

The Scribe

December 2019



Christmas Signs



One year all the Presbyterian Churches in Houston got together and decided to pool their resources. They rented some billboards during the Christmas Season. This was before we lived in Houston, so I only heard about it secondhand. At strategic points on some of the major highways, billboards popped up inviting people to visit their local Presbyterian Church. My guess is it cost a pretty good sum of money, and my other guess is it might not have been as effective as they hoped. The churches never rented the roadside signs again. While the signs might not have been as effective as they hoped, we did meet one family who came to church because they saw the sign.

When we led the college ministry at our church in Fresno, California, the college group was called “The Seekers.” The Seekers ran a Christmas Tree Lot every year, which is a lot of work. People showed up to staff the lot and set up the trees and put price tags on the trees. Some spent the night for security. Along with being a lot of work, it was also a lot of fun. The college group was named “The Seekers.” A sign on the Christmas Tree Lot had a nice connection to the name of the college group. The sign said, “Wise men still seek him.”

Several years ago, I saw a picture on social media. It was a picture of a manger. The manger was simple and very small. There was some hay in the manger. The sign below the picture said, “A King Size Bed.”

Signs are an important part of Christmas. The angel who visited the shepherds watching their flocks by night said, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a **sign** to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

Zechariah received a visit from an angel who promised that even though Zechariah and his wife were old, they were not too old...they were going to have a son. Zechariah couldn't quite believe such a wonderful thing could happen. As a **sign** that the angel spoke words of truth, Zechariah was not able to speak until the baby was born.

(Signs, continued on page 2)

(Signs, continued from page 1)

One of the key **signs** that Jesus is the Christ is that he was born of the Virgin Mary. This was a sign that fulfilled the words of the prophet Isaiah, “The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel, which means, ‘God is with us.’” And, of course, the Magi from the east, traditionally known as the Wise Men, followed the **sign** God gave them. “We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him.”

We’re talking about putting some signs together this Christmas. They will be tiny signs, only big enough to tie to a small candy cane. We are talking about making a bunch of these little signs. Everyone from church will be invited to join the Town of Westerly in one of the celebrations for our town’s 350th year. On Sunday evening, December 15th, the town is having a parade, a festival of lights. More details are coming, but we want to walk together in the festival of lights. As we walk, we will hand out little candy canes all with a small sign attached, a teeny, tiny sign that invites people to come and join us for worship on Christmas Eve.

You never know what happens when there is a sign. Someone saw a billboard and came to church. Wise men saw a star and followed...and even today wise men and wise women still follow. Shepherds rushed to the baby Jesus, and for 2,000 years countless people have found their way to the manger. You never know what happens when there is a sign. Maybe someone will make their way out to our church on a cold December night. Maybe they will join us in reading the story of the birth of Jesus. Maybe they will hold a candle up when we sing the sweet carol about the silent night that is such a holy night. Maybe they will see the manger and recognize that the lowly manger is in reality a King Size Bed. And maybe, just maybe they will open their hearts as they receive forgiveness and the promise of new life. We really do not know what happens when there is a sign. But this much is for sure. We are going to make every effort we can so that at Dunn’s Corners, all signs point to Jesus, for he is the King of kings and the Lord of lords.

Wayne



All-Church Caroling

Monday, December 9th; 6pm

Come add your presence and voice to spreading the joy of the season to some local residents in nursing homes. Bring friends of all ages; the residents love to see the little ones. **We will gather in Fellowship Hall at 6 p.m.**



Feliz Navidad



A Holiday Handbell Concert Presented by



Shoreline Ringers, a community handbell ensemble based in Southeastern Connecticut, awes and inspires audiences with their ringing. Under the direction of Jane Nolan, this dynamic group is dedicated to musical excellence and handbell education through exciting and uplifting performances of secular and popular music, which includes a variety of techniques and rhythms that promise fun for all.

