



# TIDINGS

WESTHAMPTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

APRIL 2020

## A Word from the Pastor

As I write this, I am sitting in my home, surrounded by dogs, and a very energetic 2 year old unsure of when this will all end. It very well may be that by the time this article is published we will be right back to normal, but right now we can only hope that this will be the case.

In trying to keep my sanity, I have been scrolling through the internet and reading a lot to pass the time. And I keep seeing articles that are organized into lists; 10 steps to sanitize your home, 25 things to do with your kids home from school, 5 recipes to try using limited available ingredients, etc. And that got me thinking that I would like to write my own list which I would like to call—3 things God would like you to know. Now, I am not presuming to know the mind of God or positing that might even be possible, but here are three things that from Scripture, prayer, and experience I think God wants us to know during these trying times.

### **3 Things God wants You to know:**

#### **Be not afraid.**

With the swirling reports of growing infection and the rising death rates it is easy to become overwhelmed and petrified to be a part of the world. And it may be that caution, preparation, and patience may be gifts that we need right now, but we do not need fear. We are told over 80 times in the Bible to resist fear. Time after time, people find themselves in situations where they are afraid (and rightly so!) and yet they are told to not be afraid. We cannot allow fear to permeate our lives to the extent where we are unable to flourish in the life God has created for us. We cannot allow fear to interfere with our care and love for one another, especially during a time when so many need it.

#### **We are all in this together.**

Like many of you, I have seen the discrimination and hatred towards others that has manifested in recent times. I have seen discrimination against people of Asian descent, hoarding of various supplies, and unkind words being exchanged. None of this kills or prevents the spread of a virus. And none of this is what God calls us to do as we live together. We are learning quite literally that we are all bound together by our susceptibility to this virus, but that we are also bound together in our ability to contain and eliminate it. No one person can fix this, it is only through our combined efforts locally, nationally, and globally that we will be able to overcome our obstacles.

#### **God is with us.**

It is often during difficult times like these when I hear: “Where is God in all of this?” And that is understandable. Why would a loving and just God give us a situation like this one? I may not have an answer for this, but I do know that God is with those who suffer, who are anxious, and those who mourn. We are told in Joshua 1:9 “Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.” Though we may be struggling, God is still with us in our strength and our weakness. God may not have alleviated or prevented Christ’s death, but God was present with him.

And those, my dear friends, are my words of advice for you to remember in these coming days, weeks, and months. Maybe you have a few items to add of your own. Though we may not be seeing each other face to face in this moment, I pray that we will all be together soon and that there will be great rejoicing when we do. Until then, be well and know my prayers are with you.

Pastor Vanessa



**\*Prayer Concerns:**

**Recent:** George Payne, Kathy Tureski's father; Deborah Agar, Alix McKenzie's sister in law; Walter Johnson, brother-in-law of Mimi Wood; Sally Hoge; Paul & Ellen Pfaff; The Sagendorf family; Kimberly Rogers Murawski; Dana Barrett, friend of Nancy Miller; Bob Baum, home; Emily Yervasi, daughter of Vinnie & Marie Yervasi; John Comba, Home; George Burns, home; Jay Sears; Rev. Kate Jones-Calone; Kay Kidde; Rev. John Kloepfer

**Long Term:** Chelsey Carter Collins, Southampton Care Center; Russell Deihl; Brad Carbone; Gene Hubbard, Home

## Drive-Thru Palms April 4th & 5th at WPC!



This means that people can drive up in their cars to the church and we will be handing out palms so they don't need to even get out of their car! The people handing them out will have proper masks and gloves on. Palms will be available for drive-thru pickup, Saturday April 4th from 9am-12pm and Sunday April 5th from 9-9:45am.



## Church Family News

### Deaths

March—Frances Burgess

## WPC Easter Service Schedule

Sunday, April 12th, at 10am we will have a LIVE service streaming on our website.

Please go to

<https://www.westhamptonpresbyterian.org/live-church-webcam/>

The bulletins are being sent via email and are also available on the website under bulletins so that you may follow along.

## Online Giving

We offer an easy Online giving option through our website! Go to [www.westhamptonpresbyterian.org](http://www.westhamptonpresbyterian.org) and click on the **Donate** button in the right hand corner of the homepage. It will take you directly to our PayPal account. You will be prompted through step by step instructions. It's as easy as 1-2-3!

Or you may visit [www.paypal.com](http://www.paypal.com) and make your donation directly from their website. Many of our members and friends are already on board! If for any reason you are having difficulty, please contact the church office during regular hours Monday-Friday; 8:30am-3:30pm or by emailing, [admin@westhamptonpresbyterian.org](mailto:admin@westhamptonpresbyterian.org).

Erika is happy to assist you!

## ATTENTION:

The church building is closed until April 30th. All church gatherings and events have been cancelled for the month. Although this may be in place, our staff are diligently working remotely and here to help.

