

Dear Church Family,

In the month of May according to the Church year calendar, the Church experiences another transition. We celebrate Jesus' Ascension on May 13th and the Day of Pentecost on May 23rd. Throughout the season of Pentecost, the Church remembers that she and her members live a new life in God's Son, through the gift of the Holy Spirit.

In chapter 2 of the book of Acts, Peter gives a sermon proclaiming God's plan of salvation in Christ. The day he gives this sermon is the Day of Pentecost. At the end of his proclamation the people ask this question, "Brothers, what shall we do" (Acts 2:37)? Peter responds, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:38). As we look forward to the summer months of "life in the Spirit" as God's forgiven, Spirit-filled, baptized children, let us strive more in our Christian faith.

There are two important things to work on in our Christian faith. One is piety or our devotion to God. The second is service to others. Jesus calls us to serve, even in our daily walk. But I would say there is a third important work for us, and that is maintaining the community of faith in which we live. I believe we have all been given a community in which to live. It is this community to which we can contribute, from which we can receive, and in which we can grow in our faith.

Just as we were created to live in community, so we need to strive to keep that community thriving as well.

I have been deeply grateful that there are so many people working to keep our community of faith alive and well. Some of the things I have observed include yard work being done around the church, even during the Pandemic. The gardens are being weeded, new plants are being planted, and even trees have been trimmed.

We know that one of our primary tasks as Christian is to be witnesses to our community. I think the care we give to people in need, and the way we serve people out in the public is a testimony to our faith. When we exhibit these things, we are not just loving our neighbor, but we are loving God as well.

Thank you for stepping up to become what God has called us to be. I couldn't be more blessed as your pastor. Thank you for heeding the call, even in a time of pandemic. May you experience the peace and joy that comes with the hope that God gives us in a time like this.

In His Grace,
Pastor Justin Choi

- *Alter flowers: Flowers for Phyllis Wilson's birthday and Leslie Spohn for cheer and support during chemo therapy
- * Lisa Burns thanked those who sent her cards and good wishes during her illness
- *Linda Fredrickson's granddaughter, Kari, has been accepted to West Point!!
- * Gladys Dykstra happy to have family here for Easter.
- * Kathy Holly thanks to Deacons for Easter flower arrangements in church.
- * Marty Tappan Thank you to Fran for beautiful Easter bulletin boards. And, all others that she had put together.
- * Ruth Allen thanks for support from church family in time of crisis.
- * Irene Ferris: David Caffery who has dealt with mental illness for a long time has been in a shelter in Utah where he has found happiness.
- * Chris Rodek: Joy for getting her second Covid shot which has enabled her to see relatives for the first time in a year.
- * Bobbie Del Sol: Has received her 2 Covid shots so she can babysit her grand daughter,
- * Welcome to Chrissy Frank
- * Marty Tappan: Joy for the success of the auction, all of Roberta's hard work to make it happen, and all who participated in it,
- * Lee: Had problems and credits Justin for being there for him and visiting him in Queens.
- * Joy for grand time with Justin learning about special types of coffee then brewing our own. Delicious! Fun!
- * Welcome back, Wendy, Victor, Chloe the dog, to church! You'll have fun sorting out rummage sale clothes!
- * Bonnie Seufert was presented with a beautiful bouquet for her volunteer of the year award. Greatly deserved.
- * Wendy Webb, Husband Victor's sister in England has leukemia and he can't visit her. Prayers for him and his sister.
- * Some Deacons passed their Food Handlers test, good for 3 years. Now we can safely and legally prepare soups, etc. for congregation.
- * Lee Tomboulion asked for prayers and concerns for those in India who are experiencing a pandemic of the Corona virus.
- * Prayers for Sandy Smidt's client having many health issues.
- * We welcomed a few new people in our congregation.
- * Prayers for Jane Mamer.
- * Prayers for the family of Dave Cedrone who passed away.
- * Prayers for the family of Clayton Harvey Bantham who passed away.





