



Tidings

Faithfully Friendly For All – Always
Welcome . Include . Involve

A Holy Expectation

I am always struck by the frenetic pace of the holiday season. The litany of rather very good events and happenings both personal and through our jobs: parties, celebrations, functions, commitments, etc. etc. etc. are both wonderful and yet fill up the December calendar till we are writing on those calendar boxes sideways and in smaller print. Ironically, Advent is a season of active preparation and waiting...waiting...waiting. Waiting for the revelation of God's promise in the Christ child. Holy waiting is a spiritual practice. It is a discipline of holy expectation allowing enough space for God to reveal God's work to us. In all the familiar Scriptures in this season, I invite us to cling to Simeon and Anna in Luke 2:25-38 whose example of holy waiting resulted in the joy of God's revelation of Christ to them. The Scripture does not say how long Simeon was waiting but the text implies that it was the better course of his aged years: a lifetime. The promise of God was that he would see the Messiah before he returned to the Lord. A lifetime of waiting. A lifetime of hoping patiently, devoutly, reservedly. A holy expectation until a young obscure couple bringing their child to the Temple, as required by Jewish law, present themselves. No fanfare, no hype, no curated pictures to be plastered over social media. Simeon reaches out to hold the child in his arms as the parents watched. In that tender moment, Simeon offers a hymn of the soul:

“For my eyes have seen your salvation,
which you have prepared in the sight of all nations:
a light for revelation to the Gentiles;
and the glory of your people Israel.” Luke 2:30-32

I invite us to take a moment or two or more to step from the frenetic pace to stand in holy silence and expectation of God's revelation fresh and anew to you. If this season seems to sap the joy from you, I welcome you to take the opportunity for this spiritual discipline of holy waiting as we look and see afresh the God who has been and is always Emmanuel: “with us.”

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to you and your families!

In Christ,

Rev. Michael Hafele
Pastor, Westhampton Presbyterian Church



Make a
joyful noise
to the LORD
Psalm 100:1

***Prayer Concerns**

Recent: Gale & Pete Seidler, healing prayers; **Kimberly Rogers Murawski**, healing prayers; **Rob Hubbs**, recovering at home (son in law to Ellen Brenner); **Maura Anziano**, throat cancer (friend of Karen Derryberry); **Angel Knoedler**, breast cancer going through chemo (friend of Vern Hackworth), **Jan Vinokour**, recovering from a serious fall (friend of Mary & John Hull); **Dick Anderson**, healing prayers; **Linda Rogers**, lymphoma; **Carolyn Manker Smith**, breast cancer (Hanne & Bill Manker's daughter); **Mariko Pichardo**, healing prayers; **Lenny Rempe**, (longtime member of WPC); **Susan Sullivan**, friend of John and Mary Hull; **Leslie Johnson**, cancer (Stephanie Miller's mother); **Pat Bebon**; **Libby Hirsch**, cancer (Tom Rogers' cousin)
Long Term: **Ralph Neubauer**; **Chelsey Carter Collins**, Hamptons Center for Rehab; **Dana Barrett**, friend of Nancy Miller



Joy to the World!

Christmas Wreath Sale Pick Up

Wreath Pick up is Friday, December 5th at 10am at the church. Wreaths are \$40 each. Please make checks payable to Presbyterian Women.

**Christmas Fair**

Saturday, December 6th, 11am-2:30pm
Handmade crafts, gifts, treats and much more! Don't miss out on the perfect gift and some holiday fun!

Children's Christmas Pageant and Ugly Sweater Sunday!

Sunday, December 14th join us in your most festive holiday sweater and enjoy WPC's annual Children's pageant. After worship, pastries and sweets will be served during Coffee Hour.