You may contact the church office during office hours at 631-288-2576, Monday-Friday; 8:30am-3:30pm or by emailing: [admin@westhamptonpresbyterian.org](mailto:admin@westhamptonpresbyterian.org)

Rev. Vanessa Winters is available for Pastoral Care. Tammy Torelli will be assisting Rev. Winters for Pastoral Care. (please see her bio on page 4)

## We Are Live!

Visit the church website to view Sunday worship services streaming live every Sunday. [www.westhamptonpresbyterian.org](http://www.westhamptonpresbyterian.org)

Click on "Live Church WebCam" in the right hand corner of the homepage.

## YOUTH MINISTRY

I think March was confused this year came in as the Lamb but heading out as the Lion! Not just the cold as I write this, but Coronavirus -19 affecting all of us. I hope everyone is feeling well, I will be happy to get out and about again.

On the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday School held their annual Lenten Festival in Bailey Hall. Our crafts were all about "Lent". Kids were able to color posters and learn about Lent, they took home activity books about The Season of Lent, colored and took home their own Lenten offering box, made a praying in the Garden Handprint, and make a "Jelly Bean Cross" (where each color has a different meaning. We served a light breakfast snack and fun was had by all.

One March 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> the nine of the confirmands and Rev. Winter's and myself headed to Holmes Camp for a confirmation retreat. We met kids from other churches from Long Island, NYS, and Upstate. We worshiped together, played games, sang, had deep conversations, learned about the Old & New Testament and hiked the grounds! We ended our trip with a dinner at Hurricane Grill & Wings on our way back.

Sunday March 8<sup>th</sup>, we celebrated Scout Sunday at Westhampton Presbyterian by giving them a Patch for attending our Scout Sunday recognition. We had about 15 in total from the Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts. Afterwards the Girl Scouts were able to sell some of their delicious cookies, or maybe you sampled some from the coffee hour tab! Thank you for supporting this recognition of youth in our community.

Unfortunately, we had to put things on hold as of now, right now it's about trying to get this virus situation under control and get serious about social distancing. Be safe and healthy...Kathy

## Deacons Meal Ministry

To those who may not know, a meal ministry program is available by the deacon's committee to anyone in our congregation who may be in need.

Each meal also comes with a visit from a friendly face of someone in our congregation.

Please let anyone on deacons know of someone who may need this service or if you would like to help make a meal and a visit, contact: Christine Haddad

## Progressive Dinner Party

On Saturday, February 29th, thirty of us gathered at Nalda and Des's condo at Encore in Eastport for a Leap Year Meet and Greet Progressive dinner. The wine flowed, hors d'oeuvres were consumed and then it was time to progress to dinner! Cheryl Van Tuyle very ably transitioned the kitchen into dinner and main dishes, sides and salads appeared for us to partake!

When we first arrived, we were asked to answer three questions anonymously: what would we be surprised to learn about you; jobs you've had; and places you have lived. Throughout dinner and dessert, Stu Wood took a question from the bowl and then the fun began! we learned who had taken belly dancing lessons and who had been streaking in college and other fun facts!

We have enough wine left to start another Progressive Dinner party, but only if you fun loving people step up to host 4-6 other people and have as much fun as we did on the 29th! Then we'll have a truly progressive dinner!

I dare say a great time was had by all and we were home by 9:30pm!



## Meet Tammy Torelli

I would like to express my joy for the opportunity to share in the ministry of pastoral care in this church and community. It is exciting to be a part of the pastoral care ministry Rev. Vanessa has developed in her time here. Caring for the friends and family of this amazing church will be an opportunity to truly share in the ministry she shares among you. I am looking forward to getting to know each of you over the next six months and sharing in the joys and concerns of your lives.

I would like to share a little about myself so that when we meet you will know just who I am and why sharing in the ministry is so important. I am currently a seminarian in the United Church of Christ, just months away from ordination to become a local church pastor. I am the mom of 7 wonderful children ranging in age from 4 to 16. I am blessed to have 6 daughters and one son. My children are very involved in their community including playing sports, volunteer work, and an active church life. I enjoy staying busy with activities like camping, coaching soccer for young children, raising dogs and sugar gliders, and I a local Girl Scout leader. If I not at church I will be with my children or the Girl Scouts. In my professional life I am a recruiter for the federal program Job Corps. I actively work to find, background check, and interview young people who are in need of training to be paid for by the Department of Labor with job finding resources after graduation.

We are currently in a time of change in our church communities and the world. In understanding this change is still ongoing, our times of face to face opportunities for visitation are not possible. I am, however, happy to have time we can meet in a virtual space such as Zoom and times over the phone for checking in and times of prayer. I look forward to being a part of the ministry of this blessed church over the next few months and getting to know each of you. Stay Safe, Stay Well.

