

As Seen In...

The Long Island YOUR HOMETOWN PAPER SINCE 1871

ADVANCE

longislandadvance.net

THURSDAY, AUGUST 21, 2025

\$1.00

Congregational Church of Patchogue offers free, monthly haircuts

Rev. Wolter asks the community to help

BY GARY HABER

On the second Wednesday of each month, people in need of a haircut come to the Congregational Church of Patchogue, where a professional barber and hairstylist donate their time and talent to cut hair for free.

Now, Rev. Dwight Lee Wolter is seeking donations to help spruce up the room used for cutting hair and add a third barber chair to serve more people.

The Congregational Church of Patchogue, which offers a variety of free services to people in need, doesn't fund the

barbershop, a mobile shower unit or the volunteer-run soup kitchen, so Wolter has to go out and seek donations, he said. He's hoping to raise at least \$2,500. Robert Herber Jr., owner of Herber Plumbing and Heating in Bay Shore, has volunteered to do plumbing work for the project at no cost, Wolter said.

"We really want to give a feeling that it's a salon, not a place for a free haircut," said hairstylist Lisa Tenzyk, who said she's been volunteering at the church barber-shop/salon for about seven years.

"I like people and I like to hear their stories," said Tenzyk, who works at Trendsetters in Blue Point and volunteers every month.

Tenzyk said she knows of other stylists who would volunteer their time if

the church barbershop had more barber chairs.

On a recent Wednesday, Tenzyk and Jake Itzkowitz, who works at Hard Way barbershop in Blue Point, cut hair for three men while musician Robert Bruey, a friend of Wolter's, played guitar and sang.

"Whatever Dwight's doing is a good thing, so I wanted to be involved," Bruey said.

Dkqwan Johnson, 35, has been getting his hair cut at the church for about six months.

"They're awesome," he said. "They do a great job all the time."

Johnson said he and his wife had been unhoused for about a year. Even now, money is still "very tight," and the budget doesn't allow for the \$35 to \$50 Johnson

figures he'd pay for a haircut.

"It makes you feel better as a person," he said of getting his hair cut.

Bobby O'Neill, 36, was also getting his haircut Wednesday. O'Neill, who said he's unhoused, said getting his haircut "really helps with your mental stability."

"They've brought me closer to God," he said. "It makes me a better person and makes me want to help others."

If people want to donate, Wolter said they can donate through the PayPal link on the church website, churchonmainstreet.org.

In addition to the monthly barbershop and salon, the church also offers a mobile shower unit each Wednesday from 3:30 to 6 p.m. and dinner at the soup kitchen every Wednesday starting at 5 p.m. ■



Jake Itzkowitz cuts Dkqwan Johnson's hair at Congregational Church of Patchogue.



Lisa Tenzyk cuts Bobby O'Neill's hair.



(left-right) Robert Bruey, Lisa Tenzyk and Jake Itzkowitz. Rev. Dwight Lee Wolter is seated.

Adv/Haber



Musician Robert Bruey performed while people were getting their hair cut.

Photo credit: Rev. Dwight Lee Wolter