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~FOR

HEAVEN'S

SAKE~

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Volume 18 Issue 7

July & August 2025

## The Pastor's Pen –

Dear Church Family,

Well summer has certainly begun in earnest! I think I've known more graduates this year than any other year outside of when our boys graduated from high school themselves. Rummage Sale 2025 is now one for the books, by the time you read this we will have had our Middle Eastern Dinner, VBS is just a couple weeks away, we have our annual picnic scheduled for July 27<sup>th</sup>, and then on August 16<sup>th</sup> we're having another Outdoor Family Movie Night like we did last year. We're praying that it will be just another great way that WMPC reaches out to ALL in our community! And, of course, all of this DOES NOT overshadow everything else that WMPC does. The Food Pantry continues to be an important blessing for so many, Aunt Jenny's has become a place of respite for lots of folks, and Bible Study is still enjoyed by the several that come, and is also encouraged for all on Monday evenings or Wednesday mornings. WMPC is a busy place!

And of course, over the summer months, we worship with our brothers and sisters from Oak Ridge. Honestly, I always look forward to these services during the summer months, and not just because it means one service on Sunday mornings for me instead of two! When our worship spaces are fuller, the Spirit is so much more a part of the experience. On top of that, it's about building bridges and relationships and knowing that our congregation is not like a singular picture of the church, but rather one very small piece of the puzzle that comes together to form a beautiful portrait with each small piece doing its part.

I know that at least most of you know that we were in Iowa for six years before then being called to South Jersey. But what you may not know is that when Hala and I and the boys came to the US in 2005 so that we could embark on the adventure of seminary, my intention was not go into parish ministry, but instead, to return to the mission field. That's really where I saw my heart and felt called.

Then, on February 13, 2008, I filled the pulpit at this little church in this tiny town literally surrounded corn fields. As a seminarian, we were encouraged to fill pulpits in the many small churches in the area in order to serve the church, but then also, to get good practice at leading worship and seeing what parish ministry is like. They'd gone for a while without a regular pastor of any type, and then after the service was concluded, they asked me if I'd consider being their student pastor. Kind of thrown aback by that, I found myself a month later filling the role as their pastor.

I can only hope that the ministry that I offered them was a blessing, but I will say, that both Hala and I would gladly tell anyone that the blessing that we received in return far outweighed anything I could have done for them. They became our family. On Fridays, I would spend the day at the church office and visiting folks. When I started homeschooling our boys through

middle school years, they would come with me every Friday, and I'd usually drop them off at one family farm or another. They'd pick produce to bring home, learn about the farm, at one home they were getting piano lessons, while at another they got their Math from a retired Math teacher. (Math and I are not friends.) And every Friday afternoon I would return home with an assortment of stuff from gardens and even venison, beef, chicken and once a wild turkey. And they taught us what it meant to really be a part of a church family, to have folks you knew you could rely on, folks that you wanted in you and your family's life. When I graduated from seminary, they were all there and then back to our house for a party. I insisted on being ordained in that little church - it was complicated - but they were thrilled as I became the only candidate for ministry to be ordained in their church in their 150 years of existence. At my ordination, they gifted me my blue preaching robe that I now use during holiday seasons. And because of them, my call changed to parish ministry; being a part of that church was life changing for all of us. And that's exactly what the church is supposed to be.

I know that many of you feel that same way about West Milford Presbyterian. WMPC is much like a family that always has an extra place set at the dinner for whoever might stop by, and I think we can feel that good energy in the air.

SO, I'm going to request something from you all now. If you feel about West Milford Presbyterian as I still feel about that little church out in Iowa, I'd like you to consider sharing that story with everyone else in our church family. If you're willing and able, talk to me.

And I know that that may sound kind of wacky to some. But when we share our stories with each other, there's a closeness that develops, a sense of care and relationship. It's what Jesus wanted the church to be, and what we should always work toward and maintain. See ya at church!

Be Good & Do Good,  
Pastor Chris



## CONCERNS:

- \* Prayers for the insanity in the world.
- \* Riley praying for his paternal grandfather who has a brain tumor.
- \* Annette prayers for friend Carol who has bad back pain and her granddaughter Lauren whose jaw is still wired.
- \* Continued prayers for Myrtle, Karen and Tucker.
- \* Pam's sister Sue is in the hospital.
- \* Howie and Bonnie's grandson, Jake is in the hospital for observation. Prayers for him and the family.

