

The Scribe

January 2025

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice!

It has been incredible to celebrate the birth of Jesus as we waited (im)patiently through Advent, caroled at the homes of others, watched our young ones lead us in the nativity pageant, and celebrated on Christmas Eve with two beautiful services of joy!

The music program has always been outstanding, but last month, they raised the bar even more. The handbells, Cheryl's revival of our church organ, Andy's music selections, the choir's harmonies, and the cantata all contributed greatly to our worship.

We ended the year with incredible energy, and I'm excited about what's to come next year. I hope, in the few months we've been together, that you've gotten to know me through sermons, the women's retreat, children's moments, and brief conversations.

I am honored to be your preacher and to share what I know about the Word, but my goal is to also be your pastor, and to do that, I want to know you! I hope, in 2025, that we make time to break bread together and talk about who you are and what you care about. I'm looking forward to countless conversations and continued energy, love, and ministry together!

Peace,
Pastor Gin Courtney



from Session . . .

The December Session meeting was conducted by Zoom. We welcomed the newly elected Elders, Caroline Contrata and Rachel Pierson to their first meeting. The 2025 budget prepared by the Trustees was passed. A big thank you to the Trustees for their efforts. It is hard to develop a budget knowing we are facing another deficit year, even though we are a growing church. A very special thanks to our Treasurer, Cathy Kellers who keeps it all together!



Plans for two potential mission trips are underway, one to North Carolina and a possible youth trip to repair Montreat after the devastating storms. Contact Bob Reiger if you are interested in assisting. Refurbishing of the Chapel-in-the-Pines is nearing completion.

With the number of children coming to church, Amanda needs more volunteers to help during the ten o'clock service. It would be nice if some of our older folks would help out so that some of the moms (and dads) could have time in worship. I'm certainly hoping that 2025 will return to a Sunday school which ended with Covid. We have three newly refurbished classrooms available.

With additional folks wanting to join DCCCP, there will be a new member class in January. How wonderful it is to see the number of new folks and young families coming. DCCCP will hold its annual meeting coming up in the next month. Speaking of the annual meeting, all committee chairs will need to get a report to Nancy as soon as possible. A lot goes into preparation of the annual report at such a busy time of year.

Happy New Year!

AG

Christmas Bazaar

Thank you to everyone who donated to the bazaar, and who supported the bazaar with their purchases and time.

We would like to have a recap meeting on January 27th at 6pm, to discuss our successes and any changes or suggestions for next year's bazaar. If you cannot attend the meeting and would like to share your thoughts with the committee please email Christine at dcccedirector@yahoo.com.

Christmas Dinner

Thanks to all who contributed and helped at our Christmas Dinner! The church received the following email Christmas Day!

"I wanted to tell you the meals were absolutely delicious. Thank you so much!"



DUNN'S CORNERS

EARLY LEARNING CENTER & KIDKARE

We have had a busy fall. We have hosted some fun family events such as donuts with dad and a Christmas singalong and cookie decorating. We managed to purchase some amazing new supplies for our classroom with grant money we received. Our biggest purchase being new outdoor blocks for the children to build and create with.

During the month of November we learned about our 5 senses. The best activity we did that week was a taste test where we tasted food items that were sweet, salty, sour, and spicy. We also learned about our body parts. We learned about body parts that are found inside of us. We thoroughly enjoyed learning about the different ways our stomach breaks down food through a science experiment. We also enjoyed all of our Thanksgiving activities.

During the month of December, we loved all the Christmas crafts. We have done a ton of painting and created whole class projects to display in the hallway for our families to see and enjoy too.

We are looking forward to the new year and diving into all of our winter units.



DEACONS Corner

The Deacons of the church are busy reaching out to meet needs in the congregation and the community. Although our Board of Deacons is actively involved in many endeavors, some current activities are highlighted below. Deacons continue to seek and grow as a community where God's love and kindness are available for all.

Warm Shelter Dinner: Swiss Chicken Dinners please sign up in Fellowship Hall. Remember we are the first Saturday of the month - **January 4th** - church will be open from 8 am - 2 pm to accept donations. Please use all **disposable** containers.

A special thank you to retiring Deacons Dianne Lowther, Yvette Druere, Sue Rieger, and Sharon Joiner and a warm welcome to our new Deacons Cheryl Spino, Sam Pierson, Stephanie Pride, and Karen Ingalls who will be serving with Jeanne Pietraallo, Sandy Santy, Doreen Smith, Bonnie Kraus, and Cheryl Remsbecker.

