

BRAVING THE COLD AND SNOW CLOTHING DELIVERED BY WPC TO OUR **CITY NEIGHBORS** BY TED BEHR

In response to a suggestion from Rev. Cean James, pastor of the Salt and Light Congregation and well aware of the bitter cold weather and half a foot of snow in the city, a team of Wayne Presbyterian members collected some 200 bags of clothing and delivered them February 4th to The Common Place.

The caravan was welcomed at TCP by director Rev. Christopher Holland and TCP Development Manager Gene Burke. Helping with unloading the heavy bags were Craig and Rosalie Stock. "All in all, we were a super team!" reflected Mary Laird.

"The pandemic has taken a toll on many communities and it will take decades to recover," commented Rev. Cean who is also CityLights' director. "In the long history of our people, when the community is left by the government to fend for itself, the church has filled the gap. My goal for about a year now has been to make sure that Salt & Light is discerning what SW needs and filling that gap. Our weekly Food program and clothing drives are a part of it. I am working... to bring a COVID vaccination site to SW Philadelphia. That is how we see our role in this beautiful community."

Among the major donors to the clothing effort were the residents of White Horse Village, a senior center in Newtown Square. "We always have our "Octofair" in the fall where we sell good winter clothing," noted Frances Nannos who is also a Wayne church member. "Because of the pandemic we couldn't hold the fair. This is a wonderful way to make the winter items available to our friends in Southwest."

Any extra men's clothing will be passed on to Outley House Men's Shelter also located in Southwest and long-time member of CityLights.

Added Susan Aggarwal, chair of the WPC CityLights Ministry committee, "Thanks to all who collected and delivered! We thought we wouldn't have enough time to arrange something significant, but we so underestimate what God can do!"



Some of the 200+ bags of clothing gathered at church and delivered to The Common Place on February 4th. Pictured in the parking lot are Marty Laird, Sheryl Durham, Carla Mossholder, and Becky Greenhow. (Working hard by not pictured above were Scott Laird and Buzz Mossholder, who took the photo).

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF CITYLIGHTS CITY AND SUBURB DESTINIES INTERTWINED BY SUSAN AGGARWAL



Wayne CityLights members turn out with Southwest Philly residents to construct a new playground at Mitchell Elementary School.

We've learned in recent WaynePres newsletters some background about our special mission outreach to Southwest Philadelphia called CityLights. The unique "faith-based urban/suburban partnership" was founded in 1995 under Dr. Galloway's leadership and directed for 20 years by Carey Davis. Since its inception, CityLights has recruited, inspired deployed hundreds of Wayne members as volunteers in the city.

To quote Rev. Dr. Ronald Sider, author and Professor of Holistic Ministry at Palmer Seminary, "Suburbanites and urbanites together must affirm that to care about one requires that we care about the other. Our destinies are intertwined... Through CityLights, Wayne Presbyterian has effectively connected organizations in Southwest Philadelphia to each other as well as connecting suburban people to God's work in the city. Likewise, urban partners from Southwest have contributed to the life of Wayne Presbyterian in a variety of ways, including enriching people's spiritual experiences as well as challenging them to live free from the material trappings of this world."1

The late Pat Leidy stepped up immediately, and Carey put her in charge of our liaison system. Pat assigned Wayne members to each of our SW partners - to get to know and pray for them and their mission. Sometimes modest monetary support was provided, but the "sweat effort" contributions, spiritual support, and in-kind gifts were boundless.

From the start of the CityLights Ministry, Director Carey Davis organized monthly "neighbor helping neighbor" meetings which allow Southwest Philly organizations to share needs, resources, and activities with each other.



A typical monthly CityLights "neighbor helping neighbor" meeting addressed by a top City government spokesperson on new benefits for elderly residents. At one Saturday meeting, a daycare center mentioned its need for cubbies to store the children's outerwear. SW Men of Works had the carpentry tools and talent. They promptly came forward, and lo, the cubbies were built and installed! It would not have happened without the CityLights connection.

WPC volunteer teams were soon active in such areas as the Sherwood Church Soup Kitchen, Cornerstone Christian Academy, Mitchell Elementary Public School, Presbyterian Children's Village (now Gemma Services), Myers Tots, Southwest Community Development Corp. (Southwest CDC), Presbys Inspired Life senior apartments, New Spirit Community Presbyterian Church (now merged with Grace Christian Fellowship as the Salt and Light Congregation), Kingsessing Garden, and Bartram High School. WPC School member Ernie Baker, a SW public school music teacher, was supported with bus trips and donated instruments.



