

WILTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

News From the Pews

December 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 29th: Advent Begins

Sunday, December 6th: Joint Youth Ministries Christmas Parties

Saturday, December 12th 9:00—11:00 AM: Open Door Shelter gift and food item drop-off; pick up your Christmas Eve candles and ornaments from your deacon!

Sunday, December 13th Big Music Sunday—and don't miss our outdoor *live drive-by Nativity from 3:00—5:00 PM!*

Sunday, December 20th: Lessons and Carols with Baptism and 9:00 AM special reading of the Christmas Story for Pre-K—Grade 5

Thursday, December 24th Christmas Eve at 12 noon: Worship Service posted. Service includes guest soloists, lessons and carols!

Sunday, December 27th: Family worship service, posted **Saturday December 26th at 5:00 PM**

FAITH IN ACTION

FIA has provided Thanksgiving gift cards to **Wilton Social Services** in place of the traditional gift baskets due to the realities of Covid. We are supporting a family from **Open Door Shelter** with a virtual giving tree. Please watch for this sign-up in your emails from WPC and help us to provide this family with a joyous holiday. *Drop-off items will be December 12th from 9:00—11:00 AM, with the final drop-off at WPC Monday, December 14th before noon.* For questions, please contact Mary Wright at 901 574-1272.

FIA has also approved \$650 (the last of our funds!) for families with Cystic Fibrosis who are suffering from food insecurity. Gifts have also been provided to a CF family. [Debi Foryth](#) and [Linda Rost](#)

OPEN DOOR SHELTER

We continued our meal making and delivery commitment in November. With the help of funding from our providers, mac and cheese makers, food shoppers and delivery people, WE DID IT! I am sure it is much appreciated as Norwalk is having a rough time feeding some of its residents. If you want to assist further, please look at Norwalk's [Person To Person](#) organization.

[Rachelle Bernabei](#)

NOV 29 – DEC 8, 2020

Sunday, November 29th Advent Begins

10:00 AM Worship Service

Monday, November 30th

12:00 PM AA Meeting

7:30 PM New Life AA Meeting

Wednesday, December 2nd

7:30 PM New Life AA Meeting

Thursday, December 3rd

7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal (Zoom)

Friday, December 4th

12:00 PM AA Meeting

8:00 PM New Life AA Meeting

Saturday, December 5th

5:00 PM Worship Service with
Communion posted online

Sunday, December 6th

10:30 AM Bells Rehearsal

2:00 PM—6:30 PM Joint Youth Ministries
Christmas Parties

Monday, December 7th

12:00 PM AA Meeting

7:30 PM New Life AA Meeting

Tuesday, December 8th

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

48 New Canaan Road | Wilton, CT 06897 | 203.762.5514 | www.wiltonpresbyterian.org

DEACONS

The Deacons have lots of news to share:

- * The Presbytery continues to follow state guidelines for gatherings, so we will be going with our terrific remote services for the foreseeable future. Please keep that in mind as you check in more frequently with members and friends.
- * **Nate Taylor** was ordained at his new church in Virginia Sunday Nov 22nd. We wish Nate and Natasha all the best.
- * As we deal with Covid, there are several things to think about that may give some comfort in maintaining our sanity. Shannon shared with the deacons the following stages of Covid to give us all a perspective on why we are feeling the way we are:
 - * I can do this... I am tough
 - * This doesn't affect me
 - * I'd like to experiment
 - * This can be fun, even relaxing
 - * Stasis hits—I am bored; I'm lazy
 - * This is a marathon; not it's a triathlon
 - * I am overwhelmed, spent, lonely
 - * I am grieving at how many people have died this year; losses in other ways
- * As we begin to wind down 2020, the Deacons are taking some time to reflect on this most unusual year. We are stepping back to see if our roles and actions as shepherds, liaisons and ministers of hospitality and compassion are as efficient and effective as we would like. As this introspective continues we would appreciate members participation in the process. Please share with your Deacon. We welcome your input.
- * Deacons are helping prepare for the upcoming **December 13**, drive-by Nativity and giving opportunity for Open Doors. It's going to be a special occasion for all participants.

David Hull

CHOIR CORNER

The choir has been very busy rehearsing online and preparing video recordings for our worship services this month! We've been meeting every Thursday evening at 7:30 on Zoom. The Bell Choir has been able to meet in person a few times (socially distanced in our beautiful sanctuary) and we've been preparing some really lovely selections for Christmas!

We hope you will join us for our "Virtual" Big Music Sunday on December 13 to hear what we've been working on!

Zachary Wright

SESSION

Bryan Campbell updated Session on the Stewardship campaign. The committee chairs will soon begin sharing messages about the missions of their committees giving two-minute messages during services until mid- December. In addition, nine people have volunteered to give testimonials about why they support WPC.

Shannon led us in a visioning conversation about strengths and weaknesses of WPC, past, present and future. In an attempt to envision our church in five years and as leaders of our church, we agreed that we should acknowledge the diminishing membership in mainline churches such as ours and take steps to begin a course of true transformation. We agreed to read and try some of the approaches that are in **Ruth Fletcher's** book "*Thrive, Spiritual Habits of Transforming Congregations*." Everyone is welcome and encouraged to join us in this continuing conversation.

Shannon reported that almost 400 Welcome packages have been sent out to the new residents who have moved to Wilton over the past several months. **Sandy Shifrin** has spearheaded this project with the help of **Carolyn Parker** and a crew of envelope stuffers. The staff is very excited about and is working hard on creating the **drive-by Nativity** to be held on **Sunday, December 13th**. We hope that everyone will invite their friends and come themselves.

Berta Hull

CHILDREN'S CHURCH SCHOOL

In **Church School** programming, children will be enjoying their advent bags as Advent begins on November 29th.

December Church School

Sunday, December 6th at 9:00 AM

Sunday, December 20th at 9:00 AM

YOUTH GROUP

6-12th Grade Joint Youth Ministries

December 6th: Youth Group Christmas parties via Zoom

6-7th Grades: **2:00 PM** 8th Grade: **3:30 PM**

9-12 Grades: **5:00 PM**

Confirmation Class

Confirmation is **December 15th** from **6:00 PM—7:00 PM**

Julie Fowler

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

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