



TIDINGS

WESTHAMPTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

June 2020

A Word from your Pastor

We have been out of our church building now, and this has caused us to stop with our traditional way of doing worship and to suspend any group gatherings due to the novel Coronavirus. And while this pandemic presents unique challenges for us, it's also causing churches, and our whole community to engage people in new ways—online, in homes, and sometimes even in their cars.

And while this feels new to us, the church has had to be creative during difficult times for thousands of years. Sometimes we need to be reminded that the church is just a building. The Church is the people that compose it and as people of the Church, we have been given the mission to go out and spread the Gospel. Like many faith communities, we've had to get creative as we have made our way through Lent and Holy Week, celebrating Easter from our homes. We provided palms by a drive through system, receive prayers to be lifted up by email, and have worked hard to stay connected—making phone calls and checking in on one another. Other churches have rented out drive in movie theaters, had drive-by parades, and started letter writing campaigns to stay in touch.

It is easy to get discouraged by all the things that we can't do right now. But this also gives us an opportunity to think about new ways to connect to each other and to God. When Paul of the New Testament saw early Christian communities struggling, he did not throw in the towel. Instead, he encouraged these new and fragile congregations to continue to love each other and to love God despite what their obstacles might be. In Romans 12:2 he says: **"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect."**

So, think of these next few weeks or however long the church building is closed—as an opportunity. It's a chance to try something different or new. Always wanted to read scripture at home but haven't had a chance? Maybe now's the time. Download a meditation app. Start writing letters to a friend that you can't see in person even though you're close by. Think of the different ways you can engage faith without attending church on Sunday morning.

Times like this when the world is pushing us to be afraid, to abandon reason and faith, when it is attempting to *conform* us; now is the time to explore not what the media is saying, but what God is saying. Of course, we need to keep ourselves and others safe by observing all necessary safety practices, but that should only encourage us to look deeper at our creativity. So, what will you do today to worship God? Go for a walk? Write in a journal? Read one scripture passage? Maybe two! Maybe just a call to someone to tell them you love them. These are what God encourages us to do. No matter what may be going on in our world, we are still called to be people of salt and light. We are still called to love one another and to care for those who suffer. It is my greatest hope that we will be together in person again soon. I also am accepting this new challenge to live out my faith outside of the church walls and to share that experience with others. As always, I am here to listen as we walk this path together. You are not alone. God is with us. God is with all of us.

Many Blessings,
Rev. Vanessa

Prayer Concerns:

Recent: Susan Sullivan, friend of Mary & John Hull; Dorothy Evans, San Simeon; Allison Butler, Russ Babis' niece; Christian Tureski; Deborah Agar, Alix McKenzie's sister in law; 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; George Burns, home; Jay Sears; Rev. Kate Jones-Calone; Rev. John Kloepper
Long Term: Chelsey Carter Collins, Southampton Care Center; Russell Deihl; Brad Carbone; Gene Hubbard; Kay Kidde; John Comba, Home

Church Family News

Deaths

April 20– Harold Williams

~The church building is closed during this time, but we are still here for you. Phone calls and emails are still being answered during regular office hours, Monday-Friday; 8:30am-3:30pm. ❤️

An Update For June From Your Pastor

We are all anxiously awaiting the moment when we can safely return to our beautiful sanctuary and celebrate worship together. But I also ask you keep in mind the statement recently made by the UCC President Rev. John Dorhauer: "Our faith is essential. Our buildings are not." The Session will once again meet on June 9th to evaluate the situation to decide how and when we can resume in person worship. We will be taking into consideration guidance from the CDC, state regulations, and input from the elders whom you elected to serve as your presbyters and represent your interests. Myself and members of the Session are just as anxious as you are to be together in person once again. We ask that you pray for us and continue to stay faithful. Any decisions made will be communicated to the congregation as quickly as possible.

With uncertainty about what summer worship will look like this summer, we are interested in keeping the Quogue Chapel as part of our summer tradition. There are so many stories and memories that you all have that include the chapel and we want to hear them! Please share stories, pictures, memories, and events related to our chapel by contacting myself or the church office so they can be shared during worship during our "Quogue Chapel Memory Moment" which will happen each Sunday. I look forward to hearing about all the special moments the chapel has provided in your lives and looking forward to when we will be there again!

-Rev. Vanessa Winters

Reminder: the next issue of Tidings is the July/August issue. Please have your submissions in by June 20th.

*Cancelled: P.W.
 "Ladies Who Lunch"
 outing to Pulaski
 Street Grill on June
 10th.
 Still pending: July
 Sale; Addendum to
 follow soon with more
 details.*

Congratulations Class of 2020!



MUSIC NOTES FROM AFAR

This has been a challenging time for us all, requiring lots of creative thinking.

