

Thankfulness and Appreciation

First, thank you for all the care and concern surrounding my fall, which resulted in a busted upper lip. The story was supposed to be that my wife punched me, but the truth is that as I walked to the bathroom in the middle of the night, I fell down on the bathroom floor. Ouch! I headed off for the Emergency Room and received stitches on my lip, and discharged.

Thanks to God, I was able to conduct Confirmation Worship on Sunday morning. "Thank You!" for your encouragements and prayers. I kept thinking the whole time that this is just one more example of how West Milford Presbyterian Church care for one another!

In my current incident, it reminds me of the book of James 1 :2-4 - "My brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of any kind, consider it nothing but joy, because you know that the testing of your faith produces endurance; and endurance have its full effect, so that you may be mature and complete, lacking in nothing."

"Consider it joy when you face trials," James writes. It almost sounds like the same sort of sentiment, but really, they are not. Even though we are suffered in this world, James advises Christians to be very different. By placing our trust in God and relying on him for strength, for growth and for direction, we ACTUALLY WILL grow and mature through the difficult things of life. Further, we can so completely rely on God's care for us that we can be joyful when we see difficult times coming.

Is that an overstatement? Should we be saying, "OH BOY! Another miserable day! More rotten stuff is happening to me! I'm so happy!"? Well, ok, maybe that's over the top. But if we can move in the direction of seeing God's hand guiding us through those difficult moments, helping us deepen our faith and trust in him, helping our character and endurance level grow, then perhaps we can see where James is trying to lead us.

Should we look for trouble in life? Perhaps not. But we needn't fear it either, because as we move through life in faith, acting in love and living in forgiveness, we can truly know that growth and blessings will come - not on our schedule, but on Gods. Not according to our priorities, but Gods. And not fearing the trouble that comes by living faithfully, we may actually get ourselves into some hot water. By God's grace, we endure and grow and mature, and his Kingdom of grace, love and forgiveness grows in and through us.

In His Grace,

Pastor Justin Choi, Interim

Prayers:

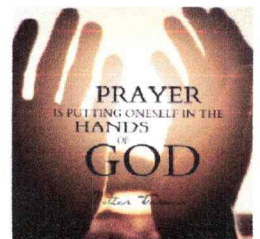


Joys;

- * Bob & Linda Sibson celebrating their 52nd wedding anniversary
- * Thanks to Kevin Goodsir, Lou Muto and DeMarco's for preparing the first Chuck Ening soup kitchen meal for those in need. It was much appreciated. In 2 weeks it will be held at St. Joseph's church.
- * Joy for the beautiful Confirmation service for Sydney Scilingo and Sophie Ferris.
- * Thank you to Sandy Smidt for leading and teaching the girls.
- * Bonnie Seufert thanks for two beautiful girls.
- * Fran Ehrhardt gives thanks for concerns and well wishes for her husband Jeff during his illness.
- * Julia Held is going to son Richard's wedding ceremony. First wife died found new happiness.
- * Bob Gunderman is celebrating the birth of his 6th great-grandchild.
- * Jan was tutoring a lady from Ukraine, lost track of her. Saw her again and tutoring will resume. Her family was able to flee to Poland.
- * Howie thanked Rich Hepp for building the shed for the Women's Association. Rich thanked all involved..father,brother,senior saints.
- * Jack Delaat said it would have been 68 years of marriage to Myrtle.

Concerns:

- * Myrtle's son-in-law is having a hip replacement.
- * Mary Macheska friend Pam, is having surgery
- * Lee says prayers for Susan Spinelli whose husband died on St. Patrick's Day.
- * Sydney;s dad, Chris, left service early because of a kidney stone attack. Prayers for him.
- * Irene Kershaw's friend is fighting breast cancer. Sophie's friend has been diagnosed with leukemia.
- * Mike Hepp friend's 24 year old son died unexpectedly.





SESSION'S REFLECTIONS

JUNE 2022

SUBMITTED BY BETSY ENGELHARDT, CLERK OF SESSION

It is always a special time when our Confirmation Class meets with Session to read their Statements of Faith and converse with the Elders of our church. This year Confirmands Sophie Ferris and Sydney Scilingo were commended for their thoughtful statements. Each reflected a very personal connection with our church and with God. We will look forward to their Confirmation on May 22 and are hopeful they remain active in church in the years ahead.

Clerk of Session proposed that our church consider becoming a Matthew 25 Church. A special page is devoted in this newsletter describing the concept and its outreach potentials for our church. I encourage you to take the time to read this page and watch the video referenced within. There is no point joining this membership unless we create a Matthew 25 committee to oversee outreach activities. Once members understand the concept and would like to be involved in making this a reality for our church, please reach out to any Elder or the church office so committee members can begin to be compiled.

