



Tidings

Faithfully Friendly For All – Always
Welcome . Include . Involve

A Word from your Pastor

In the busy holiday season, our lives seem to get a bit crazy, maybe even a little messy. This is a time of year when we really seek to make everything appear bright and merry on the surface even if we're struggling underneath. We hang bright beautiful decorations and make perfectly shaped cookies, but in our hearts we carry brokenness, pain, and shame. Things that we just can't seem to fix.

But here's the good news—God is bigger than our messy lives. God is not confined by our boundaries, God is unafraid of working in messy situations. In fact, I think God actually often chooses to work in difficult places to surprise us with amazing grace. What are your points of pain? What is a mess that you are struggling with? Maybe, God is working in your mess too and bring you to a place of blessing.

Are you looking for an example?

Well, how bad can it get? A girl gets pregnant out of wedlock. Her parents are utterly shamed. Her fiancé, who is not the baby's father, is ready to dump her. And then he is told, "Do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit." But it's not over.

The girl goes into labor, far from home with only a barn where she can lie down and have a baby. The only place to put her baby is in manger—a cattle trough. We like to think of it filled with fresh, fragrant straw, but somehow I doubt that was the case. The straw was probably used by animals. Life for this couple was a mess—but God was still in it.

God sees this girl—Mary with her tiny infant and sends a host of angels to announce the birth: "Behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger."

The messy manger is itself a sign from God. Is your life a mess? Then this sign is for *you*.

The good news, for all of us, is that the God of the messy manger, the resurrected Christ killed on the cross, and the Holy Spirit, in whom we live and move and have our being, are able to break through in *our* lives, to begin to clean up *our* mess, and bless us too. And that, just like the messy manger, will be a wonder all in its own.

May each and every one of you have a blessed and holy Advent, a very Merry Christmas, and many joys to come in the New Year.

Blessings,

Rev. Vanessa Winters



***Prayer Concerns**

Recent: Family and friends of **Mike Hipp & Kimet Speed**; Family and friends of **Kristen Lape** (Rev. John Kloepfer's daughter); **Seamus Naughton**, home; **Robyn DeLorenzo**, Ruth Duvall's granddaughter; **Ralph Downs**, Hampton Center for Rehabilitation in Southampton; **Dee Dee Brumsey** (sister of a close friend of Pete Seidler); **Maureen Nelsen**; **Bob Wetter** (Nancy & Wes Winters brother-in-law), pancreatic cancer; **Kimberly Rogers Murawski**; **Dana Barrett**, friend of Nancy Miller; **Jay Sears**
Long Term: **John Lowe & Roberta Williams**, friends of Vern Hackworth; **Chelsey Carter Collins**, Southampton Care Center; **Gene Hubbard**; **Dorothy Evans**; **Paul & Ellen Pfaff**; **Rev. John Kloepfer**, home

**Worship schedule for December**

December 5th, 10 am Worship with communion
 December 12th, 10 am Worship
 December 19th, 10 am Worship with LI Brass & Choir concert
 December 19th, 3 pm Blue Christmas service at the Chapel
 December 24th, 5 pm Christmas Eve—Sanctuary candle light service
 December 24th, 10 pm Christmas Eve— Chapel candle light service
 December 26th, 10 am Worship

“Tree of Lights Service”

East End Hospice invites you to join their annual “Tree of Lights Service” in memory of friends and loved ones. Join them at the Gazebo on the Village Green on Main Street, Sunday, December 5 at 2:30pm. Our very own Rev. Winters will be participating and our choir members will be singing!)

Christmas Wreath Sale Pick Up

Wreath Pick up is Friday, December 3rd at 10am at the church. Wreaths are \$40 each. Please make checks payable to the **Presbyterian Women**.

Christmas Bazaar with out the “Tea”

**Saturday, December 4th,
1:00-3:00 pm**

**Wreaths, Handmade crafts, baked goods “to-go” , jewelry and more!
Don’t miss out on the perfect gift and some holiday fun!**

**Community Tree & Menorah Lighting**

Christmas Tree & Menorah Lighting, carols and Santa. December 4 at 6:00pm on the Village Green on Main Street. Rev. Winters will be participating in this year’s service.

