



TIDINGS

WESTHAMPTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

♥ FEBRUARY 2025 ♥

A Word from the Pastor

Dear Friends,

This very cold winter has kept me inside more than usual, and perhaps lingering over my morning devotionals a little longer. One of my favorite books to read each morning is *The Upper Room* – a small paperback booklet that is published bi-monthly. Over the past few years it has become a mainstay for me.

One reason I enjoy *The Upper Room* is because each of the daily devotions are contributed by readers, and I find them very relatable. The entries include a scripture, a short story or testimony about how God worked in the writer's life, and then a prayer. The stories are usually not about dramatic changes or lofty ideas, but about the quiet ways God moves in everyday lives and calls us to follow Jesus.

Another fan of *The Upper Room* once mentioned to me that the words she read one morning had been particularly helpful (and I paraphrase): "Our world often praises only those who dream big and achieve 'great' things. But then there are those who work in smaller ways with their God-given gifts to touch our lives and make them better. In today's restless world that's a challenge for us all."

Given the "restlessness" in our nation, the struggle of neighbors near and far, and personal challenges we face, never doubt the importance of our small, daily acts of kindness to other people in our lives. Everyone is our neighbor, and sharing love in a small but tangible way is how we live out the love commandment, and express our belief that God values each life. I am amazed and grateful at how well the people of Westhampton Presbyterian care for one another in small (and large!) ways. The joy of Christian community is evident, and as the sociologists tell us, our world is becoming a place where relationships are fraying and loneliness is prevalent. The church family is a wonderful antidote to these concerning trends.

Another highlight for me of *The Upper Room* is that the entries come from around the globe, and so some mornings I can't help but marvel how we have sisters and brothers in distant lands who worship the same Lord, who turn to the same God each day for guidance, strength and help.

If you are interested in adding morning devotions to your routine, check out www.upperroom.org. Of course, there are many devotionals that people find work for them, and I hope you will share with me what you have found so I can add that to my list of suggestions for others! A morning devotional is a small act of kindness to yourself, one with a large pay off as it helps us lead a God-centered day. In this restless world, that is truly a gift to ourselves and to those around us.

Blessings,

Rev. Candy

Happy Valentine's Day



Prayer Concerns

Recent: Family & friends of Marge Ridgway on her passing; Family & friends of Jane Busking on her passing; Mariko Pichardo, healing prayers; Lenny Rempe, (longtime member of WPC); Susan Sullivan, friend of John and Mary Hull; Ella Carolan, leukemia (family friend to the Steven's family); Pete Seidler; Leslie Johnson, cancer (Stephanie Miller's mother); Pat Bebon; Libby Hirsch, cancer (Tom Rogers' cousin); Raymond Hann; Ralph Neubauer; Helen Fitzsimons
Long Term: Chelsey Carter Collins, Hamptons Center for Rehab; Phyllis Styrzo, Hamptons Center for Rehab; Kimberly Rogers Murawski; Ralph Downs, Florida; Dana Barrett, friend of Nancy Miller

Check out our revamped website!

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

Click on "Live Church WebCam" under "Church Life" Tab.

Per Capita & Giving Envelopes

Please be sure to pick up your giving envelopes and include an offering of \$47.09 per church *member* for your per capita contribution. This amount includes the \$5 Salary Supplement for Presbytery.



Line Dancing Fundraising Event!

Come join us for a fun-filled night of kickin' and stompin' with Terry Lou - Lady T, Saturday, February 1 from 6-8PM in the Parish Hall. Wear comfortable clothes and shoes you can dance in. We will be serving chili with all the fixings. Cost is \$30 per person and a sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board.

Terry Lou - Lady T (otherwise known as Terry Barrett), has been teaching line dance instruction since 2015 at various venues all over Suffolk County as well as in her own studio in Spenk. She is a licensed member of the American Callers Association, the National Teachers Association for Country Western Dancing, and she serves as a board member of the Long Island Country Music Association.

Church Family News

Deaths

January 4, 2025
 Jane A. Busking
 A service was held on Friday, January 10th at WPC.

January 19, 2025
 Marjorie Ridgway
 A service was held on Friday, January 24 at Brockett Funeral Home in Southampton.

Music Maintenance Fund Dedications:

In honor of Betsy Doyle's initiative and motivation; reminding us of what's important.



A Note from the Presbyterian Women

The Presbyterian Women had fourteen show up for the January meeting. We enjoyed delicious potato leek soup made by Bryan Wagner. (Thank you, Bryan!). For our meeting we reviewed our budget and the outcome of the Christmas Fair with some suggestions for next year. When Rev Candy was able to join us, we went around the table and introduced ourselves. She was impressed by many of our histories with the church. After that it was back to the business of planning for the first half of the year, including the Community Yard Sale which will be again in May.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, February 12 at 12 noon. An open invitation is extended to the men of the church to attend our luncheon. It will be potluck where everyone can bring a dish to share. Please join us.