Wayne members have provided musical instruments or funded their purchase so the talents of inner city youngsters could be developed and their lives enriched.

Elder Doug McBrearty helped Southwest CDC put together the first-ever Economic Development Study of Southwest Philly.

Beginning in the late 1990's, member Jane Beatty spear-headed our lasting relationship with Mitchell Elementary. Russ Brundage worked several days every week as a remedial reading mentor. In 2006, students at Wayne Elementary and Mitchell cooperated to publish a book of poetry to raise funds for reading materials at Mitchell. Influenced by the CityLights relationship with Mitchell, the Target Company provided a major grant and several hundred employee volunteer hours to revive the school's dormant library.



CityLights annual grants have allowed Mitchell Elementary to send its "Minor Threats" chess team to compete many state and national tournaments — with outstanding results!

A young Wayne member collected 1500 books to stock the library shelves as his Eagle Scout service project. Our Hammers with Heart team helped build a playground for Mitchell and flower boxes on every stairway landing.

In 2008, the Hammers and others under Jim Rush constructed a new library at Cornerstone Academy. Since 2009, the Susan Hall Galloway Fund has provided tuition scholarships for several dozen Cornerstone youngsters.

Over the years, SW partners have come out to WPC to address gatherings on such topics as urban economic and housing problems, public education, hunger, and racism. The "Phone Buddies," steadfast ladies at our church, regularly called up and chatted with lonely residents at Presbys senior apartments. WPC member George Aman worked with Southwest CDC to resurrect the Southwest Globe Times newspaper to highlight "Good News" going on in the SW community. WPC provided the paper's initial working capital, and member Ted Behr volunteered to be the paper's editor and publisher.

CityLights was the originator for our Lenten outreach called "40 Days, 40 Ways to Serve", and for the original "Saturday of Service ("SOS") days.

In 2009, our WPC Session spun off CityLights to be a stand-alone non-profit. George Aman put together the legal framework and the Board numbered both WPC members and SW residents. The idea was to seek outside grants to sustain the programs. This approach did generate funding for successful public workshop series on the trauma of urban living, public health issues, greening, and job training. Sadly, with the economic downturn, grants for networking itself were not to be had. The non-profit was eventually disbanded and CityLights has reemerged as a Wayne Presbyterian "Faith in Action" ministry once again.

Shortly after he arrived, Rev. Casey Thompson formed a select team to study "the next big thing" for our church mission outreach. After months of reflection and prayer they recommended that we capitalize on our Southwest experience with a new venture which became The Common Place (TCP) to enrich the lives of children and supporting families in SW. TCP acquired the New Spirit Church property and assigned Rev. Aisha Brooks-Lytle and Rev. Sudie Niesen Thompson as co-pastors. The concept was well received in the community there partly as a result of the trust established by CityLights.

A top civic priority in Philadelphia is affordable housing. Recognizing that need, Southwest CDC has applied to the City to purchase three houses based on a special grant from WPC. The CDC would rehab and sell them at affordable prices – generating funds to buy, renovate and sell more modernized homes for low-income families.



A deeply meaningful annual event in Southwest has been the Vigil for Victims of Violence where groups of CityLights members pray at the sites where local residents were killed by gun violence.

In 2015 Carey decided to relocate with her husband Rev. Gerry Davis to another part of the city. In due course, Rev. Cean James, pastor of Grace Christian Fellowship in SW, was tapped to replace Carey as the CityLights director.

Quite a few of the original WPC volunteers have also moved on - as have many of our early community contacts. Nevertheless, CityLights remains a valued and respected partner for our many friends Southwest. A quarter-century ago, the ideas on which CityLights was created were groundbreaking within our denomination. Today, in an area beset with chronic lack of economic, educational, employment, housing and health opportunities, The Common Place also provides its own unique remedies - and CityLights remains relevant.

