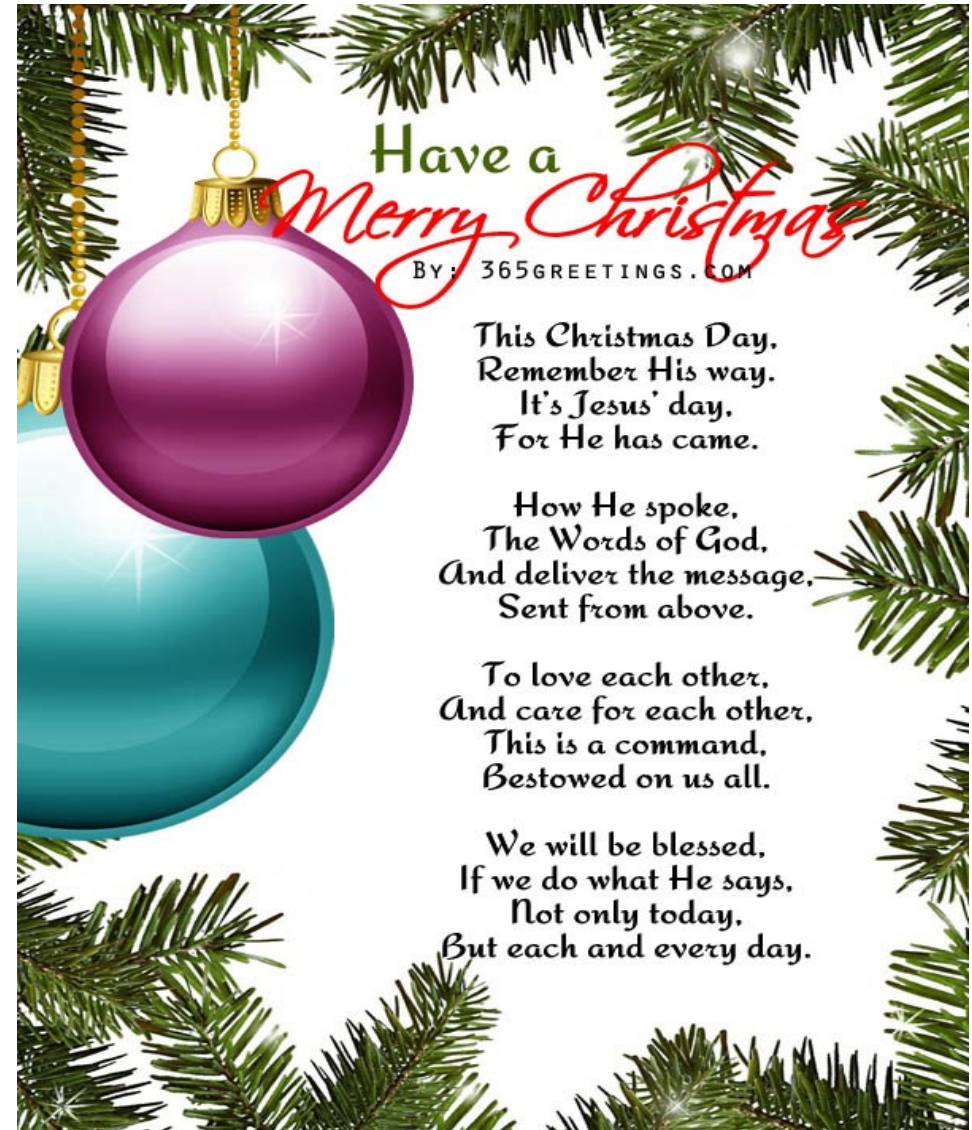


THE TIE that binds

December 2019



Poquonock Bridge Baptist Church
1241 Poquonock Road
Groton, CT 06340



Pastor's Page



Advent Series

Join us each week during the season of Advent
as we share a DVD series in the Adult Class called
“Light of the World: A Beginner’s Guide to Advent”

Featuring author, professor, and biblical scholar

Amy-Jill Levine.

