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HEAVEN'S

SAKE~

Volume 15 Issue 4

April 2022

From the Pastor's Desk

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." (Phillippians 4:6-7).

With all the stress and anxiety that we are facing now, the chaos of this world has changed what we once knew as the normalcy of our lives. We have entered an uncertain time in our history. It is easy to train our minds and relegate our thoughts to the past and not see the ever-present God found in this world.

Apostle Paul knew about this as he was writing to a church in Philippi while imprisoned. Yet Paul, even though he is confined and isolated, still is encouraging those who are dealing with a world (sheltering in place) seemingly upside down, to take account of all the things they may have formerly taken for granted. Paul understood that we must encourage ourselves and be encouraged by others in times of trials and hardships. We can easily forget that there are still moments of joy, laughter, beauty, appreciation, thanksgiving, love, and togetherness even in the midst of these challenging times.

This is Apostle Paul's last wishes. "I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead." (Phil 3:10-11)

In pursuing the power of Christ's resurrection, I see the holy presence of God that resides in Paul. Likewise, for those who are willing to know Jesus and the power of his resurrection, the lovely attribute of God lives in every thoughtful act, call, text, or video chat.

Dear my fellow Christians at WMPC, Let's reside in the presence of God, because He Lives!

"Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things." (Phil. 4:8)

In His Grace, Pastor Justin Choi

JOYS & CONCERNS

Joys:

*Having Keith Williams in church, Fran Ehrhardt's twins ,

Tracey and Greg, turned 50, congratulations for Audrey Van Kooy's over 40/years in the choir.

*Thank you to Linda and her vision for the WA dinner. It was a huge success.

*George Stoft- just got a new puppy from Ohio.

*Joy for a huge food drive by Shop Rite and appreciation for all the town does for the pantry.

*Joy for the wonderful celebration at the library for Marty Tappan and her service for 22 years as president for the "Friends of the West Milford Township Library".

*Thank you from Ken Dykstra for all the prayers, calls, cards and best wishes for his recovery

during a recent hospital operation.

*Linda gave a big thank you to Carol Stanhope, the Senior Saints, Sandy Muzzillo, and all the people that helped on the Fish and Chips dinner. \$2,115.00 was raised at the event.

*Jan Halvorsen thanked the Senior Saints for putting together 2 new outside benches that were purchased through the Deacon's Memorial Fund.

*Congratulations and joy that Sydney Scilingo got accepted to PCTI

*Marty gave thanks to Fran for designing the thoughtful bulletin boards for all the seasons

*Ladies Tea will be coming up so check your calendar

*Julia suggested we take time to read the Lenten bulletin board with it's beautiful and meaningful thoughts.

Concerns:

*Kathy Holley's 12 year old grand daughter had Covid but still not feeling well.

*Julia expressed concern and empathy for the people in the Ukraine.

*Mary Macheska's brother in law, John, is having medical complications.

*Chris Scilingo's dad has a heart issue.

*Prayers for Pam McGlashan's son in laws father.

*Irene Kershaw expressed concerns for her aerobics leader Bess's daughter and joy for her friend who had lung cancer but whose recent tests came back fine

*Carol Stanhope had concern for a friend in Florida whose lung cancer had spread to her liver

* Fran Ehrhardt has asked for prayers for her husband, Jeff. He is in hospital undergoing some procedures and lots of testing.

*Janic Mamer who now lives in Kansas had a heart attack

*Dianne Ericksen was in the hospital but home now recuperating.

An update on mom (Phyllis Van Hooker);

I wish this update could be better, however, mom's progress has slowed considerably.

She has not been eating well and has been losing weight and growing tired. She sleeps quite a bit now. She has become too frail to get her out of bed, therefore, getting her out of bed for her physical therapy will be replaced with in bed therapy to keep range of motion. We have been trying to get her to eat more to regain her strength and it turn around. Some days are good as others, sadly, not so much.

The fight continues.

Her cell phone is near by but most likely she will not answer. If you leave a message, we will make sure she hears them while we visit.

Please keep her in your prayers.





SESSION'S REFLECTIONS

APRIL 2022 SUBMITTED BY BETSY ENGELHARDT, CLERK OF SESSION

With Easter fast approaching, there is much planning in the works. We are looking forward to special services to celebrate Palm Sunday on April 10, Good Friday with meager meal at 6PM and service at 7PM on April 15, Easter morning pancake breakfast starting 8:30 AM and family service at 10 AM on April 17. It is truly a joyous time of celebration for our church.

