



# The Scribe

## March 2026

March is Women's History Month, and I want to take a moment to give thanks to the many, many matriarchs of DCCCP, past and present. I know some names – like Peg Wolstencroft, Calista Morris, Flossie Mayne, Nancy Tisch, and Mary Dinwoodie. But I certainly can't name all the present-day women who make this place what it is. We'd run out of ink!

There are a generations of faithful female disciples of Jesus. Last Lent, I mentioned many Marys whose names are confused and lost to history. I hope all of you recognize that Mary of Magdalena was indeed the first of the apostles who witnessed to the resurrection, but there are so many women who aided and learned from Jesus personally, and who were there at the foot of the cross as well.

And many of us are familiar with Julian of Norwich, Teresa of Avila, and Joan of Arc-women of the Middle Ages who are remembered for their faith and devotion.

But, growing up, women were not allowed to hold leadership roles in my churches outside of Sunday School teacher, secretary, or pianist.

Then, in college, I took a course on Judaism and learned that in the Reformed Jewish faith, women could be rabbis. I was astonished. The professor even shared a story about a female rabbi friend of his who said that, after service one night, a young boy asked her a question. "Can boys be rabbis, too?"

I was astonished. What an upside-down world, for a child to only have ever seen a female leader of his faith!

I was twenty-one years old before I heard a woman preaching from a pulpit in a church that had female officers. Today, I cannot imagine belonging to a church that was run only by men. Not because men are incapable. Clearly, they are, but women are faithful, wise, devoted, and creative, too.

This month, we celebrate the contributions of women to the church. The women of DCCCP are invited to retreat together at Camp Wightman, and in church, we will sing and hear music written or composed by women. Finally, I encourage you all to give thanks to God for the women in your life who insisted that you come to church, taught you stories, fed you delicious food, and maybe even preached the good news and made tough decisions so that this church and others like it could thrive. Let it be a Lenten practice in the midst of our journey to Holy Week and beyond.



*Peace, Pastor Gin Courtney*

**from Session . . .** Since the beginning of 2026, Session has had two meetings. We celebrate the strengths of our church! Here are some highlights from the January and February meetings:

- Mary Slattery was hired as the Children’s Ministry Coordinator in December and has already made a significant impact on both the children’s and the teen’s programs.
- The continuing generosity of our congregation is amazing! We are thankful for the Christmas Eve donations to the Mission Committee. Already this year, the Mission Committee has been able to help multiple organizations.
- We are fortunate to have a strong music program that not only supports weekly worship service but also invites in the community with special events. Upcoming events include a Shoreline Ringers concert, Ring-a-Palooza, and the Impact Youth Choir.

In addition to celebrating our strengths, we also strive for continuous improvement. We actively work to evaluate, improve, and implement safety policies. We have an existing policy requiring background checks for staff and volunteers working with children. With the increase in our youth programs, we have more volunteers who will be undergoing background checks. We have a strong relationship with the Fire Department which conducts annual safety inspections of our property. The Compliance committee will be working with Building and Grounds to ensure that evacuation maps are accurate and appropriate signs are posted. In addition to addressing the physical safety of members and friends, we are also investigating best practices in information security.

The committee formerly known as “Membership and Evangelism” is now “Membership and Communications”. The change in wording reflects the belief that communication both within our congregation and with the larger community is a key part of our operations. We are excited about adding a Communications Specialist to our staff to ensure that our message reaches members, friends, and the broader community.

