



## *The United Methodist Church of Port Washington*

*September 2017 – Newsletter*

35 Middle Neck Rd 516-883-1430

[www.umcpw.org](http://www.umcpw.org) [umcpw@verizon.net](mailto:umcpw@verizon.net)

*I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm,  
to give you a future with hope. - Jeremiah 29:11*

Dear Friends in Jesus Christ,

We have spent about two months together, but some of us may still wonder what the future months and years will bring. Some of us are hopeful, others may have questions, and yet others may be too busy with responsibilities and life in general to even worry about this. After all, summer is officially over and now it's back to our busy schedules. But you know how it goes, busy or not, at times we forget about the relationship that our Lord Jesus Christ has with us and a people united through God, and we find ourselves clinging to that last moment of rest before the workweek begins on Monday morning. Yet I cannot think of a better way to rest and renew ourselves than to be part of an active worship experience. Pastor David and I would like for a worship service to be the best it can be, whether it is a traditional worship service or a contemporary worship service – we want it to be an uplifting experience for as many people as it can be; we do not want it to be boring and sad or something that's done just because, but it takes a communal effort to ensure that.

As Pastor David and I find ourselves becoming settled in the community where we are serving, as we are learning more about one another and people in our area who share connections with our local church here in Port, we hope that The United Methodist Church of Port Washington can be a place where we all can once again worship and serve as one people. There is always a future that must be written with all of Christ's body united together. We look forward to helping write this new chapter with each of you in the coming years. And there's good news here! Our Lord speaks to our endeavors with a promise: "I know the plans I have for you – to give you a future with hope."

God reassures us of the meaningful future, which is a gift from God. This future is shaped by hope for a better tomorrow and for fuller, more connected relationships within the community in which God has placed our church and each one of us. And so God, always having things under control – even those we do not, our God is present with each one of us and in this place of worship as we consider our future days and implement our ministries.

Through the upcoming weeks we hope to meet you, talk to you, and get to know you better, whether in worship, during a visit or a church sponsored event, or a chance encounter in a store or a restaurant. Pastor David and I truly believe that God has great things in store for this body of faith, and that together we can realize this goal and work with each other to make wonderful things happen in our community. Because God has plans, plans for our welfare, not for harm; plans to give us a future with hope. You can rest assured – as summer winds down, we know and learn again and in new ways that our Lord is here, walking with us every step of the way. Thanks be to God!

Grace and peace, Pastor Romi Abelova  
Beloveds,

Peace be with you from God who has created us, sustains us, and redeemed us. It is hard to believe it has already been two months since moving to Port Washington! The kids are gearing up for school – and in our household, so are the parents!

I guess it is safe for one to say that September really begins a time where we fall back into a routine. And if you are like me, you tend not to like surprises, especially for a birthday. I just want it to come and go quietly with a nice chocolate cake and maybe a promise of a day where I can sneak away and go fishing.

Because surprises mess up a routine.

But as I sit and ponder, would I rather church be a routine or full of surprises? I looked up synonyms for routine and they are as follows: dull, tedious, mundane, predictable, hum drum with the lone antonym in the list being exciting! Do I want Sunday worship to come and go quietly with a nice coffee cake and a quiet week in the church office, or would I love to be surprised by an exciting and energetic worship experience, lively music, a great feeling atmosphere, and a place where I know I can come and share what is weighing me down and be loved anyways?

You know what, I think I know which one these preachers prefer!

Sisters and brothers, we are in this together, so let's surprise each other! Let's continue on this journey to deepen our faith so we may more devotedly go out into this mission field we call the world to show our faith to others through our words, thoughts, and actions. Let's continue to make our worships exciting (traditional and contemporary) and show this community, our Hamlet of Port Washington, that the Spirit of God fills this place, nourishes our souls, and sends us out into the world on fire and filled with the passion of our Lord.

I pray the Holy Spirit will surprise us out of complacency and stir in us the fervor we need to carry out God's work in this beautiful creation we've been tasked with looking after.

May the blessings of God surround all of ya'll,  
Pastor David

---

## **Blessing of the Children and their Backpacks & Sundae Sunday September 10**



Kids are invited to bring their backpacks for school to church to be blessed during the children's message along with the collected school supplies.



## Backpacks and School Supplies

– We are taking donations for our local school. Look for an updated list of needed supplies after September 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Check out our new website!**

[www.umcpw.org](http://www.umcpw.org)

**Podcasts of Sermon, blogs, and upcoming events.**



[www.facebook.com/groups/umcpw/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/umcpw/)



Brothers and sisters in Christ, **hospitality hour volunteers** are needed.

It does not have to be difficult or expensive.

Keurigs are in place and members are encouraged to bring pods. A coffee cake, cookies and grapes are the simple route and very manageable for most.

Please see Diane Burton or Susan Oliva for help or questions, or sign up with a friend!

