



TIDINGS

September 2021

A Word From Your Pastor

Welcome to September!

As I write this, we are still in a time of uncertainty—Hurricane Henri is bearing down upon us, the Delta variant of Covid-19 is making its rounds, but we at Westhampton Presbyterian Church are still starting a new program year. So, I wanted to speak in this month's letter about welcome.

Making others feel welcome should be a priority at every church, of course we want people to feel welcome here. One of the more recent marketing strategies for the United Church of Christ was the tag line: "No matter who you are or where you are coming from, you are welcome here." They were striving to say that people of all different colors, cultures, and creeds are welcome at church.

Some of us have a complicated relationship with church or with our faith. Perhaps there were times when we felt unwelcome or excluded from communities of faith. Maybe we were forced to attend a place where we didn't agree with the theology or where we weren't treated properly. However, one of the main goals of my ministry is to create a space in worship where all feel welcome—welcome at the communion table, welcome in the pews, welcome at church events.

This led to some wonderings on my part. If you feel welcome at this church, what makes you feel that way? If you've ever felt unwelcome in a faith community, what made you feel that way? What are the ways you can help others to feel welcome in our church community? And finally, why is welcome so important at church?

The short and easy answer is that Jesus calls us to not only welcome all people, but to welcome them extravagantly. The idea of welcome is found both in the Hebrew Bible and the New Testament. Take a look at Leviticus 19: 33-34 which tells us: "When a stranger sojourns with you in your land, you shall not do him wrong. You shall treat the stranger who sojourns with you as the native among you, and you shall love him as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God." And in the Gospel of Matthew 5: 46-48: "For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect."

It is my hope that you feel welcome to worship at Westhampton Presbyterian Church. If you are reading this and haven't been to worship in years—you are welcome. If you've been attending since before you could walk—you are welcome. If you are hesitant, nervous, or uncertain—you are welcome. If you find yourself full of doubt—you are welcome. If you would like to just learn a bit more about God and Jesus, if you are curious—you are welcome. Many studies have concluded that people don't attend church because they have not been invited. Please consider this your invitation. You are invited, you are welcome, and I am praying and hoping to see your face in the coming year.

Not only are you welcome, you are celebrated, you are valued. As a child of God, we would be delighted to have you among us. Whoever you are, wherever you are on your life's journey, you are welcome here.

Blessings,
Rev. Vanessa

*Prayer Concerns

Recent: Louise Smith; Chic Hedberg, Home; Debbie (recovering from surgery, friend of Margery Qua); Madeline Hackworth (recovering from fall and hip surgery. Vern Hackworth's mother); Nancy Hamma (recovering from knee surgery); Dee Dee Brumsey (sister of a close friend of Pete Seidler); John & Sherry Gillin (John Gillin's parents); Pat Hipp (Mother of Mike Hipp); Dick Herzing; Janet Mafera Galea, Cancer (friend of Mimi & Stu Wood); Erica Fernandez, (Hanne Manker's grandson's fiancé); Inda Lawson, (Diane Perry's niece); 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; Gene Hubbard; Dorothy Evans; Paul & Ellen Pfaff; Rev. John Kloepfer, home



Saving the Planet
One Piece of Metal
at a Time

Save your scrap metal! This year's scrap metal drive has been scheduled for Saturday, September 25th. We are accepting all types of metal: steel, copper, aluminum, old appliances, cars, etc. Bring all items to the church park-

ing lot from 9 AM to 2PM. If you have large items that have to be picked up, contact Tom Rogers or the church office. We have received \$5,593 towards the church budget from scrap metal.

Wanted: Sunday School Teachers!

Looking for Sunday School teachers for the 2021-2022 school year. I'd like to have at least 4 teachers (PreK-K, 1st & 2nd, 3rd & 4th, 5 & 6th) and a few substitutes. Please email or speak with Kathy Tureski @ whpresbyterianss@gmail.com or 631-653-6209

Presbyterian Women

Wednesday, September 8th at noon, Salad Business luncheon at Christine Haddad's home. See P.W. news on page 3.



