



TIDINGS

WESTHAMPTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

March 2026

A Message from the Pastor

The “Heart” of Prayer

But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. -Matthew 6:5-6

Our Lenten journey has already taken its first steps. We listen, we reflect, we pray. The fact that we can pray is not something to be taken for granted and also not to create anxiety. So many people come with the sense that they may say the wrong thing before God or not pray in the right way or, even worse, believe that God rejects their prayer because they fumble through words, ideas, or emotions. Theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer writes, “It is true that prayer is a natural need of the human heart ... We pray to the God in whom we believe through Christ. Therefore, our prayer can never be a conjuring up of God; we do not need to present ourselves before him as if requesting audience. We can know that God knows what we need before we ask it.” God knows our prayers and it’s not in the flowery articulation of words, the “right” formula of those words, or even words themselves that moves the Lord to hear. The Lord meets us with a parental heart and care, a parent who has known us well before the formation of all creation. So, we pray to a listening and caring parent who invites us to bring the fullness of our human condition to him. All the joys and affirmations as well as all the wrestlings and strugglings.

The “proper” prayer is not a deed, not an exercise, not even a pious attitude, but the petitions of a child of God to the endless loving heart of a Parent.

In the love of Christ,

Rev. Michael Hafele



CHURCH LIFE



The SpongeBob Musical

Westhampton Beach High School Auditorium
March 20, 21 at 7pm and March 22 at 2pm
Anderson, Cameron & Samantha are all in the cast.
Suitable for ALL ages!

Prayers

Recent: John Sprague, healing prayers; Mariko & Leandro Pichardo, healing prayers; Suzanne Truscott; Austin Lock (friend of the Jornitz Family); Gale & Pete Seidler, home; Kimberly Rogers Murawski, healing prayers; Angel Knoedler, breast cancer (friend of Vern Hackworth); Jan Vinokour, recovering from a serious fall (friend of Mary & John Hull); Dick Anderson, healing prayers; Carolyn Manker Smith, breast cancer (Hanne & Bill Manker's daughter); 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

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" luncheon meeting on Wednesday, March 11th at 12pm. Soup will be provided by Brian Wagner, Gini Wagner's husband. We will discuss upcoming business and future events.

All new ideas are welcome!

Line Dancing Fundraising Event!



Come join us for a fun-filled night of kickin' and stompin' with Terry Lou - DJ Lady T, Friday March 6th, 7-9pm in the Parish Hall. Wear comfortable attire you can dance in. We will be serving up 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.

Come on down and lets have a good time!





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!

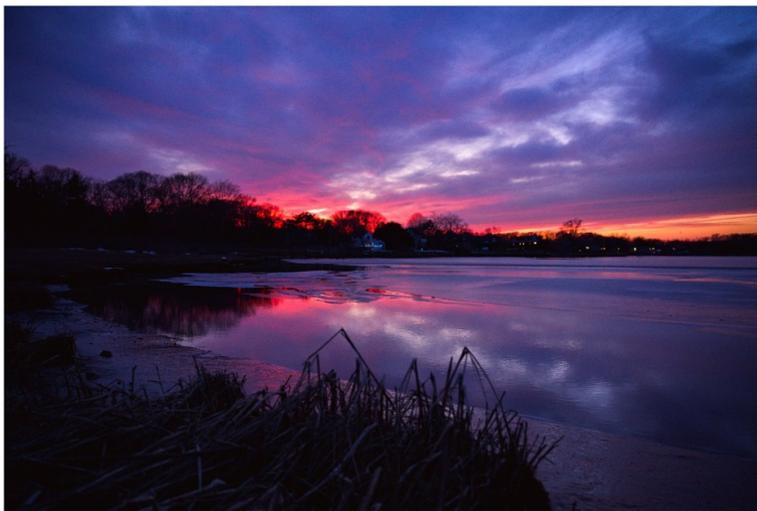
Donate now:

<https://pcusa.org/special-offerings/one-great-hour-sharing>



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!



Moriches Bay
photo credit:
Rich Lamiroult
-Rich Lamiroult Photography

Tidings articles are due on the 20th each month to be included in the next edition!

Inspirational Quote:

“Inspiration is the residue of kindness.” - Anonymous

Christians Ed. & Youth Group

Old Man Winter stuck around for the beginning of February, but that didn't stop us! Our campaign for Souper Bowl for Caring was a roaring success! We had six volunteers to make soup plus the youth group made one. We had 69 containers of soup to sell. We sold most of them and donated a few to our church members who were homebound. We will purchase 18 grocery cards to be used for local families that need assistance for food, and our Thanksgiving basket needs. Also, we delivered over twenty items to the little food pantry located at Westhampton Library! Thank you again for supporting our mission project.

