



Tidings

Faithfully Friendly For All – Always
Welcome . Include . Involve

A Word from your Pastor

Whenever we speak about the holidays, many of us immediately harken back to the celebrations that have meant the most to us in the past. For example, I always relished going to Cape Cod to spend Thanksgiving with my aunt, uncle, and cousins and buying their Christmas tree the day after. They came to our house for Christmas so it didn't matter that after more than a month their Christmas tree was little more than a dried brown twig completely bereft of its needles. So what are the traditions that you enjoy in this season? If you're looking for some inspiration, different cultures around the world provide an abundance of ideas.

In Gavle, Sweden, they build a 13 meter tall goat for Advent. The newest part of that tradition is that people try to burn it down. Since 1966, the goat has burned down 29 times, most recently in 2016. In Japan where traditional Christmas isn't often celebrated a new tradition has emerged to eat Kentucky Fried Chicken for a Christmas "dinner." KFC has decided to run with this new fad and advertises a special rate on their meals for this very reason. In Norway, some people still observe an older tradition of hiding their brooms on Christmas Eve. This dates back to when people believed that witches and evil spirits came out at this time looking for brooms to ride on. Many people still hid their brooms in the safest place in the house to stop them from being stolen.

Why are these traditions, both old and new, so important to us? I think that it helps us to mark the time in our lives as the years go by, to form warm memories that we often need in the darker times in our lives. These traditions also tie us to people of the past and offer something to the next generation.

My great grandparents immigrated from Sweden to New Sweden, Maine and brought with them the tradition of St. Lucia's Day. Celebrated on December 13th, the eldest daughter of the family (which is me) dresses in white, wears a wreath of candles on her head, and serves breakfast in bed to the rest of her family. This is to commemorate St. Lucia (Lucy in English) who was martyred after bringing aid and food to Christians hiding in catacombs. She wore a wreath of candles on her head to light her way. This tradition was important to me because it connected my family back to my grandparents and my great grandparents. More importantly, it connected us back to a culture that was important to my family. This tradition helped us keep a spark alive in my family, of pride in celebrating our heritage and that tradition of passing down these practices to the next generation.

What are the Christmas traditions in your family? And if you don't have any or would like to start one, you should! As you'll notice from above, many traditions are just getting started, people are finding new ways to mark the importance of this time of year for themselves and their families. Whatever your traditions, take the time to enjoy them and share them with those you love. Sometimes this means your family, sometimes it means a close friend, and some traditions you can celebrate by yourself. In this time of year when we find ourselves turning inward with stress and busyness, find something that connects you to something larger. Find a way to remind yourself of the holiness and the sacredness of this season. Here at Westhampton Presbyterian Church, we have many traditions and opportunities for people to come and celebrate the holiday season with us, just take a look at our upcoming calendar!

Above all, have a healthy and blessed holiday season. Share Christ's love with those around you, slow down and enjoy this time of year. Celebrate Christ's birth and light returning to our days. Have a blessed Advent season.

Rev. Vanessa Winters



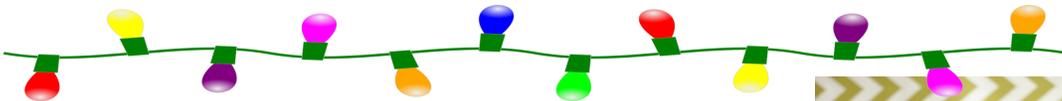
***Prayer Concerns:**

Recent: Eileen & Walter Johnson (sister-in-law and brother-in-law of Mimi Wood); Nancy Hamma; Mary Brennan; Sally Hoge; Paul & Ellen Pfaff; Brady Munn; The Sagendorf family; Kimberly Rogers Murawski; Dana Barrett (friend of Nancy Miller); Bob Baum, home; Emily Yervasi (daughter of Vinnie & Marie Yervasi); Jim Bachman; John Comba, Home; Creighton Berry; George Burns, home; David O'Shea; Jay Sears; Frank Jessup; Rev. Kate Jones-Calone; Kay Kidde; Rev. John Kloepfer
Long Term: Chelsey Carter Collins, Southampton Care Center; Russell Deihl; Brad Carbone; Gene Hubbard, Home

Church Family News

Welcome our New Members!

