

## **A New Year's Plan**

I tried to think of a clever new phrase—  
A slogan to inspire the next 365 days,  
A motto to live by this coming New Year,  
But the catchy words fell flat to my ear.



And then I heard His still small voice

Saying, "Consider this simple, daily choice:  
With each new dawn and close of day  
Make new your resolve to trust and obey."

"Don't look back, caught in regret  
Or dwell on the sorrow of dreams unmet;  
Don't stare forward anchored by fear,  
No, live in this moment, for I Am here."

"I am all you need. Everything. I Am.  
You are held secure by my strong hand.  
Give me this one thing—your all in all;  
Into my grace, let yourself fall."

So, at last, I'm ready; I see the way.  
It's to daily follow, trust, and obey.  
I enter the New Year armed with a plan,  
To give Him my everything—all that I am.

--Mary Fairchild



# SESSION'S REFLECTIONS

JANUARY 2023

SUBMITTED BY BETSY ENGELHARDT, CLERK OF SESSION

Our hope is that everyone enjoyed a joyous Christmas holiday with our church and your family. Much went into the planning for the holiday traditions for our church. Our Christian Education committee, teachers, choir, and students worked hard to perform a wonderful Christmas pageant on December 18. Our Music Director Lee Tomboulion pulled together a musical Christmas Eve service with the help of 2 hired musicians. A Carol Sing service was planned for Christmas Day. All this was coordinated through our Worship Committee Chair, George Stoft and Deacons who provided the ushers and greeters. George will be working on pulpit supply to provide worship service coverage for the months of January and February.

Clerk of Session with the help of Senior Saints will be working in early January to gather all our historic records stored throughout our attics, closets, and file storage. Our goal is to safeguard these important documents by cataloging them, determining what will remain on our premises, and what will be transported for storage in PCUSA Historic Storage site in Philadelphia. We will purchase a fireproof safe to store records in-house once we determine the scope and size of the files we will keep at the church.

Mark your calendars for Sunday, January 29 for our annual congregational meeting immediately following church service. This meeting will include committee reports detailing activities of the past year, submission of the 2023 budget by the Finance Committee for approval by our membership, suggested changes to our Bylaws, approval of officers for the new year, and other important topics. It's an important meeting and we hope to have good attendance.

Session was happy to approve health benefits for our Church Secretary, Sandy Muzzillo. To facilitate coverage, we needed to increase her hours from 15 to 20 hours/week. Starting January, her office hours will be Monday and Wednesday, 9AM to 4PM and Thursday she will work from home 9AM to 1PM. The balance 2 hours will be filled as needed – checking phone messages, answering calls, and attending to church business as the need arises.

A special thanks was offered for Elders rotating off Session effective Jan 1. Rich Hepp served a whopping 9 consecutive years as Finance Chair and active member of the Property Committee. Don Wright served hard labor for 3 years as Property Chair and Congregational Life Chair. Matt Smart served 6 years as Outreach Chair, Christian Ed Committee, Personnel Committee, and a continuing active member of the PNC. We welcome Kit Rusinack as the only volunteer to fill a leadership roll beginning Jan 2023. She will be serving as Congregational Life/Outreach Chair. With 4 vacant Elder positions remaining unfilled in the new year, we will be dependent on volunteer labor to complete the work needed to keep our doors open and our ministry and outreach efforts vibrant. We are hopeful many will fill the need when called upon.

Happy  
New  
Year



## Joy's & Concerns

### Concerns:



- \* Pam: Continued prayers for a friend, Barbara, who is in and out of the hospital with illness.
- \* Linda Sibson's nephew has cancer. Prayers for him.
- \* Cyndy's son totaled car. Is fine but realizing how fortunate he was not to be injured.
- \* Howie's friend, Dave, fell and cracked his spine at work Prayers for healing.
- \* Kathy Holley's brother recovering from quadruple by-pass surgery. Continued prayers.
- \* Mary...continued prayers for husband's co-worker who is receiving chemo for a rare form of leukemia
- \* Mable.....Son-in-law has pneumonia
- \* Fran's neighbor's husband passed away.
- \* Five year old boy, Hector Lopez has blood and bone cancer. Many prayers are needed for him as he enters therapy.

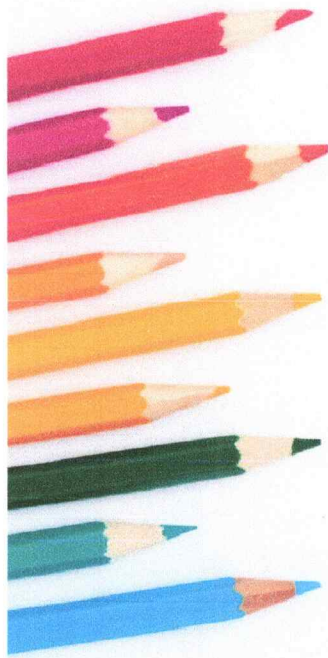
### Joys:

- \* Audrey VanKooy's son was here from Maine. The whole family was together yesterday.
- \* Bobbie del Sol's son got married.
- \* George Stoft will celebrate 18th birthday.
- \* Irene....Sophie and Rich returned from an exciting Scout camping week-end.
- \* Scout troop 44 is collecting money, items for Animal Shelter... blankets, food, welcome
- \* Roberta Schmidt thanked Christian Ed. teachers for their dedication. Christmas pageant was a wonderful presentation by our church school children.
- \* Mary Macheska is a grandmother. Grandson weighed 9 lbs. 6 oz. Mother and son are in excellent health.
- \* Kathy Holley is thankful that her brother is home from the hospital after his heart surgery.
- \* Jan Halverson had a large grocery load from Shop Rite. A very nice lady helped her load her bags then helped load it into her car. Her name is Laurie.
- \* Rich Hepp's aunt is visiting to see the pageant.

