
~FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE~

Volume 18 Issue 2

February 2025

The Pastor's Pen – February 2025

Dear Church Family,

Greetings in the name of Christ! I do hope that this finds everyone well, and staying warm! I had been allowing myself to be convinced that due to global warming, that we weren't going to have to deal with super cold weather this year, but alas, as we all know, I was wrong, wrong, wrong! I will say that I did enjoy having snow on the ground for Christmas, but then January came and really kind of seemed to kick us into winter reality full force, perhaps making us want to just hibernate from the world! (And yes, I know that weather would certainly not be the only thing that might make us want to hibernate from the world.)

But there's a problem with this; Jesus taught us that we shouldn't hibernate, that we live in community – whether we want to or not, that where two or more are gathered, his Spirit is there also, and that it's impossible for a singular person to stay warm on their own. So the big question that really has to be asked, and asked of all of us is, how do we see ourselves as being a part of the community in which we live?

Think about yesterday, for instance, in which we celebrated Scout Sunday. During the talk of Scout Leaders Danielle and Dave, they kept emphasizing how pretty much everything they even attempt to do 'takes a village', whether that be the educating of Scouts in the many areas they emphasize, going on a camping trip, or even understanding the Scout Oath and Law, which is very much about how we should be 'living in community'. And I'll piggy back on what the Scout leaders said yesterday, in that that phrase is not just a reference for how Scouting views their role and 'how to', but is also the view of the church. The phrase, "It takes a village", in the church does touch on most everything that we also do and try to do; meaning, 'it takes a village' isn't just about fundraising or getting projects done around the church. Someone was speaking to me about baptism with the question of God parents. I explained to them that as Presbyterians, we don't really follow the tradition of God parents, because the entire congregation becomes the God parent. During a baptism in our church, after asking the parents about their intentions, the minister then turns to the congregation and asks, "Do you all gathered here on this day agree to encourage and support – said child and their parents – on their spiritual journey here in God's Creation?" The congregation then in response either declares "Yes" or "No". (I've never even heard of a situation in which the congregation has said "No") The church is there to always be a support, to be a guide, a place of learning and spiritual health care, and yes, it takes all of us together to make that successful.

And so the next big question is, what are you going to do with it or about it? And yes, I am quite well aware of how involved many folks are with all that goes on at West Milford Presbyterian Church, and I can tell you that without them, we'd have no church to continuing taking part in. But imagine if every single one of us asked the question, "What can I do for the church of Jesus Christ?", seeing it as not just a place to worship God on Sunday, but a village that comes together around something so much bigger than ourselves, a true place of learning and fellowship, a refuge. And yes, I am also well aware of how we live intensely busy lives, I am a part of this wacky society myself, but how we respond to this question, will result in how healthy of a church family we are. And Lord knows, health is something that ALL of us want to claim as having....

See ya at church!

Pastor Chris

Concerns:



