

# THE TIE that binds

## December 2021

1241 Poquonnock Road, Groton, Connecticut 06340  
860-445-6126  
[www.pbcgroton.org](http://www.pbcgroton.org)



December

**B**e present.

**L**et the day flow with grace.

**E**xpect joy. Be positive.

**S**erve with compassion.

**S**peak only kindness.

**I**mpart only love.

**N**ever forget you're not alone.

**G**ive thanks for everything.

**S**ee goodness in others. mary davis

EveryDaySpirit  
.NET

Pastor's Page

An Advent Season of Sorrow and Joy

*"Christmas Comes"*

*By Ann Weems*

*Christmas comes every time  
we see God in other persons.  
The human and the holy meet  
in Bethlehem or in Times Square,  
for Christmas comes like a golden storm  
on its way to Jerusalem –  
determinedly, inevitably....  
Even now it comes  
in the face of hatred and warring –  
no atrocity too terrible to stop it,  
no Herod strong enough,  
no hurt deep enough,  
no curse shocking enough,  
no disaster shattering enough.  
For someone on earth will see the star,  
someone will hear the angel voices,  
someone will run to Bethlehem,  
someone will know peace and goodwill:  
the Christ will be born!*

Throughout this season of both sorrow and joy, Christmas has come every time I see God in each of you. I see God in your love and sympathy, in your care and concern, in your work and ministry, in your faith and friendship.

Thank you for helping me and my family see the star and hear the angel voices. Thank you for running to Bethlehem for us, and with us, this year. And thank you for helping us know the peace and goodwill of Christ's birth

# Christmas Dinner

Take-Out

December 25th, 2021

Pickup time from 2:00-3:00 pm

At

Union Baptist Church

119 High Street, Mystic CT



No Charge– Reserve in Advance

Due to COVID restrictions, we are unable to serve a sit-down dinner this year. To reserve your meal for pick-up, arrange delivery or to make a donation, call Dawn at 860-572-7158 before December 18th



## **DECEMBER MINISTERS**

### **Lay Leaders:**

**05 - Richard Tourjee**  
**12 - Holly Boyle**  
**19 - Catherine Hiller**  
**26 - Drew Wesche**

## **JANUARY MINISTERS**

### **Lay Leaders:**

**02 - Patti Tootell**  
**09- Becky Freeman**  
**16 - Dave Rowley**  
**23 - Li Ling Liu**  
**31 - Marilyn Rodearmel**

# Birthdays

## DECEMBER

- 04- Sandy Wong
- 05- Joan Watkins
- 06- Robert Nelson
- 10- Ted Hespeler
- 16- John Rodarmel
- 17- Clyde Myers
- 25- Catherine Hiller



## JANUARY

- 02- William Deveau
- 02- Noelle Butler
- 03- Joshua Boyle
- 04- Mackenzie Ackley
- 05- Eric Bianchi
- 05- Ronald Land
- 06- Sarah Adams
- 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