If you have interest in any committee, please reach out to one of the Session Chairs.  
Clerk of Session: Roxanne Tisch

Treasurer: Cathy Kellers

### **Standing Committee Chairs**

Buildings & Grounds: Charles Jones

Membership and Communications: Bruce Yarnall

Mission: Rachel Pierson as co-chair, with Bob Rieger as chair

Nomination: Staci Heep and Cathy Kellers as co-chairs

Stewardship: Charles Jones

Finance: Cathy Kellers

Worship & Music: Lynn Getty

Christian Education: Dan Charette

Compliance: Grant Showacre

Personnel: Bob Santy and Linda Sardone as co-chairs

Early Learning Center/KidKare: Sally Owen

**CHURCH SUMMARY**  
 Sunday Worship - Financial Summary  
 January, 2026

**Sunday Worship**

Date	Attendance			Average Attendance		
	8am Service	10am Service	Total	Jan-2026	Jan-2025	Year - 2025
Jan-04	41	81	122	104	143	140
Jan-11	32	141	173			
Jan-18	33	49	82			
Jan-25	40	No service	40			
Feb-01	40	107	147			
Feb-08	Single Service at 9am		72			
Feb-15	41	99	140			

**Financial Summary**

Total Church Giving	\$ 80,069	Donations, Interest & Dividends, Christmas Bazaar, Holiday Offerings, Per Capita Payments and Transfers from Reserves
Total Church Expenses	\$ 30,565	Administration, Buildings & Grounds, Christian Education, Membership, Personnel, Worship & Music
Net Giving	\$ 49,504	Giving higher than Expenses



*Skating  
Fun*



## DEACONS Corner

**Deacons who are faithfully serving the congregation are:** Rose Marie Bartol, Keith Bruns, Stephanie Cahoon, Olympia Graeve, Karen Ingalls, Bonnie Krauss, Gordon Preiss, Stacey Pride, Sandy Santy, Doreen Smith, Cheryl Spino, and Susan Strouse.

The deacons of DCCCP are busy helping people and groups in the congregation and the larger community. Our deacons are currently involved in many activities, and we invite you to join us in our endeavors. Deacons continue to seek ways to grow as a community where God's love and kindness are available for all. A few ongoing activities are highlighted below.

**Warm Shelter Dinner:** DCCCP members will serve the Swiss chicken dinner on Saturday, March 7th. Volunteers are needed, and there is a signup list next to the Warm Center food signup list in Fellowship Hall. This will take place on the first Saturday of each month from approximately 3:00 - 6:00. This includes heating, setup and serving the food - there is no cleanup required of the volunteers. The Warm Shelter address is 56 Spruce St in Westerly, RI. We are reaching out to the congregation to help support this ministry. If you have any questions, please contact Doreen at (401) 429-8969. Thank you.

**Food and Fellowship Ministry:** As we all know, food and fellowship are important parts of DCCCP! Coffee hour, memorial collations, holiday dinners, and Diamond lunches are significant ways we can join together and share food and friendship inside and outside the congregation. We can help feed neighbors and involve the community in lifting our spirits and sharing our love. Thank you for signing up to provide refreshments for the congregation after church services. We appreciate cookies or coffee cake, cheese and crackers, or fruit and veggies--anything to snack on while enjoying coffee hour! Thank you! Please see Sandy Santy if you have any questions.

**Jonnycake:** Thank you to the congregation for your continued support of the Jonnycake Center. As we look forward to spring, we could use these items:

- Soup
- Crackers
- Condiments (ketchup, mustard, salad dressing, mayo, etc)

Many thanks to all who donated winter clothing while the Mitten Tree was up in the Sanctuary. We took many items to Jonnycake for their clients in need, and it was very much appreciated.

Thank you for your support!

## Deacon Speaker Series

Join us on Sunday, March 15 at 11:30 am!



Christine Fonicello and Mark Koswaski work at Broadview Florist and Garden Center in Westerly. Come hear about general and backyard landscaping, pollinator gardening, and planning a vegetable garden. You'll learn about native plants, dealing with pests, and of course, how to make your hydrangeas beautiful!! Mark your calendars now for Sunday, March 15 at 11:30 in the sanctuary.

## Save the Date: Our Community Easter Egg Hunt!

Spring is just around the corner, and that means it's time for one of our favorite traditions! We are so excited to invite all our families, friends, and neighbors to the church grounds for an afternoon of hunting, hopping, and high energy.