Property Committee had a list to items to report. Special thanks to those who participated in Levite Sunday, completing special projects throughout the church AND to Rich Hepp, Irene Kershaw, and Sr. Saints for erecting the thrift shop shed in record time and at great savings. The committee submitted a proposed lease agreement to Passaic County for use of our Fellowship Hall as a daily senior adult daycare operation. They responded they cannot meet the lease payment amounts, so they have been asked to counter bid on the lease amount. We will await their reply and consider our continued interest in this collaboration at that time. We hope to see work begin on replacing our sanctuary windows by Windows Galaxy USA very soon. A bid from Abbood Construction has also been accepted for window and door replacement at the scout house.

Session has decided there is little interest in an early summer worship service for the months of July and August. We will continue with just one Sunday service at our normal meeting time at 10AM for these summer months.

BECOMING A MATTHEW 25 CHURCH

Matthew 25 – Verses 34 to 36

³⁴Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; ³⁵for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.'

The new wave of pastoral candidates choosing a profession in ministry have a common theme on their priority lists. They are looking for congregations representing diversification and are anxious to engage in positive changes towards social injustice. There is a program originated by PCUSA in 2016 known as Matthew 25 that helps churches evolve with changing times and provides a forum for collaborative work with other congregations. Since our township and congregation has historically consisted of a largely white population, we must reach beyond our church walls and town borders to engage with other more diverse communities. The message behind the bible verses in Matthew 25 focuses on the idea that what we do matters to God AND how we treat the least matters the most.

The guiding principles behind Matthew 25 churches are:

- Building congregational vitality (who would miss our church if we no longer existed?).
- Dismantling structural racism.
- Eradicating systemic poverty.

The impact that Matthew 25 churches have experienced:

- Increase in spiritual energy of their congregations
- Increase impact of their churches in the world
- Increase in new disciples and participation in ministry & worship
- Ignite PCUSA's witness work

Examples of work being done within Matthew 25 churches range from expansion of food pantry connections, partnering with more diverse congregations with bible study and fellowship opportunities, engaging with prison inmates, collaborating with mental health agency for outreach opportunities, just to name a few.

To learn more about this opportunity, visit the resources available through:

[PCUSA.ORG](https://www.pcusa.org)

Click on Mission tab

Click on Programs & Services tab

Scroll down to "M"

Click on Matthew 25

WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE OUR CHURCH ENROLLED IN THIS OUTREACH OPPORTUNITY? WE NEED TO FORM A MATTHEW 25 COMMITTEE TO MAKE THIS PROGRAM A REALITY. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS EXCITING VENTURE FOR OUR CHURCH, PLEASE CONTACT ANY ELDER OR THE CHURCH OFFICE.

VIEW THE FOLLOWING VIDEO TO WITNESS THE POSSIBILITIES: <https://vimeo.com/640108279>

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

The Sunday School sessions for April were designed for all ages to come together to explore the events of Holy Week (April 10th) and the story of Easter (April 17). Children learned about devotion or “gracious ministries” to others and to find new ways to express their love to God. On Palm Sunday, the children learned about Jesus’ triumphant entry into Jerusalem, followed by his and his disciples’ movements and teachings during Holy Week. Teachers decorated the sanctuary windows with projects they have been doing during their classes along with important bible verses they have learned. The children participated during the church service by giving out palms, reading the scriptures and collecting the offering. They also turned in their fish boxes for One Great Hour of Sharing. An Easter Egg hunt was scheduled outside, however, due to weather conditions, children hunted and crafted in their classrooms instead. During their time in the sanctuary, children received a Palm Sunday activity folder, to read and color with their families, which included information about Holy Week. Similarly, Easter Sunday was a family service and, once again, the children received an “Easter” activity folder that coordinated with the lectionary of that week. Children then learned about Jesus’ disciples (Peter) moving about the land spreading the word of God and affirming the resurrection of Jesus.

The Sunday after Easter was Levite Sunday, and after church, members, confirmands, and children did chores to spruce up the church grounds, sanctuary, and offices. Pizza, drinks, and cookies were sold to the participants for lunch to raise money for the end of the year Sunday School picnic.

Confirmation Classes continued as the confirmands created their statements of faith and stoles. A beautiful Confirmation Service was held for Sophie Ferris and Sydney Scilingo on Sunday, May 22nd followed by a cake celebration at coffee hour. We are so pleased to welcome them into our church family.

The date for Sunday School Promotion is scheduled for Sunday, June 12 with a picnic and celebration after church. Everyone is welcome to come and congratulate our children. If you wish to bring a dish to add to the meal, please sign the sheet in fellowship hall.

Summer will bring some new activities for the children with curriculum based packets available each Sunday.



