

The Scribe

December 2023

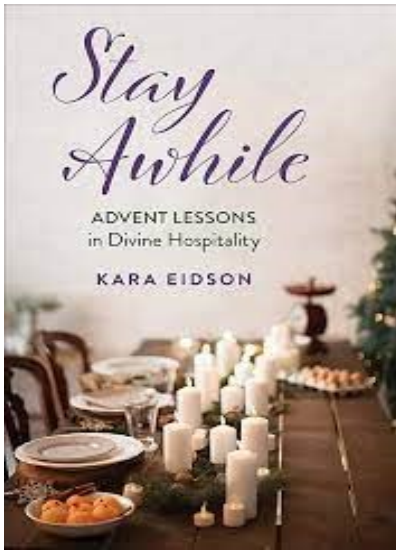
From out of eternity came the Word, a Word that took on our humanity. A Word that gathered a family and shepherds and wisemen. A Word that went out to the world through people like us. The Word was a child, a child named Jesus. Emmanuel, God with us. Welcome, the greatest gift of all, our Prince of Peace, rejoice!



Merry Christmas, Pastor Joan

First Coming *Madeleine L'Engle*

He did not wait till the world was ready,
till men and nations were at peace.
He came when the Heavens were unsteady,
and prisoners cried out for release.
He did not wait for the perfect time.
He came when the need was deep and great.
He dined with sinners in all their grime,
turned water into wine.
He did not wait till hearts were pure.
In joy he came to a tarnished world of sin and doubt.
To a world like ours, of anguished shame
he came, and his Light would not go out.
He came to a world which did not mesh,
to heal its tangles, shield its scorn.
In the mystery of the Word made Flesh
the Maker of the stars was born.
We cannot wait till the world is sane
to raise our songs with joyful voice,
for to share our grief, to touch our pain,
He came with Love: Rejoice! Rejoice!



Advent Bible Study: Stay Awhile: Advent Lessons in Divine Hospitality by Kara Eidson

Our Advent Bible Study with Pastor Joan continues on Tuesday's at 9:30 a.m. in the fellowship hall
December 5, 12, 19

“In the same way we prepare for the arrival of beloved guests, Christians must also spend time preparing our hearts, minds, and souls for the coming Christ. In this Advent study, we will explore how we provide hospitality for guests in our homes, how that extends into our spiritual lives, and how we can apply these lessons to the Season of Advent.”

Come when you can or buy the book (cost is \$10) and read on your own.



Blue Christmas/Winter Solstice Service

On the longest night of the year, we gather for a time of healing,
prayer, hope, and remembrance

Thursday, December 21, 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary



From the Session

This month's agenda focused on the review of the 2024 budget. We are currently facing a projected \$43,000 deficit in the 2024 budget. Much discussion took place over using some of our Reserve Funds to help cover some programs for 2024 and a discussion regarding the staff took place. Eventually the Session agreed to delay approval for one month to see if more income from pledges comes in.

The pastoral Nominating Committee continues to make progress. Our financial outlook and the cost of housing are challenging for the committee, as they review potential candidates.

After a lot of hard work the Compliance Committee presented a child protection policy which was approved by Session. So far DCCCP has (Presbytery) approved policies for child and youth protection, sexual misconduct, and harassment. A racial discrimination policy is needed, and we are waiting for guidance from Presbytery for the verbiage.

Plans for Advent are underway. Joan will offer a "Blue Christmas" service on December 21, for those suffering loss and depression over the holidays.

PNC Update

The days are shortening and the holidays are approaching and your Pastor Nominating Committee remains hard at work. We continue to meet at a minimum of once a week and more often as needed. We recently conducted our first initial interview, have another scheduled and have others under consideration. We also continue to get matches through the Church Leadership Connection and those must also be evaluated before we can decide whether or not to invite them to apply.

As a real estate agent, I like the home buying analogy: you find out basic information about a house online and decide if you want to look at it. Then you have a first showing and you decide if you are still interested. If you are, you go back and look again to explore those details you missed. If it's not a fit, you move on to another house. Most importantly, you keep looking and wait for the house that is the right fit for you. So, as we go through this process, we are doing our best to find that right fit for us.