*Christmas Flower Donations  
2021*

*In Memory of Shirley's parents, William & Grace Thompson*

*In Memory of Vance's parents, Melvin & Elizabeth Lamb*

*In Memory of their son, Chris Allyn Lamb*

*Given by: Vance & Shirley Lamb*

*In Memory of lost loved ones*

*In Honor of Lauren Brant*

*Given by: Barbara Brant*

*In Memory of Theresa Scroggins and Louis Starr*

*Given by: Sandy Vocolina*

*In Memory of Jim and Denise Baird*

*Given by: Marilyn & Karen Baird*

*In Honor of Will Vars*

*Given by: Jane Imdahl*

*In Honor of my sister Peg Straub*

*Given by: Gail Neff*

*In Memory of Ted & Yvonne & Teddy Ackley*

*Given by: Yvette and Peg Ackley*

*In Honor of Donna & Tim Wong, Ka Wong & Chan Ham*

*Given by: The Wong Family*

*In Memory of our parents*

*Given by: Bill & Phyllis Gregory*

*In Honor of Pastor Claudine Crooks*

*Given by: Janice Kimball*

*In Memory of Marjorie and Harry Footell*

*Given by: Darrell Footell*

*In Memory of Ed & Millie Dickson*

*Given by: Patti Footell*

*In Memory of Jamey Freeman*

*Given by: Portia & Charley Freeman*

*In Memory of Thomas & Florence Piscitello and Larry & Anna Spalluto*

*Given by: Nancy & Larry Spalluto*

*In Memory of Harold Burns*

*Given by: Gladys Burns*

*In loving Memory of Burt Crooks*

*Given by: Patti, Becky and Claudine Crooks*

*In Honor of Peg Straub*

*Given by: The Boyle Family*

*In Memory of Jennifer Rowley*

*Given by: Dave and Carol Rowley*

*In Memory of Connie Stalker*

*Given by: Bob & Carolyn Land*

*In Honor of our church family*

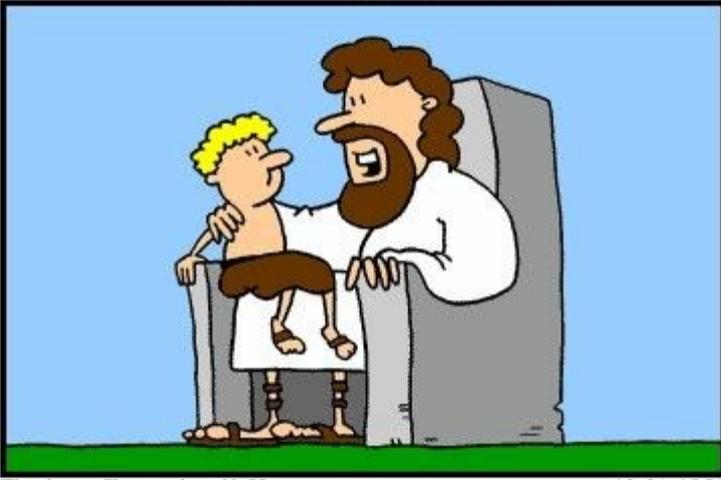
*Given by: Marilyn & John Rodearmel*

*And a very special "THANK YOU" to Mei Ling Liu and family, for the flowers each  
and every Sunday during the year.*

*They add beauty and joy to all of our worship services!*

## Church Humor

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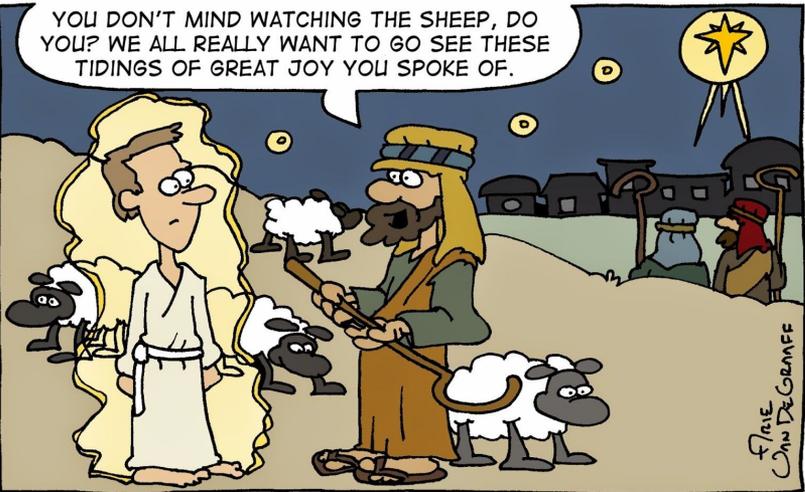
Thanks to Christopher Huffman

12-24-1998

HOW ABOUT IF INSTEAD OF GIVING YOU  
EVERYTHING THAT YOU THINK YOU WANT FOR  
CHRISTMAS I GIVE YOU WHAT YOU NEED?

mormoncartoonist.com

© Arie Van De Graaff



YOU DON'T MIND WATCHING THE SHEEP, DO YOU? WE ALL REALLY WANT TO GO SEE THESE TIDINGS OF GREAT JOY YOU SPOKE OF.

Arie Van De Graaff



Blue Christmas

Mystic Congregational Church

Wednesday, December 22nd

7:00 pm

***A special, quiet evening service for those who struggle during  
the holidays.***

\*\*\*\*\*

***Join us for our Christmas Eve Service  
7:00 pm***

*We Gather in Stillness  
We Hear the Story  
We Worship and Adore Him  
We Bring Light to the World!*



## Thank you notes:

*Please accept this donation for yarn for the Prayer Shawl Committee to purchase more yarn.*

*The beautiful stitches bring warmth, caring and strength during difficult times!*

*I have always enjoyed helping Barbara during the Bazaars and getting to know the members of the congregation. It is such a pleasure to see everyone working together to help Claudine and the church remain strong.*