John and I have been sheltering in our cabin in northern New Hampshire. We travel back to Long Island three times a month for his chemo infusions at Stony Brook - Southampton.

We arrived here on March 17 to find our cabin surrounded by huge snow banks and our enormous lakes frozen solid. Today, the snow is gone, the lakes have thawed, and it's 76 degrees!

Vanessa and I are in constant communication. She lets me know the hymns for each Sunday, which I record on the keyboard I have up here. I send the audio files to Vanessa, and she plays them during the service.

Our wonderful choir family and I are grieving our lost time making music together. I am grateful to the many who have stepped up to lead the congregational singing on Sundays. I send audio files to them so that they can rehearse at home. There are so many uncertainties these days. Singers can be viral spreaders, as they push out so much air as they sing. I have read too many sad stories about choirs who rehearsed together too soon and spread the virus among themselves. We do not want to risk that. We will abide by Governor Cuomo's recommendations but will have come up with creative and safe ways to sing together again. Smaller ensembles standing a safe distance apart is one option. Many large professional choirs have become "virtual choirs", each person singing from their home and then a master editor putting the whole thing together. This presents many challenges. We are still working on coming up with a plan.

I miss my choir, I miss my church family. I am so thankful to Vanessa for the incredible job she has done keeping our Sunday services going, and to the terrific Music and Worship committee, which has had several Zoom meetings. They came up with the brilliant Drive Through Palms idea, as well as other creative things to keep the online services vibrant and engaging. Thank you also to Ginger who brightens all our spirits.

Stay well, till we meet again. And remember, "We are well off in God, in God's holiness always."

SCRAP METAL

Even though the church has been closed, we are continuing to collect scrap metal. If you are cleaning out your garage or basement and find anything made of metal, you can donate it to the church as scrap metal. Everything can be dropped off at the church next to the shed by the east parking area. If you need something to be picked up, please call the church office or me at 631-645-6595. I want to thank everyone who has contributed so far either with items or by helping me. We have received \$1350 toward the church budget from scrap metal so far this year.

Thanks again,
Tom Rogers



From The Hiking Corner

As you walk in the spring on the trails at the edge of deciduous woods, through a freshwater swamp, a wooded marsh or an old field, you might see a Spring Azure butterfly fluttering around. They are a very small diurnal butterfly usually seen from midafternoon until dusk. This butterfly has a wingspan of $\frac{3}{4}$ - $1\frac{1}{4}$ " and is generally pale blue to gray above and gray with black spots. The male is entirely pale blue above and the female has a black border and below, grayish with black border. See photos.

They spend winter as pupa, nice and cozy in their chrysalises. Depending on the warming temperatures, they can emerge as early as the last week in March. Their diet of nectar may not be plentiful that early so they will search out minerals from mud puddles, rocks, leaves and even bird droppings. As temperatures rise, the nectar from flowers including blackberry, blueberry, dogbane, privet, New Jersey Tea and common milkweed will become more plentiful.

With more nourishment from the nectar, reproduction will be a priority. After mating, the female will look for an appropriate plant to lay her eggs. Females will fly into dogwood trees to deposit eggs singly on the flower buds. Other plants include viburnums and New Jersey Tea. Once the eggs hatch and caterpillars emerge, feeding begins on the leaves and buds.

Not all caterpillars will become butterflies because of predators. They include insects, spiders and birds. Ants are among the insects that love to eat caterpillars. Spring Azures need to protect themselves from ants and have the capability to produce delicious honeydew that ants love. The ants will guard the caterpillars and palpate them to trigger the honeydew production. This allows more of the caterpillars to become butterflies with the protection work of the ants. However, the Spring Azure is one of the shortest lived butterflies with an adult lifespan of only a few days.

Spending time outside and on the trails is one of my enjoyments and a great learning experience. Spring is a special time to observe nature emerge from winter resting and hibernation. Hopefully your next walk on the trails will be a different perspective other than just a walk.

My information on the Spring Peepers, Alewives and Spring Azures has been from listening to naturalist, reading guides, books and the internet.

Enjoy and stay safe and well!!

Janet Hann



Male Spring Azure



Female Spring Azure

Youth Group

As I write this who would of guessed that we would of been in quarantine for 10 weeks! Not me that's for sure. I miss seeing the Sunday School children, Confirmation kids and the Youth Group. We've missed some valuable time together. But we must be thankful that we've tried to keep this nasty virus at bay. Life as we once knew it is going to be changed and hard habits will be hard to break. But I have faith that we will prevail.