Whether you're a pro at spotting eggs or just coming for the crafts and the company, we can't wait to see you there. Make sure to bring a friend—the more the merrier!

**What:** Easter Egg Hunt

**When:** Sunday, March 29th

**Time:** 1:00 PM





## The "40 for 40" Lenten Challenge

### Join Our Youth on a Journey Through Acts this Lent!

This Lenten season, our youth and children's ministry is embarking on a special mission: **The 40 for 40 Lenten Challenge**.

While Lent is traditionally a time of "giving something up," we focused on **taking something up**. We are committing to reading through the entire Book of Acts over the 40 days of Lent—tracing the footsteps of the early church and learning what it means to live out our faith with boldness.

### We Need Your Support!

As we grow spiritually, we are also looking to support the activities and trips that we are planning this year.

We are looking for "Reading Partners" to sponsor our youth as they move through the 28 chapters of Acts. You can support us in two ways:

**Per-Day Pledge:** Pledge a specific amount for every day completed (e.g., \$1 or \$2 per day).

**Flat Donation:** Give a one-time gift of your choosing to celebrate our commitment to the Word.

**Will you partner with us this Lent?** Sign up to sponsor the children or youth. You can even join us on the journey and read the book of Acts with us. Click the QR code for a copy of the reading calendar, or you can pick one up in the fellowship hall.

Thank you for investing in the next generation of our church. We can't wait to see how the Holy Spirit moves through us this season!

With gratitude,

Mary, Michael, and Pastor Gin





**The Winter Warm-Up: Faith, Fellowship, and Frozen Fun!**  
2026 has certainly kicked off with a bit of a shiver! Between the snow and the sub-zero temps, it would have been easy to just stay curled up at home. But honestly? The cold hasn't slowed us down one bit. We've been leaning into the "young and young at heart" moment at church, and the energy has been just what we needed to get through these winter months.

### **The Kids are Taking Over (In the Best Way)**

The third Sunday of the month is still our dedicated Youth Sunday, and it's quickly becoming one of the my favorite parts of the month. It's been great to watch our kids and teens become more comfortable in their roles. They aren't just "helping out" anymore—they're truly leading.

Sunday, February 15th, was a perfect example. We had a great crew stepping up to greet people at the door with smiles and bulletins, and they did a fantastic job handling the offertory. A huge shout-out to Devlin and Sara who stepped up as worship assistants, too! Leading a whole congregation isn't easy, but they handled it like pros. You can really see their confidence growing every time they stand up there.

### **Ice, Smiles, and Not Too Many Falls**

The fun didn't stop at the church doors. On Monday the 16th, we headed out for a family skating event, and we lucked out with the weather. It was one of those "picture-perfect" winter days where everything just felt right.

It was a blast watching everyone get out on the ice. You could actually see the "bravery levels" rising as our time went on—plenty of people who started off shaky ended the day gliding around like they'd been doing it for years. One of the best parts was seeing so many friends of our church families come along for the ride. It felt like a big neighborhood hangout.

Winter might still be hanging around, but with this much energy and excitement, we're doing just fine.



## Stewardship Moment – Per capita Assessment

The Presbyterian Church U.S.A. operates through three levels of council: the sessions (leadership) within congregations, mid councils (the Presbytery of Southern New England and Synod of the Northeast), and the General Assembly, which serves as the denomination's highest governing body. The Per Capita Assessment is integral in supporting both the mid councils and the General Assembly. The Presbytery of Southern New England (PSNE) is one of the mid councils, staffed by one full-time member and three part-time members who provide personalized assistance.

The Synod of the Northeast functions as another mid council, also with minimal staffing, focusing on major challenges and collaborative initiatives.