Join us for our last summer Drive-In worship service!
Sunday, September 5th at 9am in the church parking lot. Please bring your Communion elements if you plan to partake.
(If rain occurs, all are welcome to worship with us inside our sanctuary!)

When counting my
Blessings,
I count you
Twice.



Presbyterian Women News

At noon July 14, 2021 eight of us met for a leisurely get together with our homemade sandwich or salad. It was our first meeting together in the church kitchen since March 11, 2020! Almost everything was just as we left it with an exception. The cabinets and shelves had been organized. The utensils under the center island are picture perfect. Many thanks to those who initiated the project and those who made it happen.

July and August are months we do not meet because we are busy with annual fundraising events. Not true in 2020. Staying in touch, as a group, is a priority for our continued existence as Presbyterian Women. Therefore, our impromptu lunches. The conversations brought news of the ladies and families we had “visited” with over the pandemic.

Meeting informally is refreshing. There is very little set-up, prep or use of the kitchen, and best of all, no dishes to wash.

Wednesday, August 11, 2021 at noon we were again in the church kitchen enjoying the A/C on a hot, humid day. As an unscheduled date there could be no business meeting, no decisions to be made or acted on. There were suggestions voiced. The calendar year leaves us little time to plan events. Many of these topics will be discussed at the Business-Luncheon meeting Wednesday, September 8, 2021 at noon. Christine Haddad invited us to meet at her home for a Salad Plate lunch. The salads, dessert and beverages will be ready for you to enjoy.

Alix McKenzie placed a tiny rose bud bouquet at each placemat. A pretty day brightened by pretty posies.

Get well wishes go out to Louise Smith as she heals after surgery. Dottie Evans enjoys cards and calls. Helen Fitzsimmons has had more than her share of health hurdles. Visiting with these ladies and many not mentioned assures them, and us, we are doing what our church and P.W. is all about—Fellowship!

Enjoy all that our surroundings offer, remembering who made all of this possible.

Submitted on behalf of Presbyterian Women
Marjorie Beckwith

Sunday School & Youth Group!

“and all at once, summer collapsed into fall.”
Oscar Wilde

September is Sunday School, Youth Group, faith family friends, crisp air, football, and pretty leaves. Welcome Back!

I hope you enjoyed the Sunday School & Youth Group registration brunch that was held on August 29th. If you were unable to attend and didn't have a chance to sign up, we will be registering children/young adults again during Sunday School time (parents can stay if worship if they'd like!) on reunion Sunday, September 12th. Sunday School will officially start on the 19th, and our annual Sunday School Photo is to be taken on the 26th. I can't wait to see everyone back in church.

Youth Group will be resuming too! Our first gathering will be on the 19th. Watch for an email with the details about our first meeting. Be sure to fill out your registration form if you didn't already fill one out. Forms are available on the church website or check our bulletin board file holders in the Parish Hall.

“Jesus loves the little children, all the children of the world”

Looking forward to gathering together again.

Kathy



Bruce Qua & the Great Cycle Challenge!

This September, I'm riding **200 miles** in the Great Cycle Challenge to fight kids' cancer!

Because cancer is the largest killer of children from disease in the United States - 38 kids die every week. And so I am taking on this challenge to end childhood cancer and save little lives.

Please support me by making a donation through my fundraising page:

<https://greatcyclechallenge.com/Riders/BruceQua/d>

All funds raised will support Children's Cancer Research Fund to continue their work to develop innovative treatments and find a cure for childhood cancer.

Thank you for your support.

Bruce



Fundraising Committee

Our summer fundraiser was a wonderful success. We enjoyed Susan Lipp's lovely garden once again on a warm summer night. We ate delicious food prepared for us by Maple Tree BBQ. Bill Buhl and friends delighted us with music. And there was plenty of wine and beer to drink. The best part of it all was that we were able to meet and greet and enjoy the fellowship of our church friends and family. Check out the photos of all the happy people.

