

Fall is here!!!

How do I know?

Is it because pumpkin spice is EVERYWHERE?

Is it the Christmas decoration sales all over the place?

Is it because it is getting colder?

There always seems to be all kinds of indicators of change around us. Sometimes we don't pick up on them as we are too busy, or already looking ahead. Sometimes we know what the indicators mean as we see them. Sometimes we understand only in hindsight.

I wonder what people saw and thought about in October 1517? Did they know what was coming? Did Martin Luther really see it either? My guess is no, he didn't. Would Luther have held back his 95 Theses if he knew what would happen? Would he have done it sooner?

Sometimes we hold back because we are afraid of what might be involved. Sometimes we hold back because we don't think it really matters.

When we think of the ongoing discussions on climate change, immigration and refugee issues, poverty, etc.- how are you responding? Or are you? Why or why not?

Are you prepared like Luther was to take a stand based on Scripture and reason? Or is your stand based on something else (and is it something beyond opinion- yours or someone else's)?

Notice that Luther's "Stand" wasn't about standing still, it was about reforming, progressing, and changing. It was not change for change's sake, but because the Holy Spirit reminded him of God's enduring grace and promise of a future with hope. The Gospel is about love of God and new life through Jesus, our Savior. October is Reformation month. Especially on Reformation Sunday (10/30), we seek to respond to God's baptismal calling to let our light shine with the message of God's love and new life for the world. Think of the great things we can do, responding out of what God has given us as we seek to follow Jesus who leads us into the future!

In His Grace,  
Pastor Justin Choi



## Joy's & Concerns

- \*Samantha expressed best wishes for the new and returning college students and those who are embarking on new jobs..... Much success
- \*Joy for Sandy's becoming a grandmother to another girl. Congratulations!
- \*Betsy's joy for the new windows. The sanctuary looked brighter! New windows have panels inside so washing will be easier.....
- \*Joy that Ben was here. It is his 46th anniversary. (His wife was here too.)
- \*Marty planted milkweed and there are now caterpillars in front of church.
- \*Thank you to Mark for filling in for Lee on the organ.
- \*Diane's niece riding from Boston to NYC in Tour de Force in honor of Scott Dressler.
- \*Thanks to Don Wright for shining up the new sanctuary windows
- \*Thanks to Allison and Shop Rite patrons for a generous donation of food for pantry.
- \*Joy for the beginning of Sunday School and fall church year.
- \*Sandy Zimmer & Diane Eriksen had birthdays.
- \*Lee is back!!!!!! First choir practice after church.
- \*Don was grateful Howie is back in church.
- \*Sarah Gibson is celebrating her 17th birthday.
- \*Joy from Julia that although she has Stage 4 ovarian cancer, for 5 years, it is now starting to grow so she will get radiation treatments starting next month. She knows Jesus is with her thru this.
- \*Sandy Smidt's son and wife had a baby girl. She is now a Grandma Congratulations.
- \*Jan is grateful for the food drive at ShopRite and the volunteers that helped.
- \*Donate your unused eye glasses for the Lions. Jan will leave a basket to collect them in.
- \*Pat May-Kienhofer neighbors, The Santangelo Family on Echo Lane, had a house fire that left their home uninhabitable.
- \*Rich and Irene had Covid
- \*Carol 78 families used the pantry in August. Many not able to afford food due to the rising cost. Please continue to support our pantry with your donations, \$ and gift cards. It all helps.
- \* Remembering September 11th.
- \*Hank Grilk passed away. Hank, Ann Marie, Andy and Brian were members and part of our music program.
- \*Karen Straub's Friend died in a car accident.....
- \* Ted Kershaw had surgery.
- \*Prayers for Diane Erickson as she tackles her illness.
- \*Prayers for Mary Macheska sister who has shingles.
- \*Prayers for James Ester since he can no longer attend church.
- \*Prayers for Bob Gunderman as he is not in church now.
- \*Fran's neighbor Ralph passed away in his sleep. Prayers for his family.
- \*Pam Prayers for her friend Barb
- \*Mary Macheska is receiving physical therapy. Pam is her chauffeur.





