



TIDINGS

WESTHAMPTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

FEBRUARY 2022

A Note from your Pastor

February finds us in the midst of winter with really only one big holiday in the month—Valentine’s Day. Have you ever wondered where the tradition comes from? And have you ever pondered how this holiday is connected to the church since Valentine is often referred to as a saint?

The legend of Valentine’s day and its patron saint is murky and shrouded in mystery. The Roman Catholic church recognizes at least three different saints named Valentine or Valentinus. One legend says that Valentine was a priest who lived in third century Rome. Emperor Claudius II decided that single men made better soldiers and outlawed marriage for young men. Valentine, who felt the law was unjust, defied the emperor and continued to perform marriages for young people in secret. Others suggest Valentine may have been killed for attempting to help Christians escape from Roman prisons. In one legend, Valentine sent a “valentine greeting” after falling in love with a young girl—possibly his jailor’s daughter—who had visited him during his confinement. Allegedly, he wrote her a letter signed “From your Valentine” which is why we continue to use the expression today. Whatever truth may lie in these stories, the figure of Valentine has become a sympathetic, heroic, and romantic figure.

And why the middle of February? Some think it is to commemorate the anniversary of Valentine’s death or burial while others claim it was an effort to Christianize the pagan celebration of Lupercalia which was a fertility festival held in mid-February. Part of the rituals of this festival included all young women in the city placing their names in a big urn. The city’s bachelors would then choose a name and become paired for the following year. Often these matches ended with marriage.

During the Middle Ages, people in France and England believed that February 14 was the beginning of birds’ mating season adding to the idea that Valentine’s day was a day for romance. By the middle of the 18th century it was common for friends and lovers of all social classes to send small tokens of affection or handwritten notes. By 1900, printed cards began to replace written letters due to the improvement of printing technology.

In the US, Americans probably began exchanging valentines in the early 1700s. In the 1840’s a lady named Esther A. Howland began selling the first mass produced valentines in America. Howland was known as the “Mother of the Valentine” and made elaborate creations with real lace, ribbons, and colorful pictures. Today, according to the Greeting Card Association, 145 million Valentine’s Day cards are sent each year coming in second only to Christmas.

So what does Valentine’s day mean for us as modern Christians? While it is helpful to understand the secular and religious history and context it doesn’t completely answer the question of what this all means for us. In my opinion, Valentine’s day offers us yet another opportunity to put into practice Jesus’ greatest commandment—that we love others as we love ourselves. Or as 1 John 4:7-12 puts it: “Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.”

So I am wishing each and every one of you a happy and blessed Valentine’s day this year, hoping and praying that you feel the presence of God’s love within you. However you choose to celebrate this day, it is my prayer you do so in the knowledge of God’s abiding love.

With Great Love and Affection,
Rev. Vanessa Winters

***Prayer Concerns**

Recent: Kevin Fitzgerald, friend of Margery Qua; Phyllis Styrzo; Covid vulnerability, physical therapy; Raymond Hann, Home; 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

Church News

Deaths

Jan. 1, 2022: Robert Busking
Arrangements will be announced at a later date.

February 6: "Souper Bowl of Caring" -Since we will not be able to make soup, youth group will be collecting donations of canned goods and non-perishables for the local food pantry at the Immaculate Conception. Drop off or bring to coffee hour until Feb. 13th.

We Are Live!

Visit the church website to view Sunday worship services streaming live every Sunday.

www.westhamptonpresbyterian.org

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

Per Capita

Please be sure to pick up your giving envelopes and include an offering of \$43.08 per church member for per capita contribution, this amount includes the \$5 Salary Supplement for Presbytery.

Playground Appeal

Trustees have our playground on the 2022 to-do-list for needed repairs.

We are hoping that members of the congregation will make contributions toward this project.

If interested please contact Trustee Cheryl Van Tuyle or Erika.



Youth Group

Though February is the shortest month, it is filled with lots of love and sweet surprises!

January was a month of remote Sunday School. Parents received an at home Sunday School lesson weekly. Thank you for the feedback I'm so glad that you enjoyed them.

February is Souper Bowl month, please remember the less fortunate and bring in items for the food pantry, or better yet keep the little pantry on Mill Road stocked. Youth Group will count the items collected up until the 13th and report to Souper Bowl of Caring. We look forward to making soup to sell again, hopefully next year.

As we continue to fight against this virus, we look forward to meeting up again and making plans to do some activates and some mission work.

May this month bring you peace, love and other goodies that come with it.....Kathy



Notes from the Session Meeting

These notes are a way for our members to hear what is going on in our church behind the scenes. Think of them as news items over a cup of coffee.

For instance, you might not know that the manse has had all new windows installed already. Well, all but two that the installers had mis-measured, but they will be done soon as well. The trustees also oversaw considerable storm tree damage cleanup from the manse and the church.

Snow plowing is a major expense. We have been cleared once this winter at a cost of \$1300. If a bigger storm leaves over eight inches of snow it will require two plows and cost us \$2600. Pray for sunshine.

Down the road we are going to have to replace our entire parking lot, and our estimators all say they must remove the surface and start over with a stone base, all costing \$60,000. That's not in our budget this year.,

Trustees hope to renovate the playground this year which might cost \$10,000. Meantime, Sunshine Academy has increased its space in our church as their enrollment has gone up, and we need to adjust their rent this spring. They are the major users of the playground.

As of this writing the Task Force is recommending that the church building be reopened on January 30 with masks mandated and reasonable social distancing recommended. The way it works is that the Task Force makes recommendations based on state and local policies such as following what the schools are doing, and then the Session makes the rules. Please don't blame Vanessa or the Task Force, blame the Session. The main criterion used is the safety of our people.

For your information, our church membership is 281, although only 98 pledge. Who knows how many people support us but don't pledge....

Finally, because some Session members didn't know this, please know that for a number of years now there has been a fund to pay a soprano section leader in the choir. It is presently \$100 a week, generously helped by an anonymous gift. We are told that St. Marks pays their choir members, but we have not except this one case, started by Linda Howard Kloefer. By the way, Vanessa tells us that we have the largest choir in the Presbytery. We are very proud. Stu Wood for the Session

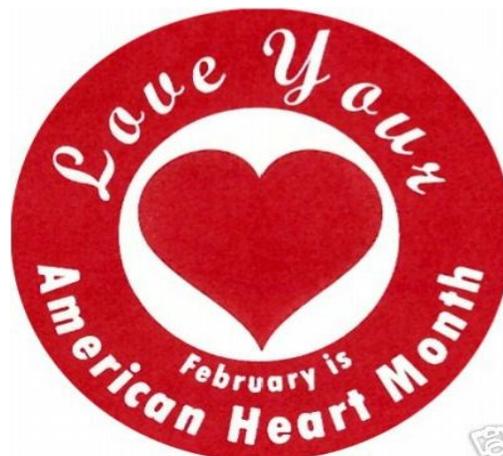


Colombia





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|----|--------------------------------------|----|------------------------------|
| 1 | Joanna Howard Feuer | 18 | Sean Doyle |
| 1 | Madeline, Michael, and Mac Gillooley | 21 | Carol Lee Nespole |
| 1 | John Campbell | 22 | Casandra and Joshua Carrick |
| 3 | Deborah and Bob Busking | 23 | Sandy Surgan |
| 4 | Nancy Winters | 24 | Geoffrey Strong |
| 5 | Zachary Downs | 25 | Kimberly Rogers Murawski |
| 7 | Miles Tamis | 27 | Sally Hoge |
| 9 | Donn Larson | 27 | Jionni Vigorito |
| 9 | Carter Cline | 27 | Marissa Schultze |
| 12 | Phyllis Styrzo | 28 | Alison Strong |
| 14 | Taylor Wagner | 28 | Patricia Kottl-Bebon |
| 15 | Mary Brennan | 29 | Warren & Brittany Frevert IV |
| 15 | Robert Van Cleef | | |
| 16 | Matt Ravenhall | | |
| 17 | Max Quinlan | | |
| 18 | Louise Smith | | |



February 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 <i>7pm Deacons</i>	2	3	4	5
6 <i>5th Sunday after Epiphany Annual Meeting Souper Bowl for Caring</i>	7 <i>5pm E.E.H. Children's Be-reavement Group</i>	8 <i>5:15pm Music & Worship 6pm Session</i>	9 <i>10:30am Staff</i>	10 <i>5pm E.E.H. Children's Be-reavement Group</i>	11	12
13 <i>6th Sunday after Epiphany</i>	14 <i>5pm E.E.H. Children's Be-reavement Group</i>	15 <i>7pm Trustees</i>	16 <i>9:30am Mission</i>	17 <i>5pm E.E.H. Children's Be-reavement Group</i>	18	19
20 <i>7th Sunday after Epiphany</i>	21 <i>President's Day Office Closed 5pm Maureen's Haven</i>	22	23	24 <i>5pm E.E.H. Children's Be-reavement Group</i>	25	26
27 <i>Transfiguration of the Lord</i>	28 <i>5pm E.E.H. Children's Be-reavement Group</i>					

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Your issue of the February Tidings



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