



Kemble Connection October, 2020

Kemble Church is a welcoming, caring and faithful Christian community offering hope and support to make a difference in the world through God's Word and our deeds.

Pastor's Page

Greetings friends,

It is always a blessing to be able to connect with you whether it is in worship, online, phone, visits, or the newsletter. This has been a bust season for us here at Kemble. We are slowly trying to put together a plan for ministry and mission as we move toward the end of this year. It is an exciting time for sure to see how God will be at work even in the midst of a Pandemic.

Speaking of the pandemic, it has made it so difficult to do ministry in the "normal" way. Communication is tougher but more important than ever. With that in mind, I encourage you to send an email to the church office@kembleumc, or call the office at 856-845-1627 and make sure we have your current contact information.

It has also been a tough few weeks for us here as we have lost several members of the Kemble UMC family to death recently. It is always a tough time when we have to mourn the loss of someone but somehow it seems to be even more difficult in the world we live in today.

In closing, please remember Jesus' challenge to us to Love God and Love each other. This is how we will show the world who we are and this is the way we can begin to share the Story with our community.

Be well, be safe, and know you are loved.

Pastor Larry

Thrivent Financial Challenge for October: If we collect 500 food items during October, Thrivent Financial will award GWCM \$500 to put toward providing a Thanksgiving meal for every family that comes through our food pantry in November! Food donations may be dropped off at the GWCM Food Pantry, located at the Seventh Day Adventist Church, Evergreen and Barber Avenues, between 9 and 11 o'clock every Tuesday and Thursday morning.

Calendar

Sundays – **Services at 8:30 and 10 am** both at the church and on www.facebook.com/kembleumc

Wednesdays – Pastor Larry's Wednesday Musings at www.facebook.com/kembleumc

Planned for November -

Sundays – resume Holy Communion weekly at 8:30 service

??? - Grief Share via Zoom

November 21 - Church Conference

November 25 – Red Cross Blood Drive at Kemble

Report from Annual Conference

– Karen Perrone, Lay Representative to Annual Conference

This year the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference (GNJ) was titled COURAGE, based on the scripture 1 Chronicles 28:20. *“Be strong and courageous and act. Don’t be afraid or discouraged. God is with you and will not let you down.”*

The Conference was held on October 5 and 6, via Zoom this year due to our current circumstances, but was still powerful and meaningful. In the opening address Bishop John Schol stated that the COVID-19 crisis had moved the people of GNJ to deeper conviction. He shared ways that clergy and congregational leaders have become creative in profound ways to help others and continue their missions.

The Conference Agenda included Worship, Legislation, a Service of Remembrance, Racial Justice Legislation, a Service of Passage, and Reading of Appointments, including our newly appointed Pastor Larry Oksten. An Ordination Service completed the 2020 GNJ Annual Conference.

A Black Lives Matter Resolution was passed which allows the conference to remember, acknowledge, commit and move forward to a ‘journey of hope’. We can become a church where everyone can have a voice, a life, and have it more abundantly, and where anti-racist behavior work is absolutely necessary to the spiritual life of a Christian disciple. With a Journey of Hope, GNJ will invest money and time for a more racially just, equitable and inclusive conference, as its members live out our baptismal vow by continuing to honor the humanity, racial identity, uniqueness and sacred worth of everyone.

Bishop Schol urged us to remember that this is a time for grace, a time to help others, to break down divisions and build unity. In his Sermon, he stated, “There can be no courage without fear”, as he embraced resiliency and the powers of God within us. “Embrace your fears”.

Methodist definitions:

Church Conference – a meeting of the members of a local congregation. This takes place annually, or more often as needed.

Annual Conference – a group of Methodist churches presided over by a bishop. Kemble is part of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference, presided over by Bishop John Schol. Representatives from the congregations in an annual conference meet – you guessed it - annually.

General Conference – a meeting of representatives from the global Methodist Church. This usually takes place every 4 years.

Kemble Hosts Red Cross Blood Drives

Due to the pandemic, blood donations have decreased, creating a shortage of blood and blood products. In the late summer, Kemble opened its Raver Hall to the Red Cross for a blood drive.



On **Wednesday, November 25**, another blood drive will be held at Kemble. Donors may find information about giving blood and make an appointment at <https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/find-drive>, or call the church office, 856-845-1627.