To quote Deborah Lee, Principal of Cornerstone, "Our Wayne volunteers come regularly like they're on the payroll! They're incredible, indispensable... As CityLights demonstrates, in a partnership that befits the kingdom of God, both urban and suburban parties benefit greatly, both personal and social transformation occurs, and God is glorified."²

(Photos courtesy of Southwest Globe Times Newspaper)

- 1 Sider, Ronald J., et al: "Linking Arms, Linking Lives," Baker Books, 2008. P96
- 2 Gordon, W., & Tizon, A., "Urban and Suburban Partnerships," www.baylor.edu/content/services /document.php/116778.pdf

GLOBAL MISSION IN GUATEMALA

In 2019, WPC sent 16 members on an intergenerational mission trip to Guatemala to learn about the culture as well as education, migration and women's issues. WPC members participated in the intercultural encounters program at PCUSA's mission partner CEDEPCA, the Protestant Center for Pastoral Studies in Central America. The following article was written by the PCUSA about a regional director of CEDPCA's Women's ministry, Rev. Delia Leal.

Human rights advocate freed in Guatemala

Rev. Delia Adelina Leal Mollinedo works for the empowerment of women and children by Kathy Melvin | Presbyterian News Service

LOUISVILLE — In December, two young women sought refuge at the home of the Rev. Delia Adelina Leal Mollinedo, a Guatemalan human rights advocate (who work with CEDEPCA). Their living situation was so precarious they felt unsafe. They had stayed with her before when things were uncertain.

Days later, the Guatemalan National Civil Police, in the municipality of Cobán, using a warrant that didn't even include her name, arrested Leal and charged her with kidnapping, child trafficking and obstruction of an investigation.

Although Article 9 in Guatemala's constitution says a hearing must be held within 24 hours of an arrest, once she gave a statement, Leal was in custody with no further court appearances. On Monday January 11, 2021 she appeared in court for a hearing postponed from December 30, 2020. Members of CEDEPCA and other supporters peacefully demonstrated their support outside the courthouse. In the end, the initial charges (comparable in the U.S. system to felony charges) were reduced to minor charges (comparable to misdemeanor charges). In custody for almost two weeks, she was released to house arrest. A new hearing is scheduled for May 2021.

"Delia demonstrated eloquence and grace under pressure, and a stronger-than-ever commitment to work for God's love, peace, and justice, especially on behalf of and for the empowerment of women and children" said World Mission regional liaison, the Rev. Leslie Vogel, referring to a media interview with Delia and her lawyer on Tuesday.

Since 2007, Leal has served as regional women's ministry coordinator for global partner CEDEPCA (the Protestant Center for Pastoral Studies in Central America). A Nazarene

and Baptist minister in Cobán, she has committed her life to promoting sexual and reproductive health for women from indigenous communities of the Q'eqchi' y Poqomchi' region of Guatemala.

CEDEPCA is a training center that provides safe, accepting, creative spaces where women and men from different Christian traditions can deepen their faith while they learn to enhance their ability to confront the issues most affecting themselves and their communities. CEDEPCA also works to address the generalized violence in society, especially violence against women. "Women in Central America and Mexico live in a patriarchal, violent and oppressive system at all socioeconomic levels," said Judith Castañeda, CEDEPCA's director. "Central America is fragile, and Guatemala is one of the most vulnerable countries."

In 2020, 99,565 Guatemalan women and girls 19 and under became pregnant, many as the result of rape. CEDEPCA works to empower girls in new ways. Alta Verapaz (Cobán is the capital city) has one of the highest levels of pregnancies in teens and girls: 11,103 in Alta Verapaz. That's compared to the department where half the country's population lives, Guatemala City, 8,507 pregnant teens and girls in 2020.

One CEDEPCA course on healthy relationships called "It's Marvelous to be a Woman," teaches girls and young women that they, like boys, are created in the image and likeness of God. That, unfortunately, is a new concept for women and girls. They are taught that men were created in God's image and women from a man's rib.

In the days following her arrest, Leal became the victim of smear campaigns and public stigmatization in local, national and social media. News of the case has been filled with inaccurate information, which has only contributed to an atmosphere of stigmatization around the case. One of the organizations advocating for the pastor is Front Line Defenders, an international organization founded in Dublin that provides rapid and practical support to at-risk human rights defenders with the specific aim of protecting people who work non-violently for any or all of the rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR).