SESSION'S REFLECTIONS

MAY 2021

SUBMITTED BY BETSY ENGELHARDT, CLERK OF SESSION

Since the beginning of this year, Pastor Choi has been devoting a few minutes in every Session meeting to cover Elder training. It has helped Session more clearly understand what it means to be called and serve as an Elder and has begun to teach us all what it means to be **Presbyterian**. It has also been helpful to include reps from Deacons and Wm. Association in our monthly meetings to share news and ideas. We are thankful for the hard work put forth by the Virtual Community Auction Committee members. There will be a special recognition segment devoted during a Sunday service in May for these volunteers. As usual, the property committee is hard at work. Within the past month, quotes have been sought for siding the Scout & Parish houses, and for landscaping services. Contracts will soon be signed and work begun on these projects. Fire inspection of all our buildings was successfully completed by the town. Congregational Life Chair, Matt Smart, will be helping to coordinate volunteers from our church for the annual Faith In Action community outdoor event to be held May 16. Confirmation Classes are continuing, with Confirmation Sunday scheduled for June 13. We are thankful to Doug Weed, Diane Eriksen, and Matt Smart for serving as mentors to these students. Personnel helped to coordinate 2 mediation meetings with trained Presbytery mediators to help Pastor Choi and Kathi Endering work through some conflicts. Although the mediation meetings are completed, this remains an ongoing process. Let us all offer prayers that God will provide a clear path for each to follow going forward.

Deacons Doings

Thank you to all who ordered Easter flowers! The fragrance and beauty of so many plants show-cased the beauty of our church and lifted spirits. Thank you also for taking them home so quickly. Thank you to Chris, Lily Rodek and friends from their Girl Scout Troop for packing all our Easter dinner bags! Scouts can always be counted on to do things efficiently and well and this was no exception. Included in this hard working group were Samantha and Sarah Choi, and Morgan Donus. Our future is safe with such dedicated young people. Thanks also to a woman we all know affectionately from Shop Rite as Allison who not only baked over 50 loaves of home made bread for the Easter bags, but continues to fill our freezer with bread to be given on a daily basis.

Speaking of the food pantry, things haven't changed too much. There are still many needy families so your help by donating food, dropping off gift cards or cash, are essential for us to sustain this mission. Thank you to all who drop off food. Though we don't know your names because things just appear, know that every bag of pantry items whether it's food, baking goods, cleaning products, paper goods, etc. is welcomed.

The Deacons are in the process of updating their food handling certificates, so be expecting us to be more active in the kitchen making soup and other tasty treats. There are many church events coming up and the Deacons expect to be part of those.

At every one of our meetings the congregation is thought about.....who could use a card, a call, both for joyous reasons and reasons of concern. You, our parishioners, are the eyes and ears we depend on for this information so if anyone you know needs help, a kind word, a warm contact please let any Deacon know.

Lastly, about flowers for the Altar or Communion table.....included in the newsletter is a write up for you to read. A sign up sheet is in Fellowship Hall thanks to Sandy Muzillo and flower envelopes can be found in Fellowship Hall and the Narthex. Please return them to the church office. Bonnie



On Wednesday, Jan. 29th 1913, a meeting was held at Mrs Mac Gaury's to discuss the formation of a "Ladies' Aid Society" in connection with the Presbyterian Church of West Milford. Nine present. Mr Chamberlain opened the meeting with prayer. The matter was then discussed, and it was decided to organize such a society, with proper officers, meetings to be held semi-monthly; the 1st + 3rd Wednesdays at the homes of the members. Dues be 10 cts. a month with 5 cts. additional a fine, if absent from the meetings. The care and cleaning of the Church, the first duty of the Society, and it was decided to have an Oyster Supper on Feb. 12th to raise money to purchase a Vacuum cleaner. Memorial Window were suggested, also the need of new ash-cans and shades. The following officers were elected —

Honorary President Mrs. Chamber
President Mrs MacQuay
Vice President Mrs. Thorpe
Secretary Mrs Watson
Treasurer Mrs J. E. Terhune
The meeting adjourned after
a social half hour.