Christmas Eve Services

5pm Candlelit Service

9pm Candlelit Service—Quogue Chapel

P.W. December luncheon

Our next meeting will be Wednesday December 10th. Men are invited. The ladies are going to have a brief meeting at noon and the men are invited to come for lunch at 12:30 when we will all be eating. Please bring a covered dish to share. We will be starting one of our initiatives which is to bring a personal care product and/or a can of food, ie soup or beans. We hope that you all have a blessed holiday season.

**East End Women's Choir
Candlelit Concert**

Friday, December 19th, 7:30pm

This program is roughly based on the Anglican Advent service of Nine Lessons and Carols and is centered on both seasonal and non-seasonal classical sacred music with interspersed poetry readings. Candlelit Christmas has become a traditional seasonal favorite for East End Women's Choir audiences and the East End alike. The concert features selections by soprano Emma Ozman, a brass choir as well as a bell choir. We invite you to join us in the singing of the Carols.

Christmas Cocktail Party at the Otis'

Friday, December 12th at 5:30pm

(See flyer provided for details)

**Board Members, Committees and staff:**

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 Tuesday, January 6th.

YOU'RE INVITED!

Christmas Party

Come join us to eat, drink and be merry!
Friday, December 12th at 5:30pm
At the Home of Jane & Tom Otis
12 Penniman Point Road, Quogue
\$50 each or \$80 for 2
suggested donations

Ugly Sweater Sunday

Sunday, December 14th
Come in your most "festive" holiday sweater
and enjoy pastries and sweets after the
Children's Christmas Pageant

Christmas Ornaments

Don't forget to pick up your ornament of
our beloved church, for your tree or
someone else's. They make excellent
gifts-on sale now for \$20 each.

All tickets and ornaments on sale after
worship or in the church office.

Christmas Fair

**Handmade Crafts,
Gifts & Treats!**

*Westhampton
Presbyterian Church*

**90 Meeting House Rd.
Westhampton Beach**

*Saturday
December 6, 2025*

11:00 AM - 2:30 PM

**For more information
contact the church office
631-288-2576**



Deacons Corner

Many, many thanks to all who contributed so generously to the Deacon / Youth Group Thanksgiving baskets! We were able to assemble 15 huge boxes filled to the brim with fixings to make a wonderful Thanksgiving for those in need of our help and support. AND, each box contained a \$ 75 gift card! Special thanks to Barbara Danowski and the Densieski family who donated 15 5lb bags of potatoes, and Gil Frevert who had a food drive of his own and then donated a sizable amount of food for our baskets. Also, thanks to Brian and Matt for helping us load up our truck and Kathy Tureski's van to deliver the boxes to Immaculate Conception. Pastor Michael arranged to have an entire table of food that did not fit in our boxes donated to LI Cares... your gifts and generosity went a long way to help our neighbors in need. Thank you!

Bob and Kathy Johnson

Maureen's Haven

Thank you all for the support that you continue to give for this mission. Volunteers are needed on the 3rd Monday each month through the winter. Speak with Nalda Rothe

Adopt-a-Family

There's only two weeks left to shop for the Adopt a Family program and 12 people still need to be "adopted"! Gifts need to be wrapped and delivered to Immaculate Conception by Monday December 15th. So please consider participating in this rewarding Christmas Mission and stop by the Adopt A Family table on Sunday December 7th during coffee hour. For further information contact Tracy Zollweg 631-599-9147 or Sharon Conway 516-297-5182.

Thanks So Much to all of you who have already generously "adopted" someone!



Youth Group and Sunday School News

Oh December, a month of completion and celebration as we close the year. A time to celebrate but also to rest and relax during the darkest part of winter.

The youth were busy in November; each week they collected food & monetary donations for the Deacons Thanksgiving Food drive. Our congregation out did themselves in supporting this mission project. As I write this the youth are looking forward "to shop" for extra items to fill the baskets. Photos in our January Tidings. Look for an update in January Tidings too as to what we did at the Advent Festival which was held on November 22.

December brings the children of the church participating in the annual "Christmas Pageant" which will be held on Sunday December 14th. I'm sure it's going to be another award-winning performance by our kids. A Sunday show not to miss!

