



The United Methodist Church of Port Washington

January 2018 – Newsletter

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*And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.”
Revelation 21:5*

Dear friends in Jesus Christ,

We entered the year of 2018 and many of us wonder what it will bring. We may be hopeful, or we may be fearful. We may have expectations and feel encouraged, or we may carry our struggles and worries from 2017 to the year ahead, desperately longing for peace or a solution or some guidance from above. In fact, I am sure that each one of us comes to the Lord in a new year with both new desires and old fears, new decisions and old controversies, new dreams and old weaknesses. But whether we take on new activities this coming year or continue to live on like we did in the past year, we are reassured of God’s presence with us. God, who has all things under control, is present with each one of us as we consider our upcoming days.

As we entered the year of 2018, therefore, I believe that we have done so with a prayer to God the Creator, who makes all things new in heaven and on earth. And because we believe in a God of love, we know that God accepts all the mistakes of the past. We thus give God thanks and praise not just with our words and songs, but also with our actions and our entire lives. We serve God and bless God, while ministering to those around us, so they too may be blessed. And because we believe in a God of hope, we know that God creates all the possibilities of the future.

See, God is making all things new – I pray that at the beginning of this year we may rest assured, and know, and learn anew that our Triune God, God the Creator, God the Savior, and God the Holy Spirit, is present with each one of us and our community of faith, walking with us every step of the way, changing us and helping us grow into Christ’s true followers who go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, beyond our time and beyond our own selves.

Happy and Blessed New Year to you and yours,

Pastors David and Romi

Advent Wrap Up:

Thank you everyone who went caroling at Sands Point Center for Health and Rehabilitation and to our Friends at Home. We also delivered cards & delicious and healthy soup made by the folks at Contemporary Worship. Thank you to the UMW for the cards and cookies that they assembled for our Friends at Home and out of town/state. Also many thanks to all the people who came out for Breakfast and Decorating of the Church on December 16, as well as for the wreath sale. The Christmas Pageant was fantastic, and a heartfelt thank must go out to the children, their parents, Sunday School teachers and the Choir Director for their hard work. The gifts for Our Lady of Fatima (Adopt a Family) and Far Rockaway Mission (White Gifts) were blessed and took up the entire altar area! The First Annual Community Christmas Event with Santa, Tree Lighting, Marshmallow roasting, hay rides, and activities for children was a great success. Thank you everyone who helped with this event. Then on December 20, the choir and a few others gathered in the cold for caroling at the train station. The UMW also gathered at Debbie’s very decorated home for their Christmas Tea. And finally, for everyone who took part in the worship services, from lighting the Advent Wreath, acolyting, and doing the readings, we could not have done this without you.

The UMC of PW has two very proud pastors. Thank you, and God Bless. Happy New Year!

Pastors David & Romi



Top left – Pastor David hanging lights in a tree.

Top center – Edmund N. decorating the altar for the Christmas Event.

Top right – Mary and Joseph in the Annual Christmas Pageant.

Left – Christmas Cookies and Cards for homebound members.

Left & Bottom Left –Wreath Fundraiser headed by Susan O.

Right – Tree Lighting at the Christmas Event



Bottom Right – Pastor David & Santa on the hayride at the Christmas Event.
Thank you to everyone who helped out!
Without you, it wouldn't have happened! Pastor D.





Top Left – Nancy W. makes soup after Contemporary Worship for our home bound members. Cards were also signed by all in attendance.

Top Right – Children’s Christmas Pageant. Thank you so much to everyone who helped out and to the parents and families of those involved.

Left & Center Top – Caroling to our friends at home and Sands Point Nursing Home.

Holy Communion takes place once a month on the 1st Sunday of the Month. All are welcome at the Lord's Table.

Check out our new website!

www.umcpw.org

Podcasts of Sermon, blogs, and upcoming events.



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!

NOTES FROM CHILDREN’S MINISTRY

January Birthdays

1-Debbie Holland
4-Edmund Needham
6-Anita Vassil
12-Nancy Sutherland
24-Jane Harding

This has been a busy season for the Sunday school. We were successful in presenting a small pageant that hopefully told the story of our dear Savior’s birth. We enjoyed the process and many volunteers contributed to our success. We're returning to curriculum and focusing on the New Year and our positive resolutions for growth. Our focus remains on teaching the principles of Jesus message and learning to live as Christians actively giving back to our community. We are trying to coordinate an excursion to see the movie “The Star” about the nativity. We hope the New Year brings more projects and more involvement of our children and families helping to

build the kingdom.

Laundry Love

UMCPW is participating in the PW Clergy’s Association ministry called Laundry Love. 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 & second Laundry Love was Thursday, November 16th & December 21st. Around \$700 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.

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.

From the Council Chair

As we enter the New Year and reflect on our blessings, we have many things to be grateful for as a church. Church Council has worked hard over the year and the heads of the committees and their faithful members have accomplished more than we could list. We have expanded our outreach programs, stretched our imaginations and tried to be open to new opportunities. Our church requires about \$1,000 a day to run. A daunting goal, sometimes, and we count on our investments to provide some of this crucial funding. Jeff Kovner, with trustee oversight, managed the bulk of UMCPW investments since 2005. His expertise took us through the financial crisis, the vagrancies of the stock market and provided a steady income for the church ranging from \$30,000 to \$50,000 per year. Not only did these investments provide the needed income but the value has increased by almost half in this time period.

There are a number of “pillars” in our church. Many people who quietly go about God’s business with no real accolades or fanfare. We have finally moved these UMCPW funds to a wealth management institution but we would be remiss if we did not publicly thank Jeff for his diligence and faithful stewardship over these many years. We can not overstate how much he has contributed to our financial health and we are forever indebted to him.

On behalf of Church Council and indeed our entire church we want to say a deeply genuine and sincere thank you to Jeff.
- Debbie Lefton, Church Council Chair

SUMBISSIONS FOR THE FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER
NEED TO BE TO PASTOR DAVID BY JANUARY 26TH!

The UMC of Port Washington
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