Sunday, December 22 – 4:00

Dunn's Corners Community Church Presbyterian
221 Post Road (Route 1), Westerly, RI

www.shorelineringers.org

Mission—Serving the Community



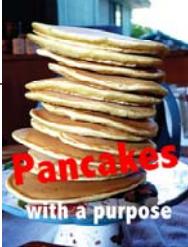
Dinner

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Help Us Fight Homelessness
 in Charlestown, Hopkinton, Richmond, and Westery

A Community Partnership to help homeless families stay together in the Westery-Charho area

Family Housing Support

Come, enjoy a free pancake breakfast with all the trimmings at the following churches. Thank you for your donations!

First Sunday

Cross Mills Baptist Church
 4403 Old Post Road
 Charlestown

Second Saturday

Dunn's Corners Church
 221 Post Road
 Westery

Third Saturday

Babcock Presbyterian Church
 25 Maxson Street
 Ashaway



Advent Festival

Come celebrate the beginning of Advent!
Saturday, December 7th at 2:00-3:30pm
Fellowship Hall

- *Christmas cards for shut-ins and friends
- *Crafts
- *Cookie Decorating
- *Caroling



On **Thursday, December 19th**, come have pizza and watch a holiday movie! Parents, you can drop your children off and have some quiet time during this busy season! Drop off starts at 4 p.m. Pizza and a movie will start a little after 5 p.m.. Pick up is at 7 p.m. Please sign up in Fellowship Hall.

The Christian Education Committee meets on the first Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m. in the Teen room. We welcome new members!

If you have questions/comments/suggestions, please contact:

- Roxanne Tisch at (401) 559-3149, e-mail: Roxanne.tisch@gmail.com;
- Nancy Fortin at (401) 742-279; e-mail: nancyfortin@cox.net; or
- Michael Walton at (240) 491-1119, e-mail: michaelwaltongold@gmail.com.

Diamonds Among Us!

We extend our birthday wishes to:

- 🕯 Patricia Churchill on December 2nd;
- 🕯 Millie Anthes on December 22nd;
- 🕯 Bob Spargo on December 23rd.



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.

DISCIPLE BIBLE STUDY

Choir Room

Tuesdays at 9 a.m.

Wednesdays at 7:15 pm



Tuesday, December 3	Lesson 12	God Will Save
Wednesday December 4		
Tuesday, December 10	Lesson 13	God's Vision for a New World
Wednesday, December 11		
Tuesday, December 17	Lesson 14	God's City of Peace
Wednesday, December 18		



TAX Tips

If you have appreciated common stock in your investment portfolio that you have held for more than 12 months, you may transfer that stock directly to the Church instead of selling it. You may avoid paying the capital gains tax, possibly resulting in Federal and State Income Tax savings. Consult with your tax advisor before making any decisions. If you wish to make a transfer, our Office Manager, Luba Preble, can give you more information.

If you are retired and are at least 70½ years old, you may be receiving a “Required Minimum Distribution” (RMD) from your “Individual Retirement Account” (IRA). Consider using your RMD as a charitable contribution. The RMD will not be taxed as individual income, but the distribution will satisfy the required minimum distribution rule.

Note: You will not be able to take a deduction for the charitable donation. Contact your IRA representative for more information.

DECEMBER 2019 SABBATH DAY WORSHIP

Sundays at 8 a.m. and 10 a.m.

Sunday, December 1

Celebration of Holy Communion

Sermon: *We Will Walk in His Paths*

Text: “He will teach us His ways, so that we may walk in His paths.” —Isaiah 2:3

Psalter: Psalm 122

Old Testament: Isaiah 2:1-5

Sunday, December 8

Sermon: *The Spirit of the Lord*

Text: “The Spirit of the Lord will rest on Him—the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding.” —Isaiah 11:2

Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12

Old Testament: Isaiah 11:1-10

Sunday, December 15

Sermon: *Be Strong, Do Not Fear*

Text: “Say to those with fearful hearts, ‘Be strong, do not fear.’”
—Isaiah 35:4

Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11

Old Testament: Isaiah 35:1-10

Sunday, December 22

Sermon: *A Sign*

Text: “Therefore, the Lord Himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call Him, Immanuel.” —Isaiah 7:14