Sally Owen

Stewardship Update



Thank you to everyone who pledged. A total of 88 families pledged a total of \$253,957. Your generosity is appreciated and your gifts will be used wisely.

Thank you also to Bob and Sue Strouse who helped a great deal with this Stewardship campaign. They provided invaluable help to create this year's pledge drive.

Unfortunately, the amount pledged is less than last year's \$264,000 and this leaves us with a budget shortfall of approximately \$43,000 for 2024 if we continue to fund the church at the same level. The 2024 budget includes a one time expense of \$25,000 in order to call a new pastor. This is one of the primary reasons our budget is higher this year than normal as we will need money to help transition a new pastor to our church.

It is vital that we can provide the strongest possible financial status for a prospective pastor. We are a strong, community center church and we want to continue that into the future.

We are asking for everyone to reconsider their pledge amount, consider pledging if you haven't already done so, or give a one time gift to help get us through this time of transition.

Thank you and God bless.

Bruce Yarnall

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 Sundays at 11:30 AM starting on January 7, 2023.



If you are interested in signing up or have questions, please contact Marilyn Brandyberry at mebrandyberry@gmail.com or (401) 662-3926.

Christmas Mission Offering Envelopes



The offerings collected in the special **Christmas Mission Offering Envelopes** will support the local food pantries including: JonnyCake Center, Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center, Pantry on the Lane, RI Can and the Warm Shelter.

As you might imagine, the need is greater this year than we've ever seen before due to the high cost of food and the recent reduction in SNAP benefits.

Some statistics that help demonstrate the need come to us from the JonnyCake Center of Westerly:

“Our biggest food drive, Boy Scout Drive, went well. We are so thankful for all the efforts of the Boy Scouts! However, we received about 1/3 less than last year's donation. This year we received 5,500 lbs. vs. 8,500 lbs. last year. Last year's donation lasted into March of the 2023; this year our best guess is it will last thru December.

“We are seeing more new clients than ever before. Last year, we would see 1 or 2 new clients/week. Recently we have been seeing new clients almost every day, 3 - 10/week.

“This year we will support 430 families for food and gifts for Christmas.”

The monetary donations that JohnnyCake Center and the other food pantries receive from the **Christmas Mission Envelopes** will help offset the reduced donations they have received this year and the increase in the number of clients they support.

Thanks so much for all your support of the local food pantries





Our donations for the beautiful Thanksgiving Harvest table were given to the Warm Shelter and the Jonnycake Center.



Some Christmas Elves helped with the raffle at this year's Christmas Bazaar. Thank you to everyone who volunteered and gave generously to this wonderful day of fundraising and fellowship!





Families are invited to join us on Thursday December 7th from 4:30-6:30 for pizza and a Christmas movie followed by decorating gingerbread cookies. If you are interested in joining, please email AmandaMcLintock@gmail.com so we can have a better idea on how much food we will need.

We are also looking for volunteers to help during Sunday school at 10am. We have children of all ages and strengths and could use an extra hand during those moments when multiple kids need assistance at the same time. If you are interested in helping, there is a sign-up sheet in the fellowship hall.

****Art to Living Workshop Finale:****

Our high school students, in collaboration with youth from Brazil and Africa, will present their "My Silver Lining" projects, a culmination of their transformative experience around mental health and wellness. This marks the conclusion of The Art to Living workshop series. Keep an eye out for the official date announcement in December.



****Christmas Party:****

Join us for our Christmas party to be held in the Teen Room on Tuesday, December 19th, starting at 5pm. We'll gather for a potluck dinner and gift exchange. The more, the merrier—let's make it a memorable evening for the holidays!

****Teen Time Returns:****

Teen Time is back on its regular schedule! All teens are invited every Tuesday from 5pm to 7:30pm. Whether you're a regular or a newcomer, come be a part of our engaging discussions, activities, and a supportive community!

