



Tidings

Faithfully Friendly For All – Always
Welcome . Include . Involve

A Word from your Pastor

Two hundred and two years ago, in 1818, one of our most beloved Christmas carols was written and performed for the first time—Silent Night. Since then it has been translated into over 300 languages and arranged into lots of different musical styles from heavy metal to gospel.

The song's lyrics were originally written in German by a young Austrian priest named Joseph Mohr just after the end of the Napoleonic Wars. Mohr's congregation in the town of Mariapfarr had been through a lot. They were reeling from twelve years of being at war and the previous year Mount Tambora, in Indonesia had erupted, bringing with it, widespread climate change throughout Europe. Volcanic ash in the atmosphere brought with it continuous storms, even snow, in the middle of the summer. Historians often call this "the year without a summer." This meant that crops failed and there was a widespread famine.

In addition to these problems, there was also a failure of the church organ. Some stories say that mice had eaten away at the organ's bellows while others say it had been damaged by water. With all the weather issues, there was a lot of flooding, and we know that years later, the whole church was washed away.

In order to convey hope to his congregation and make Christmas Eve still special, Mohr crafted six poetic verses to show them that there was still a God who cared. He asked his friend, Franz Xaver Gruber, who was a local schoolteacher and organist to write music to go along with it.

On Christmas Eve, 1818, the two friends sang "Silent Night" together for the first time for Mohr's congregation with Mohr playing the guitar. Apparently, the congregation really liked it, most of whom worked as boat builders and traders in the salt trade. The melody and harmonization of "Silent Night" is actually based on an Italian musical style called the "siciliana" that mimics the sound of water and rolling waves—two rhythmic beats, split into three parts each. This reflected the daily soundscape of Mohr's congregation who lived and worked next to the Salzach River.

Not only do I believe we can relate to this church from two hundred years ago because of our shared love for the water and waves, but because we find ourselves in trying circumstances as well. In the midst of the pandemic, though our organ is not broken, it's not available to us for Christmas Eve. And yet, as we remember from those who struggled in 1818, we really only need our voices and the excitement and love for the newborn Jesus to celebrate this momentous event.

Jesus himself was born into humble and anxious circumstances and I believe this is the reason this song has endured for so long. It is beautiful and uncomplicated; it contains within it all we need to celebrate the arrival of our infant Savior. Despite the chaos swirling around him, and us, "all is calm, all is bright."

It is my hope that you join us outdoors on Christmas Eve this year in our parking lot at 5pm. There will not be a lit sanctuary or the organ playing, but we will gather in our parking lot to share with one another the coming of the Christ child and to sing this beloved carol. We are asking everyone to bring a light of some kind (flashlight, cell phone) to represent the light that Christ brings into the world, even in the darkest of situations.

A blessed Advent to all,
Rev. Vanessa



***Prayer Concerns**

Recent: Lauren Babis; Bob Baum, Brookhaven Healthcare Facility; Robyn DeLorenzo, Ruth Duvall's granddaughter; Brendan Clavin, Nancy Hamma's son; Patrick J Knight, PLI Treasurer; John Lowe & Roberta Williams, friends of Vern Hackworth; Susan Sullivan, friend of Mary & John Hull; Sally Hoge; Kimberly Rogers Murawski; Dana Barrett, friend of Nancy Miller; Jay Sears
Long Term: Chelsey Carter Collins, Southampton Care Center; Russell Deihl; Brad Carbone; Gene Hubbard; Kay Kidde; John Comba; Dorothy Evans; Paul & Ellen Pfaff; Rev. John Kloepfer, home

Worship schedule for December

December 6th, 10 am drive in service with communion

December 13th, 10 am in-person service * (30 person max)

December 20th, 10 am drive in service

December 20th, 4 pm Blue Christmas in-person service* (30 person max)

December 24th, 5 pm Christmas Eve outdoor service; please bring your own flashlight/candle/light source.

December 24th, 11 pm Christmas Eve *pre-recorded Chapel service will be viewable on our website or through YouTube.*

December 27th, 10 am in-person service* (30 person max)

*You must register on our website for all indoor services, due to Covid-19 capacity limitations.

Drive-Thru Christmas Wreath Sale

Put a little Christmas spirit into your holiday by coming to our Drive- Thru Christmas Wreath Sale on Saturday, December 5th from 11 am-2 pm at the church parking lot. Pre orders are being accepted. Rain date is Sunday, December 6th from 12 pm to 3 pm. Wreaths are \$40 each. Please make checks payable to the **Presbyterian Women.**

**Church Family News****Deaths**

November 11: *Kay Kidde*

**"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 6 at 2:30pm. Our very own Rev. Winters will be doing a reading. (50 person maximum)

Christmas Face Masks

Donna Williams and Gini Wagner will be in the parking lot with Christmas face masks after church each Sunday, with donations going to the Presbyterian Women.

Board Members and Committees:

It's that time of year to start preparing your reports for the Annual Meeting.

Please **email** your reports no later than Friday, January 8th. Thank you.

BLUE CHRISTMAS

**Sunday, December 20th at 4pm
In the sanctuary**

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. Please register on our website if you plan to attend. Seating is limited.



Poinsettia Order Form

Red poinsettia plants may be ordered to adorn the sanctuary on December 20th at a cost of \$18 per plant. The deadline for orders is Dec. 15th. 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

Deacons Corner

Thank you to all who generously donated food and/or gift cards to the Thanksgiving baskets. The baskets were overflowing once again. We truly have an amazing congregation! We are sure that families in need were able to enjoy a nice dinner.

-Board of Deacons

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.

CROP Walk News

Our CROP Walk donations to Church World Service jumped from \$2390 last year to \$4260 this year, an incredible leap given that the walk was virtual this year. There were no personal contacts at coffee hour, no prescribed routes, no firm time when the walks would take place... in other words we had no control over the walk this year and it was very successful anyway. Thanks to the confirmands and the youth group, especially Lisa Jornitz, for coming through so strongly, and thanks to the many who donated online or sent checks in to the church office. Given that CWS had already lost a million dollars from walks that couldn't be held last spring, the extra that we raised was surely appreciated.

Stu Wood for the Mission Committee



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 4th—14th:

Mon.-Wed. 9am and 5pm

Thurs.-Fri. 9am-2pm

Sat.—Sun. 10am-12pm

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

Please do not drop off packages to Westhampton Presbyterian Church as the building is closed.

Stewardship Update for 2021

Our Stewardship campaign for next year is well under way. Remember, we won't set a budget for spending until we know how much has been pledged, so it is very important that pledges be sent in to the church office right away. Toward the end of November 61 pledge units (families) had pledged about \$125,000. By comparison last year 114 pledges totaled about \$228,000 by the end of the year. That is to say, we still need to hear from about half of the members and friends that we would expect to support us..

Also, since we aren't meeting as large groups and since we don't know how many people tune in to our broadcasts, we can't know of people on the fringes of attendance who have drifted away. Our best knowledge of who is really here is to see who is supporting us. This makes it all the more important to get those pledge cards in. If you lost yours you can simply put your wishes in a note mailed to 90 Meetinghouse Road, Westhampton Beach. Stu Wood for Stewardship

2021 Presbyterian Assessments

The 2021 assessment of \$43.08 is the sum of the historic per capita (\$38.08) and the more recent assessment of \$5.00 per member in support of the Committee on Ministry's Salary Supplement Fund. This newer assessment was paid by our church during 2020, and it was explained in the April issue of Tidings. However, our attention at that time was given to the news of church closings and the new reality of life during the pandemic.

This special fund of the presbytery is used to help churches who struggle to pay their minister. The monies are used for Salary Supplement, for Emergency Relief, and for Professional Development of minister members of the presbytery. It remains at five dollars.

A recent issue of the Presbytery of Long Island's e-newsletter NEXUS gives the following explanations of the historical per capita. It has changed only three cents from 2020 to 2021.

WHAT IS PER CAPITA?

The official definition: "Per capita is an opportunity for all communicant members of the Presbyterian church through the governing bodies [mid councils] to participate equally, responsibly, and interdependently by sharing the cost of coordination and evaluation of mission; and of performing ecclesiastical, legislative, and judicial functions that identify a Reformed Church, while at the same time strengthening the sense of community among all Presbyterians" (GA Minutes, Part I, 1995).

In essence: Per capita is a set amount of money (apportionment) per member that congregations pay to the three upper levels of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Said another way, it is a Presbyterian Covenant Community Fund — part of the glue that holds Presbyterians together. Because every Presbyterian shares in the benefit of the PC(USA)'s system of government, the expenses associated with coordinating and performing the functions of that system should be shared by everyone as well.

HOW OLD IS PER CAPITA?

The first-known mention of per capita dates back to 1734 in a letter to ministers!

WHO PAYS PER CAPITA, AND HOW MUCH?

Local churches (through their sessions) pay an annual amount of money per church member. The membership number is based on the membership reported two years prior; for 2021, our number is 270, the total on our rolls as of December 31, 2019.

The per capita amount requested from a congregation is a combined total of requests from that congregation's presbytery, the synod in which the presbytery is located, and the General Assembly — based on their respective budgets for the coming year(s).

2021 PER CAPITA TOTAL \$43.08

GA \$8.98, SYNOD \$4.10, PRESBYTERY \$25.00, SALARY SUPPLEMENT \$5.00

Presbyterian Women

November 11, 2020 was a perfect day for our luncheon meeting. We met at Christina Ravenhall's home in East Moriches. The view from her outdoor dining area prompted conversation of summertime activities. Thank you Christina for delicious homemade vegetable soup and hospitality.

Covid-19 has made a comeback with no indication of slowing down. Daily news reminds us to wear a mask, avoid groups and maintain social distancing. This and more has brought me to a difficult decision. The December Dessert meeting will be postponed. No one is more disappointed than I. I hope you understand my concerns.

November has always been a month of giving thanks. Presbyterian Women have usually dedicated their thank offering boxes during a church service. Since this can not happen this year, we ask you to mail your check to the church:

Westhampton Presbyterian Church
Attn: Gale Seidler

90 Meeting House Rd.

Westhampton Beach, NY 11978

Please make your check payable to "Presbyterian Women" and on the memo line - Thank Offering.

We have welcomed our adopted child, Dao, a 6 year old girl who lives in Ethiopia, Africa. Maps showed us her country is bounded by Sudan, Kenya, Somalia and Djibouti. The capital is Addis Ababa. Their language is Amharic. Icons on the map indicate it is an agricultural country, coffee and spices, cattle and mining. I read that it was the crossroad for brisk trading in frankincense and myrrh during biblical time.

Thanksgiving Day many not have been what we remember from past years. It remains a special time to

be grateful for our families and friendships, all blessings to be treasured.

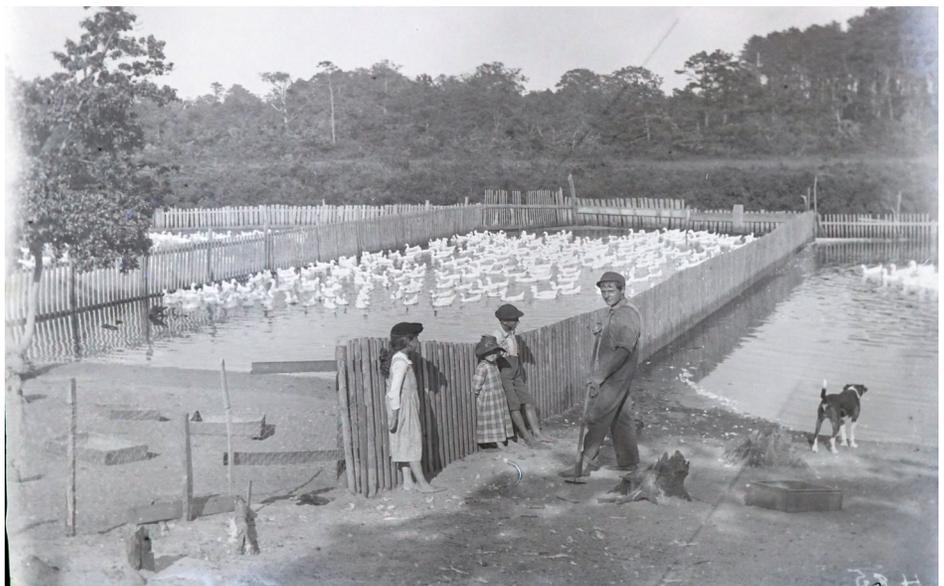
We are now preparing for Christmas and the New Year. It will be a time of reflecting on the true meaning and beauty of Christmas. Respectfully submitted by, Marjorie Beckwith



A little piece of History



A Presbyterian pastor in Rye, NY sent the church an email and asked if we would like a few pictures he found from his great-grandfather, a Congregational pastor in the north east. In going through some old film of his he found a picture of the church taken when he visited in the early 1890's. The photo below of a duck farm was also found in his film. He said he would love to hear where you think it was taken. Can you guess?



Youth Group and Christian Education

OMG I can't believe it has been almost 9 months since we've been all together. I would have never thought that I'd be writing the December Tidings article from quarantine! As this pandemic continues so must we. December is the "Season" for a reason. With Advent just around the corner it is the time to prepare and remember the real meaning of Christmas; to celebrate Jesus's coming.

