

The Scribe

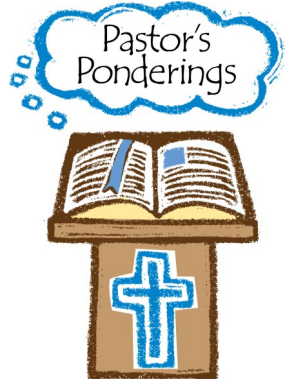
December 2024

Happy New Year! No, this is not the January Scribe. Yes, it's still 2024. We have only just put away the Christmas Bazaar tables, chairs, and signs. We've still got Thanksgiving leftovers to reheat, but December 1, which is the First Sunday of Advent, is the beginning of the new year according to the church calendar. Churches that follow this calendar mark the anticipation of the arrival of Jesus (Advent) as the beginning of our annual cycle of church seasons.

Advent is a special time in the life of the church. Special decorations are unboxed. The bells will ring frequently during worship. We'll see the sanctuary transformed as we prepare to welcome the Christ child on Christmas Eve with a gorgeous cantata at our 10 p.m. service, complete with a full orchestra of instrumentalists. It's a great time to invite your friends to church!

Speaking of inviting friends, have you seen all the new faces in the sanctuary? Children are filling up the front of the church during the children's moment at the 10 a.m. service. Visitors are coming with great interest and delight. So, if you see an unfamiliar face, please make them feel welcome and treat them as you would a guest in your own home.

Perhaps, if you think of this as the start of a new year, you might make a New Year's resolution and commit to doing something for the church in the next twelve months that you've never done before! You can learn to ring bells, join a group like the Tuesday Crew or the Presbyterian Women, help usher, or volunteer with a mission project. Dunn's Corners Community Church, Presbyterian is an active and thriving congregation, and there's still room to grow!





We are grateful to God for your faithful giving to Him and your support of Dunn's Corners Community Church. Your generosity enables our ministries and missions which are bearing fruit in Westerly and the surrounding communities. As we approach the year's end, you might be considering making a year-end gift. You can make gifts in a variety of ways: cash, check, or online at dunnscornerschurch.org. To ensure your gift

is counted to this year, it should be received and postmarked by December 31st.

Additionally, we encourage you to consult with your tax professional regarding tax-efficient required minimum distribution from an IRA or a direct transfer of appreciated assets such as stocks. For questions or assistance, please email Rachel Pierson at rachelpiers@gmail.com



Thank you to everyone that pledged. We are thankful that you are a generous and giving congregation. We had a total of 106 families pledge for a total of \$267,013. While a great number of families increased their pledges by 5% or more, we are still short of our goal of \$285,000 by \$17,987.

The trustees are not panicking because we are all seeing attendance and energy growing at Dunn's Corners Community Church. However, if you are able to make a one-time gift towards the 2025 budget, it would help keep us on solid financial footing for next year.

Thanks to your continued support, we have remained strong through the restrictions placed on us by COVID, Pastor Wayne's leaving and Pastor Joan's transition ministry. With your continued support and generosity, I know we will be able to continue our work in the community and beyond.

Thanks, and God Bless,

Bruce Yarnall
Chair, Stewardship Committee

From the Session

November's Session meeting was a busy one: We reviewed staff job descriptions, the 2025 budget, called a congregational meeting, and gave support to a 2025 mission trip.

The Personnel Committee has updated many staff job descriptions prior to annual job evaluations to be done mid-winter.

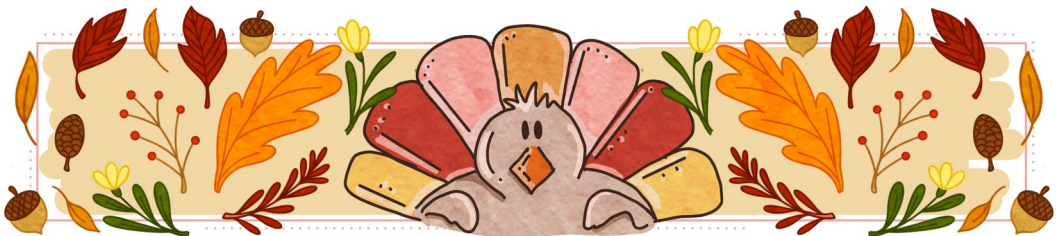
The 2025 Budget continues to be drafted. Everyone is encouraged by growth in attendance, giving, and pledges. Session is seeking better a better way to communicate our financial status on a regular basis, possibly a periodic Stewardship update.