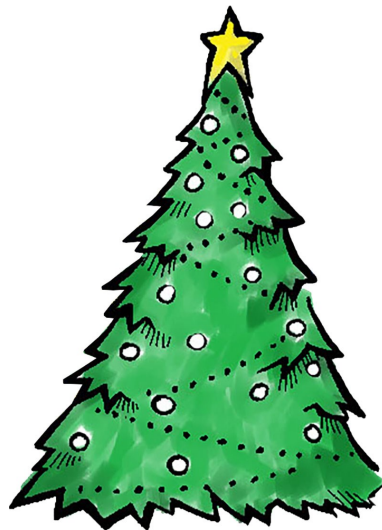
On December 3rd the "Angel Tree" will be full of tags once again.

DCCCP uses the Angel Tree to support "Adopt a Family" run by the Jonnycake. Each tag represents a gift card to purchase a gift or gifts for a child. Also on the Tree will be gift cards for food.

Thank you for always supporting the "Angel Tree". We will put a basket for your gifts, including tags in the back of the church. You can also bring them to the church office.

Please return them by December 17th.

Deacons Jeanne Pietraallo, Sharon Joiner, Bonnie Krauss



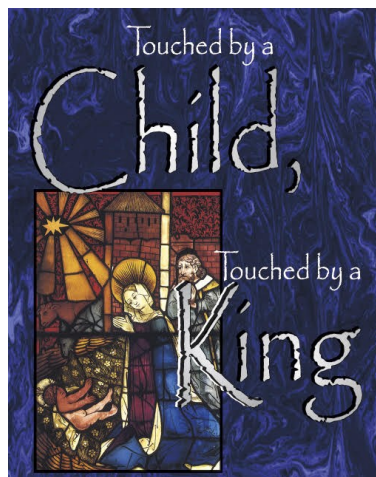
Christmas Eve

5 pm Lessons and Carols and Candle Light Service

- Hear the prophecies, the story of Mary and Joseph, and of the birth of our Savior. Sing the carols that help to keep the story in our minds and hearts and inspire the joy of Christmas.

10 pm Choir Cantata and Candle Light Service

- The wonder of the birth of Jesus will be told in word and song. We will sing the familiar carols of Christmas and hear the lessons which inspired them. Being touched in a life-changing way by the Christ child is the theme of the cantata being presented by the choir and chamber ensemble. It follows the experiences of Mary and Joseph, the shepherds, the wise men, and finally all those who believe today. All are touched by a child, touched by a king.





THE MUPPET'S CHRISTMAS CAROL

WED, DEC 6TH 6:30PM
MYSTIC LUXURY CINEMA
TICKETS ARE \$9
SIGN UP BEGINS in Nov.
Limited to 80 people



All-Church Caroling

Join your voices in singing some favorite carols on **Monday, December 11, at 6:00 pm**. We will meet in Fellowship Hall and then travel to some members' homes. Dress for the weather as we will be outside for the caroling.



A Holiday Handbell Concert By



Groton Congregational Church
December 3, 2023—4:00 pm
162 Monument Street
Groton, CT 06340

Open To The Public - Free Will Offering

December 2023 SABBATH DAY WORSHIP

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



Sunday, December 3 *Celebration of Holy Communion*



Sermon: *A New Vision of Hope*

Theme: To Invite

Scripture: Jeremiah 33:14-16; Luke 21:25-36

Sunday, December 10

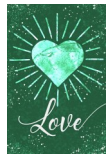


Sermon: *A Peaceable Kingdom*

Theme: To Plan

Sermon: Jeremiah 29:5-14; Mark 1:1-8

Sunday, December 17



Sermon: *Love Has Come*

Theme: To Prepare

Scripture: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11; John 1:1-14

Sunday, December 24 *10 am Service only*



Sermon: *Good News of Great Joy*

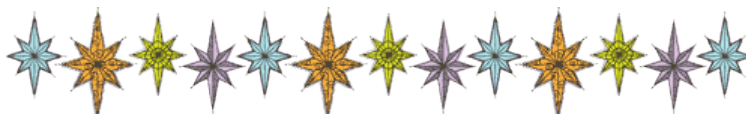
Theme: To Welcome

Scripture: Zephaniah 3:14-20; Luke 1:39-55

Christmas Eve Services 5:00 pm Lessons and Carols

10:00 pm Choir Cantata and Candle Light Service

Sunday, December 31 Guest Preacher: Bob Rieger



Presbyterian Women's Book Club

The in-person book group will meet on December 11th at 7pm at Dunn's Corners Church. We will also discuss the book *The Tin Ticket* by Deborah J. Swiss.

