

**From the Pastor's desk...**

Dear Church Family,

Our days are filled with things to do, email to write, phone calls to make, appointments to keep, and shoveling snow. We always have something to do. The season of Lent brings additional layers of activity, but I hope and pray the Lent practices are not to make another layer of what-to-do lists on your life. In truth, the opposite is what Lent is designed for. It is to help us not to be busy, but stay still.

Henry Nouwen says, "From all that I said about our worried, overfilled lives, we are usually surrounded by so much inner and outer noise that it is hard to truly hear our God when he is speaking to us. We have often become deaf, unable to know when God calls us, and unable to understand in which direction he calls us". We need to learn to listen to God. There is some free inner space where we can listen to our God and follow his guidance."

The season of Lent is set aside for us to reorient ourselves, to gain the proper perspective on things, and put our priorities in order. We take off our old self so we might be adequately prepared for Easter. Lent starts with the words, "Remember you are dust and to dust you shall return," That is the heart of Lent. To get there we may need to slow the rhythm of our days enough that we can move from deafness to obedient listening. This kind of listening does not magically happen all at once. It is a practice that must be cultivated and cultivating anything takes time.

Jesus always listening to God the Father. He always has attentive ears to God and always has alert for God's directions. It was this being tuned into God that enabled Jesus to tell his followers: "Do not worry about your life, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear?' For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." (Matthew 6)

The Lenten disciplines of prayer, fasting, meditation, and donation have further meaning than the ritual themselves. They are tools that pay better attention to the mercy of God. Claimed by God in baptismal waters we are beloved children! The daily agenda for our lives has its starting point here.

With the anxiety of spreading the coronavirus, turbulent financial markets, and the uncertainties of the future, we have a chance to exercise of choosing which voice we will tune our ears to hear. As we gather at the Lord's Table and tune in to the words "this is my body...this is my blood...given for you," we are assured that Christ will walk with us in life or death, up and down, helping us to cling to the old rugged Cross and exchange it someday for a crown.

In His Grace,  
Pastor Justin Choi





# SESSION'S REFLECTIONS

MARCH 2021

SUBMITTED BY BETSY ENGELHARDT, CLERK OF SESSION

We are excited that a new practice has been established to invite a Deacon Liaison to our monthly Session meetings. This will expand our communication abilities and help these 2 important leadership groups work in harmony with each other. A representative from Women's Association also joined our February meeting to update us on their exciting plans for the New Year. Session voted to reopen our Sanctuary for Sunday worship starting February 28, following the safety protocols established for reopening in the fall. Masks will be mandatory and ushers will be socially distancing all seating upon arrival. The State mandates our occupancy cannot exceed 35%, which permits seating for 73 people in our Sanctuary. Overflow capabilities into Fellowship Hall can accommodate an additional 73 people, with viewing of the service available through monitors. Beginning in the month of March, WMPC will leave Palisades Presbytery and become members of the NW Presbytery (formally known as Newton). We will look forward to getting to know our new Presbytery and working with their staff.

**CALLING ALL TECH SAVVY MEMBERS:** We need to support our Pastor in the new virtual reality we find ourselves living in these days. We are forming a committee that can help record our Sunday services, handle postings on Facebook and U-Tube, set up technology required for overflow services into Fellowship Hall, and lend a helping hand with other virtual projects in our future. Perhaps our high school students or those who are verse in maneuvering in the virtual world can be a valuable resource for our church. Pastor Choi needs help – please reach out to our office and provide your name as a tech volunteer.

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## **PASTORAL NOMINATING COMMITTEE MARCH 2021 UPDATE**

Pastoral Nominating committee met in February to thank our Palisades Presbytery Liaison, Joan Davies, for her support throughout year 2020. WMPC will become part of the NW Presbytery (formerly Newton), beginning the month of March. We will be assigned a new Liaison at that time. The committee will not be meeting again until we establish a connection with our new Presbytery, hopefully resuming our work in April. We will keep our membership updated in the Spring. Respectfully submitted, Betsy Engelhardt, PNC Chair



## **Women's Association March 2021**

February has been a frigid, snowy, icy mess but March will hopefully be bringing us a beautiful Spring.

