



# TIDINGS

September 2020

## A Word From Your Pastor

As we prepare for a return to school, the approaching cold and flu season, and a steadily approaching and uncertain Advent, there are a lot of emotions flying around. I have heard people speak of anxiety, fear, hope, excitement, and love. We long to be together again in our sanctuary and yet still feel apprehensive about safety. We yearn for things to return to “normal.” As we approach this time of discernment and uncertainty, I would like to remind us all of a few things:

We are in this together. It can be hard to remember this as we are not often seeing one another in person and we are spending much of our time at home separated from family and friends. But we are still the people of Westhampton Presbyterian Church and God’s people. This is not the first time that God’s people have been separated and sadly it won’t be the last. As the body of Christ, we are given the gift of knowing that God is with us in all things, even during the most difficult of times. If you are struggling with this idea, reach out. Myself, our deacons, our elders, and your church family are here for you. Pull out the phone or a paper and pen and connect with someone.

Christian people, and people of all faiths, have faced challenging circumstances, and have prevailed. Famine, exile, plague--these are all challenges that people have faced since the beginning of our time here on earth, and yet our faith still remains. Of course, there was pain and suffering along the way, but we are still here. That means that our spiritual ancestors were able to keep our faith alive, and that we have the ability to do likewise. If you’re looking for inspiration, you can peruse Paul’s letters to various church communities as they struggled with faithfulness, economic difficulties, and even just the petty fights that often break out in communities of faith. Paul reminds them, and us, that if we continue to love God and care for one another, we too will make it through.

Finally, whatever you are feeling is okay. It is easy to

compare ourselves to one another and be confused or even angry at why what we are feeling is different. Some of us are ready to stroll back into our church building while others feel hesitation. And all of that is legitimate and important. Our life experiences, health situations, economic circumstances, etc all play a part in how we are coping and dealing with the pandemic. Embrace what you are feeling, speak to others about it, understand that strong emotions right now are part of it all. Whatever you are feeling, it is appreciated and I am truly glad to have you (and your story) as part of our faithful community.

I’d like to close with a short prayer written by a member of the Stillspeaking Writers’ Group which is composed of United Church of Christ ministers and writers who collaborate on resources for people of faith. They recently published a short book called *Emerge: Blessings and Rituals for Unsheltering* filled with different writings about the pandemic. This one is titled “Prayer for Returning to the Church Building (Maybe)” written by Matt Laney.

*God, I miss that place, the praise, those people,  
Candles, bread and cup, the doors, the steeple.  
But honestly God, I’m uncertain about going back.  
Must we pass the peace? Will others wear a mask?  
Will we sing ourselves sick? Always in long sleeves and pants?  
Can I be spiritual while thinking about disinfectants?  
God, you said in every shadowy valley, there you would be  
So I’m trusting your rod and your staff to protect me.  
May my (individual and sanitized) cup overflow;  
May goodness and mercy follow wherever I go.  
Even into your house.*

Be well, my friends, and continue to hold me and our church in your prayers as I do the same for you.  
Many Blessings,  
Rev. Vanessa

## Prayer Concerns:

**Recent:** **Robyn DeLorenzo**, Ruth Duvall's granddaughter; **Brendan Clavin**, Nancy Hamma's son; **Bobbie Olsen**, cousin of Linda Howard; **Karen Haley**, former Music Director of the Orient Church; **Kim Carey**, friend of Tony Thompson; **Patrick J Knight**, PLI Treasurer; **John Lowe & Roberta Williams**, friends of Vern Hackworth; **Susan Sullivan**, friend of Mary & John Hull; **Dorothy Evans**, Home; **Deborah Agar & husband**, Alix McKenzie's family traveling to new home; **Sally Hoge**; **Paul & Ellen Pfaff**; **Kimberly Rogers Murawski**; **Dana Barrett**, friend of Nancy Miller; **Bob Baum**, home; **George Burns**, home; **Jay Sears**; **Rev. Kate Jones-Calone**; **Rev. John Kloepfer**  
**Long Term:** **Chelsey Carter Collins**, Southampton Care Center; **Russell Deihl**; **Brad Carbone**; **Gene Hubbard**; **Kay Kidde**; **John Comba**, Home

## Presbyterian Women Quogue Wildlife Refuge Luncheon

Join us Wednesday, September 9, 2020, noon at the Quogue Wildlife Refuge for our September luncheon (weather permitting) Seating is limited. Please call the church office before Sept. 4 at 12 pm to save your seat.

