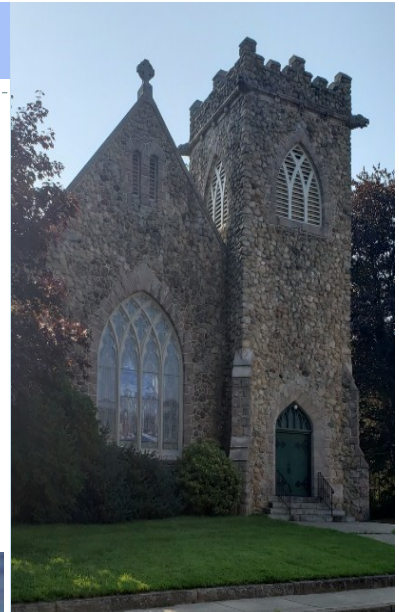


Groton Congregational Church

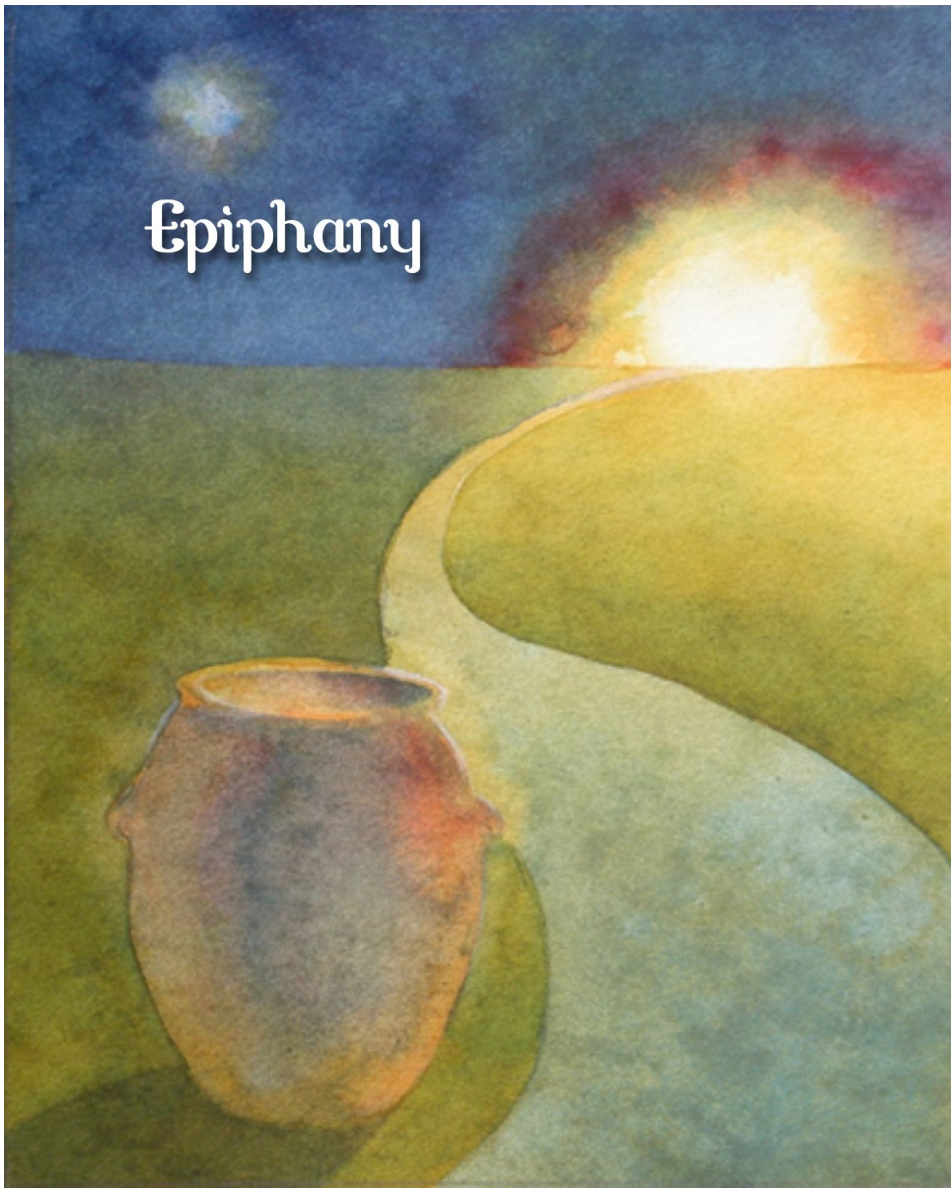
January 2021



# The Gargoyle



## Epiphany



### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Pastor's Musings.....	2
Deacons Message.....	3
Stewardship.....	4
Birthdays.....	4
Youth Group.....	4
Missions.....	5
Women's Fellowship.....	6
SNEC.....	8
Worship Watch.....	10
Calendar.....	11
Church Events.....	12
Local Events.....	14

### Highlights

1902 Penny.....	6
Groton Senior Center.....	7
The Work of Christmas.....	10
2022 fill-In The Blanks.....	15



## PASTOR'S MUSINGS



Happy New Year!

There is a lot going on as we enter 2022,

My heart is still full after the beautiful Christmas Eve service that we were able to enjoy together; closing with the dimming of the overhead lights as we passed the candle light around the sanctuary and sang "Silent Night." What a gift that was to nourish us as we went out to our separate homes to celebrate the gift of Jesus' birth and the wonder of Christmas morning.