BLUE CHRISTMAS

**Sunday, December 19th at 3pm
At the Chapel**

It is for everyone, but in particular those who have lost a loved one or for whom this time of year is sad, lonely, or both. All are welcome.

**MAUREEN’S HAVEN**

Do you have any twin size fitted sheets that you no longer need? Maureen’s Haven will gladly take any donations of these items that you have. Bring them to the church office or contact Janet Hann or Gale Seidler.

Board Members and Committees:

It’s that time of year to start preparing your reports for the Annual Meeting. Please **email** your reports to admin@westhamptonpresbyterian.org no later than Friday, January 7th. Thank you.

Poinsettia Order Form

Red poinsettia plants may be ordered to adorn the sanctuary on December 19th at a cost of \$18 per plant. The deadline for orders is Dec. 12th. Please make your checks payable to Westhampton Presbyterian Church (memo: Poinsettias). Plants may be picked up after the service in the Sanctuary or left for Deacon delivery.

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Number of plants: ___ @ \$18 per plant

Total: \$ _____

My plant(s) is dedicated:

- In loving memory of
- In honor of



By _____

Plant(s) will be: *(please check one)*
 _____ Picked up by me after service
 _____ Left for Deacon delivery



THE LONG ISLAND BRASS CHRISTMAS CONCERT

On December 19th, the Long Island Brass Guild will be playing once again during worship. Contributions may be made in memory or honor of a loved one to help offset the cost.

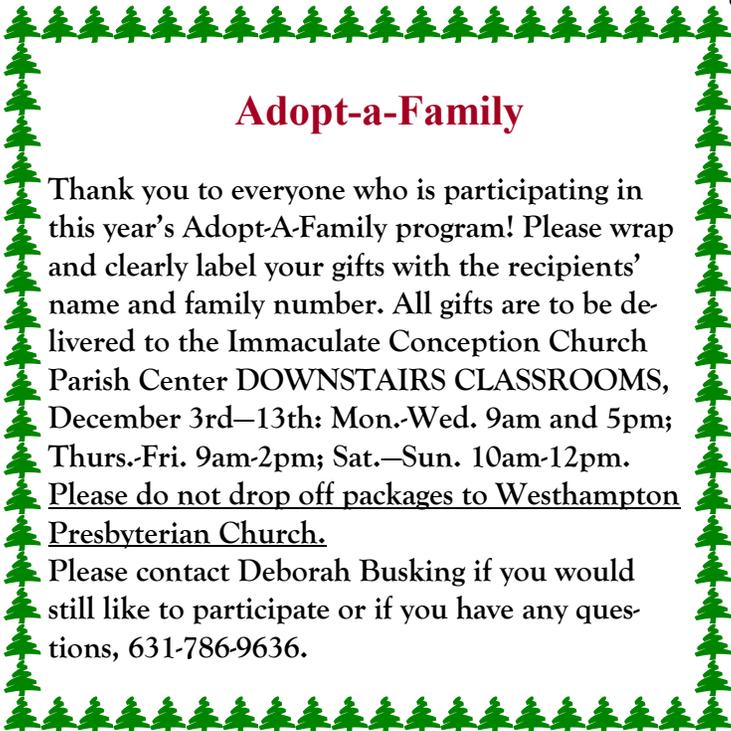
If you would like to make a donation, please fill out the form below and place it in the collection plate or return it to the church office by Dec. 12th. Please note "LI Brass" in the memo portion of your check.

Enclosed is my contribution of \$ _____ for the LI Brass Concert. I dedicate this offering (please check one):

_____ in honor of

_____ in loving memory of

From _____



Adopt-a-Family

Thank you to everyone who is participating in this year's Adopt-A-Family program! Please wrap and clearly label your gifts with the recipients' name and family number. All gifts are to be delivered to the Immaculate Conception Church Parish Center DOWNSTAIRS CLASSROOMS, December 3rd–13th: Mon.-Wed. 9am and 5pm; Thurs.-Fri. 9am-2pm; Sat.–Sun. 10am-12pm. Please do not drop off packages to Westhampton Presbyterian Church.