# SESSION'S REFLECTIONS

OCTOBER 2022

SUBMITTED BY BETSY ENGELHARDT, CLERK OF SESSION

We were fortunate to gather with Deacons in September for a joint meeting to discuss goals and objectives for the year ahead. The theme for this meeting was "*Who Is the Church?*", with the focus being that *our congregation* will ultimately be responsible for the growth, vitality, and success of the future of our ministry and outreach efforts. Our leadership numbers at year end will be at crisis levels if membership does not offer their God given gifts and talents to positions being vacated in 2023. There is a need for a volunteer pool to be established to support those that offer their leadership skills. Great ideas were shared and there will be a formal presentation to our congregation in November that will prove a building block for a successful path forward for our church. Another unsustainable mission project we face is our food pantry and the increased demand for our services. Currently only 4 members provide the labor needed 2 full days a week for 52 weeks a year. They are fortunate to have the support of volunteers from the Plant church who are willing to be trained and mentor and eventually provide much needed relief. Session approved access to Fellowship Hall on predetermined days and times to facilitate this vital support.

Clerk of Session was tasked by Presbytery to compile an Administrative Operational Manual which contains policies, procedures, forms, handbooks, and other documentation used to ensure conformity and adherence in our daily church operations. This manual will be continually updated by Clerk of Session and the church secretary with a binder copy filed in the church office and electronically on the church computer.

Ringwood Presbyterian Church has approached our Worship committee for the prospect of loaning several octaves of our brass bells. In return, they would host handbell performances at our church. Session approved this loan with a detailed loan agreement signed and witnessed to ensure their safekeeping and protection for our church if damaged, lost, or stolen.

The month of October is traditionally pledge drive month. The theme for this year is ***Keep the Faith.*** There will be moments for mission throughout the month detailing needs with Consecration Sunday scheduled for October 30.

Session voted to extend Pastor Choi's interim contract from November 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022 with a 30 day cancellation clause by either party and he has accepted that extension. PNC received the news that Presbytery voted on a 5% increase in minimum effective salaries and board of pensions passed a 2% increase effective 2023. Finance and Wm. Association provided updated reports that will support our continued search for a full-time solo pastor for our church with these increased commitments.

# PASTORAL NOMINATING COMMITTEE

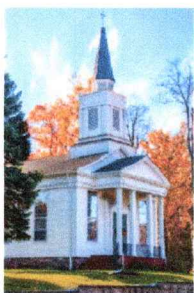
OCTOBER 2022 UPDATE - BETSY ENGELHARDT, PNC MODERATOR

The committee has been hard at work during the summer months which produced some fruitful prospects to consider for nomination. In anticipation for proceeding further in our process than ever before, I'd like to prepare our members for what may lie ahead. The greatest analogy I can provide is to consider our process the same way we elect the President of our United States.

- Candidates have been campaigning by submitting their MIF's and participating in interviews.
- PNC decides what candidate they want to bring forward as their nomination to hold this position. They prepare an offering package that will help the candidate in his/her personal discernment.
- Candidate accepts (hopefully) the nomination.
- After nomination, candidate will engage with the voters through a meet-and-greet that will be scheduled the day before "election day".
- Election day is a Sunday worship conducted entirely by the candidate with a congregational meeting scheduled immediately after. Members will vote the candidate in or out at this meeting.
- If voted in, a future start date will be negotiated wherein the candidate begins his/her ministry for our church.

The committee asks for your continued prayers for not only the PNC, but also for any candidate that may be considered for nomination. Ultimately it is in God's hands who is listening to our prayers and leading us all in the path he sees for our future.





