



# *The Scribe*

## *April 2026*

The next time I see most of you, we will be waving palm branches and cheering Jesus into Jerusalem. It will be a festive time with shouts of Hosanna and praise.

When I was a little girl, I remember the choirs at the various churches we attended would often sing their cantata on Palm Sunday. There might be guest musicians and moving solos. It was a good day!

Then, the next Sunday, we would hear that after Jesus entered Jerusalem, he was arrested and crucified and then rose again on the third day. It was a happy day, for he had risen, but to my young ears, I was horrified to hear Jesus had died in such a horrible way. Even though he was alive again, Easter had a sadness to it, because nothing the week before had prepared me for the emotional rollercoaster I experienced as I was reminded that Jesus had to die in order to be resurrected.

I once suggested to my 3<sup>rd</sup> grade Sunday School teacher that we should wear our new beautiful clothes on Palm Sunday and black on Easter. I think I confused her, but it made more sense to my young brain.

That's the great trouble with Holy Week. Most of us do not journey through the events of the week; we just jump from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday. Only a fraction of church members come for mid-week services like Ash Wednesday or Maundy Thursday, and I understand. A 7 p.m. start time on a weeknight prohibits many people from coming. I don't mean to shame anyone. I just want to acknowledge that attending service on Palm Sunday and then jumping to Easter leaves out a lot of important storytelling and emotional awareness.

For those who cannot come on Maundy Thursday at 7 p.m., I want to give you a preview of what is to come. Our service will begin around tables as we break bread together and remember Jesus' Last Supper with his beloved followers. Then we will follow Jesus to the Garden of Gethsemane and witness his fervent prayer and arrest. Finally, we will stand at the foot of the cross and bear witness to the death of our Lord Jesus Christ.

I hope that, however you can, you are able to journey through Holy Week in some form – whether by attending our service on April 2<sup>nd</sup> or by reading through the scripture at home or by some other way. It will make our alleluias on Easter morning that much sweeter.

*Peace, Pastor Gin Courtney*



## Session Notes

Session is excited about the rebirth and changes often associated with springtime! We are preparing to move the Church offices from the lower level to the Meeting House. This move will happen during the summer and will provide Nancy and Pastor Gin a more secure and temperate work environment. The office space on the lower level will not remain empty – the Sunday School program will be moving from the ELC area to the lower level.

You will see some landscaping work as the weather improves. Please mark your calendar for the Spring Clean Up Day on May 2<sup>nd</sup>! Join us as we rake leaves, prune and weed gardens, renew mulch and maintain our grounds.

We are expanding our partnership with Habitat for Humanity. In addition to sending a work crew from our church to help on site, we will be supporting a professor and a group of college students from Western Kentucky University who will be in Westerly during May to work at the Habitat site in Westerly.

In February, the Trustees, Deacons, and Elders met and identified priorities to guide the church's growth, strengthen its ministry, and foster deeper community engagement. As we look to the future, we must also remember the past. The Presbyterian Church (USA) instituted a requirement that as of July 13, 2023 all councils shall adopt and implement an antiracism policy. For the Presbyterian Church (USA), this policy calls us to examine both our current and historical practices and structures, acknowledge systems of bias, and actively work toward inclusion and equity in every part of church life. It is both a response to Christ's call to love our neighbors and a way to ensure our community truly reflects the diversity and dignity of God's creation. Please ask if you have any questions about this.

Happy Spring!

Roxanne



**Earth Care Congregation:** Last summer, the session of the church approved that an exploratory group determine if the church would qualify as an Earth Care Congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA). A team of six representing various areas of church life met several times to review the application and our current commitment to stewardship of the earth. We are pleased to announce that we have now been certified as Earth Care Congregation! DCCCP is the

first church in the Presbytery of Southern New England to receive this recognition! Thank you to Doreen Smith, Cathy Kellers, Stephen Pride, Bonnie Krauss, Louisa Bradford, and Pastor Gin for your work on behalf of the church!

