



TIDINGS

WESTHAMPTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
JANUARY 2025

Welcome Rev. Candace Whitman, extended pulpit supply

Dear Friends,

I hope this finds you well, basking in the glow of Christmas and New Year's celebrations! While you are getting ready for the start of 2025, I wanted to let you know how pleased I am to be writing this greeting as your new "Extended Supply" pastor.

As you may have heard, at the church's gracious invitation, I will be with you this month through June on a part time basis to help meet some of the church's needs while the search for a new minister continues. The plan is for me to lead worship on Sundays, make pastoral visits, moderate Session and tend other things as they arise. It is truly a privilege to walk with you into a new season as a church, and I thank you for the warm welcome I have received these past few months!

I also want to take this opportunity to highlight what lies ahead for us when we gather on Sundays. On January 5, our liturgy takes us back to Bethlehem as the magi follow the star to visit the babe, and on subsequent Sundays, we will follow Jesus as he gains adherents in his life and ministry. Welcome to the season of Epiphany. "Epiphany" is a Greek word meaning appearance or manifestation, and there is much for us to glean from the upcoming texts illustrating what happens when kings as well as ordinary people encounter Jesus, the Light of the World. With light as its theme, Epiphany is uplifting to our spirits, and up north, it provides a welcome glow to the bleaker, chilly days of winter.

During the weeks ahead, I will be acquainting myself with the different aspects of your church life to learn how I can best support you in this time of transition. Please reach out to me with any needs, or concerns, or for prayer. I would also be delighted if you stop by just for conversation! My aim is to help you remain strong in your individual faith, strong as a congregation, and strong your mission to serve your neighbors near and far as you prepare for a new chapter ahead.

I will be available in the church office on Tuesdays from 9am-5pm and one other day to be determined.

My email address: rev.c.whitman@gmail.com

Cell: (203) 293-5470

Peace and blessings to all!

Rev. Candy



Prayer Concerns

Recent: Lenny Rempé; Susan Sullivan, friend of John and Mary Hull; Ella Carolan, leukemia (family friend to the Steven's family); Glenn Steinmo, cancer (Mimi Wood's nephew); Pete Seidler; Leslie Johnson, cancer (Stephanie Miller's mother); Pat Bebon; Libby Hirsch, cancer (Tom Rogers' cousin); Raymond Hann; Ralph Neubauer; Helen Fitzsimons; Marjorie Ridgway, home

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

Fundraising: Scrap Metal

We continue collecting throughout the year and 100% of donations collected go toward fundraising for the church. The total to date we have collected is \$17, 043!



Men's Fellowship Group

Whether a member or friend, join us on the first Thursday of each month in the conference room at 10am. Discussion and open conversation on current events and other topics. Coffee and goodies are always served.

Direct Deposit

An option for your monthly pledge is Direct Deposit. On the 10th of the month your pledge amount will be automatically transferred from your individual bank account into the church's account. It is convenient and easy. If interested, contact our treasurer, Janet Hann for the necessary form.

Church Family News

We welcome Rev. Candace Whitman as our extended pulpit supply through the new year.

January 20: The office will be closed for Martin Luther King Day.

Presbyterian Walkers

There will be more walks and hikes. I am gathering information on places that are safe from the hunters. January is the shot gun month so a lot of areas allow hunting. I have some possibilities and once the details are planned there will be an announcement as to when and where. Let's not hibernate during the winter grab you coat and mittens and walk your neighborhood for a start.

"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.



Annual Reports are due

It's that time of year to start preparing your reports for the Annual Meeting. Please **email** your reports to admin@westhamptonpresbyterian.org no later than Monday, January 6th. Reports are needed to begin preparation for distribution the week before the Annual meeting is scheduled. Thank you for your attention.

**Presbyterian Women
Wednesday, January 8
12pm
Soup and Sandwich
Looking back and forward
(see page 5 for PW news)**

*Remember to submit your Tidings articles by the 20th each month so that it can be displayed in the next newsletter. Lets stay connected!

Youth Group and Sunday School News

Happy New Year! As we turn the page on a new year it's a time for new beginnings and opportunity's waiting to begin. I for one embrace new beginnings as it gives me another chance to get it right!