Deacons Doings-June

The food pantry is an ongoing mission that our church has agreed to invest with its space, time and support. Currently it is open for help with food on Mondays and Thursdays from 9-5, and is staffed by four dedicated workers. All calls are routed through a central cell phone number that then sends the requests to the four workers on their scheduled day and time. There are calls for food, to get information, to alert the pantry about food sources, and to donate. The food the pantry passes on is either purchased by a shopper or donated. Shopping is done before the Monday hours and again before the Thursday schedule.

The need for pantry services persists because of many reasons. The loss of jobs isn't the only reason but also includes older folks that don't get enough in assistance as through Social Security to make ends meet, chronic illness or physical limitations that drain their reserves, eviction, dealing with mental illness, divorce or loss of a partner. Each month we have 50+ families that depend on us. Some have no ovens to cook with, no cars or other means of transportation, no network of friends or a church to help, and that is where we fit in. We are proud of the service our church has been providing before and after the Pandemic started but we can really use your help at this point. Food must be kept in order in the pantry room and culled continually for out of date stock. Refrigerators and freezers must be cleaned and straightened as meats, vegetables, fruit, eggs and dairy come in. The spaces we use have to be cleaned and sanitized. Maybe you see something here that you could help with and would be willing to set aside some time for. Maybe when you look at the list of food items needed in the bulletin you would be interested in donating a few. It's our church mission, it's our community, it could be any of us. Please consider helping. Thank you for your caring and any help you have given in the past. Bonnie



WA June 2022

First of all I want to thank everyone for all the cards, flowers, calls, texts, visits, food, and especially the prayers that I have received from my wonderful church family during my illness. I am feeling stronger each day and hope to be back to "me" soon.

I'm also thankful for the great people I work with. To be able to say -why don't we . . . and it becomes a fantastic event like our dinner or tea party or Aunt Jenny's Attic. It's a fabulous feeling.

I was very disappointed to miss our tea party but from the pictures (thanks to Don), reviews from attendees and comments on Facebook, it was a great success. Looking forward to next year!

Also heartfelt thanks to Rich Hepp and his team for building the shed for Aunt Jenny's Attic- in record time! They are all so fantastic and always willing to help. We are so blessed to have such wonderful, caring, helpful people in our midst. Thanks again.

Sadly we had to cancel our outdoor bazaar due to the weather. Thanks to Diane for the effort she put in.

Now all our thoughts are on our biggest event-Rummage. A chance for all of us to work together having laughs and helping our beloved church. All help appreciated and welcome.

See you in church! Linda



To all of the Women's Association;

It was an absolute pleasure building this shed for the Women's Association. Amazing contributions from Irene Kershaw, my Dad Frank, my Brother Mike, the Senior Saints, Ed Devane, and Pastor Justin. It's tremendous what a team can accomplish in a week!

I've also attached some pictures of the build!

Attached are the receipts. I will also give you the hard copies for your records. We used my dad's military discount along with tax exempt for the purchases.

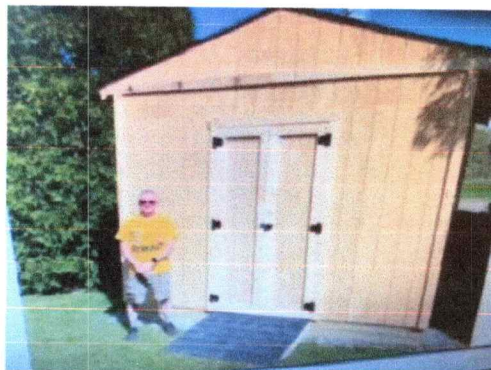
5/3/22	\$1520.33	lumber 1st trip
5/3/22	\$1131.93	lumber, roofing, screws, 2nd trip
5/5/22	\$ 357.37	additional lumber, hinges, facial trim boards
5/12/22	\$-200.94	credit for unused materials
5/12/22	\$ 214.33	materials for ramp, additional trim, screws, slide bolt, screen.

Total material cost \$3023.02

We originally budget \$3500, so I glad to come in well under.

Best Regards.

Rich Hepp





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West Milford, NJ 07480
(973) 728-3081



June 24th & 25th 9:00- 4:00
June 26th 12:00 -3:00

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat



5

10am - Worship/ Pentecost
6pm - Scouts

6

7

1:30pm - Farmer's Market

9am - Sr. Saints

9

10

11

12

Sunday School Promotion
10am - Worship
5pm - Fry Recital
6pm - Scouts

13

Flag Day

14

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
1:30pm - Farmer's Market

9am - Sr. Saints

16

17

18

19

Father's Day
10am -
6pm - Scouts

20

Children's Day

21

1:30pm - Farmer's Market

9am - Sr. Saints

23

9am - Rummage Sale

24

9am - Rummage Sale

25

26

10am - Worship
12pm - Rummage Sale
6pm - Scouts

27

28

1:30pm - Farmer's Market

9am - Sr. Saints

30

