

The Pastor's Pen - September 2023

Dear One & All,

Can you believe that we're already at the end of the summer? This truly does amaze me! Time flies when your having fun!

Growing-up I can easily remember how the summers went by much faster when the kids in the neighborhood were on good terms and would get together most everyday to play ball or any number of things we would come up with. Those good memories, however, are also accompanied with the memories of summers when the kids in the neighborhood weren't getting along. Eventually, we learned that we were much better off together than bored and alone.

I've been particularly happy and feeling inspired from our worship services over the course of the past couple months. Bridges are being built and understandings are growing. I'd also like to express my gratitude to the congregation for engaging in the new relationship with Oak Ridge. I truly believe, as I've probably stated many times, that when we work together we can do amazing things, whether as children or adults. In a period when more and more folks seem to be completely uninterested and uninspired to explore the community of the church, the small churches need each other, and together we can thrive. And I have been seeing the possibilities for great things!

What I would like to propose here is that we can't forget about that basic lesson that we first learned growing up about the importance of being able to experience more out of our lives when we work together. Yes, that does mean sometimes having a willingness to sacrifice something, whether it mean time or talents, but imagine the possibilities. I do believe that every single one of us has gifts to bring to the communion table, and that when we decide that, together we can make a difference, and the difference can mean that the church will become revitalized in spirit, and in community. Part of that, I will say, is also caring for our own spiritual health so that we can lead by real example. (This is my plug for bible study....)

I also believe that our churches are at an important juncture in our society. I know that people are hungry for spiritual health, and I know that the far majority of folks in our communities believe in God. For most, their problem isn't with God, but rather with the church, for whatever reason they may express. It's up to all of us of the church to really show our neighbors why the church can be good and worthy of their willingness to engage. Invite your friends, family and neighbors to church services and events, you may just be surprised by an acceptance of your invitation. Tell them that now with a new confidence that the more serious days of Covid 19 are in our rearview mirror, that a new day at West Milford Presbyterian Church is upon us and that it'll be refreshing to be a part of, and we know this, because God does always have a plan.

Be Good & Do Good,

Pastor Chris

Joys & Concerns



- *Joan Simpson- had a hip replacement
- *Wesley Pierce-Great Aunt Mary has cancer
- *Grace- her brother Gretson has a serious burn injury
- *Caryl Greulich- in rehab for knee replacement
- *Karen's friend, Kim died from cancer.
- *Prayers for John Regan. Joy for 92 year old mother being able to attend family reunion.
- *Rich Blonga had surgery
- *Bobbie Del Sol needs prayers for son, daughter, so they will know the Lord.
- *Continued prayers for baby Grace.
- *Richard has an inoperable brain tumor.
- *Continued prayers for Pam
- *Prayers for Linda as she recuperates after surgery on her back.
- *Prayers for Red McDowell as he has a heart procedure on Monday.
- *Prayers for Julia Held's family as they deal with Julia's passing.
- *Continued prayers for Judy Mazur and Diane Eriksen.
- *Prayers for Kit as she faces back surgery. May she soon be pain-free.
- Kit's niece's premature baby is Hunter. He is continuing to grow and face some medical challenges
- *Carol Stanhope has a friend, a physician, who is battling cancer.
- *Sandy Zimmer, Diane's sister, is now in rehab. waiting for the swelling of her leg to go down so she can return home to Diane.
- *Pastor Chris has a large kidney stone and hopes that it doesn't become too painful.
- *Myrtle's friend is back in the hospital with heart problems.
- *Prayers for those who are trying to recover from fire, wind, storm damage as they find their homes destroyed and family members missing.
- *Sunday was Lee's last day as our church organist. We will miss him but we wish him happiness as he plays in another church. Best wishes to Lee.

Joys

- *Kathy Holley- joy for families getting together and sharing love.
- *Audrey and Kathy Endering having birthdays on 8/23.
- *Rich (ORPC) joy for us all being together
- *Joy for the rummage sale. It was a roaring success and the final count was about \$28,000.
- *Joy to see Ken Dykstra in church following a pacemaker procedure.
- *Georgia joy for daughter, Laurie and Asher
- *Kathy Holley's son is camping in Georgia woods with Boy Scouts
- *Kathy Holly: Joy as we come together in church. The value of families and love is found in the church family.
- *Lee has a joy that his daughter and grandson are in church with him.
- *Joy for Diane. Her new job is welcoming her with open arms!
- *Fran and Jeff are celebrating their 55th wedding anniversary.