*I will always feel the love, warmth and healing power of your generous gift!.*

*Thank you so much,*

*Sincerely,*

*Cindy Soler*

\*\*\*\*\*

*My Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,*

*Thank you so much for the very generous and very unexpected love gift. I so enjoyed hearing all the committee heads give their talk of their service and what they were thankful for. I could see and hear their love of the gifts of jobs they give to your church. I saw the radiance of the Lord on your congregation. Your church is so blessed by all the gifts that are shared so freely, and joyfully.*

*I see how you all minister at the feet towards the brethren and friends.*

*My heart wells up with warmth and encouragement as I see the love of Christ in deed and truth.*

*Thank you all so much for your kindness and thoughtfulness.*

*In Christ,*

*Janet Kent*

J

# Church Council Minutes

## December 6th, 2021

**Call to Order:** Moderator Dave convened the meeting at 6:30 PM. As there were only 11 members of the Council present, an insufficient number to make a quorum, the meeting was deemed “unofficial”, motions for resolutions not to be tendered.

**Devotions:** Pat led Devotions with a reading from a Confederate Civil War soldier itemizing his prayers for many things, including strength, happiness, relief from poverty, to name a few, concluding little he asked for he received, but all he needed and genuinely benefited from was provided to him by a loving God, attentive to his prayers.

**Minutes of Previous Meeting:** There was no call to review the previous Council Meeting’s Minutes.

### Communications:

#### **Financial Reports:**

*Treasurer’s Report:* Mei Ling reviewed three separate financial sheets detailing cash flow, rental property renovation and budget expenses, approved vs. actual.

Essentials of the cash flow report were: a) “total inflow” \$15,213.46; b) “total outflow” \$23,700.84; c) checking account balance \$30,273.95.

As the “total outflow” includes a \$12,000 return transfer from the General Fund to the Memorial Fund, which was used to renovate the rental property, inflow/outflow balance does not represent a true negative. Also, the inflow includes \$23.08 from the Amazon SMILE account and \$0.38 interest.

The approved budget balance is \$-7,443.97. This value reflects expenses for the Rental Property Renovation, item 4.11, with zero dollars in the “Budget” column but “Actual” year to date expenses \$22,317.00. The balance figure incorporates the \$12,000 transfer of funds from and to the Memorial Fund.

The \$2,000.00 donated for new hymnals, not yet expended, is incorporated in the “Budget” column, expenditure foreseen, date indeterminate. Transfer of this \$2,000.00 from the General Fund may be transferred to the Memorial Fund.

Rental Property Renovation Total was calculated at \$22,317.22. This amount is exclusive of the adjacent tree removals. The inclusion of \$145.00 for the septic pump can be added to the total amount. An additional \$35.00 expense is incoming. Consequently, the Rental Property Renovation Total, worked to be comprehensive and complete, is likely to be adjusted.

*Financial Secretary:* Pete reported a General Fund deposit of \$15,190.00, including \$1,090.00 for the Woman’s Retreat; a Mission fund deposit of \$1,181.00; a Memorial Fund deposit of \$12,135.00, comprised of the \$12,000.00 repayment from the General Fund, the rest in memory of the Rev. Burt Crooks. Pete also noted an additional \$500.00 has been donated for the Rental Property Renovation recently.

**Benevolence Report:** In abstentia, via email, Marilyn reported a Benevolence Fund balance at the end of November of \$286.93, up from a value of \$272.93 at the end of October.

**Pastor’s Report:** Dave read a letter from Claudine with her apologies for not being able to attend the meeting, with gratitude for the prayers and support received for her and family amid their current sorrow and grief.

Claudine thanked the Pastoral Relations Committee (PRC) for their work and update.

A return by December 15<sup>th</sup> by AA to the church premises for their weekly meetings, cancelled due to Covid restrictions, may be feasible, allowing time for the Bazaar cleanup. The primary contact for the group, Dennis Currey, agreed all attendees would mask.

It would be appropriate, in light of recent Covid variants and surge of cases, to ask all congregants to wear masks at church services.

### Ministry and Committee Reports:

**Pastoral Relations:** Dave reported, on behalf of Sue, that the PRC committee (Dave, Claudine, Sue, Barbara and Candy) met recently for evaluation. The committee anticipates generating a 24-item questionnaire for each congregant to receive and respond to. A rating system of 1 to 5 would be incorporated for each of the questions. Sue will provide more details subsequently. The outcome of the congregational questionnaire/evaluation would be forwarded to Patti Tootell, deacon of Finance/Stewardship.

