



TIDINGS

WESTHAMPTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

March 2025

A Message from the Pastor

Dear Friends,

As we begin March this year we are also on the threshold of Lent. Lent begins March 5 on Ash Wednesday and for the next 40 days offers us space to reflect on our mortality and brokenness, keeping in view the forgiveness of the cross of Christ.

While penitence may not be the most popular Christian practice, I want to share a story of how one mother still managed to make the practice of confession meaningful for her and her family. It was in February one year when Mary Brennan placed a “sin basket” by the stairs in her house. Next to it she put slips of paper to be placed in the basket by family members whenever they recognized wrong behavior or a bad attitude in themselves. The papers were left blank – intended to be a symbol of a sin -- so no one was worried that someone would discover a written confession and expose them.

At first, the children rolled their eyes, and her husband made fun of the idea. For the first week, Mary was the only person putting papers in the basket throughout the day. When she mentioned to her husband that it didn't look like he had added anything, he said, “I haven't sinned yet,” with a snarky smile. But slowly, the presence of the basket in a spot visible throughout the day had its effect. Soon the husband was adding papers, and the children, too, despite telling their friends on the phone about their mother's latest whacky idea. By Holy Week, the basket was full. Mary announced the plan: “We are going to burn the slips with the fire of Easter Vigil,” she explained. So that Saturday night, she brought home a lit candle, and the family, still joking and moaning, gathered around the backyard barbecue. Mary thanked God that the Lord forgave all their sins, and then she lit the papers with the candle.

“The snickering stopped,” she writes. “There is something moving and real about watching greed and anger and gossip and disobedience go up in smoke . . . gone. Burned in Easter Fire.” She saw that, Forgiveness fell upon us in that smoke, and it loosed the repentance that can only come from the most perfect Gift—so gracious, so merciful, so loving. It was a quiet group who returned to the warmth of the house.” Mary reports that after that, the sin basket became an annual tradition at her house.

I hope that this Lent comes to have equal meaning for you in some way. Inside this issue is information about our Lenten Bible study you might wish to attend. Personal reading is good, or perhaps adapting a simple spiritual discipline (I will introduce one to you on Sundays). I am available to support you in finding a good Lenten practice. Know that whatever piles up in your “basket” during Lent, your sins are gone like dew in the light of Easter morning. Then we can start to fill up our baskets again with the joy of new life.

Lenten blessings,

Rev. Candy

(Mary Brennan is a writer based in Seattle, Washington.)



CHURCH LIFE

Prayers

Recent: Family of David LeBleu, on his passing; **Bob Kreiger**, Tony Thompson's partner; **Melanie Shrensel**, friend of Tony Thompson; **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

Christian Sympathy

We extend our deepest Christian sympathy to son Bret LeBleu, daughter Cheri LeBleu, wife Sue Paulson LeBleu and the entire LeBleu family on the passing of long-time member of WPC, David LeBleu on Sunday, February 23, 2025. A service will be held at the Whitefish United Methodist Church in Whitefish, MT on March 12th at 11am. Additional arrangements will be made at a later date.



Church Membership

Are you interested in becoming a member of the wonderful congregation here at Westhampton Presbyterian Church? Please speak with Rev. Candy.



Ash Wednesday Service, March 5th at the Quogue Chapel, open 3 to 5 pm. Begin a holy Lent with this drop-in service offering contemplative activities and the receiving of ashes.

LIBRARY NEWS:

I would like to thank everyone who helped with the clean-up of this beautiful space. Let's keep the library clean! The library is now open to all members of the church! You are invited to stop in during coffee hour to enjoy our library. We are blessed to have a space to celebrate what our church stands for. I look forward to seeing you in the library!
 Blessed and Grateful,
 Marie Yervasi

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 Luncheon

Ladies, please join us for a "bring your own sandwich" lunch on Wednesday, March 12th at 12pm where we will discuss upcoming business and future events. Soup and dessert will be provided.



Don't forget!
Spring ahead on March 9th
at 2am!