Thank you.

## From the Music Director:

The first Chancel Choir rehearsal of the 2017-18 season will be in the sanctuary on Wednesday evening, September 6, at 7:30, and will end at 9:00. In our first meeting, we will be joined by Dorothy Kim and some older children to rehearse

a special anthem to be performed on Sunday, September 10. After that... we'll be working on music for World Communion Sunday, Reformation Sunday, Thanksgiving, The Reign of Christ Sunday, and all the Sundays leading up to Advent and Christmas. (The fun never stops!)

## Upcoming Meetings:

Friday, September 22 @ 2 pm – Finance

Monday, September 25 @ 7:30 pm – Trustees

Tuesday, September 26 @ 7:30 pm – Church Council

Sunday, November 12 after worship – Charge Conference with DS Julia Yim

We're looking for new voices this year: oldsters and high school students, and everyone in between. You may not be looking to deepen your relation to the church, or to make new friends, but that might happen. You may not be looking to increase your knowledge of scripture, or of the power of poetry, but that might happen. You may not expect to have much fun, but that might happen. Just bring your voice and a willingness to learn something new... and see what happens!

---

## Notes from our summer Sunday school:

This summer we have been focused on the first book of the Bible, Genesis. We've learned a lot about the early Christians and our church history. We've laughed and talked and shared our thoughts about what it means to really believe and become Christians. We have laughed and sung and played games, colored and glued-and created art.

We donated Sunday school supplies to our mission in Jamaica. We celebrated a visit from the director of our mission breakfast program in Jamaica and gave her much gratitude and recognition for her daily hard work feeding God's lambs.

We have new staff helping us in the nursery and we plan on having two Sunday school classes as well. Our fall season will begin with a super ice cream Sundae Sunday. Hoping everyone will join us on September 10 after our worship service. Let's share our summer vacation adventures with each other. Let's start our Fall with joy and hope that our Sunday school and our church will grow in peace and confidence and unity as we strive to follow Jesus.

---



## Fall Book Study with Pastor David

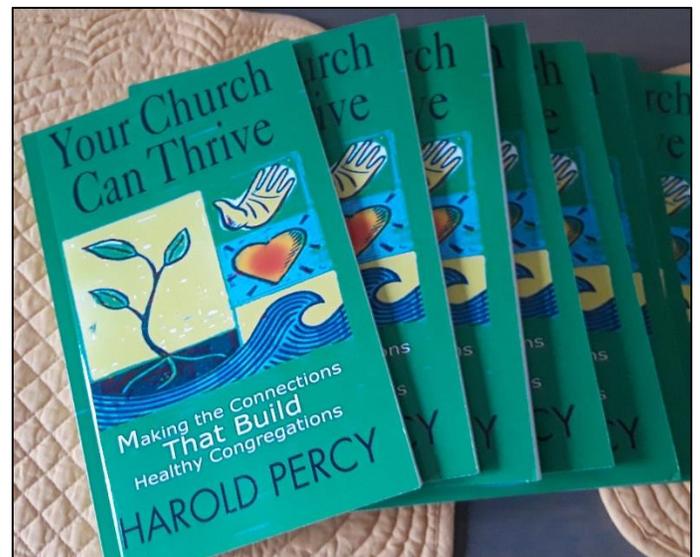
Starting September 11 for six weeks

7:30 pm @ UMCPW

If you are interested, please pick up a copy of the book in the church office and sign the sheet so we know who has a book.

### September Birthdays

1-Jeff Kovner  
3-Chris Hirschberg  
5-Sandy Cardello  
17-Rick Grove  
20-Marian Brower  
25-Thea Kitley  
25-David Collins  
30-Violet Ortenzi



## TRY SOMETHING NEW!

Everyone is invited to our **Contemporary Worship Service** here at UMCPW **every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday at 5pm**. This service began in September 2016 and the feedback has been very positive. The atmosphere is welcoming and informal and the meaningful music, uplifting spirit and inspirational messages will stay with you during the week. We are very excited to have Pastor David lead the service and welcome his guidance and creativity as we focus on making a positive difference in our lives and within the community. There's something for everyone - so whether you have young children and have a difficult time attending a church service on Sunday morning due to sports, activities, and social commitments, or you're just looking for another way to connect with God, TRY SOMETHING NEW by making worship part of *your* Saturday evening plans. Come join us...and bring a friend!



**THE NEXT SERVICE  
IS SATURDAY,  
SEPTEMBER 9th AT  
5PM**

Peace and Justice was the theme in October and we collected over 80 pounds of food which was donated to the Long Island Council of Churches Food Pantry in Freeport

---

**SUBMISSIONS FOR OCTOBER NEWSLETTER NEED TO  
BE IN BY SEPTEMBER 25**

The UMC of Port Washington  
35 Middle Neck Rd  
Port Washington, NY 11050