

# January 17, 2021 Bulletin Announcements

Greeting friends and members of First United Methodist Church of Westfield,

I write to inform you that our church's task force, made up of our church's leadership made the difficult decision earlier this week to suspend in-person, public worship in our church building. The suspension of in-person, public worship will begin Sunday, January 10<sup>th</sup> for the remainder of the month of January. During this time the church's building will be restricted for gatherings of people. In the coming weeks, additional information will be provided for our return of in-person, public worship in early February.

Following the suspension of in-person, public worship in Mid-March 2020, our church leadership created a task force, a group of folks from our congregation that worked long and hard through plans, strategies, and procedures to ensure that our congregation could return for in-person, public worship in the summer of 2020. The same task force that was eager to get us back in our sacred building then now calls for our congregation to suspend in-person, public worship for the next couple of weeks due to the increasing numbers of COVID-19 in our county. Our District Superintendent and I agree and support the task force's decision.

The current wave of COVID-19 is locally impacting the lives of close friends and family members of our congregation. While the task force has in place strong and effective policies such as: face masks, social-distancing, and no-singing, etc. this additional short-termed step of suspending in-person, public worship is simply another layer of protection for our congregation and local community. Be assured when we return in early February, we will continue to follow the policies mentioned above.

Before the pandemic began our church was already recording the Sunday sermon and putting them online. For the remainder of January, we will also provide recordings of Mary playing our beloved hymns. Both sermons and musical recordings may be found on our church website ([westfieldumc.org](http://westfieldumc.org)) and our church's Facebook page (Westfield United Methodist Church, NY). In addition, Jan provides written sermons weekly to members of our congregation that do not have internet access. If you or someone you know would like to receive printed sermons, please contact the church office (716.326-3243).

As we hold our community and you in prayer, we ask that you continue to pray for our congregation, our staff, and our church's leadership. If you need anything, please do not hesitate to reach out to the church office and/or Pastor Nick (716.940.9228). We want to contact everyone in our congregation about the suspension of in-person, public worship for the month of January. Help us get the word out. We love you. Until we meet again—Be well.

Christ's Blessings,

Pastor Nick

Children's Bulletins and other activities are available on the church website:

<https://www.westfieldumc.org/just-for-kids/>

Did you know? If you miss the sermon or want to listen to it again, they are available on the church website: <https://www.westfieldumc.org/2021-sermons/>

**Directions for our new on-line giving option (Tithe.ly) are now available. They can be found on the website and a printed version is available at the church and will be attached to the email announcement for the next few weeks.**

Many thanks to everyone that participated in the **reverse Advent calendar.**

**We collected over 400 items!!!**

***Please note: at this time the Food Pantry is **NOT** accepting donations of **clothing and shoes or adult diapers.** We will let you know when this changes.***

Year End Giving Statements were mailed on January 12, 2021.

**THERE IS HELP FOR THOSE WHO SUFFER WITH THE DISEASE OF ADDICTION; namely, Alcoholism. A meeting is held every Saturday morning at 10:00 a.m. ONLINE CURRENTLY. Please log onto NYPENNINTERGROUP.ORG and choose PASS IT ON... which began in Hurlbut Church on the grounds of the Chautauqua Institution prior to the pandemic. If you have additional questions or concerns, please contact Cyndy (716/640-0067). We remain anonymous, and remember, you are not alone.**