

THE TIE that binds

January/February 2023

1241 Poquonnock Road, Groton, Connecticut 06340
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*May the rhythm
of our days
keep us in step
with God's eternal
breath.*

*May they be alive with
glimpses of glory,
whispers of love,
splashes of joy.*

Christine Sine

Adapted from John O'Donohue

Pastor's Page



Another Year of Faith and Friendship

"I Arise in the New Year"

By Joyce Rupp

I arise with amazement at the presence of the Holy One.

I arise with gratitude for life.

I arise with hope that all shall be well.

I arise with courage to meet what will be difficult.

I arise with conviction to do what is life-giving.

I arise with eyes ever alert for beauty.

I arise with openness to greater truth.

I arise with desire for continued transformation.

I arise with compassion for the hurting ones in the cosmos.

I arise with grief still settled in my spirit.

I arise with a sense of kinship with all whom I love.

I arise with respect as others mentor and deepen my vision.

I arise with determination to make good choices with my time.

I arise with willingness to help those who will need my care.

I arise with hesitation as I think about pain that may come.

I arise with longing for ever greater inner freedom.

I arise with happiness, knowing I am invited to live life fully.

I arise with love for the Holy One, my Intimate Companion.

Thank you for the opportunity to walk into another year of life.

Help me to be faithful, to be generous, to be yours.

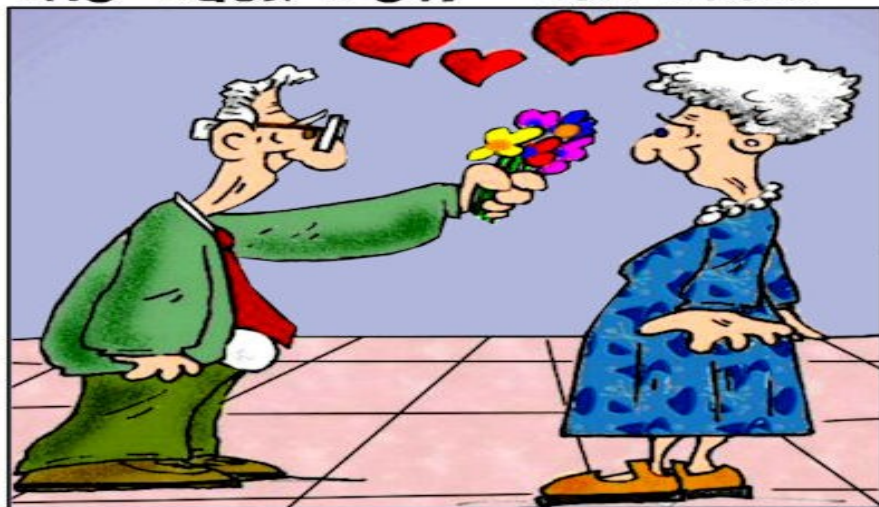
With my heart full of gratitude, I move from the seasons of Advent, Christmas and Epiphany into the season before Lent.

Blessed and loved by this amazing community of faith, I am thankful for the opportunity to walk into another year of life as your pastor.

May we be faithful and generous as we journey together, forever trusting that we belong to God. We arise in the new year!

Church Humor

The Back Pew – Jeff Larson



Your teeth are store bought and as white as the hairs on yer head. **Song of Solomon for Seniors**

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Thanks to Ondrej Paska (See Matthew 14:24-33)

01-01-2008

PETER FINDS HIS FAITH TO BE MUCH STRONGER IN THE WINTER



JANUARY MINISTERS

Lay Leaders:

01—Cathy Greenfield
08 - Becky Freeman
15 - Marilyn Baird
22- Li Ling Liu
29 - Marilyn Rodearmel

Serving Communion:

Gail Neff & Portia Freeman
Marilyn Rodearmel & Carol Gatlin
Preparing Communion: Gail Neff & Portia Freeman
Assisting Pastor: Barbara Brant