I know many have been asking about Heifer quarter collection, we will collect during December during coffee hour (just drop your quarters and the kids will fill the tube) and it will also give you a chance to make a purchase of "a gift that keeps of giving" in someone's name. Stop by our table for more information!

The gift of love, of joy, of peace....May all these and more be yours this Christmas. Rejoice! Our Savior is born. He is the reason for the season!

Merry Christmas....Kathy

Finance Committee

The financial health of our church – a detailed report and call to action

Dear Church Family,

Our Finance Ministry strives to keep you informed each month about the financial health of our church through written updates and charts posted on the message board, as well as through the *Tidings* reports. We believe that transparency and awareness are vital, as many of our ministries and missions depend on the faithful financial support of our congregation.

Givings versus Pledges

This year, however, has been particularly challenging. We have faced higher expenses and lower income than anticipated. Most importantly, our current giving levels have not kept pace with the pledges we received. In

	Expense monthly	Income actual monthly	Dev monthly
J 25	\$36,678	\$106,198	\$69,521
F 25	\$32,702	\$23,735	-\$8,966
M 25	\$31,814	\$25,075	-\$6,739
A 25	\$54,403	\$25,802	-\$28,601
M 25	\$44,963	\$22,200	-\$22,764
J 25	\$40,109	\$36,148	-\$3,962
J 25	\$42,313	\$20,624	-\$21,689
A 25	\$34,419	\$24,045	-\$10,375
S 25	\$34,725	\$21,726	-\$12,999
O 25	\$44,614	\$38,629	-\$5,985

this month's report, we are sharing additional details to give you a clearer picture of our church's financial position and the data we use to guide responsible budgeting decisions.

To illustrate our progress, the table on the left shows the monthly giving compared to our pledged goal. Our monthly goal is \$20,416, which we have met only once this year. January's total appears high because some members fulfilled their annual pledges at the start of the year; however, since then, contributions have consistently fallen below the target. As of the end of October, we have received \$191,985 toward our annual goal of \$245,000 — leaving a year-to-date shortfall of (\$12,174). We kindly ask each of you to prayerfully review your giving in light of your pledge, as every contribution helps sustain the ministries and outreach efforts that make our church community

thrive.

Income versus Expenses

The current deficit in our givings has an immediate impact on our overall financial health, as these contributions represent the largest portion of our church's income. This challenge is compounded by slightly higher expenses compared to prior years, largely due to necessary Manse renovations, increased insurance premiums, and rising maintenance and utility costs.

Enclosed you will find a detailed summary of our monthly income and expenses. Similar to the pledge-versus-giving report, it shows that only January reflected a net positive balance. Unfortunately, even the strong January was the result of one-time events—the prepaid pledges and the carryover of the cash balance from 2024 to January of 2025 that totaled a combined \$98,632.

Another area of concern is our mission giving to the Presbytery. Each year, our church contributes an obligatory amount of \$9,371, determined by our membership count. If every member contributes their individual per capita portion, we can fully meet this important commitment. However, to date, we have received \$4,009, representing about 30% of our membership. This leaves a shortfall of \$5,362, which must currently be covered by our operating budget.

We kindly and prayerfully ask each member to review whether their per capita mission contribution has been made. Your support in fulfilling this shared responsibility will greatly ease the financial burden on our church and help us continue our ministries faithfully and effectively.

	Pledge goal monthly	Givings actual monthly	Dev monthly
J 25	\$20,416	\$52,952	\$32,536
F 25	\$20,416	\$18,145	-\$2,271
M 25	\$20,416	\$18,485	-\$1,931
A 25	\$20,416	\$15,112	-\$5,304
M 25	\$20,416	\$16,825	-\$3,591
J 25	\$20,416	\$16,051	-\$4,365
J 25	\$20,416	\$13,679	-\$6,737
A 25	\$20,416	\$11,431	-\$8,985
S 25	\$20,416	\$12,787	-\$7,629
O 25	\$20,416	\$16,519	-\$3,897

Highlights

As we look back on 2025, we have many reasons to celebrate and give thanks!