Grief Share Going To Zoom

Convener Steve Bruce hopes to obtain a tablet soon that will enable him to hold Grief Share meetings using Zoom software. Meetings via telephone conference call were found to be

unsatisfactory, so Steve hopes this alternative will work until in-person meetings are possible again. He anticipates beginning Zoom meetings in November.

Calling All Instrumentalists!

As congregational singing and vocal soloists can't be used in worship during the pandemic, Music Director Sarah Baab invites instrumentalists to speak to her about playing on a Sunday morning. If you need an accompanist, we'll find one for you.



Thank You for Supporting Kemble!

The ministries of Kemble Church could not continue without your tithes and gifts. Please keep the church in your prayers and continue to be as generous as you have always been. You may give in these ways:

1. Mail your check to: Kemble Church, 19 S. Board St, Woodbury NJ 08096
2. Drop off your check at the church using the mail slot on the right (north) door at the front of the church.
3. Use the online giving option found at: www.kembleumc.org/give.
4. Use re-occurring E-Giving through "Bill Pay" from your Bank app.

Ground Rules for In-Person Worship:

- Maximum capacity for each service(8:30 and 10 am) is 100 attendees.
- Entry and exit will be through the sanctuary doors on the prayer garden side only.
- The handicap entrance and elevator will be accessible for those who require this.
- Ushers will direct you to your seat as we are following social (physical) distancing guidelines.
- Anyone age 2 and up must wear a mask.
- We ask anyone that can't wear a mask for health reasons to please stay home at this time,.
- Anyone who is at risk, has a cough or fever is asked to stay home.
- There will be no nursery care or children's church at this time.
- Family units may sit together.
- There will be no printed bulletins. The bulletin will be available on the church website. We will also be using the screens in the sanctuary to display the Order of Worship.
- The service will be streamed live on Facebook for those who want to participate from home.

Ushers Needed

As you can see from the ground rules, ushers are needed at each service. In addition to greeting and seating people, they wipe down the pews before each service. Please contact the church office if you can serve as an usher.

Church Family



We extend best wishes to John Sooy and Bett Layton who were married at Kemble on October 3. Flowers from the wedding remained in the church on Sunday morning for all to enjoy. (If you 'attended' the service on Facebook, you could see one of the bouquets when the camera focused on Sarah.)



We congratulate Sarah England Baab, Director of Music Ministry, on the successful defense of her doctoral dissertation, "A Blue Tin Pan: Musical, Cultural, and Personal Contexts of Jazz in the Music of Harold Arlen.", at the University of Delaware. Arlen is perhaps best known as the composer of the music for "The Wizard of Oz".

PTO: Room For More!

PTO Director Normajeon McMichael says that even with all the changes in routine due to the pandemic, the children at Kemble's PTO (Parents' Time Out) preschool are thriving!



Enrollment is not at full capacity, so do call her if you have questions about enrolling your child, 856-845-1627, Monday-Friday, 9 am – noon.



In Memoriam



We join the families of these individuals in celebrating their lives.

The Rev. Myrna Lynn Bethke, Full Elder and District Superintendent in the United Methodist Church, died quietly on July 3, following a stroke. She was 63. She is survived by her husband, Charles (Drew) Burrus, her brother Robert, her adult children, their spouses, and 4 cherished grandchildren, along with numerous cousins and nieces and nephews. She was a pre-med student before answering a call to ministry, obtaining her MDiv degree and entering the United Methodist clergy in 1982. She served 8 congregations as a pastor, including Kemble, where she served as Assistant Pastor in the 1980s. In 2014, she became a District Superintendent.

Myrna had a passion for youth, mission, and social justice work, and was a hands-on participant in all those areas in her churches and at the Conference level. Blessed with a quiet strength and sense of humor, she had a talent for coaching people of all ages and positions through times of difficulty, often without those people knowing exactly what she was doing.

After losing her youngest brother Billy to the 9/11 attacks, Myrna became an early member of September Eleventh Families for Peaceful Tomorrows, an organization of family members of people lost to those events who joined together “to turn (their) grief into action for peace.” Myrna worked hard to hold true to what it meant to have the title of “pastor”. She found great fulfillment in working hard to hold true to her title of “mom”. Her most beloved title was “grandma”.