Many thanks to all who sponsored the event, those who bought and sold tickets, the team of friends who set up and took down the tables and chairs and rescued the baby bunnies. A special thank you to Susan Lipp for being our host.

This event goes a long way toward the fundraising line item. In a pandemic year, planning events has been more than challenging. This one event and the efforts of Tom Rogers and his team of the ongoing scrap metal drive contribute enough to meet the goal of the budget for fundraising. Way to go WPC and thank you!

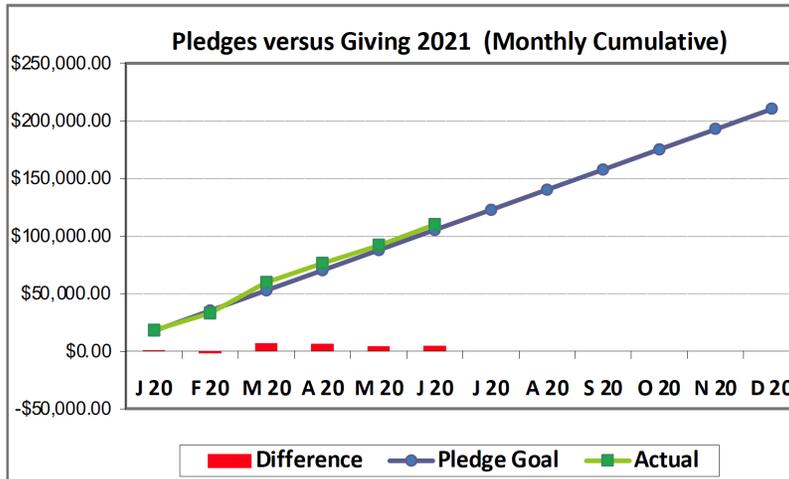


HALF YEAR FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

The half year 2021 ended on a positive note for the financial health of our church.

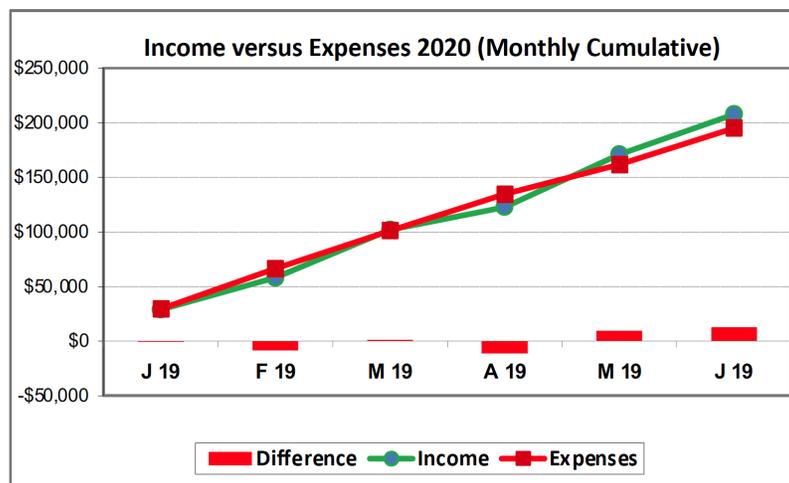
Our pledge goal for the half year is \$105,114 and our actual givings were \$109,878, which gave us an overage of \$4,764 (actual vs. budget). This is very encouraging and very much needed to keep our church's financial health on track. We thank all of you for your contributions and support !

Pledges - Givings



The church's half year actual income was \$207,591 and our budget \$195,514, meaning we are 106.1% of our budget. Our total actual expenses at the half year mark were \$198,729 and our budget is again \$195,514, meaning we are over our budgeted expenses at 101.6%. We have a good overage of \$9,419 (income vs. expenses).

Income - Expenses



Our budgeted payment to the Presbytery for 2021 is a total of \$11,632. In the 1st half our Per Capita income was \$2,777.13, which means our church right now would need to compensate \$8,854 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 !

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

Who Do You Know...?



