

WEST SIDE
Presbyterian Church

Weekly Newsletter

December 2, 2018

**WEST SIDE IS A WELCOMING CHURCH,
ROOTED DEEPLY IN CHRIST,
INVITING ALL TO CONNECT,
GROW AND SERVE.**

A Story Worth Telling

Homelessness in New York City has reached the highest levels since the Great Depression. Tonight, **61,471 people will sleep in a New York City shelter**...and that number doesn't reflect those who are living on the streets, in subways and in train stations. **That's why we plan to raise \$61,471 during Advent—\$1 for every homeless person in a shelter in New York City.**

The funds will go to **New York City Relief**, a mobile outreach ministry that has been compassionately—and uniquely—serving the homeless since 1989. Eight times a week, two converted school buses travel to Harlem, the South Bronx, Paterson and Newark, where staff and volunteers set up tables, chairs and tents on the sidewalk for their guests. They serve homemade soup and fresh-baked bread, hand out new socks and toiletry kits, and offer prayers and life-transforming connections to food, shelter, clothing, detox, job training and medical care.

"Their holistic approach is what makes New York City Relief unique," said Pastor Penny, who served with the ministry in Harlem this past June. "The soup, bread and socks meet people's immediate needs, and the one-on-one 'life care visits' make a long-term difference." During a life care visit, which takes place on the Relief Bus, a staff member assesses the client's needs and connects him or her to specific resources. "But it doesn't end there," said Pastor Penny. "They book appointments and make phone calls on behalf of their clients. And they follow up—navigating government agencies, filling out paperwork and attending meetings to advocate for their clients." The result? **Lives are transformed.**

Juan Galloway, president and CEO of New York City Relief, will be preaching at all three services today as we kick off our Advent/Christmas Campaign to raise \$61,471 for our homeless brothers and sisters. On each Sunday during Advent, you'll also have an opportunity to sign up to serve on the Relief Bus.

Please prayerfully consider giving your time and funds to New York City Relief.



Is This Your First Time Visiting West Side?

Welcome! We're so glad you're here. We look forward to helping you connect with others, grow more deeply in your faith and enrich your own life by serving others. Wherever you are on life's journey, there's a place for you at West Side.

Please stop by the visitor table located just inside the front doors, fill out a Let's Connect card and pick up a visitor bag. And please stay after the service to enjoy coffee/tea and refreshments and meet the pastors and members.

Have a question? Our staff is here to help:

Rev. Marc Oehler, pastor, moehler@westside.org

Rev. Penny Hogan, associate pastor, phogan@westside.org

Rev. Liz Junod, pastoral associate, ljunod@westside.org

Deborah Holden-Holloway, minister of music, dholden-holloway@westside.org

Pat McGlade, R.N., faith community nurse, pmcglade@westside.org

Esme Elkins, children's ministry coordinator, eelkins@westside.org

Anne Lee, executive administrative assistant, alee@westside.org

Our First Annual Christmas Festival

We're so excited about our first-annual Christmas Festival on Sunday, **December 9!** It starts at 3:00 pm with an intergenerational concert in the Sanctuary—children, youth and adults will be singing and ringing—followed by good old-fashioned cookie decorating, crafts and carol singing around the piano in DePhillips Hall. Bring your family, your friends, your friends' families. Just come. It's the start of a new Christmas tradition at West Side.



Christmas Wish Tree

The Christmas Wish Tree is in the Narthex! If you would like to purchase a gift for a child in need, please see Marion Strauch after worship...and return your wrapped gift by **December 9.**

Service of Healing and Wholeness

The focus of December's Healing and Wholeness Service will be "remembrance." We invite you to join us during the season of Advent as we remember and reconnect with our loved ones, our community, our country, our world and, ultimately, our savior, Jesus Christ, the light of the world. We'll meet in the Pulsifer Chapel on **December 5** at 7:30 pm and gather in the Library afterward to continue to share, connect, pray...and enjoy light refreshments.

Advent Class for Adults Starts Today

Terry Erzmoneit is kicking off a three-week Advent video series called “Interrupted by Hope” today in the Pulsifer Chapel at 9:15 am. Come be part of the discussion!