In a statement, the organization said, "Front Line Defenders is deeply concerned about the detention and fabricated charges against Delia Adelina Leal Mollinedo, which appear to be directly related to her work defending human

rights, in particular children's and women's rights. Front Line Defenders condemns the consequent stigmatisation (British spelling) of the woman human rights defender by the media and social networks."

Front Line Defenders asked that every measure be taken to guarantee the pastor's physical safety and integrity and "guarantee that all human rights defenders in Guatemala, in development of their legitimate activities, including the right to protest in defense of human rights, can operate freely without fear of judicial harassment."

The Vásquez-Leal-Mollinedo family issued a statement saying their confidence and trust since the beginning of the process is placed in God. "Delia, our Linita, is a strong woman, valiant and full of the courage needed to confront this situation without losing her essence," the family said. "We are very aware that Justice has its procedures, which we respect, hoping in/waiting for a favorable resolution, as we know is appropriate."

Since Delia's release from custody, she is back in Coban working for CEDEPCA and ministering to vulnerable women and girls. Please pray for Delia, CEDEPCA's staff, Delia's legal team, and her May hearing.



Peaceful protestors stood in solidarity outside the courthouse in Cobán. (Photo by Pamela Líquez, CEDEPCA)



Rev. Delia Adelina Leal Mollinedo leaves after weeks in custody. (Photo by Pamela Líquez, CEDEPCA)

HOW WPC SUPPORTS EDUCATION (continuation of article from Feb. WP)

GLOBAL:

Pakistan – Presbyterian Education Board of Pakistan (PEB). The academic team at PEB has been working tirelessly to ensure that learning continues as uninterrupted as

possible. Teachers will be teaching, students will be learning, the boarding students will be staying at the boarding houses and the staff will continue to work as they always do. WPC sponsored 10 students last year.

Teachers are making house calls where they can to encourage the parents to allow and encourage their students to study. There are many challenges to online learning in rural Pakistan. Most of the schools have WhatsApp groups for each class from the previous school closure. Teachers will continue to use WhatsApp to keep in contact with students and send work. Physical homework is prepared on a weekly basis for the parents to pick up from the school. Parents will return the completed work when they come to pick up new work. Depending on the situation in their areas, some of the village schools will work with small groups of students in different houses. All the Standard Operating Procedures like using masks and keeping the social distancing are being followed.

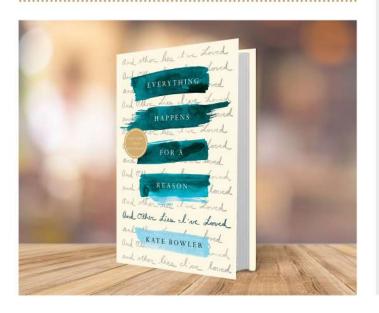
Egypt - Evangelical Theological Seminary - Cairo - The ETSC study body has grown to 509 students who are enrolled in nine different degree and certificate programs. During the fall the classes were taught through the Seminary's online distance learning platform. The online platform has enabled students to enroll from virtually every part of Egypt and most of the Middle Eastern countries, including the Arabian Peninsula. Some students come from regions where Christianity faces constant threats, so becoming a pastor or Christian leader may place them in a risky situation. As one of the new students said, "I want to guide those who came from ignorance, intolerance and thought intimidation." Pray that the Seminary will be successful in preparing these students to live our God's call for their lives. Classes will continue online in the winter/spring semester. WPC send funds for student scholarships.

NE Phila - Findley Family - the Findley's visited with us in person the week before the shutdown. Their ESL classes have had to move online and so they are now overseeing 41 classes a week! If anyone wants to volunteer to help run a class, volunteers are needed. Many of the immigrants are experiencing income loss and general anxiety trying to navigate their new world in their second or third language. The Findley's will continue their direct help to immigrant families as restrictions are lifted. ESL classes are continuing via Zoom.

A (BELATED) BLACK HISTORY MONTH SUGGESTION: THE REV. DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. INTERPRETS PAUL FOR MODERN AMERICA

On June 3, 1958, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., delivered a sermon entitled "Paul's Letter to American Christians" to the United Presbyterian Church USA Commission on Ecumenical Missions and Relations. Loosely styled after Paul's letter to the Romans, Dr. King's sermon addressed and after more than 60 years continues to address - the Christian's responsibilities in a fractured and broken society. King raised many issues of concern to the American Christian: the failure of moral and spiritual progress to stay abreast of scientific and medical advances; the unrealized possibility of using the economic prowess of our capitalist system to eliminate poverty; the evils of racial segregation and white supremacy; the unanswered call for Christian unity, but not uniformity; the threat of self-righteous egotism. To all these dangers, King responds with the most durable power in the world, the highest good, the greatest of all virtues – Love. In the struggle for justice, he advises that we use only the weapon of love.

