

Dear WMPC Members,

Have you ever noticed all the tabloids at the checkout registers? Yes, one gossip story after another. Gossiping has become an American hobby. Yet, in all honesty, there is nothing new under the sun. Gossiping was a favorite hobby for those who lived in ancient times as well. I came across an ancient Greek manuscript (469 – 399 BC).

One day an acquaintance ran up to Socrates excitedly and said, "Socrates, do you know what I just heard about Diogenes?" "Wait a moment," Socrates replied, "Before you tell me I'd like you to pass a little test. It's called the Triple Filter Test." "Triple filter?" asked the acquaintance. "That's right," Socrates continued, "Before you talk to me about Diogenes let's take a moment to filter what you're going to say. The first filter is Truth. Have you made absolutely sure that what you are about to tell me is true?" "No," the man said, "Actually I just heard about it."

"All right," said Socrates, "So you don't really know if it's true or not. Now let's try the second filter, the filter of Goodness. Is what you are about to tell me about Diogenes something good?" "No, on the contrary..."

"So," Socrates continued, "You want to tell me something about Diogenes that may be bad, even though you're not certain it's true?" The man shrugged, a little embarrassed. Socrates continued, "You may still pass the test though, because there is a third filter, the filter of Usefulness. Is what you want to tell me about Diogenes going to be useful to me?" "No, not really."

"Well," concluded Socrates, "If what you want to tell me is neither True nor Good nor even useful, why tell it to me or anyone at all?"

Some 2000-years ago, gossip had become such a problem in the church, too. Yes, in the church, we can find many passages about the evil and harm of gossip. The Apostle Paul felt gossip was such an evil thing he placed gossip in the same category as murder and God-haters (Romans 1:29-32) and he believed gossipers were damned to hell. Let's be clear, the Apostle Paul was known for using some pretty harsh language, but all in all, the authors of the Bible all agree, gossip is diametrically opposed to godly living.

I understand, everyone else is doing it, so what's the harm? Believe me, anyone who has been on the receiving end of gossip can tell you, it is harmful. George Harrison once said, "Gossip is the Devil's radio!" and he is right. Gossiping about another person is beneficial to no one but the "devil". All you are doing is becoming the mouthpiece for evil in its fullness. For this reason, the Bible says, Romans 12:10, "love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor."

How do you outdo one another in showing honor? First, refuse to gossip about anyone. Second, speak only kind and uplifting words about others, even those who everyone else is cutting down. Gossiper: "Did you hear about Bob?" You: "Yes, I did. Bob is a good man and God loves him so much and so do I."

Today, let's choose the life of love by speaking well of others. Let's outdo one another.

In His Grace,
Pastor Justin Choi

A photograph showing a person's hands cupped together, holding a bright, glowing orb. The background is a dramatic sunset or sunrise sky with orange, yellow, and purple hues. The hands are silhouetted against the bright light of the orb and the sky.

*Glad that Linda Frederickson is home from Chilton. Now needs to recover at home.

* **Kathu Holley:** Money from Church School fish boxes was \$73.

Happy to see Dee Casey back from Arizona for the summer.

*Jan Halvorsen commented that the tea was a beautiful affair. Thank you to all of the ladies who prepared it.

* Mary Macheska.....uncle suffering from cancer. Aunt caring for him. Prayers for him and encouragement for her as a care-taker.

***Prayers for James Ester and Phyllis Van Hooker**

*Julia left church early...lightheaded. Got home safely

* The Scilingo family on the loss of their father and grandfather, Michael Scilingo.

***Kathy Holley** Two friends are battling cancer. Her brother is also battling cancer.

*Bobbie Del Sol's friend is facing surgery on Wednesday.

*Kathy Holley. Brother's cancer, misdiagnosed as stage 4, is now reassessed at stage 1.

* James Ester is hospitalized at Chilton.

* Prayers for Jeff Ehrhardt as he is resting from his first Chemo treatment. Prayers for Fran as she needs strength as his caregiver.

* Howie Seufert is feeling better and is resting. Bonnie is feeling better.

* Linda Connolly: Ken Baker has pneumonia and ALS. Prayers for Debbie as she cares for him

* Terry Ann Baker has pneumonia

Linda Fredricksen would like everyone to know that she is grateful for all the prayers and love She has been feeling and not to give up yet.

Lost & Found:

Is anyone missing a bracelet. Please call the office if it's yours.





SESSION'S REFLECTIONS

MAY 2022

SUBMITTED BY BETSY ENGELHARDT, CLERK OF SESSION

With April coming to an end, we are hopeful everyone found a way to celebrate the joyful Easter holiday in a meaningful way. If you joined the festivities offered at our church during the holiday week, you witnessed staff, leadership, and volunteers working hard to make it all possible. Many hands also worked behind the scenes. We are grateful for all who helped provide a meaning celebration for our congregation.