Now we are in a different day and due to the incredible spread of the Omicron and Delta variants of the Covid virus, I called for a meeting with the church leaders on December 29<sup>th</sup>. During this meeting it was decided that we **will NOT host live services in the sanctuary** throughout the month of January.

I know we all hoped this wouldn't be our path, but when the church leaders weighed the news that the positivity rate is bordering 18% and it is expected to keep climbing the decision was made to safeguard the health and safety of our cherished congregation.

This Sunday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>, a few of us will do a live service on Facebook wherein we will present the pageant story and I will lead the communion service. I know some of you don't participate in Facebook, but you will be able to access the video on Tuesday when Lisa uploads it to our church YouTube and sends you an email with a link to it. I apologize for this and ask for your forgiveness and patience. After this, Dick Stottlemeyer, Sue and I will tape the services on Thursdays, and they will be available for you to watch on Sunday mornings at 10 AM via YouTube.

Currently, we had the delightful hope of baptizing 2 young girls on Jan 9. At this time, the family has decided to postpone the experience until we can have it live in the sanctuary with the congregation and their larger family present. Also, several people have asked me about becoming Members of the church. I would normally host two Orientation classes to acquaint the attendees with the church and the larger church body of the UCC. We will postpone those meetings as well until we can gather together at church (though we could host a first one through a Zoom meeting). If you are interested in joining our congregation, would you please let me know by sending me a message at [revlee4@gmail.com](mailto:revlee4@gmail.com)? Many thanks.

The semi-annual Budget Meeting scheduled for on January 30<sup>th</sup> after church is being worked on. Please, stay tuned for more information. Right now, we are considering the possibility of holding it through a Zoom meeting.

We will try to keep you informed as best we can through emails about any other upcoming changes.

Despite all that we have been through this past year, I want to say that I am so thankful for what I witnessed - especially after we returned to Live Services - how precious it was to see the love and compassion of this church family, and the desire to strengthen the fellowship within and outside the building. So many of you were eager to be there for one another, as best you could, considering the pandemic - to find ways to keep the message of Jesus' love alive and discern how you could help spread his ministry.

On January 9<sup>th</sup>, the Luke 3 passage talks about the day in which Jesus was baptized so long ago. Did you know he then went out into the desert for 40 days to learn more about his Calling and ways to serve God?

As I see it now, we are once again being Called to go into a "desert" time - a waiting period - as the medical teams continue to serve and scientists come up with more remedies that will help us to better fight this virus and keep our communities functioning in more active ways as we did this fall. Prayers for all!

I ask you - to pause and take a deep breath. We've come this far by faith. Let's not give up now. Let's see what will be revealed as we go through this "waiting time" - and trust and see just like Cathy and Sue did when they planted those seeds in the soil to blossom in due time. Just like all the bulbs in the winter ground that emerge and blossom each year as the spring weather returns to our part of the world.

Let us be those who place our trust in the God who walks with us even in the desert times... so we can bear fruit from this time of waiting ... because we chose to trust and listen. Let's not fill the time just to feel productive. Let us be those who trust in the gift of this down-time. What creative new ideas will emerge - BECAUSE we choose to be quiet and not just 'fill' the time?

Let's make the choice to follow the voice of love and not fear and see how it will lead us, as we continue to care for each other. Let us look to see how God is walking with us as we follow the light of Christ and let our lights shine wherever we go, especially through the storms and valleys of life. Let's let our love and kindness blossom.

Peace and blessings to you all as we launch into the New Year of 2022,

Rev Lee Ireland

### **Bible Study**

I've learned that there has been a crew that was meeting on Thursday mornings to do Bible Studies. We will return to doing so at 11 AM on January 6 via Zoom, and will look at the passages for Epiphany which is the celebration that occurs each year on that day to honor the day when historians believe The Three Wise Men arrived to meet baby Jesus and his parents. We will look at Isaiah 60: 1-6; Ps 72; Ephesians 3: 1-12; Matthew 2: 1-12.

## DEACON'S MESSAGE



As I write this the positivity rate here in Connecticut has been reported as over 17% and we are returning to remote worship. What a strange time to navigate.

May I ask how are you are faring?

Some of us have not been back to church due to health concerns. Some due to other reasons. How has this impacted you? It certainly feels more connected to be worshipping in community. We are still a worship community, and we can continue to serve Jesus and God's will.

As you take care of your physical health please see to your spiritual health. One doesn't need to be a theologian or seminary student to do so. Read something inspirational. Find a program or film or podcast that inspires you. Stay in touch with each other. We can discuss and share. We can form a social media group to interact when we can't do so in person.

Jesus said, "Let not your heart be troubled" (John 14:1). In the midst of adversity St Paul wrote "I can do all things through Him who strengthens me" (Philippians 4:13).

May 2022 see the current troubles conquered. May we be back together in worship by Easter.

-Kevin Measimer for the Deacons



### A Message From Our Parish Visitor

If you know of anyone in need of a phone call or a visit, please contact Connie Stoddard or the church office.



### Sanctuary Flowers

Honor that special person or occasion with a floral donation to the Sanctuary.

