



# TIDINGS

WESTHAMPTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

March 2021

## A Message from your Pastor

Headed into Lent this year, I know I've had one pretty constant thought—how could I possibly give up something for Lent? Haven't we already been living in a time of sacrifice and penitence and doing without for almost a whole year? I already can't really go out to eat or see friends or even family. I have already canceled my vacations or dramatically changed them. I've been stuck at home pretty much all the time. How could I possibly look forward to observing a season that focuses on self-denial and going without?

First, I want us to review why “giving something up” has become part of Lent. Many of us, even those who don't regularly attend church, know that people often give up alcohol or chocolate or meat during Lent. But why? The season of Lent represents the time from Ash Wednesday (February 17<sup>th</sup>) to Easter Sunday (April 4<sup>th</sup>). It is forty days long, not including Sundays, and represents the time Jesus spent wandering in the desert being tempted by the devil until he goes to Jerusalem where he is first welcomed and then executed. We “give something up” during Lent because Jesus not only suffered in the wilderness, but he also “gave up” his life to save ours.

So now that you maybe understand the tradition a little better you're thinking to yourself—“Okay, that's good, but I really feel like I've suffered more than enough this year.” And that might be true. But hadn't Jesus also already suffered enough before he even made it to Jerusalem? Didn't God send a Son to help us and we turned around and killed him? Doesn't that mean that we probably still owe something, at least to God?

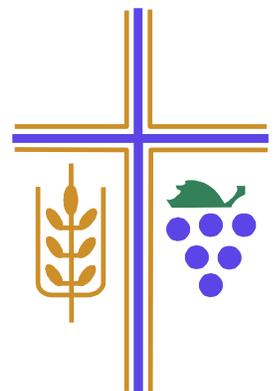
Maybe that is true, but I think it is important, especially this year, to remember that it's not about what we're giving up, it's about improving our spiritual health in doing so. God doesn't want us to be miserable for no reason, Lent is meant to be a time of reflection and self-examination, to remember what Jesus sacrificed for us. Many choose to remember this by denying themselves something as Jesus denied the devil.

So maybe a better idea for this year is to **do** something rather than decide **not to** do something. What if you collected a food pantry item for each day of Lent and donated it to the food pantry? What if you called/texted someone each day just to say you appreciate them? What if you just walked every day, no matter how far? Looking at Lent as a time to yet again be forced to give something up may not be helpful this year. I think we should instead “take something up.” Perhaps a positive practice or action that reminds us of the great gifts we have been given by God, namely—being alive.

Pope Francis recently stated that for a Lenten practice this year, the most important thing we could do is to show love and care for those affected by Covid-19. He asked people to “experience Lent with love.” How could you show love and care for those around you this Lent? What if instead of giving something up yourself, you did something for someone else?

As with all other things during a pandemic, we have to be creative and innovative in the ways we celebrate this liturgical year. I encourage each of you to ponder the ways in which God is speaking to you during Lent. Rather than focusing on what we can't have, how can we find ways to count the blessings that we do have and to show love to others? I wish you all a very blessed, very loving Lent.

Blessings to you all,  
Rev. Vanessa



**\*Prayer Concerns**

**Recent:** Irene Jornitz (Covid), Maik Jornit's mother; Erica Fernandez, (Hanne Manker's grandson's fiancé); Kayla Reilly (Covid) (Gale Seidler's son in law's niece); Orient Congregational Church family, and the Haley, Bull, and Terry families; Kim Makowski, organist at the First Presbyterian Church in Southampton; Kathy Mades, half sister to Jess, Siri & Joanna Howard; Inda Lawson, (Diane Perry's niece); Ricco Paraz Johnson Jr., (Diane Perry's great nephew); Ruth Feitl (Karl Feitl, Jr.'s mother & friend of Victoria Hedberg); Frintzilas family (Gale Seidler's nephew's family); Russell Babis; Kathleen Rogers (Kimberly Rogers Murawski's mother); Maureen Nelsen; Bob Wetter (Nancy & Wes Winters brother-in-law), pancreatic cancer; Robyn DeLorenzo, Ruth Duvall's granddaughter; Patrick J Knight, PLI Treasurer; John Lowe & Roberta Williams, friends of Vern Hackworth; Susan Sullivan, friend of Mary & John Hull; 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; John Comba; Dorothy Evans; Paul & Ellen Pfaff; Rev. John Kloepfer, home