*Robert Cheeseman
 Sharon Conway
 Jean Van Hoesen Salomon Cuthbert
 Kristine Stevens
 Seth Stevens
 Jennifer Truscott*



Christmas Cocktail Party

When: Friday, December 14th, 5-8 pm
Where: Korey & Donna Williams' home
 23 Jennifers Path, Westhampton Beach
\$30 tickets (suggested donation)
 Purchase your tickets during coffee hour or the church office.



Christmas Tree & Menorah Lighting

Sponsored by Hamptons Interfaith Council
 Saturday, December 7 at 5:30pm on the Village Green at the Gazebo on Main Street.

BLUE CHRISTMAS

**Sunday, December 15th at 4pm
 Quogue 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. There will be a reception to follow in the Parish Hall.
 All are welcome.

"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 8 at 2:30pm.

Board Members and Committees:

It's that time of year to start preparing your reports for the Annual Meeting which will be held on Sunday, January 27, 2020.
 Reports are due by Friday, January 10th. Thank you.

Santa Brunch
Sunday, December 22nd at 11 am, following the LI Brass Guild concert
Tickets: \$15 adults, \$10 children/seniors, \$40 for families
Raffle tickets: \$5 each or 5 for \$20
"Tree of Treats" raffle of lottery tickets
Parents: Don't forget your cameras for pictures with Santa!

L.I. Brass Guild

They will once again be performing with the Christmas Choir on December 22nd during the 10 am service.

Please consider donating toward covering the cost and make a dedication to be displayed in our bulletin on Dec. 22nd.



Poinsettia Order Form

Red poinsettia plants may be ordered to adorn the sanctuary on December 22nd at a cost of \$18 per plant. The deadline for orders is Dec. 17th. 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 Sunday, December 22nd the LI Brass Guild will join with our choir in presenting a Christmas Concert during the 10am service of worship. Contributions may be made in someone's memory or honor to help offset the cost for the Brass Guild.

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.

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

____ in honor of _____ in loving memory of

From _____

Deadline for dedications must be turned in by December 17th. Donations towards the LI Brass will still be accepted and appreciated.

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 and drop off at the Immaculate Conception parish hall by December 16 from 9 am-3 pm on weekdays and 10 am-12 pm on weekends. Please contact Deborah Busking if you would still like to participate or if you have any questions, 631-786-9636.



**Wreath Making
Pizza Party!
Tuesday, December 3rd at 6pm!
Bring a friend!
No experience
necessary just a
lot of fun!**

*Sign up on the Parish Hall bulletin board so we can order pizza accordingly.

Christmas Tea & Bazaar Saturday,

December 7th 1-3:30 pm

Come and enjoy Silver Tea, Shop for homemade baked goods, gift items, handcrafted ornaments, jewelry & wreaths! Bring your friends & family!



Harvest Dinner

Thank you to John and Meryle King and the kitchen crew for providing a delicious and entertaining evening!

Walking Fellowship

2020 is approaching quickly, gather your coats, hats, gloves and supportive walking shoes. January will be a time to resume our walks on paths within Gods creation. Look for this Fellowship opportunity and details in our January issue of the Tidings.



Maureen's Haven

Thank you to the choir for providing lunch and breakfast to our Maureen's Haven guests in the month of November.

Another Thank You to the Crafters for crocheting the caps and soft blankets to our guests.

We are still looking for overnight hosts for this winter. Please contact Pete Seidler.

