

WILTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

News From the Pews

December 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 Renewed in the Spirit

Our worship theme, sermon series and stewardship emphasis focused, over that past few weeks, around the theme Renewed In The Spirit. One never ends the process of being Renewed In The Spirit. The process enables us, each, to be ENLIGHTENED BY RENEWED PERSPECTIVE. It provides a good context for us to enter into Advent and embrace the Christmas event.

No one knows the exact moment when Jesus was born; in fact, Christmas was not mentioned as a celebration until the fourth century. With the influence of a church leader named Ambrose, the date for Christmas was set at the Winter Solstice when, for an infinitesimal moment, time stands still, the darkness begins to decrease, light begins to increase, and we cross the bar between the encroaching darkness and witness the days beginning to lengthen again. It is not by accident that we celebrate the coming of God’s light to the world during the dark days of winter, when night shrouds our departures to daily endeavors and descends before we complete them. It is the darkest time of the year, when the days are at their shortest and we are the hungriest for light.

Our use of candles with the advent wreath and on Christmas Eve, the lighting extravaganzas displayed upon homes and yards are all ways in which we seek pierce the darkness in a spirit of hopefulness – yes even resolve.

Herein is where we will find our inspiration – piercing the darkness in a spirit of hopefulness – yes, even resolve to be enlightened by renewed perspective.

- * Instead of complaining about all the pressure we are under at our places of endeavor; think about those who have no place of endeavor to which they may go and be enlightened by renewed perspective.
- * When you admiring wreaths adorning homes; say prayers for those who place wreaths on the graves of fallen heroes and be enlightened by renewed perspective.
- * Instead of taking for granted all the things you have; take into account all that you have and be enlightened by renewed perspective.

Continued on next page...

What’s Happening: Dec 1—Dec 12

Thursday, Dec 2

7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal (WPC Sanctuary)

Friday, Dec 3

12:00 pm AA Meeting

8:00 pm New Life AA Meeting

Saturday, Dec 4

3:00 pm Christmas Pageant Rehearsal

Sunday, Dec 5: Advent Week 2 ~ Communion

Sunday

10:00 am Worship Service

Livestream: <https://youtu.be/woFg2NiJqF0>

10:15 am Church School/Joyful Noise

11:00 am Deacon Meet ’n Greet with Flocks

11:30 am Joint HS Christmas Party

Monday, Dec 6

12:00 pm AA Meeting

7:30 pm New Life AA Meeting

Tuesday, Dec 7

4:00 pm Caroling at Wilton Commons

Wednesday, Dec 8

7:30 pm New Life AA Meeting

Thursday, Dec 9

7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal (WPC Sanctuary)

Friday, Dec 10

12:00 pm AA Meeting

8:00 pm New Life AA Meeting

Sunday, Dec 12: Advent Week 3 ~ Music

Sunday

10:00 am Worship Service

Livestream: <https://youtu.be/6-1E7nR4tnE>

10:15 am Church School

11:00 am Live Nativity and Chili Luncheon in WPC courtyard

A Wee-Word from Dr. Weenink... continued

- * Instead of simply paying lip service to the real meaning of Christmas; extend your true hearts homage to it and be enlightened by renewed perspective.
- * Instead of lighting candles to decorate; light candles to commemorate Christ's rebirth in your heart and soul and very being – and be enlightened by renewed perspective.
- * Instead of allowing annoying relatives get the best of you; give the best of yourselves to them – thankful that you have kith and kin with whom you can be connected and be enlightened by renewed perspective.
- * Rather that demonizing those who set out to hurt you, pray for them and be enlightened by renewed perspective.
- * Instead of giving thanks for gifts from stores and persons; give thanks for gifts from God and be enlightened by renewed perspective.
- * Instead of attempting to give your children the things money can buy; give them all the things it can't---instilled values, a sense of security, safety, peace and be enlightened by renewed perspective.
- * Instead of being absorbed by the madness of this holy holiday; become absorbed in its meaning and be enlightened by renewed perspective.

Awakened to the ways the eternal one touches every dimension of our time-bound existence; searching out meanings that go deeper than the skin; liberated from the bondage of world appetites and appearances, in benevolence, in generosity, in the true spirit of holiday cheer – be enlightened by renewed perspective and bask in the glow and glory of Christ's illumination.