A Huge Thank You to Bill Schmidt for all his hard work making racks for our Banner Room.... It Looks wonderful!



SESSION'S REFLECTIONS

SEPTEMBER 2023

SUBMITTED BY BETSY ENGELHARDT, CLERK OF SESSION

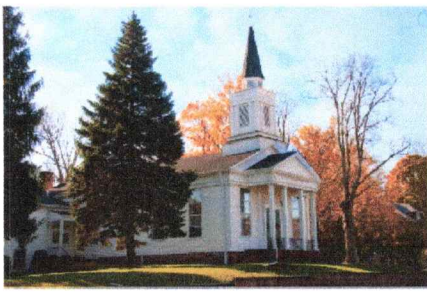
I'm having a hard time wrapping my head around the fact that Fall is fast approaching and our Summer season is closing. Hope the past few months have found you enjoying family time, successful vacation plans, and warm weather festivities.

We were pleased to welcome the Oak Ridge congregation to Summer worship in our sanctuary throughout July. They have proven gracious hosts to us in their sanctuary and Parish House throughout August. Their sanctuary has its own unique character that is beautiful, peaceful, and welcoming. Much smaller than our sanctuary with no running water, we were fortunate to receive a quick history lesson on their building from their church historian, Mr. Fredericks, whose family is among the oldest lineage for the church.

Property Committee under the supervision of Don Wright coordinated the replacement of windows for Fellowship Hall and upstairs classrooms. Work was completed in mid-August. Thanks to Wm. Association for funding this project. If anyone has visited the church office, you've seen that Sandy is the proud occupant of a much-needed new desk!

We were sad to receive a resignation letter from our Music/Choir Director, Lee Tomboulion, stating his last day of service would be August 27. He has accepted a position with Levittown Presbyterian Church – a few minutes' drive from his home. The vacant position has been posted with the Directors of Music Education at Wm. Paterson University & Montclair State University, and has been running in the West Milford Messenger, job has been posted in the Call Finder website through our Presbytery, and the open position has appeared in local social media sites. We will be using subs until the position can be filled more permanently. If the congregation knows of someone who could be called upon to sub OR fill the position, please contact the church office.

Church School will resume on September 10 and plans are already in the works for coordinating a Vacation Bible School in July 2024. Teachers have completed their required Child Abuse Training. We'll look forward to children filling our pews again in September and returning to our 9AM services in our own Sanctuary.



Come Worship With Us

Come and worship with us! was the theme over the summer months of July and August when the West Milford Presbyterian Church and Oak Ridge Presbyterian Church joined their congregations to worship and have fellowship. Starting in July, the two congregations met at 10:00 am on Sunday mornings at the West Milford Presbyterian Church at 1452 Union Valley Road in West Milford. In August, the two switched over to use the worship spaces at the Oak Ridge Presbyterian Church in Oak Ridge at 321 Oak Ridge Road. The last joint summer service was held on August 27th at Oak Ridge Presbyterian Church. The services were led by Reverend Dr. Christopher Doyle, who is the shared pastor for the two churches. Pastor Chris also held Saturday services throughout the summer at Oak Ridge Presbyterian Church at 5 pm that were smaller gatherings for learning and prayer.

Both congregations would love to have you join them in the fall at their respective churches. The West Milford Presbyterian Church will go to their regular time of 9:00 am each Sunday morning, with the Oak Ridge congregation returning to their regular time of 11:00 am. You can find out more about the life at Oak Ridge Presbyterian by visiting the website at <www.orpcnj.org>, and about the life at West Milford Presbyterian by visiting the website <www.wmpchurch.org>. Please come and join us! We would love for you to know our family.





INSTALLATION SERVICE FOR REV. DR. CHRISTOPHER DOYLE SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2023



Mark your calendars for this important date for our church. Pastor Chris will be officially installed for our church at 2 PM on September 17. A ceremony officiated by representatives from Presbytery of the Highlands will mark the final process in becoming West Milford Presbyterian Church's installed pastor. We are hopeful our congregation will be present to support Pastor Chris in this important milestone. Refreshments will be served at 3 PM following the service in Fellowship Hall.

