

WILTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

News From the Pews

November 2020

"We are a welcoming and diverse Christian community living our faith in God and affirming the gifts of all of God's people. We are dedicated to serving those in need, demonstrating our faith in action by following the teachings of Jesus Christ."

Statement Adopted by the Wilton Presbyterian Church Session, May 2018

What's Happening: WPC at a Glance

Sunday, November 1st at 10:00 AM: We honor **All Saint's Day** with a Communion worship service

Tuesday, November 3rd at 12:00 Noon: **Election Day** in-person and virtual Prayer Service for Peace and Unity in the WPC Sanctuary

Monday, November 9th at 1:00 PM: **Susan DeGeorge** will be leading Zoom **Bible Study Mondays, November 9, 16 & 22 from 1:00—2:00 PM**

Sunday, December 13th afternoon: Don't miss our outdoor **live drive-by Nativity!** Stay tuned for news on gift items for **Open Door Shelter**.

ADULT EDUCATION CLASS

Bible Study: A Fifth Gospel for Our Time?

Mondays November 9, November 16, November 23 1:00—2:00PM

Join us on zoom to study Isaiah, a biblical book that is perfect for the last months of 2020, capturing both our COVID moods and our dreams for a post-pandemic world! Scholars today think Isaiah is a stream of tradition rather than the work of one person, containing voices that are aristocratic and moralistic, dark and visionary, and liturgically hope-filled and hopeful all in one book. And early Christianity often referred to the book of Isaiah as a fifth gospel because it "describes all the mysteries of Christ and the church so clearly." So much later Christian imagery—the wolf dwelling with the lamb, the beating of swords into plowshares, the good news to the poor, the new heaven and new earth, the victory of God over the dark forces of the world, and more--comes out of this prophetic book. Over three weeks, we'll explore the ways in which this prophet touches the heights and depths of human experience as well as a creation renewed and restored.

Rev. Dr. Susan De George is the Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of Hudson River and teaches religious studies at Pace University. She is also a lawyer. Susan enjoys playing guitar and flute, gardening, weaving, traveling reading and having interesting conversations with folks who really want to change the world.

NOVEMBER 1 –10, 2020

Sunday, November 1st All Saints' Day

9:00 AM Church School K-5 (Zoom)

10:00 AM Communion Worship Service

Monday, November 2nd

12:00 PM AA Meeting

7:30 PM New Life AA Meeting

Tuesday, November 3rd Election Day

12:00 PM Peace & Unity Prayer Service

Wednesday, November 4th

7:30 PM New Life AA Meeting

Thursday, November 5th

7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal (Zoom)

Friday, November 6th

12:00 PM AA Meeting

8:00 PM New Life AA Meeting

Sunday, November 8th

10:00 AM Worship Service w/guest preacher

Monday, November 9th

12:00 PM AA Meeting

1:00 PM Bible Study (Zoom)

7:30 PM New Life AA Meeting

Tuesday, November 10th

8:00 AM Cooking For Open Door Shelter

PRAYERS & CONCERNS

Please pray for **Carol Rowe** as she undergoes treatment for cancer.

Please continue to pray for all those who are in need and who choose to remain private.

Wilton Presbyterian Church

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DEACONS

The Deacons have lots of news to share:

- * With the weather becoming more confining; the deacons are encouraging all WPC members to make phone calls or write personal notes to those members who are more isolated during this time of year.
- * Our co-moderator **Sally Carta** and daughter **Anna** moved to Sarasota, FL on **Monday 10/27**. We truly appreciate the leadership, dedication, thoughtful prayers and longevity in WPC that Sally has provided. We will miss her, and pray for her and Anna in their new home. **Rachelle Bernabei** will be co-moderator for the remainder of the year.
- * The **Bernabeis** had lots of good news: Alex is engaged to his long-time girlfriend, Lauren. Victor will teach in China when the Embassy re-opens. Ralph's mother is recovering from COVID.
- * **Chris and Susan Jones** announced their son Michael is engaged to Ariele;
- * **Claudette Hestic's** husband, Lawrence, is home from the hospital; he did not have COVID.
- * **Paula Belknap** sold her veterinarian clinic, though continues to work there once/week. She has moved to New Hampshire near her daughter.
- * **Carol and Sonny Kern** sold their Block Island house and will rent on the island for a month next summer.
- * **Carol Rowe** is recovering after a second surgery and now is back at home.

Encouraging all to visit the sanctuary, just stop in and bring your own music or coffee....sit and enjoy.

[Sally Carta](#) and [David Hull](#)

CHILDREN'S CHURCH SCHOOL

In **Church School** programming, we are currently conducting **biweekly zoom Church School meetings** on **Sunday mornings at 9:00 AM**.