Piercing the darkness with you

in a spirit of hopefulness –

yes even resolve –

Renewed In The Spirit

enlightened by renewed perspective.

Yours in Christ,

Jeffrey

REALM

Soon, all active WPC members will receive an email from the church inviting them to set up their Realm account/profile.

Realm is a great resource for committees and service groups to maintain their communications, calendar events and shared files. If you are on a committee or service group at UPC, you will likely be asked to use Realm for its communications. Once you see all the benefits of using Realm for committee functions you will certainly appreciate the ways Realm can help WPC provide better ministry to help fulfill our Mission.

A RMD CAN BE A REMEDY

If you're required to take a minimum distribution from your IRA, it is often referred to as a RMD (Required Minimum Distribution) You have the option to make that distribution tax free by directing it to the charity of your choice. Such distributions can be a convenient way to support the church, meet tax requirements for IRAs and get a bit of a tax break.

This is a very sensible option for many of us at Wilton Presbyterian Church. This provision (now permanent) provides an exclusion from gross income for certain distributions from an individual retirement account (traditional or Roth), which would otherwise be considered taxable income.

If you have saved tax-deferred income in an IRA and must begin taking required minimum distributions from that account(s) at age 70½, you'll pay income tax on that amount. By making a gift to charity from that IRA in an amount equal to or more than the required minimum distribution for that year, you can accomplish your charitable goals and reduce your tax liability.

Please note the following requirements:

- * You must be 70½ years of age
- * Tax benefits apply to gifts up to \$100,000 per year
- * The amount must be in the form of an outright gift.

In order for the amount transferred from your IRA to Wilton Presbyterian Church to be a qualified charitable distribution, current rules stipulate that the funds be transferred directly from the plan administrator of your IRA to Wilton Presbyterian Church. You are required to contact the plan administrator to request the transfer.

Donors should consult their tax advisors about charitable distributions from an IRA and the advisability of making such contributions.

YEAR-END GIFTS

For many of us, the end of the year is a time for reflection. It is a time to review our accomplishments and re-examine our spiritual, personal, and professional lives. Did we use the year wisely in service to others? Did we use the time to strengthen our faith and commitment to God? Did we become better stewards, mothers, fathers, grandparents and employees?

For others, the end of the year marks a shift toward more futuristic thinking. Year-end giving offers a wonderful opportunity to plant seeds for the future. Such gifts not only aid the church, they are also an expression of deepening gratitude at a time of year when we focus our attention on God's great gift of Jesus Christ. A number of these gifts are made for special designated purposes, while others suggest, "find a useful place." You can make such gifts conventionally through checks or cash, and there are digital options available to you through Realm and the church website. Year-end gifts can be in forms other than cash. Stocks, bonds or other securities are another easy option. Thank you for your generous support and the stewardship it expresses.

Wilton Presbyterian Church

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MEET AND GREET YOUR NEW PASTOR!

Join your deacon for a social to say hello to Jeffrey and Jeanne Weenink.

Two events are remaining...

Sunday, December 5, after church—1 PM, hosted by Deacons Patti Dormer, Becky Shroyer, and Sonny Kern.

Last date to be announced... stay tuned!

All events will take place in the WEPCO Lounge.

Refreshments will be provided. Please RSVP to your deacon. If you are unable to attend your deacon's gathering, RSVP to another event that works.

Sliders will be open for ventilation. You should wear masks unless eating or drinking. Dress warmly!

SESSION

We hope that you have all seen and are enjoying our ad on the Good Morning Wilton website. Session has voted to continue this ad throughout the holiday seasons. In addition, Heather Borden-Herve, editor of GMW, will be reaching out to each of Wilton's places of worship to present a broader campus of places to worship during the holiday seasons. So, log into Good Morning Wilton every day and sometime over the next couple of months you will see a feature on WPC, highlighting our church and our Advent services. We all thank Bryan Campbell for championing this exciting opportunity for all of us to welcome new neighbors to WPC.

Beginning around the first of November, we will begin seeing work being done around our complex to install a campus security system. WEPCO is the recipient of a \$48,400 grant from the State of Connecticut that was offered to non-profit organizations they determined are "at heightened risk of being the target of terrorist attack, hate crimes or any violent act." Included in the installation will be 16 surveillance cameras both inside and outside our buildings, a software platform and PC for recording the video, four mobile panic alarms tied to the vendor's central station and the Wilton police department and a new electronic door lock on the main door, including wireless card access and up to 50 key cards.

