



# TIDINGS

WESTHAMPTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
JANUARY 2022

## A Word from your Pastor

As I sit down to write this immediately following Christmas, the Session recently made the difficult decision to worship virtually once again. And this has caused me to reflect on the question: “What IS church?” Most people today understand church to be a building. When people ask what church you attend, they usually respond with a location of a building. But this isn’t necessarily the biblical understanding of church. The word “church” is a translation of the Greek word *ekklesia* which means “an assembly” or “called out ones.” The root meaning of church is not a building, but **people**. Paul’s letters refer to church as part of a community, not as a church building but a body of believers. In Romans 16:5 he writes: “Greet the church that is in their house.”

The church is the body of Christ, with Christ at its head. Another letter from Paul to the Ephesians tells us: “And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.” This means that the body of Christ is made up of Christ’s followers. There are two parts of the church—the universal Church (with a capital “C”) and the local church.

The universal Church consists of everyone, everywhere, who has a relationship with Jesus Christ. Yet another of Paul’s letters to the Corinthians tells us: “For we are all baptized by one Spirit into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free—and we were all give the one Spirit to drink.” All of us who follow Jesus comprise the universal Church.

The local church is just as important. Through Paul’s letters we know there were local churches in Corinth, Galatia, and Rome. We, as Westhampton Presbyterian Church, are a local church, a local body of believers. Early churches most likely met in people’s homes or in other public spaces.

The church is not a building or a denomination. The church is the body of Christ and all those who have put their faith in Jesus Christ for salvation. Together we encourage each other, teach and learn, and build one another up in the knowledge and grace of God.

So, as we are facing another stretch of time where we won’t be seeing one another in worship, I invite you to reflect on what church means to you. Yes, our building is historic and beautiful. Yes, it is an extraordinarily important part of our life together that we worship together in person, drink coffee together and meet together to discuss church business. But just because we are taking a break from those things, because we are doing them in a different way does not mean we are no longer church. Each of you, as a member or friend of our church is an important part of the body of Christ, of the Church universal and of Westhampton Presbyterian Church. It is how we acknowledge that fact now, during some of the most challenging times that we will face, that will show us just how important church can be. We will not stop being church with and for one another just because we are physically separated.

Until we are together again, I pray that each of you finds the presence of “church” in your life.

Many Blessings,  
Rev. Vanessa



**\*Prayer Concerns**

**Recent:** Robert Busking, Kanis Center Hospice; Maureen and Gary Ackerman, friends of Mimi Wood; Seamus Naughton, home; Robyn DeLorenzo, Ruth Duvall's granddaughter; Ralph Downs, Hampton Center for Rehabilitation in Southampton; Dee Dee Brumsey (sister of a close friend of Pete Seidler); Maureen Nelsen; Bob Wetter (Nancy & Wes Winters brother-in-law), pancreatic cancer; Kimberly Rogers Murawski; Dana Barrett, friend of Nancy Miller; Jay Sears  
**Long Term:** John Lowe & Roberta Williams, friends of Vern Hackworth; Chelsey Carter Collins, Southampton Care Center; Gene Hubbard; Dorothy Evans; Paul & Ellen Pfaff; Rev. John Kloepfer, home

**We Are Live Streaming!**

Sunday, January 9: 10am Virtual Worship Service

Sunday, January 16: 10am Virtual Worship Service

-The Session will meet on January 20th to re-visit the current situation of Covid and discuss in person services re-convening.

Visit the church website to view Sunday worship services streaming live every Sunday at 10am:

[www.westhamptonpresbyterian.org](http://www.westhamptonpresbyterian.org)

Click on "Live Church WebCam" in the right hand corner of the homepage.

**Per Capita 2022**

The 2022 Per Capita is \$43.08 per church *member* which includes the \$5 Presbytery Salary Supplement.

**Annual Reports are due**

Please remember to **email** your Annual Reports by January 7th to [admin@westhamptonpresbyterian.org](mailto:admin@westhamptonpresbyterian.org).

\*PDF files are preferred. After you have made your reports please save and send as a PDF file. Thank you.

**Church Family News****Christian Sympathy**

We give our deepest Christian sympathy to all those who have lost friends and loved ones during Covid . This is an especially hard time for all, please know that we are in this together.