As I wrote in last Tidings, we were awaiting the start of our Christmas Season. We had our Advent Festival on a Saturday afternoon as a family affair along with a pizza dinner and a birthday celebrating Jesus! It started with the explanation of Advent, the Advent wreath and a story of Christmas in the Sanctuary. Then we made our way to the parish hall where we had lots of Advent crafts, and of course the making of the candy Manger scene! Finishing the event off with a pizza dinner. The event went really well, and we hope to do it again next year with some minor changes.

Next up for us, was getting ready for our annual Christmas Pageant, which also turned into a Youth Sunday! The kids did a fabulous job delivering the entire service that day. Once again Kimet Speed shared her artistic talent of writing and directing our Christmas Pageant, "Now Streaming -The Christmas Pageant". We also had youth sharing their musical talents with us: Samantha Mazurkiewicz and Cameron Hill each playing a piece on the clarinet, and Ryan Zollweg on the piano. The participants and cast of the worship service that day did a fabulous job. A BIG round of applause to all.

Next up the youth will be preparing for Souper Bowl for Caring and can you believe the Lenten Festival! Remember third Sunday's are quarter collection for Heifer too!

"May the New Year bless you with unwavering faith that guides your steps, illuminates your path, and fills your heart with hope and strength throughout the year ahead".

Kathy

Christmas Pageant



*Santa & Mrs. Claus
Santa Brunch*



Quogue Chapel at Christmas



Ever wonder what our Quogue Chapel looks like for Christmas?

Thank you to Debbie from Honeysuckle and Roses for always providing the beautiful greens for our beloved Chapel every Christmas. Our Blue Christmas service is held here each year for those who have lost loved ones or need comfort..

On Christmas Eve at 9pm our Candlelit Service fills the Chapel with music and the Christmas story. Thank you to our Music & Worship Committee for decorating and Cheryl Van Tuyle for keeping it spotless!



A Note from the Presbyterian Women

Thirteen men and women gathered for lunch on a windy, rainy day during the Holiday season. The weather as well as the cold virus whittled down our numbers. After we enjoyed a lunch of chicken casseroles courtesy of Meryle King and myself, Sharon Conway entertained us with Holiday games. A good time was had by all.

Our next meeting will be January 8th at noon for the ladies. Bring a sandwich to have with soup and dessert. Afterwards, we will critique the Christmas Fair and plan our year's activities.

Christine Haddad

Christmas Fair

The PW tried a few new things with the Christmas Fair, first changing the name and then changing the times. We did this because of competition from a very well travelled street fair in East Quogue. We had a pretty steady stream of attendees. The crafters outdid themselves this year. They were the star of the show and did an amazing amount of business. Kudos to Gini Wagner, Donna Goebel William, Cheryl Van Tuyle, Janet Hann and Holly Hubbard. Eloise Carter headed up the bake sale and cookie walk which were also popular. Jane Otis and Kathy Dayton manned the kitchen last minute and kept the trays flowing with delicious sandwiches and cookies. Twice Nice looked as magical as ever thanks to Louise Smith, Sharon Conway and Holly Hubbard. Margretta Anderson, Meryle King and Hanne Manker hostesses at the tea table. The jewelry and the knitwear did well in their own rooms. The wreaths added a definite holiday touch. Donn Larson came through with greens again, this year. Although the fair was late this year and many people had bought wreaths, we sold them out. It takes a week to set up this lovely event and it is hard to take it all down. Thank you to all who helped pack up and carry things upstairs after church and the brunch. It certainly takes a village. Thank you to all those unnamed who helped, baked and lastly came and supported us. It is a rewarding way to kick off the Christmas season.

