



# GOOD NEWS FROM YOUR CHURCH

The Newsletter of The Presbyterian Church at Woodbury

February 6, 2019  
Volume 56, Issue 3

## SUNDAY

February 10, 2019

9:30 A.M.

**WORSHIP SERVICE**

11:00 A.M.

**CHURCH SCHOOL**

12:00 -2:00 P.M.

**Club J Movie**

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## SUNDAY

February 17, 2019

9:30 A.M.

**WORSHIP SERVICE**

11:00 A.M.

**CHURCH SCHOOL for  
adults only**

3:00 PM

**Vision Meeting**

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## COMMUNITY DINNER

*5 Year Anniversary!*

*Thursday,  
February 14<sup>th</sup>  
5:30 P.M.*



*Join the church and  
community for a time of  
delicious food and fellowship.*

**GWCM FOOD PANTRY** is collecting laundry detergent through the month of February (no pods). Thank you!

### *From the Pastor...*

Old Testament Professor Walter Brueggemann proclaims that “We live in a society that would like to bracket out money and possessions from ultimate questions. The Bible insists otherwise. It insists that the issues of ultimacy are questions about money and possessions. Biblical testimony invites a serious reconsideration of the ways in which our society engages or does not engage questions of money and possessions as carriers of social possibility.” As long as we continue to engage in the offering as merely a financial ask for the church’s vitality, we disregard the call to discipleship that requires us to see money and possessions as a disruptive force for change in ourselves and the world.

*Pastor Larissa Kwong Abazia argues that we must rid ourselves of a few myths:*

**Myth #1: What you possess is due to the success of the work of your own hands.** Need we be reminded who created each one of us, who claimed us in our mother’s womb before we drew our first breaths? We cannot celebrate being created and called by God, yet avoid the required response to give back what was never ours in the first place.

**Myth #2: Offering and stewardship are primarily about maintaining, sustaining, or building a legacy.** A budget should neither define the life of the church nor its endowments or investments be solely about its own future. It ultimately reflects what we value and where we place our trust (consider looking at the church budget through this lens at the next meeting!). Withholding the money and possessions of the congregation risks keeping us from the exact neighborhoods in which our faith communities reside. We must stop utilizing the first fruits of what we collect for the church, giving only scraps out after our needs are determined.

**Myth #3: Offering is what we give inside the walls of the church.** We need to act as though what we do inside the church has the power to transform how we live outside of the walls; the concept of giving does not stop at the offering plate but involves every way that we choose to use or cling to our money and possessions.

**Myth #4: Offering is just about money and finances.** Racism, sexism, other-ing, assumptions, and hierarchies impact our engagement with and participation in Christian life together. We are called to a different kind of community: a diverse gathering of people who create a new lifestyle together. So, when our churches say, “All are welcome,” it means that the visitor and stranger transform us, not the other way around. It also means that those who have power, privilege, and authority must share and/or utilize these possessions for the good of the whole.

What would happen if money and possessions were seen as disruptive forces of change for the church and people of faith? We would see Christ in every face and respond with hospitality, generosity, and love. We would acknowledge the truth that, if the marginalized remain in our midst, our money and possessions continue to oppress the exact neighbors we are called to care for and love. My prayer is that we would live out God’s care and love using our money and possessions!

In Christ,  
Phil

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**SOUPER BOWL OF CARING** total was \$724.00 All money donated gets divided between the Greater Woodbury Cooperative Ministries Food Bank and the Community Dinner Fund. **THANK YOU** for your donations!



## SNL CONTEMPORARY SERVICE

Saturday, February 9<sup>th</sup>

at 7:00 pm.

*“God is in Control  
in the Midst of Chaos”*

All are invited to come worship and support the youth of our church!

**2¢ A MEAL** will be collected on February 17<sup>th</sup>.

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS:

### Winter Block 1 -Adult Sunday School

**HARD QUESTIONS:** As followers of Jesus Christ, we cannot expect life to be perfect or good all the time. During those times, there will be questions that we ask and seek answers for. Please join us for the last two sessions:  
Feb. 10 What is God's purpose for me?  
Feb. 17 What is Heaven like?



### LENTEN STUDIES:

#### WEDNESDAY NIGHT LENTEN STUDY ENOUGH:

##### GOD'S BLESSINGS IN ABUNDANCE

*(See full description on page 4)*

Join us on Wednesday evenings **March 13 – April 17** from 6:00 - 8:00 pm in the chapel for this Lenten study about recognizing what we have been given, and how we need to see the ways that God's blessings sustain us.

