

# WILTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## News from the Pews

March 8, 2020

If you are here for the first time or a frequent visitor, we would like to WELCOME and THANK YOU for visiting with us today! You can also learn more about our church life by visiting our website at [www.wiltonpresbyterian.org](http://www.wiltonpresbyterian.org). When you have a moment, you will find in your pew a visitor pad, please fill it out so that we may contact you to see how your visit went and if you have any questions.

### SAVE THE DATE

#### Bible Study

March 8, 15, & 22, 11:15AM—12:15PM

Join us for **Bible Study** led by **Nate Taylor**! Together, we will explore the difference between Jews and Samaritans and the source of animosity between them. Each lesson builds upon the previous lesson but also stands alone and makes sense without the previous lessons.

**Lesson One** explores how we got here: how did these two groups come to be filled with animosity toward one another?

**Lesson Two** explores the relationship between Samaritans and Jesus through personal encounters and parables.

**Lesson Three** explores the spread of the Gospel after Jesus's resurrection, as it moves into Samaria.

Each lesson will also explore how the scripture applies and relates to life.

#### Midnight Run

Saturday, March 28

We need your help! For sign up and instructions, please click [HERE](#) or go to: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a054ea4ab29a20-wpcmidnight7>

Questions? Contact [Ralph Bernabei](mailto:ralphbernabei@gmail.com) at [ralphbernabei@gmail.com](mailto:ralphbernabei@gmail.com)

### PRAYERS & CONCERNS

Please pray for: Lisa Bettke (cataract surgery); Tim Cummins and family (after the death of Tim's dad); Nicole and Madelyn Close (broken shoulder and foot); Stephanie Close, Forrest's mother, who recently had a fall with injuries; Marianne Wilson (recouping from surgery); Emily Bohrer, Kristina Grish, and Brandon Bone.

Please also keep Hope Burnaman in your prayers. Hope just left for Madagascar where she will serve for 2 years with the Peace Corps.

Welcome back to Al and Jan Galletly after a well-deserved few weeks off. Glad to have you back in the saddle, Al!

Please continue to pray for all those who are in need and who choose to remain private.

MARCH 8<sup>TH</sup> - MARCH 22<sup>ND</sup>

#### Sunday, March 8<sup>th</sup>

10:00 AM Worship Service  
11:15 AM Bible Study for Adults

#### Monday, March 9<sup>th</sup>

12:00 PM AA Meeting  
7:30 PM New Life AA Meeting

#### Tuesday, March 10<sup>th</sup>

8:00 AM Cooking for Open Doors Shelter

#### Wednesday, March 11<sup>th</sup>

6:45 PM New Life AA Meeting  
7:00 PM Deacon Meeting

#### Thursday, March 12<sup>th</sup>

6:30 PM Bells Rehearsal  
7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal

#### Friday, March 13<sup>th</sup>

12:00 PM AA Meeting  
8:00 PM New Life AA Meeting

#### Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup>

10:00 AM Worship Service  
11:15 AM Bible Study for Adults

#### Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup>

12:00 PM AA Meeting  
7:30 PM New Life AA Meeting

#### Wednesday, March 18<sup>th</sup>

6:45 PM New Life AA Meeting

#### Thursday, March 19<sup>th</sup>

6:30 PM Bells Rehearsal  
7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal

#### Friday, March 20<sup>th</sup>

12:00 PM AA Meeting  
8:00 PM New Life AA Meeting

#### Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>

10:00 AM Worship Service  
11:15 AM Bible Study for Adults



## CHOIR CORNER

The composer of **March 8<sup>th</sup>**'s anthem – “What Wondrous Love” – is Mary McDonald. She showed an early talent for music, playing hymns by ear by the time she was five years old. McDonald is a graduate of Carson-Newman College in East Tennessee (1978); her first professional position was as organist at Beaver Dam Baptist Church in Knoxville. Early on, she did not read music well, so was self-taught as a keyboard player and simply improvised. She composed her first choral anthem in 1983. She wrote today's anthem, based on an American folk hymn, in 2004. The hymn's lyrics were first published in Lynchburg, Virginia in a camp meeting songbook back in 1811. In most early printings, the hymn's text is attributed to an anonymous author, though the 1848 hymnal – The Hesperian Harp – attributes the text to a Methodist pastor from Oxford, Georgia, by the name of Alexander Means.