# Church Financial Summary

## Year to Date

Total Church Giving	\$ 126,780	Donations, Interest & Dividends, Christmas Bazaar, Holiday Offerings, Per-Capita Payments, and Transfers from Reserves
Total Church Expenses	\$ 58,924	Administration, Buildings & Grounds, Christian Education, Membership, Personnel, Worship & Music
Net Giving	\$ 67, 856	Giving higher than Expenses

### IMPACT Youth Choir Concert

Tuesday, June 23, 2026 | 7:00 PM

We're excited to welcome back the IMPACT Youth Choir from Burke Presbyterian Church in Virginia! This vibrant group of junior and senior high students shares their faith through music with energy, joy, and enthusiasm.

As part of their tour, choir members and chaperones will stay in host homes the night of June 23. This is a wonderful opportunity for our church family to extend hospitality and build connections.

#### **How you can help:**

- Volunteer to coordinate housing arrangements
- Open your home to host two or more choir members or chaperones overnight
- Join a team to provide dinner on June 23
- Attend the concert and support these talented young musicians

Let's come together to make their visit meaningful and memorable!

For more information or to get involved, contact Andy at [music.dcccp@gmail.com](mailto:music.dcccp@gmail.com).



**Westerly Village Presentation**

# Learn about *Savory Fare* and *Adult Day at PACE*

📍 **Dunn's Corner Community Presbyterian Church**  
221 Post Road, Westerly

📅 **April 15**  
1:30–2:30 p.m.

**FREE SAMPLES!**

Join us for an information session that can help us all age better together.

**Savory Fare** delivers chef-made, homestyle meals to your door.

**Adult Day at PACE** offers activities, social engagement, compassionate support, and nursing oversight for older adults.



Westerly Village meets here in Fellowship Hall every Wednesday from 1:30 to 3:30.

To learn more, contact Sue Ogle at [oglesue65@gmail.com](mailto:oglesue65@gmail.com).

## Sunday Worship Summary February, 2026

### Sunday Worship

Date	Attendance			Average Attendance		
	8am Service	10am Service	Total	Feb-2026	Feb-2025	Year - 2025
February 1,	40	107	147	117	118	140
February 8,	Single Service at 9am (Annual Meeting)		72			
February 15,	41	99	140			
February 22,	48	62	110			

*Note: Ash Wednesday Attendance on February 18, was 62*

March 1,	32	111	143			
March 8,	46	89	135			
March 15,	35	99	134			

# MISSIONS HEADLINES

The Mission Committee held their monthly meeting in early March and the following initiatives were discussed with various decisions indicated.

- The Easter Special Mission offering will be given to South County Habitat for Humanity. We will be supporting local building projects.
- When Habitat's Ledyard Avenue, Westerly, project is complete, we would like to provide tools (drill, hammer, screwdriver, etc) for the new owners. There are two families. This will probably be in Oct/Nov.
- We authorized the expenditure of up to \$500 for additional gas/laundry gift cards as needed. This should be enough through May.
- We will plan hat/mitten/sock etc. purchases at the beginning of the cold weather season in Oct/November. We would like to contact the Westerly Sun in October to let them know of our efforts.
- We will spend \$1000 for hygiene supplies for Dorcas International Refugee Resettlement Institute.
- We will spend \$500 to \$700 to support the quilt group, as requested.

We will conduct further research on supporting foster children who are aging out of the system and targeted help for veterans. These topics will be discussed at an upcoming meeting. Our next Mission meeting is April 7 at 6pm by Zoom. Anyone is welcome to attend.

Respectfully submitted

Bob Rieger

Rachel Pierson



## Reflections on Our Youth: A Note of Gratitude

By the time this reaches your mailbox, we will have celebrated another wonderful **Youth Sunday** and our annual **Easter Egg Hunt**. It has been a joy to watch our youth find their unique voices and comfort levels during our youth-led services. The most heartening of all are the comments I hear from the children themselves. When they tell me, *"They love us,"* when speaking about the congregation, it is a beautiful testament to the environment you have created. Thank you all for ensuring our youth have the confidence of knowing they are truly loved and supported by this congregation.