Christian Ed Committee is happy our church school kids will be participating in Levite Sunday, April 24 where our membership stays after services to complete much needed projects throughout the church. All are welcome – many hands make light work! We will also look forward to Confirmation Sunday on May 22 and church school promotion celebration on June 12.

Diane Eriksen is hard at work planning a Spring Craft Fair on May 14. We are looking for volunteers willing to help in any capacity with a luncheon service for that day. Hands to grill hamburgers and hot dogs would be much appreciated. As an extension of our community virtual auction, Session will be promoting a concert featuring a local band, OCD (One Chick with Dudes) in Fellowship Hall on Friday, April 29 at 7PM. Cost will be \$20/person. This is a BYOB, snacks, friends, and dancing shoes event. We are looking for volunteers from the congregation to manage a snack sales table throughout the evening. Please contact Roberta Schmidt for tickets or if you can lend a hand in any capacity to help make this a successful fundraiser and a fun event for all.

Worship Committee has many ideas that could use support. The committee would like to see the resurrection of our bell choir – even in a condensed version for special occasions. They would also like to facilitate an adult bible study program. Anyone wishing to participate should contact George Stoft accordingly.

Yearly Faith-In-Action program remains a work in progress. A proposed date of May 15 has been discussed, but no specific plans have been finalized.

Property Committee reports the window replacement project at the Parish House is complete. A very favorable quote has been obtained to replace the windows throughout the Sanctuary. More research is to be completed before contracting for this project. Scout troop has advised this year's Eagle project will be building a platform for the Thrift Shop shed. The raccoons inhabiting our attics have been relocated to Waywayanda State Park.

Wishing everyone a joyous season where we celebrate together the resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

PASTORAL NOMINATING COMMITTEE

APRIL 2022 UPDATE - BETSY ENGELHARDT, PNC MODERATOR

It's been brought to the attention of this committee that there are many misconceptions and unanswered questions concerning the work of the PNC. In an effort to address these concerns, following are points we would like to clarify for the congregation:

- There are 6 members of this committee. Any one of us is available to discuss concerns. Rather than speculate among yourselves on the work being done, please consult a committee member for facts we can share. Keep in mind that we have been trained by Presbytery that specific details about any candidates are strictly prohibited to be shared with anyone outside the committee. We were given a 45-page manual written by PCUSA that details the rules we must follow that further documents this requirement. When we have completed our work, we are instructed to shred ALL documents associated with our search, delete all emails, and remain silent about all candidates. As frustrating as this may be for members of the committee, and the congregation, we ALL must respect this rule. The committee pleads with our membership that lack of information should NOT be filled with speculation, rumors, or assumptions. We ask instead that the committee be respected for the roll they have been asked to fill and trust they have the best interest in the church as we complete the work required.
- We are aware the biggest question on memberships minds is the status of Pastor Choi's candidacy. His privacy on his interaction with our committee is just as sacred as every other candidate. We are forbidden to discuss any activity as it pertains to him. The committee asks again that our congregation does not fill in the blanks with invalidated assumptions.
- Why after 22 months and over 100 applications have we not been able to bring a candidate to the congregation for a vote? As has been detailed on many occasions, there are more openings than candidates to fill those openings. We were told this past week that a candidate put in her application and within 2 weeks had over 50 churches matched for her consideration! We have been rejected by potential candidates for many reasons: doesn't want to move away from family or support system during this time of uncertainty / our location doesn't match the needs of a spouse / candidate wants a larger staff support system than we can provide / candidate was offered a manse for housing / candidate is a recent seminary graduate who felt a co-pastoring position would be better for her first placement / candidate hopes to retire in 3 years / and the most common response for pulling their candidacy is that after prayerful consideration, God is leading them in another direction.