Our church doors have been closed for services but have been open to help others and to promote fellowship.

Yesterday we had a truly wonderful cookie walk; we sold out! Thanks to all the bakers and to Mary Macheska for organizing. Also thanks to our crafters, Diane Eriksen for the gnomes and Karen Willmott for the table runners. Kathy Holley sold scrip and we also sold Fish and Chip tickets and handed out Valentine bags from the Deacons. The very best part of the day was seeing old and new friends come and having a chance to talk, laugh and share news with each other.

We are now looking forward to our Fish and Chips dinner on 3/5 from 5-7 and our first ever Virtual Auction on 3/18-3/20.

The session has approved idea of Woman's Association running a thrift shop "Aunt Jenny's Attic" and we are moving forward on that.

We are also planning on having our Thursday morning chatfests-if the weather will cooperate.

Session has also approved our Spring Bazaar on May 22nd for which we already have vendors. If you wish to have a booth please contact Diane Eriksen at 973-670-2996 for info.

As you can see a lot is going on so please come and join us and share your thoughts with us. Our next meeting will be on 2/25 at 10 AM in Fellowship Hall.

Blessings and hugs, Linda and Pam





[CHARITYAUCTION.BID/WMPCHURCH.ORG](https://CHARITYAUCTION.BID/WMPCHURCH.ORG)

Join our Community Virtual Auction to bid on items galore! Local hikes, hosted dinners, crafts, jewelry, collectibles, gift baskets and so much more!! Join the fun for **THREE FULL DAYS!** Outbid your relatives, neighbors and friends!

WEST MILFORD  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## **COMMUNITY VIRTUAL AUCTION**

**March 18 - 20, 2021**

PREVIEW DAYS - MARCH 16 & 17



**March 18-20, 2021**

**Preview Days - March 16 & 17**

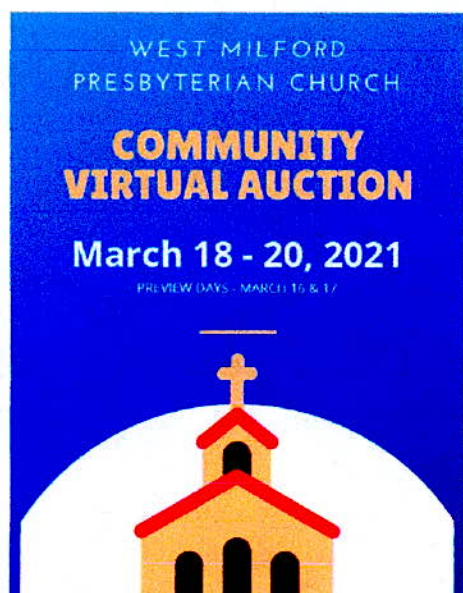
**TO PROVIDE A SPONSORSHIP OR DONATION CONTACT:**

**CHURCH OFFICE: 973-728-3081**

**EMAIL: [WMPCHURCH@GMAIL.COM](mailto:WMPCHURCH@GMAIL.COM)**

**FACEBOOK: WEST MILFORD PRESBYTERIAN**





PLEASE INVITE FRIENDS AND FAMILY.  
POST ON YOUR FACEBOOK PAGE.  
SPREAD THE AUCTION FLYER AROUND TOWN.  
ASK EVERYONE YOU KNOW TO JOIN THE FUN!