Welcome June... the 6th month, a new chapter, and new page in our life in 2020. A time where we congratulate our graduates, and acknowledge the youth moving up to High School, Middle School and even Elementary Schools. A time where kids are excited that summer is right around the corner. As the days get warmer and the nights get longer, we live for the carefree days of playing in sand and ocean waves, family vacations and BBQ's. We can still have it but it will be a little different. It will require a lot of patience, faith and hope. Something I know we all can do. May your days be filled with courage, strength, confidence, self-love and inner peace. We're flattening the curve and will be back together soon. Let the sunshine fill you with hope and love, and be sure to allow for fun and laughter. I'm looking forward to working on a plan that will work for us to be together again when our NY on pause allows us.

"For I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord. They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope." Jeremiah 29:11

Be Safe..... Kathy



A father is neither an anchor to hold us back, nor a sail to take us there, but a guiding light whose love shows us the way.

Deacons Closet

The Deacons' Closet was set up as a way of loaning free of charge medical supplies for those in our church and in the community who at different times in their lives may find themselves in need of such items. The clean and often gently used items are donated by those who no longer have a need for them and would like to see them put to further good use. Through others' generous donations we are able to offer wheelchairs, transport chairs, walkers, canes, crutches, shower chairs, commodes and other items. To borrow an item or more one just needs to call the office so it may be set aside and be ready to be signed out. When finished borrowing we ask that it be returned in clean condition and signed back in.

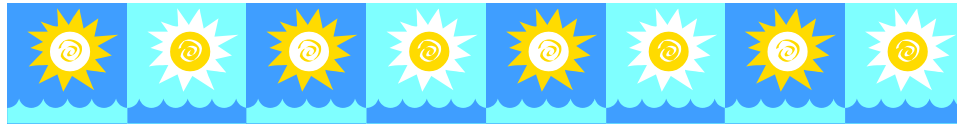
The best hours to donate and/or borrow items are between 9-12 noon Monday thru Friday. You may call the church office @ 631-288-2576.

Students Shopping for Seniors--available immediately

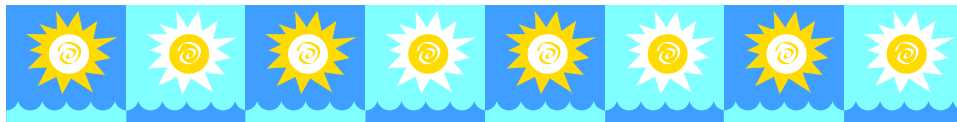
Sophie and Carter Cline would like to shop for you if you are unable to do so! They will call you for the detailed list, ask what form of payment you prefer to use and work out the delivery date and time. They will wear masks and gloves at all times, spray the bag(s) with Lysol and leave the marketing on your doorstep with a smile!

Please call the church office with your name and number and the Clines will call you!

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES



2	Henry Tamis	16	Grenville "G" and Lisa Gooder
3	Mary and John Hull	17	Abigail Ketner
3	Hunter Wootten	17	Micki Niebanck
4	Lynne & Mark Jones	18	Matt Hoge
7	Joan Larson	18	Ellen Campbell
9	Chris Winters	18	Ryan Zollweg
9	Nalda & Desider Rothe	19	Holly Haile Thompson
9	Amy and Brian Mosher	20	Greyson David
9	Peter Sulzinski	21	Betsy & David Rowe
10	Bob Johnson	23	Holly & Ralph Hubbard
10	Anne Charles	25	Samuel Charles Cary
12	Carol & Joe Nemeth	25	Bruce Qua
12	Halsey Swann	27	Cormac Douglas Ravenhall
13	Frankie DiBiaso	28	Cindy Campbell
14	Julia Ketner	28	Wendy & Lou Hornick
14	Janet Hann	29	Alvin Wintermyer
15	Meryle & John King	30	Madeline Campbell
15	Ellen & Paul Pfaff		
15	Tucker Collins		



The monthly Tidings is a great way to spread good news, photos, events, activities, and fellowship. Everyone is encouraged to share an article!

June 2020

*Church Building closed through June 9, 2020
Due to COVID-19 concerns, all gatherings have been cancelled.*

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 <i>7pm Deacons</i>	3	4	5 <i>Church closed through June 9th due to COVID-19 concerns</i>	6
7 <i>Trinity Sunday</i> <i>Church closed through June 9th due to COVID-19 concerns</i>	8	9 <i>6pm Session</i>	10 <i>10:30 am Staff</i>	11	12	13
14 <i>2nd Sunday after Pentecost</i>	15	16 <i>7pm Trustees</i>	17	18	19	20
21 <i>3rd Sunday after Pentecost</i> <i>Father's Day</i> <i>No summer Chapel Service</i>	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 <i>4th Sunday after Pentecost</i> <i>No summer Chapel Service</i>	29	30				

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Your issue of the June Tidings



Faithfully Friendly For All—Always
Welcome . Include . Involve