Carrie Puls
Sec'y

WA notes

In 1913 the Ladies Aid Society of Presbyterian Church, West Milford, NJ was formed

Now in 2021 we are still going strong as the West Milford Presbyterian Church Women's Association. We women have been working for our church for many years.

On May 22nd we will be having our outdoor craft show. As of now we have 50 vendors!! Hopefully we will have a big turnout to support our church.

We are starting to get our Rummage Sale underway. It will be held on June 25th, 26th, 27th. It is a lot of work and a great chance for fellowship. We are very excited about holding it this year since we really missed it last year.

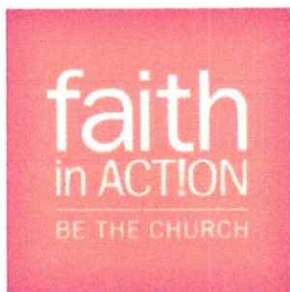
We will be emptying the garages on Memorial Day weekend and will be accepting donations. Anyone wishing to help is very welcome to join us.

After the Rummage Sale we will be opening our thrift shop- Aunt Jenny's Attic in the parish house.

Looking forward to seeing everyone in the coming weeks.

Blessings. Linda and Pam





FAITH IN ACTION SPRING 2021 SEEKING VOLUNTEERS

Spring 2021 Faith In Action is being planned for Sunday May 16. At this time, only outdoor volunteer opportunities are being considered due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Such opportunities would include yard work/ yard cleanups, flower planting, painting, garden work, etc. Following the community projects, a scaled down celebration dinner will be held at one of the participating churches (to be determined). This will be an outdoor event with a BBQ and prepared salads to go. All current COVID19 protocols will be adhered to.

The Faith in Action committee is currently looking for project ideas in the community. If you have any project suggestions, please provide the following information to Ralph (rlb3479@gmail.com) or to Matt (msmart@salomone.com) by April 23, 2021. All project suggestions should include the following information:

Project Description

Project Location

Location Contact (i.e., homeowner or business contact name and telephone/email)

As always, volunteers to complete the projects are greatly needed. Project sign-ups will be through the Faith In Action website (<https://fiahighlands.ivolunteer.com>). All projects will be listed and available for sign-up once they are finalized. Details will be provided when available.

Matt Smart
Chair Congregational Life

PASTORAL NOMINATING COMMITTEE MAY 2021 UPDATE

Presbytery of the Highlands has appointed Joe Martinoni as the new liaison for our Pastoral Nominating Committee. We had the pleasure of getting to know Joe at our PNC meeting of April 15. He reviewed our new Presbytery's requirements for proceeding with our search. We are excited to get back to work, with our next meeting schedule for April 29. Joe believes the market is expanding for Pastor's seeking placement. Please keep the committee in your prayers as we navigate through this multifaceted process. Our members are committed to working hard to find the best placement to meet the needs of our church into the future.

Respectfully submitted,
Betsy Engelhardt, PNC Chair



MAY NEWSLETTER

It's May Already!!!!!!!

May 2 Communion-Meet in Sanctuary first then up to class

GOD loves us we love Mom!

May 9 Mothers Day- NO CHURCH SCHOOL-Family Service Celebrate mom's special day by coming to Church as a family!

May 16-FAITH IN ACTION. More information to follow.

May 23 PENTECOST-Wear RED come to Church School to find out why!

May 30 CELEBRATE- Come to find out what we will be celebrating!

ATTENTION SENIORS:

If you are a high school senior interested in applying for the Darlene Witham Scholarship,

Please contact Miss Kathi at kmenering@gmail.com for an application or Contact the office.

Say It With Flowers!