Coming in January the Zoom Book Club will meet on Tuesday, January 23rd at 7pm to discuss *The Book Spy* by Alan Hlad. Judy Nichipor will lead the discussion.

An in-person meeting will be held to discuss the same book in early February at a time and date to be announced.

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

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S GROUP

The next meeting of "The Presbyterian Women's Group" will be held on December 16th at 12:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. We will have a short business meeting followed by our Christmas celebration which will include a "Name that Christmas Carol" activity. Then we will enjoy a delicious luncheon of quiche, salads, and desserts. Our final activity will be an exciting gift exchange (Yankee Swap). All gifts will be limited to \$10-.00 and should be wrapped in unique ways so as not to give the gift away. Sharon DeSarro will be our Master of Ceremonies. We will close our time together by singing, "Bless Be the Ties That Binds".



On January 21st, the coldest day of winter no doubt, we have scheduled our soup sale. There is nothing like a steaming bowl of homemade soup to warm your innards. Soups of all kinds will be offered as well as chowders and chili too. They will be for sale after both services. Also, if you have a favorite recipe that you would like to share please pick up a container or two in the kitchen and fill them up, bring them back and we'll be happy to sell them! Thank you for your continued support.



If you are heading south for the winter please help us to be able to keep you informed of Church happenings! You can do this by emailing the Church dunnchurch@gmail.com with your winter address and the dates you leave and return.

Mission

In November, Joan asked the Mission Committee to help Patricia, the lovely woman from Jamaica who has been worshipping with us and singing with the choir the past few months while she was working at the Ocean House. Her work was ending and she was returning to Jamaica. Food and clothing are very expensive there, and Patricia was distressed because she was not able to make the money she had hoped for.

Patricia asked Joan for help for her family and her community. The Mission committee took Patricia for a massive 4hr shopping trip to Burlington and BJ's in New London to buy food and clothing. We drove it to a shipper in Bridgeport, who sold us two large blue plastic barrels and helped us prepare it for shipment.

We shipped a 50 lb bag of rice, 20 lbs each of sugar and flour, many, many cans of soup, vegetables, spam, sausages, boxes of crackers, tea and cereal, plus countless shirts and pants, soap and shampoo. **The Pastor's Discretionary Fund** paid for everything.

What a great pleasure it was to do this! It felt like Christmas! Patricia is very sweet and very, very grateful to the church. She cried with relief. God is good! So is our church!



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** are back, sign up in Fellowship Hall. Remember we are the first Saturday of the month - **December 2nd** - church will be open from 8 am - 2 pm to accept donations. Please use all **disposable** containers.

Deacons who are faithfully serving the congregation are: Pam Ganz, Yvette Drurey, Dianne Lowther, Sandy Santy, Doreen Smith, Bonnie Kraus, Jeanne Pietraallo, Sue Rieger, Marilyn Brandyberry, Sharon Joiner, Cheryl Remsbecker, and Sue Eldridge.

Jonnycake

The Jonnycake food pantry has recently lost its funding for toiletries. As a result, we could use the following donations.

**Shampoo, Conditioner, Toothbrushes, Toothpaste
Hand soap, Shaving Cream, Razors
Bar Soap, Liquid Hand Soap
Baby Wipes, Body Wash
Deodorant - Men's & Women's
Chapstick
Body Lotion**

If you don't want to donate toiletries, we can always use — **soup, coffee, tea, and hot chocolate.**

Coat Drive For Jonnycake

A person in dire need recently searched the Jonnycake Thrift Store for a warm coat but discovered that ***Jonnycake is out of coats!*** Therefore, we are collecting coats which our Mission team will deliver. We have been assured that they will be made available as soon as they are brought in. All coats are welcome but the greatest need is for **Men's Large (L) and Extra Large (XL), and Women's Large (L), Extra Large (XL), and Extra Extra Large (XXL).** Other Needs: Gloves—Men's Large -- and Underpants—Medium and Large for Adult Men and Women.