**Maundy Thursday service via Zoom, April 1st at 5:30pm.**

**"Ashes To Go"**

Rev. Vanessa Winters at Westhampton

**Virtual Worship Services**

Visit the church website to view Sunday worship services streaming live every Sunday.  
[www.westhamptonpresbyterian.org](http://www.westhamptonpresbyterian.org)

**Easter Announcement:**

**Emails will be sent out regarding Easter Sunday Services after the March 9th Session Meeting. Please stay tuned.**

**Online Giving**

We offer an easy Online giving opportunity through our website! Go to [www.westhamptonpresbyterian.org](http://www.westhamptonpresbyterian.org) and click on the **Donate** button in the right hand corner of the homepage. It will take you directly to our PayPal link. You will be prompted through step by step instructions. It's as easy as 1-2-3!

**From the Trustees**

The Trustees have purchased 2 new benches for the Memorial Garden. If you would like to make a contribution to offset the cost of these benches, please contact Korey Williams at [koreyhwilliams@hotmail.com](mailto:koreyhwilliams@hotmail.com).

**Virtual Coffee Hour**

Every Sunday after worship via Zoom from 10:30-11:15am.

See Page 4 for more details.



## Lenten Service Project—Baby Kits for Honduras

In 2020, Rev. Vanessa traveled to Honduras on a medical mission trip. Since then, she has been staying in touch with the doctors she met there through the organization KHISH. (Key Humanitarian Initiative of Southern Honduras) She recently heard that there is a great need for baby supplies. The greatest need is for baby blankets. These are used to line their crib or bed, cover them while their one set of clothes is washed, dry them after a bath, and keep them out of the dirt (Most homes have dirt floors). These kits will be sent to the hospital in San Lorenzo, Honduras which is in the most southern part of the country, it is also the poorest. The hospital does not have the ability to send new mothers home with essential supplies that they need. Many mothers in this area are young and single. We are working with KHISH to see all supplies are sent directly where they are needed. This Lent, we are looking for donations for baby kits. All donations must be received by Easter, April 4<sup>th</sup>. Donations may be dropped off on the porch of the manse.

### Inside Each Kit:

- Crib-size quilt/blanket (Preferably handmade, not knitted)
- Bottle of baby wash
- 3 onesies
- 2 pairs baby socks
- 4 washcloths
- Brush and comb
- Rattle/teether
- Card or drawing from you

Please note: This list does not include diapers. Not only will parents not be able to procure more when they run out, but they also contribute to the garbage issues in country. All garbage has to be burned as there are no sanitation services and diapers make a huge mess! Mothers are capable and able to do without them.

If you have any questions, please be in touch with Rev. Vanessa. Thank you all for your generosity.

## Mission Committee

Hello All,

February is Blanket Sunday Month! The Blanket Sunday program is sponsored by Church World Service (CWS). CWS distributes heavy and lightweight blankets to people who have lost their homes due to natural disasters such as tornados, hurricanes, and floods. In other cases, some recipients have had to leave their homes escaping from crime and other domestic dangers. Still others have lost their homes due to financial duress caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. Often the blanket program provides warm bedding for shelters such as The Bowery Mission in NYC or a soft sleeping surface for victims camping in their damaged homes.

In addition to blankets, the CWS Blanket Sunday Program provides three types of emergency help kits for people in need:

1. A person hygiene kit
2. A school supplies kit
3. An emergency cleaning supplies kit

Outlined in the 2020 Blanket Sunday Impact report, CWS distributed over 70,000 blankets and kits throughout the USA last year. On an international level CWS distributed over 37,000 kits to countries including Cuba, Mexico, Haiti, Puerto Rico, The Bahamas, and Romania.

A donation of \$10 will provide a blanket for 1 person, and \$50 will cover an entire family. CWS uses donations to replenish supplies in their warehouse in order to create emergency kits. Visit [CWSblankets.org](http://CWSblankets.org) to donate on-line, or send a check to the church with "Blanket Sunday" written on the memo line. Call Erika in the church office if you need help sending your donation.