As the church continues to open up and we once again hear the sound of music and voices raised in song, as we see the familiar faces in the pews.....we realize we once again have the chance to express ourselves through the flowers on the altar. We can recognize birthdays, anniversaries, put flowers on the altar in remembrance of loved ones. Although West Milford Florist is going through a transformation, Jill (Florist) is still able to provide us with beautiful flower arrangements though the prices have gone up a bit. One arrangement which can be used on the Communion table is now \$27.50 and two arrangements for either side of the altar is \$55.00. Either would make a beautiful addition to our service and be a lovely gift for someone when you take it/them home. There will be a sign up sheet in Fellowship Hall on the wall and the envelopes to fill out will be in the Narthex and in Fellowship Hall. The envelopes with your message, date you want the flower arrangement/s, and check or cash can be put in the Deacons box in the office, or given to any Deacon. For questions, please call Bonnie at 973-728-1187. Thank you



"Bits and Bites"

News from the Food Pantry

Once again the Deacons wish to thank you and the community for the continued support of the Food Pantry. Our doors remain open to so many because of the donations we receive, whether it is food, sundries or monetary. Monetary donations enable us to purchase dairy products such as cheese, milk, sour cream, and butter. We also are able to purchase fresh fruits and veggies along with fresh 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 as to when it would be best to do a drop off.

If anyone wishes to donate food or sundries, these are the items most needed at this time:

sugar, flour, Hellman's mayonnaise, cooking oil, cookies, chocolate pudding cups, canned fruit, pork and beans, evaporated milk, brownie mixes, bottled juice (mixed flavors such as cranberry/apple, cranberry strawberry) saltine crackers, laundry detergent, cleaning supplies, feminine products, and deodorant (men and women).

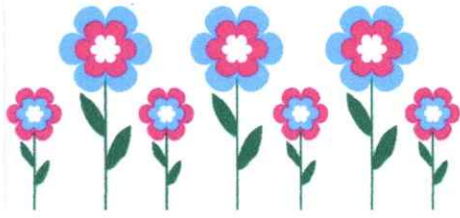
The following items are not needed at this time: dried pasta and dried beans.

During the week prior to Easter we distributed "Hope You Have a Nice Day" goodie bags to those who requested food. We were also able to pass the bags out to our congregation on Easter Sunday. Desks are still available for anyone needing one. Again, just let the office know.

Your support and generosity have made such a difference for those who seek assistance. Thank you.

Questions? I can be reached at 973-728-7369 or janlee702@gmail.com

Jan Halvorsen



May 9th Celebration!

Please join us in celebrating Mother's Day on May 9th when we will recognize all of the women worshipping with us. It's a special time to say thank you -- not only to those who are mothers and grandmothers, but to those who provide mothering everyday: teachers, aunts, nurses, neighbors, and more!

ATTENTION SENIORS:

Any high school senior interested in applying for Darlene Witham Scholarship, please contact Miss Kathi at kmenering@gmail.com, for an application or the Church Office.





RECIPE ROUNDUP

SLOW COOKER CRANBERRY CHILI CHICKEN THIGHS Serves 6 – 8

6 – 8 bone-in chicken thighs, skin removed

1 / 2 cup chili sauce (any brand will do)

2 tablespoons orange marmalade or apricot jam

1 / 2 cup whole berry cranberry sauce

1 / 4 teaspoon ground allspice (optional)

Directions:

Spray the inside of your crockpot. Place thighs in pot. If you need to make a second layer, stagger the pieces so they don't completely overlap each other.

In a bowl, mix together, very well, the remaining ingredients. Pour over the thighs making sure the chicken on the bottom is covered with sauce.

Cover the crockpot and cook on **LOW FOR 4 HOURS.**

Serve with rice, egg noodles, mashed potatoes, a vegetable and salad. **ENJOY!**



8 Things You May Not Know About Memorial Day

Memorial Day and its traditions may have ancient roots.