Sunday Concert #1:
Sunday, March 30th at 2pm
See flyer for details

The Journey to Forgiveness

A Lenten Bible Study

As Christians we seek to follow Jesus's teaching to "forgive others as we have been forgiven." But it is challenging to let go of the things that have offended or harmed us, even when we know God forgives us our own sins.

This Lent – the season we meditate upon God's forgiveness through the cross – we have an opportunity to begin afresh on our own journey of giving and receiving forgiveness. Join us for a Bible study designed to light our path with a look at the struggles brought on by broken relationships and God's provision for reconciliation when hurt has brought pain and division between people.



Our focus will be a story from the Hebrew Scriptures, and then Jesus's parable of The Prodigal Son. Our discussion of the parable will include Rembrandt's painting on the subject for the insights the artist offers about forgiveness. (No art experience needed!)

Details are below. All are welcome! Feel free to call Rev. Candy with any questions.

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY SCHEDULE

Wednesdays

6:30 – 7:45 pm (Conference Room)

March 19	Joseph's brothers seek vengeance	Genesis 37, 39, 40
March 26	Joseph seeks freedom	Genesis 41, 42, 43
April 2	Hope for the family	Genesis 44, 45, 46:1-7
April 9	Rembrandt and the Restoration of Relationship	Luke 15:11-32

NOTE TIMES: 1:30 pm – 3:00 pm AND 6:30 – 8:00 pm

ASH WEDNESDAY DROP-IN -- MARCH 5

Quogue Chapel 3 to 5 pm

Contemplative options and the
receiving of ashes

Westhampton Presbyterian Church
90 Meeting House Road
Westhampton Beach
631-288-2576 (office)

A Note from Financial Committee

Dear friends,

As mentioned during the congregational meeting I mentioned that there was a mistake in the budget summary sheet which resulted the budget looking unbalanced. This mistake happened only in the summary, but not detailed budget spreadsheet. The budget has always been balanced and the income total is \$427,633 and the expenses total is \$427,633.

I would like to thank all of you for your tireless and continuous support !

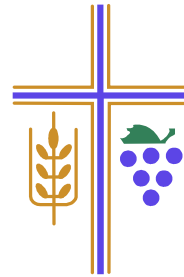
Your sincerely

Maik Jornitz, Elder Finance Ministry



Book Table for Lent

The WPC library is full of excellent reads! Marie Yervasi, church librarian and Rev. Candy have selected a few titles that might of interest for Lent and placed them on a Book Table during coffee hour. Enrich your experience of Lent by borrowing a book this month! Sign out instructions are provided.



Christians Ed. & Youth Group

February was a quite month, with winter recess and our postponement of our Souper Bowl soup sale due to inclement weather. We started off the month with recognition of our scouts; Christopher Lynch, Delaney Campbell, Cameron Hipp, Anderson Hipp, Carson Campbell and Leader Scott Campbell. Christopher, Delaney and Carson served as ushers, and Cameron and Anderson shared their talents as they do almost every Sunday by singing with the choir. Scouts being Reverent! Carson also talked about his Eagle project that was done at Quogue Wildlife Refuge. The church gave out Scout Sunday patches in recognition of them.

March will start with a BANG! We have our annual Lenten Festival on March 2nd. It will be held in Bailey Hall (downstairs) from 10 – 11. The children will meet downstairs before the start of worship and can be picked up after worship. Sunday School parents, check your email to see how you can help!

March 2nd is also our rescheduled date for our Souper bowl soup sale! We will have soups for sale and the proceeds will purchase grocery cards for the food pantry. It will be the last day that the youth will also be collecting food items to delivery to the little food pantries located in the village.

Don't forget to mark your calendar for March 21st, 22nd, and 23rd for the WHB Theatre Departments production of *Les Misérables*, featuring a few of our very own talented youth group members. Showtimes are at 7pm Friday and Saturday; Sunday at 2pm, admission is FREE!

As we push forward the youth will be filling Easter Eggs for our annual Easter Egg Hunt on Easter Sunday following worship, approximately 11 AM. If you'd like to help out, we are looking for donations of candy. Please drop off in the office with a note that it's to fill the eggs for the annual Easter Egg hunt!