Jonnycake: Coat, Hat, and Mitten Drive

JonnyCoke Community Resource Center has an urgent need of the following new or gently used items:

Coats - Kids sizes 4-12 and adults L-XXL. Neutral colors are best.
Hats and Mittens/Gloves - Same neutral colors are best.

Thank you so much for all your donations for Christmas. It really makes a difference and is greatly appreciated. As winter comes, our donations drop off significantly so donations are much needed. Items we could use are:

Soup, Baked Beans, Hot Chocolate, Tea, Coffee, Oatmeal, Side Dishes - Knorr Noodle or Rice, Mashed Potatoes, Muffin Mixes, Cookie Mixes, Dried Beans, and Pasta.



Deacon Speaker Series: Coming soon!

How to protect yourself from frauds and scams

Date TBD. More info coming soon.

SOCIAL EVENT AT DUNN'S



Join us Fri, Jan 17th at 6pm for: Cribbage and Pizza

All levels are welcome. Even if you have never played and want to learn

Sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall

OPEN TO EVERYONE AT THE CHURCH AND FRIENDS OF THE CHURCH

Any questions please contact Cathy Kellers: cmek313@earthlink.net

Per Capita

A blue Per Capita envelope is enclosed with this issue of The Scribe. If you are able, please send in the annual per capita fee. The fee for 2025 will be \$52 per church member, or \$104 per couple.

In Latin, Per Capita means "*by head*" or "*for each person*." For Presbyterians, Per Capita means the per-member fee our church is charged to belong to the greater Presbyterian Church. Per capita pays for the expenses and missions of the regional and national governing bodies of the Church.

We appreciate any payments our members are able to pay. Historically, approximately one-half of the congregation pays their per capita fee. The remainder is paid from our church budget.

Thank you for your help and praise God *for each person* in this generous congregation!



The Church office is looking for some people who would be able to cover the church office duties while Nancy, our office manager, is on vacation or has scheduled a day off. Basic office skills, answering phone calls, familiarity with windows 10, and Microsoft word, are preferred. Office hours are Tuesday through Friday from 9am to 2pm. If you or someone you know would be interested, please contact Nancy at 401-322-0655 or email the church at dunnschurch@gmail.com

GriefShare®

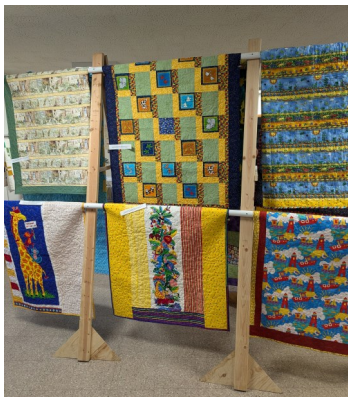
GriefShare is a 13 week Christ centered seminar and support group where you can find help and healing for the loss of a loved one. We will meet weekly in the Meeting House on Tuesday at 6pm starting on Tuesday, February 4th 2025

If you are interested in signing up or have questions, please contact

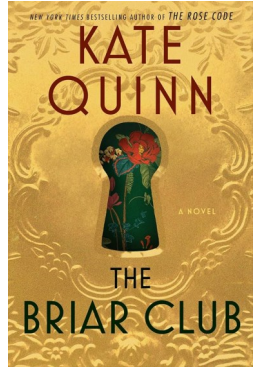
Sew Good Souls

The New Year is coming and so are the helping hands.

Our workshops will be held the first Saturday of each month from January to June at 9 am to 3 pm in Fellowship Hall. If you can sew a straight seam and have a portable sewing machine you can join the fun! If you don't sew, you can iron, be a runner, or just visit to see how dresses and quilts come together!



Presbyterian Women's Book Club



The Presbyterian Women's Book Club will hold its next meeting on January 27th at 7pm in the Meeting House. We will discuss *The Briar Club*, by Kate Quinn.

Contact Sue Rieger 401-575-0272 if you are new to our group.



The December meeting and Luncheon were a great success, and everyone had fun with our "Yankee Swap". Now turning our attention to January, a new Bible study program will begin on January 11, 2025. It will be based on the book, "Let Justice Roll Down". Meetings have been planned for every other Saturday morning. Topics are scheduled independently so there is no problem if you should miss a session.

Our annual Soup Sale has been scheduled for January 19th. Soup will be sold after both the 8:00 and 10:00am services. You will find a wide range of soups; everything from stews and chowders to chili with a little kick. We will definitely offer something for everyone, so please stop by and purchase one, or maybe two. If you have a favorite soup that you would like to share, please contact Doreen Smith or Sharon DeSarro. We will be happy to sell it and we thank you for your support!