FEBRUARY MINISTERS

Lay Leaders:

05—Jonathan Liu
12 - Dennis Piscitello
19 - Janice Miranda
26 - Cathy Greenfield

Serving Communion:

Becky Freeman & Portia Freeman
Richard Tourjee & Catherine Greenfield
Preparing Communion:
Becky Freeman & Portia Freeman
Assisting Pastor: Catherine Hiller

Birthdays

JANUARY

- 02- William Deveau
- 02- Noelle Butler
- 03- Joshua Boyle
- 04- Mackenzie Ackley
- 05- Eric Bianchi
- 05- Ronald Land
- 07- Pete Wong
- 08- Pete Deveau
- 09- Barbara Bellefleur
- 12- Londa Wesche
- 13- Gladys Burns
- 13- Emma Martel
- 15- Patti Crooks
- 15- Adam Greene
- 15- Matthew Greene
- 16- Jackie Dorobkrowski
- 17- Go Tuang
- 18 – Richard Tourjee Sr.
- 22- Libby Ribarich
- 22- Ric Silver
- 25- Pebbles Quibble
- 29- Korban Tuang
- 31- Candy Zeppieri



FEBRUARY

- 01- Gary Benson
- 06- Lou Sherman
- 09- Becky Johnstone
- 14- Yvette Ackley
- 14- Sandy Vocolina
- 18- Cecilia Lew
- 20- Ronald Tourjee
- 20- Donna McLaughlin
- 27- Richard Bassett

2022 Christmas Flowers

In Memory of our daughter, Jennifer
Given by: Dave and Carol Rowley

In Memory of Jim Pearce, Dick Strong & Burt Crooks
Given by: Catherine & Irv Hiller

In Memory of my Parents George & Anna Deveau
and my son, Jason Molonson
Given by: Pete Deveau

In Memory of Jim Baird and Denise Baird
Given by: Marilyn, Karen, Deb and Jim Baird

In Memory of all Gail's and Peggy's family who passed
Given by Gail Neff and Peggy Straub

In Memory of Lester Jordan
Given by: His Loving Family

In Memory of Our Parents
Given by: Pat and Darrell Tootell

In Memory of Our Parents
Given by: Bill and Phyllis Gregory

In Memory of Barry Kernozek, always in our hearts
Given by: Fefe and Bud

In Memory of Sue Ying Lew and Jeffrey Lew
In Honor of Loved Ones
Given by: The Lew Family

In Memory of our sister Deb
In Honor of our sisters Barbara, Linda, Leanne,
Leslyn and Diane
Given by: Carol and Larry Gatlin

In Memory of my Parents, Mary and Arthur Marquardt
Given by: Jane Imdahl

In Memory of Raymond Vars
Given by: Will Vars

2022 Christmas Flowers, cont.

In Memory of Gerald Maranda
Given by: Janice Maranda

In Honor of husband, Dave Augeri and mom Belle Jordan
Given in loving thanks by Dianne Augeri

In Memory of Aline Trail
Given by: Carol Case

In Honor of Len Lun Niang
Given by: The Liu Family

In Memory of Ted & Yvonne Ackley and Teddy
Given by: Peg and Yvette Ackley

In Honor of Claudine & Patti Crooks

In Memory of Garold Benson, Harley Osgood,
Marjorie & John McGraw and Lena Benson
Given by: Marilyn Benson

In Memory of Grandpa Tom & Grandma Floss,
Grandma Toots & Grandpa Bob and Mimi & Pop
Given by: Austin's Family

In Memory of Florence Piscitello
Given by: Phyllis Bartelli

In honor and memory of our parents
Given by: Nancy & Larry Spalluto

In honor of our parents Betty and Harold Shontell,
Barbara and Tom Leland
Given by: Sue Shontell & Beth Rumery

In Hope of Peace and Love
Given by: John and Marilyn Rodearmel

In Memory of Sue Ming & Louie Wong and Ko Kwong
Given by: The Wong Family

In Memory Mr. & Mrs. Jose Amuan and
Mr. & Mrs. Custodio Castro
Given by: Rey and Aida Amuan

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes

January 9, 2023

Call to Order - Charley at 6:32

Devotions – Portia read a comparison of accidents in the home, work, on roads, etc as compared to low incidence of 0.001% at church, so for safety's sake we should attend church and Bible Study.