West Milford Presbyterian Church

1452 Union Valley Road, West Milford, NJ 07480

**PASTOR JUSTIN CHOI** - Phone# 973-728-3081

Email: [wmpchurch@gmail.com](mailto:wmpchurch@gmail.com) / Website: [www.wmpchurch.org](http://www.wmpchurch.org)

**PLEDGE CAMPAGIN 2023**

**KEEP THE FAITH**

Wow 2022 is already more than half over, where did the time go? We have gone from pandemic to partial recovery and now recession. Our lives have been turned inside out and upside down. Some of us have lost loved ones, jobs, and material assets we depended on. Can we continue to persevere and grow stronger? We can if we Keep the Faith. We as a family, a congregation need to be strong to be the exception to the standards and open our doors and our hearts to all of those who have lost the faith. How do we achieve this when we are so few and so many of us are lost, by **Keeping the Faith!**

Our church continues to be operating at a deficit. We have been fortunate to receive generous, bequests and have had some successful fund-raising programs. The pandemic and now the recession have greatly hindered our ability to fundraise throughout the last three years, yet our dedicated team of parishioners persevered and succeeded. We were able to refurbish some of the outside buildings and replace the windows in the sanctuary.

Unfortunately, looking at our monthly financial statements, it is clear our current spending covers only the essentials for us to keep our buildings and staff operating at a minimal. Our "Per Capita" obligations to our Presbytery are suffering a shortfall of almost \$1200.00, funded by money yet to be paid by our membership. Let's **Keep the Faith** by helping the WMPC keep its doors open so that we can continue to help our community.

If this church has provided you and / or your family a place of worship, a haven, please consider donating so that our doors can remain open to those in our community. If you no longer actively attend services, but your children found spiritual nourishment through our church school, if you were married in our sanctuary, found comfort during funeral services for a loved one, were uplifted by our music programs, were helped by our food pantry, enjoyed fellowship with members, found spiritual strength during hardships, please we need your financial support so others may experience the same. If you understand that personal sacrifice is part of God's lessons; we urge you to complete a pledge card for 2023. A one-time contribution, weekly, or monthly pledge will help us preserve our future. If your obligation of a suggested \$48.00 per member due in 2022 for Per Capita has not been paid, we urge you to please consider payment today. Our per Capita obligation for 2023 will remain at suggested \$48.00 for 2023.

Pledge commitments are a vital part of compiling our church budget for the New Year. Finance Committee will need to draft a budget for 2023 during the month of November. We are dedicating Sunday, October 30<sup>th</sup> as Consecration Sunday. We ask, therefore, that pledge cards be returned to the church by that date.

Thank you,

Deb Trusz

Stewardship Committee

# Guidelines for Giving

James 1:3

"For you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness."

Annual Income	\$50,000	\$75,000	\$100,000	\$150,000	\$200,000
Weekly Income	\$962	\$1,442	\$1,923	\$2,885	\$3,846
Annual Gift @ 1.5%	\$750	\$1,125	\$1,500	\$2,250	\$3,000
Weekly Offering	\$14	\$22	\$29	\$43	\$58
Annual Gift @ 4%	\$2,000	\$3,000	\$4,000	\$6,000	\$8,000
Weekly Offering	\$38	\$58	\$77	\$115	\$154
Annual Gift @ 7.5%	\$3,750	\$5,625	\$7,500	\$11,250	\$15,000
Weekly Offering	\$72	\$108	\$144	\$216	\$288
Annual Gift @ 10%	\$5,000	\$7,500	\$10,000	\$15,000	\$20,000
Weekly Offering	\$96	\$144	\$192	\$288	\$385
If you have any questions regarding you pledge, please contact the Interpretation and Stewardship Committee wmpc@gmail.com					

## KEEP THE FAITH

In response to God's love and as a concrete expression of my faith in and commitment to Christ and His Church, I make the following pledge for 2023:

ENVELOPE # \_\_\_\_\_

☐

Check for pledging by credit card or via  
auto-withdrawal from checking.

*West Milford Presbyterian Church  
1452 Union Valley Road, P.O. Box 6  
West Milford, New Jersey, 07480  
(973)-728-3081*

I PLEDGE \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per ( ) week / ( ) month / ( ) year TOWARD GENERAL EXPENSES

I PLEDGE \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per ( ) week / ( ) month / ( ) year TOWARD BUILDING PRESERVATION

Please print:

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP Code \_\_\_\_\_

This commitment may be revised or cancelled at any time by my written request.

