



The United Methodist Church of Port Washington

December 2017 – Newsletter

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Dear Friends in Jesus Christ,

It's the most wonderful time of the year! A time of holiday cheer, music, and celebrations. A time of family get-togethers, social gatherings, and parties. A time of giving, a time of sharing, a time of reflecting on the past year – what it brought, how it changed us, how we grew.

And in this most wonderful time of the year, family newsletters and Christmas greetings are expected to be “holly-jolly,” underscoring the joy of the season – it may even be part of the etiquette, who knows. Life, though, as we all know, is not always “holly-jolly.” It has its struggles, its hard questions, its complications and challenges. The Scripture shows us that the life of a Holy Infant, Jesus, was no exception. This can't be emphasized enough, especially during the most wonderful time of the year – the season that means different things to each one of us. For some, it's truly that most wonderful time of the year. For others, it's the busiest time of the year. Yet for others, it's the time of reflection and prayer, a time when you smile through your tears and give thanks for things you have yet to understand.

Because life has its moments – moments that are challenging, moments that shake our confidence, moments when what we worked hard for falls apart right in front of our eyes. Yet the harder the moment, the stronger we experience the shepherding presence and faithfulness of God – through our families and friends near and far, and through the continual support and prayers of one another. In Jesus Christ – the Holy Infant whom we celebrate this and every season – we are sisters, brothers, mothers, and fathers to one another. What a gift! Why not to claim it, enjoy it, draw strength from it, embrace it? We are certainly welcome to.

Truthfully, it's the most wonderful time of the year! A time of reflecting on the past months – what they brought, how they changed us, how we grew. A time to say thank you, our friends in Jesus Christ, for the prayers spoken for us and for all your help, support, and care. And most certainly also a time to give thanks to our Lord Savior whose life has brought forth wholeness, life, and healing for all willing to receive these extraordinary gifts. It's the most wonderful time of the year, because to us a Savior is born, who is the Messiah, the Healing Hands, the Caring Embrace, the Shepherding Presence, and the Lord (*Luke 2:11*).

To your families from ours: Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, and Blessings of the Holy Infant accompany you this and every season, joyful or tearful, good or harsh.

Grace and peace,

Pastors David and Romi

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!

Bible Study on the Gospel According to Mark is taking place on Tuesday mornings at 10:00 am in the Parlor. Pastor Romi is leading this Bible Study.

Hi All,

As some of you may already know, we have our new website up and running at our original web address, <https://UMCPW.org>. When you have some time, please take a look. We have already added some new features:

- [Sermon Podcasts](#), where you can listen to a sermon you may have missed on your Computer, phone or tablet.
- [“From our Pastors - Blog”](#) An opportunity to share insights with our new pastors.
- Join our Facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1408259235935038/>
- Leave us your review on Yelp: <https://www.yelp.com/biz/united-methodist-church-of-port-washington-port-washington>

We sincerely hope you will like what you see, and, if you do, please share this with a friend. Please let me know if there is something you would like us to add or change.

Regards, Doug Weston

December Birthdays

1-Lois Weston
2-Lee Fertitta
2-Dominique Marchenoir
8-Karen Bloom
13-Diandra Burton
19-Melanie Hirschberg
20-Doug Weston
25-Paula Johnson
25-Kim Rosenbaum

Laundry Love



UMCPW is participating in the PW Clergy Association’s ministry called Laundry Love. Laundry Love is a program that works in partnership with individuals, groups and local laundromats throughout the United States to help wash the clothing and bedding of individuals and families who are living in poverty. It began when a homeless man in Ventura, CA was asked, “How can we come alongside your life in a way that would matter?” and he answered, “If I had clean clothes, I think people would treat me like a human being.”

While we have a small homeless population in Port, our target population are those in our community who struggle financially. By providing funds for laundry, we allow low-income families to save their money for basic needs such as food and rent.

Our first Laundry Love was Thursday, November 16th. Around \$350 worth of laundry was paid for from this mission.

The clergy association received a \$1500 grant to serve as “seed money,” but additional funds are needed. If you would like to donate your time and/or money to this new ministry, see Pastor David, Pastor Romi, or Maureen Peraza.



FIRST ANNUAL COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS EVENT

**Sunday, December 17th
4:00 pm till 6:00 pm**



SPECIAL COMPLIMENTARY ACTIVITIES INCLUDED

- * Cookie Decorating Station *
- * Ornament Making Station *
- * Marshmallow Roasting Station *
- * Tractor Rides with Santa Claus *
- * Christmas Concert in the Sanctuary *
- * Hot Cocoa and Hot Cider *
- * Tree Lighting at 5:30 pm *

Santa Claus will be available for pictures with your camera!

**United Methodist Church
35 Middle Neck Road, Port Washington**



LEFT: All Saints' Sunday November 5, 2017 - Pastor David after reading the names of all our loved ones who have entered into glory. The altar table is lit with candles brought in by those remembering a loved one.

RIGHT: The altar decorated for the Sunday before Thanksgiving. A special thanks to Linda and Neville Newby for their time and dedication on continuing this tradition.



LEFT: The Children's Choir performs for worship on November 12. Dorothy Kim has worked very hard nearly every Sunday morning an hour before worship rehearsing. Thank you to everyone who is taking part in this wonderful ministry.



LEFT: Bow making with Susan Oliva on November 19.

RIGHT: Pastor David led the invocation and benediction at the Veterans Day Ceremony at the Sousa Band Shell on November 11.



SUMBISSIONS FOR THE JANUARY NEWSLETTER
NEED TO BE TO PASTOR DAVID BY DECEMBER
27TH!

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