
~FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE~

Volume 14 Issue 8

December 2021

Dear WMPC Friends,

What are your best hopes for this Advent and Christmas season?

What would have you expected to happen? What will it take on your part to make it all happen? Where did you expect to meet Jesus in this season? Where did God come to meet you in your daily life?

At the heart of Christmas is the simple truth that God comes to meet us in Jesus Christ, and in coming into our lives, saves us from sin and death by reconciling us to God. At the heart of Advent is the expectation of Jesus' coming ... and our watchful, hopeful, waiting for his appearance. So, as you use your imagination to reflect on this season from the yet unwritten future story of your life, consider how God is preparing you now to meet Jesus in the days and weeks ahead. Expect to meet Jesus. Keep awake and alert for signs of God's kingdom. Keep faith in God's presence in all situations. Keep hope that God brings good out of evil. At the same time, though, expect to be surprised by the unexpectedness of the meeting.

After all, maybe our best hopes for this season have nothing to do with decorations or presents or even family gatherings, but instead our prayers are answered when by God's grace, love and mercy we find that God's kingdom has come among us, and God's will has been done for us, as well as in and through us.

We have much planned at West Milford Presbyterian Church in this month: Christmas Eve worship, Sunday school Pageant, Youth Band, activities, and more. It is my prayer for you that God uses each item on our calendar to strengthen your faith and deepen your love for God. Invite your friends to join you. After all, you never know how God might work through your kindness and compassion to answer your neighbors' prayers and fulfilling their best hopes for this month.

In His Grace,
Pastor Justin Choi



Joys and Concerns

***Joys for the Sunday School children. They added excitement to the day and did a splendid job at collecting the offering. We enjoyed looking at their class displays during coffee hour.**

***Joy for the large food donation from the Plant church. This will be used toward our Thanksgiving baskets.**

***Betsy had a joy for the West Milford players. They had an exciting performance! It is a collaboration between church and players. We both, and town, benefit.**

***Joy for Julia from WM High School singing in the choir.**

***Kathy Holley-Thank you to Diane for bazaar.**

***Lee is looking forward to Jazz Concert on December 10th.**

***Joy... WM High School Band took 1st place in nationals.**

***Joy for another day of celebration for our Veterans.**

***Irene Kershaw.....Friend's lung cancer has returned again.**

***Prayers for Bonnie & Howie's daughter who will have cancer surgery on Tuesday.**

***Prayers for John Wilkens daughter in law is have surgery.**

***Bobbie Del Sol- daughter joined a support group to understand what her mother was going through.**

***James Ester- loves and misses our congregation.**

***Julia Held- travel blessings.**

***Linda Sibson Prayers for a fast recovery from skin cancer operation on her face.**





SESSION'S REFLECTIONS

DECEMBER 2021

SUBMITTED BY BETSY ENGELHARDT, CLERK OF SESSION

Pastor Choi arranged for a special joint meeting with Deacons and Session in November. We were joined via Zoom by Rev. Jason Ko who provided insight on some of his work with his congregation in La Mirada, California. He has been successful increasing church attendance and membership within a congregation that was continuously dwindling in numbers. He shared some reading material that would be helpful for leadership to consider examining along with conversations that took place within his church that helped spur change. I jotted down some quotes from his presentation that may help us in our quest to build up our own church:

- **KNOW the neighborhood – BE the community.** During our worship, are we providing aspects of the service that members of our community can relate to, offering a sense of belonging during their time with us?
- **Is what's written on the wall happening down the hall?** In other words, is the mission statement for our church being put into real practice and action within our activities?
- **Don't fear change – fear not changing!**

Rev. Ko's presentation gave us food for thought. We thanked him for spending over an hour with us.

Session voted to approve sponsoring a 2022 Virtual Auction for the dates of Feb 24 through Feb 26 with pick-up date of merchandise in Fellowship Hall on Feb 27. Our successful 2021 auction made a HUGE difference in the church budget, and we would look forward to even more success in 2022. This can only be accomplished through a church wide effort: tapping the labor, talents, and donations from the entire congregation. Planning is already in the works, and we are looking for any help that can be offered. We'd be happy to match your available time and talents with work needed to be done. Contact Betsy Engelhardt or Roberta Schmidt to offer your assistance or donations.

If you see boy scouts from our church troop, please thank them for their annual leaf cleanup. Speaking of leaves, Property Committee is looking for a gutter guard company willing to return their calls for quotes. The committee will also be looking for quotes on repairing/replacing our sanctuary windows. I & S Committee requests that 2022 pledge cards be turned into the office ASAP. Finance cannot begin their budget work until pledge numbers are available.



West Milford Presbyterian Church
1452 Union Valley Road, West Milford, NJ
973-728-3081
wmpchurch@gmail.com
www.wmpchurch.org
Sunday Worship & Church School 10 AM
Coffee Hour 11:15 AM
Rev. Justin Choi – Music Dir: Lee Tomboulion