While the first commemorative [Memorial Day](#) events weren't held in the United States until the late 19th century, the practice of honoring those who have fallen in battle dates back thousands of years. The ancient Greeks and Romans held annual days of remembrance for loved ones (including soldiers) each year, festooning their graves with flowers and holding public festivals and feasts in their honor. In Athens, public funerals for fallen soldiers were held after each battle, with the remains of the dead on display for public mourning before a funeral procession took them to their internment in the Kerameikos, one of the city's most prestigious cemeteries. One of the first known public tributes to war dead was in 431 B.C., when the Athenian general and statesman Pericles delivered a funeral oration praising the sacrifice and valor of those killed in the Peloponnesian War—a speech that some have compared in tone to Abraham Lincoln's [Gettysburg Address](#).

One of the earliest commemorations was organized by recently freed slaves.

As the Civil War neared its end, thousands of Union soldiers, held as prisoners of war, were herded into a series of hastily assembled camps in Charleston, South Carolina. Conditions at one camp, a former racetrack near the city's Citadel, were so bad that more than 250 prisoners died from disease or exposure, and were buried in a mass grave behind the track's grandstand.

Three weeks after the Confederate surrender, an unusual procession entered the former camp: On May 1, 1865, more than 1,000 recently freed slaves, accompanied by regiments of the U.S. Colored Troops (including the Massachusetts 54th Infantry) and a handful of white Charlestonians, gathered in the camp to consecrate a new, proper burial site for the Union dead. The group

sang hymns, gave readings and distributed flowers around the cemetery, which they dedicated to the “Martyrs of the Race Course.”

The holiday’s “founder” had a long and distinguished career.

In May 1868, General John A. Logan, the commander-in-chief of the Union veterans’ group known as the Grand Army of the Republic, issued a decree that May 30 should become a nationwide day of commemoration for the more than 620,000 soldiers killed in the recently ended Civil War. On Decoration Day, as Logan dubbed it, Americans should lay flowers and decorate the graves of the war dead “whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village and hamlet churchyard in the land.”

According to legend, Logan chose May 30 because it was a rare day that didn’t fall on the anniversary of a Civil War battle, though some historians believe the date was selected to ensure that flowers across the country would be in full bloom.

After the war Logan, who had served as a U.S. congressman before resigning to rejoin the army, returned to his political career, eventually serving in both the House and Senate and was the unsuccessful Republican candidate for vice president in 1884. When he died two years later, Logan’s body laid in state in the rotunda of the United States Capitol, making him one of just 33 people to have received the honor. Today, Washington, D.C.’s Logan Circle and several townships across the country are named in honor of this champion of veterans and those killed in battle.

Logan probably adapted the idea from earlier events in the South.

Even before the war ended, women’s groups across much of the South were gathering informally to decorate the graves of Confederate dead. In April 1886, the Ladies Memorial Association of Columbus, Georgia resolved to commemorate the fallen once a year—a decision that seems to have influenced John Logan to follow suit, according to his own wife. However, southern commemorations were rarely

held on one standard day, with observations differing by state and spread out across much of the spring and early summer. It's a tradition that continues today: Nine southern states officially recognize a Confederate Memorial Day, with events held on Confederate President Jefferson Davis' birthday, the day on which General Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson was killed, or to commemorate other symbolic events.

It didn't become a federal holiday until 1971.

Americans embraced the notion of "Decoration Day" immediately. That first year, more than 27 states held some sort of ceremony, with more than 5,000 people in attendance at a ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery. By 1890, every former state of the Union had adopted it as an official holiday. But for more than 50 years, the holiday was used to commemorate those killed just in the Civil War, not in any other American conflict. It wasn't until America's entry into World War I that the tradition was expanded to include those killed in all wars, and Memorial Day was not officially recognized nationwide until the 1970s, with America deeply embroiled in the Vietnam War.

It was a long road from Decoration Day to an official Memorial Day.

