



TIDINGS

WESTHAMPTON PRESBYTERAN CHURCH

JANUARY 2026

A Word from your Pastor

“I am about to do a new thing;
now it springs forth; do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness
and rivers in the desert.” -Isaiah 43:19

Happy New Year! I do enjoy the slate of possibility that a new year provides: local gyms packed to the brim with the newly ambitious faithful in the hope to reclaim the doctor’s admonishment to lose a few pounds and take the road toward a healthier “you”, or realizing that the frantic can take a step or two to the background while letting mental health come to the foreground, or taking the time to rebuild a bridge or two of relationships that have crumbled either to neglect or antipathy. The new year affords a freshness of consideration to the areas of life that require attention during the countless hurdles fashioned both externally and internally. We curate the “new self” language in the lens of evolution: “becoming my better self.” What I have come to learn is that language can be motivating or incredibly debilitating. It can inspire or expire (as witness of the departure of so many from gyms after the first quarter of the year). I wonder if, in the relentless push toward self-improvement, we can find some respite in Isaiah’s words for Isaiah gives witness as to God’s divine initiative and work that heals not only the individual but the entire landscape we are called to live and serve. When the frenetic pace of life creates so much fear, confusion, and division that we can no longer find our bearings and wonder how we are going to take the next steps; God directs our path reminding us that the peace within the soul is just as important as the calories we ingest. When we find ourselves in the parched places and spaces of life where the energy is tapped and the landscape of the world around us is as dry and shifting as the desert sands; God floods the parched with living water that rushes into the desiccated restoring life and wholeness in Jesus Christ.

For those of us who will take this new year to be inspired with new disciplines for health and wholeness, I salute you and will be your cheerleader! For all of us, may we take a few moments in this new year to see and rejoice what God is doing in the world in Christ. It may be new to us, but, in Christ, it is always life giving.

Happy New Year to you and yours!!

Rev. Michael Hafele



Prayer Concerns

Recent: **Gale & Pete Seidler**, Oasis Rehabilitation Center; **Kimberly Rogers Murawski**, healing prayers; **Rob Hubbs**, recovering at home (son in law to Ellen Brenner); **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

Church Family News

Baptism

Dec. 14, 2025:

Cory Marie Hubbard

Birth

Dec. 7, 2025

Grant Eric Hanley

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 \$14, 057.50!

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.

MONDAY NIGHTS at 7pm: Bible On-Line Study with Pastor Michael

Join us on Zoom every Monday evening at 7:00pm as we journey through the liturgy together. All are welcome.

The Zoom ID and passcode are the same each week.

January 5, 2026- Scripture Reading: Matthew 3:13-17

Zoom Meeting ID: 989 7751 5413

Passcode: 645951



**Presbyterian Women
Wednesday, January 14
12pm. "Soup and Sandwich"
(see page 5 for PW news)**

Annual Reports are due

Please **email** your reports to admin@westhamptonpresbyterian.org no later than Tuesday, January 6th. Reports are needed to begin preparation for distribution the week before the Annual meeting is scheduled. Thank you for your attention.

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.

Per Capita 2026

The 2026 Per Capita is \$47. 51 per church *member* which includes the \$5 Presbytery Salary Supplement.

*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

Before we say Happy New Year...let's wrap up December! Some of the highlights from November and December were the Advent Festival and the Christmas Pageant.

On Saturday November 22nd we hosted the 2nd family Advent Festival & dinner. We had approximately 23 in attendance. Not bad for being a week before Advent and Thanksgiving! Children created the "Graham Cracker Manager" with lots of sweet treats ...yummy! They also worked on ornaments, a necklace, Candy Care Holders, and scratch art. The adults that attended signed and colored Thanksgiving Basket cards to be put into the baskets the Deacons & youth group made. We had a delicious dinner of baked ziti and finished the afternoon off with a birthday cake for Jesus!

The Christmas Pageant, "Star Trip, Our Faith Awakens" was held Sunday, December 14th. The kids did a fabulous job! A round of applause to all of them, with special thanks to Kimet Speed for her expertise as a director for our shows. Also, to Betsy Doyle who teaches our SS Group classes which typically coincide with learning songs for one of our special worship services. A correction to our cast, The Only One was read by Evelyn Matlock and she was also one of our "Jingle Bells" flute players and Henry Neubauer was our drummer.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

A new year, new beginnings and opportunities. A new book awaits as you fill the pages.