#### SUNDAY LENTEN STUDY MARK'S GOOD NEWS

*"The beginning of the Good News of Jesus Christ, the Son of God." (Mark 1:1)*

*(See full description on following page)*

March 10: The Gospel and Repentance  
March 17: The Gospel and Authority  
March 24: The Gospel and Money  
March 31: The Gospel and the Nations  
April 7: The Gospel and Suffering  
April 14: The Gospel and Worship

#### CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE:

Lenten Block: March 10 - April 14  
Spring Block: May 5, May 19, June 2

**SPRING WOMEN'S RETREAT:** April 26-28<sup>th</sup> at Johnsonburg Camp and Retreat Center. *"Resilience for the Fearfully and Wonderfully Made"*, led by Rev. Dr. Tracy Mehr-Muska. Cost: \$170 for semi-private room, \$210 for Private room and includes 2 nights lodging and six meals. For more information and to register online, visit [www.campjburg.org](http://www.campjburg.org) or see Kristen Franchetti if you have questions. Scholarships are available.

**Lenten Service Project:** This year again we will be doing personal Hygiene kits for the Community Food Pantry. The slips will be out this Sunday. Please help us with tagging a few slips and having the hygiene items back by March 10<sup>th</sup>. We have a goal for 100 bags. Everyone pitched in and did such a fantastic job last year; so thank you for your continued help.

**THANK YOU!!** To the congregation: Rose and I extend our deepest thanks and gratitude to all of you for your thoughts, prayers, cards, calls and well wishes as I am recovering from hip replacement surgery. You have been such a force of strength, motivation and comfort. Hope to be back working soon.

God bless, Milt

**SAVE THE DATE:** The annual Goepel Memorial Pancake Brunch will be on Sunday, April 28<sup>th</sup>.

**REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:** Milt Fredericks, Richard Hill, Fred Petri, Florence Hillman, Anita Corbin, Alex Jenei, Florence Meyer, Fred Davis, Emma Mustard, Brian Praetzel, Meg Lolly, Dorothy VanHorn, Amelia Exley, Meghan Orem, Judy Fetty, and Marie Batten. A reminder to keep our military personnel in your prayers, including Jonathan Gabler, Nathan Wadding, Cameron Wadding, Jarrod Fetty, and Wesley Tatham.

**YOUTH 30 HR. FAMINE.** Friday, February 22- Saturday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>. This year's event is being held at Wenonah Memorial Presbyterian Church.

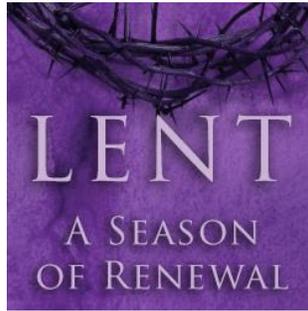
#### ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK: FEBRUARY 10 - 16, 2019

Sunday:	8:45 AM	Choir Rehearsal
	9:00 AM	Prayer Room 3
	9:30 AM	Worship Service
	10:45 AM	Children's Choir
	11:00 AM	Church School for all ages
	12:00 PM	Club J Movie
Monday:	10:00 AM	Pitman Bible Study
	6:30 PM	Girl Scouts
Tuesday:	7:00 PM	Trustees
	6:30 PM	Cub Scouts
Wednesday:	10:00 AM	Staff Meeting
	6:30 PM	Cub Scouts
Thursday:	5:30 PM	Community Dinner
	6:30 PM	Cub Scouts

#### ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK: FEBRUARY 17 - 24, 2019

Sunday:	8:45 AM	Choir Rehearsal
	9:00 AM	Prayer Room 3
	9:30 AM	Worship Service
	11:00 AM	Church School – <b>ADULTS only</b>
	3:00 PM	Vision Meeting
	7:00 PM	Cub Scout's Meeting
Monday:	6:30 PM	Girl Scouts
	7:00 PM	Session
Tuesday:	10:00 AM	Women's Association Workshop
	1:00 PM	60+ Small Group
Wednesday:	6:30 PM	Cub Scouts
	8:00 AM	Men's Breakfast
	10:00 AM	Staff Meeting
	6:30 PM	Cub Scouts
Thursday:	6:30 PM	Cub Scouts
		Youth 30-Hr Famine
Friday:		Youth 30-Hr Famine
Saturday:		Youth 30-Hr Famine
Sunday:	8:45 AM	Choir Rehearsal
	9:00 AM	Prayer Room 3
	9:30 AM	Worship Service
	10:45 AM	Children's Choir





