
~FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE~

Volume 18 Issue 3

March 2025

The Pastor's Pen – March 2025

Dear Church Family,

As always, it seems crazy that a new month is already upon us! But what a month it is that we have in front of us! Right from the get-go we have Ash Wednesday on March 5th. I know that many a Protestant tradition has not made Ash Wednesday an observed day on their calendars, but I think that that has more to do with a lack of understanding about it and wanting to NOT be as the Roman Catholics.

The story of Ash Wednesday really starts with the baptism of Christ. As we know, after Jesus was baptized in the Jordan River by his cousin John the Baptist, he went 'into the wilderness' for 40 days in order to be spiritually cleansed, which was necessary for him to do before beginning his ministry. (The number 40 in Scripture has always been seen as a number that represents a perfect amount of time for preparation, rejuvenation and cleansing. Where that understanding of the number originally came from, it's believed, was from the point that 3000 years ago, 40 was the average human life span.) Tradition has it that Jesus spent those 40 days there facing the greatest temptations of humanity; which would then allow him to completely control his own humanity so that his divine nature would become his focus. He was tempted with food when the devil told him to turn a stone into bread, with power when he was offered dominion over all the kingdoms of the world, and ego when the devil brought Jesus to the highest point of the temple in Jerusalem and told him to jump off. A person with immense ego believes they can do anything they want, like jumping from a great height onto stone below and surviving just fine; it's about living in a reality separate from the actual one that surrounds you and being so sure of your own opinion that it's offensive when not taken as Gospel truth. And of course, those are the foundational bases of all human sin.

But Jesus rejected all of that because he knew that his purpose was greater than the superficial things of this life. It was during that 40 days that he knew that the time had come to begin his earthly ministry, now that he was prepared for this journey, paving the road to his own brutal demise.

Ash Wednesday is the day which begins our season of Lent, in which we're meant to experience ways in our daily lives that can relate to those same temptations that the very human side of Jesus had to contend with; whether they be food, power or ego. Traditionally, most have gone with the food restrictions, because they tend to be the easier to deal with. And, of course, it's marked with a sign of ashes on the forehead that have traditionally been known as a sign of mourning, which makes Lent seem like a very dark season. HOWEVER, the sign of ashes is also a sign of contemplation and reflection, which are the most common things we do when we mourn, which also then bring insight and understanding. And all, just

in time, for the blooming of new life with the change of the seasons, and the celebration of Christ's resurrection from the grave and what that should mean to us.

I hope that folks will come to the Oak Ridge church at 7 pm this coming Wednesday, March 5th, for an abbreviated service with the imposition of ashes to those who would like to have that sign, marking yourself, and most importantly to yourself, that Lent is going to be for you a time of reflection and contemplation, a time to refrain from something that's looked forward to each day, and is supposed to make us feel with Jesus having rejected those things for us that many can never seem to get enough of. And if we do use this time as such, that will help us to see how much grander and more beautiful life can be when new life is abounding all around us, and in multiple ways.

Throughout Lent, I invite folks to the book group meetings in which we're talking about this very subject, you don't have to have read to have something to share, and I'm also working on some special opportunities during Lent with the Methodist churches. I'll share more as that becomes available.

And, I wanted to also mention something else. I continue to be impressed and amazed by how this congregation really comes together for efforts needed in the church. Whether it be another successful Online Auction, or electrical work, the food pantry, preparations for the Fish & Chips, a new chair lift to bring folks from the sanctuary to the fellowship hall and vice versa, as well as preparations to open once again the nursery on Sunday mornings, Sunday School, Aunt Jenny's, or a host of other things that I'm not meaning to leave off. You have a lot to be proud of, and a lot to rejoice about, and so let's always remember that we are joyful warriors, in a time and space when it's becoming ever more important to be a joyful warrior.

Be Good & Do Good,
Pastor Chris

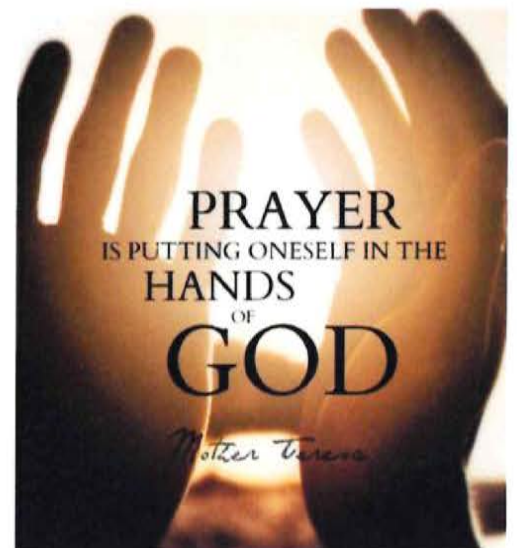
PRAYERS :