VISIT THE SITE:  
[CHARITYAUCTION.BID/WMPCHURCH.ORG](https://charityauction.bid/wmpchurch.org)  
PREVIEW DAYS: MARCH 16 & 17

BID WINNERS WILL BE ABLE TO PICK UP  
THEIR ITEMS FROM FELLOWSHIP HALL ON  
SUNDAY, MARCH 21 - 2 TO 6 PM

**VIRTUAL CATALOG OF ITEMS INCLUDES (BUT NOT LIMITED TO):**

FURNITURE	LOCAL HIKES	KINDLE
FINE CHINA	SAILING	COOKWARE
MUSEUM TOURS	COLLECTIBLES	SPANISH LESSONS
COFFEE BREWING	POTTERY	HACHET THROWING
LASER TAG	HANDMADE QUILTS	LAKEFRONT DINNER
JELLY/JAMS	JEWELRY	SEWING MACHINE
GAMES	CHEESE MAKING	HOMEMADE SOUPS
BREWERY TOUR	OUTDOOR PROJECTOR	BEAUTY PRODUCTS
TABLE RUNNERS	PIANO	THEMED BASKETS
LEGAL SERVICES	SEPTIC PUMPING	SKATE RINK TICKETS
HARRY & DAVID FRUIT	FOOD BASKETS	NEW FAUCETS

**GIFT CARDS AND MUCH, MUCH MORE!!!**



## Deacons Doings

I hear the steady drip of the shrinking icicles outside our window and watch the retreat of snow on our lawn, the physical evidence that the path of the Earth around the sun places the Northern Hemisphere where we live, to be tilted neither away nor towards the sun. On March 20<sup>th</sup> at exactly 5:37AM, we have equal hours of daylight and dark, heralding the start of Spring!

What lovely thoughts "Spring" conjures up. The rebudding of trees, tender shoots emerging through the warming soil. In our church, Spring also brings to mind the triumphal entry of Jesus Christ into Jerusalem and we celebrate on Palm Sunday amid the palms provided by the Deacons. Palm

Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week which concludes on Easter Sunday with Lilies, Daffodils, Tulips and Hyacinths overflowing on our altar.

More information will come on ordering the plants with accompanying words of hope, joy, love and memories provided by you for our bulletins.

Happy Spring to all of you and enjoy the beauty God has created. Bonnie







We are so happy to be back!! We so hope you will be able to join us on February 28 and each

following Sunday. We will be discovering what a tape measure, a bag of cookies, Darby the

Donkey and the Easter Bunny all have to do with Jesus! Now you know we can't tell you-

To find out you will just have to join us!!

We will be having Church School in the First and Second grade classrooms, do not go to

Sanctuary just come to the classroom.

See you in church!!  
Kathi Eninger





## **"Bits and Bites"**

### News from the Food Pantry

We are amazed and truly humbled by the generosity you and the community have shown the Food Pantry during the past year. Your support and encouragement truly keeps us energized and we can't thank you enough! While the coming months carry many uncertainties, we remain steadfast and have begun to prepare for Easter.

If anyone wishes to donate, the items needed at this time are sugar, Hellman's mayonnaise, cooking oil, cookies, paper goods, laundry detergent, dish detergent (not for the dishwasher), cleaning supplies and health and beauty aids. Monetary donations go towards the purchase of fresh fruits and vegetables, dairy products, and meat. Please call the church office (973-728-3081) if you wish to donate. The office will forward your information to one of the "pantry people" who will then contact you.

Student desks made by Bill Schmidt are still available. If you or someone you knows wishes a desk for a child please let the office know.

Our "Lady and the Tramp" Valentine bags were a great success. They were given to our pantry clients, to church members who stopped by to pick one up, those who shopped at the Cookie Walk and to several shut-ins who so appreciated that we were thinking of them.

Your support and generosity has made such a difference for our neighbors in need. The Deacons are truly grateful for being part of a church community that comes together and cares for each other!

Questions? I can be reached at 973-728-7369 or [janlee702@gmail.com](mailto:janlee702@gmail.com).

