



TIDINGS

WESTHAMPTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MAY 2020

A Word from your Pastor

Beloved Friends,

During this time where we are not physically together, life is still happening around us. We have celebrated the joy of Easter, signs of spring are erupting all around us. Many people around us continue to struggle with anxiety, fear, and disappointment too. But one thing I've noticed across almost all stages and places of life in our world right now is many people are focused on what they find most important. Whether it be feeding their families, trying to maintain connections with others, or simply realizing how blessed you are to have a home and resources to wait out a quarantine.

Leading worship is also a challenge during this time, and I have also had to evaluate what is most important—about our worship and about our faith community. And the one thing I keep returning to is how important it is to tell stories. On Palm Sunday and Maundy Thursday we found that we could still celebrate communion because the story of Jesus' last meal could be told. Jesus was still resurrected on Easter as we told that story. Much of the recognition and celebration surrounding our faith is based on stories, and those can be shared with all of us even during a pandemic. I am reminded of a story I heard from the Jewish community that I would like to share with you:

Once to prevent a looming disaster, Rabbi Israel ben Eliezar went into a forest, lit a candle, and prayed a special prayer. Through God's power, the disaster was averted.

Years later, another crisis confronted the Jewish community. This time a disciple of Rabbi Eliezar, the Maggid of Mezritch stepped in to stop the disaster. He said, "I don't know the prayer my master prayed, but I know the place and I can light the candle." So, he went to the same place and lit the candle, and it was enough. Through God's power, the disaster was averted.

After the Maggid died, another catastrophe was about to fall on the Jewish people and it fell to the Maggid's disciple, Rabbi Shmelke, to rescue the people. He said, "I do not know the prayer, and I do not know the place, but I can light the candle and it must be enough." And so, he did, and through God's power, it was enough.

After the death of Rabbi Shmelke, Rabbi Moshe, his disciple was called to save the people from calamity. He said, "Ah me! I do not know the prayer, I do not know the place, and I do not even have the candle to light. But I know the story. So, I will tell it and it will be enough." And so, it was enough.

The Jewish faith community, much like our own, knows the importance of storytelling and considers it righteous work. So, during this time when many are wondering what to do, I invite you to think of a story, any story, and to share it with someone. It could be a story regarding your faith, but it doesn't have to be. I think you might be surprised at how much people appreciate hearing what stories you find important, what has touched your life.

One of the ways we can continue to share our faith is to tell the stories. Stories from the Bible, yes, but also the stories about the ways in which God has been in your life and in the life of the people around you. It is so important for us to find ways to have meaningful connection with one another, especially now.

I promise to continue to share my stories with you, and look forward to hearing yours.

Many Blessings,
Rev. Vanessa

Prayer Concerns:

Recent: Susan Sullivan, friend of Mary & John Hull; Dorothy Evans, Stony Brook Hospital; Clarks and Babis Families; Allison Butler, Russ Babis' niece; Christian Tureski; 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 Kloefer

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

Church Family News

Deaths:

April 20– Harold Williams
Sympathy may be sent to:
Mr. & Mrs. Korey Williams
 23 Jennifers Path
 Westhampton Beach, NY 11978
Ms. Susan Rogers
 7581 South Village Square
 Vero Beach, FL 32966

BIRTHS:

March 30–Caroline Olivia Steger–
 daughter of Alison Nemeth-Steger

Online Church Directory

Be sure to check out the Church Directory online at,
<https://www.servantkeeper.com/directory/westhampton-presbyterian-church/>
 Access code: WHPChurch90



Memorial Scholarship Applications Available

The Memorial Scholarship application has been emailed to recipients who are studying post high school. We encourage all of our members/scholars to apply. If you have questions, please call Nalda Rothe at 917-748-0644.

Member Portal

If you have not uploaded a photo for the directory, please follow this link to do so: <https://servantkeeper.com/member-portal/westhampton-presbyterian-church> **You will set your own password to access the member portal.



Thank you to Gini & Taylor Wagner and Donna Williams for tirelessly making masks for our community. You have provided for so many, and we are all so grateful for you!

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. ❤️

Cancelled: PW May Brunch-eon & Spring Rummage Sale, see pg. 3



Gabby prays that everyone stays safe and healthy!

From the Hiking Corner—Part 2

By Janet Hann

Today is a cool, breezy overcast day and one may not be enticed to venture outside for a walk. Let's think back to our Elliston Park hike. We had views of Big Fresh Pond, tidal marshes of Island and West Neck Creeks and scanned over fresh and salt water. This area is home for herons, egrets and waterfowl. We walked the Paumanok Path through forest of oak, hickory, American beech, white and pitch pine trees. Also, the trail takes you through wetlands and swamps with red maple and tupelo. You will cross the alewife dreen in two places. Along with spring peepers, the run of alewife is another sign of spring in nature. Alewife is an anadromous fish which are fish that spawn in fresh water and mature in salt water. The footbridge we crossed is a good location to observe the run in April, May and June. If the water temperature is at least 50 degrees it could start in mid-March. They are in the herring family and adults reach 15-18 inches in length, have pearly-silver sides and greenish colored backs. They have forked tails, large back fin and large prominent black eyes. In this area, adult runs start at the mouth of North Sea Harbor and head upstream to spawn in fresh water and usually at night with spawning in the dark. Each female lays 45,000 to 350,000 eggs. This may seem a lot but due to predators survival rate is very low with about 9-70 juveniles per female. Only a very small percent of the eggs laid will produce 3-4 inch long juveniles that make it back to the sea the following fall and 50% of the adults will survive the predators. Predators of alewife include herons. We were fortunate to see a great blue heron. Spring peepers and alewife are both amazing creatures of nature. I hope all are well and safe.



Elliston Park Hike
Great Blue Heron

Presbyterian Women

In these uncertain times, it is best that we not hold any meetings or gatherings during the month of May. That said, we have cancelled our PW May Brunch-eon on May 13 and the Spring Rummage Sale on May 22 & 23.

On a more positive note, be sure to mark your calendars for our July Sale set for Saturday, July 11. More information will follow soon.

We hope that everyone is staying safe and well at home. Let us pray for our essential workers that have selflessly committed themselves to help us everyday. We thank you all. God bless you and your families.

Dear Editor: (from HudsonReporter.com)

It was March 2020 ...

The streets were empty, the shops closed, people couldn't get out.

But spring did not know, and the flowers began to bloom, the sun shone, the birds sang, the swallows would soon arrive, the sky was blue, the morning arrived early.

It was March 2020 ...

Young people had to study online, and find occupations at home, people could no longer go shopping, or go to the hairdresser. Soon there would be no more room in hospitals, and people continued to get sick.

But spring did not know, the time to go to the garden arrived, the grass greened.

It was March 2020 ...

People have been put in lockdown. to protect grandparents, families and children. No more meetings or meals, family celebrations. The fear became real and the days were therefore similar.

But spring did not know, apples, cherry trees and others bloomed, the leaves grew.

People started reading, playing with their families, learning a language, singing on the balcony inviting neighbors to do the same, being supportive and focusing on other values. People realized the importance of health, of suffering, of this world that had stopped, of the economy that has plummeted. But spring didn't know. the flowers gave way to the fruit, the birds made their nest, the swallows had arrived.

Then the day of liberation came, people found out on TV, the virus had lost, people took to the streets, sang, cried, kissed their neighbors, without masks or gloves.

And that's when summer came, because spring didn't know. He continued to be there despite everything, despite the virus, fear and death. Because spring didn't know, he taught people the power of life.

Everything's gonna be fine, stay home, protect yourself, and enjoy life.

-John Amato

Youth Group

It's hard to believe that our lives were turned upside down five weeks ago. Quarantined in our homes is the new norm. I know I thought it was only going to be two weeks or a month or so. It doesn't seem like we have a definite answer as to when it will be lifted so, I take it day by day and make the most of it.

We rely on our family and friends to help us along. Family is the place that's our center of learning, where values and habits are formed and where we learn how to interact with others. Sometimes the attitudes and behaviors that we learn are helpful, sometimes not. But it makes us who we are. Our church family is like that too! We learn what it means to live like Jesus. To be kind, helpful, don't judge, pray for others and have a good heart.

Look at what has happened the past five weeks. Communities have reached out to help organize snacks and lunches for children that relied on food from their schools, donated to food pantries to keep them stocked for those that need it. Shopped for the homebound. Set up meal trains for our first responders, made masks for the public, called upon their neighbors to see if they needed anything or just say hello. Engaging the world by sharing their talents; singing, dancing, putting together skits via the internet, the list goes on and on.

We were very fortunate at Westhampton Presbyterian Church; our network was already setup for virtual Sunday services, and we even offered our Maundy Thursday service via Zoom! A shout out to those who have helped or helping our Sunday morning services Rev. Vanessa, Bruce, Maik, Rich, Linda, Betsy, Siri, Joanna, Erika and Diane. Gini & Taylor Wagner, who made masks to hand out, and I believe Donna Williams helped out too! I'm so grateful to them, as they made lots of masks that I sent to my son Christian who's working in the ICU at Providence Hospital where they were short on supplies. Thank You!

However our lives change in future, remember to live like Jesus. Stay healthy, be safe until we meet again!

Kathy

Thank you to Christian Tureski and all essential employees for all you do for us!



*Happy
Mother's
Day*

Are You New to PayPal?

Are you new to PayPal? I am. Have you ever tried to use it? I have not. Yes, I confess, you elected me to be your Financial Secretary, and I do not pay my bills online, nor have I tried PayPal. Or at least, I had not until a couple of weeks ago.

My sister Cynthia used her checking account to pay her credit card bills online. She also had all her utilities set up for automatic withdrawals from her checking. So when I began helping her with finances and paperwork, I had to learn how to work with online payments, but I still choose not to do so for my personal accounts.

A few years ago, I was doing bookkeeping for a local historical society which had a PayPal account. At that time, I had to learn to handle receiving the funds and generating reports. But that is different from sending funds. Recently it seemed time for me to “gird my loins” and take another step into the 21st century.

Giving to WPC via PayPal: The church has a PayPal account and has a link to it on the website. Go to westhamptonpresbyterian.org and click on the yellow **Donate** button in the upper right corner. A Security Challenge will appear. Click in the box to affirm that you are not a robot. Then prove it to the computer by playing a little game. My experience has been being asked to click on the pictures in an array that show a traffic light, or a crosswalk, and then to click on the **Verify** button. A nuisance, but it is good protection for both you and the church.

You will then see the main screen containing the words **Donate to Westhampton Presbyterian Church**, and four more pieces of information: the amount **\$0.00 USD**, a box and **Make this a monthly donation?**, an oval with **Donate with PayPal**, and another oval with **Donate with a debit or credit card**. Simply type in the dollar amount you wish to pay; click the box IF you wish to make this a standing donation each month; and choose which of the ovals on which to click.

Donate with PayPal: If you already have an account, choose this option and fill in the requested information. You can also choose this option if you wish to create a PayPal account, for that is an option offered.

Donate with a debit or credit card: Choose this option, and a screen will appear asking you again if you wish to make it a monthly donation, and asking if you already have an account. It will also say **Write a note (optional)**. This is important. You may be paying your pledge, or your per capita, dedicating flowers, or making a special donation to support the L. I. Brass Guild. Whatever you would normally write on the memo line of your check should be typed in here, so that Erika and I will know how to handle the donation correctly.

You will be donating via PayPal, but you will be given the option to use it as a guest. An email notification will be sent to Erika at the church informing her of your donation. A similar email or text (depending on which contact information you provided) will be sent to you confirming your action. That’s it. Quite simple, and easy once you become comfortable with it.

FYI: I work part time at the Orient Congregational Church, and we have been encouraging the members to learn to use PayPal. The Council Moderator tells me that if you have an account and will pay directly from your bank account (checking or savings), you should send the money “as a friend.” This will make it a free transaction. I cannot attest to that. However, I tested her instruction for donating to OCC, and I chose the **donate as a friend** in place of **pay for services** (or words to that effect). Since I was paying by credit card, my card was charged the fee in addition to the amount donated rather than the fee being deducted from the funds the church received.

