

# *The Scribe*

January 2024

---



I am one of those people who actually loves winter. Maybe it comes from being born in Chicago or growing up in Ohio. But winter always meant huge fires, hot chocolate, reading for pleasure, putting together puzzles, building snow castles. Winter shows us a different beauty in God's creation as the earth, covered in layers of frost, ice and snow, holds back new life, new growth, just waiting to burst through. Winter brings a new sense of sound, the silence of snow falling, the whistling of the winds, the crackling of snow beneath your feet.

As we enter into a new year, as your transitional pastor, I'd like to suggest that together we begin to think of this season of winter, this time in between, this moment of waiting for the new to burst forth, as a time to further explore who you are, whose you are, and what you would like to become. Spring will come, a new pastor will arrive. So, with that hope, let us join together to create this new life, this new church, that is emerging, in this season, in this place.

Happy New Year, Happy Epiphany,  
Pastor Joan

Howard Washington Thurman was an African American author, philosopher, theologian, educator, and civil rights leader. I always love to read his poem at the start of each new year. I thought you might enjoy it as well.

**WHEN THE SONG OF THE ANGELS IS STILLED (By Howard Thurman)**

When the song of the angels is stilled,  
When the star in the sky is gone,  
When the kings and the princes are home,  
When the shepherds are back with their flocks,  
The work of Christmas begins:  
To find the lost,  
To heal the broken,  
To feed the hungry,  
To release the prisoner,  
To rebuild the nations,  
To bring peace among people,  
To make music in the heart.

As we continue to serve Christ in this place, let us also remember these words by Howard Thurman: *“Don’t ask what the world needs. Ask what makes you come alive and go do it. Because what the world needs is more people who have come alive.”*

**“Stay Awhile” Bible Study  
Advent Table**



## The Pastor Nominating Committee by the Numbers

To date, the PNC has reviewed

40 candidates; 33 were C.L.C. (Church Leadership Connection) matches; 7 were self-referrals;

1 is under initial evaluation of their basic PDP (Personal Discernment Profile) responses and available sermons.

20 have been invited to apply and submit their full PDP (total resume, sermon links and contact info).

10 withdrew from consideration after our invitation.

2 have not responded to our invitation.

2 have received other position offers.

2 were not considered for an interview after we reviewed their PDP.

1 accepted the interview and then withdrew.

1 has not responded to our request for an interview.

2 have been interviewed.

With Advent, our schedule will slow, respecting the work demands on pastors at this time of year. However, we will be meeting to consider next steps with each of the candidates.

## 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 2024 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. Local churches receive many benefits, including help finding a new pastor. Our Pastor Nominating Committee is currently using that system.

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!

## from Session . . .

At the last Session meeting of 2023, we said thank you to our retiring Elders, Judy Williams, Ivan Owen and Linda Griffin. Over the past six years Linda has chaired both the Personnel and Membership/ Evangelism committees. Judy has chaired the Worship & Music committee and will continue and Ivan has been a dedicated Elder and choir member for many years. We welcome three new Elders. Staci Heep has served on Session before and continues to be active in the Worship committee. Both Charles Jones and Dan Charette are relatively new church members and are eager to serve.



*from our*  
**Session**

The major issue on the Session agenda was to discuss and pass the budget for 2024, which is a tall order. The Trustees, Financial Secretary and Treasurer have been working at this for a long time. The church's income currently is insufficient to fund our programs without a deficit. The budget was passed by Session to go to the congregation at the annual meeting. It currently has an estimated \$41,543 shortfall. We will cover this with transfers from reserves. Anticipated expenses for funding the PNC and relocation of a new pastor will be a one time expense.

The Nominating Committee is seeking nomination of a Trustee to fill an unexpired one-year term.

Bob Rieger will preach on December 31. Andy Wallace will preach on January 7. Pastor Joan will return on January 14 to serve Communion and conduct the installation and ordination of new church offices. The Session will meet again on January 16 with the newly ordained Elders. Cathy Kellers was re-elected Treasurer for 2024 and I was re-elected as Session Clerk.

Wishing everyone a blessed Christmas and a healthy safe 2024  
AG





## **DCCCP Mission with South County Habitat for Humanity**

The DCCCP Habitat work group dates with South County Habitat for Humanity (SCHH) for the first quarter of 2024 are:

**Saturday, January 6th  
Saturday, February 3rd  
Saturday, March 2nd**

**Tentative work dates for the second quarter of 2024 are:**

**Saturday, April 6th  
Saturday, May 4th  
Saturday, June 1st**

The time commitment for these dates varies from 4 to 6 hours starting at 8:00 am. Upcoming volunteer opportunities will most likely occur on Cardinal Lane in Hopkinton. Volunteering is open to anyone 16 and older. Construction skills or experience are definitely not required. SCHH provides all tools and safety equipment. Use of power tools is restricted to persons 18 and older. Anyone under age 18 is required to have a parent, guardian, or a church work group adult on site for the entire workday. Any potentially interested volunteers under age 16 should contact one of the DCCCP work group individuals listed below. First time volunteers must complete the short SCHH Volunteer Training 101 video found on the SCHH web site. All first-time volunteers must contact SCHH's volunteer coordinator, Emily Passeroni, via email using "emily@southcountyhabitat.org" to obtain and complete a volunteer waiver.