We've been presented with an opportunity to provide outreach to the seniors within our township, with the added benefit of providing a revenue source for our church. We've been approached by Passaic County with an inquiry for use of our Fellowship Hall for a daily senior adult daycare operation. Property Committee is working up a lease agreement for use of our kitchen, hall, and bathrooms – Monday thru Friday –8 am to 2:30 pm. Certain blackout periods will be part of the agreement, including the month of June for Rummage Sale, and holiday weeks of Thanksgiving and Christmas. Deacons have confirmed they can work Food Pantry activities around this daily time frame. We don't know what other area facilities have been approached, nor what budget is available for lease payments. Regardless, a lease agreement will be presented for the county's consideration.

Session will look forward to hearing Statements of Faith from our confirmation class on May 9. We will take joy in hearing from this year's confirmands Sophie Ferris and Sydney Scilingo. We will also look forward to Confirmation Sunday on May 22 and church school promotion celebration on June 12. The Scholarship Committee will be reviewing applications for the Darlene Witham Scholarship fund.

Property Committee will be checking references and hopefully accepting a quote from Windows Galaxy to replace the windows throughout the sanctuary. The piano sitting in the corner of Fellowship Hall can no longer be tuned. Since it hasn't been used in years, it will be removed and disposed of. Fire Inspection by the township occurred in April. Committee will await their report and attend to any issues accordingly. A shed for thrift shop storage will be constructed with hopeful completion in early May.

Yearly Faith-In-Action program remains a work in progress. A date of May 15 has been scheduled with details to be forthcoming.

Personnel Committee has been in conversation with Pastor Choi, and with mutual agreement, Session voted to extend his Interim contract through November 1, 2022, with 30-day cancellation clause by either party.

Deacons Doings- May

Sometimes prayer comes as easy as breathing and other times real conversation with Jesus/God, seems elusive. However it seems, this communication with God is always very personal. We pray in gratitude and joy, but also ask for strength and forgiveness as we face our cares and worries. When we ask for prayers in church during Joys and Concerns we can address many of the things that make our hearts happy and those that cause us pain but some are just too personal to share this way. The kind of worries that sit heavy on our hearts and take over our lives aren't always said. The ones that don't go away over time but are ever present are hard to put into words. Years back the Deacons formed a Prayer Circle to try to help us address those things and bring a bit of peace in. Let me describe what a Prayer Circle is.

It starts with a small group of people who believe firmly in the power of prayer and the healing it brings. Deacons made up the first Prayer Circle but it doesn't have to be just Deacons. Whomever must understand the private nature of any information they get. Someone in the Prayer Circle receives notification through a call, email, text, or physically that someone wants the group to pray for them. They don't have to identify themselves or who the prayer is for if they don't want to, or the subject can be referred to simply as man, woman, child, group, country, etc. They can request prayers to be said at a certain time as before an impending operation, or they may request that the prayers continue every day for a while. The one in the Prayer Chain that receives the request contacts the others in the group. The group then can pray individually in their homes or can meet and pray together. They continue praying however long the request is for. The outcome is that someone can take comfort in knowing that a chorus of prayers are being raised up for them, their loved ones, or others that are in need of God's blessings. Please let us know if you like this idea and feel it would be of benefit to our congregation. Bonnie





OUTDOOR BENCHES

The next time you are at church please take note of the two new benches that have been placed outside Fellowship Hall. These benches were purchased with Memorial Fund monies. They're a great addition to our church's outdoors, whether you are catching up with friends during coffee hour, looking through the Little Library box seeking a new read, dropping off Food Pantry items, or when visiting Aunt Jenny's Attic and looking at your new found goodies! We thank all who donated to the Memorial Fund that allowed us to purchase these benches. The Deacons

"BITS AND BITES"

News from the Food Pantry

The Deacons and I would like to thank the members of the church, the community, community organizations, and corporations for their continued support of the Food Pantry. Whether we received monetary or tangible supplies, we have been able to accomplish our mission of helping those in need. You, along those mentioned above, have truly made the difference for us in being able to provide to those who come through our doors and we are extremely grateful.

I have included below items that we are in need of now and in the future. There will be a box under the kitchen window in Fellowship Hall to place items in that you wish to donate. There is also a box outside the doors leading into Fellowship Hall. Items can also be dropped off when the office is open. Monetary donations are always welcomed as well.