The Presbyterian Historical Society has made both a tape and a transcript of Dr. King's sermon available on its website. (See www.history.pcusa.org/blog/ and scroll down to the entry on January 15, 2021.) Sadly, covid-19 prevented our congregation from marking Black History Month in-person this year. However, the Adult Education Committee notes that it is not too late to read, or better yet to listen to the rich voice of this 20th Century prophet bring the lessons of Paul to life for modern America.



WPC BOOK CLUB – EVERYTHING Happens for a Reason

What do we do when nothing makes sense? When the randomness of suffering strikes close to home? *Everything Happens for a Reason*, by Kate Bowler, explores how Christian theology can fall short as a source of explanation and comfort. Often the most repeated phrases intent on offering support can leave a person feeling a drift from God's love. Bowler, after receiving a terminal diagnosis, explores these themes and the comfort she found in God's abiding presence.

Kate Bowler is a professor at Duke Divinity School with a modest Christian upbringing, but she specializes in the study of the prosperity gospel, a creed that sees fortune as a blessing from God and misfortune as a mark of God's disapproval. At 35, everything in her life seems to point toward "blessing". She is thriving in her job, married to her high school sweetheart, and loves life with her newborn son. Then she is diagnosed with stage IV colon cancer.

The prospect of her own mortality forces Kate to realize that she has been subconsciously subscribing to the prosperity gospel, living with the conviction that she can control the shape of her life with "a surge of determination". Even as this type of Christianity celebrates the American can-do spirit, it implies that if you "can't do" and succumb to illness or misfortune, you are a failure. Kate is very sick, and no amount of positive thinking will shrink her tumors. Frank and funny, dark and wise, Kate Bowler pulls the reader deeply into her life in an account she populates affectionately with a colorful, often hilarious retinue of friends, megachurch preachers, relatives, and doctors. Everything Happens for a Reason tells her story, offering up her irreverent, hard-won observations on dying and the ways it has taught her to live.

Book available in paperback from Amazon, Barnes and Nobel and Main Point Books in Wayne.

Discussion date - April 22, please choose one of the two options 10:00am or 7:00pm. Email Mary Lou Kendus at MKendus@waynepres.org

ZOOM COFFEE HOUR MARCH 7TH AT 10:30 A.M.

You are invited to a virtual time of coffee and conversation! After Sunday worship on March 7th, click the forthcoming link to join your church family in fellowship via Zoom. Look for a link in News and Views next week.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY SUNDAY SCHOOL

Children's Ministry will focus on the events for four Sundays, concluding on Easter Sunday. Four virtual lessons will explore: Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday (including an explanation of Communion), Good Friday, and Easter Sunday. Holy Week Sunday school lessons begin on **March 14**.

Holy Week

Each lesson includes a YouTube video with Bible story animations, songs, crafts and messages from Mrs. M. There is an At-Home kit to accompany the unit which contains all craft supplies and lesson supplements. Videos remain on the church website for the added convenience of having at-home Sunday school as it fits each family's schedule.

Reservations for At-Home Kits must be made by March 7. Contact Mrs. M at kelli@waynepres.org. Everyone is welcome. Grandkids encouraged.

VIRTUAL FAMILY EASTER EVENT



Sunday, March 28 @4pm | Join us for a special time of At-Home celebration. We will dye and paint Easter eggs and enjoy a YouTube experience together, followed by a fellowship Zoom.

Contact Mrs. M at kelli@waynepres.org to reserve your At-Home kit and zoom information.

AN INVITATION TO WALKING THE MOURNER'S PATH

The winter is long, losses amount, grief is real, and isolation complicating. Won't you join our community of caring to "walk the mourner's path." Walking the Mourner's Path is a process oriented eight week class/series intended to help one move through grief forward into joyful living. Please consider joining our community of caring if you have lost a loved one and would like to make space to grieve and move forward.