## Join the Christian Education Committee

As the snow melts, it's time to look ahead to a busy summer! I would like to personally invite you to join the **Christian Ed Committee**. We meet to discuss our current successes, upcoming plans, and ways we can continue to improve our programs for children and youth. If you'd like to be part of the conversation, please join us:

- **Next Meeting:** Tuesday, April 7
- **Time:** 5:00 PM
- **Location:** The Teen Room

If you cannot attend but want to learn more about our programs, please don't hesitate to catch me at church or reach out—I always love sharing the incredible things our kids are doing.



## VBS Needs You!

We are officially beginning our preparations for **Vacation Bible School**, and we need your help to make it a success! We are looking for:

- **Group Leaders** to mentor our students.
- **Snack Helpers** to keep everyone energized.
- **Arts & Crafts Guides** to lead creative projects.
- **General Support** for various logistical needs.



We will be planning the specifics of VBS during our **April 7 meeting**.

If you are interested in helping but cannot attend the meeting, please contact me at [mfslattery03@gmail.com](mailto:mfslattery03@gmail.com).

## Membership and Communications Update

As the congregation may have noticed, the Membership and Evangelism committee has been renamed to the Membership and Communications committee, and Jaye Simmons was hired as our new communications specialist. She will handle a multitude of responsibilities for our church, including both internal and external communications. She will work to create a more dynamic social media presence, update our website, and help increase our visibility in the wider community. She will also collaborate with church staff to keep our calendar and website current. If you are at an event and take some interesting pictures or videos, feel free to email them to [communications.dcccp@gmail.com](mailto:communications.dcccp@gmail.com).

To that end, if anyone is interested in helping with the new Membership and Communications committee, please feel free to contact me, Bruce Yarnall, at [spedbo68@gmail.com](mailto:spedbo68@gmail.com), I would love to have new ideas as we continue to grow. If you have a drone and are interested in creating aerial shots of the church - interior and exterior - please let me know.

I am looking forward to working with Jaye as her role in our church evolves to meet our growing needs.

Bruce Yarnall

# 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, April 4th**. 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
- Canned Fruit
- Cereal (for adults, not kids)



We welcomed March with open arms as the sun came out and the temperature rose. We thoroughly enjoyed playing outside while the snow slowly melts. The first week of March was our Dr. Seuss spirit week. Each day was a different theme based off one of Dr. Seuss' books. We engaged in many different Dr. Seuss activities such as pin the hat on the cat, matching socks to make a pair and hanging them on a clothesline, identifying what we would like to carry around in our pocket if we could, along with others. We also started our surprise bag. Each day a child brings in an object that fits inside the surprise bag. The other children have to ask questions to try and identify what is inside the bag. The surprise bag focuses on communication - asking and answering questions and listening to the answers to narrow it down to guess the object. As the month progresses our communication skills improve. On March 18, we hosted our monthly family event - muffins with mom. We will sing some songs to our moms, read a book, create an art project, and enjoy muffins and beverages. We look forward to welcoming our guests to our events each month. As the month progresses, we will shift our focus to an insect unit, St. Patrick's Day and eventually Easter. As the weather gets nicer, we try to do some of our learning outside in the sunshine.

Our partnership with the Presbyterian Women's Group started up again. We welcomed Sharon to our classroom in the beginning of March. She came dressed in her giraffe outfit and read a story about the zoo. We always love welcoming guests to come and share a story with us. We are looking forward to the many other women who will be coming to our classroom over the next few weeks.



## Stewardship Moment:

### How to Support the Warm Center and Jonnycake Center

Even the smallest contributions can make a big difference. Stewardship is not just about giving money to support the church budget. It's about participating in the ministries the church supports. Our church partners with two outstanding local organizations – the WARM Center and Jonnycake Center.

The WARM Center assists those experiencing homelessness, hunger, or hardship. You can help by:

Signing up and then delivering an element of our monthly dinner we provide. The menu is always the same. And the food needs to be in the church kitchen between 8 a.m. and 2 p.m. on the first Saturday of the month.

- Or -

Serving the meal at the WARM Center between 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. on the first Saturday of the month.

The Jonnycake Center helps people in crisis through a food pantry, a thrift store, and emergency financial assistance. You can help by:

Shopping for items currently needed that are listed in our church bulletin weekly and bringing those items to the church. There is a blue bin located in Fellowship Hall for donated goods.