Contact the church or your Deacon. Lets stay connected.

"I have a dream that one day every valley shall be exalted, every hill and mountain shall be made low, the rough places will be made straight and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all flesh shall see it together." –  
**Martin Luther King Jr.**



\*Remember to submit your Tidings articles on the 18th each month so that it can be displayed in the next newsletter. Lets stay connected!

## Notes from the Boards

From the Session: For those concerned about the recent tornado damage in Kentucky, we can contribute by writing a check to Westhampton Presbyterian and labeling it for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. You can't specify which village would get help but you can specify that it is for tornado relief. This is a very safe and effective way to help knowing that your money is not just paying high administrative costs. Write your check today!

When Vanessa goes on her mission trip to Colombia in January, Rev. Nancy Jennings will cover for her on January 9 and 16.

The project to help Afghan refugees who are moving to the U.S. has raised \$1600 that will go for gift cards.

The trustees report that our general building insurance is to go up by seven thousand dollars, so we will be looking at all options to reduce that number. The manse has over forty windows that need replacing., which is going to cost \$75,000. One donation has come in for \$25,000, and Memorial and Endowment recommends having a capital fundraiser at some point to help. Another major project in our future will be to replace the entire parking lot. Not right now, everybody agrees.

Memorial and Endowment reports a tentative draw from the General Fund of \$65,000 to support the church's 2022 operating budget. The committee also authorized a transfer of 4% of the year end balance in the Mission/Spirit Special Fund to the church's operating account to help offset the expenses associated with the Mission budget, and 4% of the year end balance in the Memorial Garden Special Fund to the operating account to help offset the expenses associated with the maintenance-grounds budget. In addition there will be a 4% of the year end balance in the Youth Special Fund to the operating account to help offset the expenses associate with the youth program budget.

The scrap metal drive has raised \$9,452 for the year. We have a security camera on the drop-off site to stop further theft of scrap donations.

Finally, pledges are still coming in and it is clear that we may be slightly below last year in total, but our people have come through. We are still a very solid church with a congregation that supports it faithfully. Final figures will come after Christmas.

-Stu Wood

## Christmas Bazaar 2021

This year, under the guidelines of the task force, the Presbyterian Women went ahead with having our annual Christmas Bazaar without the Tea. Without the space that the Tea takes up, we were able to keep all the activities in the Parish Hall, Founder's room and anteroom. Wreaths were again sold out in the playground. Signage was made to direct the participants to the wreath sale and the Bazaar proper. The crafters got busy and we were fortunate to have two members of our community who are not members of the church offering their homemade hand crafter goods to sell. New, newish or barely used items came in for Twice Nice and it seemed that everyone baked.

We had a few glitches, a missing Christmas tree, wreaths that weren't delivered on time to be decorated and the mystery of the poster signs that didn't print the times even though it was on the prototype in the computer. Thank you to Marge Beckwith for offering her tree for the Chrismon tree. Thank you to Janet Hann for picking up the wreaths and helping me reconfigure the layout. Thank you for those who came back on Wednesday to decorate wreaths after coming out on Tuesday.

Thank you to all those who baked, who manned booths, who donated, who helped bring things down from upstairs, who set up and who helped clean up. Thanks again to Donn Larson for providing greens for the wreaths.

We had many people come out for the bazaar. They shopped and bought a lot of gifts and baked goods. We did rather well. I am grateful to be a part of the church where the member come together to help out with a good spirit.

-Christine Haddad, chair

## Pledging: Good News/Bad News

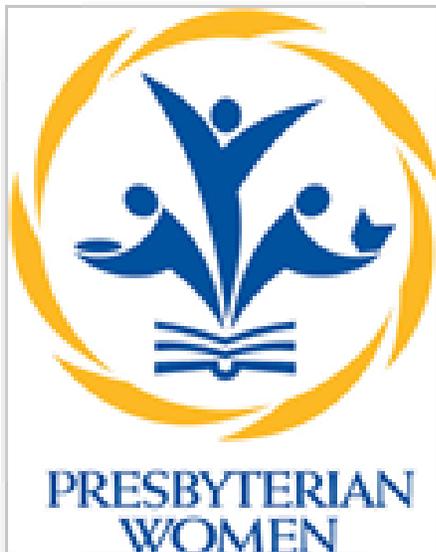
The good news is that we have reached the basic goal of having as much money promised this year as was promised last year. That's a modest goal in this year when we hardly ever saw each other and every major gathering was canceled. In simple numbers, last year \$209,367 was pledged by 105 individuals or families, This year as of Christmas \$213,300 was pledged by 96. It speaks well for us that a smaller number of people have pledged more money to the church. True, some folks had to decrease their pledge, but there was a real spirit of generosity in many others that speaks to how strong our church is.

