



FISHERMEN'S NEWS

The Greenwood Community Church, Presbyterian

805 Main Avenue; Warwick, Rhode Island

www.gccp.org

March 2026

A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Friends in Christ,

As we approach Holy Week, which begins on Sunday, March 29, we prepare to walk with Jesus the road of sorrows that led him to the cross at Golgotha, the place of the skull. There in his sinlessness, he took on the sins of humankind and faced down evil and death on our behalf.

On this side of the cross, we know that Easter will arrive on the following Sunday. But Holy Week does not allow us to simply skip from the triumphal entry into Jerusalem to the victory of Christ's resurrection. On Maundy Thursday, we sit with Jesus and his disciples for their final meal together. On Good Friday, we sit at the foot of the cross as our wounded Savior suffers and dies.

During Holy Week we enter into the reality of sin and suffering and death in our world. We give ourselves with intention to times of worship which recall the cost Christ paid for the new life he purchased for us.

Please find the schedule of services listed below and join us as you are able.

In Christ's sure love,

Pastor Dallas



Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday, March 29

9:30 a.m. Children's Walk with "Hannah, the Donkey."

10:00 a.m. Worship Service with Palm Processional.

Maundy Thursday, April 2

There will be no Family Dinner this Thursday.

7:00 p.m. Communion and Tenebrae Service remembering Christ's last supper with his disciples.

Good Friday, April 3

Noon. Special music and time for quiet prayer followed by
Worship Service remembering Christ's last words.

Easter Sunday, April 5

10:00 a.m. Worship Service with Choir and Brass.

Childcare and Sunday School will be available.

Easter Egg Hunt for the children during coffee hour. Bring your baskets!

MISSION STUDY TEAM

Mission Study Team member Marc Cobb presented the following report during the worship service on Sunday, March 8.

The Mission Study team met for the first time last Sunday with Rev. Blake Blakesley. Rev. Blakesley will serve as our facilitator and guide, as we go through the discernment and writing process. We will be the 27th Mission Study team he has worked with, so we are in good hands. We are currently in the organizational phase, which should be completed at our meeting next Sunday.

The end product of our work will be a document describing where we (as a congregation) have been, where we are today, and most importantly where God is calling us to go. We will be listening to the congregation and surrounding community to discern the strengths and needs of our ministry. At the end of the process, the report will be presented to the congregation and forwarded to the Commission on Ministry (COM) for review.

After the organizational meetings, the team will begin gathering data by researching demographic databases, sending out surveys, and holding interviews/meetings to solicit information from the congregation, to name a few. When the time comes, it will be important for everyone to participate in at least some of these opportunities.

We will continue to keep you informed as we move along the process. Please reach out to any of us with any questions.

Mission Study Team: Marc Cobb, Millicent Budlong-Springer, Jeffrey Hebert, Catherine Maguire, and Antoinette Snyman

The Mission Study Team was commissioned during worship on February 22, 2026. (Antoinette Snyman was away and unable to attend that Sunday.)



GREENWOOD DAY TRIPPERS

The Greenwood Day Trippers had a delightful outing on December 11 when they traveled to Blithewold Manor in Bristol. They all enjoyed seeing the gorgeous Christmas decorations and enjoying a magnificent Christmas high tea at the end of the tour. It was a great culmination to their first year, and they are looking forward to more trips in the coming months and hope many of you can join them in their adventures.



GROWN-UP GAME DAY

The photo above looks as if they are having fun! It's a great way to spend a Saturday afternoon.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE

“Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.” Proverbs 22:6, RSV

Sunday School Time



Singing—*Away in a Manger*

and

There’s Nothing my God Cannot Do

Activity Time

A message from our Sunday School Superintendent: The Sunday School students wrapped up 2025 with a beautiful Christmas Tableau during morning worship on December 21. Addie Brown portrayed Baby Jesus accompanied by her mother, Jillian Jacobs Brown, as Mary, and her father, John Brown, as Joseph. Our other participants did a marvelous job. Aaliyah, Alexander, Caleb, Emmett, Henry and Samara.



Our January studies (although interrupted by SNOW) were based on Nehemiah.

King's Kids had a very popular Family Valentine's Dance on February 15. This was a fun event for those who like Karaoke and sweet treats!

The Sunday School Heifer Coin Collection began on February 22 with pennies. Small bags are provided in the pews for coin contributions. At the conclusion of Lent, the children will choose which animals to send to needy families around the world.

HEIFER COIN COLLECTION SCHEDULE: February 22 – Pennies, March 1 – Nickels, March 8 – Dimes, March 15 – Quarters, March 22 - Dollars

On Sunday, March 29, we look forward to our Palm Sunday Procession, led by a donkey, to commemorate Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. We will gather in the back parking lot at 9:30 to distribute palms and follow the donkey to the front doors of the church.

We have planned an Easter Egg Hunt after worship on Easter Sunday, April 5. Bring your children, grandchildren, and friends for this sweet fun event. Children can meet in Fellowship Hall during the coffee hour.

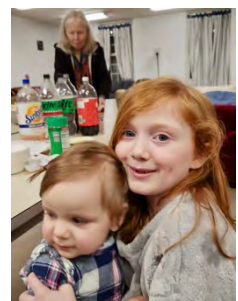
LOOKING AHEAD:

Vacation Bible School is planned for the week of July 6-10. We are trying a different time this year, 4-7 p.m. We hope the children in your life would like to join us. The theme will be *TROPICAL TREK, Jesus comes to seek and save.*

Joann Rudolph

Parents’ Night Out

Parents, this is your opportunity to bring your children to spend a fun Friday night with us from 6:00–9:00 p.m. The program is directed by DFM Virginia Jacobs, assisted by another trained adult and some of our teens. Drop the kids off and head to a movie, dinner or just a little quiet time knowing your children are in good hands and having a great time!



Looking back to December:
The Hanging of the Greens:



Advent Wreath Workshop at Coffee Hour:



Caroling:

On the afternoon of December 7, an enthusiastic group brought Christmas joy to a number of our members. In the neighborhood they visited members Larry Davis, Bonnie Sorgel, Marge Allstrom and her husband Ken, Nancy and Dick Collins, Dick Arling, and Sue Stock. They then headed to Halcyon where they sang carols to Kitty Channell and her friends who were still at lunch plus many other residents who gathered in the lobby and joined in the singing. Next, they headed to Kent Regency where they gathered outside Cheryl Bullock’s window to sing, She responded to the familiar carols with a called out, “I love you all!” It was to be the last words most of us heard from dear Cheryl. Next was Roberts Health Center where we hoped to sing to Doris Fahlman and Martha Sommer. There was a quarantine because of a flu outbreak, and at the time of our visit only first floor residents could come to the room outside of which we were singing. Those folks also joined in the singing and appreciated our visit.

We then headed back north and had very enthusiastic welcomes from Evelyn and Eric Robinson and Angie D’Albora, who of course joined in all the carols. It was a joyous afternoon for all.



King’s Kids

King’s Kids and leaders Ginny Jacobs and Cindy Pisano have been enjoying fun and fellowship at their weekly meetings. Cooking projects, prayer time, crafts, and games keep everyone busy. Their most recent excitement was the Valentine’s Dance and potluck where they shared good food and fun with folks of all ages. Many of the adults joined in the singing and dancing, while others watched in amazement.



29:11

Weekly meetings involve chatting, snacks, games and Bible Study. This fall have they been reading from the book of James! It is a great book that gives us great advice on ways to live a Christ like life!

Valentine’s Dance

Food, Friends, Fun, Karaoke, and Dancing!



WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Thank you to all who have volunteered to participate in worship as greeters, acolytes, lectors, ushers, and in serving communion each month! It is very helpful when people sign up in advance on the Worship sign up sheet posted on the back bulletin board in Fellowship Hall.

On December 14th we celebrated with joy the baptisms of Aaliyah and Alexander Perez by Pastor Dallas! They are the children of Millicent Budlong-Springer and Rafael Perez.

The Christmas Eve service was held at 5:00 p.m. with joyful attendees totaling 101, an increase of 20 from last year's attendance. A banner, designed by Jena Fairbairn Summers, was posted by John Pickup on the outside of the church welcoming people to come join us in worship.

The Worship Committee continues to meet weekly with Pastor Dallas and Music Director Mike Kelly to plan and coordinate worship. We planned for the Lenten season which began with the Ash Wednesday service on February 28 at 7 p.m. Mike has confirmed the Brass Quintet for Easter. He will be rehearsing with the Hand Bell Choir on Sunday afternoons and will reach out to former choir members and others in the congregation to join the choir in preparation for Easter.

The Committee has also worked with Pastor Dallas and the Office Administrator on developing a new lector bulletin with prompts to facilitate the lector's delivery on Sunday mornings.

Greenwood's new website continues to be a work in progress. Recommendations for fine tuning are being worked on, and new pictures are to be uploaded by our Office Assistant before the website is officially launched, hopefully in time for the Easter season.

It has been an honor, privilege and immense blessing to serve on Session this past year as Worship Chair. In this new year full of possibilities, I encourage you to serve our Lord as faithful servants, taking part in worship as a Greeter, Acolyte, Usher, Lector, Reader on Maundy Thursday or Good Friday or serving Communion. The blessing will be yours!

Jean Greco, 2025 Worship Chair



DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

As I write this, I feel a sense of accomplishment that, about an hour ago, after a couple days of heavy shoveling, I was finally able to pull my car out of the driveway and onto the street. However, my sense of being blessed is much greater: Even in a blizzard, I have a warm and dry place to live, food to eat, and many other gifts that it's easy to take for granted. I feel similarly about our music program: The dedication of Greenwood Church's people and the resources they have developed and maintained are gifts that make beautiful and meaningful music possible every week.



On Ash Wednesday, the Choir began the season of Lent with a moving rendition of the anthem "Dust I Am," and on the first Sunday of Lent the Handbell Choir provided the offertory. In the weeks to come, we look forward to Palm Sunday, Holy Week, and Easter Sunday, when the Choir will once again be joined by a brass quintet and timpani.

Looking further ahead, preparations are underway for a Spring Concert at Greenwood Church on June 7, featuring musicians from our church and the community beyond, followed by a reception; updates about this special event will be coming soon.

From week to week and month to month, there is no shortage of accomplishments to celebrate and blessings to be thankful for. As always, I'm excited to see what God has in store for the music program at Greenwood Church.

Making a joyful noise,

Mike Kelly

Music Director

michaelkelly36251@gmail.com

STEWARDSHIP/INVESTMENT AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEES

Our Congregation and your Stewardship/Investment and Personnel Committees over the last few years have faced some challenges with church finances, budgeting, and staffing. Due to turmoil within the GCCP, envelope giving has been at an all-time low despite the generosity of individual members that responded to our plea for increased giving. Also, the COVID crisis which caused the cancellation of live services, further reduced collections. The hard truth was that there just were not and are not enough givers at present to support our ever-increasing budget requirements heading into the future.

To fill this budget shortfall in the last few years, we borrowed against our own endowment fund investments. This money was used to fill the gap and support our church mission and staffing needs. In the same timeframe, capital failures, such as the organ circuitry being struck by lightning, alarm old age, and building systems upgrades caused further money woes. Some of these expenses were eventually backfilled by insurance payouts. But the immediate crises of systems and equipment were funded through borrowing from our endowment fund gains.

Exacerbating the situation, the Personnel and Worship committees were on a constant search to fill gaps with our staff and to hire temporary preachers, organists, choir directors, and office help. The leadership of the Session was under constant strain to normalize worship on Sundays and the everyday workings of the church. Their function had changed a great deal from years past and many did yeomen's work to keep the church running.

As we emerged from this "crisis" situation, hirings took place...some worked out and some did not. But here we are in 2026 with a full staff and about to embark on a search for a new full-time pastor to serve our needs well into the future. We will start that process by assessing what our church is now through our Mission Study team.

On a more pleasant note, due to monetary gifts received from loyal congregation members and a windfall from the IRS for keeping all of our employees working during the years of COVID, we are at present debt free with a substantial Memorial & Endowment Fund. Financially, we are in good shape, but the present situation cannot endure. To balance the budget this year, we are borrowing from the Endowment Fund gains because the congregation cannot fund our present expenses. In the future, this situation will only worsen, eating away at the fund until all the gains of recent years and the gifts are depleted.

As part of our new commitment to the Presbytery of Southern New England, Greenwood has pledged to pay our annual per capita to the Presbytery in full. We have made this part of our operating budget. **The annual assessment is \$53 per church member.** The envelope to support this payment is contained in the envelope box with the January/February envelopes. We would appreciate prompt payment so that we may forward this to the Presbytery.

What else can we do? The number of members in the Congregation must be increased. There must be new member classes and active membership with a vibrant Sunday school, men's group, women's group, youth groups, choirs, deacons, etc. Don't you remember the sound of children rushing to Fellowship Hall for their snacks after the 20+ Sunday School teachers had given the adults ten minutes to talk among themselves after the Sunday service?

Will all that happen again? Or will it emerge as something very different? I cannot say with any certainty, but I do know we cannot go on as we are. In planning our future, we must be bold and innovative. The ideas of the past will no longer carry us through.

The outgoing leadership of your congregation has ventured to maintain a vision through this crisis that we believed the majority of the Congregation desired and that was the path God had set us on years ago. This has proved true with the vote to stay with the Presbyterian Church USA, but where do we go from here? With Divine guidance, the Mission Study and the Pastor Search Committees will help determine what God now has planned for the Greenwood Congregation. This is not a process guided by electronic chips, wires, and satellites like a self-driving Uber vehicle but by members of the Greenwood Congregation selected for their inspired talent to set a new vision for Greenwood that will last into the future.

Thank you for the honor of being the President of the Greenwood Corporation these many years. I hope I, and the other members of the leadership team, have provided you with what you need to endure the hardships of the last few difficult years. I hope we have left you with the fortitude to reshape Greenwood in a form that will be pleasing to God and a force for good in the Greenwood community, the City of Warwick, the State of Rhode Island, and a mission to serve that is pleasing to the Lord.

Dennis Charpentier

Past President & Chair of Stewardship, Investment, and Personnel

DEACONS' MINISTRY

Community Clothing Swap: On January 17th from 9 a.m.–2 p.m. our deacons held a clothing swap for our community in Fellowship Hall, saying, "Let's come together to help each other and open our hearts and our doors to our community!" The response to requests for the congregation to bring any clothes they wished to donate was impressive. There was no charge for clothing. All were invited to come and take what they needed and to share with neighbors! Many people came to the church to get clothing, and the deacons donated 40 bags of clothes to the Providence Rescue Mission. In their earlier drive to collect winter coats, they donated 6 bags of coats to Multitude Ministries!

NEWS FROM PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Presbyterian Women have had a busy Fall, busy & snowy Winter, and are gearing up for a busy Spring. We are happy to be so blessed!

Our Christmas Dinner was well-attended, and our PW actresses who performed our 'Christmas Grouches' play were well received. Of course, the special Silent Night ending is always lovely. We thank our Director of Music, Dr. Mike Kelly for his musical assistance, along with our own youth Violinist Eiriana Fairbairn Summers. Without a doubt, the meal was delicious and so wonderfully plated, served, and cleared up by kind (and spiffily dressed) GCCP gentlemen, allowing us all to be able to sit back and enjoy ourselves. Thank you to those gentlemen. The entire evening was a true Christmas joy!

We tried our first ever Community Movie Night, and while it was not as successful as we had hoped, perhaps on a less busy day we might be more successful – so we never say 'not again.' We are so grateful for the support of our church family in all our endeavors to support our Mission goals. Thank you for contributing Hygiene items for the Church World Service kits. One endeavor of which we are especially appreciative are both the physical item donations and the monetary donations that we use to help women dealing with lack of monthly hygiene along with making donations to the Food Bank.

Save the Date – April 25th is our 'Almost' May Breakfast, which you surely do not want to miss! Watch for the money-saving pre-ticket sales announcements in the bulletin. Bring your friends, neighbors, and families. Please consider volunteering to help on that date as well – all ages – watch for the notice.

Remaining PW Circle meetings will be on Tuesday 4/14, 5/12, & 6/9. I encourage you to visit one, or more, to experience the strength and fellowship of faith. Check out our website, [Home | Presbyterian Women Greenwood Community Church \(square.site\)](#) or Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/PWGCCP> page or contact us at pwgccp@gmail.com

We truly thank all of you for supporting us and our mission efforts.

"A circle of strength, founded on faith"

Artena Fairbairn for Presbyterian Women

Looking Back: PW Dinner Skit–Christmas Grouches: As an audience full of spectators filled with the spirit of Christmas watched, a bevy of grouches descended upon them, grumbling loudly against the burdens of the Christmas season: gifts, decorations, parties, cards and the despicable Christmas letters, holiday baking, gift wrapping, and even the true meaning of Christmas. After delivering her individual tirade, each grouch tossed a symbol of her complaint on the table. The final grouch, who was the grouchiest of them all, sought to take Christ out of Christmas and stole Mary, Joseph, and the Baby Jesus from the crèche, adding them to the other discarded items.

But then, the words and music of familiar carols arose. At first the grouches reacted with dismay and covered their ears, but slowly, one by one, their horror melted away; and they silently retreated from the stage. At last, even the grouchiest grouch was touched by the words and melodies of the carols and had a change of heart. She retrieved Mary, Joseph, and the infant Jesus and restored them to their rightful place at the center of Christmas! It was a wonderful performance with an important reminder to all, who then closed out the evening joining hands in a big circle of faith around the sanctuary to sing *Silent Night*. For many of us, this is a time that we remember all those who, while no longer part of our physical circle, are joining us as members of the heavenly chorus.



FROM PICASSO QUILTERS TO LINUS BLANKETEERS

Inspired by Sandy Olson, Greenwood’s Picasso Quilters made 1,000 quilted sleeping bags that were donated to the homeless and others in need over a period of twelve years. Each was a piece of modern art, hence the name Picasso. Their clever design used donated men’s ties to do just that, tie the sleeping bag into a neat roll as shown below. These two final sleeping bags were recently discovered in one of the church closets and are scheduled to be delivered to warm two additional homeless individuals.



But our quilters have been keeping themselves busy, creating smaller quilts for Project Linus. Project Linus is a national program started in 1955. Gwen Andersen started our group after her arrival at Greenwood. In the five years they have been turning out blankets, they have made about 100 a year! That’s impressive! These blankets are donated to Hasbro Children’s Hospital where each child receives a blanket. Project Linus meets on the third Tuesday of the month at 1:00 p.m. and they would be delighted to have new participants. No experience is necessary.



THURSDAY NIGHT DINNERS

Thursday evenings at 5:30 members and friends of the Greenwood Church Family gather to share fellowship and a delicious meal prepared by Susan Riel and her helpers, which is sometimes followed by a Bible Study. On January 22, everyone enjoyed a Hymn Sing after dinner



MISSION COMMITTEE

One Great Hour of Sharing

Once again, this year, the Mission Committee is asking YOU to support the One Great Hour of Sharing Program. This offering, collected during Lent, will be dedicated on Palm Sunday, but you can still contribute after that date. What is the One Great Hour of Sharing Program...how did it start...why is it important for us to support this offering? Read on to find out!!! (this information courtesy of www.spiritrestoration.org).

How different the world looks now from when One Great Hour of Sharing began; yet how similar the face of human need! In 1949 leaders from several denominations organized an appeal to support the campaigns of Protestant churches for relief and reconstruction. Would it be thinkable today to ask all major radio networks to set aside an hour for a dramatic broadcast urging listeners to attend local churches the next morning and make a contribution? How likely would such an effort be to recruit dramatic stars of the magnitude of Gregory Peck and Ida Lupino, or to prevail upon the President to bring greetings? Today something contemporary and compelling remains in the statement supporting that effort:

The broadcast, called “One Great Hour” that first year, is estimated to have elicited the participation of **more than 75,000 churches**. Since then, the offering has been known as “One Great Hour of Sharing” in most denominations that receive it.

Currently the One Great Hour of Sharing committee officially comprises nine Christian denominations, including the **Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)**.

What does “ecumenical” mean in the context of One Great Hour of Sharing? A common misconception is that all participating denominations pool their offerings and give the total to a central agency that determines and administers the offering’s use. In fact, each denomination decides how its members’ gifts will be used. Yet, though it is not a requirement, all One Great Hour of Sharing denominations choose to do part of their ministries through Church World Service. This reflects a shared commitment to work ecumenically when possible, recognizing it is both more practical and better stewardship than creating multiple mission structures. Being ecumenical also means the denominations use commonly developed resources. The denominations and Church World Service work together to create a theme and to produce promotional materials jointly. Most denominations add other resources specific to their own programs and focuses.