Please contact Deborah Busking if you would still like to participate or if you have any questions, 631-786-9636.

Story Time Advent

You are warmly invited to take part in this year's story time in Advent!

Each Sunday of Advent (Nov. 28th, Dec. 5, 12, and 19) you are warmly invited to join Rev. Vanessa in the church library for a short Advent devotion. Each week we will be reading a different Christmas story, having a short discussion followed by an activity. Due to busy schedules, story time will be Sunday after worship at 11:15. This is meant to be an event for all ages from pre-k to mature adult. If you are unable to stay, take home options will also be available. Any questions, please just ask Rev. Vanessa and we hope to see you there!



Youth Group and Sunday School News

November was a month filled with blessings! The congregation supported both of the mission drives that we helped with.

The coat drive for the Afghanistan Refugees was a huge success. We received coats of all sizes that were sent to the headquarters in NYC on the 16th. Plus, a number of you had said that you went directly through Amazon. Thank you! Stay current by checking into their website International Rescue Committee @ rescue.org .

Our annual collection of Thanksgiving food and grocery cards for the Deacons food baskets overwhelmed us! As I write this, hardly any food will need to be purchased to complete the baskets. We also had collected over \$1900.00 in grocery cards!!!! A huge round of applause to all our donors, without your open and caring hearts for the needy they wouldn't be enjoying the delicious baskets that the Deacons so graciously make.

The youth also prepared twenty "Advent On The Go" craft bags in place of our annual Advent Festival, while we continue to struggle with gathering guidelines from this pandemic. We hope the recipients will enjoy crafts and "Advent playing cards" (things to do as a family) during the season of Advent.

Kimet has been busy writing "Our Christmas Pageant" this year, and we hope you'll join us for the production of it during Sunday worship on December 12th.

December also brings the Heifer & Presbyterian Giving Catalog mission projects the youth host. During coffee hour on the first three Sunday's in December, stop by and make a donation to Heifer or The Presbyterian Giving Catalog. The youth will then purchase a particular gift if you choose (bees, ducks etc.) that option or combine the funds and make purchases of things that they think will make a difference in their lives. (Combining monies enables them to make bigger purchases like an Ox, clean water supplies, pigs etc.) Each organization enables a gift that keeps on giving, a great way to embrace the spirit of Christmas! We have cards available if you make a donation to Heifer in someone's name. We have also created an online fundraising link to Heifer. If you prefer you can donate directly to Heifer under our page.

Thank you in advance. <https://fundraise.heifer.org/team/393801>

"May the Lord bless you and your family during this wonderful Christmas season and may your New Year be one of great happiness, prosperity, peace and love with blessing flowing down above." -Unknown

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year,

Kathy



Presbyterian Women

On November 10, 2021 we may have been few in number but we did not lack for subjects worth discussion. The crafters are well on the way toward the Christmas Bazaar on Dec. 4th. Their display of hand crafted items is always a highlight of the day.

The Bake Sale will be minus the popular Cookie Walk this year due to precautions insured by health professionals. There will be mouth watering selections offered for everyone.

Good fellowship is expressed through the wreaths and fresh greens are arranged for sale. They will be available in an outdoor display area adjacent to the parking lot. Let us help bring the holiday spirit to your doorway! When you come to the jewelry display and sale you will ask yourself “which table do I look at first?” This is just a hint of what is waiting for you. Do not miss “Twice Nice.” I have nothing more to say about this corner of our Christmas Bazaar than to say COME! You will be welcome. Merry Christmas!

Words of sympathy go out to Lynne Jones, Jean Cuthbert and family on the recent death of father, husband and friend, Peter Cuthbert. Also with Rev. John and Linda Kloepfer and their entire families on the death of his daughter, Kristen Lape. Our prayers are with all, today, tomorrow and always.

The December luncheon meeting of PW is set for Wednesday, December 8th at 12:00 pm and will be hosted by Christine Haddad at her home in Quogue.