STILL WANTED: Men, women and youth who would like to join the "The Stream Team!" Reshan Richards has simplified the process to make it FUN and user friendly. This is a great opportunity for High School students to log some community outreach time!

Berta Hull

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



Our Savior
is Born

The birth of Jesus Christ is the greatest the world has received, "Love came down at Christmas." The gifts of love are the bonds that unite us in common faith and service. With grateful hearts these gifts we share. We thank you for your support & friendship. God's richest blessings to you. From:

Carolyn, Julie, Zack and Jeffrey

PLEDGE COMPLETION

As the year draws to a close, we ask members to make a special effort to complete their 2021 pledge commitments **by noon on December 30**. Extra commitment gifts, as always are graciously received.

Per Capita

What is Per Capita? Fair question. Let's attempt to answer it.

Per capita is the mechanism for funding the higher governing bodies of the church: Presbyteries, Synods and the General Assembly and their mission and administration. When presbyteries, synods, and the General Assembly meet, they are conducting the legislative and judicial business of the church and incur necessary expenses. There are also some necessary administrative expenses involved which enable these ecclesiastical, legislative, and judicial functions to be performed. It has been part of our ecclesiastical funding history for over 150 years.

The whole church shares in these expenses since everyone who is listed on the membership roll shares in the benefits of this system of church government. Per capita provides for the financial participation of all local churches as part of a connectional and representative church, thus providing for unity and mutual responsibility within the church.

The 2022 Per Capita Apportionment (per – person listed on the WPC membership roll):

General Assembly	\$ 8.95
Synod of the Northeast	\$ 4.10
Presbytery of Southern New England	\$37.00
Total	\$50.05

Per capita, in any given year, is based on the number of members within churches as reported on December 31, in the previous year.

Every member is invited to contribute their apportionment to help offset this essential ecclesiastical expense. Please note "per capita" when you make your contribution.

CARES AND CONCERNS

Please hold the following people in your prayers this week:
Kit Smith, Brandon Bone, Janet Johnson, Cathy Thomas

..and join me in celebrating with the Browns who just returned from visiting with their son's family in Colorado for the holiday!

GOOD SAMARITAN FUND

GOOD SAMARITAN FUND /AKA Pastor's Discretionary Fund

This fund, established by Session in 1989 and managed by the Pastors, provides emergency assistance for unexpected times of need (food, shelter, medical, transportation). Contributions to this fund are received as designated gifts from members and friends. Contributions to the Good Samaritan Fund may be made at any time as a memorial or direct gift through a check made payable to WPC, or through the church web-site (Give tab).

BODY AND RELATIONSHIP MINDFULNESS SEMINAR

Registration begins for 7th and 8th Graders

This is a 4-week series meeting on **Tuesdays from 6pm-8pm beginning January 11, 2022**. It provides a nurturing, safe and supportive faith-centered environment for our 7th and 8th graders to learn about their God-given gift of sexuality and how to live responsibly with this blessing.

All students must register by January 9th.

Registration forms are available on the table outside the Church School office.

Please if you have any questions or you need more information, contact Julie Fowler at Julie.fowler@wiltonpresbyterian.org or call 917-446-3510.

LIVESTREAMING

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

YOUTH MINISTRIES

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

December begins our "waiting," period as we begin Advent. The Christmas Pageant is well underway and we have a star studded cast and choir.

December Acolytes Needed! Please email Julie with interest. There will be **no Church School Sunday, December 26** and **there will be Holiday Church School January 2, 2022.**

Youth Group Upcoming Events for December

6-8th Grade

Christmas Caroling Wilton Commons
December 7

8th Grade Confirmation/Confirmand Mentor Dinner
December 14

High School Youth Group Christmas Party
December 5

Youth-Sponsored Chili Luncheon
December 12

Youth Choir/Pageant Rehearsals

Saturday December 4, 3PM-4PM

Saturday December 11, 3PM-4PM

Saturday December 18, 3PM-5PM

Dress Rehearsal/ Pageant Celebration Party

Sunday December 19, 9AM

Dress Rehearsal/ PAGEANT DAY!!

Church School Link:

[Church School Calendar 2021-2022](#)

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

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."