The Presbyterian Women's Group meets on the third Monday of each month. Here are the dates of our next meetings. January 20th, February 17th, March 17th, April 21st, May 19th (A tour of the Westerly Library is planned for this date.), June 16th (This will be a planning meeting for the Fall). We invite you to join us for any of these meetings and activities. Your input is always welcome and very much appreciated!



Joyfilled Advent and Christmas Music

We are deeply grateful to everyone who contributed to the beautiful music of Advent and Christmas this year. Special thanks to Cheryl Banker for her thoughtful selections and masterful playing on the organ, enriching our worship with her talent and dedication. Thank you to Lynn Getty (trumpet) and Madison Pugh (saxophone) for their wonderful contributions that added a unique and joyous sound to our services.

Our heartfelt thanks to Kathy Koziol for her lovely singing at the 8am services as she brought warmth and spirit to our early morning worship. We also want to thank the Glory Ringers for their uplifting handbell ringing throughout Advent, enhancing our celebration with joyous and moving arrangements of familiar tunes.

A special note of gratitude goes to the members of the Chancel Choir for their continued leadership in singing the hymns and carols, their dedication to offering weekly anthems, and their exceptional preparation and presentation of the Christmas Eve cantata. Accompanied by Cheryl and a 12-piece orchestra, the cantata was a magnificent highlight of our Christmas worship.

Thank you to all for your hard work and commitment, which made this season's music truly memorable and inspiring.



Join Us for Teen Time; Tuesdays 5–7 PM!

Calling all teenagers ages 12 and up! Teen Time is your weekly opportunity to connect, grow, and have fun in a welcoming and safe environment.

Every Tuesday, from 5 to 7 PM, we come together to build friendships and explore life lessons through the lens of faith. Whether you're looking to learn, laugh, or just hang out, Teen Time is a space for fellowship, growth, and belonging.

Children's Ministry



What a year it's been for Christian Ed! With so many new friends and families visiting and joining the church, our Sunday school classes have tripled in size, and we were able to once again have our children's Nativity play.

Thank you so much to everyone who has worked so hard to make this past year a success. Whether it was hosting a day of Sunday school, working VBS, or helping in the Nativity play or other event, your time and generosity is so appreciated.



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The Scribe
January 2025

Diamonds Among Us!

We extend our birthday wishes to:

- 🕯 Ellen Truslow on January 7;
- 🕯 Anne Fletcher on January 16;
- 🕯 Peter Stephanishen on January 20;



**Young at Heart
Happy Birthday**

Diamonds (70 and beyond), please contact the Church Office at (401) 322-0655 or sign up on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall and add your name to our list.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						
			1	2	3	4 8 am-2 pm Deacons Collect Meals for the WARM Center (FH) 8:30 am Habitat Workday 9-3 pm Sew Good Souls (FH)
5 8 am & 10 am Worship 9 am & 11 am Fellowship Hour 10 am Sunday School	6 	7 8:30 am Work Team 4 pm Worship Committee (Z) 5 pm Christian Ed 5-7 pm Teen Time (T) 6 pm Buildings and Grounds (M)	8 1:30-3:30 om Westerly Village (FH) 6 pm Cub Scouts (FH)	9 7-8:30pm Chancel Choir	10	11 10 am Presbyterian Women Bible Study
12 8 am & 10 am Worship 9 am & 11 am Fellowship Hour 10 am Sunday School	13	14 8:30 am Work Team 5-7 pm Teen Time (T) 7 pm Session (M)	15 1:30-3:30 om Westerly Village (FH) 6 pm Cub Scouts (FH)	16 5:45-6:50 pm Glory Ringers 7-8:30pm Chancel Choir	17 6pm Cribbage Game Night And potluck dinner	18
19 8 am & 10 am Worship 9 am & 11 am Fellowship Hour 10 am Sunday School	20  1pm Presbyterian Women (FH)	21 8:30 am Work Team 5-7pm Teen Time (T)	22 1:30-3:30 om Westerly Village (FH) 6 pm Cub Scouts (FH)	23 5:45-6:50 pm Glory Ringers 7-8:30pm Chancel Choir	24	25 10 am Presbyterian Women Bible Study
26 8 am & 10 am Worship 9 am & 11 am Fellowship Hour 10 am Sunday School	27	28 8:30 am Work Team 5-7 pm Teen Time (T) 7 pm Deacons (M)	29 1:30-3:30 om Westerly Village (FH) 6 pm Cub Scouts (FH)	30 5:45-6:50 pm Glory Ringers 7-8:30pm Chancel Choir	31	