

# THE TIE that binds

## January/February 2026

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



It is not on our forgiveness  
any more than on our goodness  
that the world's healing hinges,  
but on His.

When He tells us  
to love our enemies,  
He gives,  
along with the command,  
the love itself.

- Corrie Ten Boom, The Hiding Place

## *CHRISTMAS FLOWER DONATIONS*

*In Memory of Denise & Jim Baird  
Given by Marilyn, Karen, Jim & Deb*

*In Memory of Our Loved Ones  
Given by The Lew Family*

*In Memory of Agnes Burrows  
Given by Catherine Hiller*

*In Honor of all the helping hands of this Church  
Given by The Liu Family*

*In Memory of Lester Jordan and Tony & Jennie Augeri  
Given by Dianne & Dave Augeri*

*In Memory of all my family who have gone to  
be with the Lord  
Given by Gail Neff*

*In Honor of Jason & Mary, Brandon & Tracy, and Courtney  
Given by Carol Gatlin*

*In Memory of Paul & Milly King (Kathy's parents) and  
Frank & Gladys Savona (Gary's parents)  
Given by Gary & Kathy Savona*

*In memory of our daughter Jennifer,  
always close in our hearts  
Given by Carol & Dave Rowley*

*In Memory of Our Loved Ones  
Given by Marilyn & John Rodearmel*

*In Memory of Kip, Lew and Matt Brant  
Given by Barbara Brant*

*In memory of Bugsy & Daisy and Jack & Alice Ackley  
Given by Jennifer Kent & Susan Schmidtkecht*

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

*In Memory of Grandma Floss, Grandpa Tom,  
Gramma Toots, Grampa Bob, Mimi and Pop  
Given by Austin Center*

**HOLIDAY BAZAAR 2026**  
**Wednesday, February 4, 2026**  
**9:00 a.m. in the Purple Room**

December 5—the date for this year’s bazaar, will be here before you know it!

All who participated in our 2025 Holiday Bazaar as well as those interested in helping at our 2026 Holiday Bazaar are encouraged to attend.

We will review highlights of last year’s bazaar while still fresh in our minds and bring forward fresh ideas for this year.

**Spring Tag Sale**

**Bring in those donations January 11 onward!**

The date will be announced mid-January.

We can now take in donations of your clean, good condition household items and clothing. Please be sure all is in sellable shape—no missing pieces, stains, rips, etc.. If you wouldn’t buy it, our customers won’t either. Donations can be left in the designated area in the vestry.

Please—no large furniture, TVs, computers, CDs, and books. Donations may be brought to the church Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays between 9 and 12. Please check with Carol Gatlin or Sandy Vocolina if you have an item you are unsure is ok to donate before bringing it to church.

*Pastor Claudine will be on vacation Monday, January 12 through Tuesday, January 20. If you have any pastoral needs during that time, please contact Moderator, Marilyn Rodearmel (860-599-4343) or Dianne Augeri in the Church Office (860-445-6126). Thank you!*



editable  
stroke

***Second Sunday Food Collection—  
January 11 and February 8...  
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.



## **FEBRUARY MINISTERS**

**Greeters For The Month:** Marilyn Baird & Carol Gatlin

**Lay Leaders:**

- 01 - Jonathan Liu
- 08 - Dennis Piscitello
- 15 - Holly Boyle
- 22 - Joe Greene

**Serving Communion:**

Barbara Brant, Cathy Greenfield,  
Becky Freeman, Portia Freeman  
Preparing Communion: Becky Freeman, Portia Freeman  
Assisting Pastor: Marilyn Baird

## **FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS**

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





## **JANUARY MINISTERS**

**Greeters For The Month:** Dave Effman & Kathy Piscitello

**Lay Leaders:**

- 04 - Cathy Greenfield
- 11 - Becky Freeman
- 18 - Alex Lew
- 25 - Steve Hughes

**Serving Communion:**

Carol Gatlin, Bob Land  
Kathy Piscitello and Sandy Vocolina  
Preparing Communion: Carol Gatlin & Bob Land  
Assisting Pastor: Carol Rowley

## **JANUARY BIRTHDAYS**

- |                       |                          |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| 02 - William Deveau   | 13 - Emma Martel         |
| 02 - Noelle Butler    | 15 - Patti Crooks        |
| 03 - Joshua Boyle     | 15 - Adam Greene         |
| 04 - Mackenzie Ackley | 15 - Matthew Greene      |
| 05 - Eric Bianchi     | 16 - Jackie Dorobkowski  |
| 05 - Ron Land         | 18 - Richard Tourjee Sr. |
| 05 - Bill Wilbur      | 19 - Hailey Vocolina     |
| 07 - Pete Wong        | 22 - Ric Silver          |
| 08 - Pete Deveau      | 25 - Pebbles Quibble     |
| 12 - Londa Wesche     | 29 - Korban Tuang        |
| 13 - Gladys Burns     | 31 - Candy Zeppieri      |

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

### **World Mission Offering**

For more than 200 years, International Ministries (also known as the American Baptist Foreign Mission Society), has combined resilience, adaptability, and creative approaches to cross-cultural ministry with faithfulness to Scripture. We serve together with and learn from our many local partners in ministry around the globe.

We invite you to take part in the transformational work of WMO's global servants and partners as we seek to be the hands and feet of Jesus Christ around the world. We thank you for your gifts of prayer and financial donations to this important ministry.

There is a large world map on display near the South Road entrance to the Miner Wing that lists all Baptists and their location who serve on our behalf. Check it out while waiting in line for the Annual Meeting Potluck lunch.

WMO will be announced Sunday, January 25 and offerings will be received all of February.

## Pastor's Page

*...Do not expect to return by the same road.  
Home is always by another way,  
and you will know it not by the light that waits for you  
but by the star that blazes inside you,  
telling you where you are is holy  
and you are welcome here...*

*-Jan Richardson*

We journey through Advent, we celebrate at Christmas, and now we travel, by way of Epiphany, into the New Year.

We read in scripture that wise men from the East observe a star at its rising, and ask where the child has been born.

King Herod is troubled by this news and sends the wise men out in search of the child. They follow the star to a house where they find Mary and the child Jesus; they kneel down to pay homage, offering gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. And after being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they leave for their own country by another road.

As we leave one year to begin another, I try to let go of expectations, accept the fact that the road will not be the same; that I'll travel by a different way; that I'll be a different person; that I'll be changed by people, places and stars that lead home.

Life will be different, the path uncertain, our world will not be the same as it's been before, and maybe that's a good thing. For no matter what lies ahead, we hold on to what lies within – the presence of God and the promise that wherever we find ourselves we are blessed, we are holy, and we are welcome.