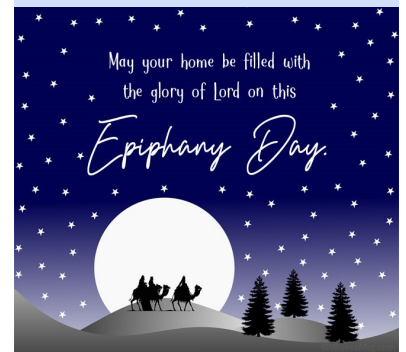
To do so, please contact Lisa at the church office if you would like to have your floral donation dedication printed in the bulletin and announced at worship.

For more information, please contact Janice Kimball.

New Directory Will Be Available Soon

## CHURCH DIRECTORY *Update*

Please contact the office with your current information for inclusion



May your home be filled with the glory of Lord on this

*Epiphany Day.*





## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

CARLOANDRE AGUILAR

JOSHUA BRYTE

SONJA CAMPBELL

LANNIE CLARK

MARILEE DULL

KEVIN MEASIMER

COURTNEY MYERS

DONALD MYERS

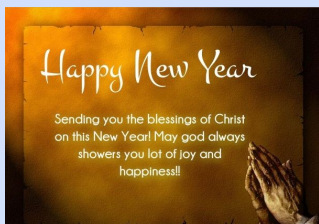
SUSANNE STOTTLEMYER

ABIGAIL TUCK

ROSE MARYWARD

GRACE WOODRUFF

STACY WRIGHT



## STEWARDSHIP



Thank you, dear members and friends of Groton Congregational Church, for your faithfulness throughout 2021. Surely you have taken to heart our Stewardship theme and motto, "Rooted in Love." As much as possible, you have supported zoom services, in-person services, committee meetings, choirs and pledge commitments. As Rev. Lee recently said, in spite of a difficult year, we are still here trying to carry on God's work. As this is being written, a decision has been made to return to online services, given the rising positivity rate of COVID. Not what any of us wanted to hear. As you did during 2021, please continue to send in your pledges, in whatever manner works best for you.

2022 will be a time for new beginnings and new goals. It is also the beginning of a new year in stewardship of and to the church, and we are all stewards. We offer prayers to move forward safely in this new year, striving to make our church a beacon in our community. The Stewardship Committee will continue to plan, present and assist with opportunities for growth throughout the year.

Are there things you meant to attend to in 2021, but didn't? If one of those is submitting your pledge card to the church, it's never too late! Having as many pledges as possible will assist the Trustees in the planning of the church budget.

January 30, 2022 will be the first of the "5 for 5" Sundays during 2022. It is the first month in 2022 in which there is a fifth Sunday. We will be asking that on that Sunday, if you are able, to put in an extra \$5 (or any amount) in the virtual "collection plate" by adding it to your pledge submission.

Good wishes to all for a safe, healthy, and happy new year and may God's blessings be upon you.

With thanks for you and all our blessings, we are your Stewardship Committee.

Cathy Johnson  
Sue Stottlemeyer  
Phyllis Meyer

## YOUTH GROUP MESSAGE



How exciting to be starting a new year. In years past, I have talked to the youth about new year's resolutions, and how they do not need to be giving something up, but can be adding something good to your life. A great idea is aiming to pray everyday or read your bible everyday if you do not already do so. For myself, I want to be more present in 2022. I encourage all the youth (and youth at heart) to think of something GOOD to add to their life in the new year!

With Covid spreading wild now, I unfortunately am going to put a hold on in person meetings through January. I will plan on doing something virtual with the youth group during the month, so be on the look out for those emails!

Stay safe and healthy, and have a very happy New Year!

Rachel Candee

Youth Group Director

## MISSIONS



Happy New Year to All!

Penny coordinated and delivered 25 jammies to the Child and Family Agency. Thanks to all that supported this endearing mission!

Missions gave monetary gifts to New London Homeless Hospitality Center, Habitat for Humanity and Start Fresh.

If volunteering is a new year resolution - Missions has lots of ideas for you!

**Saint Andrews** works at the **New London Community Meal Center** on the fourth and fifth Friday of the month. They are interested in partnering with Groton Congregational in order to get more people assisting. Please contact (860)444-7745 <https://nlcommunitymealcenter.org>.

**We are bringing back the red wagon in February.** Items will be taken to Groton Social Services. They are requesting canned and non-perishable items as they are continually putting together food bags for local households. They are always in need of spaghetti sauce, rice and pasta mixes, juices of all sorts, peanut butter, jelly, mac n' cheese mixes, chunky soups, tuna, and canned fruits and vegetables.

**Groton City** is running a **Personal Care Drive** until January 14th. Items needed are new shampoo, conditioner, soap/body wash, Qtips, washcloths, lotion, floss, toothpaste, razors, etc. Drop off location is the lobby of the Groton City Municipal Building.

**Habitat for Humanity** - You can volunteer at a home build site or in their ReStore. sign up online at [www.habitatct.org](http://www.habitatct.org)

**Always Home**-Works on preventing family homelessness. You can sponsor a family at the holidays or help with chores on the "honey do" list email [home@alwayshome.org](mailto:home@alwayshome.org)

There are many more places to volunteer. If you would like additional suggestions-ask one of us!

Your Missions Committee,  
Beth, Anne, Penny



### Most requested items for homeless shelters



#### Personal hygiene items:

soap & deodorant  
toothbrushes & toothpaste  
washcloths and towels  
feminine hygiene products  
shaving cream & disposable razors



#### Household items:

gift cards  
disposable diapers  
toilet paper and wet wipes  
laundry detergent  
twin sheets

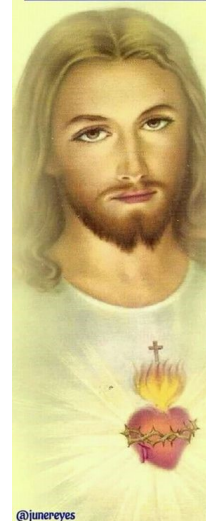


#### Clothing and season items:

new socks  
  
new or gently used winter coats,  
gloves, hats, and scarves  
instant hand warmers



### PRAYER FOR A WEARY SOUL



DEAR HEAVENLY FATHER,  
I feel so very tired.  
Everything is a burden.  
A heaviness upon my soul.  
Where can I find rest?  
Everyone and everything  
Seem to let me down.  
I let myself down too.  
Teach me Lord, not to look for  
Rest in people or circumstances.  
Show me I have no right to make  
Others be the source of peace  
Let me know there is only one  
Place where can I find true rest.  
In the fresh water and sweet  
Pastures of Your Grace.  
Found on praise of You,  
Found in my daily Bread,  
And Your presence which  
Is the essence of my life.  
True rest, dear loving Lord,  
**ONLY IN YOUR HEART**  
To restore my weary soul.  
To be strong again,  
I need only to Trust in You.  
In Jesus name,  
AMEN.

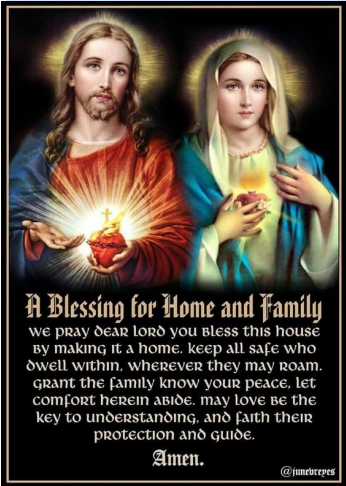
@junereyes

may good things find you  
may good things hold you  
may good things love you  
may good things grow you

IF YOU HAD ONE MORE HOUR DURING  
THE DAY, WHAT WOULD YOU DO WITH IT?



Maybe, you're stuck because  
you're pushing a door  
that says pull.



## WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP



Women's Fellowship is considering having another take-out dinner in March. Information will be announced in the near future.

Our December 5th bake sale was a huge success. Thank you to all who baked and purchased.

**Our next bake sale will be February 6th.**

Future bake sales will return to the first Sunday of the month.



### NEW YEAR PRAYER:

Thank You Lord for giving me  
The brand new year ahead.  
Help me live the way I should  
As each new day I tread.  
Give me gentle wisdom  
That I might help a friend,  
Give me strength and courage  
So a shoulder I might lend.  
The year ahead is empty,  
Help me fill it with good things  
Each new day filled with joy  
And happiness it brings.  
Amen.

### 1902 Penny found on Gargoyle's Ear

**Milly Perry—Historian**

This article originally appeared in the December 2005 edition of "The Gargoyle"

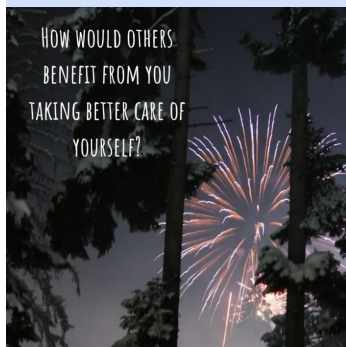


The long delayed work on the tower has revealed some very interesting things. One is that the gargoyles cannot spout, as intended, because of the holes in their "throats" caused by rusting, thus letting the water drip down into the tower and eventually into the framework of the tower, and then the walls in the sanctuary.

While examining the gargoyles, a worker for Columbia Restoration of Farmington, CT discovered a 1902 Indian-head penny attached to the ear of the gargoyle on the northwest corner of the tower. The penny is shown at right. Exposed as it was to the wind, rain, sleet, and snow for 103 years we can still identify the Indian and the date it was coined.

Gargoyles are associated primarily with Gothic architecture, and the name comes from Old French "gargouille" meaning throat, or the Latin "gurgulio" meaning gullet or windpipe. They were originally a waterspout projecting from a roof gutter or upper part of a building to throw the water clear of the walls and foundations.

Back when Rev. Crook was our minister and Matilda Allyn was the church clerk it was decided to have a church publication to acquaint the congregation with the plans of the various committees and the dates. This 1902 Penny was discovered for their activities. In the issue of lodged on the ear of a Gargoyle on the Church tower during repairs. July 14, 1955, the plan was outlined, and Alfred Fleming was credited with "The Gargoyle" as the name for the monthly newsletter and Bob Neimeyer was credited with the cover design. That issue was titled "The Gargoyle Spouts", a clever play on the slangy use of spouts as meaning "talking". I do not know when they dropped spouts from the title.







**The Groton Senior Center Makes It Easier To Get Around  
Things To Know Before You Call  
Contact Phone Number: 860-441-6785**

The Groton Senior Center (GSC) provides CURB TO CURB service.

All individuals using transportation must complete a Transportation Form which is available at the Groton Senior Center. Drivers will NOT take cash.

The Groton Senior Center does **NOT** transport from skilled care centers.

**Qualifying Persons must be able to:**

- \* Do activities of daily living independently:
- \* Travel 200 feet without assistance.
- \* Climb three 12 inch-steps OR use a wheelchair lift.
- \* Wait outside without support for ten minutes.

Please be aware that the senior center **does not provide assistance** to and from the vehicle.

Groton Senior Center reserves the right to decline transportation services based on their current guidelines for independent transportation.

**Making a reservation for transportation:**

- \* Call **860-441-6785** before 3pm for making next day reservation—no requests after 3 pm
- \* You can book for rides to center, to medical, shopping and bank run at that time.
- \* Rides to GSC are on 9:00, 9:30 or 10:00am runs and 1:00, 1:30, or 2:00pm.
- \* When at the center, ask for the monthly transportation form and you can book all rides for the month at one time.

**When calling to make reservations for Medical Transportation please have:**

- \*Your complete name and address.
- \*The address of your destination and the physician's name.
- \*The date and time of your appointment.

**Let's Travel!**

Shopping	Medical
<p><b>Grocery Shopping – Wednesdays Cost: \$2.00</b>            8-8:30am or 12-12:30 pm pick up            * 1st and 4th Wednesday – Stop &amp; Shop            * 2nd Wednesday – Big Y            * 3rd Wednesday – Shop Rite            * 5th Wednesday – Big Y            Limit groceries to 2 bags or what you can carry on own.  <b>Department Store Shopping – MONDAYS</b>            12pm pick up            Leave store at 3:30pm Cost: \$2.00            * 1st and 5th Monday – Walmart &amp; Kohl's            * 2nd Monday – Target            * 3rd Monday – Christmas Tree Shop &amp; Crystal Mall            * 4th Monday – Super Walmart, Waterford</p>	<p>Call when calendar comes out for the next month, or as soon as possible during the month of your appointment. We can book only ONE appointment PER DAY for you.            * Appointments should be made between 9am- 10:30am or 1pm- 3pm. Cost: \$2.00  <b>Groton &amp; Gales Ferry</b>            * Mondays – 9 to 10:30am            * Tuesdays – 1 to 3pm            * Thursdays – 9 to 10:30am            * Fridays – 9 – 10:30am  <b>New London &amp; Waterford</b>            * Mondays 1 to 3pm            * Tuesdays – 9 to 10:30am            * Wednesdays – 1 to 3pm            * Thursdays – 1 to 3pm            * Fridays – 1 to 3pm  <b>Westerly, Stonington, &amp; Mystic</b>            * Wednesdays – 9 to 10:30am            *Note: For medical procedures: GSC will transport to procedure only – you will need to get separate ride home.</p>

**Bank Trips**

Friday mornings you can book for a trip to your bank. Cost: \$2.00

**Dial a Ride, Caregiver Mileage Reimbursement & More**

Please call senior center for more information. **Contact Phone Number: 860-441-6785**

## Communicating Your Vision

12/13/2021 - by: [Elisa Wilson](#) - [Church Innovation](#)



Communication. It is responsible for the exchange of ideas; the declaration of feelings; the formation and perpetuation of relationships. As leaders, the creation of a vision is only the first step towards enacting change, as it is through the *communication* of this vision that ideas transcend one mind and enter the minds of many. But how do we communicate our visions to different audiences, particularly when those to whom our ideas are directed have their own visions and thoughts? How can we modulate our communication approaches to permeate our audiences and build relationships?

In the field of communication, communicative efforts are broken down into 3 primary components: content, form, and use. *Content* refers to the underlying ideas or message that we are trying to convey. *Form*, meanwhile, describes the words and symbols that are used to describe that message. Lastly, use de-

scribes the occasions for which the message is shared.

Effective communicators, whether they know it or not, constantly reflect on these three communication concepts and adjust their communication accordingly. However, breakdowns can occur across any or all of these components, leading others to negatively regard the communication attempt itself, as well as the person who initiated it in the first place.

### CONTENT

*“Those who answer before they listen are foolish and disgraceful.”*

Proverbs 18:13

Let's start with content. In most cases content is the easiest part of communication for us as individuals. We think of an idea and... that's it! But let's pause here and reflect on this stage of the process. As Proverbs 18:13 guides us, “He that answereth a matter before he heareth it, it is folly and shame unto him.” When we first have that idea, have we weighed our idea against other ideas that have been made known to us? Have we considered the feelings or experiences of others? If so, how can we include this consideration into our content?

Let us say, for example, that a committee is deciding whether to cut a newer racial justice program or a more established and highly attended women's group and has asked you to give your recommendation. Your thoughts formulate as follows: *The racial justice program is more deserving of our investment because injustice occurs at far greater degrees for minorities than it does for non-minority women and the church has done little to address this topic in recent years.* This is, of course, a reasonable argument that could have all sorts of facts and figures attached to it.

But this sentiment fails to acknowledge a very basic truth: that women have distinct challenges and injustices of their own. Acknowledging the validity of an opposing issue in no way undermines our message and can, in fact, strengthen our communication. Doing so changes the content of this message to: *The women's group is an important program for women, who experience unique challenges within the church and society; but given the prevalence of racial injustice and the comparatively minor attention it has received from our church in recent years, directing resources to a racial justice program is a better investment at this time.*

### FORM

*“Your speech should always be gracious and sprinkled with insight so that you may know how to respond to every person.”*

Colossians 4:6.

If the content of the communication considers different perspectives, the communication is already on the right track. But the next part – form – can be a bit trickier and can depend greatly on an individual's knowledge of words, as well as knowledge of the audience to whom the communication is being directed. Form consists of the words we say, the tone of our voice (or email in the remote world), and the gestures and expressions that accompany them. Here there is great variety in what can be considered appropriate, depending on the speaker's role, position in the organization, and intent.

As a general rule, form tends to be responsible for the emotional response our communication elicits, so we should be mindful of what type of response we are trying to convey (i.e., “win them over” vs “make clear an unnegotiable directive”). This seems intuitive, but it is not uncommon for directives to get unintentionally “softened” or for relationship-building, collaborative communications to be unnecessarily “hardened” here. Some key concepts to keep in mind are as follows:

If your communication is directive in nature:

Limit smiling (a smile at the end of a meeting may be appropriate but not while directives are being given)

Consider clear, precise words. Meandering words and thoughts will make your meaning less understandable to others.

Clearly identify the names of individuals to whom tasks are being assigned (do not assume that these individuals assume their roles or responsibilities from the conversation).

Repeat or restate as needed.

Check for understanding by asking individuals or the group to describe what they “heard”.



Try not to raise your pitch at the end of a statement, as this can give the impression that the statement is more of a question than a directive.

If your communication is collaborative in nature:

Smile or nod to indicate support and/or understanding, or while speaking about your ideas.

Be comfortable with using personalizing phrases, such as “I think...” “I feel...” and “based on some of my experiences...” While the goal is not to make the communication “about you”, it can be helpful to acknowledge when your ideas are subjective in nature. Phrase challenges in a positive or solutions-oriented way. For example, “there won’t be enough time to get everything done,” can easily be rephrased to, “we can get everything done if you can give us more time.” This tells the listener the conditions under which you will be able to meet their expectations.

While we do not want to be domineering, try to avoid common diminutive phrases that undervalue the importance of your thought (i.e. “I just...” “I guess...” “it’s kind of...”). Just as with directive language, it is important to be clear and to portray your ideas as valid and deserving of consideration.

### USE

*“Don’t let any foul words come out of your mouth. Only say what is helpful when it is needed for building up the community so that it benefits those who hear what you say.”*

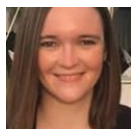
Ephesians 4:29

Our use of language is defined by what it is we are intending to accomplish. Are we attempting to form relationships with church members? Advocate for a new policy? Apply for a grant or other financing? Ultimately, we need to ensure that our communication is being directed at the appropriate people/entities: those who can help us to accomplish what it is we have really set out to achieve.

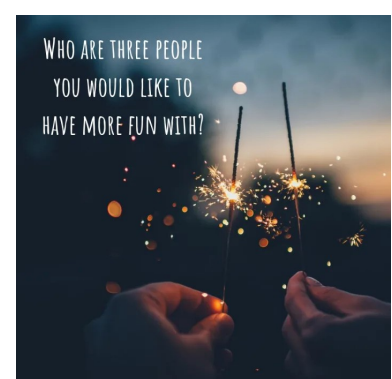
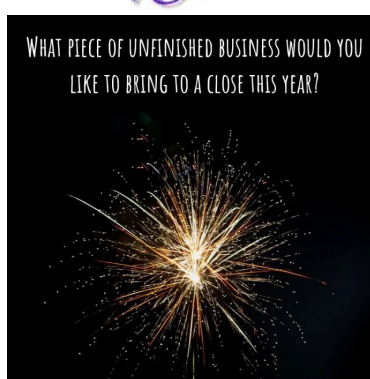
Errors with regard to use occur across all industries and are common when an individual feels passionate about an idea but lacks the confidence to direct the idea to someone who they might perceive as being critical of it.

We have all, most certainly, experienced a time when a co-worker or colleague explained how *their* system would be a better solution for the organization than the current system. If we agree with them, we might shake our heads in solidarity or even – more constructively – encourage them to present the idea to someone in the organization who has the authority to act on the idea. But in most cases, these expressions are tragically discharged into an audience that can truly do nothing with them, and that, itself, is a sad end for an idea.

Our ideas are important, and if we regard them as so then we will direct them to people who have the power to uplift them. This is not to say that ideas can’t be explored among a more intimate group of acquaintances to get “fleshed out”; but with continued communication about an idea comes a responsibility to act on it; to give it wings and life.



[Elisa Wilson](#) of the Center for Transformational Leadership, has worked in a variety of non-profit settings, including The Salvation Army, King's Chapel Early Care & Education Center, and the University of Connecticut.





## JANUARY WORSHIP SERVICES

Second Sunday after Christmas Day

**January 2, 2022 – Pageant and Communion**

Jeremiah 31:7-14 or Sirach 24:1-12 - Psalm 147:12-20 or Wisdom of Solomon 10:15-21 -

Ephesians 1:3-14 - John 1:(1-9), 10-18

Pop-Up Pageant and Communion

Sermon -if necessary: "The Gift of the Human Jesus"

Baptism of the Lord

**January 9, 2022**

Isaiah 43:1-7 - Psalm 29 - Acts 8:14-17 - Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Sermon: "The Dove and the Baptism"

Second Sunday after the Epiphany

**January 16, 2022**

Isaiah 62:1-5 - Psalm 36:5-10 - I Corinthians 12:1-11 - John 2:1-11

Sermon: "Water into Wine"

Third Sunday after the Epiphany

**January 23, 2022**

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10 - Psalm 19 - I Corinthians 12:12-31a - Luke 4:14-21

Sermon: "One Body of Fellowship"

Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

**January 30, 2022**

Jeremiah 1:4-10 - Psalm 71:1-6 - I Corinthians 13:1-13 - Luke 4:21-30

Sermon: "The greatest of these is love"

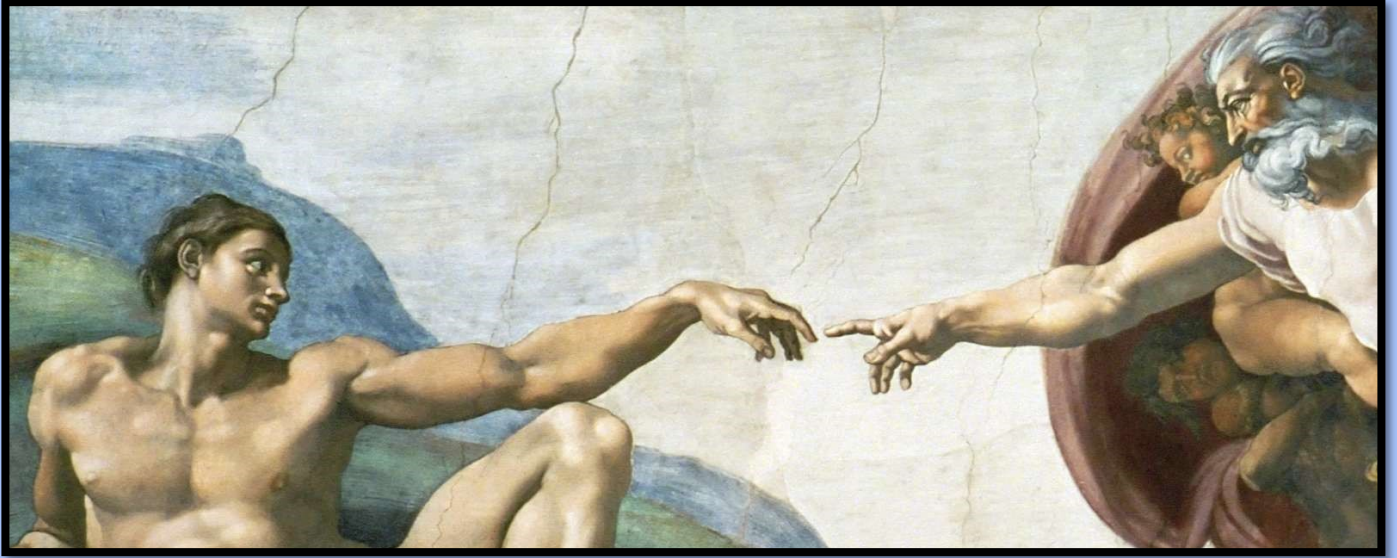


Mystic, poet, philosopher, and theologian Howard Thurman  
reminds us of the true meaning of  
Christmas in his poem,  
"The Work of Christmas."

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 their flock,  
The work of Christmas begins:  
To find the lost,  
To heal the broken,  
To feed the hungry,  
To release the prisoner,  
To rebuild the nations,  
To bring peace among brothers,  
To make music in the heart



# January 2022



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Worship 10am Live on Facebook			Prayer Meeting 6pm via Zoom	Bible Study 11am via Zoom		
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Worship 10am Epiphany Video on YouTube			Prayer Meeting 6pm via Zoom	Bible Study 11 am via Zoom		
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Worship 10am Video on YouTube			Prayer Meeting 6pm via Zoom	Bible Study 11 am via Zoom		
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Worship 10am Video on YouTube			Prayer Meeting 6pm via Zoom 6	Bible Study 11 am via Zoom		
30	31					
Worship 10am Video on YouTube						

\*\*Due to the unexpected temporary closure of the church, committee/board meeting dates are TBA and, as such, do not appear here this month. The Budget Meeting slated for January 30th is expected to take place via Zoom. Details to be announced.



# Church Events

## Installation of the new Church doors







# Local Events




**WHALERS, LANCERS,  
& SAINTS**



Hygienic Arts Gallery

Opening Reception  
Friday, January 7th | 5:00 - 8 PM  
On display until January 21st  
Artwork by Students of New London,  
Waterford, & Saint Bernard High Schools

An Evening with January 8, 2022  
**The Haunted Collector**  
John Zaffis  
Presented by Seaside Shadows



**Garde Arts Center**

The Seaside Shadows annual investigation tradition with John Zaffis is back and by popular demand. Who haunts the Gilded Age theatre of New London, CT in the dark, cold winter?

*Join us to find out.*

## Garde Arts Center

### Symphonic Fantasy **JAN 22**



**Igor Pikayzen**  
Violin

**Eastern Connecticut  
Symphony Orchestra**  
Toshiyuki Shimada  
Music Director & Conductor

**Veteran's Coffeehouse**

1st Thursday of Every Month  
9am to 11am  
Masonicare-45 Clara Drive  
Mystic, CT

3rd Friday of Every Month at the  
New London Senior Center

Other dates & locations available  
call 860-425-6617 for more information

January 19, 2022  
Strange Brew Pub  
86 Water St. Norwich

Schedule:  
1/05-Big Bang Theory  
1/12-90s Movies  
1/19-80s Music  
1/26- Marvel Cinematic Universe

**FREE! 6:30pm 21&over**

**80s MUSIC**  
**TRIVIA NIGHT**

## WAYS TO HELP YOUR COMMUNITY DURING COVID

COVID-19 has affected us all – ourselves, our kids, our communities and beyond. Since the earliest days of the pandemic, Save the Children has been on the front lines assessing the unique needs of children. Today, more than 18 months since the start of the pandemic, an estimated 1.1 million children have lost at least one parent or grandparent to COVID. Weak health systems and child protection systems have collapsed. Too many families have plunged into poverty. If you're eager to make an impact in your local community, here are some simple and thoughtful ways to help others in need.