The sessions will be:

“The Meaning of Memory” (Zechariah and Elizabeth)

“The Promise of Potential” (Mary)

“The Journey to Joy” (Journey to Bethlehem)

“The Gifts of the Gentiles” (Visit from the Magi)

All are welcome to share the journey!

Advent Opportunities for Giving

Throughout the month of December we will receive gifts for the
Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering
as we say “Thank You” to those who have so faithfully served our
churches and our American Baptist denomination.

We will hear words of gratitude from our own retired pastor, Rev.

Burt Crooks; envelopes are available in the pew racks.

We also gratefully receive your gifts for the Groton Food Locker
and Holiday Baskets, as well as for the Christmas family we have
adopted through Groton Social Services.

Advent Opportunities for Outreach and Fellowship

We dedicate to God the work of love that is our Holiday Bazaar.

We gather in joy for a Christmas Open House at the Parsonage.

Join us Saturday, December 7th and Sunday, December 8th.

A Children’s Story We Have Recently Shared

“The Secret of Giving Thanks”

Written by Douglas Wood and Illustrated by Greg Shed



We will always remember you at this festive time of year~
We will remember fond memories at a time when you were here~
Memories are a keepsake we hold deep in our heart~
Memories help remind us we are truly never apart.

“Holiday Memorial Tree”

(music and hot drinks will be available)

Saturday, December 21, 2019

5—6:30 PM

Montville Town Hall

The “Holiday Memorial Tree” provided an opportunity for individuals
and families to gather and share memories in a meaningful day.
It’s a time of reflection and fellowship with hopes of it becoming a tradi-
tion by Montville community’s friends and families.

You are invited to place an ornament in memory of a loved one at the
gathering that evening or for anyone wishing to privately place an orna-
ment my do so after December 9th (during the daytime for safety)

The absence of anyone for any reason during the holiday is rough; the
hope of the “Holiday Memorial Tree” is to remind us all we are not
alone in our losses & together we can help support each other and help
heal broken hearts.

*“Although the world is full of suffering, it is also full of the overcoming
of it.” (Helen Keller)*

*Strength, Peace and hope remembering everyone has a story we are not
the same,*

But we are the circle of life.

PLEASE NO GLASS ORNAMENTS

*Plastic, wooden, laminated, home-made, earth friendly and strong
fasteners.*

Ornaments should be taken off the tree and picked up no later than
January 5, 2020.

If you should have any questions you may contact:

Colleen Rix: crix@montville-ct.org or Lynda Jean 860-848-4527

SUNL Annual Meeting

Sunday, January 12, 2:00 p.m.
(snow date January 19)

First Baptist Church
239 W. Main Street
Norwich, CT

Magda Amargos, from the
American Baptist Foundation, will
be our guest speaker.
Come for worship, fellowship, and
business.

Each church is eligible to have
2 voting delegates in addition to the
pastor.

All are welcome to attend!

Fusion Youth Ministry Proposed Schedule of Events

Holiday Events!

December 13 - Christmas Caroling - 6-8PM



December 15 - Christmas Party - 6-8PM - All Ages



Director of Youth Events
Fusion Youth Ministry
119 High Street
Mystic, CT 06355



DECEMBER MINISTERS

Communion: Prepare: Barbara Brant & Portia Freeman

Serve: Barbara Brant & Portia Freeman
Londa & Drew Wesche

Assist Pastor: Dave Rowley

Lay Leader

01 – Marilyn Rodearmel
08 – Richard Tourjee
15 – Catherine Hiller
22 – Holly Boyle
29 – Barbara Brant

JANUARY MINISTERS

Communion: Prepare: Gail Neff & Peg Straub

Serve: : Gail Neff &
Ron Land & Carol Gatlin
Assist Pastor: Barbara Brant

Lay Leader:

05 – Rick Tourjee
12 – Becky Freeman
19 – Dave Rowley
26 – Alex Lew



A Little Church Humor

REVERENDFUN.COM COPYRIGHT BIBLE GATEWAY



(See Luke 2:1-16)

12-19-2014

IT HAD A STAR ON TOP SO I FIGURED IT
SHOULD HAVE A MANGER AT THE BOTTOM

Church Mice

Copyright Karl A. Zorowski



HELP WANTED!