Jan Halvorsen





## **A Touch, A Word, A Good Deed**

**You may think that you are completely  
insignificant in this world.**

**But someone drinks coffee from the  
favorite cup that you gave them.**

**Someone heard a song on the radio  
that reminded them of you.**

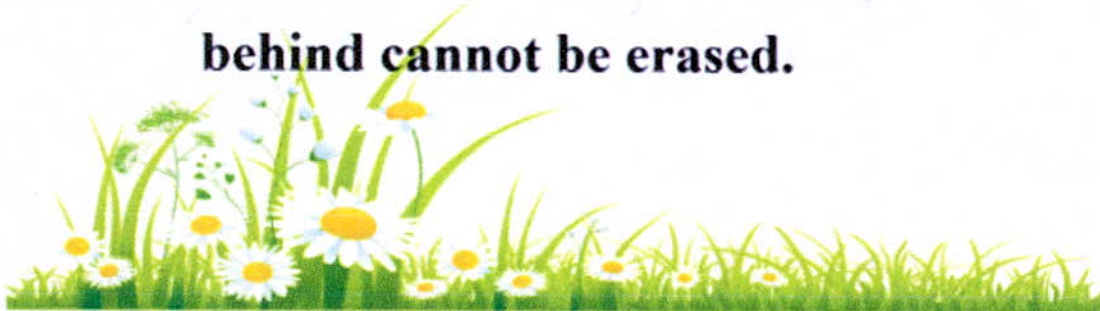
**Someone read the book that you recommended,  
and plunged headfirst into it.**

**Someone smiled after a hard day of work,  
because they remembered the joke that you told  
them today.**

**Someone loves themselves a little bit more,  
because you gave them a compliment.**

**Never think that you have  
no influence whatsoever.**

**Your touch, word and good deed which you leave  
behind cannot be erased.**





## RECIPE ROUNDUP

### Blueberry Cobble Serves 6

2 cups fresh or frozen blueberries washed, drained, and picked over

1 fresh lemon, zest half of it and then squeeze 1 tablespoon of the juice

1 1/2 cups sugar, divided

1 / 2 teaspoon baking powder

6 tablespoons butter, cubed

1 / 2 teaspoon salt

1 cup all purpose flour

3 / 4 cup milk

1 / 2 teaspoon cinnamon

1 large egg, lightly beaten

1 / 8 teaspoon nutmeg

whipped cream/or topping, optional

#### DIRECTIONS

Heat oven to 350 degrees.

In a saucepan, stir together berries, lemon juice and **1 / 2 cup sugar**. Bring to a boil; remove from the heat. Set aside. Place butter in an 11 / 7 inch baking dish; (you could use an 8 x 8 pan or even a round cake pan) Put cubed butter in the baking dish and then in the preheated oven. When butter has melted remove dish.

In a small bowl, combine the remaining **1 cup sugar** with the flour, baking powder, salt, cinnamon and nutmeg. In a measuring cup measure the milk. Add the beaten egg and zest. Use a fork to combine then add to the flour mixture. Stir to combine.

Pour the milk and flour mixture carefully over the melted butter in baking dish.

**DO NOT STIR.** Spoon reserved berry mixture over the batter. **DO NOT STIR.**

Place dish in the oven (may want to place a piece of aluminum foil under the dish) and bake at 350 degrees for 40 – 45 minutes or until golden brown. Don't over bake. Serve at room temperature with whipped cream or whipped topping.



Dear Congregation,

In April 2021, our boy troop is celebrating 10 years of activity and our girls have already celebrated 2 years.

If only all organizations could be so blessed with such a supportive community.

God bless you all for the support and memories that we've built up over the years. We look forward to the years ahead!

With incredible thanks

Troops 44

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28 First Day of Women's	1	2	3 7pm - AA Meeting	4 9am - Sr. Saints	5 5pm - Fish & Chips Take	6
7 10am - Worship 6pm - Scouts	8 7:30pm - Session	9	10 7pm - AA Meeting	11 9am - Sr. Saints	12	13
14 Daylight Saving Time 10am - Girl Scout Sunday 10am - Worship 6pm - Scouts	15	16	17 St. Patrick's Day 7pm - AA Meeting	18 9am - Sr. Saints	19	20
21 10am - Worship 6pm - Scouts	22	23	24 7pm - AA Meeting	25 9am - Sr. Saints 10am - WA Meeting	26	27
28 10am - Worship 6pm - Scouts	29	30	31 7pm - AA Meeting	1	2	3