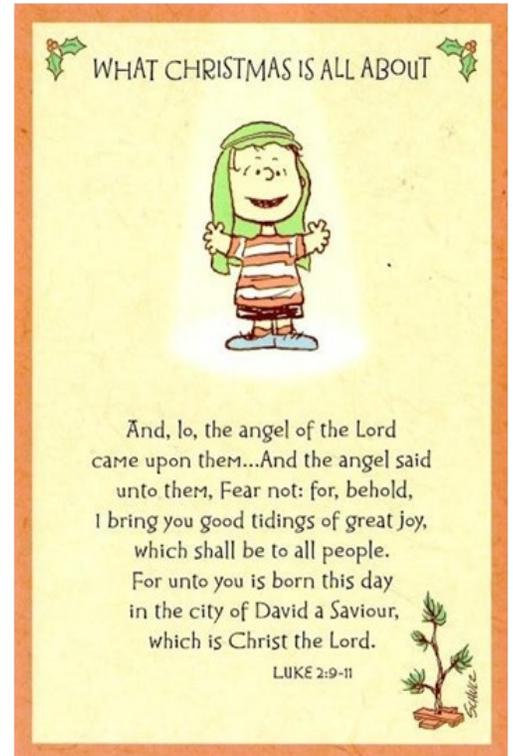
Deacons Corner

The response from the Thanksgiving Baskets was overwhelming! 15 overflowing baskets! Rejoice!

Each basket also contained gift cards from the generosity of the congregation to the Deacons appeal. We also took extra crates of food that was donated to the local food pantry!

Direct Deposit

An option for your monthly pledge is Direct Deposit. On the 10th of the month your pledge amount will be automatically transferred from your individual bank account into the church's account. It is convenient and easy. If interested, contact Janet Hann or the church office for the necessary form.



WHB Walking Club

Beginning December 1 join the Walking Club at 3pm in front of Eckarts Luncheonette . The walk will take you down Mill Road to Main Street and back down Sunset Avenue, ending at the Mill Road-house. You will receive a punch card and for every walk that you complete, participating merchants will punch your card. All punches are redeemable for raffle entries for a basket of local gift certificates and merchandise! The more you walk the more we win!

So bring your fitbit, Apple Watch or step counters and join the local walk group!

Help support your small business community!

Youth Group:

Can't believe November is over! We are thankful for the congregation of Westhampton Presbyterian for supporting the youth of this church.

We've put down a deposit for a REACH Mission Trip next July, to upstate NY. Looking forward to bringing some of the kids to experience this. What a way to give back!

As I write this, we weathered the cold and had a bountiful Food Drive on November 16th. The Deacons will be able to fill many baskets for a delicious Thanksgiving. We finished the day with a pizza lunch!

December kicks off the month with our annual Heifer Drive. "Heifer is an organization that works locally, alongside the communities they serve, providing livestock and training in sustainable agricultural and business practices to create the most opportunity for the individuals and communities with whom they partner." You may want to select a specific animal/training/or item to purchase or just make a donation and the kids will "shop" the catalog of items close to their hearts. Each Sunday during Advent the kids will be stationed in the parish hall to take orders /and or donations for Heifer items. Won't you support this and give the Gift that keeps on giving? We have pins, stickers, cards and pencils to give as a thank you for your donation too!

Real Joy ~ by Joanna Fuchs

What is Christmas without Jesus Christ? It's a holiday full of stuff.

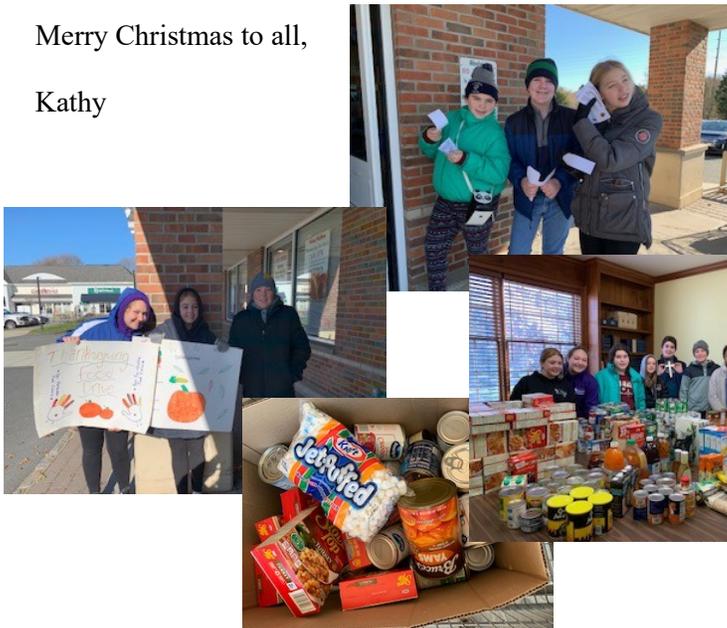
Money and stress, teaching kids greed, Some people are saying "Enough!"