We have a confirmation class starting on January 11th following worship. Confirmands look for a schedule in your email and also on the youth bulletin board. Youth Group: we will start planning out our activities for the next few months. First up will be a mission project (TBD) and Souper Bowl For Caring. Did you know this about Souper Bowl For Caring? "Born from a simple prayer in 1990, Tackle Hunger began with a single youth group inspired to turn Super Bowl weekend into a national time of giving. What started in one church in South Carolina has grown into a national nonprofit movement, empowering communities across the country to fight food insecurity by supporting local charities. Through grassroots action, youth leadership, and the iconic Souper Bowl of Caring campaign, Tackle Hunger has generated over \$220 million in food and funds— helping to ensure no one goes without a bowl of soup to eat." You can find more information on their website: <https://tacklehunger.org>. More info to follow as we get closer.

"May God's grace be with you as you step into the new year. Wishing you a blessed and prosperous 2026 filled with His love and light." Happy New Year....Kathy



Christmas Pageant



A note from Ms. Kimet:

Thank you Kathy for all of your hard work to make the pageant happen.

Youth-You were all magnificent! Thank you for your dedication, energy and involvement. Great reading, acting, singing and instrumentals! Thank you Betsy for working with everyone on such a cute version of Away In a Manger. Thank you parents for your support and delivering your kids to us for rehearsals and the event. Merry Christmas all! See you in church!



A Note from Ms. Kathy:

I just wanted to tell you that your child(ren) did a fabulous job today! I received so much praise from the congregation (and even an online congratulation!) that they really enjoyed the pageant. Corrections to the cast will be published in the Tidings, my apologies. A round of applause to everyone. I hope they had a

wonderful experience. Mark your calendar now, Youth Sunday will be May 10th. Once again they'll have opportunities to participate during worship, and share their musical talents or writings if they'd like. (Start thinking now: NYSSMA, HMEA, SCMEA pieces or something you play from lessons you're taking, or poetry you write etc....) In case you didn't know our theme this year is "Jesus Is The Light", and our "Star Trip, Our Faith Awakens" fit right in!

Wishing all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

God's Peace, Kathy



Church Contact Information

Church Office Hours

Monday-Friday

9am-3pm

Phone: 631-288-2576

email: admin@westhamptonpresbyterian.org

www.westhamptonpresbyterian.org

For pastoral emergencies or office appointments:

Rev. Michael Hafele

Cell: 929-777-1497

BECAUSE IT TAKES MORE THAN FOOD TO FEED THE HUNGRY



We all know the importance of donating to our local food pantry to assist those in our community with food insecurities. To take this mission one step further, members of the PW will be volunteering at a local food pantry!

On Tuesday, January 13, we will be lending a helping hand at the Long Island Cares - The Harry Chapin Food Bank, Hampton Bays Pantry. Our group will be assisting clients with their shopping as well as stocking the pantry shelves. We are hopeful that this will evolve into a monthly outreach opportunity. If you would like more information about this outreach program, contact Donna Goebel, 631.838.2984 or dmgoebel@hotmail.com.

Winter Hike with Janet Hann

We will return to Indian Island County Park on January 17, 2026 for those who missed last year's adventure in this 275 acre parcel at the mouth of Peconic River. This will be a hike safe from hunters and the ticks should be under cover and not an issue. The hike will be 3 miles meandering through the woods with views of Peconic River, Flanders Bay, Saw Mill Creek and Terry Creek. Dress for the weather and wear hiking boots or supportive walking shoes, Optional going for lunch if you so choose after the hike. Rain or snow, slippery footing cancels. Meet there at 9:30am in the parking lot on your left as you go in. The bathrooms are closed for the season so plan your fluid intake accordingly. It is off season so a Green Key Pass is not necessary. Those who want to carpool meet at church parking lot at 9:10am. Sign up sheet will be in coffee hour on Sunday, January 11th.



A Note from the Presbyterian Women



Even with all the competition during this holiday season, our annual Christmas Fair did exceptionally well. We had a good flow of attendees and made the most money on record. We scaled back on some things such as the number of wreaths for sale. Lower preorders and people buying their wreaths before our event lead us to this decision. We also reduced the number of tables for people to have tea. That and the new configuration made it look cozy and not crowded. All the departments did well. The talented crafters group, lead by Gini Wagner, Donna Goebel Williams and Cheryl Van Tuyle, succeeded at making adorable items that shoppers couldn't resist. Thanks to donations from the congregation, the Twice Nice, made festive by Karen Andrews. Louise Smith and Sharon Conway, did well. The cookie walk and baked good spearheaded by Eloise Carter were as popular as ever. A new flush of jewelry was a hit and many shoppers warmed up to the knitwear. Our greens, for the wreaths, were once again donated by Donn Larson.