CONCERNS:

- *Jacek Latos He just finished his 5 chemo today and is feeling well one more left MRI perfect and blood tests looks good. He's WINING THE BATTLE WITH THE HELP OF GOD.
- *Ian Smith has passed away. We remember him as a choir member and his sly sense of humor. A service for him will be held soon.
- *Mary Macheska: Niece, Roxanne, fell and broke her ankle. It will take time to heal. She has three children, 1 1/2,5,7.
- *Her mother will be able to help her.
- *Riley is wishing good thoughts for Don, Pop-Pop, as his knee is healing.
- *Micheala's mother is hospitalized. Next Sunday is the baptism of Lorelei Emileen. Prayers for her mother's recovery so she may be present for the baptism.
- * Prayers for Myrtle who is having test will have to have surgery.
- * Prayers for Linda who has bronchitis.

JOYS:

- *Cathy Holley: Daughter-in-law, Clarisse, came successfully through surgery.
- *John Wilkens thanks a good Samaritan for shoveling his driveway.





SESSION'S REFLECTIONS

MARCH 2025

SUBMITTED BY BETSY ENGELHARDT, CLERK OF SESSION

We are hopeful everyone enjoyed the guest speaker at the February 23rd worship service. Rev. Rose Niles represented the Presbytery Foundation as she spoke about the importance of Legacy giving. This is an item that has been on Session's wish list for years and we are grateful to both Rev. Rose and Pastor Chris for jumpstarting the program for our congregation. We all have our own personal connection with our church. It is something that our family members may realize but may not truly understand the impact this relationship has meant to each of us and our community. By making our wishes known through legacy giving, our voice and feelings can be represented when we are no longer around to speak for ourselves. Please read the literature that is available and make plans to document your wishes through this great program.

In February, Session put 2 more items on our church calendar for this year. We look forward to hosting our second Family Festival Outdoor Movie Night on Saturday, August 16. We will determine what movie will be presented as the date gets closer. An idea presented by Kathi Eninger has us reserving Saturday, October 4th for our first Blessing of Animals outdoors on the manse property. We are always looking forward to reaching out into our community with relevant and fun activities.

Pastor Chris is working with Ringwood's Presbyterian Church to see if we can coordinate some special worship opportunities together during Lent. I'm sure he will be updating us on further details as they become known.

On a personal note, Roberta Schmidt and I are grateful the Community Virtual Auction was a success. It was a real struggle with a diminished list of volunteers to help with the tremendous labor required to make this event a reality. If this is to remain an important annual fundraiser, we will need firm commitment of support going forward, including some advanced training on managing the auction site. It may include going outside your comfort zone to ask for sponsorship or contacting large corporations for donations well in advance in the New Year. This is an event that has truly attracted the community, not just our congregation members, to help raise money for the church, something we always wish for.

DEACONS REPORT
MARCH 2025



March is teasing us with a promise of a sunny Sunday! Just right for sharing a congregational meeting with our Oak Ridge friends. We will share communion and have our first baptism of the new year, an exciting beginning!

Lorelei Emileen Knapp will be baptized while her parents and family gather around her. Deacons will present her with a white baptism rose and a cradle cross. Her family will celebrate with a cake at coffee hour while Lorelei shares her sweet smile with us.

Have you noticed the new piano bench cushion? It certainly gives life to the piano! If our new organist approves, deacons will purchase one for the organ bench.

The chair lift has arrived!! Funds from the memorial account for Bob Gunderman plus an in-kind donation are supporting a portion of the expense. We should all stand in line for a free trial ride.

Another baby girl to arrive at the end of December was Danica Star Humerick. Proud parents are Zach and Natalie. I asked Natalie if there was a special meaning for such a beautiful name. She allowed me to share her answer with you.

“ I’ve just always liked the name Danica. Growing up, my aunt and uncle had a foreign exchange student from Australia with that name and I really liked it. The star is after my mom. Her name is Starlet but she goes by Star and I’ve always thought it was cool. Pus it honors my mom. Zach says she sounds like a sci-fi action heroine with that name!”

Wow! Bet she will soon be charging around the house with her magic wand! She says she will make her debut at the fish and chips dinner.

We have new babies in our midst. Perhaps this is the time to look into nursery care.

Deacons are getting ready for the holy days from Ash Wednesday, leading up to Easter!