PBBC is looking for TWO new employees!

COUNCIL NOTICE

The council recently received notice from our dedicated church custodian of many years, Belle Jordan, that the time has come when she feels the need to relinquish the job into someone else's hands. The council, and I'm sure all of you, applaud Belle for the supreme job she has done in keeping our surroundings sparkling and comfortable.

The council will be searching publicly for a person to fill this position, but first is making you, the congregation, aware of the opportunity in case there may be someone in house who would give it consideration.

Anyone interested in a job description may see Barbara Brant for a copy.



Also looking for someone to direct our choir!

**If you know of anyone interested please
see your deacons of**

Worship & Membership

Portia Freeman or Barbara Brant

OR Pastor Claudine!



DECEMBER

04 – Sandy Wong
05 – Joan Watkins
06 – Robert Nelson
10 – Ted Hespeler
16 – John Rodearmel
17 – Clyde Myers
21 – Sheila Manchester
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 Dorobkowski
17 - Go Tuang
18 – Richard Tourjee, Sr.
22 – Libby Ribarich
22 – Ric Silver
25 – Pebbles Quibble
31 – Candy Zeppieri



Moderator Catherine Hiller called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Devotions: Pete read a *Secret Place* passage reflecting on scripture from Acts which emphasized how God knows our hearts.

Minutes of November Meeting: There was no request for review.

Communications: There were no communications to report on.

Discussion moved to Old Business due to the impending storm.

Old Business

The rental lease was discussed. The newest version of the lease was not available for distribution. In order to comply with impending deadlines it was noted the lease ought to be ready to sign on Wednesday. Apart from the change in rent the only significant change in the language of the contract was to mandate the garbage and trash be stored behind the house until pick-up day. To expedite the availability of the lease for signing Holly made a motion that the contract, written and revised by Sue, and reviewed by Dave Rowley and Catherine Hiller, in good faith be accepted as the final version of the lease. Mei Ling seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in approval of the motion.

The revision of the bylaws was discussed. Catherine, Dave, Dianne and Claudine all had collectively worked on a revision of the bylaws to incorporate language as to how to proceed to dissolve the church should such a day ever arrive. While not anticipated, recent events with a sister church demonstrated the value in having such language formally incorporated in the bylaws. Connecticut Statutes of Section 33 were referenced by Alex, particularly items in the subsections of group 264. He pointed out that there may yet be further fine tuning of the language but that the revision as currently written met the purpose for which it was designed for immediate utilization. Catherine highlighted the language stipulates what the church can and cannot do with its assets in the case of dissolution and should the case be such recipients of assets had to be religious in nature, as missions, groups., etc., not to individuals. Dave made a motion to incorporate the new bylaw as Article 10 in the set of current church bylaws. Barb seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in approval.

A discussion of options to for snow removal contract was initiated. Alex delineated the many variables in Mr. Hodges November 4th version of a snow removal contract, as compared to a November 25th draft contract. In juxtaposition Alex brought to attention variables in a tentative OPS (Outdoor Property Services) snow removal agreement. Locations to plow, shovel, sand, salt, cost relative to all these factors and to depth of snow were discussed.



LOOKING FOR THAT SPECIAL PERSON!

We are on a search for someone who would enjoy taking on a task that involves a degree of search and rescue. PBBC has a “Memorial Book” in which all non-monetary memorial gifts to the church should be recorded with information regarding names of honoree and donor(s), dates, possible photo, etc .

Sadly, the first gift is yet to be recorded in this book. We have been blessed with many significant and wonderful memorials throughout our 163 years and there should be a place where anyone could find them documented. We did have such a book at one time but sadly was destroyed in a household accident. The process will not require a super memory or extensive years in membership, but rather a sense of inquiry and knowing where to search. No meetings and no public speaking! You may work at your own pace, and I am willing to mentor and assist anyone who would be up for this job.