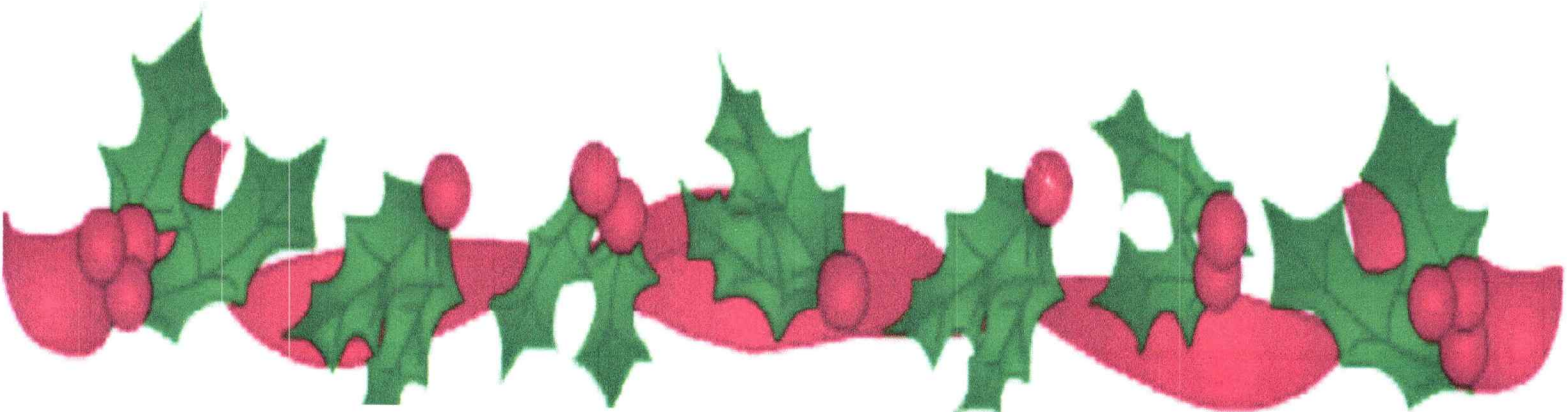
UPCOMING EVENTS
Christmas Bazaar – Nov 20 – 10AM to 4PM
40 Vendors for holiday shopping + sweet shop & café
Lion's Coat Drive - Giveaway Nov 27 10AM - 4PM
Need donations of gently used coats
Thanksgiving Service – Nov 21 – 10AM
Food Pantry M, T, Th & F call 973-768-9468 to request food
Large Hall with stage/kitchen/bathrooms available for rent

With the blessing of Deacons and Elders, and through the financial support of a member, we will be placing a weekly ad in the West Milford Messenger throughout the next 52 weeks. We hope to alert the community to our presence and advise upcoming events we have planned. This is a copy of the first ad that ran in the November 12 edition. Events will be updated as needed. Anyone having an advertising idea, please forward to the church office. We will try to fit requests in considering space limitations and timing. Keep an eye out for this weekly ad!



Deacons Doings- December

We are filled with gratitude. Let's start with gratitude for the Girl Scouts who helped us bag Thanksgiving dinners for 40 families. We are looking forward to providing Christmas dinners next for those going through unsettled times. If you would like to join us and become a Deacon, just mention it to one of our group. We feel gratitude to all who gave us donations of food or money that went towards making life a little easier for others. We are grateful you ordered Poinsettias to beautify our church at Christmas. Our church is magnificent at every time of year, but during Christmas season it really sparkles. The green wreaths on the doors, Poinsettias massed around the pulpit, warm candle glow at the windows....well, you get the idea! We are grateful for those who ate at our Deacons Café, providing us the funds to continue serving our church and community. We are truly blessed to have this church to worship in and to be part of a warm and caring congregation. We wish you and those you hold dear, a wonderful Christmas. Bonnie



WA News December 2021

Hopefully everyone enjoyed our Christmas Bazaar and got some nice items plus some good food. Thanks to Diane Eriksen for chairing this event.

On December 1st Aunt Jenny's Attic will reopen with many Christmas items for the home and for gifts. Please stop in and have a cup of tea and some cookies and look around. We truly enjoy our visitors.

For many years now our church has partnered with the school social workers to give gift cards to families in West Milford.

We collect money, buy gift cards to Walmart, Target and Shoprite (using Scrip). We give these cards to the school social workers and they distribute them to families in need.

This empowers the family to purchase what they know their child wants for Christmas.

No amount is too small since it all adds up to help some families have a happier holiday.

We wish everyone in our church family a very happy blessed Christmas.

Linda and Pam

DECEMBER



Thank You

Deacon's Kitchen. The Deacon's Cafe at the Christmas Bazaar is one of two fundraisers we run to provide funds for our mission to our church and community. Thank you to Jan Halvorsen who organized it, those who helped in the kitchen and those who cooked. Audrey Van Kooy's recipe for Ginger Roasted Carrot Soup was a big hit again along with the chili and the rest of the lunch choices.

Sweet Stop. THANK YOU to all the generous bakers that filled the Sweet Stop with an incredible selection of cookies, pies, muffins, candy, etc. There are "groupies" who come each year for certain items! While they didn't get the "buck eyes" this time, they were happy with the pies which were the first to go, along with all the rest of the treats which proved irresistible ! Thank you again for those that measured, melted, stirred, molded, baked, decorated, and in so doing caused many happy smiles.
Bonnie



LEE TOMBOULIAN'S TRIO PRESENTS HOLIDAY JAZZ CONCERT

Nothing brings the spirit of the season faster than a
holiday music concert.

Join us in our sanctuary for an evening of Christmas spirited jazz
arrangements performed by our talented music director,
Lee Tomboulia, accompanied by bass and drum professionals.

PLACE: West Milford Presbyterian Church
1452 Union Valley Road, West Milford, NJ
DATE: Friday, Dec 10 **TIME:** 7:30 pm
Fee: \$20/ Adult - \$10/Children

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	29	30	1	2	3	4
				9am - Sr. Saints		
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
10am - Worship 6pm - Scouts				9am - Sr. Saints	7:30pm - Concert	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
10am - Worship 6pm - Scouts	7:30pm - Session		NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	9am - Sr. Saints		11am - Toy Give Away
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
10am - Worship 6pm - Scouts				9am - Sr. Saints	Christmas Eve Day off for Christmas Day 7pm - Family Service 10pm - Candlelight Service	Christmas Day
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
10am - Worship 6pm - Scouts				9am - Sr. Saints	Day off for New Year's Day New Year's Eve	