Minutes of previous meeting – Church Clerk Carol Gatlin

Marilyn moved and Joe seconded to accept minutes as distributed by email; approved.

Pastor Claudine expressed gratitude for Advent, Christmas and Epiphany seasons. She will be on vacation Jan 16-30. Heidi Butler will preach on Jan 22 and Rev. Jonathan Scott on Jan 29. The committee is close to ordering selected new hymnal "Glory to God", expecting to purchase 85-90, with tentative dedication in mid-May. She will coordinate with Cathy G for use of vestry for baby shower for Megan and Jeff Wilbur on Feb. 4.

This Sunday is the SUNL Association Annual Meeting; she will be attending, along with delegates Charley and Portia Freeman, and also Becky Freeman. Our dues have been paid.

ABCCONN 200-year Regional Anniversary will be recognized in a prayer event on Jan 20 at 3:30 and a worship event on Apr 30.

Having met with the ABCCONN Commission on the Ministry and having met all the requirements for Ordination under our regional guidelines, our SUNL Assoc has been asked to call for an Ordination Council related to Heidi Butler. PBBC will host this event on Sunday, Feb 19 at 3:00 pm (snow date Feb 26). Each congregation is allowed 3 voting delegates (pastor and 2 lay delegates) but all are welcome to attend. This is an opportunity to hear Heidi's Ordination Paper and participate in the question/answer process. We need a quorum of 7 churches in order to proceed. If the vote is favorable, we will be instructed to plan a Service of Ordination. Tentative plans are being made for the last weekend in May (May 28 is Day of Pentecost) for PBBC to host a celebration with reception, either on Saturday or Sunday afternoon. Instead of purchasing a new preaching robe as a gift from the church, Pat Tootell is working to make alterations to the Rev. Kevin Butler's robe as a gift to Heidi and has made an ordination stole to present that day. We should reimburse any expenses. She has given Jon Hiller a list of 8 names for the Memorial Board (completing another frame) on the back wall of the sanctuary: Sarah Adams, Patricia Boulez, Bob Bogue, Rev. Kevin Butler, Rev. Dick Strong, Lucie MacArthur, George Allen Jr., Bobbie Allen. This will be Jon's outgoing task as Memorial Fund Treasurer.

Ash Wednesday is Feb 22 and she would like to return to Bread and Broth gatherings.

Carol asked about Catherine Hespeler's name on the Memorial Board; her name will be added to a new frame. Richard asked about her taking sabbatical; if she takes in 2023 it will likely be in the Fall. Drew asked what will be done with the old hymnals; she will reach out to other churches in SUNL. Marilyn suggested offering to prison system; Richard suggested offering to congregation.

Deacons –

Worship and Membership – Portia Freeman/Peg Straub

Portia said the report has been submitted for the Annual Report.

Building and Grounds – Drew Wesche/Holly Boyle

Drew said the report has been submitted for the Annual Report.

Holly said cleaning of furnaces on all (3) properties has been scheduled for Feb 22.

Stewardship/Benevolence – Patti Tootell/Marilyn Rodearmel

Patti reported Memorial Fund balance of \$30376.88. She has not called ABEC this month for specific monies but the balance should be a little more than last month.

Marilyn reported starting balance of \$702.95 with outstanding check for \$100, written and sent the end of November but not cashed; Pastor Claudine will follow-up with known contact.