**SUNDAY LENTEN STUDY  
MARK'S GOOD NEWS**

**“The beginning of the Good News of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.” (Mark 1:1)**

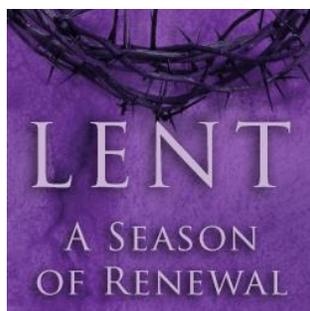
Since we are unable to rescue ourselves, God became a human being, in the form of Jesus of Nazareth, and lived a sinless life. Jesus was sentenced to death, and as He hung nailed to the cross, all our sin and its consequences were placed on Him, and He died. But death could not hold Him, and three days later, He rose from the dead. After this, He ascended into heaven, with the promise that one day He will return and right all wrongs. All who decide that Jesus is who He said He was—the one who rescued us from being separated from God—are made right with God forever, being welcomed immediately and unconditionally as God’s children. This is the essence of the Gospel – the GOOD NEWS.

This Good News seems especially important given today’s social climate. As was true two thousand years ago, people are looking for hope wherever they can find it. God created us to find our hope in Him, to give ourselves over to and lose ourselves in Him. Unfortunately, because of sin, we are experts at replacing God with other things. Perpetually caught up in a battle for our hearts and minds, we are weary and lost, and we find it entirely all too easy to give in to our lesser nature—sometimes without realizing we have done so. But God, through Jesus, has sought us out, found us, and calls us to Himself.

During Lent, we are seeking to hear that call, and respond to God in thought, word, and deed. To that end, we are focusing on six themes related to the Gospel of Jesus Christ and our response to His Good News:

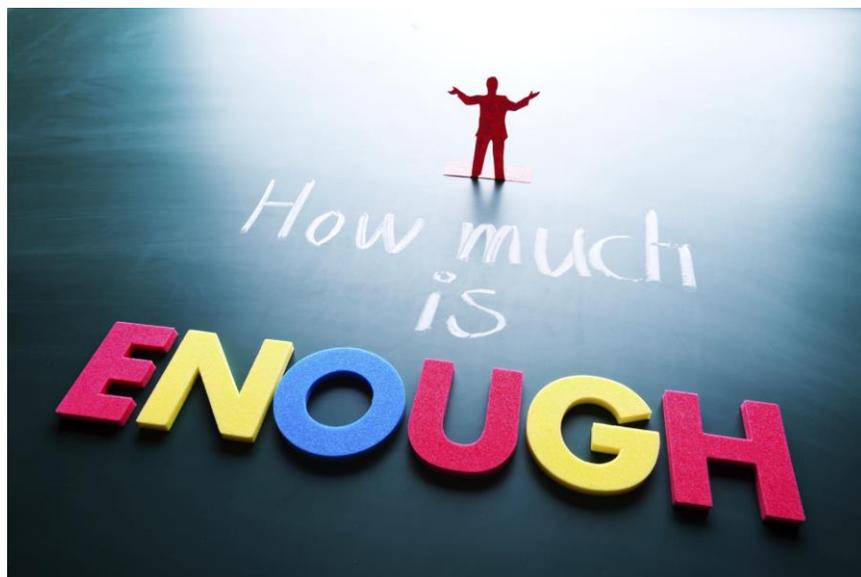
- Week 1: The Gospel and Repentance ~MARCH 10
- Week 2: The Gospel and Authority ~MARCH 17
- Week 3: The Gospel and Money ~MARCH 24
- Week 4: The Gospel and the Nations ~MARCH 31
- Week 5: The Gospel and Suffering ~APRIL 7
- Week 6: The Gospel and Worship ~APRIL 14

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT LENTEN STUDY



### ENOUGH: GOD'S BLESSINGS IN ABUNDANCE

Most of us think we do not have enough – of just about everything! We live everyday with this reality. In this insightful study, we are challenged to rethink this impulse. We are led to look at what is really most important to have in life – God's blessings, which are in abundance. Through the parables of Jesus and other biblical materials, we will explore dimensions of what it means to have enough. Join us on **Wednesday evenings from 6:00pm-8:00pm** in the chapel for this Lenten study about recognizing what we have been given, and how we need to see the ways that God's blessings sustain us.



- March 13- We Don't Have Enough
- March 20- Becoming Unbound from Fears of Not Enough
- March 27- Enough to Make a Difference
- April 3- Enough for Transformational Giving
- April 10- Enough Is Good for the Body
- April 17- How Much Is Enough to Leave Our Children