At the national level, the General Assembly produces devotionals, vacation bible school plans, educational materials, confirmation curriculums, hymns, liturgies, offers responses to national disasters, advocates legislatively for those in need, and undertakes various other responsibilities. Every two years, the General Assembly convenes a national meeting where representatives from each presbytery gather to worship, discuss visions and programs, and consider amendments to the constitution. Transportation and lodging are provided for delegates to ensure all presbyteries can be represented without financial barriers.

PSNE has played a pivotal role in supporting our congregation during periods of change. During our transition from Pastor Wayne, PSNE secured interim pastoral leadership, with Pastor Joan providing ongoing spiritual guidance and care. Additionally, PSNE facilitated the search process that resulted in Pastor Gin joining our congregation, ensuring a smooth leadership transition and continued pastoral support. Their involvement was instrumental in maintaining stability during this significant period.

These examples illustrate the important functions supported by your Per Capita Assessment. It remains essential to our collective success. It's important! It helps us all!

Each year, PSNE communicates the per capita assessment for each church. The assessment is vital for sustaining the mid councils and the General Assembly. **This year, Dunn's Corners Community Church, Presbytery, has an assessment of \$13,144, or \$53.00 per adult member.**

We include this amount as an expense item in our Church Annual Budget and respectfully request each member to pay their individual assessment. By contributing, you enhance opportunities for church initiatives such as missions, music, children's programs, building maintenance, and community outreach.

The per capita assessment is separate from standard Sunday offerings and functions similarly to an annual membership fee. It may be compared to the yearly dues required by organizations such as Costco or Sam's Club, which provide members with specific benefits in return.

We kindly request that you make your payment at your earliest convenience. Payments may be made by check and placed in the Sunday offering, submitted online via our website, or delivered directly to the church office.

For those who have already submitted their per capita membership fee, we extend our sincere gratitude for your prompt payment.

Should you have any questions or require assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Stewardship Committee,

Sue & Bob Strouse, and Charles Jones

## March 2026 SABBATH DAY WORSHIP

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

*March  
Worship  
Schedule*

**Sunday, March 1**

*Second Sunday in Lent  
Communion Sunday*

Theme: Confidence

Scripture: Psalm 121

**Sunday, March 8**

*Third Sunday in Lent*

Theme: Commitment

Scripture: Psalm 95

**Sunday, March 15**

*Fourth Sunday in Lent*

Theme: Conversation

Scripture: John 4

**Sunday, March 22**

*Fifth Sunday in Lent*

Theme: Catharsis

Scripture: John 11

**Sunday, March 29**

*Palm Sunday*

Theme: Cloaks and a Colt

Scripture: Matthew 21:1-11



We have had a wonderful start to 2026. We started the year making New Years Resolution. We each talked about something we want to learn this year. We then dove into our "Winter" themes. We started with penguins. We read a variety of different penguin books including nonfiction and fiction books. We created fun, penguin shaped crafts, went fishing to feed our penguins, and used goldfish to count how many fish each penguin needed. We then went onto our Snowman unit. It was perfect timing as we got that big snowstorm right before. After Snowmen, we read 2 Jan Brett books - The Mitten and The Hat. We did lots of work with comprehension skills and retelling skills with The Mitten. We created our own mittens, too, as an art project. During the month of January, we had a student teacher work with us from the Frank Olean Center. His goals are focused on technology. With his help, knowledge, and skills we managed to learn more about our Smart Board. We shifted the majority of our morning meeting activities to the Smart Board making it more interactive for the children. In February, we hosted a family event on the 13th. We each picked someone special to us to spend the morning together. We sang songs to our someone special, read a story, created a craft, and enjoyed heart shaped brownies with hot chocolate, juice boxes, and water. It was a morning filled with love and community. We thoroughly enjoyed Pastor Gin coming to read a story to us on our 100th day of school. On our 100th day we did lots of different activities around 100. These activities spread over a variety of different RI Early Learning Development Standards. I think our favorite activity was going on a Hershey Kiss scavenger hunt to find 100 Hershey Kisses hidden around the classroom. We have enjoyed playing in the snow and learning together as we grow and strengthen our academic and social emotional skills.



