create and organize displays for a Historical Room. This project will collect much of the historical items of our church in the small room on the right by the Chapel, with shelves, displays, and frames, which will present them better.
11. OLD BUSINESS – Christmas Eve Service – A vote was held and the service will be at 10 pm in 2018.

### **SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS...**

**March 4<sup>th</sup>** We continue the Bible story and lessons of "The Good Samaritan" and the teachers will then continue the lesson with some Bible skills and games.

**March 11<sup>th</sup> Second Sunday: Kids Church** Our Kids Church will be held in the sanctuary as a "Family Friendly Service".

**March 18<sup>th</sup>** We continue the Bible story and lessons of "The Good Samaritan" and the teachers will then continue the lesson with a creative drama class.

**March 25<sup>th</sup> Palm Sunday** The Sunday School children will participate in the Church service by handing out the palms during the worship service.

**April 1<sup>st</sup> Easter Sunday** There will be no Sunday School classes on Easter Sunday so that the entire congregation may join together in worship.

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 & Roger Seidel

**YOGA...**

Did you know that we are still holding a yoga class every Thursday at 4:30, in Fisher Fellowship Hall? Did you know that you can join us at anytime? New participants are always welcome. Bring a friend. I will demonstrate and teach you asanas (yoga poses) that offer many physical, mental and spiritual benefits. To participate you simply wear comfortable, breathable clothing, bring a bottle of water and a yoga mat. The first class is always free and then a \$5 fee for each class or 6 classes for \$25. Feel free to email me any questions: [carolynmusacchio@gmail.com](mailto:carolynmusacchio@gmail.com) . Please join me and explore the many benefits of yoga.

Carolyn Musacchio

**WOMEN'S GUILD...**

The Women's Guild will meet on **Thursday, March 1st at 11:30 am**. Bring your own sandwich luncheon following the meeting. Dessert and beverages supplied. Michael Droege will present a program at 12:30 pm. All are welcome.

**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. **\*\*AND WED 3/14/18 from 3:30-6:00pm\*\*\*** Cash sales (checks accepted from church members) Top O' The Morning to Ya! The Frippery is packed with "new items" at garage sale prices. It's Watchung's BEST-KEPT SECRET! Come spend a few hours with us, we will become one of your favorite stores for sure. This month we'll also be open the afternoon of 3/14/18, Wed, from 3:30-6:00pm. Stop by and bring a friend. Spring and summer clothing is available; MOST items just \$4 each (children's \$2).

**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](mailto: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.**

**CHAPEL WEDNESDAYS CONTINUE IN MAY...**

Join Barbara on the first Wednesday of the month (with the exception of March and April) in the Chapel from 7:15-8:00pm. The 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 which you are welcome to use for your own private prayer practice. Printed instructions are always available for the practice of Centering Prayer. The dates and themes are as follows: **May 2<sup>nd</sup>, "Courage"; and June 6<sup>th</sup>, "Rest"**.

**Easter Lily Order Form**



Please put your order with payment in the offering or send it to the Church Office by April 10th. They can be taken home after the Easter Service. You may choose it to be in memory of or in honor of a loved one.

A Booklet will be included in the Easter Bulletin listing all of those remembered.

**Donor (s)**

**In Loving Memory Of:**

**In Honor Of:**

**Enclosed is \$7.00 per plant** \_\_\_ **Cash** \_\_\_ **Check** \_\_\_

**Please make check payable to:  
Wilson Memorial Church**



**PERSONAL ITEMS...**

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

*Wilson Memorial Church  
7 Valley Road  
Watchung, New Jersey 07069  
March 2018, Hilltopics*

**Check out our website: [www.wilsonmemorialchurch.com](http://www.wilsonmemorialchurch.com)**  
**Email: [wilsonchurch@verizon.net](mailto:wilsonchurch@verizon.net)**

# March 2018

## Wilson Memorial Church Monthly Activities

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3 Fripperly 9:30am-12:30pm
4 Worship Service 10am Communion Sunday  Confirmation Class 7:30-8:30pm  AA 8:00pm	5     Bells 7:30pm	6 Fripperly 9:30am-12:30pm  Boy Scouts Meeting-Library 7:30pm  AA/SA 7:30pm	7 Soup Supper 6:30pm Chapel Service 7:30pm  Boy Scouts Meeting-Library 7:30pm  7:15 -8:00pm	8 Fripperly 9:30am-12:30pm  Yoga 4:30pm Choir 7:30pm  AA 7:30pm	9     AA 8:30pm	10
11 Worship Service 10am Family Service "What's Brewing?" 11:20am Unity Service with St. Mary's at WMC 4pm Confirmation Class 7:00-8:00pm AA 8:00pm	12 Executive Board Meeting 7:30pm   Bells 7:30pm	13 Fripperly 9:30am-12:30pm  6:00pm Fisher Hall  AA/SA 7:30pm	14 Fripperly 3:30-6:00pm  Soup Supper 6:30pm Chapel Service 7:30pm	15 Fripperly 9:30am-12:30pm  Yoga 4:30pm  Choir 7:30pm AA 7:30pm	16 Men's Breakfast Country Squire 9am  AA 8:30pm	17     St. Patrick's Day
18 Worship Service 10am Jazz Trio Playing  GS Meeting 1:30 – 4pm  Confirmation Class 7:30-8:30pm AA 8:00pm	19    Bells 7:30pm	20 Fripperly 9:30am-12:30pm  AA/SA 7:30pm	21 Soup Supper 6:30pm Chapel Service 7:30pm	22 Fripperly 9:30am-12:30pm  Yoga 4:30pm Choir 7:30pm  AA 7:30pm	23    AA 8:30pm	24
25 Worship Service 10am Palm Sunday - Confirmation During Service –Bells playing AA 8:00pm	26    No Bells Rehearsal	27 Fripperly 9:30am-12:30pm  AA/SA 7:30pm	28	29 Fripperly 9:30am-12:30pm  Maundy Thursday Service 7:30pm	30 Good Friday Service 7:30pm  AA 8:30pm	31