

The Wesleyan

Westwood United Methodist Church

"Connecting and Caring"

I am creating something new. There it is! Do you see it? I have put roads in deserts, streams[a] in thirsty lands. (Isaiah 43:19 CEV)

It is the beginning of another new year. It is a time for us to take a look at what we did last year. It is a time to make some decisions about what we want to do differently this year. God is creating something new in our midst. Are we able to see it? Are we willing to join God in doing something new? Have we done a good job of staying connected to Jesus Christ through prayer, reading our bibles and attending worship? Have



we reached out with love to those in need? Have we invited people to join us in worship on Sunday morning? God is calling us to do all of these things. So as we start this new year, let us seek to do a better job at all

of these things.

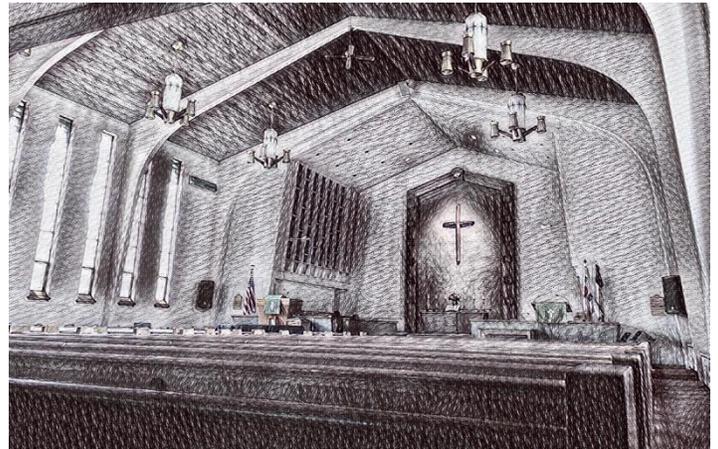
As we move through the first three months of 2019, we will find ourselves moving into the season of Lent. Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent and it occurs on March 6. We will be joining with the Hillsdale UMC for our Ash Wednesday service. Watch the bulletin for details on the service.

God loves us and will never leave us. Therefore we can rejoice no matter what! Thanks be to God!

Grace and Peace,

Wayne

January - March Edition



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

Associate Pastor: Rev. Young Choel Jun

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



Christmas Eve @ Westwood United

Westwood United Methodist Church's Christmas Eve service at 7 pm featured a pageant telling the story of Jesus Christ's birth. This year we were especially blessed to have new born Ella Sandi portray baby Jesus with her mother Mariama as Mary and father Enoch as Joseph. Christina Fitzsimmons, Emily and Charlotte Moy were angels and Seo Chang was a shepherd. The three wisemen featured a father/son: Michael and Dylan Lincoln with Jack Auslander. Narration was done by Jaclyn Auslander. Special thanks to all who participated.



Christmas Decorations

How quickly the Christmas season passes. Many people helped to make our sanctuary beautiful. We would like to thank Don Lewis, Ron and Pam Jenkins for putting up (and taking down) the trees, the wreaths, and seeing that the Star was high in the East. Bob Harley joined them to erect the creche on the lawn. We would also like to thank Pam, Ron, and Brenda Jorgensen for arranging the poinsettias in the chancel. With the music and candlelight of Christmas Eve, it was an emotional moment.



Member Spotlight

Grace Damiano

While not the only nonagenarian on Westwood United's member roll, Grace Damiano may very well be the most active. When not aiding the members of the United Methodist Women, or preparing the floral arrangements for the Sunday worship service, you might find her helping out at the Faithwork's Thrift Shop or attending a Tai Chi class. She is WUMC's version of the Energizer bunny.

Born in Queens Village, NY in 1928, Grace and her family moved to Teaneck, NJ in 1944. That's where she met her husband Bob on a local bus. They were married in 1951. In 1954, they moved to Westwood. While pregnant with their second child, Barbara, they visited Westwood United looking for a good Sunday School for their eldest, David, and met Pastor Jack Rhinesmith. After Pastor Jack visited them at their house, and again at Holy Name Hospital during their daughter's birth, they were hooked.



Through the years, the church has been a big part of her life. At one point she and Bob even taught Sunday School. She has many fond memories of her days here including:

- The Harvest festivals of the early 2000's. "The group effort was inspiring". She loved "making candy" for the event.
- The Confirmations. "There were so many back then, and they were always crowded. Once I arrived late and the only room to sit was on the steps of the upper level."

Over sixty years a member, despite the passing of her beloved Bob in 2015, she remains a welcome fixture most Sundays here at Westwood United.

what's next?

Day	Date	Event
Sunday	January 20	MLK Service, Mount Zion
Saturday	February 2	District Day of Learning
Wednesday	February 6	UMW Program
Saturday	February 9	Church Council
Wednesday	March 6	Ash Wednesday



WESTWOOD

United Methodist Women Program

Wed., February 6, 1 PM.