- Or -

Donating gently used clothes or household goods directly to the thrift store during their hours of operation.

Your generosity directly helps neighbors in need. We sincerely thank the many church members who work or volunteer at these non-profit organizations, and we encourage you to play a vital role in our partnership with them. Help make a difference not just at our church but in our community!

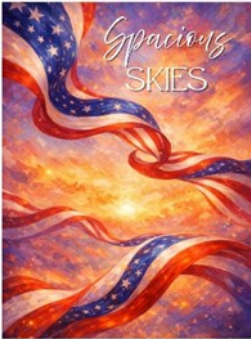
Your Stewardship Committee,  
Bob and Sue Strouse and Charles Jones

**YOUR GIVING  
MATTERS!**

## Shoreline Ringers Present

### *Spacious Skies: A Celebration of American Music & Handbells*

May 17, 2026 | 4:00 PM



Shoreline Ringers is a community handbell ensemble based in southeastern Connecticut, known for awe-inspiring performances that combine precision, musicality, and sheer joy in ringing. Their ringers come from across the region with a wide range of backgrounds and a shared passion for advanced handbell repertoire.

Directed by Dunn's Corners' very own Andy Wallace, Shoreline Ringers brings dynamic energy and a love of the instrument to every performance. As part of America's semiquincentennial, *Spacious Skies* will feature patriotic selections alongside music drawn from America's rich musical traditions and development. From historic roots, to uniquely American sounds, and a few surprises, expect a program that is both inspiring and entertaining, showcasing the full range of what handbells and these musicians can do.

Invite a friend, coworker, or neighbor and enjoy an afternoon of beautiful music together. This is a wonderful opportunity to experience the artistry of handbells and to introduce others to the DCCCP community.

### Church Grounds Cleanup Invitation

Dear Church Members and Friends,

We warmly invite you to participate in our forthcoming Spring Cleanup event for the church grounds, landscaping beds, and chapel. The event is scheduled for Saturday, May 2nd, commencing at 9:00 am. and concluding at noon.

Your valued assistance is urgently needed, as the grounds and chapel have sustained considerable wear during the past winter. Your support will be instrumental in restoring and enhancing the beauty of our shared space. We welcome all volunteers, and no offer of help will be refused. We understand that your time is precious; therefore, you are not required to remain for the entire three hours. Any amount of time you can dedicate will be sincerely appreciated by the Building and Grounds Committee. To express our appreciation for your valuable assistance, refreshments including donuts, coffee, and cool drinks will be available.

Respectfully,  
The Building and Grounds Committee

## SOCIAL EVENT AT DUNNS



Mark your calendar  
Fri, Apr 17<sup>th</sup> at 6pm for:  
Cribbage and Pot Luck  
All levels are welcome. Even if you have  
never played and want to learn  
Sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall

OPEN TO EVERYONE AT THE CHURCH AND FRIENDS OF THE CHURCH  
Any questions please contact Cathy Kellers: [cmek313@earthlink.net](mailto:cmek313@earthlink.net)



Friday, Dec 11, 2026 at 7:30 pm

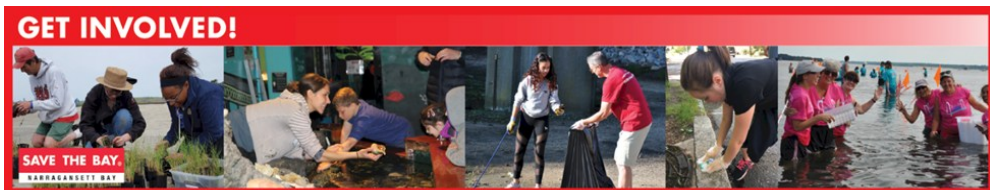


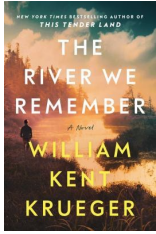
Yes, the movie that we saw in 2025 at The United is now a  
play at  
The Granite Theater!

Tickets are \$34 for Seniors (over 64) and Children (under  
12);  
all others \$36  
Tickets are limited.

