
~FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE~

Volume 12 Issue 6

July & August 2021

Summer is here and it is Hot! Yet, it doesn't hold us back from celebrating our important day. It is the 4th of July and a great day to celebrate Freedom & Independence! Both were achieved at a high price! As I study the scriptures each week, I am reminded that the cost of such freedom has always come at a high cost. Many of us thought that the price was paid and now we are all set! Unfortunately, the battles continue as we remain vigilant to live in the faith of the covenant. With new and old conflicts to deal with, many people are continuing to put their rights over others. It threatens the principles of our beliefs. We are living in difficult times. It is very crucial that we need to be clear about our relationship with God in such a time as this.

West Milford Presbyterian Church is a blessed congregation as we are a strong community. We are willing to support common goals within our joint ministry! Thankfully, we have come together during these tough times! We come together through Rummage Sale. We come together through our Food Pantry Ministry that has broadened our outreach ministry. Now we are exploring new avenues to grow in the ministry of Jesus Christ such as the Bible Studies for children, youth, and adults, leadership trainings, and volunteer trainings, etc.

As the Summer months following, we need to stay mindful of the importance of our commitment to the body of Christ! Jesus taught, that the fundamentals of growth are remaining in Him. Even though we are brutally beaten by unexpected storms we still can be secure in His arms. When is the time that you see your gardening plants grow strong and fruitful? After rainstorms. In that sense, what Apostle Paul is saying in 2 Corinthians 6:1-10 encourages us a lot.

"Working together with him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. For he says,

'In a favorable time, I listened to you, and in a day of salvation I have helped you.' Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation. We put no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God, we commend ourselves in every way: by great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love; by truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; through honor and dishonor, through slander and praise. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold, we live; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, yet possessing everything."

It is my prayer that the ministry of West Milford Presbyterian Church will continue to pursue to be the body of Christ into the future. Have a Happy Summer!

In His Grace,
Pastor Justin Choi

Joys & Concerns



Joys

- *Congratulations to Mrs. Rodek who received the @NJPTA Outstanding Teacher Award!!
- *Bob Gunderman's- son here
- *Debbie Trusz- Joy for friends and relatives being in church with her during her Ordination
- *Thanks for the help with emptying the garages
- *Bob Gunderman's grand daughter, Jessica, will become a commissioned ensign in the Navy, and become a pilot.
- *Kathi Enering- Leslie Spohn is in remission
- *Many thanks for Senior Saints for massive help getting ready for rummage sale .
- *Thank you to Kathi for her many years as church school director. The church school service in church was very nice.
- *Kathy Enering- thanks for the help with Chuck's Memorial Bench
- *Was good to see two little ones being baptized last Sunday.
- *Rummage sale was a big success! Thanks to all who spent countless hours during these past weeks.

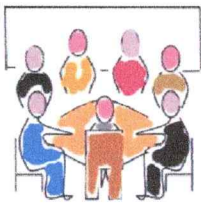
Concerns

- *Julia Held- Grand daughter who suffers with diabetes and celiac disease is having more testing for other auto immune diseases
- *Betsy Engelhardt- Ron is having cataract surgery
- *Claire Gray- Ben has new medicine for an auto immune disease and prayers that it works
- *Carol Stanhope- Thanks that her Mother in Law is now in Massachusetts in a memory care Facility, and concern that she now needs a higher level of care.
- *Don Wright- Prayers for his brother, Rich, in a hospital in SC.
- *Mary Macheska- Daughter Michelle had 4 wisdom teeth removed
- *Chris Rodek- father of one of her former students had a stroke-Jean Martin
- *Don Wright- brother Mike had heart transplant yesterday and sister with MS in hospital due to hip pain
- *Charley Moran (church member till he moved in 2003) is going to have radiation on a knot in his head.
- *Victor Webb- sister Shirley in England in hospital again
- *Irene Kershaw- continued prayers for her dad who is now in Rehab
- *Lisa Burns died- prayers for family
- *Melanie Gibson- prayers for all the nurses and aides working very hard and short staffed
- *Linda Fredricksen- prayers for friend, Kitty Malatak who is in the hospital with unexplained fever.
- * Mary Macheska Husband Lenny broke his hip.