DEACONS DOINGS

August 29, 2023

Deacons have not been idyl during this past summer. Pastor Chris met with us and led a very enlightening lesson on the history of Deacons. The ordered ministry of deacon was one of ones established by the New Testament church. Acts 6 gives a history. Deacons were chosen to wait on tables so others could continue in the work of preaching and praying.

Following that vein, deacons continue to "wait on tables." Deacons are the caring arm of the church. Deacons learn of those in need of prayer or assistance. One deacon's responsibility is to send a card to that person. Deacons prepare the repast for families of a recently lost member. As its responsibility increased, deacons branched out into a community food pantry, our mission to those in need of food supplements. One deacon is responsible for ordering flowers for the sanctuary. One organizes people to greet worshipers as they enter the sanctuary. One member is a liaison to Christian education. One member sets the communion table. Each deacon has chosen a special task to fulfil.

Pastor Chris has noticed with despair, that deacons have many tasks. We have not noticed this. We each have responsibilities that we take very seriously. One task that we would like to improve upon is that of noting those who have left the church, those who are home and not able to come to church, and those who would just like a visitation.

It wasn't until 1906 that women were allowed to become deacons. A good thing, since our deacons committee now consists of women.

The deacons have been busy behind the scene. If you know of anyone who would appreciate a deacon call, or a person who is absent from the church and should be called, please share this with a deacon.

Deacon moderator

marty

September 2023 WA NEWS

Ah September, the start up month of the year. Returning to our regular church schedule, monthly meetings of various groups, back to Sunday School, etc.

Not that the church hasn't been active all summer. We have a new roof and gutters, no more leaks. Bible study, Aunt Jenny's Attic reopened and has been very busy, new windows have been installed in fellowship hall, the kitchen, the classrooms and the church offices. Thank you Don for taking down all the window treatments and then replacing them-all 23 windows.

We had a fun picnic with our Oak Ridge family on a beautiful day. Worshipping together each week has been a joy. It has been so nice to get to know them, hopefully they feel the same way.

Some of you may remember the Harvest Festival at Bubbling Springs last year when our very own Don received a plaque from the Passaic County Sheriff for all his volunteer work. This year it will be held on October 14th and they have offered us a space to sell cotton candy plus. We encourage everyone to come and help.

We will be having a meeting on September 10th after church to plan for the upcoming year. Join us.

Blessings, Linda and Pam

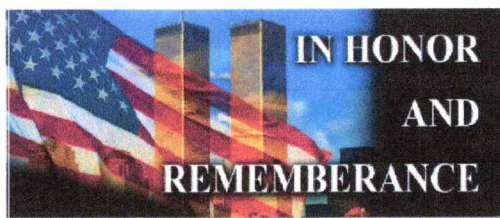


BACK



News from the Pantry

September and back to school, they really do go together. The Pantry would love to offer our younger ones good snacks to put in their lunch bags as they start a new school year. Things like juice pouches and fruit snack bags. Even fresh apples or pears or bags of popcorn would be great. You can probably think of other ideas too that would make a child very happy. We can't do it without your help though because our donation money goes towards food basics like milk, eggs, meat, etc. so if you'd like to be involved in sending a healthy snack to school in a needy child's backpack, you can drop off an item in the pantry, leave it in the outside pantry bin or put money in the donation jar and the pantry will buy it for you. A local woman and her husband, Holly and Jeff Fulton, volunteered to give the children of families that use the Pantry, backpacks with school supplies. Pat Wright organized this and it made a bunch of kids very happy!! Thank you for all the generous support you give that lets us support others in our community.



Please Join Us on September 11th at Town Hall @ 7:00PM for a short service remembering all who where lost on that dreadful day! Rev. Chris will be doing the opening and closing prayers.

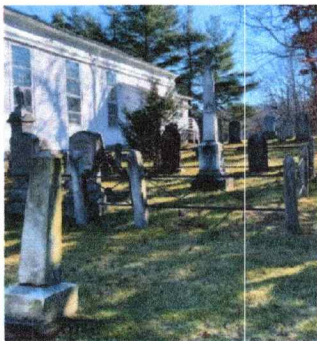
New Member Class

If you would like to join our church family, now is your chance. Pastor Chris is looking at getting together a new member class the beginning of October. And, even if you are already a member but would like a refresher of what it means to be Presbyterian know you're encourage to come!

