

WILTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

News From the Pews

September 2021

"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

A Wee-Word from Dr. Weenink ~ A Simple, Suggested, Seasonal Change

Hello again everyone at WPC!

I don't know about you, but, for me, something I lament is the end of summer. Gone are the long spans of daylight. Sunrise is later. Sunset comes earlier. Gone are the blissful moments of frolicking by the shore. But, more so, the end of summer somehow reminds me of life's incompleteness.

Life as good as it is, is full of unrealized dreams, unfinished tasks, incomplete plans, unfulfilled hopes. This pandemic, God knows, has shown us that. There is a great deal of life spent on the verge, at the door, but not over the threshold; tethered to yesterday, unable to possess tomorrow. In other words, something remains to be done; the job is still undone. We all have to deal with disrupted plans, deferred hopes and unrealized dreams. Incompletion, though not an ideal, is an inevitability.

A great deal of human existence is spent on the verge, at the door, but not over the threshold; tethered to yesterday, unable to possess tomorrow. Life is an accumulation of decisions that could have been made differently, baggage called regret, faces you will not see again, words that came out wrong, things that don't work out as planned. Much of the business of life is unfinished business, and obsessive second-guessing leads to moral paralysis.

It doesn't have to be that way. I suspect that there is no greater test of faith than to recognize and accept these points in our lives -- and then to "let go" to a higher dimension of trust. This is actually a place, unlikely as it may seem; where glorious discoveries come -- my weakness and God's strength -- my discouragement and God's promise -- my loneliness and God's presence -- my hurt and God's grace.

I'm going to invite you into an alternative to this -- end-of-summer-lament. Let's lean-into the future, uncertain as it all seems. Let's explore the future God intends for us when we get out of God's way. Let's cross-out incompleteness, and replace it with fulfillment, accomplishment, implementation, renewal, revitalization, realization, achievement and success!

We are the story God writes. I hope you are looking forward to being the story God writes for WPC. We all live in the seasons of God's grace. I hope you are ready for this next season. I hope and pray you are -- All-IN! I know I am.

Yours in faith,
~ Jeffrey

What's Happening: Sept 12—Sept 26

Sunday, Sept 12th

10:00 am Worship Service: Dr. Jeffrey Weenink's first WPC Worship Service!

Livestream: <https://youtu.be/DNux1jMP66Q>

10:15 am Church School resumes

Monday, Sept 13th

12:00 pm AA Meeting

7:30 pm New Life AA Meeting

Wednesday, Sept 15th

7:30 pm New Life AA Meeting

Thursday, Sept 16th

6th—8th Grade Retreat (Silver Lake)

7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal (WPC Sanctuary)

Friday, Sept 17th

12:00 pm AA Meeting

8:00 pm New Life AA Meeting

Sunday, Sept 19th

10:00 am Worship Service (WPC)

Livestream: <https://youtu.be/BIH8zjnbsaE>

10:15 am Church School

Monday, Sept 20th

12:00 pm AA Meeting

7:30 pm New Life AA Meeting

Wednesday, Sept 22nd

7:00 pm Deacon Meeting

7:30 pm New Life AA Meeting

Thursday, Sept 23rd

7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal (WPC Sanctuary)

Friday, Sept 24th

12:00 pm AA Meeting

8:00 pm New Life AA Meeting

Sunday, Sept 26th

10:00 am Worship Service

Livestream: <https://youtu.be/5JsEDTBDAtw>

10:15 am Church School

11:30 am—1pm: HS Youth Group Luncheon

FOOD DRIVE TO SUPPORT AFGHANISTAN REFUGEES

Thanks to all for the wonderful response to our request for help with those recently and traumatically evacuated from Afghanistan. Under the auspices of the Wilton Interfaith Action Committee, the Wilton Presbyterian Church, and the Fairfield County Trauma Response Team, there will be a collection of non-perishable food items on **Saturday, September 25th, from 9am to 5pm** in front of the Village Market in Wilton. We are looking for volunteers to man FOUR 2-hour shifts/slots with 2 people manning each shift. In addition to those shifts, we are looking for two volunteers to load up their vehicles and transport the donations to a designated Wilton location (TBD).

If you are interested in volunteering for any of these slots, please click on this link to sign up: [Food Drive Sign Up](#)

If you cannot commit to a 2-hour volunteer slot, we hope that you can stop by the Village Market and make a nonperishable food item donation!

For those of you who would like to donate but cannot be there on the 25th, you may write a check in any amount, made out to IRIS and mailed to Phyllis Boozer at 56 Village Walk, Wilton, CT. 06897.

Many of you have also expressed an interest in providing backpacks and school supplies for children starting school. There will also be a box at the Village Market to accept these items, thanks to a wonderful group of Wilton students. For those of you who would like a list of preferred supplies, please contact Maddie Ratcliffe at madisonaratcliffe@gmail.com. Once again, please know how much we are counting on your support, and how valuable a donation of any amount is to those refugees whose needs are greater than any of us can imagine. For additional questions or concerns, please contact Phyllis Boozer at psboozer@aol.com, or Linda Rost at lrost0411@gmail.com.

FAITH IN ACTION

Cathy Ratcliffe will be taking over the leadership of FIA in January 2022, and is looking for a co-chair. This is a very manageable and rewarding job, especially if there are two folks to share it.

FIA has chosen to help support the re-settlement of Afghanistan refugees with a donation of \$1000 to IRIS. Our youth, under the leadership of Maddie and Grace Ratcliffe, will be organizing a drive to collect backpacks and school supplies for the children of these families arriving from Afghanistan. Maddie has the list of needed items. Please contact:

Cathy Ratchiffe at ratcliffe.cathy@gmail.com or Linda Rost at lrost0411@gmail.com

For our full calendar and much more, please visit:

www.wiltonpresbyterian.org

wpchurch@wiltonpresbyterian.org

YOUTH MINISTRIES

We welcome back many of our friends and feel blessed to share time and space once again. This month in our Sunday morning time together we will be exploring, "Living as God's people."

Church School is every **Sunday 10:15 am—10:45 am**, unless otherwise noted.

We also look forward to the return of our ever popular, "Joyful Noise," segment of church school which will take place once per month beginning in October for the final 20 minutes of Church School. On these days parents will pick up their children from the Upper Core Room following service at 11AM. Joyful Noise is an opportunity to gather all church school youth and to fill the room with the song, prayer and faith sharing traditions from each side of our Joint Youth Ministries.

Further information and registration forms can be found on our website and by contacting Julie Fowler at Julie.Fowler@wiltonpresbyterianchurch.org

[Church School Calendar 2021-2022](#)

Youth Group Upcoming Events for September

6/7 & 8th Grade

Retreat at Silver Lake
September 16

8th Grade Confirmation
September 28

High School Youth Group
Welcome Back Luncheon
September 26

6/7th Grade Joint Youth Calendar Link

[6th and 7th Grade Youth Group Meetings 2021-2022](#)

8th Grade Joint Youth Calendar
[8th Grade Youth Group 2021-2022](#)

High School Joint Youth Calendar Link
[High School Youth Group 2021-2022](#)

For more information, contact Julie Fowler:

Julie.Fowler@wiltonpresbyterian.org

WANTED!

Boys and girls, men and women interested in recording
The Worship Team is looking for six people to operate the live-stream camera. Must be middle school age or older. Training provided. Easy-to-follow instructions. Work 1-1/4 hour every six weeks on Sundays from 9:45am to 11am. Great service project for high schoolers!

Please contact Dave Hull at davidhull1028@gmail.com or 203-858-7002).