

WILTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

News From the Pews

October 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

The autumnal equinox has taken place and we have entered into that time when the trees show their true colors. Fall brings some fun holidays, lovely harvests, football games, and many opportunities to enjoy the beauty and splendor of God’s creation. As the cooling of days falls upon us and the landscape explodes with vibrant colors of crimson, yellow, and orange, Wilton Presbyterian Church offers the warmth of fellowship and community. It is a time of returning.

I hope that you will invite others to join you for either the live-stream or in-person worship experience. Please invite those whom you have not seen for a while. Please also look out for new folks who have recently relocated into the area and tell them all about WPC. Some meet-and-greet gatherings are being organized through which we can get better acquainted in some small-group settings. There is a Golden Anniversary joint worship celebration planned with St. Matthew’s.

Even with the limits of the pandemic, it will be of great delight to get connected. See you soon! .

Faithfully,
~ Jeffrey

What’s Happening: Oct 3—Oct 10

Sunday, Oct 3rd: World Communion Sunday

10:00 am Worship Service

Livestream: <https://youtu.be/DYtmDd-aFs8>

10:15 am Church School

2:00 pm Blessing of the Animals

Monday, Oct 4th

12:00 pm AA Meeting

7:00 pm Endowment Meeting (zoom)

7:30 pm New Life AA Meeting

Wednesday, Oct 6th

7:30 pm New Life AA Meeting

Thursday, Oct 7th

7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal (WPC Sanctuary)

Friday, Sept 8th

12:00 pm AA Meeting

8:00 pm New Life AA Meeting

Sunday, Oct 10th

10:00 am Worship Service

Livestream: <https://youtu.be/dlt3WEaFKWQ>

World Communion Sunday

Make Your Connection with the Body of Christ

Connectionalism is especially important for Presbyterians. In our Book of Order we claim that we are a “connectional church.” In other words, the individual church is part of a Presbytery (in our case, the Presbytery of Southern New England); the Presbytery is a part of a synod (the Synod of the Northeast); and churches, Presbyteries and synods are part of the national body, the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA).

But the connection does not stop there. It goes on, as the first Sunday of this month reminds us. World Communion Sunday is a time to celebrate at the table of our Lord, and to recognize that we do so not alone. World Communion Sunday began at Shadyside Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in 1933. The Rev. Hugh Thompson Kerr and his congregation sought to demonstrate the interconnectedness of Christian churches, regardless of denomination.

Holy Communion was the mechanism to symbolize this unity. In 1940, the Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America, adopted World-Wide Communion Sunday. Here at WPC all are welcome to the Lord’s Table. We join other followers of Jesus Christ, gathered around the table around the world, in places we have never heard of, with names we may not be able to pronounce, yet children of God, called by Jesus to his table. We do not come alone—we are gathered together—we are connected.

We are not an isolated outpost in the world—but a part of the Church Universal, a part of the world-wide body of Christ. Take your place among the faithful on October 3.

Wilton Presbyterian Church

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

SESSION

Session held their September hybrid meeting on the Monday September 20th. John Burgdorfer updated us on the financial condition of the church as well as what is needed to move ahead with the people module of Realm. The financials are in good shape with expenses in line with budget. The pledge income is expected to be on budget by the end of the year, thanks to all of our YOU. The balance sheet remains healthy. The Realm project is still alive. Mark Bohrer, Frank Mabley and Carolyn Parker will continue in their roles but we are looking for a new coordinator because John is stepping down at the end of this year. Contact:

John Burgdorfer at johnjeffry42@gmail.com or
Berta Hull at bertahull@gmail.com

if you would like to know more about the coordinator position.

Bryan Campbell is putting together a team to work on the stewardship campaign this year. The team approach will be able to better provide a combination of an informative and activity/event-based campaign. Contact:

Bryan Campbell at Bryan.campbell@aexp.com
if you would like to join this exciting team effort.

The Deacons and Elders met in early September to make a plan for reaching out to our many new neighbors. We decided that the best way to reach people is through Good Morning Wilton (GMW). Bryan Campbell has put together a three-part plan with Heather Borden Herve at GMW, the first being an interview with Jeffrey and the second an advertisement that will run daily throughout the month of October. The interview will run during the week of September 27th. The third part of the plan is to run an article on all of the houses of worship in Wilton for the benefit of people who are new or not new to Wilton. This article will run closer to the holiday season..

