

The Wesleyan

January - February 2018

Westwood United Methodist Church

“Connecting and Caring”

Good Christian Friends Rejoice!

I want to start by saying thank you to all of you for your love and generosity that you expressed to me and my family during this past Christmas season. It is my prayer that God will continue to bless our lives and service together.

This is a day of new beginnings, it is a new year and it is time to celebrate what we have seen God doing in our midst in the past year. God has blessed us with the addition of our monthly Taize service. God has also blessed us with the addition of our new Korean brothers and sisters. God is moving in our lives in exciting and sometimes unexpected ways. Thanks be to God!

God is always doing something new and it is our job to see what it is and then to join God in doing it. This involves a certain amount of risk and may indeed lead to changes in what we do and how we do it. But God is calling us to follow into the future God has planned for us. In Isaiah 43:18-21 God says, “Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. The wild animals will honor me, the jackals and the ostriches; for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people, the people whom I formed for myself so that they might declare my praise.” Are we ready for the new thing God is doing? Are we willing to change and follow God and declare God’s praise? This is both exciting and a little scary, but together with Christ, we can accomplish anything. So let us be bold and be daring and follow where the Holy Spirit leads us.

God is good all the time and all the time God is good! God is going with us into this new year and God will not leave or forsake us.

John Wesley had a covenant prayer that he used to start a new year. It is an opportunity for us to renew our covenant with God. Let us pray this prayer together as we start the new year together:

I am no longer my own, but thine. Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt. Put me to doing, put me to suffering. Let me be employed by thee or laid aside for thee, exalted for thee or brought low for thee. Let me be full, let me be empty. Let me have all things, let me have nothing. I freely and heartily yield all things to thy pleasure and disposal. And now, O glorious and blessed God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, thou art mine, and I am thine. So be it. And the covenant which I have made on earth, let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.

May our new year be filled with following God and seeking to do God’s will!

Grace and Peace,

Wayne



FAITHWORKS THRIFT SHOP

FaithWorks January schedule is as follows: Open: Sat., Jan. 6,
Mon., Jan 8, Closed, Mon., Jan 15, Open Sat., Jan 20,
Mon., Jan. 22 and Mon., Jan. 28

There will be many new items on display Sat., Jan. 6. Valentine items will also be ready for sale.

Please continue to support us by your generous donations. Kitchen items are very popular, as well as jewelry.

Our hours are Monday evenings from 6:30 - 8:30 pm and the first and third Saturdays from 9:00 am - 1:00 pm. Donations are received the hours we are open.

Visit us soon.

COMMUNION STEWARDS NEEDED

OPEN SLOTS THIS YEAR! CALL CAROL CAPUTO 201-265-7177

WESTWOOD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Church Office: (201) 664 – 0755

Hours: Tuesday-Friday 9am-12 noon

E-mail: westwoodumcoffice@gmail.com

Web: www.umc-westwood.org

Facebook: Westwood Church

105 Fairview Avenue, Westwood, NJ 07675-2223

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor: The Reverend Wayne M. Jones

E-mail: revwaysr@msn.com

Office Administrator: Jay Schwartz

Director of Music: E. Joanne Reed

Music Ministry: Bonnie Harley, Robert Harley, Marianne S. Neville

Church Facility: Vanguard Cleaning Systems

Ministers: All Members and Friends of Westwood UMC



BUILDING COMMUNITY IN A DIGITAL WORLD

*NOW ACCEPTING RESERVATIONS

You are invited to a Winter Brunch – Sunday, January 21, 2017
in Wesley Hall – 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM

Food – Fun – Fellowship (Music and More)

*sign – up Sheet in the Narthex,

or contact Bonnie Harley @ 201 666 9729 or bonsmithharley@yahoo.com

Micah 6:8



Justice

Mercy

Humility

MICAH AND MORE

SEEKING A WAY TO PUT MICAH 6: 8 INTO PRACTICE,
USING TODAY'S ISSUES THAT CAUSE US ANGST AS CHRISTIANS,
IN LIGHT OF THE SOCIAL PRINCIPLES OF
THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
AND JESUS' TEACHINGS.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 14 : 4pm – 7pm (OPTIONAL SUPPER)
THE HARLEY'S HOME – 99 PROSPECT AVE., WESTWOOD, NJ

VALENTINES DAY – ASH WEDNESDAY

Having grown up in the Methodist tradition of Northern New Jersey, I had never been offered ashes until about 15 years ago. When I went to the public school on Ash Wednesday we would marvel at our classmates who declared themselves to be Roman Catholic, by wearing ashes on their forehead. Now the ashes are always offered to us United Methodists.