In closing we hope everyone enjoyed a Happy Thanksgiving and the Peace and Beauty of Christmas will be with you into the New Year.

Respectfully submitted by Marjorie Beckwith

2022 Pledging

If you haven't already sent in your pledge, please do it now. Remember, we won't create a budget until we know what our people have promised to give. Our stamped return envelope makes it easy to reply, or put your pledge in the Sunday offering. And remember, if you can't or don't wish to pledge, we would still like to hear from you so we know that you are with us. We have had several nice notes from folks who say they can't pledge but love us and are part of our church.

Notes from the Boards

Just to keep our people up on what is going on behind the scenes with our Boards, this article will be one of a series of notes on things you might not be aware of.. Consider it just like conversations you might have at coffee hour.

The Session counts heavily on its volunteer Re-opening Task Force for COVID protocols. The latest rule, which Session approved, is that we not have church activities involving consuming food products for the rest of 2021. This has unfortunately limited the Christmas Bazaar plans meaning food will be pre-packaged and for take-home. No one likes the restrictions, but we have to live with them this year. Maureen's Haven had to be an exception since the object is to give these people a real meal and a place to sleep.

You may not know that Rev. Vanessa is approved to go on a winter trip to Columbia to serve Venezuelan refugees who have fled to Columbia. This is a mission trip.

The fundraising committee expects to make \$16,000 this year from all of its efforts . The September scrap metal drive made \$1410 , and the year total so far is \$9059 just for collecting junk metal. Thanks, Tom Rogers.

The Trustees are gearing up for manse window replacement at the end of December. \$50,000 has been transferred from Memorial and Endowment to help pay for these Andersen windows. Trustees will also be replacing the outdoor fuel tank.

Deacons Corner

Prices are up. Supply is scarce. Yet the people of Westhampton Presbyterian Church continue to be generous supporting the Thanksgiving Baskets and Adopt a Family program. The mission of the deacons is to help those in the congregation and the community at large. We thank you for your assistance in bettering the lives of those less fortunate in our neighborhoods.

Our Youth Officers

We at Westhampton Presbyterian Church are blessed with our youth's participation. The youth of the congregation lead us in worship annually on Youth Sunday. They also prepare a special worship pageant for Christmas. They take part in local mission activities, and have a history of participating in REACH and other mission opportunities beyond our communities.

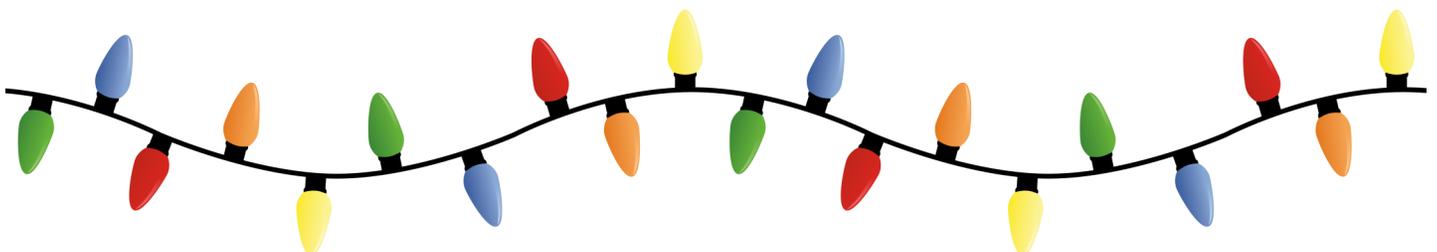
Encouraged by the Rev. Charles M. Cary in 1990, the Session approved a special committee to re-write our bylaws. In those bylaws, adopted on May 20th of that year, we established the office of Youth Elder. The first Youth Elder was Laura Wood, daughter of Stu and Marilyn Wood; she served from September 1990 through August 1991.