For more information about SCHH, visit "<https://www.southcountyhabitat.org>". You can also find additional information on the SCHH Facebook page.

For more information about the DCCCP Habitat work group, contact Bob Lohmann at 860.865.4855 or through email at [rwlohmann@comcast.net](mailto:rwlohmann@comcast.net). While Bob is vacationing from now through February, contact Jerry Wolstencroft at 401.741.0059 or through email at [jwolsten@msn.com](mailto:jwolsten@msn.com).

"Seeking to put God's love into action, Habitat for Humanity brings people together to build homes, community and hope", is the Habitat Mission. Please consider volunteering your time whether or not you have any construction talents. This is the perfect opportunity to obtain on-the-job training while supporting a family's need for affordable housing.



The office is looking for volunteers to help with the Scribe! Mainly looking for help with folding and mailing once a month. If you have some time and are able to help please call the office. 322-0655.

**Your help will be greatly appreciated!**

## 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 Sundays from 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM starting on Sunday January 7, 2024

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

## 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 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!



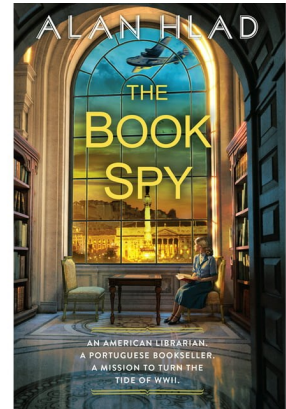
## Presbyterian Women's Book Club

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.



Our annual Christmas Luncheon was held on December 19th with salads, quiches, and a variety of desserts, all of which were delicious. Our lunch was followed by interesting games and a "Yankee Swap" gift exchange.

Our next event is the January Soup Sale scheduled for January 21st. Delicious soup will be available after both services. Everyone is welcome to donate or buy from a variety of soups. Proceeds will go to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund. Empty containers for those who wish to prepare soups will be available in the kitchen in January.



Our next meeting will be held on January 15th to finalize some planning ideas which include: a tour of Wilcox Park, a visit to The Jonnycake facility, or an invitational High Tea with women from other churches in the community to attend. It promises to be another interesting and busy time so stay tuned for further details!

# 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 - **January 6th** - church will be open from 8 am - 2 pm to accept donations. Please use all **disposable** containers.

A special thank you to retiring Deacons Pam Ganz and Marilyn Brandyberry and a warm welcome to our new Deacons Susan Strouse and Stephanie Cahoon who will be serving with Jeanne Pietraallo, Yvette Drurey, Dianne Lowther, Sandy Santy, Doreen Smith, Bonnie Kraus, Jeanne Pietraallo, Sue Rieger, Sharon Joiner, and Cheryl Remsbecker.

## Jonnycake

Thank you all for your continuing support of the Jonnycake Center. The following items are needed at this time

**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 — **Pasta, soup, coffee, tea, and hot chocolate.**

Other needs include; gloves—Men's Large and underpants—medium and large for adult men and women








CHILDREN'S  
**Ministry**  
NEWS

Looking forward to another year full of opportunities for fellowship and Fun. I would like to thank all the wonderful volunteers that made the events so special for the children. If you are interested in Volunteering for future events, please contact [AmandaMcLintock@gmail.com](mailto:AmandaMcLintock@gmail.com). As always children are invited to join us every Sunday at 10am for Sunday School.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		2	3	4	5	6 8 am-2 pm Deacons Collect Meals for the WARM Center (FH) 8 am Habitat Workday 9-3 pm Sew Good Souls (FH)
7 8 am & 10 am Worship 9 am & 11 am Fellowship Hour 10 am Sunday School	8 6:30 pm PNC (T)	9 8:30 am Work Team  5-7 pm Teen Time (T) 6 pm Buildings and Grounds (M)	10 1:30-3:30 om Westerly Village (FH)  6 pm Cub Scouts (FH)	11   5:45-6:50 pm Glory Ringers 7-8:30pm Chancel Choir	12	13
14 <b>Communion Sunday</b> 8 am & 10 am Worship 10 am Ordination and installation of officers. 9 am & 11 am Fellowship Hour 10 am Sunday School <b>February Scribe Deadline</b>	15 1 pm Presbyterian Women (FH)  6:30 pm PNC (T)	16 8:30 am Work Team  5-7 pm Teen Time (T) 7 pm Session (M)	17 1:30-3:30 om Westerly Village (FH)  6 pm Cub Scouts (FH)	18   5:45-6:50 pm Glory Ringers 7-8:30pm Chancel Choir	19	20
21 8 am & 10 am Worship 9 am & 11 am Fellowship Hour 10 am Sunday School	22 6:30 pm PNC (T)	23 8:30 am Work Team  5-7pm Teen Time (T) 7 pm Deacons (M)	24 1:30-3:30 om Westerly Village (FH)  6 pm Cub Scouts (FH)	25   5:45-6:50 pm Glory Ringers 7-8:30pm Chancel Choir	26	27
28 8 am & 10 am Worship 9 am & 11 am Fellowship Hour 10 am Sunday School	29 6:30 pm PNC (T)	30 8:30 am Work Team  5-7 pm Teen Time (T)	31 1:30-3:30 om Westerly Village (FH)  6 pm Cub Scouts (FH)	