Our **March 15<sup>th</sup>** anthem is the work of one of the more prolific composers of today's church choral music – Lloyd Larson. There are many versions of “Holy Sovereign Lord”; Larson composed this one in 2006. He is an active composer and arranger for several major publishing companies of church and school music. His music compositions and arrangements number well over 1,300 published works. He was involved in church music ministry for over 35 years, serving churches in Indiana, Ohio and Minnesota. Originally from central Illinois, Lloyd received a degree in music from Anderson University (IN) and a Master's degree in church music and composition from The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary (KY). He has done subsequent graduate work at Southern Baptist Seminary, Ohio State University and Northern Baptist Theological Seminary (IL).

There are two anthems in our **March 22<sup>nd</sup>** service. The first is Stephen Paulus' “The Road Home.” Written in 2005, the anthem was commissioned for the Dale Warland Singers. Born in 1949, Stephen Paulus was a prolific American composer of classical music. He wrote over 600 works for chorus, opera, orchestra, chamber ensemble, solo voice, concert band, piano, and organ. He received his PhD in composition from the University of Minnesota in 1979. Paulus wrote over 400 works for chorus in his short lifetime. He passed away in October, 2014 from complications of a stroke. Our Offertory anthem is “O Jesus, I Have Promised,” a work by Timothy Shaw. Born in Keene, NH, Shaw studied theology and music theory in college, and is a professor, composer, church musician, and author. He and his wife, Lauren, are parents of two boys. This anthem was composed in 2015, and is dedicated to Ron and Sue Lutz, members of New Life Presbyterian Church in Dresher, Pennsylvania.

*Blessings to you all,*

*Al Galletly*

## SAVE THE DATE!!

### Fundraiser for Mission Saturday, May 2, 2020

*Please mark your calendar. Details to follow!!*

## CHILDREN'S CHURCH NEWS

This week in church school, students will explore John 3:1-17 and I bet you could quote one of those verses by heart! And it is an interesting verse given the comparison that Jesus is making that the Son of Man will be lifted up just like Moses lifted up the bronze snake on a stick and all who looked up to it were healed (Numbers 21:4-9). In the same way, Jesus saves all who look to him. Frequently, verse 3:16 is used to convince people that they have to believe in Jesus to be saved at all, but verse 17 says “the whole world might be saved through him”. This phrase requires no belief. In Numbers, there was no requirement other than that they look to the bronze serpent and they were saved. But I'm betting there are some people who have been bitten by venomous snakes that managed to live without seeing the bronze serpent Moses crafted. I wonder is it possible the same will happen for some who don't believe in Jesus. Discuss the ideas explored in this scripture with your older children and share your honest thoughts with them. Learning theology from parents is the best way for it to stick. Let your kids see you engage in wondering.

On **March 15<sup>th</sup>**, our church school students will explore the story from John 4:5-42 where Jesus encounters a Samaritan woman at a well. There are lots that can be interpreted simply from the time of this encounter at about noon but I am wondering about the significance of the setting: a well near land that was given to Joseph by Jacob. You may remember Jacob is the father of 12 sons, who are the fathers of the tribes of Israel. 10 of those tribes are tied to the history of Samaria and two of those tribes are tied to the history of Judah. So it is interesting that this well is on the property of the only tribe to split into two. And here we have the meeting of two groups of people who perceive themselves as the true Israel—a northern Samaritan and a southern Judean. Here we have Jesus ignore the rule about not engaging with each other, across several social divides. What does this scripture say to us about division and people who are so similar to each other that their differences become overblown? Talk to your children about your thoughts. And come to Nate's Bible Study after church to explore these questions together.

*For more information, email Nate at*  
**[nate.taylor@wiltonpresbyterian.org](mailto:nate.taylor@wiltonpresbyterian.org)**

**Many thanks** to all of our children, teachers and parents for your dedication in making this year's Festival of Children spectacular.

A special thanks to **SooJung, Caleb and Aiden Sharp** who played violin, cello and piano for the service.

Of course, we thank **Nate Taylor** for all of his hard work in pulling it all together! Well done!!

Wilton Presbyterian Church

48 New Canaan Road, Wilton, CT 06897 | 203.762.5514 | [www.wiltonpresbyterian.org](http://www.wiltonpresbyterian.org)