Although the term Memorial Day was used beginning in the 1880s, the holiday was officially known as Decoration Day for more than a century, when it was changed by federal law. Four years later, the Uniform Monday Holiday Act of 1968 finally went into effect, moving Memorial Day from its traditional observance on May 30 (regardless of the day of the week), to a set day—the last Monday in May. The move has not been without controversy, though. Veterans groups, concerned that more Americans associate the holiday with first long weekend of the summer and not its intended purpose to honor the nation's war dead, continue to lobby for a return to the May 30 observances. For more than 20 years, their cause was championed by Hawaiian Senator—and decorated World War II veteran—Daniel Inouye, who until his 2012 death reintroduced legislation in support of the change at the start of every Congressional term.

More than 20 towns claim to be the holiday's "birthplace"—but only one has federal recognition.

For almost as long as there's been a holiday, there's been a rivalry about who celebrated it first. Boalsburg, Pennsylvania, bases its claim on an 1864 gathering of women to mourn those recently killed at Gettysburg. In Carbondale, Illinois, they're certain that they were first, thanks to an 1866 parade led, in part, by John Logan who two years later would lead the charge for an official holiday. There are even two dueling Columbus challengers (one in Mississippi, the other in Georgia) who have battled it out for Memorial Day supremacy for decades. Only one town, however, has received the official seal of approval from the U.S. government. In 1966, 100 years after the town of Waterloo, New York, shuttered its businesses and took to the streets for the first of many continuous, community-wide celebrations, President Lyndon Johnson signed legislation, recently passed by the U.S. Congress, declaring the tiny upstate village the "official" birthplace of Memorial Day.

Wearing a red poppy on Memorial Day began with a World War I poem.

In the spring of 1915, bright red flowers began poking through the battle-ravaged land across northern France and Flanders (northern Belgium). Canadian Lieutenant Colonel [John McCrae](#), who served as a brigade surgeon for an Allied artillery unit, spotted a cluster of the poppies shortly after serving as a brigade surgeon during the bloody [Second Battle of Ypres](#). The sight of the bright red flowers against the dreary backdrop of war inspired McCrae to pen the poem, "In Flanders Field," in which he gives voice to the soldiers who had been killed in battle and lay buried beneath the poppy-covered grounds. Later that year, a Georgia teacher and volunteer war worker named Moina Michael read the poem in *Ladies' Home Journal* and wrote her own poem, "We Shall Keep the Faith" to begin a campaign to make the poppy a symbol of tribute to all who died in war. The poppy remains a symbol of remembrance to this day.

Memorial Day traditions have evolved over the years.

Despite the increasing celebration of the holiday as a summer rite of passage, there are some formal rituals still on the books: The American flag should be hung at half-staff until noon on Memorial Day, then raised to the top of the staff. And since 2000, when the U.S. Congress passed legislation, all Americans are encouraged to pause for a National Moment of Remembrance at 3 p.m. local time. The federal government has also used the holiday to honor non-veterans—the Lincoln Memorial was dedicated on Memorial Day 1922.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1						1 First Day of Asian 10am - Deacon's Meeting
2 10am - Worship 6pm - Scouts	3	4	5 Cinco de Mayo 7pm - AA Meeting	6 9am - Sr. Saints	7	8 10am - WA Meeting
9 Mother's Day 10am - Worship 6pm - Scouts	10 7:30pm - Session	11	12 7pm - AA Meeting	13 9am - Sr. Saints	14	15 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
16 Faith in Action 10am - Worship 6pm - Scouts	17 Tax Day	18	19 7pm - AA Meeting	20 9am - Sr. Saints	21	22 10am - Outdoor Craft Fair
23 10am - Worship 11am - Rain Day For Craft 6pm - Scouts	24	25	26 7pm - AA Meeting	27 9am - Sr. Saints	28	29
30 10am - Worship 6pm - Scouts	31 Memorial Day	1	2	3	4	5