Gospel: Matthew 1:18-25

Old Testament: Isaiah 7:10-16

Tuesday, December 24

Christmas Eve

Sermon: *The Stable Door*

Sunday, December 29

Guest Preacher

Youth Service to Ghana, West Africa

We are Dunn's Corners Community Church
Teen Team

LEARN ABOUT OUR 10 DAY SERVICE TRIP. . .

To the Central Region of Ghana with: DCCCP Teen Team, Star Service & Study Abroad, and the Michael Walton Foundation.

WE BELIEVE. . .

In doing service learning projects together, Ghanaian and U.S. youth gain invaluable skills that are transferable to their own schools and communities. This experience will help our youth instill more confidence in themselves, while informing them as community stewards who are further prepared to address the many challenges that our multicultural world faces.

10 REASONS TO GET INVOLVED. . .

1. Team building
2. Professional development
3. Encouraging self-growth and understanding
4. Fostering relationships across cultural differences
5. Empowering participants to apply their experiences & skills to their home communities
6. Exposing participants to youth organizing in a global context
7. Increasing participants' teaching skills and environmental awareness
8. Enhancing participants' interpersonal, communication, & cross-cultural skills
9. Exposing participants to STEM and public health education internationally
10. Diversifying participants' perceptions of America & Africa

TRIP DETAILS

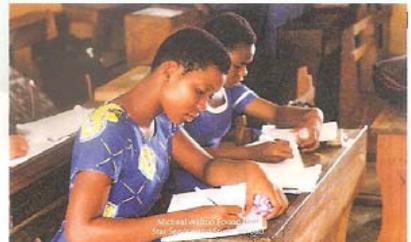
July 30 – August 10, 2020

HOW TO GET INVOLVED!

Contact:

GhanaYouthMission@Gmail.com

Heather Gray: (401) 230-0769





Next Summer the DCCCP Teen Team will embark on a ten-day **service trip to Ghana**. Twenty-two members of our congregation will make the trip. Leading up to this exciting experience we will share testimonials of those who will be attending. We hope that you will find them encouraging and inspiring. Thank you for your support!

—Michael Walton

Natalie Gray, age 13

Going to Ghana is going to be a life altering experience. We will create connections with youth groups there, so we can continue to stay in touch and create bonds with others. Our hope is for our youth group to be able to go back and revisit the great people we meet. Although many think that Africa and most third world countries are dangerous, the people there all have the right mindset. America is so industry and economics based, our mindset is twisted into thinking about money and getting the latest shoes or clothes. I'm hoping to meet some amazing people who can teach and show me things I've never known. The idea of truly being immersed into another culture is really exciting. Stepping out of my comfort zone will show me just how strong I am. Seeking discomfort—that's what going to Ghana is to me. I'm excited to be doing unusual things/adventures, meeting new people, learning new cultural traditions, and helping where we can. This isn't a vacation; we are going to learn and provide. Overall, going to Ghana will be both culturally immersive and eye opening.

Richie Boylan, age 19

Traveling to Ghana next summer will be my first time ever leaving this country. For nearly 20 years, my entire world view has been predicated on the culture and experiences of America's east coast. I wholly expect our trip to Ghana to completely shatter this in a positive way. Traveling to a new continent with such a succinct purpose to help out others while broadening my cultural horizons has been something I've anticipated since Michael Walton returned from his initial trip to Ghana. Every aspect seems perfectly formulated to encapsulate everything I could want to do in a trip abroad. There's the service aspect of the trip that will literally allow us to leave Ghana a better place than we found it: the built-in class time to learn about Ghana that the average traveler would never receive. Of course, there are more "touristy" excursions that we'll go on too, but they will also double as doses of Ghanaian culture. The unprecedented opportunity of this trip has even inspired me to initiate my own side project. In addition to our already extensive plans, I'm looking to expand my filmmaking skills and make a documentary of our trip.