## Weekapaug Breachway Cleanup – Sat, May 30 8 AM- 10 AM

Join us to help keep our beaches clean. We have 18 spots open. Please sign up on the board in fellowship. If you have any questions, please contact Cathy Kellers.





The Presbyterian Women's book club will be held again on May 4th at 7pm. We will read “The River We Remember” by Kent Krueger.



The Summer Read is “Hamnet” by Maggie O'Farrell.

## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN – CALISTA CIRCLE



We were so thankful to Nancy Mayne for starting our March meeting with Qigong.



NOTE: We will not be having an April meeting because there is a field trip.

On Thurs, Apr 23<sup>rd</sup> the PW will be going to Westerly Museum of American Impressionism. The tour will begin at 10:30 and last approximately an hour. Then we will be heading to Kelly’s Deli for lunch. The cost of the tour is \$10 for those 65 and older and \$12 for those under 65. There will be carpooling if you meet at the church by 10:10.

We are continuing our Bible study of “Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity in Jesus Christ”.

The next book for discussion is “A River We Remember” by William Kent Krueger.

If you have any questions about PW group, contact Doreen Smith or Sharon DeSarro.



## **Time for our “Diamond Luncheon” on Wednesday, April 22 at 11:30!**

The luncheon is for our “Diamond” (70+) church members who enjoy gathering together to share a prepared lunch and participating in a brief service/or scheduled program. Westerly Village guests will join us on Wednesday, April 22 at 11:30 for lunch and friendship in Fellowship Hall. Please join us!

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*  
April 2026

### *Diamonds Among Us!*


**We extend our birthday wishes to:**

-  Barbara Ritchie April 3
-  Beth Rickman April 4
-  Jane Frink April 10
-  Sheri Loeckler April 11
-  Andrea Barrus April 19
-  David Maine April 19
-  Ted Truslow April 26



*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
 <p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; letter-spacing: 0.5em;">APRIL</p>			<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
			1:30-3:30 pm Westerly Village  6-8pm Cub Scouts (FH)	7pm Maundy Thursday Service (S)	<b>Sew Good Souls Set up</b>	8 am-2 pm Deacons Collect Meals for the WARM Center (FH)  9 am-3pm Sew Good Souls (FH)  10 am PW Bible Study
<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Easter Sunday</b>  6:30 am Sunrise Service 8 am & 10 am Worship 9 am & 11 am Fellowship Hour 10 am Sunday School		8:30 am Work Team  4pm Worship Committee (Z) 5 pm Christian Education 5:30-7:30pm Teen Time (T) 5:50-7:30pm Griefshare (S) 6 pm Buildings and Grounds (M) 6 pm Mission Committee (Z)	1:30-3:30 pm Westerly Village  6-8pm Cub Scouts (FH)			
<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
8 am & 10 am Worship 9 am & 11 am Fellowship Hour 10 am Sunday School		8:30 am Work Team  5:30-7:30pm Teen Time (T) 5:50-7:30pm Griefshare (S) 7 pm Session (M)	10am Bible Study  1:30-3:30 pm Westerly Village  6-8pm Cub Scouts (FH)	5:45-6:50 pm Glory Ringers 7-8:30pm Chancel Choir	6pm Cribbage Night/ Pot Luck (FH)	10 am Presbyterian Women Bible Study
<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
8 am & 10 am Worship 9 am & 11 am Fellowship Hour 10 am Sunday School		8:30 am Work Team  5:30-7:30pm Teen Time (T) 5:50-7:30pm Griefshare (S)	10am Bible Study 11am Devotional 12pm Diamond Luncheon  6-8pm Cub Scouts (FH)	11am Presbyterian Women Art Museum  5:45-6:50 pm Glory Ringers 7-8:30pm Chancel Choir		9am - 2:30pm Ring-a-Palooza
<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>		
8 am & 10 am Worship 9 am & 11 am Fellowship Hour 10 am Sunday School		8:30 am Work Team  5:30-7:30pm Teen Time (T) 5:50-7:30pm Griefshare (S) 7 pm Deacons (M)	10am Bible Study  1:30-3:30 pm Westerly Village  6-8pm Cub Scouts (FH)			