Join the Jail Ministry

We’re celebrating Christmas at the Bergen County Jail on **December 15**, carpooling from West Side at 4:30 pm. If you feel called to this ministry, please reach out to Genevieve Lowry (gml9001@gmail.com). If you’d like to help cover the cost of shipping gifts to children of the inmates, please contact Terry Erzmoneit (terryerzmoneit@hotmail.com).



Overnight Volunteers Needed

In partnership with Family Promise of Bergen County, we will be hosting homeless working families for a week-long stay in the Barn and we still need volunteers to spend the night on **December 9, 12, 13 and 14**. Guests sleep downstairs, and volunteers sleep upstairs on blowup mattresses. If you can help, please reach out to Laura Given (givnclan@gmail.com).

We’re Serving at Eva’s Village

Join us when we serve lunch at Eva’s Village on **December 29 and 30**. We meet in the West Side parking lot at 10:30 am, carpool to Paterson and return by 1:30 pm. If you’d like to participate in this ministry, please email Craig Matthews (craigmatthews@aol.com).

First Friday Christmas Party

Ladies, you’re invited to a Christmas party at Mollie Ledwith’s home on **December 7** at 7:00 pm. Please bring an appetizer, dessert or wine to share...and let Pastor Liz (ljunod@westside.org) know that you’re coming.

Third Thursday Christmas Party

Guys, you’re invited to a Christmas party at Ron Ledwith’s home on **December 20** at 7:30 pm. Join Ron, Dave DeFeo, Gib Warren, Pastor Marc and the rest of the Third Thursday crew for a festive evening. Please RSVP to Anne Lee (alee@westside.org) by December 17.

2019 Stewardship Campaign Update

To date, we have received 235 pledges, including 22 new pledges and 84 pledge increases over 2018. Our goal is for the congregation to be “all in”—100 percent pledge participation—so that we can go “all out” for mission and ministry. Will you join us? Pledge cards can be found in the Narthex, or you can pledge online at westside.org/pledge. Thank you so much for your support of West Side! —*Larry Steenvoorden, Chair of Stewardship*

Please visit www.westside.org for more information about our programs.

TODAY AT WEST SIDE

8:00 am—Little Lambs Child Care - Room 211	10:15 am—Sunday School - Rooms 202, 306, 311, 312 and Serenity Room
8:15 am— Chapel Worship - Chapel	
9:00 am— Contemporary Worship - DePhillips Hall	11:15 am—Sermon Talk Back - Chapel
9:00 am—Sunday School - Rooms 202, 306, 311, 312 and Serenity Room	11:15 am—Prayer Circle - Pastor Marc’s Office
9:00 am—“What is the Bible?” Book Study - Conference Room	11:30 am—Health Ministry Reimagination Meeting - West Side Room
9:15 am—“Interrupted by Hope” Video Series - Pulsifer Chapel	11:30 am—Stewardship Meeting - Conference Room
9:45 am—Centering Prayer - West Side Room	6:00 pm—FOCUS - Chapel
10:15 am— Traditional Worship - Sanctuary	7:00 pm—High School BARN - Barn

COMING UP AT WEST SIDE

- December 4 - New Jersey Choral Concert** in the Sanctuary, 7:30 pm
- December 5 - Healing and Wholeness “Service of Remembrance”** in Pulsifer Chapel, 7:30 pm, followed by light refreshments in the Library
- December 7 - First Friday Christmas party** at Mollie Ledwith’s home, 7:30 pm
- December 9 - Come hear the music of the season—and enjoy cookies, crafts and carols too—** at our first-annual **Christmas Festival** at 3:00 pm.
- December 15 - New Jersey Wind Symphony Concert** in the Sanctuary, 8:00 pm
- December 20 - Third Thursday Christmas Party** at Ron Ledwith’s home, 7:30 pm
- December 23 - “Pop Up” Christmas Pageant** at all three services
- December 24 - 4:00 pm** - Traditional Lessons and Carols
 6:30 pm - Contemporary Worship with a Live Band
 10:00 pm - Traditional Candlelight Worship with Communion
- December 31 - New Year’s Eve Worship** at 5:00 pm in Pulsifer Chapel