2023 PLEDGE CARD

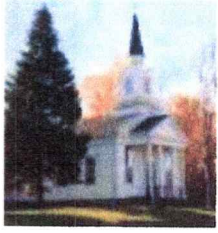
**REMOVE AND KEEP THIS STUB**

For 2023, I pledge the following amounts

GENERAL BUILDING

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ per ( ) wk ( ) mo ( ) yr  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_ per ( ) wk ( ) mo ( ) yr

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
West Milford Presbyterian Church,  
West Milford, NJ 07480



## **PER CAPITA**

Per Capita is an annual assessment made by the presbyteries, synods, and General Assembly of our Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Our session is committed to paying the full assessment for all the members on our roll because we treasure our relationship with the wider church, and the congregation benefits when members contribute their share to the whole. Note that this charge is PER MEMBER, therefore, if you are husband/wife members, your obligation would be two times the yearly Per Capita fee. If you have a teenager who is confirmed at our church, your child immediately becomes a member of our church and will be charged a Per Capita fee at the start of a new year. Why do we pay this assessment known as per capita? Because we value our Presbyterian heritage and identity. As a congregation we derive many material benefits from our Presbyterian association. At the General Assembly level, these include the oversight of preparation for ministers and the mechanisms for calling new ministers, the maintenance of the wonderful Presbyterian historical collection in Philadelphia, the biennial meeting of the General Assembly, resources ranging from training for ruling elders to assistance with immigration, and so much more. The synod provides the training and discernment for Presbytery and church leaders. The presbytery portion enables support of our congregation's mission through counseling support for churches in many crises. Historically, the fee changes each year. For the year 2022, the Per Capita fee per member is suggested at \$48. For year 2023, the fee will remain at a suggested \$48 per member. It is important that your payment reference PER CAPITA on your check or giving envelope so it is properly directed to the correct fund. We look forward to your participation in per capita giving for this past year and beyond, an expression of your commitment to ministry both within our congregation and beyond.

## **ON-LINE DONATIONS**

Donating on line is very simple. Visit [WMPCHURCH.ORG](http://WMPCHURCH.ORG). You will find a DONATE ON-LINE link on the bottom right corner of our home page. If you'd like to make a one-time donation, the main page will easily accommodate that transaction. This is a great way to demonstrate from afar your appreciation for the work done at our church through a donation to ensure our doors will remain open to our community. If you would like to be a regular contributor, please follow the link to SIGN IN and create your own account.

## **PLEDGE CARDS**

You do not need to be a member of our church to submit a pledge card. You do not need to submit a pledge card in order to provide regular financial support to the church. Pledge cards, however, are a vital tool used by the Finance Committee to set up balanced budgets each year. It helps guide the committee on what funds will be available to cover the church expenses throughout the year. Please consider using your pledge card to communicate what financial commitment you can provide the church in the year ahead.

## **GIVING ENVELOPES**

Envelopes will be ordered and available for distribution at the end of the year. These help organize your weekly giving and alert you to special payments such as Per Capita, Building, and special holiday gifts. As a regular contributor, you are assigned an envelope number which identifies you in our computer records. Referring to your envelope number whenever making a donation will help ensure credit will be properly allocated. If you are new to giving and would like an envelope assigned to your name, please contact the church office.



## DEACON DOINGS

The Deacons have been busy decorating the sanctuary and outside doors with fall decorations. Flowers for the altar can be ordered by filling out the form in Fellowship Hall. Cost is \$55.00 for two bouquets. If you only wish to purchase one or to share the bouquets that is fine, too.

Prayer shawls are available for those who are in need of a reminder that God is always there with his arms wrapped around you. If you or someone you know would like to receive a prayer shawl, please let one of the Deacons, Pastor Justin, or the office know. All prayer shawls are prayed over before given to the recipient.

On November 13<sup>th</sup> we will be recognizing those who served in the Armed Forces. Please be sure to attend so those who served can get a special "thank you" treat!

