

# THE TIE that binds

## November/December 2025

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



*When the song of the angels is stilled,  
when the star in the sky is gone,  
when the kings and princes are home,  
when the shepherds are back with the flocks,  
then the work of Christmas begins:  
    To find the lost,  
    to heal those broken in spirit,  
    to feed the hungry,  
    to release the oppressed,  
    to rebuild the nations,  
    to bring peace among all peoples,  
    to make a little music with the heart.  
And to radiate the Light of Christ,  
    every day,  
    in every way,  
in all that we do and in all that we say.  
Then the work of Christmas begins.*

*Howard Thurman*

***Second Sunday Food Collection—  
November 9 and December 14...***

***Don't forget...***

Every day basics like canned soups & pastas, spaghetti sauce, pasta, cereals, etc. are all much appreciated. With the holidays in sight, canned veggies, stuffing and instant potatoes, etc. are welcomed for the holiday gift baskets. At the last food drop off we were told they've had many requests for pet food, so food for our four legged friends is appreciated and needed, too.



editable  
stroke

**UPDATES FROM YOUR CHURCH COUNCIL**

Deacons are stewarding seasonal transitions while trying to look ahead: providing dynamic children's and adults' Sunday school sessions, engaging and refreshing volunteer lists, cleaning up landscapes and winterizing, wrapping up exterior painting of the rental house and planning next projects, updating memorial plaques, researching insurance constraints and potential for new carrier to reduce costs, developing next year's budget, and updating donation options. Coming soon to the PBBC website will be a "button" for online giving, to Tithe/Offering, Mission, Memorial and Capital Funds, initially as a one-year trial. This is not intended to replace a preferred way of giving, but to provide other options in this electronic age.

***SPECIAL DATES IN NOVEMBER/DECEMBER...***

**November 16**

Stewardship Sunday, Prayer Shawl Blessing, Heifer Thank You

**November 23**

Pledge Card Presentation, Decorating the Sanctuary for Advent

**November 30**

First Sunday of Advent, Guest Preacher Rev. Jill Harvey

**December 21**

Special Children's Nativity

**December 24**

Christmas Eve Service at 6 p.m.



## DECEMBER MINISTERS

**Greeters For The Month:** Dave Effman & Candy Zeppieri

**Lay Leaders:**

- 07 - Steve Hughes
- 14 - Dick Tourjee
- 21 - Dave Rowley
- 28 - Drew Wesche

**Serving Communion:**

Gail Neff, Candy Zeppieri,  
Preparing Communion: Jonathan Liu, Mei Ling Liu  
Assisting Pastor: Pete Wong

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- |                      |                       |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 04 - Sandy Wong      | 11 - Allison Gregory  |
| 05 - Joan Watkins    | 16 - John Rodearmel   |
| 06 - Bob Nelson      | 17 - Clyde Myers      |
| 06 - Phyllis Gregory | 25 - Catherine Hiller |

*In coordination with Steve Hughes, Pastor Claudine will hold a special class for Advent (Adult Sunday School):*

*December 7th: Angels and Prophets Among Us*

*December 14th: Shepherds and Magi Among Us*

*December 21st: Christ Child and God Among Us*

## *TOOLS OF HOPE OFFERING DONATIONS*

*In honor of Sonny Lew  
In memory of Jeffrey Lew  
Given by the Lew Family*

*In memory of Husband, Lew Brant, and Sons, Kip & Matt  
Given by Barbara Brant*

*In honor of Charley Freeman & Michael Freeman  
In memory of Burt Crooks  
Given by Becky Freeman*

*In memory of Ted Ackley  
Given by Peg & Yvette Ackley*

*In memory of our Dads, Paul King Jr. & Frank Savona  
Given by Kathy & Gary Savona*

*In memory of Lester Jordan  
Given by Belle Jordan*

*In memory of Harold Chapman, Earle Rowley and Marion Chambers  
Given by Carol & Dave Rowley*

*In memory of Irving Hiller, Harold Chapman and Carroll Chapman  
Given by Catherine Hiller*

*In honor of Dave Augeri  
In memory of our Dads, Lester Jordan & Tony Augeri  
Given by Dianne Augeri*

*In memory of Jim Baird  
Given by Marilyn Baird*

*In memory of Mike Lloyd  
Given by Tara & Callie Davis*

*In memory of Cindy Solar  
Given by Candy Zeppieri*

*In honor of the workers on the rental house  
Given by Carolyn & Bob Land*

*In honor of my brother, Ben  
Given by Gail Neff*

*In memory of Garold Benson, Harley Osgood,  
Lynn Osgood and John McGraw  
Given by Marilyn Benson*

*In honor of all our people who help  
Given by Marilyn and John Rodearmel*

**Holiday Bazaar**  
**Saturday, December 6**  
**9 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

We are thankful for both experienced workers who've taken responsibility for their "tables" over the years and for new to the bazaar workers joining us for the first time. There is room and work for anyone who'd like to participate. If you are interested, please see Carol Gatlin or Dianne Augeri.

