We begin a new year – hard to believe it is 2020 – with a host of challenges and new possibilities before us. Also, there are bound to experience some surprises that we did not see coming. As we embark on this new year, I throw down a challenge. Many begin a year by resolving to improve their physical health by exercising more and switching to a healthy diet. It is a wonderful way to express our gratitude to God for the gift of life. Go for it!

My challenge to you is to not only ramp up your physical fitness, but also to boost your spiritual fitness. The beginning of the year presents the perfect opportunity to make some changes in your life that will deepen your bond with God and make your spiritual journey more robust.

continued on page 2
To be specific in my challenge, I urge you to be open to the movement of God’s Spirit in your life by **beginning** or **further developing** at least three of the following:

- Attend worship weekly. Make worship your number one priority on Sunday, then fit in the rest of your activities around it.

- Set aside a few minutes each day to pray. Not very good at praying? Start collecting prayers and read ones that resonate with you. Each Sunday there is at least one prayer in the bulletin. Cut it out and save it for your personal devotion. Also, you can find prayers online, and there are many books of prayers – J. Philip Newell has some good ones.

- Keep a daily gratitude journal. Write down three things for which you are thankful and do not repeat any single item for at least 10 days.

- Share God’s love with others. Many people are in need, and there are so many ways to help! Why not become a part of our Urban Mission Committee or Church in the World Committee and learn more about their work and where you might want to serve.

- Attend a church school class (each week there is more than one option).

- Stretch a wee bit and learn a new point of view by making a new friend with someone from a different race or religion.

Twelve months from now, will you look at your life and say that not much has changed in 2020, or will you be excited about the ways you have grown as a follower of Christ?

May all of us keep growing in faith!

Blessings,
ONE SERVICE ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 26

Because of the annual meeting on Sunday, January 26, 2020, we will join together for one worship service at 9:00 a.m. in the sanctuary. Our Living Mosaics worship service will not be held on January 26 and will resume on Sunday, February 2.

CALL FOR ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, January 26
10:10 a.m. in Community Hall
(after the 9:00 a.m. worship service)

The annual congregational meeting of Westminster Presbyterian Church will be held on Sunday, January 26, 2020, at 10:10 a.m. for the purpose of conducting the following business:

1. To receive the report of the Church Officer Nominating Committee and to elect elders, deacons, and trustees;
2. To elect congregational at-large members to the Church Officer Nominating Committee;
3. To receive the financial report of 2019;
4. To receive the budget report for 2020;
5. To consider changes to the calls of the pastors; and
6. To consider any other business that may properly come before the meeting.

By order of Session:
Gregory Knox Jones, Moderator
Jan Patrick, Clerk of Session
Lou Hering and his family moved to Wilmington from Landenberg, PA a year ago. Lou has been working in Wilmington as a lawyer at Morris Nichols since 1990. Lou and his wife, Lisa Gannon, have two daughters, Phoebe and Eliza. Phoebe recently finished a graduate program in Europe and Eliza is a senior in college. At one point, the family had three dogs and two cats, but are now down to one cat; they hope to get a puppy in the spring. Lou, Lisa, and the girls like to spend their time outdoors. Lou enjoys cycling and recently took up rowing.

Their longtime friends, John and Dede Johnston, always spoke so highly of Westminster Presbyterian Church that – when they moved to Wilmington – Lou was excited to attend and he very much enjoyed both Greg and Sudie’s sermons. Lou is excited about joining WPC!

Barry Marks was born in Hackensack, NJ and raised in Elsmere and Newark, DE. He lived in Delaware until 1982 and returned to the area in 1998, after spending the intervening years in Houston and Dallas, TX and Sarasota, FL. Barry has three sons: Evan (31), Daniel (17, adopted from Russia at 9 months), and Derek (15). He also has a grandson, Micaiah, who is almost 2 years old. Evan and his wife, Chelsea, and Micaiah live in North Aurora, IL. Daniel and Derek live with their mother in Ankeny, IA. Barry has an older brother, Ronald, who resides in Hockessin with his wife, Jackie.

Petwise, Barry currently has a 13-year-old Black Lab named Max, and a 4-year-old cat, Rascal. Barry currently works for IBM Global Technology Services as a Solution Engineer and has enjoyed the luxury of working from home for the past 20+ years. Prior employers include other multinational IT companies and a few software startups. He enjoys activities with his children, music, skiing, biking and SCUBA diving.