Marty Tappan,

Deacon Moderator

WA NEWS MARCH 2025

March

FINALLY some nice days, no freezing temps and no snow!! Can hardly wait for spring.

March means our delicious fish and chip dinner with our special homemade coleslaw. The dinner will be take out or eat in. We will once again serve you in the take out container but will have plates available to use at the tables. Don't forget to get your \$20.00 ticket in the church office, Aunt Jenny's Attic and at coffee hour.

We're very excited about having a baptism on Sunday as well as a joint service with our sister church at 10 AM.

On March 5th we will be at Oak Ridge at 7PM for the Ash Wednesday service.

March 9th our clocks spring forward.

March 16th the deacons will be hosting a special coffee hour for our choir members. They hold a dear spot in our hearts and we are grateful for them singing every Sunday.

We've been really delighted about how many ladies are coming into the store and asking about the Tea Party. They are making wonderful comments about it. This year it's on Saturday, April 26th but remember we only have 80 seats.

Our next WA meeting will be on March 9th in the library after you get some coffee. Hope to see many of you there.

Spring will be here soon! YAH!

Blessings, Linda and Pam



Sunday School Doings

Through Bible readings, crafts and games Sunday School continues to learn about the teachings of Jesus and the great love that Jesus has for all of us.

We have been exploring the parables and the miracles of Jesus. One such parable is the Great Feast. We planned an elaborate party and no one came- we learned that God has a great feast for us and it is up to us to accept or decline the invitation. We heard the Bible reading of Jesus' first miracle- The Wedding at Cana. We even painted "wine glasses!"

We will explore one of our favorite Bible stories-Zacchaeus and the Tree. Do you remember the song?

Zacchaeus was a wee little man was he

He climbed up the sycamore tree

For the Lord he wanted to see

Yes, we will sing the song!

IMPORTANT DATES:

March 2nd- 10:00 Family Service with Oak Ridge

NO Sunday School

March 9th -Vacation Bible School Meeting

Right after Service

March 16th-Miss Kathi's class

Serving Coffee Hour

Miss Dale and Miss Kathi Thank-you for your continuing support of Sunday School.

Submitted by:

Kathi Enering



March in the Pantry- 2025

St Patrick's Day usually brings to mind an image of a pot of gold at the end of a rainbow. What do you wish would be at the end of your rainbow? I think of health and happiness within my family, the freedom to dream and pursue those dreams. For many who come to the pantry I'm imagining a more visceral dream. Maybe a dream that includes a job becoming available so bills could be paid and food can be put on the table. Jane's (not her real name) husband walked out on her so she is currently being evicted because she can't pay for where she lives. Many of the programs that could help her are unavailable because her worth is based on her husband's job since they aren't divorced. John (not his real name) works in construction but when the weather isn't good he's not called in even though the bills continue. We have 78 registered families that use the pantry currently and every one has a story. Easter will be coming on April 20th and once again we'll be asking for donations of food to put together a special holiday meal. We can't solve all the problems that bring families to our door but we can offer a spread of nutritious food for their table and make their holiday more joyous.

Hopefully Shoprite will once again be giving out free hams and if you aren't going to use yours we'd love it if you bring it to the pantry. Also cans of pineapple and corn, boxes of scalloped or au gratin instant potatoes, cake mixes and icing, bottles of juice, ranch salad dressing to use as a dip.

Thank you in advance for your generosity and caring hearts.

The Pantry Team



THANKYOU!

Listed below are all the businesses and individuals who make our Community Online Auction happen. WMPC extends sincere appreciation for your donations!

It is so nice to live in a community where we all work together to support our friends and neighbors.

<i>4Twenty Somewhere</i>	<i>Freedom Electrical II, LLC</i>	<i>Prime 374</i>
<i>Ackerman Well Drilling Co., Inc.</i>	<i>Friends of WMPC</i>	<i>P & W Excavating</i>
<i>Advanced Auto Parts - Butler</i>	<i>Gene and Marty Tappan</i>	<i>Red Spot Nails</i>
<i>Advanced Dental Arts</i>	<i>George Stoff</i>	<i>Roberta & Bill Schmidt</i>
<i>Allure Waxing</i>	<i>Girls of WMPC</i>	<i>Scott Alexander</i>
<i>Alpine Landscape Professionals</i>	<i>Glenwild Garden Center</i>	<i>SEPHORA</i>
<i>Amore Italian Pizza</i>	<i>Grasshopper Irish Pub</i>	<i>Sheena Covert</i>
<i>Anthony Franco's Ristorante & Pizza</i>	<i>Green Forest Nails</i>	<i>Shirley Ruggerio</i>