2025 Fundraising Committee Events



Mark your calendar for some fun fellowship events!
You won't want to miss this line up!

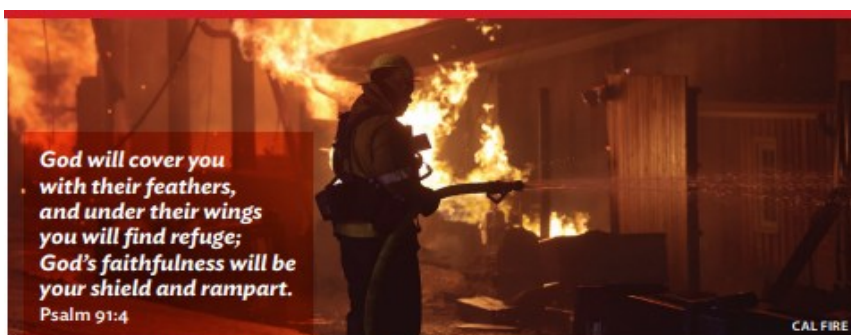
Questions, contact the church office or Fundraising Committee

The fundraising committee has been busy planning some new ideas for the **2025** year. While we work out the final details, here are some of the events to look forward to!

Saturday, February 1:	6-8PM - Line Dancing with Terry Lou - Lady T Chili, chips and beverages will be served
Sunday, May 4:	5PM - Ham Dinner
Friday, June 6:	6-8PM - Paint Night with Ginger Baer "Spring Themes"
Sunday, June 8:	Annual Church Picnic after worship
July/August	Summer Cocktail Party—TBD
Friday, September 26	Pampered Chef
Saturday, September 27	9AM-3PM Scrap Metal Drive
Friday, October 17	6-8PM Paint Night with Ginger Baer "Fall Themes"
Thursday, November 20	6PM Harvest Dinner
December	Christmas Cocktail Party—Date: TBD

We are also in the planning stages for our next Sunday afternoon concert series, which will be happening in March, April and May; more details will follow soon.

Questions about any of the events can be directed to the fundraising committee or to the church office.



California Wildfires Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

Donations can be made to PDA's U.S. wildfires account using the code DR000165.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is one of the compassion, peace and justice ministries of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s Unified Agency.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) urges your support in response to the devastating fires in California, which authorities are calling a historic and deadly wildfire event. PDA has already released emergency grants to meet the urgent needs of the communities and to provide immediate care. The magnitude of this event will require the development of long-term projects and assistance, both for the physical and emotional long-lasting effects.

Years of recovery lie ahead, and your commitment will help PDA extend the hands of Christ. Will you stand in the "GAP" for the people affected by these catastrophic wildfires? — **Give. Act. Pray.**

Christian Education: Youth Group and Sunday School

January has been a slow start since we didn't return from Christmas break until January 12th!

We had four of our older kids in youth group involved with the production of *The Drowsy Chaperone* at Westhampton Performing Arts Center. Ryan, Kaitlynn, Anderson & Cameron did a fabulous job, as well as the rest of the cast & crew!

Next up is Scout Recognition Sunday, February 2nd. They will serve as ushers for the day and be highlighted during the Children's Message.

Once again, the youth group will participate in Souper Bowl For Caring. They will be collecting donations of food for the local food pantries on Mill Road and Immaculate Conception Food Pantry. They will be making soup to sell on Super Bowl Sunday too!

Mark your calendar for the Lenten Festival which will be on March 2nd beginning at 10 am and concluding at 11. Parents watch for an email for updated details in February.

Let's hope this freezing cold spell leaves us soon....I'm ready for warmer temperatures!

Kathy



Hike with Janet!

Wertheim National Wildlife Refuge hike. Pam Chance, Leigh Wanamaker, Henry Holliday, Christine Haddad, Kathy Johnson, Vern Hackworth, Louise Smith, Janet Hann, Betsy Doyle, Pat Schultz and Cathy Holliday. Tom DeMayo is missing in the picture. Twelve hikers walked the White Oak trail under overcast skies in Wertheim National Wildlife Refuge. Stopping at several scenic overlooks along the Carmen's River, we caught sightings of Great Blue Heron, great egret, swans, Canada geese, mallards, and common mergansers. Our three mile hike ended just prior to the rain showers.

In February we will travel to Montauk for the day on **Saturday February 22nd**. First we will hike Big Reed Pond Nature Trail. Exploring the 3miles of trail will be a variety of the following ecological sites. Salt marsh, cattail marsh, freshwater pond and red maple-tupelo swamp. The trail will also take us by the remnants of a Montaukett village.

After the hike we will go for lunch and before returning home stop at the "walking "dunes in the Hither Hills State Park for a ¾-1 mile loop walk.

Signup sheets in coffee hour with more details. Questions, contact Janet Hann C#631-871-7240.

Stewardship

As of January 6, 2025, 86 pledge units had promised \$229,251 for the operation of Westhampton Presbyterian Church. This figure will be updated at the annual meeting as a few more people are still expected to send in their pledges. These numbers are down from last year as follows:

Last year: 96 units pledged \$249,072
 This year: 86 units pledged \$229,251
 The loss of money is \$19,821; we are down by ten people giving
 24 increased their pledge
 8 decreased their pledge
 5 were new
 49 stayed the same

It is not too late to send or telephone a pledge to the church office. Please help us stay strong as we function without an installed pastor. Stu Wood, Stewardship Committee

PNC Update

The Pastor Nominating committee is meeting regularly to analyze applications which are coming to us. Although they are somewhat slow in number, we have seen good quality in several of them. This has to be a mostly private process since pastors who are seeking have often not told their churches that they may be leaving. However, the process is not secret, and you may be interested in what is happening.

Just as we had to write a series of essays describing who we are and what we are looking for in a new installed pastor, the pastors who are seeking a new church have to write essays showing us what they believe and what is important to them. One essay has them describe how their gifts for ministry would help, meaning what are they good at, what their best areas of ministry are. Another asks them to tell of a time when something they worked on led to a positive change, and one more asks for an example of a project that led to disappointment. When we find an application that excites us we schedule a Zoom meeting and all nine of us question the person. It is important that all of us agree because we aim to be unanimous when we find the person that we believe God has sent to us.

The next steps will involve face to face interviews and checking of references. The committee is very good at ferreting out facts, sermons, social media posts and more in our search. The good news for you is that there are good candidates out there and we are working hard to find them. Stu Wood for the PNC.

Access Your Online Member Portal & Church Directory

Dear Members and Friends,



We want to ensure as much communication as possible with **all** of our congregation near and far, because each and every one of you has a special place here. Please don't forget to add or update your info to your member profile on the website (instructions below) Please contact Erika in the church office at admin@westhamptonpresbyterian.org or 631-288-2576 if you need assistance.

The Member Portal: Use the link below to update your own contact information and add a photo too! You are also able to see all of your financial contributions to the church! You will create **your own** unique password for privacy purposes.

<https://servantkeeper.com/member-portal/westhampton-presbyterian-church>

UPDATE!

You are now able to access the Online Directory through your Member Portal! Use the following Passcode when prompted: **WHPCChurch90**



1 Madeline, Michael, and Mac Gillooley
 1 John Campbell
 3 Deborah and Bob Busking
 4 Nancy Winters
 5 Zachary Downs
 7 Miles Tamis
 9 Donn Larson
 9 Carter Cline
 12 Phyllis Styrzo
 14 Taylor Wagner
 15 Mary Brennan
 16 Matt Ravenhall
 18 Louise Smith
 18 Sean Doyle
 21 Carol Lee Nespole
 22 Casandra and Joshua Carrick

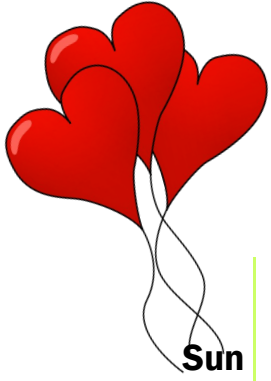
23 Sandy Surgan
 24 Geoffrey Strong
 25 Kimberly Rogers Murawski
 27 Sally Hoge
 28 Jionni Vigorito
 29 Nora David
 27 Marissa Schultze
 28 Alison Strong
 28 Patricia Kottl-Bebon
 29 Warren & Brittany Frevert IV



Share!

Do you know a little history about the church or our community that you would like to share? Or a devotion-al, personal testimony, agendas from meetings, updates and events that would add connection for those near and far? All are welcome to contribute to our monthly Tidings newsletter! Send in your photos and articles to admin@westhamptonpresbyterian.org. (please have submissions in by the 20th of each month)

February 2025



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

2
10am worship
Scout
Recognition

Annual Meeting
after worship

9
10am worship
"Souper Bowl of
Caring"



16
10am worship
No SS

23
10am worship
No SS

3

10

17
President's Day
Office Closed

5pm Maureen's
Haven

24

4

7pm Deacons

11

7pm Trustees

18

25

5

10:30am Staff

12

9:15 am Mission
Meeting

12pm PW
Potluck
Luncheon

19

26

6

13

20

27

7

14

21

28

1

6-8pm Line
Dancing with
Lady T

8

15

22