Seniors keep an eye out; I believe that church scholarship applications should be made available soon. I'm so looking forward to Spring, where Mother Earth awakens and we see flowers and tree's starting to bud, and the days getting longer and warmer. One of my favorite seasons.

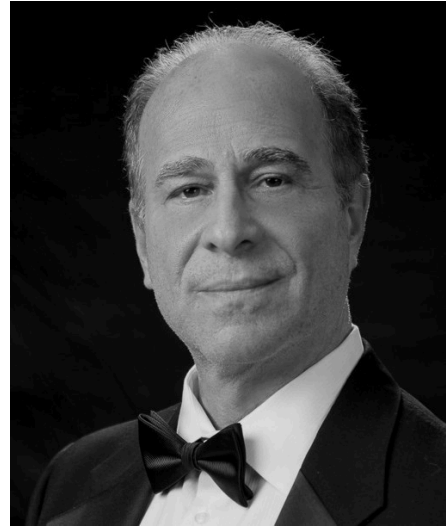
-Kathy Tureski



The Westhampton Presbyterian Church
is pleased to announce the
2025 Sunday Afternoon Concert Series



Francesca Lunghi
Mezzo-Soprano

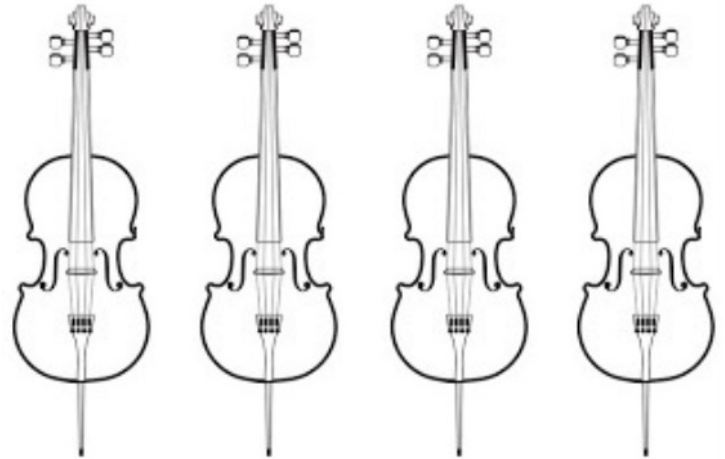


Daniel Ragone
Piano

March 30, 2025 2PM



Daniel Keene, Vihuela and Lute
April 27, 2025 2PM



New York Cello Quartet
May 18, 2025, 2PM

Tickets are \$30 and can be purchased at the church office or at
Lynnes' Cards and Gifts on Main Street, Westhampton Beach



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

Around the world, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) — Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People — all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope. Received during the season of Lent (March 5 – April 20), our church will be collecting this special offering at our March 9th service, but donations can be made throughout the year. Each gift to OGHS helps to improve the lives of people in these challenging situations. The Offering provides us a way to share God’s love with our neighbors in need. In fact, OGHS is the single, largest way Presbyterians come together every year to work for a better world. Please join in making a difference in the world!

OLA Offers Support for Latino Families

At a recent event in East Hampton, Minerva Perez, Executive Director of the non-profit organization OLA discussed their work supporting Latino families on the East End with a range of services to address social, legal, financial, educational and health issues. Currently, with the government ICE agents appearing in our towns to enforce immigration policy, OLA is advising the Latino and wider community on legal options for people who may be at risk of deportation. For example, Perez has been advising families to put emergency plans in place in case a family member is detained.

If you know an immigrant family who is concerned about their rights or options at this time, OLA offers sound legal advice. More information may be found on OLA's website (www.olaofeasternlongisland.org) or calling 631 899-3441. (OLA stands for Organización Latino Americana.)

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!! MAUREEN’S HAVEN: March 17th

We VERY MUCH need volunteers to help with Maureen’s Haven for our last hosting date of Monday, March 17th. We need an overnight chaperone AND someone to help with breakfast in the morning at 5AM. Our Maureen’s Haven efforts have been very successful have year, thanks to our dedicated volunteers. Travel and illnesses are weeded out our ranks a bit, so we are turning to the congregation to help us finish strong. Call or text Nalda Rothe if you can help: 917-748-0644. Thank you!!