- What say does the congregation have in deciding on the candidate that will lead us into our future? Membership is in total control of who is elected to this position. It is the PNC's responsibility to be vigilant in researching candidates, conducting interviews or personal visits, completing background checks, checking references, and deciding on a candidate to bring to the congregation. Many steps must be completed to get to that point, but once all the work is done, a candidate will be introduced to membership at a meet-and-greet session (perhaps on a Saturday). After that event, the candidate will conduct a full Sunday worship service followed by a Congregational Meeting. At that time, membership will vote the candidate IN or OUT of the position. AGAIN, it is membership who ultimately decides who will serve this church, NOT the PNC.
- Finally, we all must remember that ultimately it is GOD who is directing the path of the PNC. GOD is leading potential candidates in the direction they must go. GOD will lead Pastor Choi down the path he envisions him to take. The PNC and the congregation must remain patient and have faith that GOD has a plan for us - let us all see where it takes us! As always, we ask for your prayers and respect as we continue our work.



PNC COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Betsy Engelhardt, Kathi Enering, Matt Smart, Carol Stanhope, Marty Tappan, and Cyndy Taylor

WA NEWS APRIL 2022

It was fun seeing everyone dressed up in their Roaring 20's attire. A big shout out to our great DJ, cinematographer, photographer. Don and his co-conspirators-Pat and Riley. We also want to thank Sandy, she is the glue that holds our church together. She always helps us with a smile on her face.

Thanks to all who helped with our Fish and Chips dinner.

Our next fun time will be our tea party-another chance to dress upon 4/23. We are looking forward to a delightful afternoon.

On May 14th we will be hosting a Spring Bazaar on the lawn. Save the date!

Of course, Aunt Jenny's Attic is open three days a week-stop in for a cup of tea or coffee and some cookies and some special time with old friends and new.

See you in church.

Blessings, Linda and Pam



DEACONS DOINGS

On April 10, please pick up a palm or two before you leave church so you can be reminded through the week of Christ's triumphant entrance into Jerusalem.

Easter dinner bags for the pantry will be filled the beginning of the week following Palm Sunday. If you would like to help, we'd love you to join us. If you'd like to have your children involved, we could make the time after school or for evening.

If you ordered Easter plants, thank you so much for that and also for writing a heartfelt message. Those tulips, lilies, and daffodils signify renewal and hope in glorious color and fragrance. Please remember to take them home after the service. Have a blessed Easter.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Throughout the month of February, the children continued to learn about God's message of goodness, love, acceptance, and appreciation of all people. They travel with Jesus as he visits and teaches God's word to the people in the fishing villages and towns in the region around the Sea of Galilee. There, with Simon Peter, He performs another miracle by filling his fishing nets to abundance with fish. As the result, Simon Peter, and his brothers, James, and John, decide to give up everything, follow Jesus and become "fishers of men."

The children also get an understanding of "the sermon on the mount" as Jesus begins teaching the Beatitudes which are also known as blessings and woes...highlighting the fact that by living God's words, they will receive God's blessings and be able to pass blessings onto others. (blessings given, and blessings received). They learn that when they do loving things for others, they are spreading God's blessings... just as Jesus did. The children learned about Transfiguration Sunday, an experience when God miraculously sent a dazzling bright light all around and within Jesus, indeed Jesus was shining and sparkling with God's grace and love!

March brought us to Lent and the children were introduced to foundational stories from the Hebrew scriptures and from the New Testament, exploring themes of gratitude, trust, forgiveness, and compassion. As they moved through the season of Lent, they are reminded of the many ways God loves them. The book of Deuteronomy is in the section of the Bible that are called the Hebrew scriptures. It was written hundreds of years before Jesus was born and tells some of the stories of the Hebrew people who lived a long time ago. The children were taught the story of Moses and how the Hebrews were enslaved in Egypt, and of God's help through Moses in leading the people to a new land and out of slavery. This gives the children an understanding of why the Hebrews would never forget what God had done for them and be grateful.

Children will be given their fish box for One Great Hour of Sharing which will be collected on Palm Sunday, April 10th. Also, on Palm Sunday, the children will be involved in the church service by handing out palms, taking the collection and doing the testament readings.

Sandy Smidt and Pastor Justin began Confirmation Classes on February 16. The two candidates are Sophie Ferris and Sydney Schillengo. They will continue meeting on Wednesday evenings and the Confirmation Service will be held on Sunday, May 22™.

The students will be taking part in **Levite Sunday on April 24** by selling pizza, drink & dessert to those who stay or want to take home with them. They will also take on a small project to understand what the day is about.

The date for **Sunday School Promotion** is scheduled for **Sunday, June 12** with a picnic and celebration after church.