## TO-GO CONTAINERS



You know all those to go containers that you get from restaurants and don't know what to do with. Save them! We are collecting clean plastic to-go containers with lids. THANK YOU for your help. Any questions, contact Cathy Kellers  
[cmek313@earthlink.net](mailto:cmek313@earthlink.net)



Our Weekly Lenten Soup Suppers will begin on Tuesday, February 24th, at 5:30pm. Everyone is invited. These simple meals will continue until Holy Week. Lenten suppers, and the soup often served at them, are a tradition dating back to the ancient church. Christians have long fasted during Lent, eating only at sundown when they were allowed bread, salt, vegetables, and water for the evening meal. There's not too much you can make with those ingredients, except soup. Lenten soup suppers provide simple meals that stretch a few ingredients to feed the group. But more than that, the suppers create a time we can be together. We share what we have with each other, and we support each other during the isolation and loneliness that can come in winter. We hope everyone will join us for a time of food and fellowship, to mark and remember our Lenten journey.



## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN – CALISTA CIRCLE

Our February 16<sup>th</sup> meeting was a **Valentine's Party** which included some rousing games of bingo and lots of food.

We are continuing our Bible study of "Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity in Jesus Christ". We will be on Lesson 4 on March 7<sup>th</sup> and Lesson 5 on March 21st. Meeting at 10am in the Meeting House.

Thank you to all who purchased soup. We raised **\$600** for the Pastor's Discretionary Fund.

On Mon, Feb 23<sup>rd</sup>, we discussed the book "Buckeye". Keep an eye out for the next book.

Anyone interested in reading to the ELC children on a Monday or Thursday morning in March or April, please reach out to Sharon DeSarro.

On April 23<sup>rd</sup> at 10:30, we will be going on a field trip to the Westerly Museum of American Impressionism. Following the one-hour tour, we will gather for lunch at Kelly's Deli.

We hope to see you at our next meeting on March 16<sup>th</sup>.

## Christmas Bazaar News

Planning is very important to the success of the Bazaar. We will be having a meeting to re-cap last year's bazaar. Please bring your ideas on how we can improve and have another successful bazaar this year!

**March 11th at 6pm in ELC**  
All are welcome to join our committee!!



Thanks to a very good collection on Christmas Eve and the generosity of other donors, the Mission Committee began 2026 with a balance of approximately \$17,000. At our January meeting, we discussed initial plans to begin deployment of those funds. While we do have to keep some funds in reserve for unexpected opportunities and needs that arise during the year, we decided to focus once again on the eternal problems of food insecurity and homelessness. The committee is currently compiling a specific list of needs that will be addressed in our early March meeting.

However, after consultation with local charities, we immediately decided to spend up to \$2000 on needs for local homeless individuals due to the extremely cold winter conditions. Members of the committee purchased hats, mittens, socks, gloves and hand/foot warmers which were given to both homeless students and members of the community. These were provided to the Jonnycake Center and directly to Westerly schools for students ages 6 to 18. We gave more warm clothing plus 10 sleeping bags to the WARM Shelter. In addition, gas cards were again purchased for distribution by Jonnycake. The gas cards are helpful for folks who sleep in their cars and run them to keep warm.

The committee also discussed aid for both refugee resettlement and Habitat for Humanity. These needs will continue to be discussed in March. Thank you to our generous church for your support.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bob Rieger  
Rachel Pierson

281 East Beach Road  
Quonochontaug R.I.



Dear Pastor Gin and fellow members of DCCCP,

I would like to thank you all for the generous donation made in my honor to Salt Ponds Coalition. As a member for close to fifty years, it is my privilege and pleasure to serve DCCCP in many capacities (but not in the choir!). As most of you know I am a retired marine biologist with love of the water. I continued my life work as president of SPC. Salt Ponds Coalition is a 500+ member non-profit serving to protect our coastal salt ponds from Watch Hill to Point Judith. We serve in three ways; education, water quality monitoring and advocacy. Your gift will support our programs. This is my way of protecting God's earth.