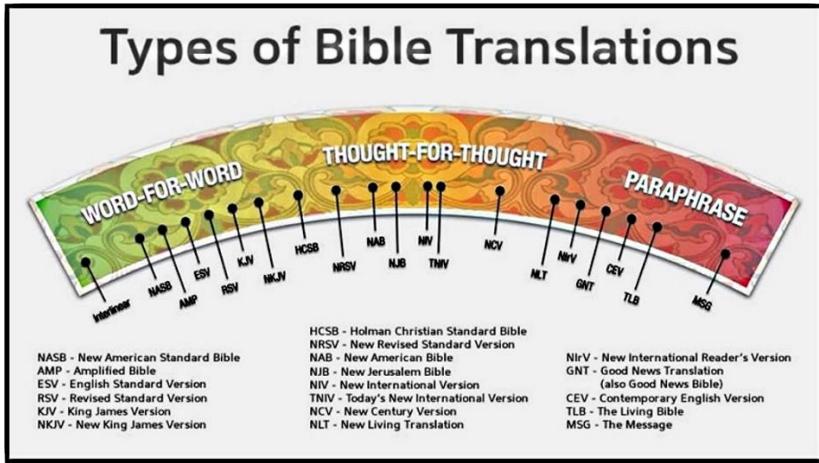
"Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the season of Lent. Lent is a time when many Christians prepare for Easter by observing a period of fasting, repentance, moderation and spiritual discipline.

"Ash Wednesday emphasizes two themes: our sinfulness before God and our human mortality. The service focuses on both themes, helping us to realize that both have been triumphed through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ."

As has been our tradition, we will be celebrating Ash Wednesday with our United Methodist friends at the Hillsdale United Methodist Church, at 7:30 PM.

Submitted by Bonnie Harley, Co-Lay Leader

To Read more, go to <http://www.umc.org/what-we-believe/why-ashes-on-ash-wednesday>



Spiritual decluttering: A fresh start for a new year

“One of the wonderful things about each new year is that it brings with it a sense of a new beginning, 365 days of promise and possibility.” Here are some suggestions of new approaches in our Spiritual Lives....

YOUR PEW: Choosing to worship from a new seat for a season will give you a new perspective—literally.

TIME WASTERS: “John Wesley instructed his pastors to ‘Never trifle away time’ ... “While we may not want to get rid of *all* time-wasters since we need times of rest, there are diversions we could remove and replace with something more beneficial.”

VERSION OF THE BIBLE: “Reading from a different version of the Bible can help bring new life to those passages. A translator’s decision to use one word over another may give you some new insight you hadn’t thought of before.” For easy access to other versions, I highly recommend visiting <https://www.biblegateway.com> .

A DEVOTIONAL : “Devotionals are helpful aids to lead us in Scripture reading and prayer every day, but we can become stuck in a rut with them as well. If you have been using the same book or website for more than a year, you may benefit from trying something different this year” We have several copies of *ABUNDANT LIVING* by E. Stanley Jones. Although (or perhaps *because*) it was printed in 1942, reading it decades after its writing presents a fascinating perspective.

A FAVORITE AUTHOR : Growth often comes from thinking about things from a variety of perspectives. Reading a variety of authors can challenge us to do just that.”

A CLASS OR GROUP : “Try a new class. **Join a group** that discusses [or does] things that interest you.

NEGATIVITY : “Although we do not like to admit it, there are seasons when many of us can fall into patterns of negativity. Discouraged by the news, the theology of others, policies of our denomination, and practices of our congregation can become sources of stress and fodder for complaining.

Removing negativity from our lives and choosing instead to find things to celebrate can lift your spirits and renew your passion for that which matters most. Find where you see the love of Jesus in the world and celebrate it.”