Barry became a member of Westminster because it is the first church he remembers coming to as a small child. As a young adult, he attended the church until 1982, when he moved to Houston. Westminster is full of warmth and comfort for him and he’s happy to be a member.
Dave and Joanna Marmelstein moved to Wilmington from Maryland in June of 2019. Dave was born and raised in Utica, NY, where there was a lot of snow every year. Joanna hails from Long Island, NY. They chose to move to Wilmington because they are now a little closer to family. They have three children; their sons, Aaron and David, live on Long Island and their daughter, Edie, lives in Florida. They also have three grandpuppies. Dave and Joanna love to travel and living in a city condo affords them the opportunity to enjoy that part of their journey. Dave retired five years ago. He enjoys playing golf and finds walking and exercise important. Dave also continues to pursue his love of acting. Joanna retired when they moved to Wilmington. She enjoys travel, music, movies, baking, and computers.

The Marmelsteins visited Westminster several times before moving to Wilmington and have received the weekly and monthly newsletters for the past year. They were drawn to the Westminster congregation because of the educational programs and the mission opportunities, both locally and regionally. Joanna and Dave have shared a wonderful journey. They now look forward to having their new life lessons at Westminster help them continue their journey.

Ernie and Kathy Smith live in Wilmington with their Foxhound, Dallas, and Maine Coon cat, Maple. Ernie works at Amtrak and Kathy is a scientist at Solenis. They started attending Westminster in April 2019 and really connected with the sermons and the lovely choir music. They are looking forward to growing in their faith and spirituality with the church.
It was not easy saying “good-bye" to Paul Fleckenstein. For 27 years he shared his extraordinary skills on the organ and directed the Westminster Choir beautifully. It was sad to see him retire, but we wish him the best.

So, what will we do for music in Sunday worship?

Shortly after Paul made his retirement plans known, the Personnel Committee created a search committee for an interim organist and choir director. That proved fruitless. It seems that organists either want a full-time position or will substitute occasionally, so we created a search committee for the permanent Organist/Director of Music. They began meeting in late October.

The committee has received more than 20 applicants for the position from around the country. We even had someone from Italy apply! The committee rated the applicants, listened to samples of their organ playing, and have begun interviewing the top candidates. The goal is to have someone on board by May. However, we know the expectations are high, so the committee will not rush its decision. The committee will search until it finds the right person.

In the meantime, we are very grateful to have our own Sharon Babcock (in her eighth year as our alto section leader) direct the choir in the interim. Sharon has directed choirs in the past and knows our singers very well. A substitute alto section leader will take Sharon’s place in the choir while Sharon serves as director. Further, substitute organists have been lined up for January through Easter.

Your job is to pray that the members of our search committee be patient, wise, and guided by God’s Spirit.

Here is our search committee: Barbara Jobe (convener), Roger Atkins, Sharon Babcock, Adam Blackford, Bill Farnham, Tom Hogue, Laura Holmes, Kelly McCulloch, Linda McGregor, Kris Qualls, and Rick Zumsteg. Greg Jones is an ex-officio member of the committee.
SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

Sunday, February 2

The Souper Bowl of Caring is a youth-led, grassroots movement of caring – the result of thousands of young people joining together to fight hunger and poverty in their communities. Since 1990, more than $130 million has been raised for charities across the country.

Westminster’s 180 Youth have participated in the Souper Bowl of Caring campaign for the past 14 years and raised more than $9,000 for Hanover Food Closet and St. Stephens Food Pantry.

On Super Bowl Sunday, the whole congregation can join youth across the nation working to end hunger and poverty by contributing to the Souper Bowl of Caring collection. Immediately following the Sunday morning worship services, our young people will be holding soup pots to collect your dollar donations.

More than 150 million Americans watch the Super Bowl game. Imagine the impact we would have on HUNGER if each person gave JUST ONE DOLLAR to help those in need.