"Sigma Free Christians: Seeing the Person, not the Illness or Shortcomings"

When we deal with people, we assess who they are, where we fit with them, and how we can relate to them. As the Church, how can we encourage healing and wholeness, while making allowances for differences - even in regard to those whose lives have been touched by addiction, suicide, mental health disorders, sexual orientation, or other factors that appear to set folks apart from the majority in a group?

GAMES and GRUB WESLEY HALL

Saturday, January 26th
Saturday, February 9th

4 PM – 9 PM

*SUPPER at 6PM

ALL WELCOME! – ALL AGES!

COME when you can, LEAVE when you like.... If the afternoon suits you best, come then. If the evening suits you best, come then... Some of us will be there the entire time, ready for challengers in table games, card games, puzzles, active games, Ping



Pong and Shuffle Board. But PLEASE bring your sense of FUN and any game you prefer! CRAFTS will also be WELCOME and AVAILABLE..

*SUPPER – POT LUCK AND TAKE OUT.... (To be decided)

Opportunity Knocks

A NEW class will be offered on Sundays, March 17, 24, 30, April 7, 28 and May 5. These sessions will be at 4 PM in the Church, and be led by Pastor Wayne Jones, assisted by Bonnie Harley.

A Disciple's Path is an engaging approach to discipleship from a distinctly Wesleyan perspective. The six-week program guides individuals to take the next step in discipleship and become dynamic followers of Jesus Christ and engaged, vital members of the local church.

Participants will develop spiritual practices, discover their unique gifts, and become engaged in ministry that brings transformation in their own lives, the lives of others, and the world.

All are welcome, whether you have been a Methodist for decades, or if you are new to Methodism. Please save the dates, as you are able.



Sunrise of Old Tappan Afternoon Service

Pastor: Wayne M. Jones

The 2nd Tuesday of every month

2:00 pm

195 Old Tappan Road

Old Tappan, NJ 07675

Taize Service

Sometimes we need to unwind, to slow down, disconnect from our technology, and spend time in a sacred space, apart from the worries and pressures of Life. The TAIZE service offers this time apart to the participants, in a candle lit environment of music, prayer, meditation, and silence. This midweek informal service is held every FOURTH



WEDNESDAY, from 7:30 – 8 PM in the Rhinesmith Chapel, near the Bergen Street entrance. Come early and join us for an optional light meal from 7 until 7:30 in the room across from the Chapel. Services will be held on January 23rd, February 27th, and March 27th.

Please consider sending a card or note to one of our homebound:

Rita Dublin
Tappan Zee Manor, Suite 223, 51 Mountainside Avenue, Nyack, NY 10960

Lucille R. Jorgensen
Promenade at Blue Hill, 582 Veterans Memorial Drive, Pearl River, NY 10965-3209

Ray Mercado
40 Sycamore Avenue, Hillsdale, NJ 07642

Looking Past the Stained Glass

Think for a minute about the first thing you do when you get home from church.

We like to get comfortable.

In our “Let Me Show You” video, the church service is over. The people who have helped are finishing up their tasks. Congregants are leaving. The pastor and another man are cleaning up from communion.

Poor pastor, though. Everyone has a comment: “Are you going to that coffee house?” “We need new microphones.” “We need a giant hi-def screen across the front.” “Thanks for using pita bread for communion.” “I hate pita bread” (via text). “Our logo is old ... and so is the carpet.” “We are voting on a new chandelier today in the finance committee meeting.” And on and on.

A woman approaches the pastor about a demographic study that shows the church demographics don’t match the makeup of the neighborhood.

Finally, he smiles. “Let me show you something,” he replies.

The church’s coffee house ministry meets on Sunday too. As the pastor enters, he sees the some of the same people who were “concerned” about the microphones and logos sitting in the coffee house, interacting with people from the neighborhood, sharing smiles and conversation with the servers, sitting around tables and in overstuffed chairs. They look happy and comfortable.

As we look past our stained glass, what do we see? In this case, there is a beautiful world of people of different sizes, colors, ethnicities and interests. I doubt anyone is arguing about the color of the walls or the lighting. If I drink my coffee black and you take a gingerbread spiced mocha latte with extra whipped cream, I’m not judging!

This is what it can look like when the church goes outside the building. They are taking Jesus outside the walls and the stained glass and showing their neighbors what he is like. For people who don’t know him, these church members *are* Jesus.

Jesus Christ is looking past the stained glass and seeing all the people. I pray that you will do the same.

Coming next time: Always mention the intention

Praying that you will see all the people he loves,

Rev. Junius B. Dotson
General Secretary
Discipleship Ministries
The United Methodist Church