Expressions of condolence may be sent to Drew Burrus, 37 Palomino Circle, Mantua NJ 08051. Memorial donations may be made to the Peaceful Tomorrows organization via their website www.peacefultomorrows.org, using the Donate Now option on the homepage, or to the Miracles Everywhere campaign of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church. Visit www.gnjumc.org, and click on the Miracles Everywhere link near the bottom right of the homepage. Donations may be made via the website, or by check payable to GNJUMC, 205 Jumping Brook Road, Neptune NJ 07753, with a memo “Miracles Everywhere / Myrna Bethke”.

Mildred Ann (Millie) Jones (nee Brink), age 94, died on July 8 at her home in Woodbury where she lived over 70 years. Millie formerly worked for Kresge's in Woodbury and retired from Addressograph Multigraph in Mount Laurel. She was an active member of the Rebecca Circle at Kemble as long as she was able, and baked brownies for the monthly community lunch. Millie was a long time volunteer at Underwood Memorial Hospital, volunteering until just recently. She enjoyed camping and was a member of the National Campers and Hikers Assn. Sojourners Chapter and the Family MotorCoach Assn. She is survived by her children Stanley Ronald Jones, Marjie A. Setser, Lee S. Jones, grandchildren Chris, Bryan, Tom, Brad, Carrie and Biagio and four great grandchildren.

Madeline (Lynn) Costigan, 64, passed away peacefully on August 21, at home with her family after a long illness. She is survived by her loving husband Dave Shamlian, their children Dan and Lauren, and a large extended family. Her passions were photographing her children, nieces, and nephews and spending time at her Lake Kandle retreat. Lynn touched many lives in her work as a psychiatric nurse. She was the first of 11 children to go to college, paying her own way and earning her

Master's degree from UCLA. She taught several nursing classes at GCC and found time to volunteer for SANE. A celebration of her life will happen post-pandemic.

James L. Krauss, Jr., 69, of Woodbury, NJ went to greet all his heavenly friends on September 28. Beloved husband of Paula, loving father of Bridget Taylor, doting "Opa" of Alexis and devoted brother-in-law of David, Jim taught music for many years in the Woodbury School System, inspiring his students to achieve and succeed. He played bass in the pit band for the high school musicals, and in jazz ensembles. A faithful member of Kemble, he sang in the Senior Choir, for which he arranged music and composed several original pieces. Jim created and maintained Kemble's first website and taught a class in Kemble's first summer Music Camp. He wore his thick mane of white hair in a ponytail. More than once he donated hair to organizations that make wigs for those who have lost their hair.

Mary Jane Warfle went home to her Lord on Sunday, October 4, 2020. She was raised in Port Norris, NJ and attended Millville High School. She married Dayton F. Warfle and resided in Dividing Creek, NJ until 1971 when she and Dayton moved to West Deptford where they ran Warfle Insurance Agency. Mary Jane has volunteered at numerous service organizations, especially the GWCM Food Bank. She was employed by Inspira Medical Center in Guest Relations until 2019 when she retired at the age of 88. As a member of Kemble, Mary Jane served faithfully in all aspects. She was willing to help anyone at any time and could never say no. She spread love and faith wherever she went. Her love for her God and her family was limitless. She is survived by her children, Dayton F. Warfle, Jr., B. Kathy Duffield, and Linda M. Caruccio, as well as their spouses, and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Donations in her memory may be made by check to Greater Woodbury Cooperative Ministries (or GWCM), 330 E. Barber Ave Woodbury, NJ 08096, (please designate food pantry on the memo), or online at www.gwcm.org.



Greater Woodbury Cooperative Ministries Report

Coordinator Kathy Stackhouse-Cunningham declares that God is working at the Food Pantry in wonderful ways! God is using all people to provide food, volunteers, and most especially prayers, to support this ministry.

Food Closet recipients have tripled during the COVID-19 pandemic. Here are numbers for 2019 and 2020:

	2019	2020
Number of Families		
June	229	450
July	240	451
August	238	455
Number of People		
June	542	1726
July	559	1684
August	503	1580

But GOD is FAITHFUL!

-J. Ambrogi Foods company asked if we could distribute boxes of fresh fruit and vegetables. All summer through the end of August, they delivered 54 boxes every Tuesday for our clients. Each box included apples, oranges, tomatoes, romaine lettuce, cucumbers, celery, potatoes, and an onion. (22 pounds in each box!)