There will be a congregational meeting on November 24 to elect church officers following the worship service. Food donated from the Harvest Table will be loaded and delivered to the WARM and JonnyCake Centers.

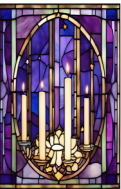
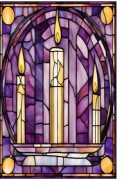
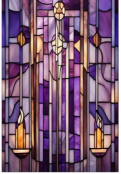
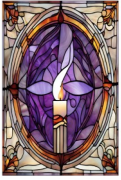
Plans are underway for a busy Advent Season!

Where did 2024 go?

Art



Signs of the Savior



Signs of the Savior

*25 DAYS OF
DEVOTION SONG &
PRAYER*

Give focus to your Advent journey by picking up a copy of Dunn's Corners 2024 Advent Devotional. This devotional includes a daily reading focused on the symbolic objects used in our church and individual homes. Also included are scripture passages, Advent songs and Christmas Carol lyrics, and prayers. May they enrich your preparations as we hear the story of Salvation and await again the coming of Jesus.



There are no neat, orderly stages of grief, but GriefShare ministry offers helpful ways of coping through the loss of a loved one, and a safe space in which grieving individuals find a community of support. GriefShare is a 13-week program in which participants discover what to expect in the face of losing a loved one.

We will be starting a new GriefShare 13-week group on Tuesday night February 4 from 6:00 - 7:30 PM in the meeting house. You are welcome to join GriefShare at any point in the program.

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.

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! We received 5,800 lbs of food, slightly more than last year which was down significantly from prior years. Sadly, a good part of it is already gone. We've had very high usage just the past couple of weeks. We expect it will all be gone by mid December. In November, we've already served 630 people this month as of the middle of the month.”

“We are seeing more new clients than ever before. We have had a steady influx of new clients all year, averaging at least 1 per day, sometimes 3 or 4.

“This year we will support 450 families for food for Thanksgiving/Christmas and as well as gifts for Christmas.”

"Overall, our food donations are down slightly, so we've ended up purchasing about 32,000 lbs. more food this past year which has had a significant impact on our budget."

The monetary donations that JohnnyCake Center and the other food pantries receive from the Christmas Mission Envelopes will augment the budget for the food pantry.

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





Free Community Christmas Dinner
at
Dunn's Corners Community Church Presbyterian
221 Post Road, Westerly, RI
(Route 1 - Across from Evie's)

Dine in or pick-up to take home & re-heat.

11:30 a.m. to 1pm ~ or while supplies last
Christmas Day, Wednesday, December 25th

SIGN UP AT: <https://forms.gle/sDJt84evknMxpq4f8>
Please sign up by: Dec 17th



Menu:

- Ham / Turkey with Gravy and Stuffing • Mashed Potatoes
- Green Bean Casserole, Peas and Corn • Rolls
- Pies and Christmas cookies

Children's Ministry



We will be having a Christmas party for the Children on Thursday December 12th from 5-7pm. We will be decorating Gingerbread houses, crafts, pizza and more. We are also bringing back the Nativity play this year on Sunday December 15th during the 10am service. We will have a rehearsal the week before on Sunday the 8th after the 10am service, as well as another quick run through at 9:15 the morning of the Nativity play. If you or your children are interested in taking part, please reach out to me at AmandaMcLintock@gmail.com



Sunday, December 1st

Trans-Siberian Orchestra "The Lost Christmas Eve" at Mohegan Sun
(Contact Michael for more information on tickets and times)



Tuesday, December 17th (5pm - 7pm)

Youth Group Holiday Christmas Party
(White Elephant gift exchange, food and fun) at DCCCP Teen Center

The DCCCP Youth Group is stepping up to support the Montreat Conference Center in Asheville, NC, following the recent hurricane. While details of the campaign are still being finalized, we are committed to lending a helping hand. Stay tuned for updates on how you can get involved!