*Please see page 3 of your Tidings for important details.*



Save your scrap metal! This year's scrap metal drive has been scheduled for Saturday, September 26th. We are accepting all types of metal: steel, copper, aluminum, old appliances, cars, etc. Bring

all items to the church parking lot from 9 AM to 3PM. If you have large items that have to be picked up, contact Tom Rogers or the church office. We have received \$3,506 towards the church budget from scrap metal.

## Church Family News

*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.*



**Join us for our Drive-In worship service!  
Sunday, September 13th & 27th at 9am  
in the church parking lot.  
(weather permitting)  
Tune your car radio to 88.1FM**



**Westhampton Beach Gardener Featured On  
'Martha Knows Best'! Check out the article on  
27east to find out who it could be!**

## Presbyterian Women News

### Hear Ye! Hear Ye!

Presbyterian Women will meet September 9, 2020 at noon, weather permitting at Quogue Wildlife Refuge. We are limited to 15 attendees, therefore it is necessary to contact Erika at the church office with your reply before September 4, 2020 at noon (631) 288-2576.

***\*Please note: if rain occurs, we will hold our luncheon at Marge Beckwith's home. Again, there is limited seating for 12 attendees. Please contact Erika at the church. If you are allergic to cats, we understand that you are unable to attend this backup plan.***

Please bring your favorite sandwich from home. We will have iced tea and/or bottled water to share. Finger-food dessert will be served to enjoy as we catch up on our summer of quarantine and life behind masks.

You may want to bring a hat and sunglasses. It can be breezy sitting on the deck overlooking the pond. Come. Enjoy.  
\*Restrooms are available at the butterfly garden.

With thanks to the staff at QWR for their help in making our unofficial reunion luncheon-meeting possible.

Marjorie Beckwith  
On behalf of Presbyterian Women



## Music Notes

Greetings from the (lonely) choir loft!  
I am missing our choirs, and they are missing making music together.  
Sadly, it will be awhile until we sing together again.

But we are so fortunate to have people who are willing to sing a solo and lead you all in hymn singing in your homes or in your cars.

The parking lot services have been wonderful. I know Ginger is thrilled to be with people again. Me too (if I had a tail, I'd wag it too)! The shared communion and the hand waves through car windows for the passing of the peace makes me weepy, not from sadness, but from joy that we have found a way to be together.

I am usually very busy at this time of year, choosing the anthems the choir will sing for Reunion Sunday and for the following weeks and months, and sending out welcome letters to old and prospective Junior Choir singers. I have hope that sometime in 2021 we will be together again to praise God in song.



Join us for our virtual worship service every Sunday morning at 10 am!  
[www.westhamptonpresbyterian.org](http://www.westhamptonpresbyterian.org)  
Just click on the "LiveChurchWebcam"

## Bruce Qua & the Great Cycle Challenge!

This September, I'm riding **150 miles** in the Great Cycle Challenge to fight kids' cancer!

Because cancer is the largest killer of children from disease in the United States - 38 kids die every week. And so I am taking on this challenge to end childhood cancer and save little lives.

Please support me by making a donation through my fundraising page:

<https://greatcyclechallenge.com/Riders/BruceQua/d>

All funds raised will support Children's Cancer Research Fund to continue their work to develop innovative treatments and find a cure for childhood cancer.

Thank you for your support.

Bruce



## Youth Group

I can't believe it's been 5 months since we were put into quarantine. NY is in phase 4 and it seems quarantine is working as our numbers are down. However, there is still so much to learn from this Covid-19 virus we can't let our guard down. I can't wait until we're reunited, but it has to be done safely and in a controlled matter.

Our reopening Task Force is hard at work making guidelines for the church to open, hopefully they'll present a final draft to Session in September and the elders will make their decision about how to reopen safely.

So, to help me out I need to know how many children are planning to return to make up our classrooms for the year. I'm hoping for classes in PreK - through at least 7-8 grade. Please take the time and send in those Sunday School registration forms. The forms have been emailed to all who were enrolled last year and are available on the church's website. I can also email again if needed. Also, Rev. Vanessa and I also need to finish up with the confirmation group, which we hope to do very soon. Lastly, I'm looking for TEACHERS to teach when we resume, as of now we do have a shortage of volunteers. Please email if you are interested in teaching, team teaching or being a substitute. Sunday School's email address

is: [whpresbyterianss@gmail.com](mailto:whpresbyterianss@gmail.com)

How many of you have seen the remote Family Sunday School lessons that launched last month? I've been looking at different remote learning Sunday School lessons and sending them in email and sometimes posting to the churches Facebook page. Some are contemporary and some more traditional. What did you think?