Please leave donations on the Jonnycake rack by the office

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

Non-Profit Organization
US Postage Paid Westerly, RI 02891
Permit No. 145

Return Service Requested



The Scribe
December 2023

Diamonds Among Us!

We extend our birthday wishes to:

- 🕯 Patricia Churchill December 2
- 🕯 Millie Anthes December 22



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
		<h1>DECEMBER</h1>			<h1>2023</h1>	<p style="text-align: right;">1</p> <p>8 am-2 pm Deacons Collect Meals for the WARM Center (FH)</p> <p>Habitat for Humanity Work Day 4 Cardinal Lane Hopkinton</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">3</p> <p>1st SUNDAY OF ADVENT</p> <p>8 am Worship 9 am Fellowship Hour 10 am Worship & Sunday School 11 am Fellowship Hour Communion Sunday</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">4</p> <p>6:30 pm PNC(T)</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">5</p> <p>8:30 am Work Team 9:30 am Bible Study (FH)</p> <p>4 pm Worship Committee (Z) 5 - 7pm Teen Time (T) 7 pm Trustees (M)</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">6</p> <p>11:30 Devotion (S) 12 pm Diamond Luncheon 1:30-3:30 pm Westerly Village (FH)</p> <p>6:30 pm Mystic Movie Night Muppets Christmas Carol</p> <p>6-8 pm Cub Scouts (FH)</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">7</p> <p>4:30-6:30 Children's movie Gingerbread cookie decorating (FH)</p> <p>5:45-7 pm Glory Ringers 7-8:30pm Chancel Choir</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">8</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">9</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">10</p> <p>2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT</p> <p>8 am Worship 9 am Fellowship Hour 10 am Worship & Sunday School 11 am Fellowship Hour</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">11</p> <p>6 pm All-Church Caroling 6:30 pm PNC (T) 7 pm Presbyterian Women Book Club (M)</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">12</p> <p>8:30 am Work Team 9:30 am Bible Study (FH)</p> <p>5-7 pm Teen Time (T) 6 pm Buildings & Grounds (M) 7 pm Session (M)</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">13</p> <p>1:30-3:30 pm Westerly Village (FH)</p> <p>6-8 pm Cub Scouts (FH)</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">14</p> <p>5:45-7pm Glory Ringers 7-8:30pm Chancel Choir</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">15</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">16</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">17</p> <p>3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT</p> <p>8 am Worship 9 am Fellowship Hour 10 am Worship & Sunday School 11 am Fellowship Hour</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">18</p> <p>12 pm Presbyterian Women Christmas Luncheon 6:30 pm PNC (T)</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">19</p> <p>8:30 am Work Team 9:30 am Bible Study (FH)</p> <p>5 pm Compliance (M) 5-7 pm Teen Time (T)</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">20</p> <p> First Day of Winter 1:30-3:30 pm Westerly Village (FH)</p> <p>6-8 pm Cub Scouts (FH)</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">21</p> <p>7 pm Winter Solstice Service (S) 7:30 pm Choir</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">22</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">23</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">24</p> <p>4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT</p> <p>10 am Worship Service 5 pm Family Service 10 pm Candlelight Service</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">25</p> <p> <i>Christmas Day</i></p>	<p style="text-align: right;">26</p> <p>8:30 am Work Team</p> <p>5-7 pm Teen Time (T)</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">27</p> <p>1:30-3:30 pm Westerly Village (FH)</p> <p>6-8 pm Cub Scouts</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">28</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">29</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">30</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">31</p> <p>8 am Worship 9 am Fellowship Hour 10 am Worship & Sunday School 11 am Fellowship Hour</p>						