November 19<sup>th</sup> is our annual Holiday Bazaar. The Deacons will once again have "The Deacon's Café". In order to make it another successful Cafe, we are asking if anyone would like to help us. We are looking for people to make a carrot soup (a very easy recipe which we will provide), chili, (again, the recipe is provided for you), packages of beef hotdogs, hotdog rolls, and bread. There will be a signup sheet in early November in Fellowship Hall for anyone who wants to help.

Just a reminder that the Friends of the West Milford Library has erected a "Little Lending Library" on our grounds. Please feel free to take a book and if at all possible replace it with one you have already read. Many of the people who visit our pantry make use of this library as well.

Ushers and greeters are always needed for our services. If you would like to usher or be a greeter please see any of the Deacons. It does not have to be a long commitment.

Enjoy the cool weather and the changing of the leaves!! Blessings to All

# WA NEWS



Happy October-where does the time go???

We had a busy summer. Finishing up the rummage sale clean up, getting Aunt Jenny's Attic set up and reopening. Seeing so many friends old and new stop in and say hello. We have many beautiful things and some unusual items thanks to all the donations we receive. We are thankful for the sales but more importantly we are thankful for the wonderful fellowship we share.

Now the meeting season has begun and many things are being planned.

Once again our parking lot will be open to the public during ALF. We only ask for a donation to the food pantry.

On October 15th the town will have a Harvest Festival at Bubbling Springs. It is a free event with hayrides, the police dogs and horses, food trucks and a robot demonstration.

On November 19th we will be having our Christmas Bazaar with our wonderful Sweet Stop. Save the date.

Blessings, Linda and Pam

# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

September 2022

The teachers were so excited to begin another Sunday School season. Our goal this year is to provide the children with continued knowledge of the bible, and we started our first Sunday right from the beginning with Genesis and the creation. We continue with Noah and the floods and explore various stories of the **Old Testament** to help the children realize God's word and His all encompassing love throughout the ages "prior" to the birth of our Lord. By the



beginning of Advent, the children will begin to develop an understanding of the **New Testament** by celebrating Advent, welcoming the birth of Jesus, learning about His teachings through the parables that He shared as He traveled throughout the countryside on his way to the cross.



The objectives of this year's instruction is not only for the children to become more knowledgeable of the Bible, but also to learn that God loves them, He is always there to protect and help them when they are in need, and that God wants them to pass on His love and word to others by being kind, generous, helpful, and accepting of all people. The older children will spend time discussing what is going on in their lives today that could relate to the words in the Bible. What does their future hold? Our older youth will now devote one Sunday a month in church helping with readings, greeting and collections. Please say hello and get to know these great kids!



Our first Sunday followed with a wonderful church picnic and a special project for the children and the congregation to help spread God's kindness and love throughout our church and our community. You may have seen the Kindness Rock Garden on your way into church. In class the children painted special rocks to add to the garden. Then, during the church picnic, many others decorated a rock to leave in the garden and took a rock as a reminder of God's love and our Children's kindness. Rocks and pens will continue to be available at coffee hour for those who wish to design another rock for someone special. We hope that others who visit our church will take one, too, so we spread our love and God's hope for kindness throughout the community.

Please encourage others to join us in Sunday School. We would love to welcome friends of children who already come or new children who would like to be part of this experience. Church membership is not required.

Fall is Here Please  
Think Of Us When  
Your Shopping..



### **Pantry Items Needed:**



- + Breakfast (cereal, complete pancake mix, syrup, instant oatmeal)
- + Apple sauce
- + Peanut butter
- + Jelly
- + Juice (32oz-64oz bottles, juice boxes)
- + Regular coffee and tea
- + Condiments (Ketchup, mustard, mayonnaise, salad dressings)
- + Canned (soups, vegetables, fruit, tuna, chicken, beans, hash, chili, Spam) + Pasta sauce
- + Pasta (all varieties)
- + Potato and pasta mixes
- + Rice and rice mixes
- + Mac & cheese
- + Hamburger Helper
- + Baking items (flour, sugar, oil)
- + Snack items (cookies, crackers, chips, pretzels, granola bars)
- + Personal Care (soap, shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, razors, toothpaste, toothbrushes, feminine products, baby wipes)
- + Household items (toilet paper, paper towels, napkins, dish detergent, liquid laundry detergent-no pods, cleaning products)