## JOYS:

- \* Sandy's son and daughter in law welcomed Ardis on Monday. Nine pounds 51/2 ounces. Congratulations to all.
- \* Ted and Helen celebrated 56 years of marriage yesterday.
- \* Betsy commented on the wonderful dinner prepared by Chris and Hala. It was a delicious Auction item.  
It's also wonderful to have rummage items out of the fellowship hall so we can enjoy the beautiful job the Hepp boys did in the room.
- \* Joy for grandma Pat's birthday.
- \* Sandy is happy to be home after a month and a half in China.
- \* Kathy Holley- Bill and Sue are at their grandsons baptism. Two of Kathy's grands are on their way to Portland to visit with their uncle.
- \* Landon is going on an airplane to Disney. He really wants a big doughnut.
- \* Joy for the baptism of Matthias Glenn Arias. This sweet little boy even came to help at rummage set up.
- \* Today is John Nemeth's birthday.
- \* Tucker was sent home from rehab after 3 days. This Vikings recovery is a true miracle and we thank everyone for their prayers.





# SESSION'S REFLECTIONS

JULY/AUGUST 2025

SUBMITTED BY BETSY ENGELHARDT, CLERK OF SESSION

Summer months are usually a time when we take a break from meetings and reserve space for family gatherings, vacations, and enjoying the joys this season can bring. As usual, it doesn't mean there aren't plans in the works for some great events and important projects around the church. First up would be our fabulous VBS the week of July 14<sup>th</sup> that is so enjoyed by the kids who participate. Let me take this opportunity to thank Kathi Eninger & Dale Hamilton for all the preparation required each year along with the volunteers who help make it so memorable. Don't forget that joint service with ORPC will be held in our sanctuary at 10AM throughout the month of July. We have set July 27<sup>th</sup> as the date of our annual church picnic. If you haven't had your picture taken for the Church directory, or you would like an updated picture taken, please see Don Wright in Fellowship Hall after worship throughout July. August, we have reserved the date of August 16 for our second annual Outdoor Movie Family Festival Night. We are reviewing the list of new release movies and hope to pick a family friendly one for all to enjoy. We plan on food trucks, Rich Barry's Band, night hours for Aunt Jenny's, and an activity center for the children. Joint services with ORPC will be held throughout August at 10 AM in their sanctuary. A new load of drainage rock will be delivered in August so we can continue our work on restoring our cemetery gravestones. If you signed up to be part of the cemetery committee, emails will be forthcoming to remind everyone of the proper procedures to follow when cleaning the stones. If you are new to this project and would like to lend a hand with cleaning the grass away from the overgrown sites, we welcome all hands! If you want to resign from the committee, please see Betsy Engelhardt to return the cleaning supplies. We can use them to complete this important project. We would love to see this project completed in time for All Saints Day the weekend of November 1<sup>st</sup>. What more appropriate date than that to commemorate those past members of our congregation who chose to be buried on our property. Further into the Fall we hope to host an outdoor animal blessings event – date yet to be advised.

In the meantime, enjoy what the lazy, hazy, days of summer have to offer. Be safe and build happy family memories throughout the next 2 months.

# DEACON'S DOINGS

June 23, 2025

Carnations were presented to the church ladies on Mother Day in May. Children handed out chocolate bars to the church men on Father's Day in June.

Deacons were a part of the whole church congregation during May and June as we set up for our big annual church bazaar. Patrons were hungry and gobbled up the barbeque hot dogs and hamburgers created in the Deacon's Cafe by our famous honorary Deacons, Dale and Kathi. Kathi's mother, Jane, posted herself at the book sale booth. We met many very interesting people and were surprised to see that our old, vintage books were rapidly sold.

On Sunday, we will have another baptism in our church!

During the month of July, the Oak Ridge church members will join us for worship. We will begin the month with the serving of communion.

The deacons will be taking a hiatus during the summer months. When we return in September, we will meet to discuss the suggestions that came from the joint Session-Deacon meeting.

Enjoy your summer. We'll see you in church!

Marty Tappan

Deacon Moderator





# WA Newsletter

WHEW! Such a busy time. We were lucky to have such nice weather for our 71st Rummage Sale. So many people came-especially on Friday morning. I actually met a woman up by the garages at 7AM.

Most thanked us for having such a great sale that they look forward to each year. They are also impressed by how organized we are. Some even realize the amount of work that goes into it.

We are so very grateful to the group of folks who show up every day to unpack, sort, price and organize all the items we receive.

And the guys who “pick things up and put them down”, they are the backbone of our sale (and other events). Our backbones are getting older and could really use some younger backs to step up and help them. There is always something you can do.

Also great thanks to everyone who showed up on the day the sale to help serve our customers. Also those who helped pack up everything after the sale. We are blessed to have such a wonderful church family.

We are also grateful to the men, women and children who are not members of our congregation but offer to help us. There is always something to be done. One even came to help with one arm in a sling. God bless them all.

That said the Rummage Sale brought in \$26,014.97 before expenses. We will have a final total soon-but we done good!