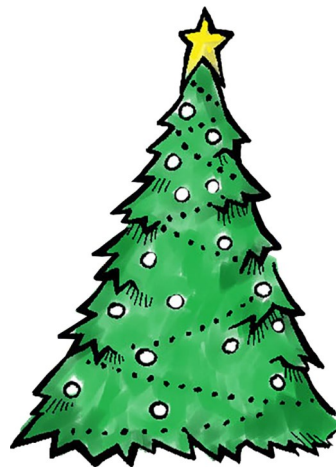
On November 24th the "Angel Tree" will be full of tags once again.

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 8th.

Deacons Jeanne Pietraallo, Sharon Joiner, Bonnie Krauss



Christmas Eve

5 pm Lessons and Carols and Candlelight 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 Candlelight 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 words which inspired them.

The cantata explores the awe and mystery of God with us. It is a fresh telling of the Christmas story from prophecy to angel messages; from our waiting to Love arriving; from the song of shepherds to the joyous lifting of our hearts at the birth of Emmanuel.





SCROOGED

WED, DEC 11TH 7 PM

UNITED THEATER

TICKETS ARE \$10

Limited to 76 people



All-Church Caroling

Join your voices in singing some favorite carols on **Monday, December 9, at 6:00 pm**. We will meet in Fellowship Hall and then travel to Apple Clipper and then some members' homes. Dress for the weather as we will be outside for the caroling.



Shoreline Ringers Concert

Sunday, December 8-4:00pm
Congregational Church of North Stonington
89 Main Street, N. Stonington, CT

Ring in the Holiday Season with "A Classic Christmas," a holiday handbell concert presented by the Shoreline Ringers. This concert features popular holiday favorites, classic holiday tunes and original handbell compositions, performed by this top-level community handbell ensemble.

December 2024 SABBATH DAY WORSHIP

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

Sunday, December 1 *Celebration of Holy Communion*



Sermon: *Hope Despite Chaos*
Theme: Hope

Scripture: Luke 21:25-36



Sunday, December 8



Sermon: *We Need a Prophet*
Theme: Peace

Scripture: Luke 3:1-6

Sunday, December 15



Sermon: *Mary's Song*
Theme: Joy

Scripture: Luke 1:39-56

Sunday, December 22



Sermon: *The Coming Greatness*
Theme: Love

Scripture: Luke:3:7-20

Christmas Eve Services 5:00 pm Lessons and Carols and Candlelight Service

10:00 pm Choir Cantata and Candlelight Service

Sunday, December 29 Guest Preacher: Bob Rieger

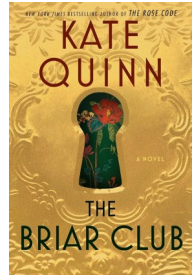
Sermon: *The Ghosts of Christmas*

Scripture: Luke 2:41-52

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.



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S GROUP

The Presbyterian Women's Group met on Monday, November 18th in Fellowship Hall. The meeting began with Devotions led by Sharon DeSarro.

A new Bible study program will begin on January 11, 2025. It will be based on the book, "Let Justice Roll Down". Doreen will purchase books for the group at a cost of \$10.00 per person. If you were not able to attend this month's meeting, you may order your book by signing up on the list in Fellowship Hall. There will be a total of nine meetings occurring every other Saturday. Each week is scheduled independently so there is no problem should you miss a session.

At the conclusion of our business meeting we split into two groups, one group sorted books for young children into three baskets which will be sold at the Bazaar next Saturday. The other group was given the task of distributing all donations of snack items into six boxes which will be distributed to our students who have returned home for Thanksgiving. The boxes are scheduled for delivery on Friday, November 29th

The Christmas party will take place on December 16th at 12:00pm. The menu will include finger sandwiches, salads, and desserts. Following our luncheon we will have a "Yankee Swap" activity with gifts that cost no more than \$10.00. Sharon has graciously agreed to once again lead this activity. Sign-up sheets will be posted in Fellowship Hall.

Our first event in the New Year will be our Soup Sale which is scheduled for January 19th, 2025. Soup will be available after both services so mark your calendar; we know you wouldn't want to miss it.



Please **mark your calendars** for a Men's fellowship breakfast on Saturday, January 25th, at 8:30 am. The breakfast will be held in fellowship hall and will feature a guest speaker.

Be on the look out for more information!

From Building and Grounds....