HANDBELLS

We are hoping to start up our Handbell Choir and we love to know if you would like to join. Please let Pastor Chris know if this is something that you might be interested in, or if you have any questions.





GRAVESTONE PRESERVATION

On a very hot day in July, a group of 5 members of our church attended a full day workshop at the Morristown Presbyterian Burial Grounds. All committed to preserving the history of our church for future generations, we were anxious to learn what it would entail to restore our cemetery so gravestones could be unearthed, cleaned, and/or repaired. This hands-on workshop proved very informative. We walked away confident we could make positive progress AND purchased a cleaning products kit to get us started.

With approximately 150 gravestones on our property, this is a project the current committee cannot tackle on its own, nor does it have a short-term timeline. We believe there are many in our congregation that are also passionate about preserving our church history. Our hope is to divide the cemetery into sections and ask families/teams from our congregation to adopt 15 gravestones. The teams would work on their own schedules with no deadlines or predetermined labor dates. The committee will teach how to carefully clean the gravestones and other possible repair options that may be considered.

If you'd like to learn more about this project or are interested in adopting a portion of our cemetery, please plan on attending a Cemetery Meeting following church service on Sunday, September 10th.

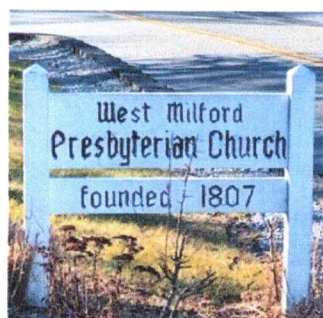
CEMETERY COMMITTEE:

Betsy & Ron Engelhardt

Fran & Jeff Ehrhardt

Marty & Gene Tappan

Kit Rusinack



West Milford Presbyterian Church



Sunday School

Begins September 10th

ALL CHILDREN WELCOME!!

(You do not have to be a church member to attend.)

Sundays at 9:00 am

Call to register or for more information

973-728-3081

wmpchurch@gmail.com

Please pass on to friends and relatives

1452 Union Valley Road, West Milford, NJ 07480

Wellness Family Festival *joins* Chuck Eninger Health Fair

Save the Date

September 23, 2023

10:00 - 2:00

**Macopin Middle School
70 Highlander Drive
West Milford, NJ 07480**

FREE EVENT!

Health Screenings & Education

**Wellness Providers for Your
Mind, Body & Spirit**

**Twin Oaks Entertainment
Massage - Reiki - Photo Booth
Service Dogs**

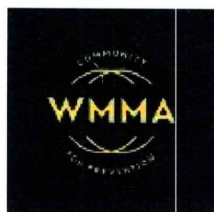
Children's Corner

**Bounce House - Games
Face Painting - Superheroes
Balloon Animals w/ Candy the Clown**

Prizes - Snacks and much more!!

For more information contact

Highlands Family Success Center (973) 506-6575



West Milford Health Advisory Board



growing our community together

WELCOME BACK

September 2023

Sep 2023 (Eastern Time - New York)

		Fri		Sat	
		1	2		
9am - Worship 6pm - Scouts	3	9am - Community Food 11am - Bible Study @ 3pm - Farmers Market	6	9am - Community Food 9am - St. Saints	7
Labor Day Office Closed		4	5	8	9
Rally Sunday 9am - Worship 10:15am - WA Meeting 6pm - Scouts	10	9am - Community Food 11am - Bible Study @ 3pm - Farmers Market	11	9am - Community Food 9am - St. Saints	14
7:30pm - Session	11	12	13	15	16
9am - Worship 2pm - Installation Service 6pm - Scouts	17	9am - Community Food 11am - Bible Study @ 3pm - Farmers Market	18	9am - Community Food 9am - St. Saints	21
7:30pm - Zoom Bible	18	19	20	22	23
9am - Worship 1pm - Girl Scouts 6pm - Scouts	24	9am - Community Food 5:30pm - WM Players	25	11am - Bible Study @ 3pm - Farmers Market 5:30pm - WM Players	27
5:30pm - WM Players 7:30pm - Zoom Bible	25	26	28	29	30
		27	28	29	30
		28	29	30	
		29	30		
		30			

Fri

Sat

First Day of Hispanic

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE