



THE PATHFINDER

A Publication of West Haven Presbyterian Church for our Members and Friends in Christ

Issue 33

September 2023

We are growing in grace one neighbor at a time.



A Message from Your Pastor.

“Mentors”

Elijah was one of the most influential prophets in Jewish history. His ministry focused on swaying Judah away from the worship of the pagan fertility god Baal and back to the covenantal relationship with the Lord God. The verses below are Elijah’s last scene on this earth. The prophet is whisked away to haven via a fiery chariot. Yet as much as it is the end of one prophet it is the beginning of another. Elijah leaves his mantle to his apprentice Elisha. This gesture is both figuratively and literally passed the mantle of responsibility to

the young Elisha.

2 Kings 2:9-14

⁹ When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, “Tell me what I may do for you before I am taken from you.” Elisha said, “Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit.” ¹⁰ He responded, “You have asked a hard thing, yet if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not.” ¹¹ As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. ¹² Elisha kept watching and crying out, “Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!” But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

¹³ He picked up the mantle of Elijah that had fallen from him and went back and stood on the bank of the Jordan. ¹⁴ He took the mantle of Elijah that had fallen from him and struck the water. He said, “Where is the Lord, the God of Elijah? Where is he?” He struck the water again, and the water was parted to the one side and to the other, and Elisha crossed over.

Things to note:

- Elijah and Elisha: as confusing as it might be, these are two different men. Elijah (meaning the LORD is my God) is the great and senior prophet and his apprentice is Elisha (meaning God is my salvation) is
- Double Portion: this request mirrors the inheritance rights of a first born son, the first-born son receives a double portion of the property/wealth of the patriarch as compared to his siblings (Deuteronomy 21:17), thus Elisha’s request is an acknowledgement that he is Elijah’s scion and prophet in waiting
- Ascended in a whirlwind into heaven: this marks the close of the prophet Elijah’s ministry, he does not die but instead is taken up to heaven. For the text, if Elijah did die then there would have to be a burial and funeral but since this is not mentioned the text tells us that Elijah is on heaven with the Lord God, thus the disciples see him during Jesus’ transfiguration (Matthew 17:1–8, Mark 9:2–8, Luke 9:28–36)
- Mantle: a type or cloak or shawl that is worn around the shoulders and chest, this was a loose outer garment meant to protect from sand, wind, and sun.

- “the waters parted to the one side...”: this is an event that mirrors, though less dramatically, the parting of the Red Sea (Exodus 14:21), this illustrates the divine power and authority given to prophet Elisha

With the heat from the fiery chariot still warm on his face, the young apprentice Elisha crosses the Jordan back into Israel, carrying the mantle of his teacher and friend. The newly confirmed prophet crosses into the Promised Land, with all its toils and snares with a double portion of Elijah’s spirit and all the responsibility there in. Elisha is both grief stricken and empowered. He mourns the loss of his second father figure and at the same time emboldened to embrace the path that God has called him, equipped him and molded him for. In this telling scene the young man comes of age, graduates, enters prophet-hood and maturity.

In crossing the Jordan back into the promising wilderness of the Holy Land, Elisha enters a new phase in his life. Namely Elisha begins a new chapter full of promise, hope and danger. In accepting God’s call, Elisha in turn matures both mentally and spiritually. Yet, this was only possible through the guiding hand of his mentor Elijah.

I’ve through a lot about mentor ship this past week. Looking back on my personal experience with mentors and how they have shaped my life. Sue Hudson was mentioned earlier and deserves mentioning again. She was my boss and mentor eight years ago when I was a youth director for Bethesda. Under her tutelage I saw the good and the tough parts of ministry. There were times where I felt in over my head but I was confident that Sue was there to help me. Like a good swim instructor Sue would lead me along and push me to go further, out of my comfort zone and into the promising wilderness of ministry.

This was possible only because Sue herself was spiritually mature and could lead appropriately. She set an example as well as let me make my own mistakes. She set up the boundaries and let me grow within them. In thinking about Sue and mentorship, I could not help but think about God in such ways.

As with many heroes of the Bible from Jacob, Elisha and even Paul, the Lord God mentors all who seek to grow spiritually. The Lord God, time and again fosters growth and development all with an ever-present guiding hand. God perpetually leads us all to a deeper more fulfilling spiritual life no matter what our age or life circumstance.

So friends, have you had a mentor? Who were they? How did they impact your life and your faith for the better? How is the Lord God mentoring you right now? What green

growth or positive change has happened in the past year? I'd love to hear your experience.

To God be the Glory!

Rev. Tyler Williams

Prayer

“God of...”


God of soapy hands, warm baths, and clean towels, wash our souls clean of the misgivings, mischief and mistakes that clutter our lives so we are pristine in your presence.

God of clear water, cool mornings, and sharp peppermint, refresh our muddled minds, to take in your holy word for this day.


God of earthy basil, sour vinegar, and sweet tomatoes, cleans our pallets that we may sing your praises with fresh mouths.

Amen.

-Rev. Tyler Williams



Results of Summer Mission Project School Supplies for Freedom School

- BAND-AIDS=488
 - PENCILS=470
 - ERASERS=281
 - GLUE STICKS= 102
 - PENS=75
 - NOTEBOOKS=61
 - DRY ERASE MARKERS=46
 - FOLDERS=45
 - MARKER SETS=38
 - CRAYON PACKS=35
 - PEN/PENCILS CASES=29
 - POST ITS=23
 - RULERS=22
 - COLORED PENCIL SETS=16
 - TISSUE BOX=12
 - PACKS OF PAPER=10
 - UNIFORM CLOTHES=8
 - SCISSORS=8
 - HIGHLIGHTERS=8
 - GLUE BOTTLES=4
 - PLANNERS =4
 - PENCIL SHARPENERS=4
 - COLD COMPRESS=4
 - CALCULATORS=3
 - BACK PACKS=2
 - SMALL WHITEBOARDS
WITH ERASERS=2
 - 74 OZ OF HAND SANITIZER
- 



Around the Church

Session News:

At the stated session meeting on August 22, 2023, the following business was conducted:

- Gerald Batts reported on July Presbytery meeting.
- Approved building request from Carol White for use of the gym on Saturday August 26th for the reception for her passed husband.
- Approved building request by Down East Reading for use of the gym on Tues. Sept. 12th from 5-8 pm.
- Approved 2023-2024 Sunday School to start Sunday, September 10th
- Approved 2023-2024 Sunday School class leaders to Betty Jones and Kathy Lawson
- Approved Bible Study start date Sept. 13th.
- Approved Worship on the Grounds for September 24th.
- Approved Peace & Global Worship Offering for October 1st.
- Approved 25% of Peace & Global Worship Offering to go to My Sister's House.
- Approved Presbyterian Community Worship on Reformation Sunday Oct. 29th at West Haven.
- Approved Nov. 12th as date for Dedication Sunday.
- Approved Joy Gift Offering to be Sunday, December 17th.
- Approved only one service at 5:00 pm for Sunday, December 24th.

Announcements

- Sun. Sept 10th West Haven will collect a love offering for Carol White, our custodian, who lost her husband recently. Please mark your gift with either 'love gift' or 'for Carol White'. Thank you.
- Women's Circle will meet Wed Sept. 6th at 12:30 pm.
- Handbell rehearsal resumes Wed. Sept. 6th at 6:30 pm.
- Choir rehearsal resumes Wed. Sept. 6th at 7:30 pm.
- Return to regular worship at 11am Sun. Sept. 10th.
- Sunday School kick off and breakfast Sept. 10th at 9:30 am in the fellowship hall.
- Presbyterian Men will meet Tues. Sept. 12th at 6:30 pm.
- Bible Study will begin Wed. Sept. 13th at 11am
- Handcraft Ministry will meet Sept. 20th at 2pm, at First Presbyterian Church.
- Worship on the Grounds Sun. Sept. 24th, with BBQ lunch afterward.
- Session meeting Tues. Sept 26th at 7pm



Presbyterian
Women

WED. SEPT. 6TH
AT 12:30 IN
FELLOWSHIP HALL



Wed. Sept. 6th
Handbell Rehearsal
starts at 6:30pm
Choir Rehearsal
starts at 7:30pm

Finance and Personnel

Pledges as of date: 7/31/2023

\$73,805.45 (YTD Actual)

\$93,202.08 (YTD Budget)

WH Endowment Fund balance 6/30/2023 - \$110,362.46



KICK OFF SUNDAY!!!
SEPT. 10
SUNDAY SCHOOL
9:30AM
WORSHIP
11AM



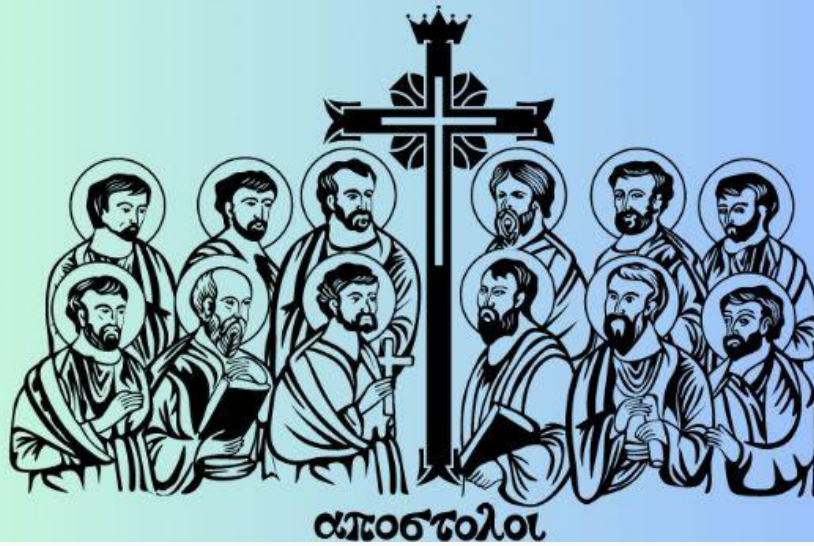
WEST HAVEN
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)



PRESBYTERIAN MEN

TUES. SEP. 12TH
AT 6:30PM IN
FELLOWSHIP HALL

**THE DISCIPLES:
LIFE AND LEGACY**
JOIN US WED. SEPT. 13TH AT 11AM
AS WE LEARN MORE
ABOUT JESUS' DISCIPLES



αποστολοι



*Handcraft Ministries
2pm Wed. Sept. 20th
at First Presbyterian*



Worship on the Grounds

September 24, 2023

11:00

Lunch immediately following service

Catered by Smithfield Barbecue

Plates are \$10

Reservation slips will be in the bulletin starting Sunday, September 10th



Prayer

With you, O God, to guide me,
I journey on my way.
I know you are beside me
all through the night and day.
Within your hand you hold me;
what do I have to fear?
Your loving arms enfold me,
your grace is always near. Amen.
—Based on a prayer of Columba (c. 521–597)

Recipe!

Shrimp and Grits

2 cups water

1 cup milk

½ tsp. salt

¾ cup instant grits

1 cup shredded cheddar cheese

4 slices bacon, chopped

1 lb. medium shrimp, peeled, deveined

4 green onions, thinly sliced (about 1/3 cup)

1 clove garlic, minced

2 Tbs. chopped parsley

1 Tbs. lemon juice

Bring water to boil in medium saucepan. Add salt. Slowly stir in grits. Reduce heat to medium-low; cover. Cook 7 min. or until thickened. Stir in milk and cheese; set aside. **Meanwhile**, cook bacon in large skillet on medium-heat until crisp. Drain on paper towels; set aside. Add shrimp, onions and garlic to skillet; cook and stir 3 min. or until shrimp turn pink. Add bacon, parsley and lemon juice; mix well. **Serve** shrimp mixture over grits.

Peggy Griffin

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY OCT. 1ST



WEST HAVEN
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)



Prayer

Mealtime Grace:
God of grace,
sustain our bodies with this food,
our hearts with true friendship,
and our souls with your truth,
for Christ's sake. Amen.