As for the Youth Group, I'll need to know how many youth plan to attend functions when we're allowed to resume. So, get your forms in too! They are available on the Churches website, emailed last month, or I can email again.

Youth Group email address

is: [whpresbyterianyg@gmail.com](mailto:whpresbyterianyg@gmail.com)

Looking forward to the time when we can meet again.

"Start everyday with new hope, leave bad memories behind and have faith for a better tomorrow."

Until we meet again.....Kathy

## A Note of Thanks!

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! There are no enough ways or words to thank you for the welcome and inclusion I have experienced in this church family. As of the first of September, 2020, my time with the church will be complete. It has been a pleasure to get to know so many of you in this time.

I truly appreciate the ability to be a part of this loving and faithful congregation for the past few months. It has been a difficult time with many challenges. Together there has been loss, and sorry, and uncertainty. However, there has also been an abundance of adaption to ever changing times, and love that extends through the phone lines and social distancing. In the midst of uncertainty you have allowed me to be a part of your faith journey. For this inclusion I am ever grateful. God has blessed you all with a supportive and strong community that seeks to fulfill the will of God.

Thank you to Rev. Vanessa, the Session, the Deacons, and all of the church family for this wonderful experience in chaplaincy. I pray that as you continue down your paths as individuals and a church, that God will bless you and keep you safe.

Yours in Christ,

Tammy Torelli

Member in Discernment United Church of Christ

When counting my  
**Blessings,**  
 I count you  
**Twice.**



## WISHING A VERY HAPPY BIRTHDAY AND HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO....



1	Christina & Steve Ravenhall	15	Hanne & Bill Manker
1	Ralph Neubauer	15	Susan Lipp
1	Karen & Ralph Neubauer	16	Hannah Wagner
1	Jessie Fox	16	Cindy & Robert Schneider
1	Keri & Wing Shiu	16	Caroline Aslin Imber
2	Rev. Ann Van Cleef	16	Mimi & Stu Wood
3	Tracy Martin	16	John Hull
3	Lou Hornick	17	Bonnie & Eric Wootten
4	Donna Goebel Williams	17	Lily & George Burns
4	Fred Bauer	18	Keaton Campbell
5	Jessica Howard	18	Gary Martin
5	Kathy Johnson	18	Mark Jones
5	Jane Otis	19	Kimet & Mike Hipp
6	Jessica Howard & Seamus Naughton	21	Karen & Chris Andrews
7	Jean Cuthbert	22	Stuart Wood
8	Joseph Holliday	22	Mike Hipp
8	David Aiello	22	Jean & Peter Cuthbert
8	Jennifer & Chris Tamis	24	Nancy & Harry Miller
8	Margery Gosnell-Qua	24	Jola & Christian Carter
9	Blake Busking	25	Seth Stevens
11	Jane Busking	26	Holly Hubbard
11	Grant Babis	27	John Sprague
11	Jennifer & Andrew Schultze	27	Ben Cary
12	Margery & Bruce Qua	28	Dante Thomas Aiello
13	Vern Hackworth	28	Lucy & Abe Cary
13	Stephanie & Kyle Miller	28	Traci Duke
13	Jenn & Leif Neubauer	29	Bobby Fox Jr.
13	Kimberly & Tommy Otis	29	Jeanette Smith
14	Kristin Lohneiss	30	Jeff Speer, III
15	Nancy & Wes Winters		





# September 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1  7pm Deacons	2  9:15am Mission 10:30am Staff	3	4	5
6 14th Sunday after Pentecost  10am Virtual Church service on our website, click on 'LiveWebCam"	7 Labor Day Office Closed	8  5:15pm M&W  6pm Session	9 12pm PW lunch- eon at Quogue Wildlife Refuge "Bring your own sandwich"	10	11  	12
13 15th Sunday after Pentecost  9am Drive-In Worship Service— church parking lot	14	15  7pm Trustees	16	17	18	19
20 16th Sunday after Pentecost  10am Virtual Church service on our website, click on 'LiveWebCam"	21	22	23	24	25	26  9am-3pm Scrap Metal Drive— church parking lot
27 17th Sunday after Pentecost  9am Drive-In Worship Service— church parking lot	28	29	30			

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*We're on the web:*

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

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***Your issue of the September Tidings***



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