"Love one another" our Savior said. It's all about love, not things.

Let's teach our children to serve, and create the real joy the true Christmas brings.

Merry Christmas to all,

Kathy



Christian Education:

Well you'll have to wait for January Tidings to find out all the details of our Advent Festival (November 24th) & Christmas Pageant (December 15th) as they take place after the Tidings deadline.

We are looking for teacher(s) for our PreK ~ K class. Looks like we have about 5 that are interested; and we would move Kindergarteners into the class with them. It could be one or more teachers to do on a rotating basis. Please let me know if you are interested.

Well most of you know Rev. Winters is going on a mission trip to Honduras. She is looking for children's sunglasses and "onesies" to bring with her. A collection bin is located in the Parish Hall. Another great way to help support her is help sponsor a "suitcase". We all know that baggage can be expensive when traveling, especially suitcases. But there's a way to help. Sunday School's December mission project is helping her achieve her goal to help pay for the suitcases that are bringing the supplies to Honduras. Any amount will help out but it will also entitle you to a "suitcase" to put on our "Suitcase Tree" on our bulletin board. Stop by the 'Youth table' during Advent to purchase a suitcase for our tree!!

May joy be your gift at Christmas, and may Faith, Hope and Love be your treasures in the New Year.

Kathy



Stewardship

Stewardship is different this year. In the past, the budget committee decided how much money we needed and the stewardship committee worked to achieve that goal. Then in January it was often necessary to change the figures based on what had been pledged. This year the Session has approved doing the stewardship drive first and making up a budget in January based on the amount of money that has actually been promised. Our plans and projects will be determined more realistically this year.

Stewardship time is right now. Please send in your pledge card to the church office or drop it in the offering plate. Don't have the official pledge card? Your note on a piece of paper is just as good.

When I was first in this church there were people who would see how short we had fallen in our pledge drive and write a check for the difference. Those days are over. We are regular folk working or living on a fixed income and doing the best we can. Every pledge is important, and TODAY is the right day to show your feelings for this church with your pledged contribution. Stu Wood for Stewardship

60 Years and Still Going Strong

The Rev. Frederick M. Homrighouse came to Westhampton to be our minister late in the fall of 1958. In recent years, when pastors enter a new call they are cautioned about making changes too soon. They are strongly encouraged to wait a year, to get to know the congregation, and to assess the community and its needs before considering changes. Either this advice was not being offered back then, or Fred Homrighouse simply marched to a "different drummer." *[Those who remember him can attest that he always moved at top speed.]*

Within months of his installation, Mr. Homrighouse wrote a draft resolution about the formation and the duties of a Board of Deacons. After discussing this with Jim Fraser, he took it to the session at their March 1959 meeting. The minutes report that after minor amendments, the resolution was approved to be taken to the congregation.

At a specially called meeting of the congregation after morning worship on May 3rd, 1959, a unanimous voice vote approved the formation of the Board of Deacons. It can be assumed that the nominating committee then went work for a few months. At a second specially called meeting of the congregation, on November 8th, 1959, the slate of nine nominees was elected. They were ordained to the office and installed on December 6, 1959.

The organizational meeting of the board took place in the Parish House on December 11, 1959. At that time the members of the board drew slips of paper numbered one to three resulting in the following classes:

Three years	[Class of 1962]	Mrs. Joseph Payne Mr. Gerard Bishop Mr. Luther Cook
Two years	[Class of 1961]	Mrs. Frederick Reaver Mrs. Harry Smith Mrs. A. N. Rogers
One year	[Class of 1960]	Mrs. Thomas Stevens, Jr. Mr. Malcolm Thomas Mr. James Fraser

The Deacons then elected their officers: Luther Cook, Moderator; James Fraser, Vice-Moderator; Mrs. Frederick Reaver, Treasurer; and Mrs. A. N. Rogers, Clerk. They also formed into three committees: Ushering, Calling, and Social Services. Thus began 60 years (to date) of dedicated service to WPC by our elected and ordained Deacons.

By the way, the only one of these first Deacons who is still alive is Joyce Reaver; she transferred her membership to the Patchogue Congregational Church many years ago, but returned to WPC only a few years ago. It feels good to recognize and honor her for her part in the beginnings of this board of officers of our church.