The Food Basket

Food is Love. The Food Basket located in the Church Vestibule addresses this need throughout the seasons. Your donations of non-perishable food items to the basket are taken over to the Food Pantry at Immaculate Conception by the Deacons on a regular basis, where they are distributed to those in need throughout the year. So please consider picking up something for the Food Basket on your weekly trips to the grocery store and dropping it off in the basket on your way into church. No food donation is too small. Let’s keep that Basket overflowing!

Presbyterian Walking Adventurers By Janet Hann

Tom & Randi DeMayo, Pat Schultz and I met at the Indian Island County Park in Riverhead on Thursday January the 30th for a weekday hike. We had gorgeous views of Peconic River, Flanders Bay and Terry Creek on the sunny, breezy and low 30s day. Before heading out on the 3 mile loop trail, I gave a brief history of the area prior to being a Suffolk County Park. This hike is worth a revisit in the future and will be scheduled again in the future.

Louise Smith, Kathy Johnson, Sharon Conway, Gini Wagner, Pat Schultz, Pam Chance, Cathy and Henry Holiday traveled to Montauk for the Big Reed Pond/Nature Trail hike in Theodore Roosevelt County Park and the “Walking” Dunes hike in Hither Hills State Park. We lucked out with a sunny, mild day in the high 40s with no wind. It was fun exploring the different ecological sites; salt marsh, freshwater pond, red maple-tupelo swamp and hardwood forest at Big Reed. Also, we came upon the remains of a Montaukett Indian Village dating back several hundreds of years.

After dining at the Naturally Good Foods & Café for lunch, we stopped at the “Walking” Dunes located in Hither Hills State Park for another adventure in a totally different environment. We hiked through coastal shrub area with bayberry, beach heather and beach plum. There was a strenuous climb up the sandy dune for a height of about 80 feet. The strong winds cause the dunes to move, “walks” on average of 3 ½ feet per year. The wildlife in the area is deer, fox, rabbits and birds. The red fox hunt the mice and voles. Flying above you might see red-tail hawks, osprey and many other birds. After walking through the cranberry bog the trail leads you to walk along the shore of Napeague Harbor back to your car.



“Walking” Dunes and Big Reed Pond Crew



Eagle's nest

Line Dancing Fundraiser



Happy Birthday & Happy Anniversary

- | | | | |
|----|------------------------------|----|-----------------|
| 1 | Sharon Conway | 31 | Bill Manker |
| 1 | Barbara and Anthony Danowski | 31 | Aram Terchunian |
| 4 | Pete Seidler | | |
| 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 | | |
| 12 | Jennifer Gillin | | |
| 12 | Kelly Lappin | | |
| 14 | Kathy Tureski | | |
| 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 | | |
| 30 | Donna & Korey Williams | | |



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



March 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Transfiguration of the Lord 10am worship Lenten Festival Souper Bowl	3	4 7pm Deacons	5 Ash Wednesday 3-5pm Quogue Chapel Drop-In Service	6 10am Men's Group	7	8
9 1st Sunday in Lent 	10	11 1-3pm EEH Be-reavement Group— Parish Hall 6pm Session	12 9:15am Mission 10:30am Staff 12pm PW Luncheon	13	14	15
16 2nd Sunday in Lent 3-5pm E.E. Women's Fundraiser Cabaret	17 5pm Maureen's Haven 	18 9:30am Fundraising Committee 1-3pm EEH Be-reavement Group— Parish Hall 7pm Trustees	19 6:30pm Lenten Bible Study	20	21	22
23 3rd Sunday in Lent	24	25	26 6:30pm Lenten Bible Study	27	28	29
30 4th Sunday in Lent 2pm Concert #1	31				<u>AA:</u> Sat. 10am –Choir Rm Sun. 12pm—Conference Rm Sun. 6:30pm– Parish Hall Wed. 6:30pm– Parish Hall	

*WESTHAMPTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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Your issue of the March Tidings

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