Thanks to Nancy Vigorito and her friend Nancy for keeping the tea room flowing smoothly. Our lovely hostesses Jane Otis, Margretta Anderson and Meryle King with an assist from Kathy Dayton kept the tea room looking as elegant as ever. Our tree was decorated by Jane, Margretta and Hanne. Several women knitted to make our warm woolens sold by Karen Peterson. Then there are several people behind the scenes who wear more than one hat. Nancy Winters gave the jewelry arrangement an extra pizzazz, Holly Hubbard was all over to help crafters and jewelry sales. One of our newest members Gwyn Evans has jumped right in helping us with all of our fundraisers and I could never leave out Janet Hann my right hand person. She picked up and sold the wreaths, helped with the organizational layout, helped the crafters and even washed and ironed tablecloths last minute. There are many behind the scene stories but we managed to pull it all off. Thanks lastly to all who helped set up, sell, and take down as well as baked and attended.

On the Wednesday after the sale, the women gathered at a meeting to critique the Christmas Fair. Afterwards, we had invited the men and enjoyed a delicious potluck luncheon and fun Christmas Trivia. Now to the future. We will be having our first meeting of the month at 12 noon on Wednesday, January 14th. Soup will be provided. Bring your favorite sandwich. At this meeting, we will be discussing our fiscal future. For the working women who are unable to attend or who just want a night out we will have another Taco Night on Thursday, January 22nd at 6 pm. Gini Wagner will be reaching out by email. If you would like to be on the P.W. email list, please see Gini Wagner or reach out to the church office.

Lastly, some of us are going to LI Cares in Hampton Bay to help stock the food shelves and help patrons shop. We plan to do this monthly and the first date is Tuesday, January 13th from 10am-1pm. See Donna Goebel Williams if interested.

Have a Happy and Healthy New Year!
Christine Haddad



Chapel Window Project

Some of you may have noticed, this past summer, that the two windows on the Beach Lane side of the chapel are showing their age. The frame on one window sagged so badly, a gap formed between the edge of the glass and the wood, which allowed wind and weather to intrude. The sill on the other window shows extensive rot. Brian was able to shore up the frame, but it is merely a band-aid for a 2-phase project the Trustees are now considering.



Phase One would be the immediate repair of the two Beach Lane windows. Due to the historical value of the building, the Board of Trustees contacted four companies who specialize in window restoration. Of the four companies, only two returned quotes. The Board of Trustees voted to go with Artan Window Works in Oceanside. The quote for removing, restoring, and re-installing the two windows came to \$25,480. (The quote is available in the church office if you would like to see the extent of the work that needs to be done.)

Phase Two would be a longer term restoration of the remaining windows in the chapel. Because they are not currently in the same state of deterioration as the Beach Lane windows, the Trustees discern there is time to pursue grant monies for financial help with this phase of the restoration project.

As of mid December, the Trustees have secured \$10,000 in donations toward the first phase of the project: \$5,000 from the Presbyterian Women, and \$5,000 from an anonymous donor. We are now appealing to any members or friends of the church congregation who would like to help with the additional funding needed for Phase One of the chapel window project.

Donations can be made in honor or memory of a loved one, and all donations will be recognized at the completion of the work on the two windows. Donations via check should be made payable to “Westhampton Presbyterian Church” and note “Chapel Window Restoration” in the memo line. As the Trustees expect work on the windows to commence on April 6, 2026, please have donations into the church office by March 1, 2026.

If you have any questions about the project, the quote, or the funding, please contact Betsy Doyle at betsy.doyle24@gmail.com or at 631-495-5179.

Thank you and God Bless.



Happy Birthday & Happy Anniversary

1 Scott Campbell
2 Oliver Bradley
2 Crawford Jackson IV
3 Mia Victoria Tortorella
5 Lilly Wagner
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 Sophie Rouhandeh
31 Josephine Levitt

January 2026

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

				1 <i>Office Closed</i> 	2	3
4 <i>2nd Sunday of Christmas</i>	5 <i>7pm Online Bible Study with Pastor Michael</i>	6 <i>7pm Deacons Meeting</i>	7	8	9	10 <i>9am Budget</i>
11 <i>Baptism of the Lord</i>	12 <i>7pm Online Bible Study with Pastor Michael</i>	13 <i>5:15pm Music & Worship 6pm Session Meeting</i>	14 <i>9:15am Mission Meeting 10:30am Staff Meeting 12pm PW Luncheon</i>	15	16	17 <i>9:30am Hike with Janet @ Indian Island County Park</i>
18 <i>2nd Sunday after Epiphany</i>	19 <i>Martin Luther King Day</i> <i>Office Closed</i> <i>5pm Maureen's Haven</i> <i>7pm Online Bible Study with Pastor Michael</i>	20 <i>7pm Trustees Meeting</i>	21	22 <i>6pm P.W. "Taco Bar" Gathering</i>	23	24
25 <i>3rd Sunday after Epiphany</i>	26 <i>7pm Online Bible Study with Pastor Michael</i>	27 <i>2-3:30pm EEH Adult Bereavement Group</i>	28	29 <i>2-3:30pm EEH Adult Bereavement Group</i>	30	31