<i>Bagel Town Cafe</i>	<i>Greenwood Lake Animal Hospital, LLC</i>	<i>Simplicity Salon</i>
<i>Barbara Ciampa</i>	<i>Greenwood Lake Roasters Craft Coffee</i>	<i>Ski Barn</i>
<i>Battinelli Landscaping & Garden Center</i>	<i>Harvest Moon Health and Nutrition</i>	<i>Skylands Ice World</i>
<i>Betsy Engelhardt</i>	<i>House of Thai</i>	<i>Soulmate Cafe</i>
<i>Big Mouth Deli</i>	<i>Iris Nail & Spa</i>	<i>Stacy Owens</i>
<i>Bill & Dayna Tait</i>	<i>J. Alexander Fine Jewelers</i>	<i>Stumpy's Fairfield</i>
<i>Pam McGlashan</i>	<i>Jan Halvorsen</i>	<i>Stu & Sue Feldman</i>
<i>Bonnie & Howie Seufert</i>	<i>Jazzercise Bloomingdale</i>	<i>Sunrise Family Restaurant</i>
<i>Bowling Green Golf Club</i>	<i>Jeff & Sue Elam</i>	<i>Taco Bell</i>
<i>BSE Mechanical, LLC</i>	<i>Jenkinson's Aquarium</i>	<i>Tac Ops</i>

<i>Buonasera Restaurant</i>	<i>Jenti Jewelers</i>	<i>The Country Cottage</i>
<i>Carol and Bill Stanhope</i>	<i>Jessie's Kettle</i>	<i>The Local 112</i>
<i>Cathy & Ken Schopp</i>	<i>Josephine Krupp</i>	<i>The Martin Rosen Family</i>
<i>Cheryl Cahill</i>	<i>Karen Shumpert</i>	<i>The Trusz Family</i>
<i>Chili's</i>	<i>Kathy Holley</i>	<i>TJ's Pizzeria</i>
<i>Cibo e Vino</i>	<i>Kinnelon Bagel</i>	<i>Town Cycle</i>
<i>Circle Bowl & Entertainment</i>	<i>Kit Rusinack</i>	<i>Tractor Supply</i>
<i>Crumbl Cookies</i>	<i>Loving Care Veterinary Hospital</i>	<i>Trader Joe's</i>
<i>Cyndy Taylor</i>	<i>Macopin Pizza</i>	<i>TreEscape Aerial Adventure Park</i>
<i>Dale Hamilton</i>	<i>Mary Macheska</i>	<i>Twin Willow Par 3 Golf Course</i>

David Kershaw	Mr. Wonton 88	Vreeland's Store
Dawn Syvertsen	Napa Auto Parts	Warwick Valley Quilters
D'Boathaus Restaurant	New Hairizons Hair Salon	Wayne Bedding
Deb & Don Philip	Nicole Niebuhr/Scentsy	West Milford Pharmacy
DeMarco's	Outback Steakhouse	West Milford Players
Diamonds by Dawn	Pam McGlashan	West Milford Thai Restaurant
Echo Designs	Party Connections	WMPC Deacons
Eden Farms II Garden Center	Pastor Chris and Hala Doyle	WMPC Women's Association
Elegant Nails	Pat & Don Wright	Women's Association
Five Brothers Bagels & Deli	Penny Vorce	Zenergy Healing Center

For the Love of Mud

Pop's Bagelry

Fran Ehrhardt



TO OUR WONDERFUL 2025 COMMUNITY ONLINE AUCTION SPONSORS!

*Please use the services of these
sponsors who generously show their
support to our community and our church.*

PREMIER SPONSOR

The Martin Rosen Family

PLATINUM SPONSOR



GOLD SPONSORS



SILVER SPONSORS



**Richards
Funeral Home, Inc.**



THANK YOU!

FROM THE COMMITTEE CHAIRS OF THE 2025 COMMUNITY VIRTUAL AUCTION

ROBERTA SCHMIDT, CHAIR / BETSY ENGELHARDT, CLERK OF SESSION

The success of this year's event would not have been possible without the help of our auction committee members and church friends who pitched in to help, pounding the streets for getting donations and sponsors from our local businesses and beyond. We totaled over 170 individual donation items that were paired together or stood alone as auction items.

THANK YOU!

To our creative gift wrapping crew **Bonnie Seufert & Fran Ehrhardt**

THANK YOU! To the AUCTION COMMITTEE

Carol Stanhope
Debbie Trusz
Pat Wright
Kit Rusinack

THANK YOU!

To those that invited friends and family to join the fun.

THANK YOU!

To those who posted flyers around town & promoted the auction.