Four years later, after amending the Ecclesiastical Bylaws, we elected our first Youth Deacon, Penny Shima, daughter of Tom and Pat (Barker) Shima. She served from September 1994 through August 1995. Our congregation is also registered as a corporation. This corporation is subject to the Religious Corporation Laws of the State of New York. Unfortunately, no one may serve as a Trustee in NYS prior to being of full age, i.e. age 18. It took us time to figure out how to have a youth legally involved on our Board of Trustees. Our denomination elects YADs to serve at the General Assembly. These Youth Advisory Delegates are trained in Parliamentary procedures and are participants throughout the deliberations. However, their vote is not part of the official decision-making vote. Yet, they always vote first on every motion, and the commissioners are informed of these YAD votes (with counts and percentages) before making their final decisions. Following this tradition, the Session approved having a youth as an advisory member of the Trustees. Therefore, in August 2003, we amended the Ecclesiastical and Corporate Bylaws to include the Youth Advisory Trustee who has voice, but not vote, on the Board of Trustees. Our first YAT was David Scribner, who served from September 2003 through August 2004.

Our youth officers are aged 15 to 24 and serve a one-year term; they can be re-elected and re-installed to serve a total of three consecutive terms. In recent years, we have not been prepared to call the special summer meeting to elect our youth officers. The youth's service has morphed into being the calendar year, rather than the original school-year term.

The Session approved asking the congregation and corporation to amend the bylaws so as to make this official. These amendments of the bylaws were approved during the November 21, 2021 joint meeting.

Diane F. Perry
Chair of the 1990 Bylaws Committee & Church Historian



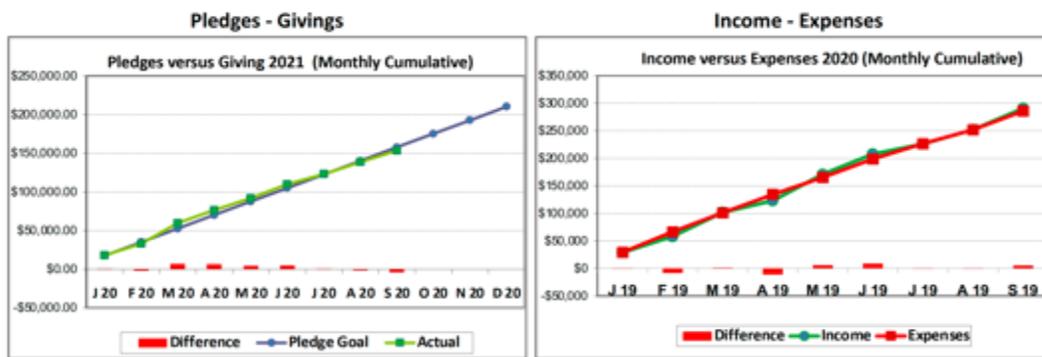
3rd QUARTER FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

The 3rd Quarter 2021 ended on a positive note for our net income, but we are trailing behind in our givings versus the pledges.

Our pledge goal for 9 months is \$157,671 and our actual givings were \$153,417, which gave us a negative deviation of (\$4,253) (actual vs. budget). This is a major drop from the first half of the year results, and we would like to encourage all pledge units to check their current givings. We thank all of you for your contributions and support !

The church's 9 months actual income was \$290,799 and our budget \$293,271 meaning we are 99% of our budget, a substantial drop from the 106% at the half year mark. Our total actual expenses at the 3rd Quarter mark were \$285,814 and our budget is again \$283,271, meaning we are over our budgeted expenses at 101%. We still have an overage of \$5,096 (income vs. expenses).

WPC Finance Up-date September 2021



The actual giving for the month of September was \$14,800, much below the monthly budgeted value of \$17,519 by (\$2,719).

The year-to-date pledge goal is \$157,671 and the year-to-date actual giving is \$153,417, which means we have a negative difference between goal and actual of (\$4,253).

In September the income was higher at \$39,065 due to an endowment fund injection. As mentioned, the pledges were low. The expense in September was \$33,969, which create a net income of \$5,096.

The September higher net income carried over into the year-to-date total, which is now \$290,799 and expenses \$285,814, which puts our year-to-date difference between income and expense at \$4,985.

We thank you for your support !

