

Dear WMPC Friends,

Happy New Year!

January 2022 begins a new calendar year and a new decade. Our church year (Year C) began one month ago on December 5, 2021, the First Sunday of Advent. Our church calendar blesses us with time to be still in Advent and prepare, watch, and pray for the coming of Jesus as a baby born in Bethlehem and again in all his glory. Christmas brings us the good news of Jesus' birth. The Gospel of Luke gives us a message that encourages us and gives us hope to meet the New Year with whatever challenges we will face. The message Luke gives us is from the angel who spoke to the shepherds living in the fields the night Jesus was born. The angel said to them,

"Do not be afraid; for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord."

(Luke 2:11)

We are called to not be afraid and hear the Good News born to us.

I encourage you to take care of baby Jesus born to all, Emmanuel, God with us. Take care to nurture the faith born to us and grow closer to God through prayer, reading Scripture, Worship and practicing love and kindness. May we live the gift of joy, hope and peace born to all of us in and through Jesus the Christ. I pray each of us encourage one another by living our Baptismal Vows and call to

"let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven."

(Matthew 5:16)

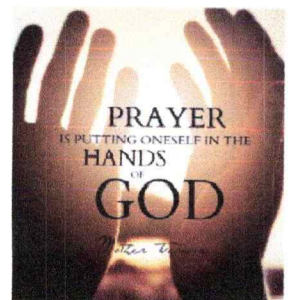
May we grow in the joy of Christ in 2022 and beyond!

In His Grace,
Pastor Justin Choi

Joys and Concerns



- *Rich Hepp- Joy to be driving down to SC visit his son Chris.
- *Audrey is happy to have her son and wife here from Maine for a visit.
- *Justin and Lisa are celebrating their wedding anniversary.
- *Justin is happy for the children's Christmas performance with the aid of the senior choir.
- *Lee is thankful for the two high school students who are singing with our choir.
- *Jan Halvorsen- Joy and thanks for Lee's Fabulous concert on Friday!
- *Marty Tappan- Also thanks to Lee for a great jazz concert! She especially loved "Rhapsody in Blue"!
- *Howie Seufert- Thanks for everyone's thoughts and prayers for their daughter Kristen. Surgery went well and she is home.
- *Sandy Smidt- Prayers to those in the 5 states that were devastated by the tornados this weekend.
- *Bob Gunderman- Prayers for his sister who had a fall and is not doing well.
- *Please keep Phyllis VanHooker in your prayers she fell and broke her hip.
- *Fran Ehrhardt- Prayers her sister-in-law Faye who's 96 year old mother has Covid. Faye also sold her home but due to complicated circumstances, now has no where to move.
- *Gladys's relative has serious medical issues.
- *Irene Ferris- Prayers for her friend who has lung cancer
- * Lee would like prayers for those who are struggling and ask that we see the face of Christ in those in need.





SESSION'S REFLECTIONS

JANUARY 2022

SUBMITTED BY BETSY ENGELHARDT, CLERK OF SESSION

Happy New Year to all. We pray the year ahead will be blessed with good health and spirit as we forge through the reality of living within the Covid pandemic. Our church can provide much support during these times as we embrace the role God plays in our daily lives and continue to reach out into our community with services that are needed. Our members can enrich their own spirits and uplift their own lives by helping to support leadership, events, and sponsorships throughout the year. As an Elder who has served this church throughout my 27 years of membership, I find I receive back far more than I give when I follow God's calling to serve in some of the following opportunities:

- Accept a leadership role by becoming a Deacon or Elder – seeking candidates for year 2022.
- Volunteer to join a committee – there is a committee for every function in this church – if you have a passion, gift, or talent to give, please approach a Deacon or Elder to offer help.
- Support a fund raiser – Virtual Auction / Cookie Exchange / Fish & Chips Take Out / Craft Fairs / Rummage Sale / Christmas Bazaar. You'd be surprised what a difference a few hours of labor or donations can make on the success of these events.
- Support our Food Pantry through labor or donations – seek a Deacon for current needs.
- Bring to Deacon's or Session's attention mission projects that could be supported by our church.

In our December Session meeting, Elders voted to become Members of West Milford Chamber of Commerce. Churches can enroll at no cost, and it provides great visibility through their promotional efforts. Outreach Committee and Clerk of Session will work throughout January to ensure our membership data base is current and accurate. In that effort, you will be receiving a letter asking you to confirm some valuable details that are required in yearly statistical reporting to PCUSA & Presbytery. These details help to ensure programs and services are being geared appropriately towards the memberships their churches are serving. We kindly urge you to complete these letters and return them back to the church office in January. The I & S committee continues to request the return of your 2022 pledge card if you have not already done so. It is also evaluating the need for weekly donation envelope packets since many in our congregation have transitioned to on-line giving. Their plan is to only distribute packets to those that need them. Finance committee would be happy to help confidentially and securely set up an on-line account and automatic payment schedules at your request.