FAITH IN ACTION

On **Saturday, Sept. 25th**, WPC's Faith in Action partnered with the Fairfield County Trauma Response Team and the Wilton Interfaith Action Team to sponsor a food collection for families recently evacuated from Afghanistan. The response of the community was unbelievably generous and will help to feed the 360 Afghani families that are currently scheduled to be settled in CT. Under the able direction of Maddie and Grace Ratcliffe, backpacks and school supplies have also been collected and donated children who are about to start their new schools. Again, generosity was the word for the day. For those who wish to donate but were unable to be present on Saturday, you may send a check in any amount to:

Integrated Refugee and Immigrant Services
235 Nicoll St., 2nd Floor
New Haven, CT 06511

For those of you interested in collecting gently used winter coats, boots, gloves and hats, please email Linda Rost at lrost0411@gmail.com. This initiative will likely take place around the end of October.

RENEWED IN THE SPIRIT SERMON SERIES

Dr. Jeffrey has been preaching a series of sermons following the theme: Renewed In The Spirit.

To date:

Renewed In The Spirit
A Not-So Itinerant Faith
Quarantine

Coming up:
Eucharistos

YOUTH MINISTRIES

We welcomed back many of our friends and feel blessed to share time and space once again.

Church School is every **Sunday 10:15-10:45 AM**, unless otherwise noted.

We look forward to the return of our ever popular, "Joyful Noise," segment of church school which will take place once per month beginning **October 3**. 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.

[Church School Calendar 2021-2022](#)

Youth Group Upcoming Events for October

6-12th Grade

Retreat at Silver Lake
October 12

8th Grade Confirmation
October 19

High School Youth Group
October 24

8th Grade Youth Group
October 30

Youth Choir Rehearsal
October 17 (11:15-11:45 AM)

[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, please contact Julie Fowler, Director of Youth Ministry, at:

Julie.Fowler@wiltonpresbyterian.org

TAKE A LOOK! TAKE A LOOK!

Good Morning Wilton recently did a feature article about WPC. If you haven't see it, follow the link below and be sure to share it with your friends.

<https://goodmorningwilton.com/wilton-presbyterian-church-welcomes-new-interim-pastor/>

BRING A BULB

In observing World Communion Sunday, we invite all worshippers to do something tangible and touchable and bring tulip bulbs to add beauty to our campus. As we harvest our crops and prepare for winter, it is good to plant bulbs in preparation for the promise of Spring. Let us celebrate our diversity and also beautify our little corner of the world by bringing a tulip bulb of any color. Let's embrace our essential unity as a congregation as we enthusiastically continue forward into the full activities of the fall season. Bringing a bulb is another way in which we may share all of God's Good Gifts. The bulbs will be collected every Sunday in the Narthex throughout the month of October.

WEPCO GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY

Joint worship service with St. Matthews October 17, 10 am

Join in a celebration of cooperation between St. Matthew's Episcopal and Wilton Presbyterian Church on **October 17 at 10 a.m.** This will be an outdoor worship experience (weather permitting) with some limited indoor seating.

We will celebrate the Golden Anniversary of our joint effort also known as WEPCO. It all started in the early 1960's when Dr. Eugene Carson Blake (Stated Clerk of the General Assembly and later became the chief executive of the World Council of Churches) preached at Wilton Presbyterian Church and shared a vision for ecumenical cooperation among major Protestant denomination that would lead to the union of the different groups. He and Episcopal Bishop Rev. Dr. James Pike joined efforts to develop the Consultation On Church Union, also known as COCU. It was also called the "Blake-Pike Proposal." That planted the seeds for the creation of a joint endeavor between the St. Matthew's Episcopal and Wilton Presbyterian congregations.

Wilton Presbyterian and St. Matthew's brought a lofty idea into practice. In 1971, the Wilton Episcopal Presbyterian Corporation (WEPCO) was formed and we embarked on a unique partnership with our Episcopal neighbors and friends. While the WEPCO complex is the physical manifestation of this partnership, its spiritual aspects run much deeper. Wilton Presbyterian Church and St. Matthew's are separate congregations with separate sanctuaries, but which uniquely share a common property and programming. There is common space between our churches that serves many purposes. It is more than an ecumenical experiment. It is cooperative and collaborative experience. It is a partnership. We are more than two congregations sharing program and space. Indeed, we are all sisters and brothers in Christ.