Christine Haddad, chair



50th Anniversary of our Organ



On Sunday, December 15th, we celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the dedication of the William Gill Memorial Organ, gifted to the church in 1974 by his widow, Lucy Gair Gill. We welcomed back former organists Linda Howard Kloefer and Will Roslak, as well as a former student of Linda's, Jamie Hulse Smith. Kamilla and the choir added their gifts, and the service was a true celebration of the organ and all music at Westhampton Presbyterian. William and Lucy Gill's granddaughter Bobbie Betts and grandson Rick Betts and his wife Suzanne attended the rededication ceremony, and

were recognized and thanked for the generous gift from their grandparent. Rev. Holly Haile Thompson preached, and a Deacon's reception followed the service. Thank you to everyone who helped make the service so meaningful, and thank you to all who donated to the Music Maintenance Fund. A complete list of all donations is included in this Tidings.



William Gill
Memorial Organ

THE M. P. MÖLLER ORGAN WAS ORIGINALLY
DONATED BY LUCY GILL IN MEMORY OF HER
HUSBAND, WILLIAM GILL.



In honor of the choir members and directors, past and present.

Remembering Paul Pffaff and Micki Niebanck.

With thanks and love to Linda Howard Kloepfer, Will Roslak and

Kamilla Ozman. You've made us what we are.

Anthony Thompson

In loving memory of my parents, Chic & Greta Hedberg.

Victoria Hedberg

*In honor of the Westhampton Presbyterian Church choir and choir
director.*

Janet Hann

In loving memory of Fred Cereguas III.

Joy Sobhani

In loving memory of Phyllis Shane.

Elizabeth Shane

*In gratitude for the organ lessons given to our son Daren by Linda
Howard Kloepfer.*

Margretta & Dick Anderson

In loving memory of Cory Larson Hubbard.

Holly & Ralph Hubbard

In honor of Ryan Zollweg as he pursues Music Education in

college in the fall. – With Love, Mom

In loving memory of Sarita U. Comyns (Mary's mother).

Mary & John Hull

In loving memory of Theodore "Dode" Hulse.

Betsy Hulse Doyle and Jamie Hulse Smith

*In honor of all who enjoy the music played at the organ, past and
present.*

Ellen & Bill Brenner

In loving memory of Jessie Culver Winters.

Nancy Winters

In loving memory of Thomas R. Hoge.

Matthew Hoge

In loving memory of Kay Kidde.

Mary Brennan

In honor of Lisa Jornitz, Happy 20th Birthday!

Maik & Dorette Jornitz

In loving memory of Mr. & Mrs. Vernon Hann.

Raymond Hann

In loving memory of Grace & George Haddad.
Jean Seyfert

In honor of All who love music and take part in many music opportunities.
Brenner Family

In loving memory of Loretta Silva, Princess Silva Arrow, Shinnecock Indian Reservation of Southampton, NY
Her youngest daughter, Denise Silva Dennis, Wee Tah Moe
Cousin of Rev. Holly Haile-Thompson

In honor of Linda Howard Kloepfer, my mother, for instilling in me a love of music.
Jessica Howard

In honor of all the faithful who worship with songs of praise & prayer.
Karen Neubauer

In honor of the Westhampton Presbyterian Church choir.
The Williams Family

In loving memory of Bill & Lucy Gill.
Derick & Suzanne Betts

In loving memory of our parents.
Kathleen & Warren Frevert

In honor of Mimi Wood.
Stu Wood

In loving memory of my grandmother Sara Griffing Downing, former Westhampton Presbyterian Church organist.
Gale Seidler

In honor of our parents.
Kimet & Mike

In loving memory of Patricia Lutz.
Carol & Joe Nemeth

In loving memory of Grace & George Haddad.
Christine Haddad and Jean Seyfert

In loving memory of Big Ed Winters.
Wes Winters

In loving memory of Maria- Louise Wagman Stracke.
Sarah Wagman Hoge

In memory of H. George Harrup, long-time Choir Director, and his wife Lucille Harrup, long-time Organist.
The Perry Sisters

In loving memory of our parents.
Tom & Jane Otis

In loving memory of my family: mother, father, sister and brothers.

Jeanette Smith
In loving memory of George Payne.
Kathy Tureski

Stewardship

It is really important to feel that Westhampton Presbyterian is our family. We've seen how quickly pastors can come and then leave again. The Presbytery tells us that five years is now the average length of time that pastors stay in a church, and we all know how long it takes to go through the process and find a new person. We can't think that the pastor is the church if they stay so short a time. It is better to say that this is our church, run by us, paid for by us, kept stable for us. That's one reason that stewardship is so important.