Families are mailed home material-filled packets for our K-5th grade youth complete with a story message, scripture and fun activity including alternate week family discussion prompts complete with activity and scripture passages.

To receive packets for children in grades K-5, please email Julie.fowler@wiltonpresbyterian.org

November church school meetings

11/1, 11/15 and 11/22 (an animated message video will be shown on this date to view together via zoom)

[Julie Fowler](#)

SESSION

Bryan Campbell presented the stewardship committee's creative and exciting plans for the 2021 stewardship campaign. Session approved their theme, their plans and their timeline. Stay tuned...

John Burgdorfer reported that the finance team is going to be sending out notices to the congregation regarding their year-to-date pledges vs paid pledge amounts. They have received funds from Endowment to support the Realm project. Later last week we received the very good news from our bank that our PPP loan has been forgiven!!

We are grateful that **Patty Connor** will chair the 2021 nominating committee. Their selection of new members to Session, Deacons, Endowment and the 2022 Nominating committee will be presented to the congregation later this year. We approved the Worship Team's proposed dates for Communion services on **November 1st** and **December 6th**. The WiFi team reported that they have met with a third company; a meeting with a fourth company has been scheduled. The team will then study the proposals and make their final recommendation to Session.

[Berta Hull](#)

YOUTH GROUP

All groups met in October.

Confirmation Class

We had our second meeting in person in a safe and distant manner. Confirmands and Mentors continue to engage faith-fulfilling discussions and brainstorm ways to take part in service opportunities.

Next class: 11/17

6-12th Grade Joint Youth Ministries

6/7th grade Church school is now integrated into 6/7th grade youth group. 6/7th Grade met via Zoom and took part in the **Town of Wilton's Annual Scarecrow design and creation**. The Scarecrow can be seen directly across from the post office.

We met in person for 8th grade and high school youth groups around a bonfire. It was nice to connect with everyone in person after so long. If you would like more information about youth group, please send me an email.

Meeting dates in November

High School: 11/15

6th-8th: 11/22

[Julie Fowler](#)

FAITH IN ACTION

Faith In Action committee met on **October 22** via zoom.

In our continued efforts to assist those with food insecurity, we pledged \$500 for food assistance to families of children with cystic fibrosis through **CF Bridge of Hope**.

We pledged \$750 to the **U.S. wildfire fund** through **Presbyterian Disaster Relief** to aid those ravaged by fires in the west.

We also pledged \$500 to **Liberation Programs**, to assist those in recovery from addictions.

We move forward in our plans to “adopt” a family for Christmas from **Open Door Shelter**. When we have a wish list ready, we will use Sign Up Genius for the congregation to sign up for gift items that will be collected at church during the week and at the **December 13th Nativity drive-thru** event. Please look for more information on this giving opportunity.

We are also exploring non-perishable food needs for **Open Door Shelter** that will be donated and collected.

[Debi Foryth](#) and [Linda Rost](#)



SOCIALLY-DISTANT WEPCO WORKDAY

Saturday November 14th
(rain date November 21st)
9:00 AM—12:00 noon

In family groups with masks and gardening tools, help ready the church campus for the winter. Wave to your fellow parishioners but do not work side-by-side! Spend some time outdoors and visit St. Matthew's outdoor sanctuary and the WPC Memorial Garden.

Questions?

Contact [Berta Hull](#) or Brian Angerame



ADVENT DEVOTIONALS

Advent Devotionals will be available beginning **November 22** for your use.

WORSHIP AND MUSIC

Christmas is the main focus of our committee at this time. We are planning an array of online and live services all with great and joyful music. We hope to provide opportunities for members to participate in the online services including lay readings, lighting of the Advent Wreath and yes, singing carols from your home.

Our live services will all be **outdoors** and will include a **Drive-By Nativity** and a shortened **service on Christmas Eve (pending covid status and regulations)**.

[Chris Jones](#)

CHOIR CORNER

Hello! The choir has officially started meeting again (on zoom) and we are already working on music for Christmas and Advent. We're meeting every **Thursday at 7:30 PM**.

The bells will be meeting soon to rehearse some Christmas music as well!

If you are interested in joining us, please send me an email at:

zachary.wright@wiltonpresbyterian.org

We would always love to have more people sharing the joy of music making with us! There's something about working on Christmas music (even if it is before Halloween) that just soothes the soul.

Look out for choir participation in some of our upcoming Sunday services—including this Sunday!

[Zachary Wright](#)

For a listing of our full calendar and much more, please visit our website at:

www.wiltonpresbyterian.org