Mark your calendars now for the Souper Bowl of Caring on Super Bowl Sunday, and plan to be in worship that day to unleash YOUR Souper Power!
Cybersecurity
Presenter: Jacob Blacksten
Classroom 6
In an ever growing digital world, where everything is interconnected, it is becoming easier for cyber criminals to get your personal information. This presentation will go over the threats in cybersecurity and give you the tools to make yourself more secure online. Jacob received his Bachelor of Science in Finance and Management Information Systems from the University of Delaware. He worked as a Digital Forensic Investigator in the Manhattan, NYC office of Stroz Friedberg an AON Company, a global risk management firm specializing in cybersecurity, investigation, eDiscovery, intellectual property and due diligence. Jacob is skilled in a range of software and hardware platforms and the measures by which to secure them. Jake works at the Delaware Small Business Development Center, helping Delaware Small Businesses to protect themselves from cybercrimes.

Challenging Passages on Women in the Bible
Presenter: Chesna Hinkley
Classroom 5
It’s just a fact: the Bible tells women to submit, be silent, and stay at home...at least in English! The story is quite a bit more complicated in the Greek language and Hellenistic culture. Chesna brings work from her master’s thesis and her experience writing, speaking, and consulting for an international women’s ordination advocacy NGO. Come walk through the most troubling passages with close exegesis, historical criticism, and theological reflection.

Cybersecurity
Challenging Passages on Women in the Bible
See descriptions on this page.
JANUARY 19

Challenging Passages on Women in the Bible
See description on page 8.

Climate Risk
Presenter: Clem Dinsmore
Classroom 6
We daily evaluate or learn of many mundane and potentially catastrophic risks. We live in an unstable world in which we attempt to establish order. What is your thought process in distinguishing among different sources of risk? What attitudes and beliefs inform your thinking?

Let’s Talk about It
Presenter: Sue Linderman
Ruth Christie Room
To varying degrees, everyone recognizes that racism and prejudice have a profound impact on our communities and our country. We need opportunities to experience the challenges and benefits that come from bringing racial issues into the light of day. All are welcome to join us in these dialogues as we continue the journey of exploring our national history and our beliefs about race, with openness to differing opinions and respect for one another.

JANUARY 26

One service at 9:00 a.m. No Christian education classes due to the annual meeting following worship.

FEBRUARY 2 AND 16

Membership Exploration
Presenter: Pastoral Staff
Classroom 5
Interested in joining Westminster? Come learn more about Presbyterianism, expectations of membership, and what it’s like to belong to a church.

FEBRUARY 2, 9, 16, AND 23

Wilmington Racial History
Presenter: Westminster Peace and Justice Work Group
Community Hall (February 2) and Classroom 6 (February 9, 16, and 23)
A panel discussion kicks off a four week series of speakers.

FEBRUARY 9, 16, AND 23

The Koran
Presenter: Bob Cox
Classroom 3
Grab a magnet! 180 has a new logo! Please take one as a reminder to pray for our teenagers, their families, and 180 leadership team.

In youth group this semester, we’re excited to study the Nicene creed this semester. This is a basic statement affirmed by almost all Christians around the world since 325 AD! It’s a solid foundation for spiritual growth and learning.

Agora (7-12th graders) are especially invited to an adult class in January on women in the Bible in Classroom 5, though you can always pick any adult class you like! Agora will meet as usual February 2 in Classroom 7.

Special Events:

**JANUARY 5**

180 Kick-Off Night
Community Hall
Come hang out, play games, and have dinner.

**JANUARY 26**

Laser Tag and Arcade Night
Meet at Main Event in Newark
All-you-can-play laser tag and arcade games for $16! No dinner.

**FEBRUARY 2**

Souper Bowl of Caring
9:00 a.m. service (see announcement on page 7).
No 180 evening meeting.

**FEBRUARY 23**

Climate-Conscious Lent
Community Hall
Guest speaker Melissa DiJulio, in cooperation with Westminster’s Earth Care committee, will talk to us about concrete ideas for a climate-conscious lifestyle. We’ll talk about the ancient practice of Lenten fasting and developing a six-week discipline for ourselves.
GOD’S VISION STARTS WITH YOU!

There are many wonderful things about Westminster. Our members have many perspectives on our church. Their words remind us why God’s vision starts with each of us. Being good stewards of God’s resources is part of the call to each of us. Planning a budget is a difficult task. It is not too late to make your pledge of support. If you have already done so...thank you! If not, please do so today. This short video (https://youtu.be/s2nC85rnNiQ) on blessing Westminster offers is really worth a look!

SATURDAY BREAKFAST TURNS 30

In April of 2020, Saturday Breakfast will turn 30. For three decades, Westminster has provided a hot breakfast for those in need on Saturday morning. Saturday Breakfast was started by the Rev. Jim Bennett, an associate pastor at Westminster, to meet a need in the community for a breakfast program on Saturdays. It has been an outreach mission of Westminster ever since, with Westminster both funding and staffing it.

Westminster has been fortunate to have several dedicated leaders as it has grown. Now that it is entering its fourth decade, Saturday Breakfast is in need of new leadership and volunteers. Most importantly, it needs a new PIC (person-in-charge). This person is responsible for making sure the volunteers have what they need to make breakfast each Saturday morning. They need to work with the weekly shoppers and the Food Bank from whom we get our mix and syrup. Neither task is too time-consuming, but it is critical that they be done. We are praying that someone (or someones) will step forward and assume this function so that Saturday Breakfast can continue into its next decade.

We would be happy to answer any questions you may have. Please feel free to contact Sue Weissinger, who is the current PIC, at (302) 652-5910 or Dulcy@aol.com. You are welcome to visit any Saturday morning. Please give prayerful consideration to this request. Thank you.
WESTMINSTER ANNUAL BAZAAR

Bazaars have been a highlight of the church year since 1921. Thousands of dollars in proceeds have supported hundreds of mission outreach causes.

The 2019 Westminster Annual Bazaar once again provided financial resources in the amount of $9,800 for our local and global mission outreach programs. The bazaar is transforming for all who donate hundreds of items to be sold and volunteers who dedicate many hours during setup week to sort, polish, prepare every item for display, bake, complete pricing and manage each department. The spaghetti dinner is always a highlight as sale day ends. Setup and breakdown crews are truly amazing, as they spend many hours hauling tables, boxes and loading a truck with all the unsold items.

Workers and donors appreciate the opportunity to repurpose items, contribute beautiful hand-crafted items, work together, meet new people, and witness all the special moments during the sale when people discover items they can use. Shoppers often say they never miss it and look forward to seeing the red publicity banners go up in October!

Now it is time to say THANK YOU to each and every person who made our 2019 bazaar successful.
The Westminster CHIMES
We are called as Christians to care for God’s creation, and there are many practical ways to do so. What follows is one way to help improve the sustainability of the planet.

Our electric consumption has a direct correlation to greenhouse gas emissions. In Delaware, for example, each kWh of electricity consumed correlates to nearly a pound of carbon dioxide equivalent greenhouse gas emissions.¹ So, reducing your electricity consumption naturally lowers both your carbon footprint and your utility bills. You can achieve lower energy consumption by addressing energy hogs (items that consume the most energy) and energy vampires (items that consume electricity when not in use).

- **Energy Hogs**: Perform an energy evaluation of your home to see which devices consume the most energy, and then decide how necessary these devices are. Common energy hogs include refrigerators, heated towel racks, home entertainment centers, desktop computers, and cable television set top boxes.² An examination of the power draw from these devices gives you the information you need to decide if they are worth their environmental and financial costs. Tools such as Dr. Power and Smappee can provide detailed information regarding which appliances consume the most power in your home, especially when connected to your home’s smart meter data. You can also measure the electric draw from specific plugged-in devices using a Kill-a-Watt meter, or by entire circuits by putting your home “to sleep” and reactivating circuits one at a time and noting the power draw on your home’s power meter.³,⁴ These energy hogs can also be abated by replacing them with ENERGY STAR™ rated appliances, which are certified to contain a low power draw.⁵

- **Energy Vampires**: Check for “vampire” or “phantom” electronics in your home. Your home may contain up to 50 of these,⁶ which may include TVs, set top boxes, computers, networking equipment, and game consoles.⁴ The Natural Resources Defense Council⁵ states that $165 per U.S. household is spent on vampire electronics each year, and the collective U.S. vampire electronics draw causes 44 million tons of carbon dioxide equivalent greenhouse gas emissions per year.
Vampire electronics can be associated with 25% to 50% of the power draw in a building, depending on the building’s use. The inset on the right provides ways you can combat vampire power draws in your home. An excellent recent article in the New York Times⁵ provides more details on the extent of vampire power draws and how you can alleviate them.

### Selected Household Energy Hogs⁹

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Appliance Type</th>
<th>Average Wattage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>25” CRT Television</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Desktop Computer</td>
<td>275</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Game Console</td>
<td>160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gaming PC</td>
<td>450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heated Towel Rack</td>
<td>105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refrigerator-Freezer</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Set Top Box</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**References**

3. LBNL, Standby Power: In Your Home.
4. NRDC, Home Idle Load Self-Diagnosis and Action Guide.
7. GSA, Advanced Power Strips for Plug Load Control, 2012.
9. DaftLogic, List of the Power Consumption of Typical Household Appliances
JOIN THE A-TEAM AT EMMANUEL DINING ROOM

Searching for a meaningful way to serve others? Consider signing up for a date when a Westminster team of three prepares and serves lunch to approximately 150 low-income men, women, and children.

On the fourth of each month, we arrive at Emmanuel Dining Room at the corner of Second and Jackson Streets at 10:30 a.m. With the suggestions from the head cook, we prepare all the food for a nourishing hot meal.

After the blessing, we are kept busy filling the plates as the guests enter. When the last guest is served at 1:00 p.m., we are free to leave.

Want to know more? Please contact Camilla Jones (302-354-8358 or camillajones22@gmail.com).

Volunteers John Bowman, Tom Hogue, and Ralph Lewis serve at Emmanuel Dining Room
NEW OPPORTUNITY FOR BIBLE STUDY

Eat and exegete! A drop-in, low-commitment way to read, discuss, and learn from the Bible together. We will read out loud and see where the conversation goes — from start to finish! Join us when you can. Genesis 1 kicks off on January 8 and 9. There are two times available weekly: Wednesdays at 6:15 p.m. and Thursdays at 12:30 p.m. in the church library. Groups will not meet the week of February 19 and 20. Bring a bag lunch or dinner!

WILL WE CANCEL SUNDAY WORSHIP IN INCLEMENT WEATHER?

Weekly worship is essential to our well-being, so we try not to cancel Sunday worship due to inclement weather. One advantage Westminster has in snowy conditions is that we are located on a main artery in Wilmington, and the city generally does a good job of cleaning Pennsylvania Avenue. In addition, we can have our parking lot plowed and our entrances cleared. However, we are concerned about your safety and do not want you to slip on ice or have an accident due to slippery roads. Some live near main streets that are plowed, but some have great difficulty getting to a main road.

Therefore, if we have a snowstorm but do not cancel worship, please use your own judgment. If you are comfortable driving in the snow and will not put yourself in jeopardy, we welcome you to attend worship. If you stay at home, consider setting aside 30 to 60 minutes to read and reflect on Scripture and to pray. Also, you may go to our website at www.wpc.org and click on “Worship & Music” from the main menu on the left. Then click on “Sermons & Bulletins” to read and reflect on a past sermon and to pull up a worship bulletin. Or, you may click on the title of the sermon to watch the video of the scripture reading and sermon.

If worship is cancelled, a message will be on the church phone (302-654-5214) and the home page of our website (www.wpc.org).
Sixty-three years ago, the January 1957 issue of the *Chimes* carried the following brief announcement:

*Painting*

*The original painting of ‘David and Goliath’ by N. C. Wyeth — noted painter of Chadds Ford, Pennsylvania — presented to the church by an anonymous donor, has been hung in the hall — leading from 13th Street to Pennsylvania Avenue. Take time to study this great work of art.*

This painting eventually became a fixture of the Ruth Christie Room, where the fearsome figure of Goliath glared down for all to see, while young David stood in the shadows with his slingshot in hand about to surprise the unwitting giant.

N. C. Wyeth created *David and Goliath* in 1929 to illustrate an article for *Good Housekeeping Magazine*. Afterwards, the painting remained in the possession of the Wyeth family until the fall of 1956, when Dr. John Christie, Westminster’s beloved minister for a quarter-century, was about to retire. A member of the congregation stepped forward anonymously to acquire the painting for the church. But before concluding the purchase, he wanted Dr. Christie to approve it. As one family member noted recently, “Dr. Christie and my grandmother, Catharine Christie Dann, went to the [Wyeth] studio to get the painting.
So...it seems that it was a Nowland purchase, but sort-of a gift in honor of Dr. Christie.” The Nowland in question was Christie’s good friend, Paul Nowland, who served Westminster for decades as an active participant and quietly generous donor. His other gifts to the church included the stained glass Children’s Window in the sanctuary, dedicated to the memory of his sister and parents.

Over the past decade, paintings by N. C. Wyeth have risen dramatically in value. One of his rarest and most ambitious works brought nearly $6 million at auction in 2018 and his more typical magazine illustrations fetch between $300,000 and $1 million. This year a major exhibition of N. C. Wyeth’s work at the Brandywine River Museum focused even more attention on the artist. The realities of the art market led Westminster to commission an updated appraisal of *David and Goliath*. A figure of $400,000 was established and with it arose questions about the safety and security of such a valuable artwork at the church. The Property Committee obtained a high-resolution digital image of the picture and had it reproduced onto canvas, mounted into the frame made for Wyeth’s painting in 1956, and hung once again in the Ruth Christie Room.

With the copy on view, attention turned back to the original. Though a meaningful work of art, the painting was not essential to the church’s mission. Its value had risen so greatly that many worried about protecting it properly, and the cost of insuring the picture added an extra burden on the budget. The decision was made to sell the painting and place the proceeds in the general endowment in memory of Dr. and Mrs. Christie. We secured the services of a New York art agent, Valerie Westcott, who solicited proposals from four potential vendors. Westminster chose Christie’s, New York, and in December *David and Goliath* passed to a private purchaser, netting the church a figure well above the appraised value of the picture. The Trustees are deeply grateful to Valerie Westcott for her professional guidance throughout the sales process.

The transfer of the painting launches the next chapter in its history. At Westminster, the picture served as a Biblical touchstone, a tribute to a revered pastor, and an emblem of local art. For its next owner, it will surely play a different role, but it will still be admired and cherished. Such is the story of art as it passes from one generation to another. Yet for this church, the generosity of Paul Nowland and the dedication of Dr. John Christie will remain with us year after year from the funds generated by the sale of *David and Goliath*. This is a perpetual gift, one that we should not forget or overlook. So, the next time you are in the Ruth Christie Room, take a look at the replica and remember all that it represents, all that it has meant — and will mean — for Westminster.
WESTMINSTER’S IMPACT ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM IN DELAWARE

Peace & Justice Work Group Facilitates Dialogue Among Key Stakeholders

Last April, our Peace and Justice Work Group brought criminal justice reform advocate Adam Foss, founder of Prosecutor Impact, to Wilmington and more than 200 people came to Westminster to hear Foss share heart-felt stories and a vision of how things can be made better. If you didn’t attend the event or want to hear it a second time, check out the video at https://youtu.be/sj72kZi13yl.

Following the speaker event, we hosted a luncheon for key stakeholders connected to criminal justice in Delaware. This included representatives from the Delaware Department of Justice, Smart Justice Coalition, Delaware General Assembly’s Criminal Justice Improvement Committee–Code Improvement Project, US Attorney’s Office–Delaware District, Delaware Office of Defense Services, Game Changers, and the Office of the Governor. With Adam Foss’s urging, the group committed to follow-up conversations and action.

Westminster is now taking the lead, as part of the Coalition for Smart Justice, in providing a forum to bring key stakeholders back together for more dialogue. In December, we hosted the first of what we hope will become quarterly gatherings. The stakeholder group has been expanded to include Law Enforcement, Judiciary, and Department of Corrections. Each quarter we intend to highlight a new topic to spark dialogue among key players representing a diverse array of agencies, communities, and backgrounds.
This first event focused on adult diversion programs. Research has shown the effectiveness and cost efficiency of alternatives to incarceration and communities are responding with diversion alternatives, often incorporating substance use and mental health services. These programs may occur as early as street-level law enforcement intervention, or as late as court involvement, but the distinguishing characteristic is that the program not result in a conviction on an individual’s record.

On December 12, Stephan Thomas from Prosecutor Impact shared success stories from around the country and facilitated an evening exploring how adult diversion could become a larger part of Delaware’s criminal justice system. The evening included fireside chats with a representative from the New Castle County Police Department and from the Attorney General’s office. We hope that by hosting these forums Westminster can play a meaningful role in facilitating improvements to Delaware’s criminal justice system and help transform people’s lives.

WESTMINSTER PEACE & JUSTICE WORK GROUP - DELAWARE CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM INITIATIVES

By Session action in March 2019, Westminster Presbyterian Church officially joined the Delaware Coalition for Smart Justice, a statewide group of organizations and individuals who advocate for a criminal justice system that fosters public safety by reducing mass incarceration, recidivism and racial disparities.

The 2019 Delaware Legislative session was marked by great progress in the area of criminal justice reform with the passage of 11 of 19 bills submitted with the support of Kathleen Jennings and the Delaware Attorney General’s office.

continued on page 22
We are excited to build on this progress with a focus on six additional priorities in the upcoming 2020 legislative session:

**Fines, Fees & Drivers’ License Suspensions**
*End the criminalization of poverty that traps people in a punitive cycle by allowing the court to consider a person’s ability to pay court fines and fees, and ending the practice of automatic suspension of drivers’ licenses where someone is unable to pay.*

**Sentencing Reform**
*Eliminate most mandatory minimums and expand opportunities for sentence modification and early release.*

**Pretrial Reform**
*Reduce the number of people in prison before they’ve been convicted of a crime and ensure fairness through the pre-trial process from arrest to trial.*

**Probation Reform**
*End the revolving door to prison by implementing post-release policies that promote success after incarceration.*

**Treating Children as Children**
*House all children in juvenile facilities and increase the minimum age at which children can be prosecuted criminally.*

**Data Collection & Transparency**
*Collect and publish data to understand racial disparities, measure policy impacts and inform better policy choices.*

As these bills proceed through the 2020 legislative process, your Peace & Justice Work Group will update you with opportunities to make your voice heard in support of these initiatives.

For more information on how to take action, please see the article titled “Promoting Meaningful Reform in Delaware” on page 23. Thank you in advance for your active support in making Delaware’s criminal justice system fairer and more effective for all.
PROMOTING MEANINGFUL REFORM IN DELAWARE

Over the last year and a half, volunteers in Westminster’s congregation have engaged with organizations combating violence in Wilmington, reflected on national events of racial injustice, and attended Christian Education programs and a community-wide speaker series. These tireless efforts, and many more, comprise Westminster’s Peace & Justice Work Group.

As we grow in awareness of the injustices and disparity in our community we often wonder, “What can I do?”

While at first it may seem intimidating to engage with the legislative process in Delaware, the simple tools below are all you need to start navigating the Delaware General Assembly’s website and express your support for much needed reform in Delaware.

By becoming a regular visitor to the Delaware General Assembly’s homepage you can learn about new bills as they are considered during the legislative session. Last year, as criminal justice reform gathered momentum, 11 of 19 bills that were part of a reform package supported by the Delaware Attorney General passed in the 150th Delaware General Assembly.

Now is the perfect time to learn about goals for 2020 as we contact our elected officials in support of exciting reform initiatives. (See companion article on page 21.)

How to Find Your Legislators

Use this Delaware General Assembly link to find your state legislators: http://legis.delaware.gov/

Simply type your full address into the box labeled, “Who is My Legislator?” This will provide you with your state Senator and Representative with their district number and contact information including email address.

To find a list of all the Delaware State Senators, visit https://legis.delaware.gov/Senate.

To find a list of all the Delaware State House Representatives, visit https://legis.delaware.gov/House.

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Learning about Bills

To find a specific Senate or House bill, use the search bar located in the upper right-hand corner of the Delaware General Assembly homepage (http://legis.delaware.gov). Simply type in the number (i.e. HB 4 or SB 39) or search by keyword (i.e. sentencing reform) to find bills related to that topic. Click on the resulting links to learn more about a specific bill including a full synopsis, current status, sponsors, and next steps. The information here can be helpful for knowing when to contact your legislators.

Additionally, a helpful Glossary of Terms link is available at: https://legis.delaware.gov/Resources/GlossaryOfTerms

Reaching Out to Your Legislators

Contact your legislators to express your support or opposition for bills as they move toward a vote. It’s an excellent way to let them know that, as a voter, you feel strongly about these issues. Emails, letters, and even a phone call can sway legislators at critical moments especially before key committee meetings and floor debates. Exercise your right to speak up!

Feel free to use any variation of the template below. If any of the legislators are prime or co-prime sponsors you can tailor your message to thank them for their support of that bill. Oftentimes a concise and direct note addressed to a single recipient is the best way to make your voice heard.

Westminster’s Peace & Justice Work Group thanks you for your advocacy in support of those in our community who most need our help.

For additional information or to join with us in the Work Group, please contact Peter Gildner (gildnerp86@gmail.com), Mike Gnade (mgnade@hotmail.com), Lynne Kielhorn (lynne@kielhorn.us), or Sue Linderman (srlinder@dca.net).