WI-ACT'S RISE AGAINST HUNGER

Meal-Packaging Event Day

SATURDAY, OCT. 23RD

We are excited that Wi-ACT is able to hold its Meal-Packaging Event once again! Help the Wilton Interfaith Action Committee (WI-ACT) feed many malnourished children for an entire year wherever in the world the need is greatest.

The packaging will be done at the **WEPCO Joint Church Complex at 48 New Canaan Road.**

You can go to this website to select your shift of **9-11 am, 11-1 pm, 1-3 pm, or 3-5 pm:**

<https://signup.com/go/hmVSjUs>

Please be aware that, for COVID safety precaution reasons, the event this year needs to be about half the size of prior year's events in terms of the number of volunteers on each shift. Please don't let that discourage you from volunteering if there's space on the shift you select when you sign up, but also please don't be disappointed if your desire to serve can't be accommodated this year. If that should happen, we hope that you will volunteer again in future years when hopefully COVID safeguards will no longer be necessary.

To insure safety for everyone, please note these specific COVID protocols for the event:

- All volunteers must be fully vaccinated and bring to the Event vaccination cards AND evidence of negative PCR test results within 72 hours before Oct. 23rd.
- Everyone will wear masks, the number of volunteers in each workspace (there will be three packaging floors this year, not just one) will be limited to 25 to 30, and the workspaces will be fully sanitized between shifts.
- Children under 12 unfortunately cannot volunteer this year; we will really miss them and are looking forward to their return next year.

*Be sure to get your PCR test done (available at Wilton CVS, among other pharmacy locations) by **Wednesday Oct 20th** so that you have the results back in time.*

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



BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

ALL ANIMALS WELCOME!

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2 PM

Join us in a drive-through event with a blessing offered by Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Weenink along with your beloved pets as we say a prayer over God's creatures who give us comfort, security and unconditional love. A special treat, home-baked by our own youth, will be provided.

All two- and four-footed, furry and feathery, crated or leashed friends are welcome. If you are unable to bring your pet or you are sharing a memory of a past pet, you may bring a photograph. Children's favorite stuffed animals are also welcome! newsletter.

LIVESTREAMING UPDATE

We continue to improve on the setup and quality of the livestream service. We apologize to those who connected to the 9/19 live stream but could not hear anything. We have identified and resolve the issue there. We will soon have improvements to the audio of church music for viewers of the livestream.

The link for the upcoming worship is posted on the WPC website on both the home page and in the calendar section: www.wiltonpresbyterian.com ~ the link is also shared in the weekly WPC news blast.

The worship recording is immediately viewable as a recording via that same link. The video of the most recent worship generally shows up on the WPC YouTube channel feed within 24 hours for those who may not have the link from the newsletter.

For our full calendar and much more, please visit:

www.wiltonpresbyterian.org

wpchurch@wiltonpresbyterian.org

UPDATE ON MASK POLICY

Please observe the following policy:
"All people who enter the WEPCO Complex must adhere to the following:

All individuals, regardless of vaccination status, who enter any WEPCO Complex indoor space must wear a mask except while eating or drinking; practice social distancing and hand sanitization.

All WEPCO tenants are required to enforce the above requirements with their members, volunteers, clients, staff, event attendees, etc."

SOCIAL MEDIA TEAM

Are you savvy with Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and/or other social media platforms? Would you be willing to share your time and ability to extend the work and witness of WPC through these mediums? If so, please let Carolyn Parker know at carolyn.parker@wiltonpresbyterian.org

We would like to establish a team to expand our abilities.

Thank you!

OCTOBER FUN, FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP

Women Only

DINING WITH THE DIVAS

When: **Wednesday, October 6th, 5:30pm**
Where: 13 Hidden Hill Road, Weston CT
RSVP: Cathy Thomas at bg1canton@gmail.com
Sign up with Cathy to bring appetizer, salad, dessert, beverages

Men Only

BURGERS WITH THE BOYS

When: **Wednesday, October 6th, 6:30pm**
Where: Marley's
RSVP: Kit Smith at cwsmith1@optonline.net

FIND YOUR WAY TO ~ Realm

Watch for ways you too can enter the **realm!**