Our membership has dropped as it has in most churches these days, but our core is the folks who not only come to worship but put money in to help us keep it going. We won't last long if very many of our members and friends just stop in when it is convenient, and hope that others are supporting us financially. It shouldn't be the quality of the pastor's sermons that determine whether people come on Sunday. It is our church, we are its family, and we donate to it with love.

My son-in-law is Catholic, and he tells me that when their last priest left, the Catholic hierarchy sent a new priest without their having any say about it. The new priest is Polish and has a strong accent so people can't understand him. This won't happen to us because we pick our own pastor. Our church is worth your support.

At this writing there are still 25 who pledged last year but have not renewed for 2025. Please realize what a good thing we have going here right now without a full-time installed pastor. We have good sermons, strong committees, good fellowship, good music, and good fun together. Please make a pledge now if you haven't done it yet, and help us go into the future well-supported.

Per Capita 2025

The 2025 Per Capita is \$47.09 per church *member* which includes the \$5 Presbytery Salary Supplement.

Pastor Nominating Committee

In case you missed the announcement, the Pastor Nominating Committee is up and running, having received the approval of the Committee on Ministry and the Session. The Presbytery uses a computer system that matches churches looking for pastors with pastors looking for a church based on things like salary expected and offered, number of years of experience, size of church and many other things. That eliminates simply getting applications from every pastor in the country looking to be hired. Applications are coming in somewhat slowly right now, probably because it is the holiday season, but we are told that they may come in twenty-five at a time later on.

The committee meets every time applications come in, and all nine members are doing due diligence on every word in the application as well as watching sermon videos and posts online. The opinion polls from back in June told us what the church would like in a new pastor, and the committee is looking to the guiding of the Holy Spirit to find that person. One example is we want a pastor who will be happy to visit those who can't come to church, and who knows and sees us as family.

On the committee are Ellen Campbell, Betsy Doyle, Vern Hackworth, Christine Haddad, Leigh Wanamaker, Korey Williams, Mimi Wood, and Stu Wood. Most of our work has to be private, but we will keep you up on how things are going. Meantime, Happy Holidays!





Happy Birthday & Happy Anniversary

1 Scott Campbell
2 Oliver Bradley
2 Crawford Jackson IV
3 Mia Victoria Tortorella
5 Lilly Wagner
5 Marjorie Ridgway
6 Diane F. Perry
7 Mary Hull
7 Jared Jessup
9 Mason Gragg
11 Ralph Hubbard
11 George Burns
11 Samuel Miller
13 Karen Neubauer
15 Derik Herzing
15 SuzAnne Jessup
17 Allison Hoch
18 Steve Ravenhall

20 Christian Carter
23 Brian Mosher
25 Cathy Holliday
26 Eric Wootten
29 Lynda Confessore
30 Maik Jornitz
30 David Rowe
31 Ralph Downs
31 Sophie Rouhandeh
31 Josephine Levitt

January 2025

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

<p>AA: Sat. 10am –Choir Rm Sun. 12pm—Classroom Sun. 6:30pm– Choir Rm Wed. 6:30pm– Choir Rm Boy Scouts meet each Fri. 5pm</p>			<p>1 Happy New Year! Office Closed</p>	<p>2 10am Men’s Fellowship Group</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>
<p>5 2nd Sunday of Christmas 10am Worship</p>	<p>6 Epiphany of the Lord</p>	<p>7 7pm Deacons</p>	<p>8 9:15am Mission 10:30am Staff 12pm PW Luncheon</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p>
<p>12 Baptism of the Lord 10am Worship</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14 6pm Session</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>
<p>19 2nd Sunday after Epiphany 10am Worship</p>	<p>20 Martin Luther King Day Office Closed 5pm Maureen’s Haven</p>	<p>21 2-3:30pm E.E.H. Bereavement Groups 7pm Trustees</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>
<p>26 3rd Sunday after Epiphany 10am Worship</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28 2-3:30pm E.E.H. Bereavement Groups</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>	

*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 January Tidings