~ Catherine Hiller





*To one and all who helped make our Annual Holiday Bazaar a
huge success!!!*

*Many hands did make light work,
We worked hard, but we also laughed and shared great
fellowship time!*

*The crafts, cookies and baked goods all surpassed our
expectations!*

*The Basket Raffle was better than ever!
The Silent Auction had so many unique items!
Grammar's Attic had the usual appeal!*

So Thank you. Thank you. Thank you

From the Organizational Christmas Elves

Alex suggested Mr. Hodge's basic service at \$205 was the best price. Past practices were brought to attention and compared against options offered by the two bidding contractors. Holly suggested the new contract duplicate what was done last year (plowing of church parking lot, gravel parking lot, parsonage). Catherine made a motion to accept such a contract, Alex seconded the motion, approval unanimous.

New Business

Custodial Care: it was brought to attention the church member providing custodial work at the church wishes to retire. Discussion followed. A replacement will be needed. The pay is \$5,100 per year. There is a current job description and contract. Extra events (e.g. weddings, funerals, etc.) are paid for separately. Ideally another church member will be interested in filling the vacancy. A notice will be put in the bulletin. A copy of responsibilities could be posted. To further address, the issue will be on next month's Council Meeting Agenda.

Holly asked for permission to use church space on the 4th or 11th of January for a birthday party for son Joshua. There were no objections.

2020 Budget: Patti reviewed the proposed 2020 budget. The committee generating the budget is Ron Land, Pete Wong, Richard Tourjee, Mei Ling Liu, and Patti Tootell. A line item sheet comparing the 2019 budget with the proposed 2020 budget was distributed, including a column showing change in dollar amounts for 2020, and a further column showing the percentage change those dollar amounts equaled. Various line item changes were explained. The net increase in the overall budget was 2%. Thus far the 39 pledges for the year total \$79,192. Last year's 48 pledges totaled \$93,708. It is expected there will be additional pledges.

Annual reports from each of the Deacons are to be returned by January 8th.

Brian received a large round of applause subsequent to his being recognized for all of his excellent contributions to the Council and Church family.

The next Church Council meeting will be January 6th, 2020, at 6:30 PM.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:27 PM.

Submitted by,

Joe Greene, Clerk

You and your families are invited to our Annual
Christmas Eve Service



Tuesday, December 24th

Here in the sanctuary at 7:00pm

We will hear the familiar story...

We will sing the old familiar carols...

We will worship and adore Him...

We will bring light to the world!!!

May the voices of angels speak in your heart this night.

May God bless you with hope, peace, joy and love this Christmas.

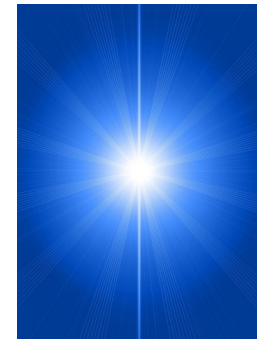
May Christ be born among you and his light shine from within you this day and always.



Followed by a light reception of coffee and cookies!

MYSTIC CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC
43 East Main Street, Mystic, CT 06355
Wednesday, December 18, 2019 7:00 PM in
the Sanctuary
SERVICE of LIGHT

Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I
will give you rest. ~ Matthew 11:28



The holiday season, despite all its merriment and joy, can be a time of struggle for many. We may find ourselves sadly separated from those we love for a variety of reasons including distance, estrangement, or death – losses occurring both as recently as this year or as long ago as decades. Some find that the expectations put upon us by our consumer culture make tight financial constraints even more difficult, adding yet another layer of fear and anxiety. Instead of feeling hope and joy when the holiday season arrives, we feel sad, lonely, pressured and sometimes even bitter.

A Service of Light or, as it is sometimes referred to, a “Blue Christmas Service” gives us an opportunity to gather in community to recognize our losses and to move from despair to the hope provided to us by the light of Christ coming into the world. All are invited to attend, pray, listen to song and scripture, reflect in silence and remember that we are never separated from God’s love.