News from the Session

The November Session meeting began by welcoming the Panciera family into the congregation, Crystal and Paul by Profession of Faith and Crystal, son Jackson and daughter Marissa will be baptized on Sunday, December 8th. Jackson Tran will also be baptized on December 22nd.

Much of the Session business was the discussion of the 2020 budget proposal and the trip to Ghana. Adults planning the trip presented their plans and progress being made for funding the expedition. They will meet regularly with Session as plans develop and progress is moving ahead. Session approved the trip and pledged up to \$20,000 to cover the balance of their fundraising. Over the next weeks you will hear of fundraising opportunities.

We will be replacing the pew Bibles in the coming months. Our current Bibles are a mix of versions (revised standard, Good News, etc.), so the new ones will all be the same version. The new edition will be the New International Version with large print. Members of the congregation will be asked to purchase one or more as we did for hymnals in the past (in memorial, as a dedication etc.) to offset the cost. More details to come....

As we approach 2020, there will be a training meeting for new church officers on Sunday, December 8th, ordination/installation on Sunday, January 5th, and meeting of the joint boards on January 26th. The newly-elected church officers will be invited to attend the next Session's or Deacons' meeting to begin the transition.

Bob Lohmann is stepping down after 20+ years of handling church investments. Please take a minute to thank him for his faithful stewardship over all these years.

Looking forward to our happiest Advent season!

—Art Ganz, clerk

Presbyterian Women invite all women for a pot-luck luncheon on Monday, December 2nd at noon in Fellowship Hall.

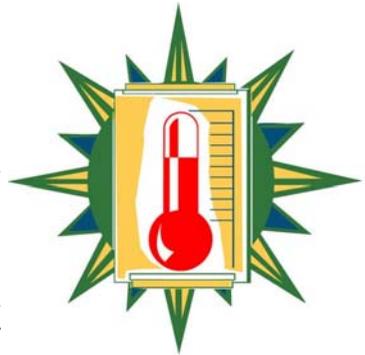
Please bring a dish to share.



Our 2020 Pledge Campaign

Thank you to all who have pledged to provide financial support for the 2020 budget. The response has been terrific. We are blessed to have such a generous congregation of faithful givers.

As of November 20th, the total amount pledged is \$266,000. This is very close to our goal of \$270,000 and the highest pledge total we have ever achieved! Your pledge gives the Trustees and Session an estimate of next year's income. We are looking for an additional \$4,000 in pledges to feel comfortable that we will meet our budget.



If you have not turned in a pledge card, THERE IS STILL TIME. Pledge cards are available in the Church pew racks or in the Church Office. Please place your card in the offering plate, mail it to Church, or drop it off in the Church Office. All pledges are appreciated and bring us closer to our budget goals!

On behalf of the leaders of the Church, THANK YOU to all who have so generously pledged and given donations.

—Rachel Pierson, Stewardship Chairperson

Planning Ahead...

If you are interested in learning more about becoming a member of Dunn's Corners Community Church, Presbyterian . . . Please mark your calendar for **Tuesday, January 21st, 2020, 5:30 p.m.**

We will have a relaxed evening in the home of Linda Griffin as we share some background on the church and what it means to be a member.

To learn more please call at 401-322-7880 or see Linda Griffin, Membership Co-Chair. More details to follow.





Dunn's Corners Church is participating in the **Westerly Light Parade** on Sunday evening, **December 15th** at 6 p.m. There will be floats, music and festive holiday displays throughout downtown Westerly with thousands of LED lights illuminating the night.

Sign up in Fellowship Hall to walk with us and join in the bright and beautiful Parade of Lights, which is part of **Westerly's 350th Anniversary Celebration**.