Dear Senator/ Representative XXX,

Please support criminal justice reform in 2020. As a voter I feel strongly that these bills create more fairness for all of us!

Please vote “yes” on SB XX and HB XX.

Thank you,
(Your name)
(Your zip code)
NEW DELAWARE CRIMINAL RECORD EXPUNGEMENT LAW IN EFFECT

A criminal record is one of the most detrimental factors in an individual’s attempt to achieve gainful employment, stable housing, education and financial stability. Thousands of Delaware citizens find themselves at a critical disadvantage in establishing themselves as productive members of society because of a poor life decision, often made years in the past.

Recognizing the challenges that face so many people in this situation, the Delaware Legislature passed a bill during the 2019 legislative session that addresses expungement of criminal records. This new law, which took effect in December, offers opportunities for individuals to take action to have their non-violent criminal records expunged so that they might start afresh.

On December 28, 2019, Delaware Senator Darius Brown hosted an Expungement Fair at New Destiny Fellowship on 16th Street, Wilmington. Its purpose was to educate people about the opportunities that exist for them under this new law. Several individuals from our congregation served as volunteers at the Fair, and our Westminster Peace & Justice Work Group has committed to further action and support of this project, as needed.

In the weeks ahead, we will share via the Westminster Weekly Word e-newsletter the stories of individuals impacted by these circumstances and this new law. If you have questions, or a desire to serve our fellow citizens as they seek to establish themselves anew, please contact Bill Nace (rbnace7@comcast.net or 302-478-1823) or Sue Linderman (srlinder@dca.net or 302-239-7650).
UPCOMING FLYING SOLO ACTIVITIES

We are a group of single adults who meet to support each other in friendship, through social activities and fellowship. All are welcome to join us, and we are always looking for new participants. Curious about Flying Solo? Contact Bill Kaye at billkaye3@verizon.net.

Sunday Brunch
We meet for brunch on the first and third Sunday of the month at 11:15 a.m. at Catherine Rooney’s in Trolley Square. Upcoming brunch dates are January 5 and 19 and February 2 and 16.

Potluck Game Night – Friday, January 24
Bring a dish to share and play some games. Held at Nancy Colbert’s home. RSVP to colbert055@comcast.net by Sunday, January 20 if you are coming and what you are bringing.

Super Bowl Party – Sunday, February 2
6:00 p.m.; location to be determined.

Theater Night – Friday, February 21
We’ll see “Outside Mullingar,” a romantic comedy set in rural Ireland, at the Delaware Theatre Company. Contact Cathy Lang (cathylang@wpc.org) no later than January 17 if interested and to purchase a ticket. We will have dinner near the theater before the show.

Friday Night Dinners (non brunch weekends)
Potential dinner dates are January 10 and February 7.

Upcoming
We’ll see “The Crucible” at the Resident Ensemble Players theater of the University of Delaware on March 13, preceded by dinner at Vita Nova before the show. Contact Margo Reign (margoreign@gmail.com) by February 1 for a ticket and to be included in the dinner reservation. Restaurant and show require advance reservations.
The Westminster church office will be closed on the following days in January:

- Wednesday, January 1, 2020 (New Year’s Day)
- Monday, January 20, 2020 (Martin Luther King Day)

Those Who Have Joined the Church Triumphant

We remember the families of those who recently died. We pray that they will be comforted in their loss and be assured that their loved ones have joined God’s heavenly kingdom.

Helen Holloway Kelley
August 27, 1923 – November 19, 2019

Naomi Ruppenthal Campbell
January 25, 1927 – November 27, 2019
Pastors
The Rev. Dr. Gregory K. Jones
The Rev. Sudie Niesen Thompson
The Rev. Jill Getty

WPC Director of Marketing and Communications
Nicole Hughes

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Next Chimes Deadline:
Monday, February 3, at 11:00 a.m.
For the March 2020 Issue
Submissions can be made at
www.wpc.org/communications

CHILI LUNCHEON

Sunday, January 26
Following the Annual Meeting

Please join us for our annual Chili Luncheon in Community Hall! Taste the culinary creations of our deacons at the conclusion of the Annual Meeting (which begins at 10:10 a.m.). The deacons will provide a variety of chili, salads, cornbread and cookies. Enjoy this opportunity to share food and fellowship.