Our budgeted payment to the Presbytery for 2021 is a total of \$11,632. In the 3rd Quarter our Per Capita income was \$2,825.21, which means our church right now would need to compensate \$8,457 for members who have not yet contributed their Per Capita. We would like to ask you for your Per Capita contribution of \$43.08, as it will greatly help our church to finance other activities. We thank you in advance !

PER CAPITA September 2021

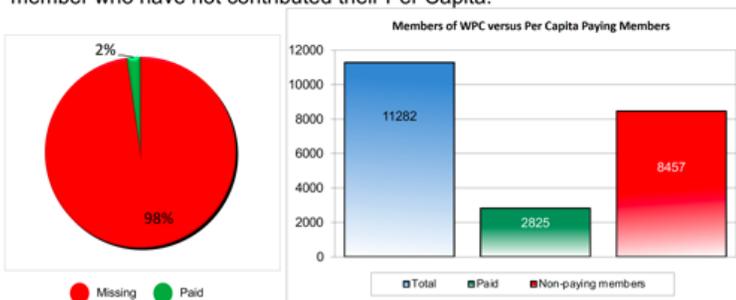
Dear Members,

Please do not forget to contribute you Per Capita (\$43.08) per family member . It is of utmost importance as missing Per Capita contributions creates a major financial burden on our church.

Right now, our Per Capita total is \$2,825.21, but our church will need to contribute \$11,282. As it stands our church would need to fund \$ 8,457 for member who have not contributed their Per Capita.

Our church is blessed by your contributions, your support and all the volunteers who add to our financial stability. Hereby, we would like to express our sincere gratitude to all you !

Respectfully submitted, Your Finance Committee



Happy Birthday and Happy Anniversary to:



| | | | |
|----|---------------------------------|----|----------------------------|
| 2 | Betsy Rowe | 18 | Janet and Rich Schneider |
| 2 | Pat and Bob Bebon | 19 | Gabriella Yervasi |
| 3 | Lisa Jornitz | 19 | Andrea Chattaway |
| 3 | Meredith and Gregory Imber | 20 | Dorette Jornitz |
| 6 | Kristin Miller | 21 | Amy Mosher |
| 6 | Gabriella and Mario Ortiz | 21 | Carol Lee & Jim Nespole |
| 7 | Cindy Drayton and Jim Rowbotham | 22 | Casandra Carrick |
| 8 | Tracy and Gary Martin | 24 | Christine Haddad |
| 10 | Brian Hansen | 24 | Desider Rothe |
| 12 | Bonnie Wootten | 26 | Jennifer Tamis |
| 12 | Bob Niebanck | 26 | Victoria Carrick |
| 13 | Erin Lynch | 28 | Marie Yervasi |
| 14 | John Hoch | 28 | Anne and Christian Charles |
| 14 | John David | 29 | Tom DeMayo |
| 15 | Pat Schultz | 29 | Victoria Hedberg |
| 16 | Jeff Munn | | |
| 16 | Robert Staniford | | |
| 17 | Gigi Ravenhall | | |





December 2021

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|------------------------------|---------------------------------|---|-----|--|---|
| | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 9am Budget 1:00-3:00pm Christmas Bazaar 6:00 pm Tree & Menorah Lighting at the Gazebo |
| 5 2nd Sunday of Advent 10am worship 2:30pm E.E.H. "Tree of Lights" service at the Gazebo | 6 | 7 7pm Deacons | 8 9:30am Mission 11:30am staff 12pm PW Luncheon @ Christine Haddad's home | 9 | 10 | 11 9:30 M & E meeting |
| 12 3rd Sunday of Advent 10am worship w/ Christmas pageant | 13 | 14 5:15pm M&W 6pm Session | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 4th Sunday of Advent Christmas Joy Offering 10am worship w/ LI Brass 3pm Blue Christmas ser- vice—Chapel | 20 5pm Maureen's Haven | 21 7pm Trustees | 22 | 23 | 24 Christmas Eve Office Closed 5pm Sanctuary Service 10pm Chapel Service | 25 Christmas Day  |
| 26 1st Sunday of Christmas 10am worship | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | |

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Your issue of the December Tidings

