



HILLTOPICS – FEBRUARY 2017

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

MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR...

We have all heard the idea that Eskimos have fifty words for snow. It is true that anthropologists have concluded 10 Inuit and Yupik dialects have many more words for snow than English does. According to an article in the Washington Post, “Central Siberian Yupik has 40 such terms while the Inuit dialect spoken in Canada’s Nunavik region has at least 53, including ‘matasaaruti’ for wet snow that can be used to ice a sleigh’s runners, and ‘pukak’ for the crystalline powder snow that looks like salt.” While you and I may look out our windows and simply see “snow” (which fortunately we haven’t had a lot of so far this year), others in our earth’s history have looked at the white stuff with far more experienced and discriminating eyes. And, as a result, I believe they have a richer and more nuanced perception of what is important to their lives in the world around them. Get this – it is said that in the Inipiaq dialect of Wales, Alaska, there are 70 terms for ice! Ice that lasts year after year is “utuqaq”; the layer of crystals that forms when the sea begins to freeze is “siguliaksraq”; and “auniq” describes ice that is filled with holes like Swiss cheese.

When we have language to describe thoroughly something central to our lives, maybe we value that thing even more. Perhaps the opposite is also true. When our language is limited, we fail to appreciate fully the thing, or the concept, or the idea. Take for instance the word “love” in our English language. That’s a word we use all the time in so many contexts, and yet we expect one word, “love”, to cover so much! If we regularly used different words for different types of love, my thought is the most important forms of love would be valued to a greater degree in an immediate way than lesser forms of love. For example, we say, “I love pizza,” “I love my church” and “I love my spouse”. Different words for each of those types of love would help us have even more clarity about our priorities.

The Greek language (remember our New Testament was originally written in Greek) may not have fifty words for love, but there is certainly the ability to describe love in a much more nuanced way than we can in English. Think about these different words for love: Eros (after the Greek god of fertility), Philia (friendship), Ludus (playful), Agape (selfless), and Pragma (long standing).

The bottom line is, however, that while human beings can explore all the aspects of love which are humanly possible to explore (and even use languages that reflect the multiple ways we experience love in our lives), the concept of love can never be as thoroughly described or defined as, say, “snow”. The meaning of love is inexhaustible. We could come up with one thousand words to describe love and never completely describe it! Love is so many things and yet it is one thing above all: a beautiful, energizing mystery permeating the core of what it means to be human. And, being human is all about love because of one of the most beautiful statements of all: **God is Love!**

This February, as you see stores stocked with love messages and pithy Valentine’s Day sentiments, all the various and wonderful forms of love present in our lives. Most of all, I hope you will remember the deep, timeless LOVE which is in all and through all and never fails to nourish your spirit! Yes, celebrate **God is Love!**

Faithfully Yours, Barbara

Communion Sunday The Sacrament of Communion Sunday, February 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?” Sunday, February 12th 11:20am in the Sanctuary

Mark your calendars for future “What’s Brewing?” programs. On February 12th, the program will be **Discover Haiti** led by Michael and available Haiti Mission Trip participants. **My Story: Connecting As a Student Assistance Counselor** is the program for March 12th. Our guest will be Counselor and Guitarist Philip Lester, Columbia High School, Maplewood.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper February 28, 5:30 pm, Fisher Hall

Please attend our annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday. Invite friends and family to attend! A free will donation will be welcomed.

Come out and support our 2017 Confirmation Class members who will be hosting: Blake Januzzi, Shirley Kreis, Nick Maziekien, Melanie Nunn, Shirley Kreis and Stewart Whitley.



**March 1, 2017
7:30pm Chapel Service**

A MESSAGE FROM OUR YOUTH DIRECTOR...

Happy February! OK, I'll cut right to the chase, there are a few things planned in the coming six weeks that I'm very excited about and I want you to mark them on your calendar. **First is our Haiti Report on February 12** after the morning service. Some of our college students cannot be there because school takes them far away, but everyone who went is contributing something to the report. We will have pictures, video, and, of course, a return of the handmade paper art to the people who contributed. **Next on the calendar is Dr. Malan Nel from the University of Pretoria in South Africa who will be with us on Feb 26th** in our morning service. I am working on a thesis project on youth ministry for Drew University and Dr. Nel's decades of scholarly work on the subject as well as on church life has been a driving force in my project. We are blessed that Dr. Nel is on sabbatical at Princeton Theological Seminary and has graciously agreed to deliver the sermon as well as be present for questions and conversation during our coffee hour. This is a rare treat for our congregation to have such a world-renowned scholar and author with us. We hope everyone can come out that Sunday and make Dr. Nell and his wife feel welcome. One final invitation is once again to our Lenten journey we make together every year. Our two invitations for families will include a **"forgiveness walk"** that we will be welcoming everyone in our community to take part in. The boy scouts have gifted us with a forged path through our back woods and we will be introducing it during the Lenten season with a physical walk through the very difficult path of forgiveness. We also have purchased large coloring posters done by an artist depicting some of the Stations of the Cross. **We would like to invite 8 families or groups of families to take on the project of coloring these large format prints.** The will go on display Palm Sunday and be available for our Holy Week remembrances. And, of course, we will continue to have our youth group **"Second Sunday" program at St. Mary's on February 12th at 5PM.** The theme, appropriately, is love.

YOUR 2017 WEEKLY OFFERING ENVELOPES ARE NOW AVAILABLE.

Please pick yours up in church. If you have not had envelopes in the past and would like some, just call or email the church office or tell Hugh Woodruff and we will be happy to provide them to you.