The PRC Committee suggests a 3% annual pay raise for Pastor Claudine plus a 2% merit pay increase, for a total 5% pay increase.

A 5-day bereavement clause is recommended in the Pastor’s contract to be taken either as an entirety at one time, or episodically on days for funeral services, memorials, or other days of bereavement.

**Hospitality:** No report.

**Nominating:** Richard reported all positions are filled except for one on Education and Discipleship.

**Finance and Stewardship:** Patti had no account changes to report.

**Education and Discipleship:** Carol had no changes to report on.

**Mission and Outreach:** Dianne reported a total of 1,301 shawls donated, 7 given out in November.

Habitat for Humanity informed Dianne that a church previously working with the group to provide shawls for them is no longer able to do so and asked if PBBC would fill the gap of shawl presentation left by the departing church. Dianne stated this would be a great opportunity for the PBBC ministry to demonstrate their excellence.

Another show of utmost care for the community was seen in PBBC's response to Groton's Christmas Adopt-A-Family program, assisting 3 Mom's and 7 children, distributing 90 dollars in cash, 80 dollars in Wal-Mart gift cards, 250 dollars in Big Y gift cards. An additional \$420.00 dollars was divided to families and individuals from PBBC through Groton Social Services for Christmas gifts to those in need. Groton Social Services was amazed at the support and generosity of PBBC.

The next appeal will be for the Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering 2021, often done at Christmas. The World Mission Offering will be conducted later.

**Building and Grounds:** Rick and Richard replaced a broken storm window in the sanctuary and removed brush by the parsonage. Outside lights were fixed at the parsonage also. Richard repaired the railing that was faulty. A relief valve at the rental property was replaced.

Drew researched the property lines for PBBC and discovered the land the church owns sits on three separate lots: one for the church proper, one for the gravel parking lot, and one that includes the parsonage and rental property. Maps with the property lines were distributed. It was noted that the property line of the parking lot extends beyond the fencing on the west side of the lot. In discussion it was determined a former member of PBBC, Linda Loucony (sp?), an attorney then with the firm of Waller, Smith and Palmer of New London, wrote up an agreement in the 1990's applicable to the maintenance of the church property on the western side of the fence in the parking lot, incorporating responsibilities of the adjacent property owner. A copy of this document has not been found in recent years.

**Old Business:**

Electronic voting: potential use of electronic voting for the Council continues to be considered. Robert's Rules of Order is deferred to on the subject matter per bylaws, there not being any reference otherwise to electronic voting. Electronic voting might necessitate a change in PBBC's Constitution.

Budgets: Patti thanked Mei Ling for all her hard work in budget analysis. For budgetary purposes it was noted some window frames are rotted out at the parsonage and need to be replaced next year. \$500.00 is a consideration for cost estimate of window replacement.

End of year reports: Dave mentioned the end of year reports for the church's "Annual Reports" are due by the end of the year.

Rental Property Update: Richard showed a young couple with three children the rental property. They are being evicted from another location and need to find a new home. The suitability of the rental property for a family with three small children was questioned. Separately, a member of the church indicated they were looking for a new residence, \$1,400.00 rent too high, though perhaps able to afford rent of \$1,200.00. There were insufficient Council members to vote for accommodation.

The \$5,000.00 Gene Hewitt Thompson gift to PBBC has not yet been processed by the probate court whereby it has been transferred to a church account.

Considerations of opening the church to AA meetings on the 15<sup>th</sup> of December were discussed. It was determined the content of previous discussion with Dennis Currey, the AA POC, were unknown. Consequently, Dave volunteered to meet with Richard and Claudine for further clarification and proceed in accordance with voiced concerns surrounding safety and Covid protocols. As no vote was taken to end AA's use of space at PBBC, it was posited no vote per se would be needed for their return.

**New Business:**

Donning of masks was reviewed. Wearing of masks for church service attendees is appropriate and asked for.

**For the Good of the Order:** Carol brought up the crumbling asphalt in the parking spaces immediately adjacent to the church as being a safety issue. It was agreed the asphalt was problematic and has been for some time. Resolution per budget allowance will be further examined.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:37 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Joe Greene, Clerk

**Poquonnock Bridge Baptist Church  
1241 Poquonnock Road  
Groton, CT 06340**