On Sunday, November 17th, **April Dinwoodie** gave a thoughtful and very helpful presentation on the topic of "What we can all learn from adoption." April came as part of the Deacon's Speaker Series, and the topic of adoption proved of great interest. Along with a number of members from Dunn's Corners, many came from outside the church, including several who are foster or adoptive parents. April shared her own story of being adopted by Tom and Sandi Dinwoodie, as well as her work with adoptive families and adopted children.



We look forward to continuing to offer presentations on topics of interest, and express our deepest thanks to April for her words to us and for the work she is doing.



Poinsettias or gifts in support of the Music Ministry may be given in Honor or in Memory of Loved Ones for this Christmas Season.

Please fill out this form and place it on the offering plate, or mail it, or bring it to the Church Office by Sunday, December 8th.

Donations for flowers are \$13.50 each; donations for the Music Ministry may be your discretion.

My gift is:

In Honor/Celebration of: _____

In Memory of: _____

Given by: _____

_____ *Poinsettia* donation of \$13.50. Paid: \$ _____
I will pick up my Poinsettia after the 10 p.m. Christmas Eve service or anytime during the following week.

_____ *Music Ministry* Paid: \$ _____

Check #: _____ Cash: \$ _____

Dunn's Corners Community Church,
Presbyterian
221 Post Road
Westerly, Rhode Island 02891

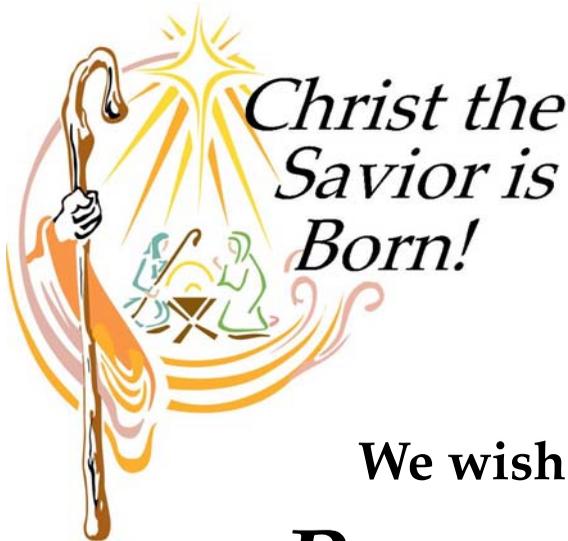
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Return Service Requested



The Scribe

December 2019



*Christ the
Savior is
Born!*

Christmas at the Corners

- * Advent Festival; Sat., Dec. 7th; 2 pm
- * All-Church Christmas Caroling; Mon., Dec. 9th; 6 pm
- * Living Nativity, Sun., Dec. 15th; 10 am
- * Movie/pizza, Thurs., Dec. 19th; 4 pm
- * Christmas Eve, Tues., Dec. 24th:
 - 5 pm Family Worship
 - 10 pm Candlelight Worship
- * Christmas Day, Wed., Dec. 25th:
 - 11:30 am Worship
 - 12 pm Dinner