Ed Boyle has been appointed Memorial Fund Treasurer, replacing Jon Hiller. There was discussion as to back-up person for Memorial Fund Treasurer, asking Jon Hiller to stay as back up and his status and that of Betty Land as named persons on file with Chelsea Groton Bank. Carol to contact each of them. Discussion evolved to having back-up to Richard Tourjee, Jr as Mission Fund Treasurer, identification of this person from Council or congregation, and duration of term. Richard Sr moved and Holly seconded to identify a back-up for Mission Fund Treasurer; approved by vote. Holly moved to name Dianne Augeri; Marilyn seconded. Dianne accepted the nomination. Approved.

Education and Discipleship – Joe Greene -

Joe reports that Sunday School classes will resume this Sunday, Jan 15.

Mission and Outreach – Dianne Augeri/Li Ling Liu -

Dianne reports that report for 2022 has been submitted to Barbara. Giving was good last year. Donations to RMMO are still be accepted; really donations to any mission will be accepted at any time. They will announce World Mission Offering this Sunday, moving this campaign from Fall because of numerous financial solicitations at that time.

Pastoral Relations –Sue Shontell -

Sue reports that report for 2022 has been submitted to Barbara. PRC will meet during Q1 2023 with new delegates.

Minutes Continued

Hospitality and Special Events – Cathy Greenfield/Sandy Vocolina
Cathy said nothing to report. Charley thanked for hard work over the past year with routine Sundays and special events.

Nominating Committee – Richard Tourjee -
Richard reported that nominations are settled for next year except for Hospitality. Holly suggested allow Cathy stay if willing; Cathy declined. There was agreement of need to fill this deacon position; suggested add to announcements to congregation.

Marilyn requested listing of replacements; Richard detailed:

Worship and Membership: Holly (replacing Peg)

Building and Grounds: Sue (replacing Holly)

Education and Discipleship: Steve Hughes (replacing Lou)

PRC: Mei Ling (replacing Sue as chair, Sue and Londa Wesche remain)

Memorial Fund Treasurer: Ed Boyle

Stewardship (Benevolence): Marilyn (remains)

Hospitality: Sandy Vocolina

It was noted that Patti has completed 2 years + 2-year extension as Deacon of Finance, thus position needs to be filled. Discussion ensued, with review of Bylaws, as to Deacon of Finance and Deacon of Stewardship as separate and unique positions, too demanding to be filled by one person, that Stewardship description names Benevolence (offering).

So, we are without a Deacon of Finance and a (second) Deacon of Hospitality. Unless these positions are filled first ie., by request or volunteer, announcement request for volunteers will be made at Annual Congregation Meeting in Feb.

7. Old Business –

- Agenda for Congregation meeting to be held Feb 5, 2023 to include proposed ByLaws change re: electronic voting and open Deacon positions.

-Volunteers needed for cleaning in Janet's absence Jan 13, 20 and 27.

Marilyn and Portia volunteered.

-Status of updating Groton Chelsea bank account signatories. (NB - local bank facility is closed until "mid-February" due to water main break). To be finalized after Deacon slate is approved at Annual Congregation Meeting.

Minutes Continued

8. New Business –

2023 signup for Devotions - to be routed next month

Jonathan said that per usual online login to Chelsea Groton account there was a new checking account line with \$622 and asked recognition of amount. Marilyn replied that it looks like Benevolence Fund balance, and bank must have put this account under the church's after she spoke with them in October.

9. Additional Business –

Barbara has asked about re-activating rotational role of Greeter at both sanctuary doors on Sunday mornings. Greeting is happening in general; a volunteer for scooter assistance at the ramp door is happening per sign-up sheet. Discussion about considering COVID. Pastor Claudine said could re-activate in more organized way with sign-up/rotation, wearing masks.

10. Adjourned at 7:50

Devotions for February: TBD

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Gatlin

Church Clerk

**Poquonnock Bridge Baptist Church
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Groton, CT 06340**