Background Note: The office of Deacon has Biblical roots and is found in the first constitution of the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A.; said constitution was ratified and adopted by the Synod of New-York and Philadelphia in May of 1788. So although Westhampton had no Deacons in 1958, Mr. Homrighouse would have had prior experience with these officers in his prior positions. *(picture of First Board of Deacons of the Westhampton Presbyterian Church on page 7)*

The First Board of Deacons 1959



Front row: Ruth Payne, Kitty Stevens, Florence Smith, Joyce Reaver, and Betty Rogers.

Back row: Malcolm Thomas, Gerard Bishop, Rev. Fred Homrighouse, Jim Fraser, and Luther Cook.

Presbyterian Women

Presbyterian Women met for the monthly luncheon—business meeting Wednesday, November 6, 2019 at noon. The change of date may have been responsible for fewer than usual attendees. Rev. Vanessa Winters asked to be excused as she was meeting with the East End Clergy to finalize plans for the ecumenical Thanksgiving service to be held, November 24th at 3:00 pm, here at WPC.

Gale Seidler led us in prayer. Luncheon, unlike our usual fare, was un-traditional: Erika's chili, Cheryl's cornbread with honey, chicken soup, and salad, followed by pineapple upside down cake. Your choice of one or all, with coffee or tea.

The treasurer's report will provide for our \$5,000 pledge in support of the church 2020 general budget line.

A recent minute for mission presented by Mr. Brian Breault reminded more than one of us of the lasting benefits gained from Holmes camp. It also reminded, at least two of us, that we, the UPW, budgeted a portion of the "tuition" for an active church school child to attend one week at Holmes. We agreed to consider this as a part of the 2020 budget as soon as we have more information. As a parent of two who attended, I highly recommend our participation in a week of childhood enrichment and memories.

Reminders for the month ahead were made: Wreath making (12/3), "Tree of Lights" (12/7), Christmas Tea & Bazaar (12/7), Christmas Cocktail Fundraising party (12/14), Blue Christmas Service (12/15), and more. See your December calendar, PLEASE.

The Christmas Tea & Bazaar prompts us to prepare certain things well in advance of the date of the Tea and Bazaar. Publicity is much needed and can be time consuming. The posters came to mind. Peggy Childs always had them ready before we could ask. Richard, Peggy's son, called to say he had the program on their computer and offered to print them. Thank you from all of us. Your mother did so much for

us she will not be forgotten.

This is the time of year we need to make a special effort to stay in touch with those we remember but may not see. Claire Berry was in town for a short visit recently. Gale had an opportunity to see her and relay greetings. Please send a card to someone who can not be here regularly, to say "you are not forgotten, only out of sight."

Welcome to new members at Coffee Hour, November 10, 2019. Thanks to the Deacons for making it a day to remember for Robert Cheeseman, Sharon Conway, Jean Van Hoesen Salomon Cuthbert, Kristine Stevens, Seth Stevens, Jennifer Truscott.

If you couldn't give your Thank Offering on November 24th it is not too late. Be sure you make a notation on the memo line of your check, Thank Offering.

We will keep you advised as soon as Child Fund International responds to our request for a girl to "adopt." Carlos from Mexico, may no longer be eligible due to age limitations.

Wed., Dec. 11, 2019 at 1:00 pm we will meet for dessert (no luncheon), a time for reflection on things accomplished and things to be accomplished in the months ahead. Come enjoy a selection of holiday desserts, conversation and fellowship. The last ingredient, the most important one.

May the blessings of Christmas be with you all and the beauty of the music echo through out the season.

Peace and Faith be with all God's people. Merry Christmas.



Notes from the Choir Loft

*"He who sings, prays
twice"*

One of my favorite things about the Christmas season, not surprisingly, is the music. What would Christmas be without the beloved carols?!

Our dedicated and inspiring Choir has a repertoire of wonderful Christmas anthems, old and new, which they love to sing and to share with the congregation throughout Advent and on Christmas Eve.