For more information and to let us know of your interest in participating in a Walking the Mourner's Path class, please contact Lynne Samson, LynneSamson3@gmail.com or Buff Barnes, buffbarnes@gmail.com by March 8. The next class will begin in early April and will be on Zoom.

To the church family,

I would like express my thanks to members of the Congregation for their many caring cards and calls in response to the death of my husband, Alden C. Smith.

Thank you, Betsy Smith

WINTER/SPRING 2021 THURSDAY MORNING MEN'S MINISTRY | 7:00 AM VIA ZOOM

Thursday Morning Men's Ministry is an informal group of Wayne Presbyterian Church that meets (via Zoom until further notice) at 7:00 am each Thursday. It is a wonderful opportunity for relationships, prayer, and learning. The program year runs from September through June.

The morning begins with prayer & fellowship. This is followed by learning time: a 30-minute presentation typically from professors from Eastern University. We usually wrap up at 8 am, although the speakers often stay online for a while to answer questions and chat.

Are you looking to explore the world of history, bible study, astronomy, philosophy, theology, and a host of Bible-related topics? This might be just what you are looking for. The lineup of speakers will challenge your mind and fill your spirit. The March line up is Rev. Cean James, Director City Lights Network and Rev. Christopher J. Holland II, Executive Director The Common Place. For April, joining us is Dr. Joseph B. Modica, University Chaplain; Associate Professor of Biblical Studies. Zoom in for a morning or two or the entire series. You will be glad you did.

For more information or to get on the email Zoom invite list please contact Tim Pretz at tpretz@eastern.edu or Sal Ambrosio at sambrosio55@gmail.com

EASTER EGG TREE

Please join the Wayne
Presbyterian Deacons as they help
provide food for those in need this Easter season.

See our list of families and make your selection at waynepres.org/eastertree | A list of suggestions for filling your 18 gallon tub and an FAQ page are also included on the website. | **Drop off is Saturday, March 27th**from 8:00AM - 9:30AM in the church parking lot.

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE MARCH 22



WPC is a Red Cross premier partner and we hope to keep it that way by filling 59 donation slots during our upcoming drive on Monday, March 22 from 1:30-6:30 pm. All blood will be tested for COVID antibodies! Please take a slot and sign up at redcrossblood.org Sponsor-waynepres or on our church website. Thanks for being part of our Premier Team!

Deaths | We give thanks for the life and the ministry of...

Richards Jarden February 18, 2017*

Alden Smith January 11, 2021

Twining Campbell January 21, 2021

Elma Niesley January 22, 2021

Richard Segermark January 24, 2021

Carole Chapman January 27, 2021

*prior years death

EASTER LILIES ORDER FORM

The Sanctuary will be decorated for Easter with lilies this year! Place your order either online or by printing out this form and sending your payment to the office (info provided at the bottom of the form.) Please place your order before the Sunday, March 21, 2021 deadline. The cost for each plant is \$10.00. Pickup of lilies will be Saturday, April 3 from 2:00pm – 4:00pm.

Please note the total number of lilies requested _, and check here _____ if you plan to pick up your plant(s) on Saturday April 3.

Name(s) of DONOR(S) (please print as legibly possible)	
-	
Phone:	
(cell / home ph have questions	one that we can reach you at if w
Please check as possible) to be:	nd print name(s) (as legibly as
* Commence of the Commence of	ialized (deceased)
Honore	d (living)

ORDER(S) MUST BE RECEIVED BY SUNDAY MARCH 21.

If you are paying by check make it payable to: "Wayne Presbyterian Church" and send along with this form to:

WPC

Attn. Easter Lilies

125 East Lancaster Avenue, Wayne PA 19087 Proceeds benefit Wayne Presbyterian Church needs.

SOUTHEASTERN, PA NON-PROFIT ORG. PERMIT NO. 109 **J.S. POSTAGE**

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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Wayne, Pennsylvania 19087

Wayne Presbyterian Church 🮐

If you are receiving the Wayne Presbyterian newsletter by surface mail and would prefer to receive it by email instead, please email ruthw@waynepres.org. It is also available online at waynepres org/publications.

For information regarding these articles, or to reach our staff, please contact us at: Wayne Presbyterian Church 125 East Lancaster Ave Wayne, PA 19087 t: 610-688-8700 f: 610-688-8743 e: mkendus@waynepres.org Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:30 am-4:30 pm