NEW POSSIBILITIES : “The New Year can be one of new experiences in your church and spiritual life. Make room in days ahead for the Holy Spirit to do a new work in you. Then see what happens.”

Bonnie Harley, Co-Lay Leader

TO READ MORE: <http://www.umc.org/what-we-believe/spiritual-decluttering-a-fresh-start-for-a-new-year>

Christmas Decorations

As always, our sanctuary looked lovely this Christmas. The trees, the candles, and the poinsettias all added to the beauty of the sanctuary as we worshiped the Christ Child. We would like to thank all the members of our congregation who donated the poinsettias and contributed \$488 to the Youth Fund.

We would like to thank Don Lewis, Dana Cardullo, and Bob Harley for putting up (and taking down) the trees as well as assembling the Creche. We would also like to thank Sam Chan, Juanita Rowland, Marianne Neville, and Ethel Frey for assisting with the decorating and arranging the poinsettias in the chancel.

In addition to the decorations, we want to thank all the participants in the pageant from the youngest to the oldest for bringing us the wonder of Christ's birth.

--Submitted by Grace Damiano



**Sunday, January 14 at 2 PM
Lebanon Baptist Church of Westwood
20 High Street**



Prayer requests are left on for 4 weeks; you can then resubmit them if you like. Any prayer requests during the week can be added to the prayer concerns list by contacting the church office by Noon, Thursday. 201-664-0755 or e-mail office.

Our Church Family

Ian Brown, Carol Caputo, Rita Dublin, Ethel Frey, Ray Mercado, Bud Heymann

Our Extended Church Family

Bob Fred, son of Gene Myers

Barry Kaplan, friend of Heather Fitzsimmons

Chuck Kerr, friend of Bud Heymann

Molly, dear friend of Carol and Ed Caputo

Bill Morey, cousin of Pastor Wayne

Rins Mongrandi, 95-year old aunt of Judy and Ron Fringuello

Douglas Rowland, son of Juanita Rowland

Tom West, friend of Joanne Reed

Family and friends of Andrew Mullis, friend of Dan Griffen, great grandnephew of Heather Fitzsimmons

Family and friends of Jean L. Barrar, Great-Aunt of Debra and Wayne Jones

Family and friends of Judy Abrams, long-time neighbor of Marianne Neville

Family and friends of Karsten Samuel, cousin of Gene Myers

Family and friends of Carolyn Fred Moseley, sister-in-law of Gene Fred Myers

Our Homebound

Please remember with prayer all those who are now residing in nursing homes or reside out of state and are no longer able to worship with us:

Rita Dublin, Ming Johnson, Lucille Jorgensen, Ray Mercado, Barbara Van Saders, Douglas A & Emly Wilson, Lucille Seeley, Elizabeth Mugford

what's next?

Day	Date	Event	Time
Tuesday	Jan 2	SPRC, at Ron and Judy Fringuello	7:30 pm
Tuesday	Jan 9	Sunrise at Old Tappan	2:00 pm
Tuesday	Jan 9	Trustees, Library	7:00 pm
Wednesday	Jan 10	Prayer and Bible Breakfast, Room 20	9:30 am
Wednesday	Jan 10	Worship Team Meeting, Lounge	7:00 pm
Sunday	Jan 14	MLK Interfaith Service, Lebanon Baptist Church	2:00 pm
Tuesday	Jan 16	Finance Committee, Library	7:30 pm
Sunday	Jan 21	Winter Brunch, Wesley Hall	11:30 am
Wednesday	Jan 24	Taize Service, Rhinesmith Chapel	7:00 pm
Tuesday	Feb 13	Sunrise at Old Tappan	2:00 pm
Wednesday	Feb 14	Prayer and Bible Breakfast, Room 20	9:30 am
Wednesday	Feb 14	Ash Wednesday Service, Hillsdale United	7:30 pm
Wednesday	Feb 21	HGT, Rhinesmith Chapel	11:30 am
Wednesday	Feb 28	Taize Service, Rhinesmith Chapel	7:00 pm

Sunday Service Times

10:00 am - English

7:30 am, 12:00 pm – Korean