On Sunday, December 22nd, the Long Island Brass Guild will join the Choir in making a joyful noise during the 10:00 a.m. service of worship. Be sure to arrive at least ten minutes early to hear the Brass as they play a mini pre-service concert. We are so fortunate that this premiere ensemble chooses to share its talents with us. They have been an important part of our holiday season for many, many years. Please consider making a memorial donation for the Brass so that we are able to continue this tradition. Your donation will be listed in the bulletin on Dec. 22nd.

**Adult and Children's choirs will sing at the 5:00 pm service on Christmas Eve. Special music at the 9:00 pm service at the Chapel will be provided by Jessica and Joanna Howard.

*Westhampton
Presbyterian Church
cordially invites you!*



Christmas Cocktail Party

Come join us for drinks, hors d'oeuvres and Christmas cheer!

When: Saturday, December 14, 5:00pm–8:00pm

Where: The Home of Donna Goebel & Korey Williams
23 Jennifers Path, Westhampton Beach, NY 11978

Donation: \$30 suggested per person

You may purchase tickets during coffee hour or in the church office.

Santa Brunch



When: Sunday, December 22 at 11:00am
following Choir Concert service with the LI Brass Guild

Where: Parish Hall

Tickets: \$15 for adults, \$10 for children/seniors
\$40 for families

Raffle tickets: \$5 each or 5 for \$20

“Tree of Treats” scratch off tickets & gift cards



Please contact

Nancy Winters: 516-702-8321

Lynne Jones: 631-921-5174

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	22	Casandra Carrick
7	Cindy Drayton and Jim Rowbotham	24	Christine Haddad
8	Tracy and Gary Martin	24	Desider Rothe
10	Brian Hansen	26	Jennifer Tamis
12	Bonnie Wootten	26	Victoria Carrick
12	Bob Neibanck	28	Marie Yervasi
13	Erin Lynch	28	Anne and Christian Charles
14	John Hoch	29	Tom DeMayo
14	John David	29	Victoria Hedberg
15	Pat Schultz		
16	Jeff Munn		
16	Robert Staniford		
17	Gigi Ravenhall		





Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1 Communion 1st Sunday of Advent</p> <p>Heifer</p>	2	<p>3 6pm Wreath Making & Pizza Party</p> <p>7pm Deacons</p>	<p>4 9:15am Mission 10:30am Staff</p>	<p>5 3:30-5pm East End Hospice Bereavement Group</p>	6	<p>7 1-3:30pm PW Christmas Tea & Bazaar</p> <p>5:30pm Tree & Menorah Lighting at the Gazebo</p> <p>7:00pm Iglesia Jesus El Camino Worship Service</p>
<p>8 2nd Sunday of Advent</p> <p>2:30pm East End Hospice "Tree of Lights" service at the Gazebo</p>	<p>9 5pm Maureen's Haven</p>	10	<p>11 1pm PW Christmas Dessert Tea</p>	<p>12 3:30-5pm East End Hospice Bereavement Group</p>	13	<p>14 5-8pm Christmas Cocktail Party @ the Williams' Home</p> <p>7:00pm Iglesia Jesus El Camino Worship Service</p>
<p>15 3rd Sunday of Advent</p> <p>Christmas Pageant 4pm Blue Christmas at the Chapel</p>	<p>16 Tidings Deadline</p>	<p>17 6-7:30pm Session</p> <p>7:30pm Trustees</p>	18	<p>19 3:30-5pm East End Hospice Bereavement Group</p>	<p>20 12pm Sunshine Academy Gingerbread party</p>	<p>21 7:00pm Iglesia Jesus El Camino Worship Service</p>
<p>22 4th Sunday of Advent Christmas Joy Offering</p> <p>LI Brass Guild Concert 11am Santa Brunch</p>	23	<p>24 Christmas Eve Office Closed</p> <p>Services: 5pm Sanctuary 9pm Chapel</p>	<p>25 Christmas Day Office Closed</p> 	26	27	<p>28 7:00pm Iglesia Jesus El Camino Worship Service</p>
<p>29 1st Sunday after Christmas Day</p>	30	31			<p>AA: Sat. 10am (Bailey Hall) Sun. 12pm (conference room) Sun. 6pm, Wed. 7:30pm (Bailey Hall)</p>	

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Your issue of the December Tidings

