



GOOD NEWS FROM YOUR CHURCH

The Newsletter of The Presbyterian Church at Woodbury

January 20, 2021
Volume 58, Issue 2

SUNDAY

January 24, 2021

9:30 A.M.

WORSHIP SERVICE
In-Person and
Virtual Worship Service

SUNDAY

January 31, 2021

9:30 A.M.

WORSHIP SERVICE
In-Person and
Virtual Worship Service

THE ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL/ CORPORATION MEETING

of the
Presbyterian Church
at Woodbury
will be held on

**Sunday, January 31, 2021
at 10:30 am**

The purpose of the Meeting is to receive the 2020 Annual Reports and approve the Terms of Call for the Pastor. All members are reminded to be present (in person or via zoom) for this important meeting of the church.

2020 ANNUAL REPORTS will be emailed out to members.

FROM OUR YOUTH DIRECTOR:

We made it to 2021! I wanted to write an update to everyone and let you all know how my first semester at Princeton Theological Seminary went. This semester was a challenge for sure. I had to adjust to being a student again after an eight-year break as a scholar. I was also trying to adjust to living in a new city and apartment. Third floor living is nice, except when you need to take the trash out or take in groceries from your car. However, my biggest adjustment by far was isolation.

Isolation can be beneficial at times. We often choose to isolate ourselves with God in times of prayer. After all, Jesus demonstrated for us through his wandering in the wilderness and his prayers in the garden of Gethsemane how when he was truly listening for God's direction, he was alone. However, as many people across the country have experienced this year with the pandemic, too much isolation can lead to overwhelming feelings of depression. In my case, this was what I experienced. Being in a new apartment in a new city, yet not being able to interact or socialize with anyone except on a screen, was very difficult for me. I'm a people person. If I wasn't, I probably wouldn't be pursuing Chaplaincy in the first place. So, to go days on end without physically seeing another person became very difficult for me. It was because of this that I decided to move back home in October. I knew I needed to be around people again for me to be able to fully concentrate on my studies.

Academically, I enjoyed most of my

courses. "Introduction to Old Testament" and "Pastor as a Person" were my favorite classes for the semester. Greek has been a struggle, but I am happy to report that I made it through all of my classes for the semester. Again, the hardest part has been not really being able to build connections with fellow seminarians outside of a computer screen. There are no in-person lunch meetings, study groups, or even chapel services for us to bond with. When you are going through such a unique experience as seminary, having people around who have been through the same experiences as you, are invaluable. Most of us feel cheated from our seminary experience, as the only opportunity we have to share and grow with each other is through a screen.

As I move into my second semester, I am so thankful at how God has seen me through that dark valley. I am feeling more prepared for the academic expectations and feeling much more confident this time around as I know now that I did it before and can do it again, with God's help. I am grateful to have learned more about myself as a person and how I can better balance my studies and self-care time. I am most looking forward to my "Resilience, Religion, and Vulnerability" class this semester. I am also excited to begin an internship in care ministry with Woodstown Presbyterian Church. I thank you all for your continued prayers and support through this entire seminary process.

Blessings,
Becky Schad
Youth Director

ADULT SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY:

How would you like to have a practical way to keep your New Year's Resolutions? Join us the first Sunday in January for our new series "Developing Christian Character" a 12-week study featuring teaching by Dr. RC Sproul and discussion led by David Platt. Topics covered will include: the struggle for Christian growth, righteousness, the practice of love, joy, peace, long suffering, kindness, goodness, faith, meekness, and self-control. If you would like to grow in these areas in 2021 please join us on Sundays at 10:30 in the sanctuary.

APPORTIONMENT: The first offering envelope in the box is for the Per Capita offering. This offering of \$37.00 per person (\$74.00 per couple) helps offset the Per Capita Apportionment. If each member donates their share, over \$9,500 would be freed up for church programs and Mission use.

 **STAR GIFTS:** As we enter our Tricentennial celebration, "star gifts" were available at church last Sunday and also mailed out last week to each church family. A star gift is simply a star-shaped piece of brightly colored paper with a word printed on it. You are asked to reflect on that word for the coming year. You are invited to ponder what significance this word might have in your life, and how God might be speaking to you through this simple message. Often the words seem very timely, as if they were indeed designated for the recipient. It is this sense of providence and wondering how God might be working through this simple process that reminds us of God's presence throughout the year. If you have not received your star, please contact the church office and let us know.



2021

300th Anniversary Speakers

February 7

Rev. Dr. Martha Moore-Keish
J.B. Green Professor of Theology
Columbia Theological Seminary

March 7

Rev. Dr. Mouris A. Yousef
Blackwood Presbyterian Church
Blackwood, NJ

April 4 Music/Art EASTER

Rev. Dr. Deborah Brincivalli
West Jersey Presbytery

2¢-A MEAL DONATIONS will be collected during the month of February. If attending church, please bring your coins in and drop them in the soup pot. We are not participating in Souper Bowl this year, but if you'd like to make a donation, we will make sure it gets to the Food Bank. You can also mail your donations to the church.

You Can't Have Too Many Prayers:

One of the ministries we have been blessed with over the years is our prayer chain. Each week they receive the prayers of the people from the list on Sunday, and they pray for those folks throughout the week. We are reaching out to all, the young, those who may have just joined the church, men, and those who may feel they are not sure how to pray but are willing to learn to join our Prayer Chain. If interested give me a call 423-5692, drop me an email miltrose@comcast.net or call the church office. Thanks be to God.

Milt Fredericks, Lay Pastor of Congregational Care

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS: Wendy Kunz in Shady Lane Rehab, Larry Diehlman, Chuck Dahmer, Wendy Kunz, Al Edwards, Geri Petri, Meg Orem, Charlotte Nelson, Janet Muhm, Judy Fetty, Emma Mustard, Alex Jenei, 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.

FOOD BANK DONATIONS: A reminder that there is always a mad rush to donate food items and clothing for Christmas; but the need doesn't stop on December 25th. There is still a pandemic, it is still winter and the need will probably continue to grow. Let us all resolve in 2021 to step up our mission and outreach to this vital ministry.