Diane F. Perry, Financial Secretary



This Easter Celebration

Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, 2020

Aurelia

Samuel Sebastian Wesley, 1864

1. This Eas - ter ce - le - bra - tion is not like ones we've known.
 2. No gath-ered choirs are sing - ing; no ban-ners lead the way.
 3. Our joy won't come from wor - ship that's in a crowd-ed room
 4. In all the grief and suf-fering, may we re-mem-ber well:
 5. We thank you that on Eas - ter, your church is blessed to be

We pray in i - so - la - tion, we sing the hymns a - lone.
 O God of love and prom - ise, where's joy this Eas - ter Day?
 but from the news of wom - en who saw the emp - ty tomb.
 Christ suf - fered cru - ci - fix - ion and faced the powers of hell.
 a scat - tered, faith - ful bo - dy that's do - ing mi - ni - stry.

We're dis - tant from our neigh - bors— from wor - ship lead - ers, too.
 With sanc - tu - a - ries emp - ty, may homes be - come the place
 Our joy comes from di - sci - ples who ran with haste to see—
 Each Eas - ter bears the pro - mise: Christ rose that glo - rious day!
 In homes and in the pla - ces of help and heal - ing, too,

No flo - wers grace the chan - cel to set a fes - tive mood.
 we pon - der re - sur - rec - tion and ce - le - brate your grace.
 who heard that Christ is ris - en, and then, by grace, be - lieved.
 Now no - thing in cre - a - tion can keep your love a - way.
 we live the Eas - ter mes - sage by glad - ly serv - ing you.

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Email: carolynshymns@gmail.com | New Hymns: www.carolynshymns.com




Happy Birthday!

Happy Anniversary!

1	Griffin Neubauer	17	Kristina Napolitano
1	Jay Sears	18	Kathy Dayton
1	Tony Thompson	18	Jessica Aiello
1	Madison Mosher	20	Alexandra David
2	Chloe Mosher	21	Laura Schultz
3	Jean Seyfert	21	Stacey and Cooper Jessup
4	Bob Fox	22	Kathy and Randy Dayton
4	Marcia Koziarz	23	Elizabeth Pizzarello
4	Allison Worthington	23	Bob Bebon
6	Barbara Rempe	24	Miriam Neubauer
6	Erin and Andrew Lynch	25	Kathy Frevert
7	Emilee Downs	25	Bob Baum
7	David Glover	26	Cara Oslager
7	Barbara Danowski	27	Alex Williams
8	Gini and Bryan Wagner	27	Dwight Sorgan
8	Colleen McKennett	27	Brooks Sorgan
8	Chrissy Barravechia	29	Joshua Carrick
9	Cheryl Stevens	29	Alice Schultze
9	Gene Hubbard	29	Elizabeth and Lou Pizzarello
10	Nancy Miller	29	Lenny Rempe
10	Anthony Danowski	29	Lynda and Ralph Confessore
12	Bob Tureski	30	Wesley Winters
14	Cameron Hipp	30	Jessica and David Aiello
14	Henry Holliday	31	Dave Derryberry
15	Eleanor Imber	31	Anjele Kalfayan
16	Griffin Wagner	31	India Campbell
16	Joey Nemeth	31	Eli Campbell
17	Terri and Fred Bauer		

May 2020

*Church Building closed through May 15th, 2020
Due to COVID-19 concerns, all gatherings have been cancelled.*

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 <i>Church closed through May 15th Due to COVID-19 concerns</i>	2
3 <i>4th Sunday of Easter 10am Church service viewable on our website, click on 'LiveWebCam'</i>	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 <i>5th Sunday of Easter Mother's Day 10am Church service viewable on our website, click on "LiveWebCam"</i>	11	12 <i>6pm Virtual Session meeting</i>	13	14	15 <i>Church closed through May 15th Due to COVID-19 concerns</i>	16
17 <i>6th Sunday of Easter</i>	18	19	20	21 <i>Ascension of the Lord</i>	22	23
24 <i>7th Sunday of Easter</i> <i>Memorial Sunday w/ dedications in the Memorial Garden (TBD)</i>	25 <i>Memorial Day Office Closed</i> 	26	27	28	29	30
31 <i>Day of Pentecost Pentecost Offering</i>						

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Your issue of the May Tidings