# RECIPE ROUND-UP

## Mixed Roasted Vegetables

**A great recipe for the fall weather. Serve with roasted meats or even as a sandwich topped with grated parm cheese. Yields about 6 servings and leftovers are great. Don't cut the veggies too small.**

2 tablespoons light brown sugar

1 ½ teaspoons basil leaves (fresh if you can) chopped

1 ½ teaspoons garlic salt

1 / 2 teaspoon seasoned salt

1 / 8 teaspoon cayenne (if you don't like heat leave it out)

2 tablespoons olive oil

3 – 4 peppers cut into chunks (can use green, red, yellow, orange, whatever is on sale)

1 medium zucchini cut into chunks

1 medium yellow summer squash cut into chunks

1 peeled sweet potato cut into small chunks

1 large yellow or red onion cut into chunks

Fresh mushrooms (I use button ones, about 7 – 8 cut into chunks)

Set oven to 400 degrees

In a medium bowl mix brown sugar with the next 4 ingredients. Set aside. Place all of the cut up veggies in a large bowl. Drizzle with the oil and toss with your hands. Add half of the brown sugar mixture and toss to coat. Add remaining brown sugar mixture and toss well. Spread out veggies on a baking sheet. Roast for about 15 minutes. Stir and continue to roast for another 10 – 15 minutes checking for doneness. (some people like a bite to the veggies, others like them soft)

Can be eaten right away or at room temperature. Store covered in the refrigerator.





Oak Ridge Presbyterian Church

# Fall Fling Dance



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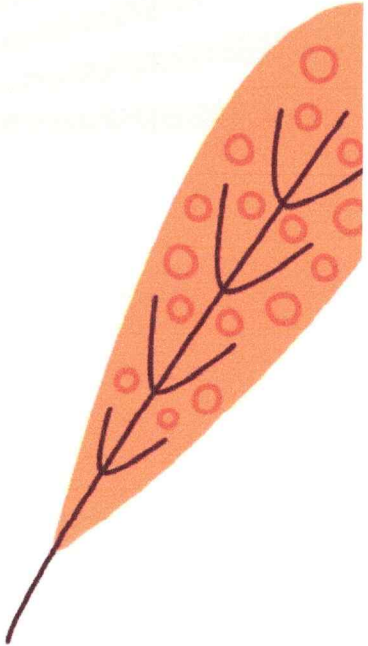

Saturday, October 8, 2022  
7-10 pm

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Oak Ridge Presbyterian Church  
Parish House  
321 Oak Ridge Road  
Oak Ridge, NJ 07438

FREE ENTRANCE

We will be collecting food  
donations for the Milton  
United Methodist New Hope  
food pantry





Mon							Tue							Wed							Thu							Fri							Sat						
26							27							28							29							30							1						
3							4							5							6							7							8						
10am - Sunday School 10am - Worship 6pm - Scouts							Justin Study Leave 3:30pm - Gifts On The Run							1:30pm - Farmer's Market 9am - Sr. Saints																											
9							10							11							12							13							14						
10am - Sunday School 10am - Worship 6pm - Scouts							Celebration Day 10:00am - 12:00pm 3:30pm - Gifts On The Run							1:30pm - Farmer's Market 9am - Sr. Saints																					Newsletter Deadline						
16							17							18							19							20							21						
Pledge Drive 10am - Sunday School 10am - Worship 6pm - Scouts							3:30pm - Gifts On The Run 7pm - Session							1:30pm - Farmer's Market 9am - Sr. Saints																											
23							24							25							26							27							28						
Pledge Drive 10am - Sunday School 10am - Worship 6pm - Scouts							3:30pm - Gifts On The Run							1:30pm - Farmer's Market 9am - Sr. Saints																											
30							31							1							2							4							5						
Concession Sunday 10am - Sunday School 10am - Worship 6pm - Scouts							3:30pm - Gifts On The Run																																		