- *Jan's daughter-in-law's brother, Michael lives 15 miles from the fires and was evacuated as a precaution.
- *Dawn asking for prayers for her brother, Patrick who is beginning treatment for leukemia.
- *Myrtle asking for prayers for Karen George who is in the hospital.
- *Jane's friends grandson, Brendan is in the pediatric ICU in Westchester. Doctors don't have a diagnosis.
- *Ashley's friends 7 year old Julian has died. Prayers for the family.
- *Linda asking for continued prayers for Jane who remains sedated in Boston after a car accident 5weeks ago.
- *Judy asked for prayers for Jessica who is hospitalized. She then shared her journey from Kenya to New Jersey and meeting her new husband. She got married last week.
- *Dawn- Prayers for the Meade family whose oldest brother, Chippy died.
- * Don-prayers for his sister, Anita who has MS and is in the hospital in S. Carolina.
- *Audrey-Prayers for her hairdresser, Mary who is in rehab post knee surgery.
- *Sue's stepfather Rudy who now has a broken hip.
- * Riley- Prayers for Scooby his dog who is having big problems with his leg.
- *Cyndy- Prayers for success of hostage release and cease fire.
- * Sandy M.- Phyllis is in Lakeland Healthcare in Wanaque with a kidney infection.
- * Mary- Her friend's knee surgery has been delayed and she continues to suffer from pain.
- *Sandy Smidt- Kit's boyfriend is in the hospital with probable gall bladder but surgery must wait until his blood pressure comes down. Kit herself has not been doing well. Prayers for both of them.
- *Chris-prayers for Jeff and Sue Elam since Jeff had an Addison's crisis and his blood pressure was low. Seems better now and should be going home.
- *Jonathan is back in the hospital and needs our prayers.
- *Chris asking for prayers for our world- fires, floods, warfare and unrest are impacting many around the globe. Pray for peace.
- * Marty- continued prayers for Phyllis who remains in rehab working on getting stronger.
- *Jane-Kathy will be having cataract surgery on Wed. Kathy's brother in law, Matt in Florida has prostate cancer.
- *Mary is happy to be here today and will be here next Sunday for the Cookie Walk.
She asks for prayers for her brother, Joe who is in a nursing home on Hospice. Her older sister whose husband John has DVTs in his legs and his son Eric who is suffering from depression. Her other sister Grace who drives 3 hours to come and help with her brother. Grace's daughter in law, Crystal has Hodgkin's disease.
- *Karen will be having cataract surgery Thursday.
- *Troop leader 44G asking for prayers for Liam who has leukemia.
- *Mary says David is recovering from the flu. Her mother in law Barbara has pneumonia.
Judy feeling joy for her friend.
- *Dawn prayers for her pregnant daughter who has the flu.

Joys:

- * Scout leader is thankful for youth organizations and how they benefit children.
- *Cookie Walk is next week. Please bake for us.
- * Souper Sunday is next week. The children will be collecting cans for the food pantry, you can also vote for your favorite team. Let's see who wins.
- *Linda Joy for the birth of great-great niece Sienna Mary.
- *Betsy asked everyone to take a laundry basket downstairs with ideas for Auction items. Dates are 2/21,22/25
- * Darius our newest choir member has been seeking a job for a while and got one yesterday at Wendy's in Franklin. He is very happy.
- *Aunt Jenny's attic is thrilled with the new lights that are now installed. The guys worked like a well oiled machine putting them in and then cleaned up everything. Everyone then had a pizza lunch together.
- *Rich- Sophie has achieved her Life Scout rank, now on to her Eagle. Her project will be for the church.
- *Darius' 33rd Birthday. Happy birthday!
- * A double joy, Erin is having a baby girl in May and Joseph's wife is having a girl in June.
- *Bill and Sue got a new grandson, Everett John was born last Sunday.
- * Bill & Carol Stanhope became grandparents of Toby Robert Stanhope on Friday. First grandchild.
- *Kathy Holley's son, Jim married Clarice on Thursday in Oregon. Alan & Kathy got to join in via zoom.
- *Adeem now has a remote job. Congratulations!
- *Happy to have the Scouts here with us on Scout Sunday
- *Kathy (choir) praise for her Aunt Mary's 99th birthday! It was also her mom's birthday.
- *Caryl has a new great granddaughter, Nora. May God bless her.
- * Troop leader 44B wants to thank Rich for all the help he gives to the troop and to the church for sponsorship.
- *Rich hoping five Eagle Scout projects will help the church. Prayers for his mom, Doris who they think has norovirus.



SESSION'S REFLECTIONS

FEBRUARY 2025

SUBMITTED BY BETSY ENGELHARDT, CLERK OF SESSION

Year 2025 is starting off with a full slate of Elders ready to oversee the important work of our church. Following is the list of those who felt God's calling to serve:

Bill Connolly – Membership
Kathi Enering - Christian Education/Personnel
Dale Hamilton - Personnel
Mike Hashimoto – Finance
Rich Hepp – Property/Finance
Kit Rusinack - Mission
Matt Smart – Congregational Life
Sandy Smidt – Worship/Personnel
Carol Stanhope – Outreach

Positions elected by Session:

Clerk – Betsy Engelhardt
Treasurer – Howie Seufert
Board of Trustees:

President: Rich Hepp
Secretary: Betsy Engelhardt

Sexual Misconduct Response Team:
Pastor Chris Doyle
Betsy Engelhardt
Matt Smart

Dates to look forward to in 2025:

Feb 2 – Scouts Sunday
Feb 23 – Worship guest speaker Rose Niles will discuss legacy planning
Mar 2 – Joint service with ORPC at WMPC with baptism plans
Apr 27 (rain date May 4) – Levite Sunday
July 14 thru 18 – Vacation Bible School

So, Session is off and running in the new year. Please offer support to those that are serving and keep them all in your prayers.