- A group of individuals who help with the Bushels of Blessings gleaning program that provides fresh vegetables and fruit from local farms helps us to have items for clients who come on Thursdays.
- The Red Bank Battlefield garden also gives us the produce from their garden.
- Lunch Box Program: Even though we were unable to do our own Lunch Box Program, The Food Bank of South Jersey contacted us and asked if we would distribute lunches for them. They came every Tuesday till the end of August.
- On July 19, the Presbyterian Church at Woodbury sponsored a Drive By, Drop Off Food Drive for our benefit. It was a success, giving us a much needed infusion of food. Thank you to all who participated, both donating and working.
- School Supplies: The Food Closet handed out school supplies in mid August. Three car trunks were used to hand out supplies, one for elementary school, one for middle school, and one for high school.

Treasurer's Report

During May & June we experienced an extraordinary level of individual giving, as well as several grants including a United Way COVID-19 Relief grant, another United Way mini-grant, a Community Foundation of New Jersey grant for fresh fruits, and a Non-Profit Development Center grant. We thank Cheri Slack for coordinating the grant activity. We also received a donation from the NJ Synod Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

In June, we gave thermometers to our clients under the terms of a COVID-19 relief grant. While the "Mardi Bra" distribution was suspended because of the pandemic, funds remain for that project when it is safe to do it.

Donors have used our "Paypal" account to an exceptional degree since the beginning of the pandemic; the amount of food donations have been truly extraordinary as well, enabling us to meet the increased need.

Ed Farrell will remain as Treasurer for GWCM.

Looking for an Auditor

Our auditor has moved to Florida. Therefore, GWCM is looking for someone who is capable of conducting an audit for 2019 fiscal year. If you are interested, please contact Donna Lightcap (609)230-7436.

We are trying to keep our website current, so please take a look at www.gwcm.org and give us your feedback.

God keeps overwhelming us with His blessings. We thank the Lord for putting it in so many hearts to donate at a level we have not experienced in all our years as a ministry. We are learning that we can do nothing without Him.



From the desk of Mike Landis,
Executive Director
October 8, 2020

Dear Friends,

In 1917 and 1918 while the Spanish Flu ravaged the Camden dockyard workers the Neighborhood Center went into action. The staff of the Center, then called the Deaconess Home and Community Center aided families with food baskets and child care for parents that were stricken with the Flu for two years. The Center ceased all other operations and only focused on the families sickened by the flu at great personal jeopardy.

One hundred and two years later the Neighborhood Center in Camden is again fulfilling its mission of loving our neighbors as ourselves during this COVID crisis. Today the Center feeds, on average, eighty adults suffering from food insecurity daily. The Center, with only the interruption of three weeks has provided full time child care so parents can maintain a job and family income. The Camden school district is operating remotely so school age children are stuck at home with either one parent or no parent for computer-based education. However, the Center now provides day long programs for school age children to complete their computer-based education, homework, and fun at the Center with our staff.

We successfully completed our Summer Camp during this crisis while providing our families with fresh produce grown in our Urban Farm and managed by our teen farmers. We were also able to safely operate a basketball camp that taught basketball fundamentals to children in our gym. We have been fortunate to use this time to also improve our historic building by fixing its roof, windows, and heating.

Many challenges remain that will need the support from Kemble UMC. We are unable to hold our annual benefit to support our evening teen program. The teen program provides critical support to teenagers and their path to College. Last semester every one of our seniors was accepted to College and is enrolled this Fall. Any financial support for this program is greatly needed and appreciated.

Additionally, we have had to adjust our Thanksgiving Food drive in light of the dangers with COVID. This year we are asking our Churches and supporters to donate frozen turkeys and gift cards for our families. We simply can't risk the large number of volunteers that would be needed to receive, sort, and deliver food donations. However, we still have six hundred families that need help at Thanksgiving. Food insecurity has increased during this crisis to the point that food banks have greatly reduced stocks to help the Neighborhood Center's families.

And so, the Neighborhood Center in Camden continues its Mission in 2020!

Please stay safe and thank you for your support!

Mike Landis

The Neighborhood Center in Camden, 278 Kaighns Avenue, Camden NJ 08103
Phone: 856-365-5295