Congratulations Graduates

- Tucker Fredricksen- PCTI (Passaic County Technical Institute)
- Aksel Malatak- WM high school
- Melissa Gray - WM high school
- Timothy Choi - Ogdensburg Middle school





SESSION'S REFLECTIONS

JULY / AUGUST 2021

SUBMITTED BY BETSY ENGELHARDT, CLERK OF SESSION

At our June Session meeting, we had the pleasure of meeting with the confirmands as they prepare for Confirmation Sunday. It's always a treat to see the kids who grew up in our Sunday school programs blossom to become insightful, polite, well spoken, and hopeful to remain part of our church family. We wish them the best in their endeavors and ask for their help in building a youth program that keeps them coming back for fellowship, bible study, worship, and outreach projects. Special thanks were offered to their teachers Doug Weed, Matt Smart, and Diane Eriksen. Mr. Chuck would be proud of the kid's accomplishments and will remain with them in spirit. Session made modifications to our Covid-19 protocol to comply with current NJ State Mandates. It will be left to individual parishioners whether to wear masks or social distance within our facilities and coffee hour will resume soon. We decided to keep collection boxes for weekly offerings rather than passing the plate AND will continue to use our individual communion packets until supplies are depleted. With attendance low and the ability to view our worship services virtually, we voted to **NOT** offer an early summer worship service in July and August. Property Committee reported that AA will not be renewing their lease with us HOWEVER; West Milford Players approached us with interest in using Fellowship Hall for their play practices and productions. Farmer's Market renewed their lease to operate June 2 through Oct 27. With 10 years of dedicated service to the children of our church, Kathi Enering is resigning her position as Christian Education Director effective June 27. She will miss the kids, their families, and the teaching staff. We thank her for her service all these years. The Christian Ed Committee will work hard over the summer to reorganize our programs. Unfortunately, there are no plans for Vacation Bible School this summer. To build on the systems in place from Kathi's leadership, we will need volunteers to help us design a program and teach our kids. Session will look forward to hearing from all who care about our church children and the future they hold in their hands for our church.

PASTORAL NOMINATING COMMITTEE

JULY/AUGUST 2021 UPDATE

Pastoral Nominating committee has been hard at work completing the Ministry Information Form (MIF). This form provides all the details needed by prospective applicants to understand who we are, our current programs, and our vision for our future. It also defines pastoral responsibilities and specific leadership characteristics we will be looking for during our search. We are close to our final draft which we hope to forward to Session for approval before the end of June. Once approved by our Session, it is forwarded to our Presbytery's Committee on Ministry (COM) for their approval. Once through the approval process, we will enter our details into the Church Leadership Connection (CLC) system. Thereafter, we should begin to receive applications during the summer months. We are happy to announce that our Finance Committee worked hard to analyze future budget predictions and were able to approve our search for a **FULL TIME** pastor to be contracted for a 4 year period with the generous commitment by Women's Association to cover benefit expenses. As long as budget predictions hold, we can elect to renew the contract beyond 4 years.

I am often asked why we need to go through this labor intensive process since Pastor Choi has expressed his desire to be considered an applicant. Our PNC is **mandated** to conduct a thorough search before deciding on our final candidate. We must be able to demonstrate that we viewed and researched applicable applications, interviewed strong candidates, witnessed live or virtual sermons, and scored the applicants on equal terms. We kept an odd number of members on the committee to ensure we would not be left with a tie vote when our work is completed.

We would ask for our congregation's prayers as we continue to search for the best candidate to serve our needs. We have a hard working committee who cares deeply about the future of our church.