Thanks for your help,  
Margie Qua  
WHP Church Mission Committee



## A Note from Presbyterian Women

Presbyterians have become the most fashionable people around this area due to the creative talents of Gini and Taylor Wagner. Nautical, Disney, holiday, floral and many other designs in several styles for both men and women have been lovingly sewn in exchange for a donation to Presbyterian Women. The ladies have already raised over \$730 for mission while creating spots of brightness in our difficult lives. Thank you Gini and Taylor.



**YOU SHALL BE  
CALLED REPAIRERS  
OF THE BREACH**

— ISAIAH 58

Providing relief from natural disasters, food for the hungry, and support for the poor and oppressed.



**ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING**  
SPECIAL OFFERINGS  
HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

## One Great Hour of Sharing

*your impact*

**Restoring Hope, Feeding the Hungry, Empowering the Oppressed**

Typically received during the season of Lent, each gift to One Great Hour of Sharing supports efforts to relieve hunger through the Presbyterian Hunger Program, promote development through the Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People, and assist in areas of disaster through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.

<https://specialofferings.pcusa.org/make-a-gift/gift-info/oghs/>

# Happy Birthday & Happy Anniversary

1 Sharon Conway  
1 Tova Keblish  
1 Barbara and Anthony Danowski  
4 Pete Seidler  
6 Pat Barile  
7 Meg Baird  
7 Gavin Jessup  
8 Ruth Duvall  
9 Kristina Carter Bennett  
9 Carol Nemeth  
10 Erika Lukert  
11 Brad Ravenhall  
11 Georgia Gooder  
12 Jennifer Gillin  
12 Kelly Martin  
12 George Amorose  
13 Bunker Seyfert  
14 Kathy Tureski  
16 Quinn Pitcher  
16 Daniel Staniford  
16 Marie and Vincent Yervasi  
17 Delaney Campbell  
18 John Comba  
21 Betsy Fox  
22 Kimet Speed

23 Pam Chance Herzing  
23 Justin Shiu  
24 Casey Pitcher  
24 Mary Beth and Taf Lundborg  
25 Lily Burns  
27 Serafima Droznik  
27 Jim Sperber  
28 Fina DiBiasco  
30 Donna & Korey Williams  
31 Bill Manker  
31 Spencer Baird  
31 Aram Terchunian  
31 Lisa Gooder  
31 Carter Howerton



# March 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 <i>7pm Deacons</i>	3	4	5	6
7 <i>3rd Sunday in Lent</i> 10am Virtual Worship service, <a href="http://www.westhamptonpresbyterian.org">www.westhamptonpresbyterian.org</a>	8	9 <i>5:15pm M&amp;W</i> <i>6pm Session</i>	10 <i>9:15am Mission</i> <i>10:30am Staff</i>	11	12	13
14 <i>Daylight Saving time begins</i> <i>Spring ahead!</i> <i>4th Sunday in Lent</i>  10am Virtual Worship service, <a href="http://www.westhamptonpresbyterian.org">www.westhamptonpresbyterian.org</a>	15	16 <i>7pm Trustees</i>	17 	18	19	20
21 <i>5th Sunday in Lent</i> 10am Virtual Worship service, <a href="http://www.westhamptonpresbyterian.org">www.westhamptonpresbyterian.org</a>	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 <i>Palm Sunday</i> <i>Holy Week Begins</i> 10am Virtual Worship service, (Drive-In Service TBD)  <a href="http://www.westhamptonpresbyterian.org">www.westhamptonpresbyterian.org</a>	29	30	31			

*WESTHAMPTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
90 MEETING HOUSE ROAD  
WESTHAMPTON BEACH, NY 11978*

***Your issue of the March Tidings***

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Phone: 631-288-2576

Fax: 631-288-6011

email:

[admin@westhamptonpresbyterian.org](mailto:admin@westhamptonpresbyterian.org)

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*We're on the web:  
[www.westhamptonpresbyterian.org](http://www.westhamptonpresbyterian.org)*

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