Thanks again  
AG

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*

March 2026

### *Diamonds Among Us!*


#### We extend our birthday wishes to:

-  Dot Bayer March 2
-  Nancy Penhallow March 7
-  Carol Spargo March 9
-  Peter Miner March 11



*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
<b>1</b> <b>Communion Sunday</b> 8 am & 10 am Worship 9 am & 11 am Fellowship Hour 10 am Sunday School	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 8:30am Work Team  4 pm Worship Committee (Z) 5 pm Christian Ed 5:30 pm Soup Supper (FH) 5:30-7pm GriefShare (S) 5:30-7:30pm Teen Time (T) 6 pm Building & Grounds (M)	<b>4</b> 10am Bible Study (FH)  1:30-3:30pm Westerly Village   6-8pm Cub Scouts (FH)	<b>5</b> Sew Good Souls Set up (FH)  5:45-6:50pm Glory Ringers 7-8:30pm Chancel Choir	<b>6</b> 9am-3pm Sew Good Souls (FH)	<b>7</b> 8 am-2 pm Deacons Collect Meals for the WARM Center (FH)  9am-3pm Sew Good Souls (FH)  10 am Presbyterian Women Bible Study (M)
<b>8</b> 8 am & 10 am Worship 9 am & 11 am Fellowship 10 am Sunday School  	<b>9</b> 6pm Trustees (M)	<b>10</b> 8:30 am Work Team  2-3:30 Westerly village (M)  5:30 pm Soup Supper (FH) 5:30-7pm GriefShare (S) 5:30-7:30pm Teen Time (T) 7pm Session (M)	<b>11</b> 10am Bible Study (FH)  1:30-3:30pm Westerly Village   6-8pm Cub Scouts (FH)	<b>12</b> 5:45-6:50pm Glory Ringers 7-8:30pm Chancel Choir	<b>13</b> Women's Retreat	<b>14</b> 12-3pm Cub Scouts (FH)  Women's Retreat
<b>15</b> 8 am & 10 am Worship 9 am & 11 am Fellowship 10 am Sunday School 11:30am Deacons Speaker Series (S)	<b>16</b> 1 pm Presbyterian Women (FH)	<b>17</b>  8:30 am Work Team  5:30pm Soup Supper (FH) 5:30-7 pm GriefShare (S) 5:30-7:30pm Teen Time (T)	<b>18</b> 10am Bible Study (FH)  1:30-3:30pm Westerly Village   6-8pm Cub Scouts (FH)	<b>19</b> 5:45-6:50pm Glory Ringers 7-8:30pm Chancel Choir	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 10 am Presbyterian Women Bible Study (M)
<b>22</b> 8 am & 10 am Worship 9 am & 11 am Fellowship 10 am Sunday School	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 8:30 am Work Team  5:30pm Soup Supper (FH) 5:30-7pm GriefShare (S) 5:30-7:30pm Teen Time (T) 7 pm Deacons (M)	<b>25</b> 10am Bible Study (FH)  1:30-3:30pm Westerly Village   6-8pm Cub Scouts (FH)	<b>26</b> 5:45-6:50pm Glory Ringers 7-8:30pm Chancel Choir	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> <b>Palm Sunday</b> 8 am & 10 am Worship 9 am & 11 am Fellowship 10 am Sunday School  1-3pm Easter Egg Hunt (FH)	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 8:30 am Work Team  5:30-7pm GriefShare (S) 5:30-7:30pm Teen Time (T)	 <span style="font-size: 4em; font-weight: bold; color: green;">MARCH</span>			