Respectfully submitted,
Betsy Engelhardt, PNC Chair



Hello from Finance! Hope everyone is doing well. So after we lost The West Milford Group (AA) as a regular tenant to our facilities, we (Property & Finance) are excited to share we have successfully negotiated with "The West Milford Players" and they will be using our Fellowship Hall and Stage for two-three performances per year, as well as possible murder mystery dinners as fundraiser for our church! More to come on this late

After a strong start to the year, we now find ourselves in the summer slump of giving. Often we forget the church's financial commitments remain each week while we are away from church vacationing or visiting others. With On-Line giving, it's now easy to make your generous gifts without having to mail in checks. Simply use the link on our website to make send your gift. If you still choose to use envelopes and mail or turn in your gifts, I also want to point out that it is not necessary to write multiple checks for General, Building, Per capita, etc. Simply write one check, and in the memo area tell us what portion goes where.

Now that the rummage sale has ended, you will see work begin on the Scout House and Parish House for Vinyl Siding. This is a large expense, but being covered from our Manse Insurance funds.

Happy Summer to all!!

Deacons Doings- June 2021

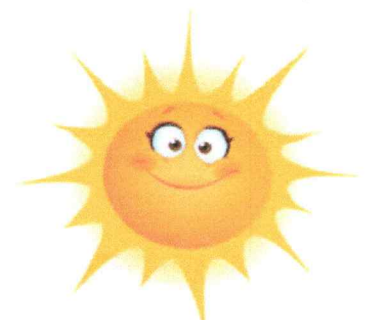
June was the month for **gratitude**.....

1) for the wonderful teachers, Kathi Ening, Dale Hamilton, Ruth Allen and Melissa Gray. They guided and infused our children with stories and lessons from the Bible that provided them with a firm foundation through the knowledge of Jesus and reverence for God's word.

2) for the Mentors who led our children on their journey of faith and ultimately to Confirmation....Doug Weed, Matt Smart, Diane Ericksen. They were there to help as our youth put their belief in God into words along with the importance of that belief personally.

3} for those who helped with the Deacon's Café at the Rummage Sale which is one of two yearly fundraisers. The money made is used to continue our mission to care for our church and community both local and worldwide. It's these two fundraisers that enable us to host repasts, provide cards and stamps for outreach, supply Communion needs, recognize Mother's Day, Father's Day, Veteran's Day, decorate the sanctuary on holidays and recognize some events with sympathy baskets or with thank you tokens. The money lets us share in Baptism by supplying a wrapped rose and cradle cross to the child entering the Christian church and by engaging with our Confirmands by supplying cake and gifts in recognition of their faith journey. We are able to thank their mentors for guiding them to become full members of the church by giving them tokens of gratitude for all their time and nurturing.

July and August are historically a time of rest and rejuvenation, but the Deacons will still continue to serve our community through the food pantry. We will be available to help when needed and Carol Stanhope is our Deacon for July who can be contacted. Let us know if there's anything we can do and otherwise, from all of us, have a wonderful, safe and healthy summer. Hope to see you in church! Bonnie



WA Newsletter

The pros of a Rummage Sale

1. You get to meet a lot of interesting people when they are dropping items off. Plus you get to hear a lot of their stories.
2. You get to examine a lot of very strange items.
3. You get to see a lot more of your friends as you work together for a worthy cause.
4. You get to laugh and wonder why people ever buy such bizarre items.
5. You get to continue a long church tradition.
6. You make the town people happy.
7. You hopefully make lots and lots of money for your church.

The cons of a Rummage Sale

1. Your back hurts and you're tired.

The pros win- praying our sale will be a great success.

Come July we'll start working on our new Thrift Shop.

Wishing everyone a safe and healthy summer.



New Jersey
PTA®

everychild.one voice.®

Nominated by:
Aphawa ES PTA
Passaic County

2021
OUTSTANDING
TEACHER
AWARD

Christina Rodek



THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

Congratulations Christina..

*Pastor Choi
Thank you for a
lovely service for Mom.
We are sincerely appreciative
of the congregation.
Please let the church
know how much we
appreciate all the
get well wishes &
sympathy cards
we received for
mom.*

*Pastor
Choi &
W.M. Presbyterian
Church members,*

*Thank you sincerely
for your
thoughtful kindness
at a time when it
was deeply appreciated
and gratefully acknowledged*

*By the Family of
Lisa N. Burns*

*Sincerely
Grateful.*

August