**Protect yourself and others from COVID-19.** As the coronavirus pandemic continues to impact our daily lives, keeping yourself and others safe is more important than ever to help your community. Following mask mandates, adhering to travel restrictions and maintaining social distancing is vital to help stop the spread of COVID-19.

**Help your local food pantry.** Today, there are an estimated [17 million children struggling with hunger in America](#). Contact your local food pantry or give to our partner No Kid Hungry. Your support will help them provide food items for families in need.

**Give blood if you're able.** Red Cross and other organizations are in dire need of blood supply and have safe, healthy ways for you to donate.

**Volunteer your time.** Volunteering is a great way to support your community. Volunteering opportunities can range anywhere from cleaning up the neighborhood to planting a community garden. Save the Children offers volunteer opportunities – [learn more about volunteering with us!](#)

**Check on neighbors and family members,** especially those who live alone, are elderly, have health or mobility issues or are caring for children. Schedule time to remotely connect with these individuals regularly to let them know they are not alone.

**Support local businesses, schools and child care centers:** When possible, purchase gift cards to local shops businesses online that you can use once storefronts reopen, and uplift those who are trying to keep afloat. Due to COVID-19, many child care centers across the country have been forced to shut down. Through Save the Children's political advocacy arm – Save the Children Action Network – we are building bipartisan to support financial relief for the child care industry during the pandemic. Learn how you can join us to [take action](#).

**Provide support to frontline health workers and first responders:** Many health workers are not able to stay at home and are working around the clock, so take on tasks that they don't have time to do as an expression of gratitude.

**Assist in local or online fundraising efforts.** Look into options that provide much-needed supplies to families, such as Amazon Wish Lists, as well as the work of your local community and volunteer organizations. You can also [fundraise for children](#) or [donate your birthday](#) to support children in need around the world.

**Stay informed and stay calm:** Only share information from credible sources like your state department of health or the CDC. Remember, when you stay calm, others will follow.

**Take care of yourself and others:** Practice patience, kindness and [mindfulness](#). Encourage others to do the same!  
**You're not alone.** As the world's leading expert on childhood, Save the Children is here to help. Visit [Coronavirus and Kids: Resources from Save the Children](#) for more tools and tips you can trust for parents, caregivers, teachers and all those who care about children in crisis.

To find the nearest vaccine/booster location please visit [www.vaccines.gov](http://www.vaccines.gov)



## 10 FILL-IN THE BLANKS TO START 2022

In this reflective exercise answer quickly don't dwell. You may be pleasantly surprised at what you find as you ask yourself:

In 2022.....

I would like to repeat \_\_\_\_\_

I want to have more \_\_\_\_\_

I will let go of \_\_\_\_\_

I want to enjoy \_\_\_\_\_

I want to improve \_\_\_\_\_

I want to explore \_\_\_\_\_

I want to learn \_\_\_\_\_

I would most like to change \_\_\_\_\_

I will succeed in \_\_\_\_\_

I need to say \_\_\_\_\_



## AULD LANG SYNE (ENGLISH VERSION)

Should old acquaintance be forgot,  
and never brought to mind?  
Should old acquaintance be forgot,  
and auld lang syne?

### **Chorus:**

***For auld lang syne, my dear,  
for auld lang syne,  
we'll take a cup of kindness yet,  
for auld lang syne.***

And surely you'll buy your pint cup!  
and surely I'll buy mine!  
And we'll take a cup o' kindness yet,  
for auld lang syne.

### **Chorus**

We two have run about the hills,  
and picked the daisies fine;  
But we've wandered many a weary foot,  
since auld lang syne.

### **Chorus**

We two have paddled in the stream,  
from morning sun till dine;  
But seas between us broad have roared  
since auld lang syne.

### **Chorus**

And there's a hand my trusty friend!  
And give me a hand o' thine!  
And we'll take a right good-will draught,  
for auld lang syne.

Robert Burns, 1788

### Our Vision

To continue our three-hundred year tradition of spiritual presence and service to the community

To live and grow in the spirit of Jesus Christ

To share our time, talents and resources in support of community and other missions, through which Jesus Christ might be made known to others

To welcome into the Groton Congregational Church family all those who share our love of Jesus Christ and our mission of community service.

To continue a tradition of caring, comfort and support for all those within the Groton Congregational Church family.



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## Bring Your Family to Our Family. We are here to celebrate Jesus Christ with you.

Located near historic Fort Griswold, by the banks of the Thames River, The Groton Congregational Church welcomes you with open hearts, minds, and arms. We offer a warm and progressive environment for worshippers from all walks of life. Our motto is; *No matter who you are or where you are Life's Journey you are always welcome here.*

If you want to know the love of God and the wonderful plans God has in store for you, come and celebrate the love of Jesus with us through the spoken word and the joy of music.

**Sunday Worship begins at 10am.**



PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

Mailing Address Line 1  
Mailing Address Line 2  
Mailing Address Line 3  
Mailing Address Line 4  
Mailing Address Line 5