Homemade Soup Sale

Sponsored by the Women's Guild

Pre-Order Your Soup

Pick-up Sunday, February 26th

Choose from the following homemade, frozen soups:

**Split Pea with Ham • Chicken Noodle
Minestrone • Potato Leek**

– **16 oz. @ \$6.50 each** –

each order will include two rolls

Orders due by Sunday, February 12th

There will be limited availability on February 26th

Name _____

Phone number _____

Soup	Quantity	Total
Split Pea w/Ham		
Chicken Noodle		
Minestrone		
Potato Leek		
Total Due		

Please enclose cash or check made out to the Women's Guild
Give orders to Pam Davis, Pam Cox or Cota Kania
Mail to: Pam Davis: 64 River Bend Rd, Berkeley Heights, NJ, 07922

HELP!

We need help desperately. This is a plea for singers to join the Wilson choir for Easter. I emphasize the word *plea*. For a number of reasons, the size of our choir has been diminished. In order to perform with the Brass at Easter, we very much need to supplement the current group. The criteria for singing with us are; you must be able to carry a tune, be of high school age or older, and be friendly. Since those qualifications fit almost everyone, I would think we should be able to get at least five or six of you to join us. Please reach out to me after church or by phone or email. I'm hoping to hear from you very soon.

Jim Musacchio, 610-438-6099 - jamesmusacchio@yahoo.com

THE FRIPPERY THRIFT SHOP...

Open Tuesday's Thursday's and the FIRST SATURDAY of each month October through June, 9:30-12:30. Special sales going on this month, BOOKS are 10 for \$1.00, YES, you read that correctly! We have SO MANY great books a quick sale will help us get them back under control! We have hardcovers, paperbacks, cookbooks and children's books. Come STOCK UP for when you and your family are snowbound! Winter clothing is \$2 an item and \$10.00 for a LEVEL bag, the closer we get to 2/14 the LOWER the prices will go ... come in and get some clothes to sew / make some great craft projects! Spring and summer clothing makes it's debut around 2/14 (which GUARANTEES a snowstorm!)

MARY ANN'S MITTENS ...

Thank you one and all for your generous donation to this new collection. We donated 176 pairs of gloves, mittens, hats and scarves (and 3 lap blankets) to Starfish and The Homeless Project in Somerville.

STARFISH ...

In January, we collected lots of diapers, wipes, baby food, formula, baby items and other canned items to restock some empty shelves at Starfish. Thank you ALL! During the MONTH of FEBRUARY we'll have an area set up and would like to "suggest" heart healthy items, such as oatmeal for those cold winter mornings. ALL DONATIONS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME.

ANNOUNCING SCREENAGERS, MARCH 12, 2017, 5PM, FISHER HALL...

Did you know that the average kid spends 6.5 hours each day looking at screens and this doesn't include time spent doing homework?

The documentary, Screenagers, addresses concerns about the amount of screen time young people spend. The director of the movie uses the challenges of her own family life to highlight the struggles families are going through over social media, video games, and the role of personal devices. Read what Melinda Gates says about the movie,

*As the mother of three kids—two of them teenagers—I've noticed that whenever I get together with other parents, the conversation ends up turning to our kids' screen time. We're all worried about how much is too much. For any of you wrestling with this issue, I loved the documentary, **Screenagers**. It combines smart insights and practical tips for raising happy, healthy, technologically-empowered teens.*

Screenagers has been shown throughout the country at schools, churches and community centers. The movie is about an hour long. Our hope is that the discussion after will be as important as watching the movie itself. Please plan now to attend. Families are welcome! Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for teens and children under 12 are free. This is a community-wide event! Please invite **anyone** who might be interested!

For more information about the movie, please go to screenagersmovie.com.

ANNUAL MEETING UPDATE ...

Wilson Memorial held its Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 29. A quorum was present enabling us to conduct the necessary business. All reports were accepted as printed in the Annual Report. The Treasurer's report showed a positive balance of \$670. The budget for 2017 was presented and approved by those present. We renewed our membership in the ICCC and our Covenant with St. Mary's. Our retiring Board members were President Judy Wall and Vice President D. J. Hunsinger and both were thanked for their six years of leadership service. New Board members elected at the meeting were Adrienne Johnson and Randy Stefanovic. After the Annual Meeting adjourned, the Executive Board met briefly and elected Lorri Monetti and President and Cota Possien-Kania as Vice President.

COVENANT COMMITTEE...

We have settled on the days of our spring events- please put them on your calendar and plan to attend. The first on is the Unity Service which will be held at Wilson Memorial Church on Sunday March 26th at 4 PM. It will be a program including The Bells from Wilson Memorial Church and a professional organist from St. Mary's Stony Hill. It will be followed by a supper in Fellowship Hall. Ticket information to follow next month. Then on Saturday, April 1st our Annual spring Blood Drive will be held at the Exempt Firemen's Hall from 8AM to 2PM. Again more details to follow. The need goes on!!!

Fran Ellis

WOMEN'S GUILD...

The Women's Guild will suspend meetings in January and February 2017. We look forward to regrouping Thursday, March 2nd at 11:30am! See you then.



SYMPATHY...

We extend our sympathy to the family of Boyd Woodruff who passed away on January 19, 2017. Boyd was a long time member of Wilson Memorial Church, and former board President. He was also a regular Starfish volunteer for many years. A service was held at Wilson Memorial Church on January 28, 2017.



PERSONAL ITEMS...

We continue to pray for those suffering with health problems: Ruth Allen, Bill Ripley, Howard Beyer, Dorothy Ryno, Janet Meeks, Joanne Meeks, Ginnie Nunn, Joyce Possien, Clare Gault, Ellie Groves, John and Gladys Andrews, Joy Jurgens, Eva Wehof, Michael Kontra, and Alison Barr.

*Wilson Memorial Church
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Check out our website: www.wilsonmemorialchurch.com

Email: wilsonchurch@verizon.net