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**Session Members & Committee Chairs all reports are due to the office by January 12th. If you have any questions or need a copy of last year to work from please let me know.**

**Our Congregational Meeting will be on  
January 29th at 11:00am**



# LEADERSHIP

- ✓ Inspire People
- ✓ Empower People
- ✓ Shared Vision
- ✓ Lead Change

## LEADERSHIP NEEDED

Session and Deacons have important vacancies to fill beginning January 2023. Think what the church would be like if the following committee functions are unmanaged

SESSION: Property - Christian Education

DEACONS: Treasurer – Ushers & Greeters – Alter Flowers –  
Communion Prep - Outreach & Mission work

With the response to our POD PRIDE Sunday worship, we already have a volunteer service list of people willing to support many committees with the work to be done, BUT, we need leadership in place to define the tasks at hand and support the volunteers willing to help. We ask everyone to talk with God and ask what leadership gift and talents can be shared to ensure an exciting and vibrant future for our church. Contact the church office or Clerk of Session with your interest in joining the class of 2025.

**DOING THE WORK OF THE LORD  
GIVES BACK MORE THAN IT TAKES!**



### Sweet Stop Thanks

To every person, young and old, who measured, mixed, rolled, filled, chilled, baked, iced or sprinkled goodies for the Sweet Stop, a huge Thank You is being sent your way. To all those who cleaned out Aunt Jenny's Attic, a huge undertaking, so the Sweet Stop had a place to sell their treats, Thank You! To all who had a hand in decorating the room, selling the items, mingling with the crowd and creating such a convivial atmosphere, Thank You! Lastly, a big Thank You to Diane for giving us all the opportunity to have such a great day and show casing our church as one of the keystones of our community!!

### **GIFT CARDS**

On Monday Linda Fredricksen was able to deliver \$1,100.00 worth of gift cards to Wendy Becker, a school social worker. It was from the money collected from all of you. Yesterday I received this note from her. I want to thank everyone for their fabulous response to this fundraiser for the children of West Milford..it was wonderful

Good morning Linda, This is absolutely incredible. Thank you so much for organizing this collection to help support families in our West Milford community. Please be assured that they are going to be divided up equally among all the elementary schools. My fellow elementary school social workers and I will make the determination as to whom the recipients should be for the schools that they each work at. Thank you again for the gift cards and the incredible generosity of the West Milford Presbyterian Church. Merry Christmas!

Wendy Becker

# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

November and December 2022



In November, our Sunday School continued to explain the people and the times that led to the birth of Jesus. Our children were introduced to Moses and learned how he grew up in pharaoh's world. They learned how God called him to free his fellow Hebrews from captivity, and finally was allowed to lead them to freedom. Their exodus was explained via the parting of the Red Sea and Moses receiving the Ten Commandments from God. Children then enjoyed our Thanksgiving family service. The week after Thanksgiving service, our children entered the first week of Advent when they learned of Mary, and Joseph, and the birth of our Lord via Bible verse and advent candle lighting. In addition to the celebration of advent in the weeks to come, children began practicing their readings and parts for our Christmas Pageant, held on December 18. The pageant was



glorious....our children were fabulous and touched all our hearts with love and warm memories. Our older confirmands did a wonderful job with the narration.

And we offer a big thank you to Miss Dale and Ms. Kathi who organized and directed the children so skillfully. Thank you, too, to the choir and musical direction that greatly contributed to making the pageant extra special. This has been a time of many changes in our church, but happily the blessings of the season and support of our teachers, choir, and congregants, provided our children with a wonderful joyous experience. Sunday school classes will resume on January 8, and we look forward to welcoming our students back. Please feel free to invite friends and family to join us.





# 2023 WMPC Community Virtual Auction Is Back!

Thursday, February 23 through Saturday, February 25, 2023

(Preview days on 21 & 22)



Once again, you will be able to 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.

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

If you wish to participate in some way, you can find more details and forms on our website [wmpchurch.org](http://wmpchurch.org) or please contact Roberta Schmidt at [rbschmidt@optonline.net](mailto:rbschmidt@optonline.net) or 973-809-2694

*Betsy Engelhardt*

Betsy Engelhardt  
Clerk of the Session

*Roberta Schmidt*

Roberta Schmidt  
Auction Chair



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thru	Fri	Sat
1 New Year's Day 10am - Worship/Family Service 6pm - Scouts	2 New Year's Day (substitute)	3	4	5 9am - Sr. Saints	6	7
8 10am - Sunday School 10am - Worship 6pm - Scouts	9 7:30pm - Session	10	11	12 Reports Due 9am - Sr. Saints	13	14
15 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 10am - Sunday School 11am - Worship 6pm - Scouts	16 Martin Luther King Jr. Day	17	18	19 9am - Sr. Saints	20	21 1pm - Esther Memorial Service
22 11am - Sunday School 11am - Worship 6pm - Scouts	23	24	25	26 9am - Sr. Saints	27	28
29 10am - Sunday School 10am - Worship 11am - Congregational Meeting 6pm - Scouts	30	31	1	2	3	4

January 2023