Now since we don't like to be bored, we will be opening Aunt Jenny's Attic in August. We are also sending out contracts for our Christmas Bazaar on November 22nd.

The best of all these fund raising events is the fact that when we need money for repairs or Church improvements we have it. Just look at the beautiful transformation of our fellowship hall.

As I said we are truly blessed to have such a beautiful, hard working church family.

Have a wonderful summer. See you all at the church picnic on July 27th and movie night on August 16th.

Linda



# Sunday School Doings



Ecclesiastes 11:7 Sunshine is sweet-it is good to see the light of day.

Summertime is the time to enjoy God's creation-play outside, go to the beach, go for a hike so many ways to enjoy God's creation!

Maybe summertime is God's way of saying take a pause from your busy day and enjoy the moment and be grateful.

While we are not in Sunday School we can still stay connected to our faith by helping others, being kind to everyone, worshipping God with our church family and coming to Vacation Bible School July 14-July 18.

## Important Dates

VBS July 14th-18th 6:00pm-8:15pm

Movie Night August 16th 6:00-starting time for movie-8:15

First Day of Sunday School September 7th.

Have a blessed summer!



Submitted by:

Kathi Ening

## LAST CHANCE FOR VBS!!!

Don't miss out on this FREE five-day program that will have your kids learning and having fun. A light dinner is served while they enjoy some special entertainment.

CALL OR EMAIL NOW!

### West Milford Presbyterian Church Vacation Bible School



**JULY 14-18, 2025**

6:00 - 8:15 pm

Ages: 4-12 yrs

1452 Union Valley Road  
West Milford, NJ

**Must Register in Advance!**

**Call: 973-728-3081**

**Email: [kmenering@gmail.com](mailto:kmenering@gmail.com)**

# WMPC COMMUNITY PANTRY

Yup! It's summertime and the "livin' is easy"! Time to turn on the grill, throw on the hot dogs, bring out all the fixings, then sit back and enjoy. This is what the WMPC COMMUNITY PANTRY wants to do for our clients and we need your help. If you can provide any of the "fixings" listed below, please drop off at the church (there is a gray tub at the back door or someone will be there to accept your donation). You can also find some of these items on our Amazon Wish List! We will keep going until we run out of hot dogs.

THANK YOU in advance for anything you can drop off.



community  
**PANTRY**  
West Milford Presbyterian Church

**CONTRIBUTE TO  
OUR DINNER KIT!**

*We've got the hot dogs,  
if you'll help supply the fixings!*

Please donate any items from  
the list to complete a dinner kit!

Kindly drop off items  
Tuesdays & Thursdays, 9-5 PM  
or place in the drop off bins  
outside the Fellowship Hall.

**973-908-5985**  
1452 Union Valley Rd, West Milford, NJ

**Items Needed!**

**HOT DOG SUMMERTIME  
DINNER KIT**

- Baked Beans
- Canned Chili
- Canned Sauerkraut
- Mustard
- Ketchup
- Hot Dog Rolls
- Potato Chips
- Chocolate Chip Cookies



# The Easiest Way to Donate!

If you are an Amazon user, this is the perfect way to donate! As summer approaches, the donations tend to be less as we are busy with camps, barbeques and vacations. BUT the need is greater for others since kids are home all day....needing lunch, more snacks, lunches and more. If you have a little to spare this summer, please consider clicking the link above. You all know how much we appreciate it.

*Exciting News!*

## **Our pantry has an Amazon Wishlist!**

Now you can help us stock our shelves with much needed items, **simply click, select, & donate!** Items are shipped directly to our pantry quick & easy!  
*(See link in comments below)*

*Thank you for your generous support!*

  
community  
**PANTRY**  
West Milford Presbyterian Church



In addition to bringing supplies to the WMPC Community Pantry (at the Presbyterian Church), you can now also order from their Wishlist and it will be delivered right to the church!

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29	30	1	2	3	4	5
		9am - Community Food Pantry	11am - Bible Study @ WMPC 1pm - Aunt Jenny's Attic	9am - Community Food Pantry 9am - Sr. Saints	Independence Day 11am - Aunt Jenny's Attic	11am - Aunt Jenny's Attic
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
10am - Joint Worship 6pm - Scouts	VBS Set-Up 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	9am - Community Food Pantry 11am - Aunt Jenny's Attic
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
10am - Joint Worship 6pm - Scouts	VBS 7:30pm - Zoom Bible Study	NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 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
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
10am - Joint Worship 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 6:30pm - Canning Club	11am - Aunt Jenny's Attic	9am - Community Food Pantry 11am - Aunt Jenny's Attic
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
10am - Joint Worship 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		

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