Remember that we used to set a budget first for what we would need including increases for inflation, for example. Our new way is to see what has come in and make a budget from that figure. Clearly we don't have much cushion in the pledge results to move forward, so that is not-as-good news.

The bad news is that we sent out our pledge letter to something like 275 people who are on our books and only 96 responded. This is a personal disappointment to me because I got the session to agree to include a stamped reply envelope with the letter so that those who couldn't or didn't want to pledge would at least respond that they were with us in spirit. This mailing was a considerable expense to the church and it was a complete failure. Only one person sent in a "with you in spirit" note. We were hoping that this mailing would show us who is really in the church even if they aren't attending services. It didn't do that. It is hard to understand why people wouldn't send back a pre-paid envelope, but that's what happened.

Finally, more good news. For the twenty of you who put your return envelope in the offering plate instead of mailing it in, you will be pleased to learn that I have kept them all. I plan to remove the stamps and reuse them for church business. Our 53 cents was not wasted on you!                      Stu Wood for Stewardship

## A Note from the Presbyterian Women



Coming down from the successful bazaar, eleven Presbyterian Women met at the house of Christine Haddad for lunch and a meeting on Wednesday December 8<sup>th</sup>. Everyone seemed to enjoy the ham dinner and Christmas décor. A lively discussion of the recent bazaar and ideas for the next bazaar were discussed. It was great to see some new faces and hope that they will return. We all did miss Marge Beckwith the rudder for our boat. We hope that she is feeling better soon.

We were very grateful that we had all our activities when the level of Covid was much lower but with recent surges and concern for everyone's health and taking in the recommendations of the task force, we are going to pass on a January meeting. We hope that the virus will make a hasty departure and we can reconvene in February. Meanwhile, keep in contact with each other. Write down any good idea so we can share them at the next meeting. We hope that you all have a happy and healthy 2022.



# Happy Birthday & Happy Anniversary

1 Scott Campbell  
2 Paul Pfaff  
2 Oliver Bradley  
2 Crawford Jackson IV  
3 Mia Victoria Tortorella  
5 Lilly Wagner  
5 Marjorie Ridgway  
6 Diane F. Perry  
7 Jared Jessup  
7 Mary Hull  
9 Mason Gragg  
11 Ralph Hubbard  
11 George Burns  
12 Jesse Deihl  
13 Karen Neubauer  
14 Seamus Naughton  
15 Bob Busking  
15 Derik Herzing  
15 Claire Berry

15 SuZanne Jessup  
17 Allison Hoch  
18 Steve Ravenhall  
20 Christian Carter  
23 Brian Mosher  
23 Tabitha Heath  
23 Jenn Greiner  
24 Benjamin Otis Miller  
25 Cathy Holliday  
26 Eric Wootten  
26 Kearney Staniford  
28 Chic Hedberg  
29 Lynda Confessore  
30 Maik Jornitz  
30 David Rowe  
31 Ralph Downs  
31 Sophie Rouhandeh  
31 Josephine Levitt

# January 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 
2 10am Virtual Worship service  12pm Interment Sherrod Smith	3	4  7pm Deacons  Pastor Mission Trip to Colombia	5	6	7  Annual Reports Due to office	8
9 10am Virtual Worship service	10	11	12	13	14	15
16 10am Virtual Worship service	17 5pm Maureens Haven	18 Tidings Articles due	19	20 6pm Session	21	22
23 10am Virtual Worship service TBD	24	25 7pm Trustees	26	27	28	29
30 10am Worship  Annual Meeting	31					

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

---

Phone: 631-288-2576

Fax: 631-288-6011

email:

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

---

*We're on the web:*

[www.westhamptonpresbyterian.org](http://www.westhamptonpresbyterian.org)

---

*Your issue of the January Tidings*

---