(continue on page 5)

(continued from page 4)

One of the brightest highlights of the year has been our fundraising success, which exceeded expectations — ending October 24% over budget! A special thanks goes to everyone involved in the scrap metal fundraising efforts, which made a remarkable contribution. Fundraising has truly become a joyful and vital source of support for our church, and we are deeply grateful for the hard work, creativity, and generosity of our committee and all who participated.

We're also encouraged to see a steady rise in loose plate offerings following the post-COVID downturn. This upward trend not only strengthens our financial foundation but may also reflect an increase in visitors joining us for worship — a wonderful sign of growing fellowship. The Finance Ministry will be exploring this positive development further in the coming months.

Finally, we are thrilled to welcome our new bookkeeper, Jessica Stark, whose diligence, accuracy, and commitment have been a true blessing. Under Jessica's care, and with the thoughtful oversight of Janet Hann, our Treasurer, our financial reporting has become more efficient, transparent, and well-organized than ever before. We are truly thankful for everyone's dedication and stewardship as we continue to grow together in faith and service!

Forward looking

As we look ahead to 2026, we anticipate some challenges that will require our shared attention and faithfulness.

As previously announced, our contract with Sunshine Academy will conclude in mid-2026. This means we will no longer receive building-use income for the second half of the year. In addition, while we were blessed in 2025 with a healthy balance carried forward from 2024, we do not expect to have a similar financial cushion for 2026.

At the same time, our expenses are not expected to decrease — with rising utility costs and other necessary expenditures likely keeping them at or above current levels. Please be assured that the Finance Ministry is carefully reviewing every expense item to identify opportunities for savings and ensure we continue to be good stewards of our resources.

To maintain the strength of our ministries and mission work, we will need to compensate for these lost income sources. Our goal for 2026 is to reach \$280,000 in pledges and corresponding giving. While this may seem ambitious, we have great confidence in our congregation — your faithful generosity in 2024 brought in over \$265,000, a true testament to your commitment and love for our church.

With your continued support and prayers, we are confident that together we can meet this goal and keep our ministries thriving in the year ahead.

With gratitude and faith,

Finance Ministry

BECAUSE IT TAKES MORE THAN FOOD TO FEED THE HUNGRY



Dear Friends of Long Island Cares,

Thank you for your gift of 478 pounds of goods received on 11/25/2025. Your generosity supports the 313,880 individuals, including 71,500 children, who are food insecure on Long Island.

Your donation is vital to Long Island Cares carrying out its mission and continuing to help our neighbors in need. Rising cost in food prices has affected Long Island Cares' ability to procure food and supplies as effectively as we have been able to do in the past. Your gift helps to lessen the burden our fellow Long Islanders are experiencing right now and allows for peace of mind for individuals and families who do not know where their next meal is coming from.

Your support is critical to Long Island Cares' mission and our vision of a Hunger Free Long Island.

If you have any questions about how your donation is used, the journey your donation takes, or if you would like more information about our organization, please visit us at www.licares.org or contact the office at 631-582-FOOD.

Thank you so much for your support!

Sincerely,

Katherine M. Fritz
President & CEO

What's New in the Pew?

You may have noticed a small yellow card in the pew pockets in the church. The Music and Worship Committee realizes that many of us have recently opted not to use weekly envelopes, and instead honor our pledges through monthly donations or electronic means. Because the collection of the offerings is an important part of our worship service, the Committee created an opportunity for all to participate. The card asks for blessings for the members, friends and guests of Westhampton Presbyterian Church and can be placed in the offering plates as the ushers come around. The committee hopes that this small gesture will enable all of the members of the congregation to feel included in this act of giving.