Publicity: Sue Shontell

Calls to bakers: Marilyn Baird

Soup to Go: Barbara Brant with her famous  
stuffed pepper soup and corn chowder

Christmas Ornaments: Betty Land & Londa  
Wesche

Baked Goods/Cookies: Pat Tootell (Friday set-up), Sandy  
Vocolina, Dianne Augeri

Basket & Quilt Raffles: Marilyn Rodearmel and  
Andrea Buell

Grandma's Attic: Belle Jordan, Carol Rowley, Gail Neff,  
(Jonathan Liu and Wynonna Tuang—checkout)

Fine Jewelry: Edie & Steve Hughes

Costume Jewelry: Portia Freeman & Kathy Savona

Silent Auction: Gary Savona & Catherine Hiller

New Crafts: Carol Gatlin, Kathy Piscitello

Square checkout: Jonathan Liu (Purple Room) and Li Ling Liu  
(Vestry)

***How can you help?***

Bake! Homemade cookies, breads, pies, etc. are always in demand. If you bake, please have your goodies here by noon Friday, December 5.

Offer to be a table floater.

Help set up and/or take down tables.

## ***MISSION AND OUTREACH ACTIVITY***

### **Adopt a Family (Groton family provided by Groton Human Services):**

Our Family for this year—a mom, dad, and four children. The children are three girls and one boy ranging in age from 3 to 15.

As is our custom, we will purchase warm pajamas, a hat/gloves, one article of clothing, and one fun item for each child. We will then purchase family gifts of a gift card from a local grocery store, a gift card for gas and a gift card for miscellaneous household items from Walmart.

We will kick off the gift drive Sunday, November 16. All gift items will be on a Christmas tree in the Sanctuary. Anyone interested in participating should take an ornament with a suggested gift on it from the tree. All gifts should be returned unwrapped and with the ornament attached to the Sanctuary by Sunday, November 30.

Thank you for helping us spread a little love to those in need this Christmas season!

### **RMMO (Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering):**

RMMO is designed to honor and support retired ministers, missionaries, and their surviving spouses who have dedicated 15 years or more to service within the American Baptist Churches USA. This offering serves as a way for congregations to say “thank you” for their commitment and contributions to the church and community.

Giving to RMMO is a wonderful way to say thank you to those pastors and their spouses who gave so much to us! Please prayerfully consider how you might make a difference. We will begin receiving this offering December 14.



## **NOVEMBER MINISTERS**

**Greeters For The Month:** Gary & Kathy Savona

**Lay Leaders:**

- 02 - Holly Boyle
- 09 - Cathy Greenfield
- 16 - Dave Rowley
- 23 - Marilyn Baird
- 30 - Dianne Augeri

**Serving Communion:**

Drew & Londa Wesche  
Sandy Vocolina, Candy Zeppieri  
Preparing Communion: Drew & Londa Wesche  
Assisting Pastor: Dianne Augeri

## **NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

- |                      |                        |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| 04 - Andrea Dellarco | 16 - Chloe Hespeler    |
| 05 - Alex Lew        | 16 - Jim Vocolina      |
| 05 - Barry Morton    | 18 - Belle Jordan      |
| 07 - Peg Straub      | 19 - Silas Keeton      |
| 08 - John Bennett    | 21 - Steve Hughes      |
| 08 - Nicole Freeman  | 23 - Holly Boyle       |
| 08 - Britni Tourjee  | 24 - Megan Taylor      |
| 09 - Carolyn Land    | 25 - Marilyn Baird     |
| 10 - Eva Tourjee     | 30 - Cathy Lewis Myers |
| 11 - Vance Lamb      | 30 - PJ Dellarco       |
| 14 - Dave Rowley     |                        |

## Pastor's Page

*...I must be thankful for what is  
and stop thinking about what is not.*

In the month of November, we are thankful for what is... we focus our hearts on gratitude and giving, we celebrate Thanksgiving in both our abundance and our scarcity, we pledge our commitments to God and to the church we serve. There are times when we are overwhelmed by the realities we face, by the things we need, by the resources that others don't have and by the idea that everything will get better *when...* but waiting for the "*when*" keeps us from appreciating what we have, and so we try to be thankful for what already is.

But in the month of December, we think about what is not... we turn our hearts to the season of Advent, we hear the hope of prophets and the message of angels, we revisit a season of watching and waiting for what has not yet come to the world. The birth of Christ invites us to keep thinking about what has not yet been realized, the peace and the love not yet born.

So, are we thankful for what *is* or mindful of what is *not*?  
Our faith challenges us to be both...at the same time!  
We are called to be people of gratitude for the present moment *and* to be people of vision for the future blessing.  
And if we can somehow be both, then we will come closer to God's gift of fulfillment for all of creation...  
the joy we already know *and* the promise yet to come.  
Happy November *and* December!