May God be with you and bless you.

Tammy Torelli



Hello from the entire family!!



# Happy 104th Birthday to John Comba!

## From all your friends and family at WPC!



## FROM THE HIKING CORNER

By Janet Hann



The hikes have been put on hold to comply with the banning of all non-essential gatherings to curtail the spread of COVID-19. This is disappointing since hikes provide fellowship and exercise while observing nature.

Spring is a wonderful time to observe nature come alive after resting and hibernating for the winter. Let's think back to previous hikes and remember what gave you joy and relaxing thoughts. Last year at this time we hiked in Sears Bel- lows Co. Park from Bellows Pond to the Paumanok Path to Sears Pond. This hike comes to mind because of spring peep- ers. On the return to our cars, we walked passed a small pond where the peepers were singing. Spring peepers are tiny tree frogs the size of .8-1.5 inches long and weigh about 3-5 grams. Spring is their mating season which is what the chirp- ing is all about. Their sound is comparable to a chain saw and can reach up to 104db. Their amazing feat is the ability to survive by freezing. They hibernate under leaf litter and logs. When the temperature drops below freezing, they have the ability to produce high amounts of glucose to flood the blood stream. That prevents damage even when most of their body is frozen. This cold tolerance lets the peepers emerge early in the spring before predators zero in on their location. They prefer the ground and live in marshy woods, ponds and swamps but are rarely seen because of their size and camou- flage color.

Once the COVID-19 restrictions are lifted, hikes will return but for now ponder and think back where we have hiked. Most of all, hope you are safe and doing well.

## PW Spring News

Presbyterian Women met at noon, March 11, 2020 for the monthly luncheon/business meeting. Rev. Vanessa Winters led us in prayer. Thank you Cheryl for preparing the corned beef, a first for her. It couldn't have been better. Cabbage, carrot salad, Irish soda bread and brownies a la mode, rounded out the menu. And, the best of the luncheon was having so many around the table—12! Lets do it again!

We received no Treasurer's Report. Gale is vacationing with Pete, enjoying well earned relaxation. The search for kitchen stools to replace all but 3 currently being used ended successfully. They were ordered, delivered and will be assembled. In addition, 6 replacement cushions are on order. The metal stools will go to scrap metal for fundraising.

We have no news to pass along from Child Care International about our next "adopted" child. The suggestion to sponsor a paper shredding day will need additional approvals before details are set forth. It was a consensus that the shredding hours be conducted to coincide with the scrap metal drive in September.

The Rummage Sale was discussed. Donations for the rummage sale will need to be approved for drop off. As we go through these uncertain times, we can not have items lingering in the church or handled by anyone for precau- tionary reasons. Please contact the church office during regular hours Monday-Friday; 8:30am-3:30pm. Fingers crossed we are able to conduct activities as usual come May!

Our April 8th luncheon/meeting has been cancelled. We look forward to our May luncheon/meeting. Mystery luncheon? Solved! Join us May 13th at 11:00 am for Brunch! Just bring yourselves!

A call from Denver, Colorado told us how much the old newspaper photos in the March Tidings are being en- joyed. Thanks to Erika for finding the year, 1967, to go with the clipping we were given. It was a nice way to refresh memories of so many activities we shared. Bob Hope said it all—"Thanks for the Memories."

Reach out with prayers for all who are being impacted by the Coronavirus challenges. Send a card, write a note, make a call. Let people know you care.

## Giving During a Time of Great Need

Whenever there is great need, we do try to reach out and help. Whenever we experience a disaster, it is often followed by many appeals and messages of how one can help. We can become totally overwhelmed and not know what to do, whom to aid, how much to give. There are so many options; it can even paralyze us so that we do nothing.

I in no way wish to detract from the appeals. Indeed, just yesterday I clicked on a link on Face Book in response to a questionnaire about one of the hot topics that is often the focus of political campaign speeches. I even surprised myself, for I not only answered those questions, but I found myself continuing to more questions, and I even gave a donation to this lobbying organization.

However, on the whole, I work from the “known to the unknown.” While these are the words of primary advice for genealogical research, I find they also define my modus operandi. I do not push for revolution; I work within the existing system. When asked, “Can we do...?” I pull out the bylaws or the procedural manual before giving my answer/opinion.

Similarly, when asked to give money, I usually stick to the known: the organizations that I know do good, that limit their administrative costs, and that have a great track record. That is why I personally will give extra this year through our church to OGHS.

One Great Hour of Sharing has a great track record. It was begun in the wake of World War II and continues strong today through several different denominations. Just two days ago, I wrote in the announcements of the Orient Congregational Church UCC (where I am church secretary) that I was confident that OGHS would be responding to the Coronavirus pandemic. Through the closing of that church, the OGHS bulletin inserts and donation envelopes would not be distributed. I entreated the congregation to consider mailing in their donations to the church office despite that lack of paper appeal.