Sunday School Doings

January was spent learning of the beginning of Jesus' ministry. We learned of the importance of John the Baptist -we even ate crunchy grasshoppers (locust)! Did you try one? Next we heard of Satan's attempt to tempt Jesus - ask a Sunday Schooler about candy and Play-Doo!

Disciples Snack Mix(yummy) was used to demonstrate how Jesus chose the Disciples.

During February, Sunday School will be frosting cupcakes to share with the congregation-spreading God's Love!

We also will be hearing of Jesus' first miracle and painting wine glasses!

As you can tell we use many different tools to connect the Bible stories to the children. Miss Dale and

Miss Kathi appreciate your continuing support with this method.

IMPORTANT DATES

February 9 Miss Dale and Miss Kathi's class preparing treats for Coffee Hour

Miss Kathi's class to host Coffee Hour

February 16 NO SUNDAY SCHOOL-Family Service

March 2. NO SUNDAY SCHOOL- 10:00 Joint Service at West Milford

Submitted by: Kathi Enering



February in the Pantry- 2025

There is no denying the value of a pet to provide unending love and companionship to folks but it's not easy for families struggling to put food on the table to keep their precious pets fed. The pantry asked last year, February 2024, for help with pet food because SNAP which is a government sponsored program to alleviate hunger, does not include resources for animals. Last December alone we served 77 families amounting to over 300 individuals with uncounted barkers, purrers, chirpers, squawkers, nibblers, swimmers, runners and slitherers that also needed food. There is an old Jewish proverb that says "you never soar so high as when you stoop down to help a child or an animal". Help us so we can all soar high as we help not just mankind but any kind. We'll be collecting the whole month of February. If you are unable to shop for pet food, remember that we accept monetary donations in the jar outside the sanctuary on the table which we will use to purchase food this month. THANK YOU!!!!!!!



“SAVE THE DATE”

WMPC COMMUNITY ONLINE AUCTION



**Friday, February 21 & Saturday,
February 22, 2025**

Two Preview Days on the 19th and 20th

For the FIFTH consecutive year, the Auction Committee of WMPC is excited to host **Community Online Auction**.

Please join us! This is one of our major fundraisers!

We are also still taking donations and sponsorships.

West Milford Presbyterian Church

COMMUNITY ONLINE AUCTION 2025



charityauction.bid/wmpchurch.org

FRIDAY, FEB. 21 & SATURDAY, FEB. 22

**Preview days
Feb. 19 & 20**

Enjoy bidding in the comfort
of your home!
Lots of great gift baskets,
experiences, home decor, food,
fashion and more!

FOR MORE INFORMATION- 973-728-3081

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



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26					31	1
9am - Worship Service 6pm - Scouts						11am - Aunt Jenny's Attic
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9am - Worship Service 10am - Boy Scout Sunday 11am - Cookie Walk 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	9am - Community Food Pantry 9am - Winter Farmers Market 11am - Aunt Jenny's Attic
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	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	Valentine's Day 11am - Aunt Jenny's Attic	NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 11am - Aunt Jenny's Attic
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
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	9am - Community Food Pantry 11am - Aunt Jenny's Attic
23	24	25	26	27	28	1
9am - Worship Service 6pm - Scouts	5pm - WM Players Tech 7:30pm - Zoom Bible Study	9am - Community Food Pantry 5pm - WM Players Tech	11am - Bible Study @ WMPC 1pm - Aunt Jenny's Attic 5pm - WM Players Tech	9am - Community Food Pantry 9am - Sr. Saints 5pm - WM Players Tech	11am - Aunt Jenny's Attic 5pm - WM Players Show	

2025