**I ask for blessings for the
Westhampton Presbyterian Church,
our members,
friends, and guests.**

**I support the Westhampton Presbyterian Church
by giving monthly or online.**

**Harvest Dinner
appreciation**

Thank you to all who were able to join us for our annual Harvest Dinner on Thursday, November 20th! A Big thank you to John & Meryle King and the kitchen crew for preparing the turkey and trimmings and to all our congregation members and friends who shared a side dish. A wonderful time was had by all!



**Poinsettia &
LI Brass
Christmas 2025**



On December 21st, the Long Island Brass Guild will be playing once again during worship. Contributions may be dedicated in memory or in honor of a loved one to help offset the cost. In addition, dedications with red poinsettia plants may be ordered to adorn the sanctuary for the Christmas season at a cost of \$18 per plant. Make checks payable to: “Westhampton Presbyterian Church”.

LI Brass:

Enclosed is my contribution of \$_____ for the LI Brass Concert.

Poinsettias:

Number of plants: ___@ \$18 per plant

Total: \$_____

___ I will pickup after service

___ Please leave for Deacon delivery

My dedication is (please check one):

_____ in honor of

_____ in loving memory of

From _____

***Please return this form to the church office by
December 15th.***

Direct Deposit

Do you forget to bring your pledge check? Maybe for various reasons you miss going to church on Sunday but still need to submit your pledge. Direct deposit is a simple and safe way to fulfill your pledge. On the 10th of every month, your designated amount you choose will be withdrawn from your bank checking account and deposited directly in the churches checking account. A form is needed to be filled out. See or contact Janet Hann at C#631-871-240 or H#631-288-6884 for the form or if you have any questions.

Happy Birthday and Happy Anniversary to:



2	Betsy Rowe	21	Carol Lee & Jim Nespole
2	Brian Babcock	24	Christine Haddad
2	Pat and Bob Bebon	24	Desider Rothe
3	Lisa Jornitz	26	Jennifer Tamis
3	Meredith and Gregory Imber	28	Marie Yervasi
6	Gabriella and Mario Ortiz	28	Anne and Christian Charles
7	Cindy Drayton and Jim Rowbotham	29	Tom DeMayo
8	Tracy and Gary Martin	29	Victoria Hedberg
12	Bonnie Wootten		
13	Erin Lynch		
14	John Hoch		
14	John David		
15	Pat Schultz		
16	Jeff Munn		
18	Janet and Rich Schneider		
19	Gabriella Yervasi		
19	Andrea Chattaway		
20	Dorette Jornitz		
21	Amy Mosher		



December 2025

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

	1 7pm Deacons	2 6pm Wreath Making Pizza Party	3	4	5	6 11am-2:30pm PW Christmas Fair 5:30pm Tree Lighting WHB Village Green
7 2nd Sunday of Advent 2:30pm “Tree of Life” Service—Village Green	8 4pm M& E Meeting 7pm Trustees	9 5:15 Music & Worship Committee Meeting 6pm Session	10 9:15am Mission Meeting 10:30am Staff 12pm PW “Covered Dish” Luncheon	11	12 5:30pm Christmas Party @ The Otis Residence	13
14 3rd Sunday of Advent Ugly Sweater Sunday! Children’s Christmas Pageant Baptism	15 5pm Maureen’s Haven	16 Preschool set-up	17 8am-5pm Pre-school Holiday Party—Parish Hall	18 6:30pm EEW Rehearsal	19 7:30pm East End Women’s Candlelit Concert	20
21 4th Sunday of Advent LI Brass Guild 	22	23	24 Office Closed Christmas Eve Services: 5pm: Sanctuary 9pm: Quogue Chapel	25 Christmas Day Office Closed 	26 Office Closed	27
28 1st Sunday of Christmas Carol Sing Sunday	29	30	31		AA: Sat. 10am –Choir Rm Sun. 12pm—Conference Rm Sun. 6:30pm– Parish Hall Wed. 6:30pm– Parish Hall	

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Your issue of the December Tidings

