



TIDINGS

WESTHAMPTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

March 2024

A Message from your Pastor

In addition to hopefully bringing us more spring-like weather, March also brings us to St. Patrick's day on March 17th. This holiday is well celebrated by those of us here in Westhampton Beach when it is marked by the annual parade and the election of a grand marshal (some who have been or currently are members of the church). But as many of us know, St. Patrick was a Christian figure. Interestingly enough, he is not a saint! He has never been canonized by the Roman Catholic Church. His history is still interesting, however, and tells us a great deal about Christianity in ancient times.

Patrick was born around the year 385 near what is now Dumbarton, Scotland. At age 16, he is captured by Irish pirates who drag him 200 miles inland where he worked as a shepherd and farm laborer. He eventually escaped and returned to Britain, but had been deeply changed by his experience. Though born into Christianity, he did not actively practice until returning to his homeland when he became a priest. He then wanted to return to Ireland to convert all of its inhabitants to Christianity.

Leoghaire, the King of Ireland at the time, was not initially in favor of Patrick's mission. Patrick was often threatened during this time by local inhabitants and the leaders of the various communities, legend states he even started carrying a dagger with him. He was eventually successful and converted Leoghaire and baptized him. Many people followed suit. While Patrick was successful at bringing Christianity and its moral beliefs to Ireland, there is no evidence that he drove snakes off the island which were not native at the time.

Patrick is known as the "Apostle of Ireland" and planted churches all across the country. The first one he built is likely in Saul in modern day Northern Ireland where it is also believed he died on March 17, 461. The date of his supposed death is where we get the date in which we celebrate his life. Another legend surrounding Patrick are that he used a shamrock to teach the Irish people about the Trinity, though this is lacking in historical evidence. Legend plays a great role surrounding this figure and includes things like the color green (closely associated with Roman Catholicism in Ireland in later years), leprechauns and their gold (based on folk stories from Ireland), and somehow parties and celebration.

While living in Ireland, I was surprised to find that most Irish people spent the day attending mass followed by dinner with family rather than attending parades and drinking beer. Due to American influence, particularly in places like Boston and Chicago, Ireland now has a much more robust celebration on this day that includes more American type practices. It is easy for us to forget that Christianity was at the center of this historical figure's life and lies at the root of this holiday. My favorite legend about St. Patrick revolves around a "*lorica*" (Latin for prayer) which was inscribed on a breastplate that he wore. *Loricas* were often inscribed on breastplates worn by soldiers and knights of this time as they went to battle. While the original source is debated, legend has it that this was inscribed on the breastplate of St. Patrick:

"Christ beneath me, Christ before me, Christ behind me, Christ in me, Christ beneath me, Christ above me, Christ on my right, Christ on my left, Christ when I lie down, Christ when I arise, Christ in the heart of every man who thinks of me, Christ in the mouth of everyone who speaks of me, Christ in every eye that sees me, Christ in every ear that hears me."

Happy St. Patrick's Day. May we all remember the centrality of Christ that is ascribed to the life and ministry of St. Patrick.

Blessings,

Rev. Vanessa Winters

CHURCH LIFE

Prayers

Recent: Pat Bebon, surgery; Joan King, home; Gloria Johnson; Raphael Hidalgo, (chemo)Seth Stevens' uncle; Madeline Hackworth, Vern Hackworth's mother; Ruth Feitl, Karl Feitl's mother; Libby Hirsch, cancer, Tom Rogers' cousin; Raymond Hann; Trisha Knotoff (Hospice Care), Kathy Tureski's sister-in-law; Terry Heffernan(chemo), friend of Mimi & Stu Wood; Jane Busking; Vita Collery, cancer, Karen Derryberry's cousin; Ralph Neubauer; Helen Fitzsimons; Kevin Fitzgerald; Marjorie Ridgway, home; **Long Term:** Phyllis Styrzo, Hamptons Center for Rehab; Kimberly Rogers Murawski; Ralph Downs, Florida; Dana Barrett, friend of Nancy Miller; Chelsey Carter Collins, Hamptons Center for Rehab; Dottie Evans

Men's Fellowship Group

Join us for good conversation and goodies every first Thursday of the month in the conference room at 10am.



Presbyterian Women: March "Irish Potluck" Luncheon

Ladies, please join us in the conference room on Wednesday, March 13th at noon. Bring an Irish themed covered dish to share. Beverages will be served.

Easter Sunday, March 31st

6:30am Sunrise Service at Swordfish Beach Club

With Hot Crossed buns! Courtesy of John & Meryle King!

10am Easter Sunday service at WPC

Followed by our Annual Children's Easter Egg Hunt

Easter Plant Dedications & LI Brass

On Easter Sunday, the sanctuary will be filled with beautiful Easter lilies, daffodils, tulips, hydrangeas and hyacinths and the LI Brass will be joining our choir at the 10am Easter Service. Be sure to return your Forms to the church office or Sunday offering plate no later than March 26th to purchase plants and/or to make a donation to offset the cost of the LI Brass.

Christian Sympathy

We give our deepest Christian sympathy to siblings Stacey, Bill and Richard Brown and Lisa Pfaff on the passing of their beloved mother and long time member of WPC, Ellen Pfaff on February 23, 2024.

Memorial Services

Saturday, March 2, 2024

Jean Van Hoesen Salomon Cuthbert

11:00 am Celebration of Life at Westhampton Presbyterian Church.

Reception to follow. A walk around the pond at Quogue Wildlife Refuge in Jean's honor will take place after the reception. All are welcome.

Saturday, April 6, 2024

Anjele Ann Kalfayan

11:00 am service at Westhampton Presbyterian Church. Reception to follow.

Private interment.



YOU SHALL BE
CALLED REPAIRERS
OF THE BREACH

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

— ISAIAH 58



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



Don't forget!
Spring ahead on March 10th!

Palm Sunday, March 24th:
10AM Worship in the Sanctuary

Maundy Thursday, March 28th:
7PM Communion & Tenebrae Service at the Quogue Chapel

Good Friday Service, March 29th:
**12PM Ecumenical Service at St. Mark's Episcopal Church on
 Main Street**



Easter Sunday, March 31st:
6:30AM Sunrise Service:
Swordfish Beach Club
245 Dune Rd. Westhampton Beach
hot crossed buns served, courtesy of John & Meryle King
10AM Service in the Sanctuary
accompanied by the
Long Island Brass Guild
11AM Annual Children's Easter Egg Hunt

A Note from Presbyterian Women

The PW met on Feb 14th for a luncheon, with an invitation to the men. In spite of cold weather and illnesses, eleven of us gathered for lunch and a questionnaire to help people get to know each other. It was a fun time! Did you know that Cheryl Van Tuyle was born under a rock? ! Our next meeting will be on Wednesday March 13th at 12 noon. The ladies are invited to come and bring a covered dish lunch with an Irish theme.

Hubbard County Park Hike March 16, 2024

Hubbard County Park is situated on the south shore of Flanders Bay between Long Island's north and south forks. The 1,815 acre park consists of pine-oak forest, salt marshes and tidal creeks. Years of sea level erosion had created and an area called the "Ghost Forest". It is noticed only at low tide leaving Atlantic White Cedar tree stumps visible. Also, a Black Duck Lodge is located on the property.

In the early 1800's Hubbard county Park was owned by the Astor family. The forest was cut and sold as cordwood during this time. The Hubbard family owned the marshes, fields and second-growth forest surrounding Mill Creek between 1815 and 1937. The dam at Mill Creek was used to power a saw mill. The Black Duck Lodge was built by the Hubbard family in 1838. E.F. Hutton purchased the property in 1937 and used it as a private hunting preserve. Suffolk County acquired the property in 1974.

Come explore Hubbard County Park Saturday March 16th, meet at 9:30 am on Red Creek Road, Flanders; park alongside Red Creek Road about 300 feet north of NY 24. You will see a gate. It will be about 4 miles or 2 hours walking easy terrain. Please wear comfortable hiking boots or walking shoes and pants that you can tuck in your socks. Bring water and snack if you like. No facilities. Rain will cancel. For questions or information contact Janet Hann at 631-288-6884 or 631-871-7240.



Christians Ed. & Youth Group

We kicked off our month in full swing. We started with our Lenten Festival where the children heard the East-er Story and made Resurrection Eggs. Each egg (12 of them) symbolizes a part of Jesus's death and resurrection. They are to be opened during Holy Week where they learn about the events that they represent in the Bi-ble. They made other crafts and enjoyed a snack together.

The youth group were involved with Souper Bowl for Caring. We made Turkey Chili and enjoyed a pizza dinner. A huge thank you to Tracy & Ryan Zollweg, Amy Wright & Kayla Coffey for making other soups to sell and Cindy & Delaney Campbell and Cheryl Van Tuyle baked cookies for the cause. We collected over 59 food items and made \$525.00 to purchase grocery cards for the food pantry. The food items were delivered to the two little food pantry boxes on Mill Rd and the grocery cards will go to the food bank at Immaculate Conception.

With winter recess upon us, we look forward to March. We're planning Scout Recognition on March 10th. If you are a Girl or Boy Scout please wear your uniform to church. Older scouts!!! Looking to see if you'd like to help with part of the worship, (let me know so I can get parts to you!) Remember a Scout is Reverent!

Please note a change in the Sunday School Calendar: Musical Sunday will take place on the March 24th Palm Sunday instead of March 10th.

The annual Easter Egg Hunt will take place on Easter Sunday following the 10AM worship (approximately 11 AM). I'm looking for candy/treats to stuff the eggs. Please leave in office or Youth Table in the Parish Hall. We will be stuffing the eggs on 3/17 after we roll the quarters for Heifer! Heifer is moving along.....over half way to our goal of \$5000.00! Thank you!

WHBHS presents *Beauty and the Beast* on 3/22, 3/23, and 3/24. Admission is free and of course come see our talented youth members!

Kathy





Swing Into Spring Ham Dinner Fundraiser

Mark your calendar for April 7th at 5pm as the Fundraising Committee hosts a "Swing into Spring Ham Dinner" featuring ham, sides, dessert, and beverages! Tickets are available during Coffee Hour and in the church office. \$15 for adults, \$10 for children 12 and under. Let's welcome spring together with fellowship and food!

Ruth Bennett & Upcoming Concert Events!

The first of our Sunday Concert Series performances was a success! Along with an absolutely amazing hour of harp music, Ruth Bennett charmingly gave the audience a mini tutorial on the harp and the pieces she played, even taking questions from the audience. The fundraising committee hosted a reception after the concert, and audience members were able to meet Ruth to congratulate her in person. It was a perfect afternoon! A very special thank you to Elizabeth Shane and Lou Pizzarello for sponsoring the concert.

Our next performance will feature soprano Emma Ozman on Sunday, May 19 at 3PM. If you haven't already purchased your ticket, they will go on sale in early April. Watch for the flyers and the announcement in the April Tidings.

*We are still looking for sponsors for the remaining concerts in the series. If you are interested in sponsoring all or part of one of the performances, please speak to Betsy Doyle or any member of the fundraising committee.



Minute for Mission

Greetings, today I would like to talk about our Per Capita contribution, I know for whatever reason a topic neglected and in instances, seen as a debatable contribution. So much that once a member said to me that he, as a member, will not pay to come to church.

However, we need to understand that Per Capita is not a membership fee, but a mission item. We are very willing and happy to support our general and specific mission programs, but we often do not realize that the Per Capita portion per member respectively financially supports our presbytery as a mission giving. Our Per Capita donation goes to the global presbytery at large to support their mission and activities.

Now one would tend to ask what do they do, how can that be of importance and so on. Well, we just have to look and be attentive and see how much our society needs our church life, needs Jesus and with it comfort and strength and joy! I do not want to sound as a doomsday predictor, but the news is filled with negativity, Oxycontin is ravaging our country and value core, suicide rates are up, mental illnesses and depression on the rise and so many more disturbing facts of our life today. To break these cycles, us as a country, society, community, group require stability, something to hold on, morals, integrity and empathy. All this is brought close to us by The Lord, the holy bible and our church. A church is the outreach to bring people in need towards the Christian stability. However, our church can only do so when it is alive and well supported and not being sold due to financial troubles. Too often we see such fate happening to churches, the place people in need find shelter. To assure our churches are thriving and being able to support lost souls and our fellow citizen in need, we require to also support our presbytery mission with our Per Capita contribution of \$43.90 per member.

Westhampton Presbyterian Church – Equipment/Consumables/Maintenance Donation Pledge Sheet

This list shows a number of items and services, which could be supported by your donation. Please review the list and if you can list your name as a donor for some or all of the church's needs. You can also add the donation in an envelope, describe the donation for Erika and add it to the collection plate.

Description	Amount	Need Rate	Name of Donor/s
Copier lease	\$224	Per month	
Color Printer/copier paper	\$15	One ream	
White Copier paper	\$55	One case	
Printer/copier toner	\$150	Quarterly	
Pens	\$10	Per year	
Folders	\$30	Per year	
Labels	\$30	Per year	
Stamps	\$200	Semi-annually	
Phone/Internet	\$215	Per month	
Software Fees	\$55	Monthly	
Bathroom supplies	\$100	Quarterly	
Building/kitchen supplies	\$100	Quarterly	
Website	\$158	Monthly	
Electricity	\$1,125	Monthly	
Gas & Water	\$166	Monthly	
Oil	\$1,000	Monthly	
Cleaning service	\$1,000	Monthly	
Music & worship supplies	\$165	Monthly	
Nursery care	\$100	Monthly	

We sincerely thank you for your continuous support !

Happy Birthday & Happy Anniversary

1	Sharon Conway	30	Donna & Korey Williams
1	Tova Keblish	31	Bill Manker
1	Barbara and Anthony Danowski	31	Spencer Baird
4	Pete Seidler	31	Aram Terchunian
6	Pat Barile	31	Lisa Gooder
7	Meg Baird		
7	Gavin Jessup		
8	Ruth Duvall		
8	Abbygail Lappin		
9	Kristina Carter Bennett		
9	Carol Nemeth		
10	Erika Lukert		
11	Brad Ravenhall		
11	Georgia Gooder		
12	Jennifer Gillin		
12	Kelly Lappin		
14	Kathy Tureski		
16	Daniel Staniford		
16	Marie and Vincent Yervasi		
17	Delaney Campbell		
17	Laianna Vigorito		
21	Betsy Fox		
22	Kimet Speed		
23	Pam Chance-Herzing		
24	Mary Beth and Taf Lundborg		
25	Lily Burns		
27	Serafima Droznik		
27	James Sperber		
28	Fina DiBiaso		



*Don't see your birthday or anniversary?
Please contact the church office right away!*



March 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 7pm Line Dancing with Terry Lou-Lady T	2 11am Jean Cuthbert Memorial Service
3 3rd Sunday in Lent 10am Worship	4	5 2-3:30pm EEH Adult Bereavement 5-7pm E.E.H. Children's Bereavement group 7pm Deacons	6 10:30am Fund-raising Committee	7 10am Men's Group	8	9
10 Daylight Savings Time Begins 4th Sunday in Lent 10am Worship Scout Sunday	11	12 2-3:30pm EEH Adult Bereavement 6pm Session	13 9:15am Mission 12pm PW Irish Potluck Luncheon	14	15	16
17 5th Sunday in Lent 10am Worship St. Patrick's Day	18 5pm Maureen's Haven	19 2-3:30pm EEH Adult Bereavement 5-7pm E.E.H. Children's Bereavement group 7pm Trustees	20 11:00am staff meeting	21	22	23
24 Palm Sunday 10am Worship	25 Holy Week	26 2-3:30pm EEH Adult Bereavement 5-7pm E.E.H. Children's Bereavement group	27	28 Maundy Thursday 7pm Tenebrae Service, Quogue Chapel	29 Good Friday Office Closed 12pm Ecumenical service at St. Mark's	30 Great Vigil of Easter
31 Resurrection of the Lord/ Easter 6:30am Sunrise Service @ Swordfish Beach Club 10am Worship Annual Easter Egg Hunt						

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Your issue of the March Tidings