So today I went online to PCUSA.org, the website of our denomination. I found a new bulletin insert about OGHS and the pandemic. I forwarded it to Erika, and I wrote this article for Tidings.

Give as much as you are able. Give as often as you are able. Give to as many appeals as you are able. Consider sacrificial giving. But don't forget the known such as the American Red Cross, Doctors without Borders, the Salvation Army, UNICEF, to name a few. And don't forget the church's OGHS offering.

Diane F. Perry

## What is Salary Supplement?

The words Salary Supplement seem pretty obvious. What is it? It is financial support of salaries. But whose salary? When the Session members speak of salary supplement, they are referring to a special fund of the presbytery which is used to help churches who struggle to pay their minister.

The Presbytery of Long Island (PLI) has this special fund that is maintained through donations from churches and from individuals. The monies are used for Salary Supplement, for Emergency Relief, and for Professional Development of minister members of the presbytery. The Committee on Ministry (COM) manages the fund. They have a policy for its use and an application form for the local church to use when making a request for aid. *[By the way, these documents are available for viewing by one and all on the File Cabinet page of the presbytery's website at [presbyteryofli.com](http://presbyteryofli.com).]*

I personally know that Westhampton Presbyterian Church (WPC) contributed to the Salary Supplement Fund in the 1990s. I first heard of the fund while attending presbytery meetings. I remember seeking an understanding of it by asking Tom Rogers, Treasurer, about it. He said that WPC was paying into the fund at the same time as we were paying our per capita.

In researching it now, I find that we no longer make an annual contribution, and have not done so for quite a few years. In fact, very few churches are now making contributions. Since the funds are greatly needed, the COM had to address the lack of donations. Last fall they proposed that a donation be computed on a per capita basis as of January 1, 2020, and that the 2020 amount be five dollars per active member. The Presbytery voted on this recommendation at Elmont on October 27, 2019, and it passed. We the Presbytery voted, so we the Presbytery must now pay.

So, what does this mean to us at WPC? First of all, it means we owe the COM's special fund \$1,525 this year. (305 members at five dollars each.) Secondly, it explains why we added two new lines to the budget adopted by the Session in January. One line is the expense. The other is the Donations: PLI Salary Supplement income line.

Thirdly, this opens the possibility for you, the members of our church, to take part in contributing to this worthy cause yourself. It is only five dollars per confirmed member; simply note Salary Supplement on your check's memo line, or enter that into the information box if donating via our website link to PayPal. Thank you for being a part of our connectional church.

Diane F. Perry, Financial Secretary

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY**

1	Sean Jones	26	Tom Moore
1	Dave LeBleu	26	Brady Munn
6	Mary Beth Lundborg	26	Sean Dayton
8	Linda Perritt	26	Dick Lutz
8	Cindy Schneider	26	Lynne Jones
10	Matthew Sulzinski	27	Andrew Lynch
10	Joyce Reaver	29	Elizabeth Moore
11	Brian Danowski	30	Dorette and Maik Jornitz
13	Amee Mazurkiewicz		
14	Jack Shiu		
15	Karen Andrews		
15	Heather Martin		
16	Eloise Carter		
16	Karen and Dave Derryberry		
17	Meryle King		
17	Christina Ravenhall		
18	Randi DeMayo		
19	Hanne Manker		
19	Sara Lohneiss		
20	Wendy Hornick		
21	Siri Howard		
22	Marge Beckwith		
25	Robbie Doyle		

## April 2020

*Church Building closed through April 30th, 2020  
Due to COVID-19 concerns*

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1  <i>Church closed through April 30th Due to COVID-19 concerns</i>	2	3	4
5 <i>Palm Sunday (Holy Week Begins) 10am Church service viewable on our website, click on 'LiveWebCam" Church closed</i>	6	7	8	9 <i>7pm Maundy Thursday Service via Zoom</i>	10 <i>Good Friday</i>	11
12 <i>Resurrection of the Lord/Easter  10am Church service viewable on our website, click on 'LiveWebCam" Church closed</i>	13	14	15	16	17	18
19 <i>2nd Sunday of Easter 10am Church service viewable on our website, click on 'LiveWebCam" Church closed</i>	20	21	22 <i>Earth Day</i>	23	24	25
26 <i>3rd Sunday of Easter Youth Sunday  10am Church service viewable on our website, click on 'LiveWebCam" Church closed</i>	27	28 <i>6pm Session via Zoom</i>	29	30 <i>Church closed through April 30th Due to COVID-19 concerns</i>		

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*We're on the web:*

[www.westhamptonpresbyterian.org](http://www.westhamptonpresbyterian.org)

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*Your issue of the April Tidings*



*Faithfully Friendly For All – Always  
Welcome . Include . Involve*