Pantry items include:

Snacks, desserts, bottled and boxed juice, chili (not hot), corned beef, spam, baked beans, regular coffee, teabags, mayonnaise, cooking oil laundry detergent, dish detergent, napkins, toilet paper, paper towels, cleaning supplies, toiletries

Please reach out to me if you have any questions. Thanks so much.

Jan Halvorsen

973-728-7369 janlee702@gmail.com

RECIPE ROUND-UP

Fresh Mushroom, Carrot and Barley Soup Serves 4 – 6 (doubles easily)

1 / 2 cup pearl barley

2 tablespoons butter

1 tablespoon vegetable oil

1 box button mushrooms (8 – 10 ounces) cleaned and thinly sliced into 1 / 2 inch pieces

3 – 4 medium carrots, peeled, cut in half vertically, and then thinly sliced

1 / 2 medium onion chopped finely

3 cans good quality chicken broth (I make mine using Better Than Bouillon)

1 and 1 / 2 teaspoons dried dill

1 / 2 teaspoon black pepper

1 tablespoon fresh lemon juice

Directions: Place 1 / 2 cup pearl barley in a medium bowl. Cover the barley with hot water. Let stand 20 minutes and then drain through a sieve.

Melt butter with oil in a large dutch oven over medium heat. Add sliced mushrooms, carrots, and onion and saute 8 – 10 minutes until soft.

Add drained barley, chicken broth, pepper and dill. Reduce heat to low. Cover and cook 50 – 60 minutes. Just before serving, stir in the

lemon juice.

NOTE: You can prepare the soup up to 1 day in advance but **DO NO ADD THE LEMON JUICE**. Skim off any excess fat, bring to a simmer and

add the lemon juice. Serve.

THE WEST MILFORD PLAYERS

PRESENTS

The

Addams Family Jr.

Directed by Erika K. Crocco



- FOUR SHOWS -

Friday, May 20 & Saturday, May 21st at 7:00pm

Saturday, May 21st & Sunday, May 22nd at 2:00pm

Celebrate the wackiness in every family. Wednesday Addams, the ultimate princess of darkness, has grown up and fallen in love with a sweet, smart young man from a respectable family whom her parents have never met. She confides in her father and begs him not to tell her mother. Now, Gomez Addams must do something he's never done before- keep a secret from his beloved wife, Morticia. Everything will change for the whole family on the fateful night they host a dinner for Wednesday's "normal" boyfriend and his parents.

You never know what can happen when you meet an Addams.

Seniors/Students \$18.00 • Adults: \$20.00

ADVANCED TICKETS RECOMMENDED at:

www.thewestmilfordplayers.org

973-697-4400

Performances at:

The West Milford Presbyterian Church Hall

1452 Union Valley Road, West Milford, NJ 07480

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div>1</div> <div>First Day of Action Pacing</div> <div>10am - Worship</div> <div>6pm - Scouts</div>	<div>2</div> <div>3:30pm - Girls On The Run</div>	<div>3</div>	<div>4</div>	<div>5</div> <div>Cinco de Mayo</div> <div>9am - Sr. Saints</div>	<div>6</div>	<div>7</div> <div>10am - Community Soup</div>
<div>8</div> <div>Mother's Day</div> <div>10am - Worship</div> <div>6pm - Scouts</div>	<div>9</div> <div>3:30pm - Girls On The Run</div> <div>7pm - Session/</div>	<div>10</div>	<div>11</div> <div>5pm - West Milford Players</div>	<div>12</div> <div>9am - Sr. Saints</div>	<div>13</div>	<div>14</div> <div>9am - Spring Craft Fair</div>
<div>15</div> <div>Faith in Action Sunday</div> <div>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</div> <div>10am - Worship</div> <div>6pm - Scouts</div>	<div>16</div> <div>3:30pm - Girls On The Run</div> <div>6pm - West Milford Players</div>	<div>17</div> <div>6pm - West Milford Players</div>	<div>18</div>	<div>19</div> <div>9am - Sr. Saints</div> <div>6pm - West Milford Players</div>	<div>20</div> <div>12pm - West Milford</div>	<div>21</div> <div>8am - West Milford Players</div>
<div>22</div> <div>10am - Confirmation</div> <div>10am - Worship</div> <div>12:30pm - West Milford</div> <div>6pm - Scouts</div>	<div>23</div> <div>3:30pm - Girls On The Run</div>	<div>24</div>	<div>25</div>	<div>26</div> <div>9am - Sr. Saints</div>	<div>27</div>	<div>28</div>
<div>29</div> <div>10am - Worship</div> <div>6pm - Scouts</div>	<div>30</div> <div>Memorial Day</div>	<div>31</div>			<div>3</div>	<div>4</div>