THANK YOU!

To the Women's Association, Deacons, and individuals for the cash donations that let us shop to supplement our auction catalog.

THANK YOU!

To all our auction bidders who helped to make the auction fun!!

THANK YOU!

To the ladies at Aunt Jenny's who looked for donations that are "auction worthy" and sent them our way.

THANK YOU!

To those brave and generous folks willing to pull together and host a fun experience for folks to enjoy – be it Vacation Rentals, String Cheese Making, Sweet Shop Baking, Chili Prep, meals prepared and hosted at various locations to name a few. These events are very popular, great fellowship, and breadwinners for the auction.

THANK YOU!

For those who took a laundry list themed item, or those who cleverly came up with own theme baskets & those who made financial donations to support the auction.

THANK YOU! To Sandy Muzzillo, Church Secretary, for EVERYTHING!!

West Milford Presbyterian Church

Women's
Association

FISH



& CHIPS

FRIDAY MARCH 14th 2025

5:00 to 7:00 PM

Take Out Dinner

Serving Famous "Tastefully British"

Fish or Chicken with Homemade Coleslaw,

Roll and Dessert!

\$20.00 per person

Tickets must be pre-purchased

by March 7th

Call 973-728-3081

(Mon. & Wed. 9:30 -3:00pm)

Aunt Jenny's Attic (Wed, 1:00-4:00 Friday, & Sat, 11-3)

1452 Union Valley Rd. West Milford,NJ





SAINT ELIZABETH UNIVERSITY PRESENTS

Piano Recital
With
Dr. Fran
Covalesky

Friday, March 14th at 7 PM
Annunciation Center - Dolan Hall
2 Convent Road, Morristown, NJ

“...so musical and beautiful.
Bravo!”

Eunhae Grace Yun (Princeton Festival)

Questions: fcovalesky@steu.edu

In case of inclement weather or other unforeseen emergency: (973) 290-INFO (4636)



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
23	24	25	26	27	28	1
10am - Joint Worship Service/ 12pm - WM Players Show 6pm - Scouts	5pm - WM Players Show 7:30pm - Zoom Bible Study	9am - Community Food Pantry	11am - Bible Study @ WMPC 1pm - Aunt Jenny's Attic 4:30pm - Pantry Meeting 7pm - Ash Wednesday Service @	9am - Community Food Pantry 9am - Sr. Saints	11am - Aunt Jenny's Attic	11am - Aunt Jenny's Attic 5pm - WM Players Show
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9am - Worship Service 10am - Girl Scout Sunday 10:15am - WA Meeting 6pm - Scouts	7:30pm - Zoom Bible Study	9am - Community Food Pantry 7pm - Session	11am - Bible Study @ WMPC 1pm - Aunt Jenny's Attic	9am - Community Food Pantry 9am - Sr. Saints	11am - Aunt Jenny's Attic 12pm - Fish & Chips	9am - Community Food Pantry 9am - Winter Farmers Market 11am - Aunt Jenny's Attic
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Daylight Saving Time starts 9am - Worship Service 10am - Girl Scout Sunday 10:15am - WA Meeting 6pm - Scouts	7:30pm - Zoom Bible Study	9am - Community Food Pantry	11am - Bible Study @ WMPC 1pm - Aunt Jenny's Attic	Fish & Chips Set-up 9am - Community Food Pantry 9am - Sr. Saints	11am - Aunt Jenny's Attic 12pm - Fish & Chips	NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 11am - Aunt Jenny's Attic
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
9am - Worship Service 6pm - Scouts	SLP Patrick's Day 7:30pm - Zoom Bible Study	9am - Community Food Pantry	11am - Bible Study @ WMPC 1pm - Aunt Jenny's Attic	9am - Community Food Pantry 9am - Sr. Saints	11am - Aunt Jenny's Attic	9am - Community Food Pantry 11am - Aunt Jenny's Attic 1pm - Scout Court of Honor
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
9am - Worship Service 6pm - Scouts	7:30pm - Zoom Bible Study	9am - Community Food Pantry	11am - Bible Study @ WMPC 1pm - Aunt Jenny's Attic	9am - Community Food Pantry 9am - Sr. Saints	11am - Aunt Jenny's Attic	11am - Aunt Jenny's Attic
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
9am - Worship Service 6pm - Scouts	5pm - WM Players Tech 7:30pm - Zoom Bible Study	9am - Community Food Pantry	11am - Bible Study @ WMPC 1pm - Aunt Jenny's Attic	9am - Community Food Pantry 9am - Sr. Saints	11am - Aunt Jenny's Attic	11am - Aunt Jenny's Attic