Virtual Auction for the dates of Feb 24 through Feb 26 with pick-up date of merchandise in Fellowship Hall on Feb 27 is fast approaching. 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 well 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. CORPORATE AND SMALL BUSINESS SPONSORSHIPS MAKE A HUGE IMPACT. Please consider asking your employer and favorite business to support this event. Contact Betsy Engelhardt or Roberta Schmidt to offer your assistance or donations.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS: CONGREGATIONAL MEETING AFTER WORSHIP SUNDAY, JAN 23 WITH SNOW DATE JAN 30

PASTORAL NOMINATING COMMITTEE

JANUARY 2022 UPDATE - BETSY ENGELHARDT, PNC MODERATOR

STILL HARD AT WORK!!!

When the PNC began its work, we set up guidelines and principles by which we would conduct our business. We have been steadfast in following these principles and we have learned they have served us very well. These principles tell us our work must continue into the new year. Please keep us in your prayers as God leads us to continue our search.





Deacons Doings- January 2022

The Deacons are wishing you and all you hold dear, a healthy, happy and fulfilling year ahead. So much has been accomplished in 2021 for our church and so much lies ahead to accomplish in 2022, but with your help we know nothing is beyond this congregation's ability. Please search your heart and see if becoming a Deacon might be something you'd enjoy. We are in need of willing hands and caring hearts to fill our Deacon's team. There are jobs for all ages, all abilities, male or female. Whether it's serving our congregation or the larger community, you could make a difference. If your skill set includes cooking, working with money, decorating, ushering, greeting, writing, organizing, outreach, telephoning, just to name a few responsibilities we have, please consider signing on and joining us. May God keep you safe in the New Year, Bonnie

WA NEWS JANUARY 2022

Happy New Year!

To start our year off right we are planning a party for all the ladies. Our long delayed Roaring 20's party is scheduled for January 21st at 5 P. M. It is free to all women of the church. Good food and good fun so dig out your headbands, sequins, beads and boas and join us at the speakeasy.

We need a headcount for the food so sign up sheets will be available at coffee hour and the church office.

We have a lot more plans for 2022 so keep watching.

Blessings, Pam and Linda





Ladies of the Church
Please Join Us



January 21st 2022

5:00PM

Fellowship Hall

For an evening of Food and Frolic.

Hosted By The Women's
Association



WMPC Community Virtual

Back by popular demand! Our 2022 **Community Virtual Auction** will again be held completely online, **Thursday, February 24 through Saturday, February 26, 2022**. (Preview days on 22 & 23) Bid online from the comfort of your home! Just as last year there will be lots of great



items...home decor, experiences, food, and much more! As you know, the auction constitutes one of our most important fundraising opportunities to help us keep the doors open to our West Milford landmark and allow us to continue to assist our community through our Food Pantry and support services.

Please participate in our Virtual Auction by becoming a sponsor if you have a business, by providing an auction item and encouraging your friends and relatives to take part in the auction. We are looking for adventures, tickets, crafts, experiences, products, antiques, baskets, hand-made items, meals, tours, and anything else you might think of.

For 215 years, WMPC has maintained its commitment to the community through worship, music, Christian Education and, helping those in need. Please support our church in ANY way you feel comfortable. It is only through you that we can continue offering services to the community and providing spiritual support.

If you wish to participate in some way, please contact Roberta Schmidt at rbschmidt@optonline.net or 973-809-2694. More details and forms can be found on our website wmpchurch.org.

With appreciation,

Betsy

Betsy Engelhardt
Clerk of the Session

Roberta Schmidt
Auction Chair



RECIPE ROUNDUP

No Bake Pasta Bake Serves 5 - 6

Ingredients:

8 ounces (3 cups) dried pasta such as small shells, bowties, fusilli, or spirals

4 links chicken sausage, sweet or hot Italian sausage, or mini meatballs. If using sausage cook then cut into ¼ inch thick rounds

1 (28 ounce) can diced tomatoes **with the juice** (cut up tomatoes into small pieces)

2 cups shredded mozzarella, **divided**

½ teaspoon garlic powder ½ teaspoon salt

1 teaspoon Italian seasoning ½ teaspoon black pepper

1 /2 cup diced onion softened (place onion in a small bowl with a pat of butter. Microwave for 2 minutes)

1 cup heavy cream (don't substitute) 1 cup chicken stock

½ cup shredded Parmesan cheese

Directions:

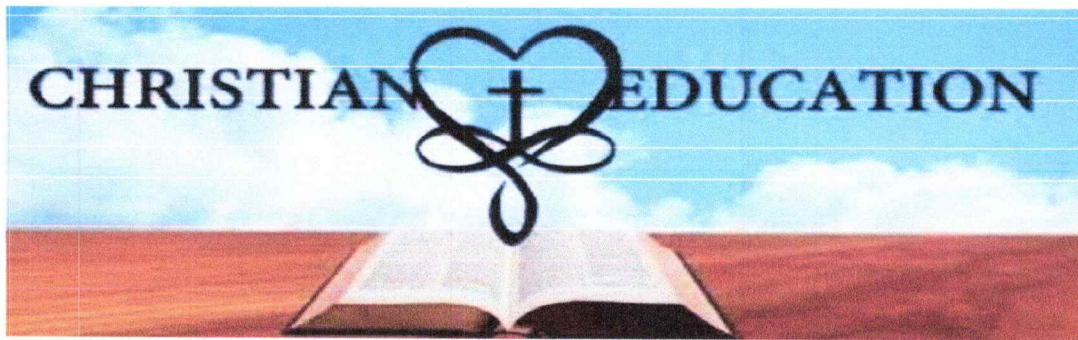
Preheat oven to 400 degrees. In a 7-8 cup greased casserole dish add the uncooked pasta, sausage, diced tomatoes **with juice**, 1 cup mozzarella cheese, garlic powder, salt, Italian seasoning, black pepper, and onion. Stir well. Pour the heavy cream and chicken stock over top and make sure that all of the pasta is submerged. Press down with the back of a spatula or large spoon.

Cover with two layers of aluminum foil making sure to crimp it very well so it is sealed. Put dish in the oven for approximately 1 hour and 15 minutes.

Remove from oven. Sprinkle with remaining mozzarella cheese and

Parmesan. Return to oven **uncovered** for 5 minutes or until cheeses have melted.

Remove from oven and let the pasta rest **uncovered** for 15 minutes before serving. This is important as the sauce really thickens up in this time. ENJOY!!!



Christian Education Committee

DECEMBER NEWS

This is such an exciting time of the year for children, it is hard to keep their focus with all the activities between Thanksgiving and New Year's. But our Sunday School teachers (Dale, Ruth, and Diane) pulled it off with a magnificent pageant held on December 12th. You could see the pride in the teachers and the parents as the children walked down the aisle and performed their part in the program. The little ones with their costumes stole the show as they always do, and the senior choir enhanced the whole performance with their intermittent verses of Christmas songs. The perfect ending was the beautiful voice of Jack DeLaat singing "Oh Holy Night." Thanks to our coffee hour hosts who followed at coffee hour with a lovely cake and homemade cookies. It was so nice to have eleven children attend and we hope the numbers will keep going up. We definitely feel we all (as a CE committee, pastor, worship committee and teachers) are becoming more in sync and sharing our talents and ideas.

There will be no Sunday School on December 26 or January 2nd. Children will receive a packet of information and craft materials related to the theme of those weeks, which they can work on during the service and continue at home.

Having a Sunday School family participate in lighting the advent candle each week was a nice addition. The children felt very proud to stand in front of the congregation.

During Advent, the children have heard stories about prophets such as Jeremiah, Zechariah, and John the Baptizer (Zechariah's son) Mary and Elizabeth. During the Season after the Epiphany, the children will explore some of Jesus' teaching and learn more about what it means to be followers of Jesus in today's world. This will bring the curriculum into the third quarter of lessons.

We turn then toward Lent, with the brilliance of the Transfiguration illuminating the way.



"Bits and Bites"

News from the Food Pantry

The West Milford Presbyterian Church Food Pantry would like to thank our church members, community individuals, businesses, and organizations in our community who supported our Food Pantry this past year. It has been heartwarming to see how people in our community have come together to care for one another, and we, the Deacons, are grateful for the outpouring of support our Food Pantry has received.

It wouldn't have been possible for us to maintain the Pantry without the generosity of many donors and volunteers who have stepped in to help. Our distribution of food has nearly tripled this past year as compared to last year. We have distributed not only weekly bags of meat, fresh vegetables, fresh fruits, dairy products, non-perishable foods, health and beauty aids and paper goods, but have been able to give out special "Valentine Goodie Bags" as well as our annual Thanksgiving and Christmas bags.

We will continue to keep our doors open for as long as there is a need. Thank you for making our work possible!

We ask that if you want to donate food items please do so when the church is open. With the cold weather, items left outside can freeze and then are unusable if no one is at church and can bring them inside. Any questions? I can be reached at 973-728-7369.

Jan Halvorsen



Thank You
Thank You
Thank You

West Mifflord
Presbyterian Church

Thankful for you
at the holidays
and always.

Merry Christmas

Thank You
for the generous
donations for
several community
projects
Hospice School
(we stand with
us/break
:)



Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26	27	28	29	30	31
1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30
31	1	2	3	4	5

New Year's Day

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

REPORTS DUE



10am - Worship
6pm - Scouts

10am - Worship
11am - Deacons Meeting
6pm - Scouts

10am - Worship
11:15am - WA Meeting
6pm - Scouts

10am - Worship
11am - Congregational
6pm - Scouts

Snow Date For Meeting
10am - Worship
11am - Congregational
6pm - Scouts

5pm - Roaring 20's Dinner