"BITS AND BITES"

News from the Food Pantry



The Deacons and I would like to thank the members of the church, the community,

community organizations, and corporations for their continued support of the Food Pantry. Whether we received monetary or tangible supplies, we have been able to accomplish our mission of helping those in need. You, along those mentioned above, have truly made the difference for us in being able to provide to those who come through our doors and we are extremely grateful.

I have included below items that we are in need of now and in the future. There will be a box under the kitchen window in Fellowship Hall to place items in that you wish to donate. There is also a box outside the doors leading into Fellowship Hall. Items can also be dropped off when the office is open. Monetary donations are always welcomed as well.

Pantry items include:

Snacks, desserts, baking goods, bottled and boxed juice, chili (not hot), corned beef, spam, baked beans, regular coffee, teabags, mayonnaise, cooking oil

Laundry detergent, dish detergent, napkins, toilet paper, paper towels, cleaning supplies, toiletries

Please reach out to me if you have any questions. Thanks so much.

Jan Halvorsen

973-728-7369 janlee702

janlee702@gmail.com



RECIPE ROUND-UP EASY FRIED CABBAGE Serves 4

This fried cabbage is delicious and super easy to make with a few ingredients. It comes together

in less than 30 minutes!

Ingredients:

5 to 6 bacon strips cut into small pieces
1/3 cup finely chopped onion
1/2 head green cabbage shredder or roughly chopped
1 tablespoon brown sugar
Salt and pepper to taste
1/4 teaspoon paprika

Instructions:

Cook bacon in a non-stick pan over medium heat until crisp.
Remove bacon to a paper towel lined plate.
Do not discard the bacon grease and drippings!
In the same pan, add the onion and cook until translucent.
Add cabbage, brown sugar, salt, pepper, paprika and mix everything together. Cook for about 7 minutes or until cabbage is tender

Add bacon back into the pan. Mix it together with the cabbage and serve warm.

Notes: Leftovers can be stored in a sealed container in the fridge for up to 2 days.

This can be made vegetarian by omitting the bacon and using 2-3 tablespoons of unsalted butter.

2022 Fish & Chips

Another fun and successful event! We still sold 238 tickets and made a profit of \$2115.00. Not bad for a strictly take-out dinner!

Thank you again to Linda Fredrickson and Pam McGlashan in their leadership, volunteer recruitment and ticket sales; Sandy Muzzillo for handling office sales; Mary Macheska for arranging to get all the coleslaw ingredients and desserts donated from InSerra and leading the coleslaw crew; Don and Pat Wright for printing the tickets; Tastefully British for a cooking up the delicious fish, chicken & chips; our supporting customers; and all the F&C volunteers who worked hard preparing coleslaw, set up, check in, serving, kitchen crew, desserts and clean up. Everyone did a fabulous job!

Our hope for next year is to return to an eat-in and take-out event. Mark your calendar for March 10th, 2023.

Thank you, Carol Stanhope F&C Chairperson

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10

Purchases in the last 7 days (as of 03/08/2022)

81

Purchases in Feb 2022 (-12 from Jan 2022)

Download daily report (last 90 days)

West Milford Presbyterian Church Women's Hissociation

Tea Time

APRIL 23, 2022 1:00 PM \$12.00

TICKETS MAY BE PURCHASED AT

AUNT JENNY'S ATTIC OR

BY CALLING THE CHURCH OFFICE (973)728-3081



"Eclectic, Classic Rock"



April 29, 2022 | 7:00 - 10:00 PM



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\$20 donation to benefit the church
BYOB (appetizers, to vou want)

Snacks, soft drinks,

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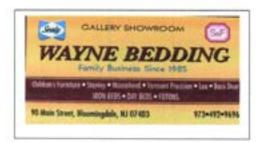
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Thank you to all those who contributed to the Community Virtual Auction!

Please be sure to use their services when needed.

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Hardware

West Milford

Pharmacy

West Milford

Players

West Milford Thai

Restaurant

WMPC Deacons

Covite Sunday Coam - Worship Opm - Scouts	Caster Sunday 10am - Worship 6pm - Scouts	Paim Sunday 10am - Worship 8pm - Scoule	toam - Worship tien - WA Meeting Spm - Sceute	
22			w	27
3:39pm - Girls On The Run	Tas triv 3:10pm - Orts On The Run	3:30pm - Girls On The Run 7:30pm - Session	3:30pm - Gels On The Run	28
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