Since we are unable to meet, Youth Group still wants you to remember you can still purchase "a gift that keeps of giving" from either *Heifer International* or *The Presbyterian Giving Catalog*. This can be done in two ways; make a direct contribution using the links provided or make your donation to the Youth Group through Westhampton Presbyterian Church and we will make a group purchase of items in January from the money collected. Just make sure you earmark your donation in the memo to "Heifer" or "The Presbyterian Giving Catalog".

<https://presbyteriangifts.pcusa.org>
<https://www.heifer.org/gift-catalog/index.html>

Here's what some gifts provide: a flock of chicks can purchase clothes and pay for school when they sell the eggs. Goats help families in some of the world's poorest places. A kitchen kit provides cooking pots, utensils, bowls, cups and spoons. An emergency life pack is a backpack that includes food, water, basic hygiene items, a blanket and other vital necessities.

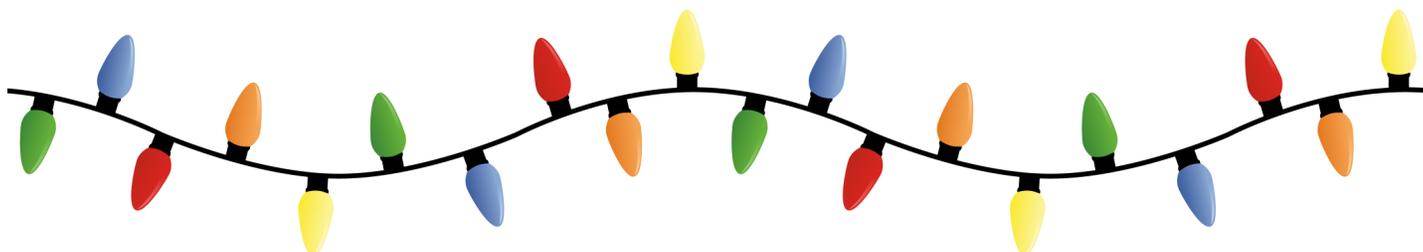
No matter how small or big your gift is to either of these missions, know that it is a sign of our gratitude for God's grace. Our gifts can help people globally, and to make a difference to provide for those in need. It's a gift that's a true spirit of Christmas, one that "keeps on giving".

Has anyone tried the Sunday School online link that I gave out last month? It's the first one listed below again. Here are some more online links to find some Sunday School lessons and crafts for Christmas:

<https://theparentcue.org/faith/>
 (scroll to bottom of page)
<https://childrensministry.com/4-free-christmas-sunday-school-lessons/>
<https://www.childrens-ministry-deals.com/pages/christmas-sunday-school-lesson>
<https://www.kidssundayschool.com/gradeschool/lessons/holidays/the-birth-of-christ>
<https://www.dltk-kids.com/bible/guides/christmas-index.htm>

May this present year end on a cheerful note, with promises of new beginnings, a healthy environment and safe living. May your heart be illuminated with love, joy and peace. Have a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Until we gather again.....Kathy



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 Neibanck	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 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><i>The building remains closed at this time. Please contact the church office, Mon-Fri, 8:30am-3:30pm.</i></p>		<p>1</p> <p>7pm Deacons</p>	<p>2</p> <p>9:15sm Mission 10:30am Staff</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p> <p>11am-2pm Drive-Thru Wreath Sale</p>
<p>6</p> <p>2nd Sunday of Advent</p> <p>10am Drive-In Worship Service with Communion</p> <p>Raindate for Drive-Thru Wreath Sale 12pm-3pm</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p> <p>5:15pm M&W 6pm Session</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p>
<p>13</p> <p>3rd Sunday of Advent</p> <p>10am In-Person Worship— You must register online— 30 congregants allowed in sanctuary</p>	<p>14</p> <p>5pm Maureen's Haven</p>	<p>15</p> <p>7pm Trustees</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p>
<p>20</p> <p>4th Sunday of Advent Christmas Joy Offering 10am Drive-In Service 4pm Blue Christmas Service (sanctuary) you must register to attend-30 congregants allowed in sanctuary</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Christmas Eve Office Closed</p> <p>5pm Outdoor service— Bring Your Own Candle/flashlight/Light source</p> <p>11pm Pre-recorded Chapel service on website</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Christmas Day Office Closed</p> 	<p>26</p>
<p>27</p> <p>1st Sunday of Christmas</p> <p>10am In-Person Worship— You must register online— 30 congregants allowed in sanctuary</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p> <p>New Year's Eve</p>		

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Your issue of the December Tidings