Top row left to right: Harry N., Lester B., Rev. Leitch, Richard S., Mr. Harrup
 Middle row left to right: Joan P., Alice T., Edith B., Isabelle D., Virginia L.
 Bottom row left to right: Carol C., Mrs. Harrup, Shirley Mae B., Joyce .T., Buelah Mary J.

Rev. Leitch served as Rev. from 1939 - 1943 so this photo was taken within that time frame.

CROP Walk 2021

In a CROP Walk, volunteers in 900 communities walk to symbolize the walking that thousands of people have to do each day to bring drinking water home. Our casual walks through the beautiful Hamptons literally save lives in 35 countries that are desperate. One in nine people worldwide lack access to clean water and a healthy diet. Annually, CROP walkers raise more than \$9 million to bring help and hope.

As difficult as last year was when many walks had to be canceled for the Covid crisis, donations actually increased by about ten per cent, including at our church.

Our walk this year will be on Sunday, October 17. It's only two miles long, but the symbolism is huge. We will be able to donate online or write a check through the church. In the next weeks those who will walk will look for support from all of us at Westhampton Presbyterian.

So the first step is for volunteers to step up and agree to be walkers and fundraisers, tapping us on the shoulders and asking for our support when they walk.. See Stu Wood or phone 631 255 1232.

By the way, Charitynavigator.com is a website that rates how efficient or wasteful a charity is, and this one gets very high marks . Check us out and you will be confident that your donation money is being well spent on projects, not administrators.

Stu Wood for Mission Committee

WISHING A VERY HAPPY BIRTHDAY AND HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO....

1	Christina & Steve Ravenhall	16	Mimi & Stu Wood
1	Ralph Neubauer	16	John Hull
1	Karen & Ralph Neubauer	17	Bonnie & Eric Wootten
1	Jessie Fox	17	Lily & George Burns
1	Keri & Wing Shiu	18	Keaton Campbell
2	Rev. Ann Van Cleef	18	Gary Martin
4	Donna Goebel Williams	19	Kimet & Mike Hipp
4	Fred Bauer	21	Karen & Chris Andrews
5	Jessica Howard	22	Stuart Wood
5	Kathy Johnson	22	Mike Hipp
5	Jane Otis	22	Jean & Peter Cuthbert
6	Jessica Howard & Seamus Naughton	24	Nancy & Harry Miller
7	Jean Cuthbert	25	Seth Stevens
8	David Aiello	26	Holly Hubbard
8	Margery Gosnell-Qua	27	John Sprague
9	Blake Busking	27	Ben Cary
11	Jane Busking	28	Dante Thomas Aiello
11	Grant Babis	28	Traci Duke
11	Jennifer & Andrew Schultze	29	Bobby Fox Jr.
12	Margery & Bruce Qua	29	Jeanette Smith
13	Vern Hackworth		
13	Stephanie & Kyle Miller		
13	Jenn & Leif Neubauer		
13	Kimberly & Tommy Otis		
15	Nancy & Wes Winters		
15	Hanne & Bill Manker		
15	Susan Lipp		
16	Hannah Wagner		
16	Cindy & Robert Schneider		
16	Caroline Aslin Imber		





September 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5 15th Sunday after Pentecost 9am Parking lot Service at the church!	6 Labor Day Office Closed	7 7pm Deacons	8 12pm PW Salad Luncheon at Christine Haddad's home	9	10	11 
12 16th Sunday after Pentecost 10am Worship Service	13	14 5:15pm M&W 6pm Session	15 9:15am Mission 10:30am Staff	16	17	18
19 17th Sunday after Pentecost 10am Worship Service	20	21 7pm Trustees	22	23	24	25 9am-2pm Scrap Metal Drive
26 18th Sunday after Pentecost 10am Worship Service	27	28	29	30		

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

Phone: 631-288-2576

Fax: 631-288-6011

email:

admin@westhamptonpresbyterian.org

We're on the web:

www.westhamptonpresbyterian.org

Your issue of the September Tidings



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