We also held our Lenten Festival; turnout was light but the children who showed were told the story of The Lenten Pretzel Story and made homemade pretzels! For those of you asking what the relationship of Lent and the Pretzel is here's a quick lesson:

- It originated around 600 AD when monks created a simple bread made of flour, water and salt to conform to a strict fasting law to reward the children for learning prayers.
- The twisted shape represents arms folded in a prayer
- The three holes are said to represent the Holy Trinity
- While often enjoyed year-round, their origin is deeply rooted in the prayer and reflection of Lent!

Thank you, Google, for inspiring me to bring this story and craft to the kids at the Lenten Festival. The children also received their fish banks with devotions to help give them ideas to fill their banks for forty days! Did you also know that the fish banks are a part of one of the Presbyterian Special Missions? It's called One Great Hour of Sharing. Find out more when the Minute for Minute is given on it.

Our confirmation class has met four times. So far, we've been getting know each other learning about each other, church as our family, what it means to be part of a church and what Presbyterian is all about! Confirmation will be on Pentecost in May.

As the winds of March blow in we have youth involved in the production of *Aladdin* on 3/20 & 3/21 at Raynor Country Day School, and *Sponge Bob The Musical* on 3/22 – 3/24 at Westhampton Beach High School. The annual Easter Egg Hunt will be here before you know it. I'm looking for donations of Easter candy - small size candies nothing too big to fill some eggs. We have eggs filled with Christian items related to Easter, but we always like to fill some with candy, you can leave in the office with Erika or see one of the older kids or myself after worship. Thanking you in advance. To stay informed check our schedule on the bulletin board!

For those of you that asked about Heifer quarter collection, please feel free to bring them in, find a child before/after church to put into the Heifer Tube or save for Youth Sunday (May 10th) where we will do a collection too. Heifer is an ongoing Youth project where the youth will pick out animals to purchase with the coins collected all year in June.

As I write this another snowstorm is forecasted for Sunday evening into Monday, I'll be happy when Spring arrives a little warmer weather but there's always a chance that it will snow in March here!
 "Spring is a lovely reminder of how beautiful change can be." - Kathy



A note from Presbyterian Women



In February, members of the WPC were at it again unloading the truck, stocking shelves, and assisting shoppers. Our next scheduled day is on Tuesday, March 10! If you are interested in joining us, please contact Donna Goebel 631.838.2984. If you are not available, please feel free to volunteer as an individual on day that works for you. A couple of our church members/friends have taken advantage of this opportunity and have said they will definitely volunteer again.

"I've met the Presbyterian Women on a Tuesday and what a great help they were, and what a fun bunch!" ~ John, LI Cares weekly volunteer. I hope you will consider joining us for fellowship, hard work, and the joy of giving back to our community!

Happy Birthday & Happy Anniversary

- 1 Sharon Conway
- 1 Barbara and Anthony Danowski
- 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 Droznic
- 28 Fina DiBiaso
- 30 Donna & Korey Williams
- 31 Bill Manker
- 31 Aram Terchunian



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



March 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 2nd Sunday in Lent 9am Book Talk 10sm Worship	2 7pm Online Bible Study	3 2-3:30pm E.E. Hospice Adult Bereavement Group 7pm Deacons	4	5 10am Men's Group 2-3:30pm E.E. Hospice Adult Bereavement Group	6 World Day of Prayer 7-9pm Line Dancing with DJ Lady T!	7
8 3rd Sunday in Lent 9am Book Talk 10sm Worship 	9 7pm Online Bible Study	10 2-3:30pm E.E. Hospice Adult Bereavement Group 5:15pm M&W 6pm Session	11 9:15am Mission 11:30am Staff Lunch 12pm PW "Bring a Sandwich" Meeting	12 2-3:30pm E.E. Hospice Adult Bereavement Group	13	14
15 4th Sunday in Lent 9am Book Talk 10sm Worship	16 5pm Maureen's Haven 7pm Online Bible Study	17  2-3:30pm E.E. Hospice Adult Bereavement Group 7pm Trustees	18	19 2-3:30pm E.E. Hospice Adult Bereavement Group	20	21
22 5th Sunday in Lent 9am Book Talk 10sm Worship	23 7pm Online Bible Study	24 2-3:30pm E.E. Hospice Adult Bereavement Group	25	26	27	28
29 Palm Sunday 9am Book Talk 10sm Worship	30 7pm Online Bible Study	31 2-3:30pm E.E. Hospice Adult Bereavement Group			AA: Sat. 10am –Choir Rm Sun. 12pm—Conference Rm Sun. 6:30pm– Parish Hall Wed. 6:30pm– Parish Hall	