We are happy to report on the installation of a new oil tank serving our main building (Fellowship Hall, the Narthex, Ushers office and the Nursery). The old tank was starting to leak. Dan Charette of our B & G Committee obtained the tank from his customers Allen Kowalczyk and Brenda Roy of Pawtucket who donated the (practically new) tank! Thank you to Allen and Brenda for the generous donation and to Dan for his work to remove the old tank and install the new one.

We also would like to thank the many people who donated their Saturday morning on November 16 to rake, rake, rake the leaves on the Church grounds. We were able to pull off a successful Fall Cleanup with everyone's help. We cleared leaves, raked shrub beds, mowed grass and even fertilized the grass! Thank you all. It was a good morning, and we were all grateful for nice weather!



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 Center Dinner: Please sign up in Fellowship Hall. Remember we do this on the first Saturday of the month - **December 7th.** The church will be open from 8 am - 2 pm to accept donations. Please use all **disposable** containers.

Please be sure to visit the bulletin board just inside Fellowship Hall. There you'll find information and sign ups for everything from upcoming events and activities to Coffee Fellowship, Communion servers, Sunday morning flowers, WARM dinners and more.

WE NEED YOU! Hope you'll stop by the board regularly and find various ways to participate!

Jonnycake Center:

As we approach Christmas, we'd like to ask for things to augment the basics for Christmas. Items we could use are:

Canned Yams, Canned Mushrooms, Gravy, Instant Mashed Potatoes, Olives, Canned Pineapple, White Sugar, Brown Sugar, Flour, Baking Soda, Baking Powder, Spices, Dessert mixes, Pie crust, Pie Filling, Cake Mix and Frosting, Coffee, Tea, Nuts, Salt and Pepper Set.



Donations of new Teddy Bears: are requested and appreciated. The DCCCCP Teddy Bears travel near and far providing comfort to those in need. Donations can be dropped off in the church office or contact Dianne Lowther 401.742.8994
Thank you

Deacons who are faithfully serving the congregation are: Yvette Drurey, Dianne Lowther, Sandy Santy, Doreen Smith, Jeanne Pietraallo, Sue Rieger, Sharon Joiner, Bonnie Krauss, Sue El-dridge, Cheryl Remsbecker, Susan Strouse, and Stephanie Cahoon.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 1st SUNDAY OF ADVENT 8 am Worship 9 am Fellowship Hour 10 am Worship & Sunday School 11 am Fellowship Hour Communion Sunday	2	3 8:30 am Work Team 4 pm Worship Committee (Z) 5 pm Christian Ed 5 - 7pm Teen Time (T) 6 pm Buildings and Grounds (M) 6-7:30 pm GriefShare (M)	4	5	6	7 8 am-2 pm Deacons Collect Meals for the WARM Center (FH) 8:30-12:30 Habitat for Humanity Work Day
8 2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT 8 am Worship 9 am Fellowship Hour 10 am Worship & Sunday School 11 am Fellowship Hour	9 6 pm All-Church Caroling 6 pm Trustees (M)	10 8:30 am Work Team 5 - 7pm Teen Time (T) 6-7:30 pm GriefShare (M) 7 pm Session (M)	11 1:30-3:30 pm Westerly Village (FH) 6-8 pm Cub Scouts (FH) 7 pm United Theater Scrooged	12 5-7 pm Children's Gingerbread cookie decorating (FH) 5:45-7 pm Glory Ringers 7-8:30pm Chancel Choir	13 6-8 pm Eagle Scout Ceremony (FH)	14
15 3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT 8 am Worship 9 am Fellowship Hour 10 am Worship & Sunday School 11 am Fellowship Hour	16 1 pm Presbyterian Women Christmas Luncheon	17 8:30 am Work Team 5-7 pm Teen Time (T) 7 pm Deacons (M)	18 1:30-3:30 pm Westerly Village (FH) 6-8 pm Cub Scouts (FH)	19 5:45-7pm Glory Ringers 7-8:30pm Chancel Choir	20 	21
22 4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT 8 am Worship 9 am Fellowship Hour 10 am Worship & Sunday School 11 am Fellowship Hour	23	24 5 pm Candlelight Service 10 pm Candlelight Cantata	25 	26	27	28
29 8 am Worship 9 am Fellowship Hour 10 am Worship & Sunday School 11 am Fellowship Hour	30	31				