We wish everyone

Peace and Joy

during this Christmas Season
and throughout the New Year!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1</p> <p>1st Sunday of Advent</p> <p>Celebration of Holy Communion</p> <p>8 am and 10 am Worship/Fellowship 10 am Church School Preschool-grade 3</p>	<p>2</p> <p>6:30 am AA (FH)</p> <p>12 pm Presbyterian Women Potluck (FH)</p> <p>3:30 pm Worship/Music Committee Meeting (C)</p> <p>6:30 pm Christian Education meeting (KK) 7 pm Trustees (C)</p>	<p>3</p> <p>8:30 am Work Team 9 am Bible Study (C)</p> <p>6-8 pm Teen Time (KK) 6:45 pm AA (FH) 7 pm Deacons (C)</p>	<p>4</p> <p>9 am Breakfast Group</p> <p>6-8 pm Cub Scouts (F, M, T) 6:30 pm Evening Prayer (S) Pastor Wayne Eberly, leader 7:15 pm Bible Study (C)</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Choirs: 5:45-6:10 pm Glory Ringers (S) 6:15-7:20 pm Community Church Ringers (S) 7:30-9 pm Chancel Choir (C)</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p> <p>7:30 am Habit for Humanity (meet in parking lot) 8-10 am Pancakes with a Purpose Breakfast (FH)S at Cross Mills Baptist Church, 4403 Old Post Road, Charlestown</p>  <p>Advent FESTIVAL</p> <p>2-3:30 pm (FH) 5 pm Deacons at WARM Shelter</p>
<p>8</p> <p>2nd Sunday of Advent 9 am—noon Live Wreaths Sale</p> <p>8 am and 10 am Worship/Fellowship 10 am Church School Preschool-grade 8 12 pm Training new officers (C)</p>	<p>9</p> <p>6:30 am AA (FH)</p>  <p>6 pm All-Church Christmas Caroling (FH)</p>	<p>10</p> <p>8:30 am Work Team 9 am Bible Study (C) 3 pm Staff Meeting (P) 6 pm Buildings & Grounds (C) 6:15 pm Membership & Evangelism (P) 6 pm Teen Time (KK) 6:45 pm AA (FH) 7 pm Session (C)</p>	<p>11</p> <p>9 am Breakfast Group</p> <p>6-8 pm Cub Scouts (F, M, T) 6:30 pm Evening Prayer (S) Pastor Wayne Eberly, leader 7:15 pm Bible Study (C)</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Meet in Choir Room: 5:45-6:10 pm Glory Ringers 6:15-7:20 pm Community Church Ringers 7:30-9 pm Chancel Choir</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p> <p>8-10 am Pancake Breakfast to Support the homeless at DCCCP (FH)</p>
<p>15</p> <p>3rd Sunday of Advent 8 am Worship/Fellowship</p>  <p><i>Nativity</i></p> <p>10 am Worship (S) 6 pm Westerly Parade of Lights (downtown)</p>	<p>16</p> <p>6:30 am AA (FH)</p>	<p>17</p> <p>8:30 am Work Team 9 am Bible Study (C)</p> <p>6-8 pm Teen Time (KK) 6:45 pm AA (FH)</p>	<p>18</p> <p>9 am Breakfast Group</p> <p>6-8 pm Cub Scouts (F, M, T) 6:30 pm Evening Prayer/Communion Pastor Wayne Eberly, leader 7:15 pm Bible Study (C)</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Choirs: 6:15-7:20 pm Community Church Ringers (S) 7:30-9 pm Chancel Choir (S)</p> <p>4-7 pm Holiday movie/pizza</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p> <p>8-10 am <i>Pancakes with a Purpose</i> Breakfast—Family Housing Support (FHS) at Babcock Presbyterian Church 25 Maxson Street, Ashaway</p>
<p>22</p> <p>4th Sunday of Advent</p> <p>8 am and 10 am Worship/Fellowship 10 am Baptism (S) 10 am Church School Preschool-grade 8</p> <p>4 pm Shoreline Ringers Concert (S)</p>	<p>23</p> <p>6:30 am AA (FH)</p>	<p>24</p>  <p>Christmas Eve Worship</p> <p>5 pm Family Worship (S) 10 pm Christmas Eve Service (S)</p>	<p>25</p>  <p>Christmas</p> <p>11:30 am Worship (S) Rev. Julia Fuller, preacher 12 pm Dinner (FH)</p>	<p>26</p>		<p>28</p>
<p>29</p> <p>8 am and 10 am Worship/Fellowship 10 am Church School Preschool-grade 8</p>	<p>30</p> <p>6:30 am AA (FH)</p>	<p>31</p>  <p>NEW YEAR'S EVE</p> <p>8:30 am Work Team 9 am Bible Study (C)</p> <p>6-8 pm Teen Time (KK) 6:45 pm AA (FH)</p>	 <p>DECEMBER</p> <p>2019</p>			