Today projects supported by One Great Hour of Sharing are under way in more than 100 countries, including the United States and Canada. Funds are used for disaster relief, refugee assistance, and development aid, both in the United States and around the world.

Contributions to One Great Hour of Sharing make a difference in people’s lives. Whether gifts take the form of immediate relief to people experiencing crisis or of partnerships with communities focused on long-term solutions to chronic problems, contributions are a powerful, tangible witness to Christ’s healing love.

Deb Stacey, For the Mission Committee

MEMBER CARE COMMITTEE

March is a month of change. Though it sometimes brings mountains of snow, and the way things have been going, that is not unlikely, in March, we know it won’t last too long as the warm sun melts it away. Crocuses poke up their heads with patches of purple and yellow amid the brown leaves that didn’t get caught up by fall raking, pussy willows display their silky gray coats, and robins chirp cheerfully to let us know spring is here. As spring arrives, we hope many of you will be able to join us for the activities planned here at Greenwood. You will find them described throughout this issue of Fishermen’s News.

On Sunday, February 8, the Member Care Committee organized a potluck luncheon after the worship service. Since it was just before Valentine’s Day, the theme was love, AGAPÉ. For those who are not familiar with the term, agapé is the kind of love that Jesus showed for all of us when he gave His life as a sacrifice for our sins and the kind of unconditional love He asks us to give to one another. Everyone brought some kind of food that reminded them of a special person in their life. Despite the frigid temperatures and Saturday snowstorm, about thirty people attended and shared lots of love and delicious food and wonderful fellowship.



While the calendar year begins in January, the new year at Greenwood Church takes a bit longer to get started. New officers are elected in January and ordained and installed in February. At their February meetings, elders and deacons elect officers and make committee appointments. All of that got pushed even a bit later this year. The Session meeting was postponed a week because of Ash Wednesday and then both the Session and Deacons meetings were postponed until March 4 because of the blizzard. So here in March, we are finally ready to begin our new church year. That makes it a good time to remind ourselves of what it means to be a church member and to seek to carry out our ministry to the best of our ability. In the 2025-2027 edition of the Book of Order, Part II

of the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (USA), section *G-1.0304 The Ministry of Members* describes the meaning of membership.

Membership in the Church of Jesus Christ is a joy and a privilege. It is also a commitment to participate in Christ's mission. A faithful member bears witness to God's love and grace and promises to be involved responsibly in the ministry of Christ's Church. Such involvement includes:

proclaiming the good news in word and deed,

taking part in the common life and worship of a congregation,

lifting one another up in prayer, mutual concern, and active support,

studying Scripture and the issues of Christian faith and life,

supporting the ministry of the church through the giving of money, time, and talents,

demonstrating a new quality of life within and through the church,

responding to God's activity in the world through service to others,

living responsibly in the personal, family, vocational, political, cultural, and social relationships of life,

working in the world for peace, justice, freedom, and human fulfillment,

caring for God's creation,

participating in the governing responsibilities of the church, and reviewing and evaluating regularly the integrity of one's membership, and considering ways in which one's participation in the worship and service of the church may be increased and made more meaningful.

We are very fortunate at Greenwood Church that so many of our members fulfill these commitments as they participate in the worship and programs of the church and bear witness to their faith in their families, workplace, and communities. But like everything else in life, there is always room for improvement. As we begin 2026, perhaps we can each review this list and consider ways in which our own "participation in the worship and service of the church may be increased and made more meaningful."

One important way we should all plan to be involved is by participating in the activities planned by our newly commissioned Mission Study Team. In addition, perhaps you can attend the Bible Study meetings after the Thursday night dinners. Other ways you might consider would be to volunteer to help with some aspect of worship as a greeter, usher, or lector. All of our Committees are eager to have new members, and it doesn't mean you need to go to meetings. Perhaps you could find a small job to start with like helping with coffee hour or volunteering to reshelve books in our church library occasionally. There is plenty of work that needs to be done. Another really good way to be a faithful member of God's church is to reach out to family, friends, or neighbors and invite them to join us for worship, a Thursday night dinner, or any special occasion.

Elaine Magyar for the Member Care Committee

REPORT OF THE 2025 NOMINATING COMMITTEE

In case you missed the Annual Meeting or did not catch all the names, here is the report of the Nominating Committee. All of the nominees were elected by the congregation for the terms listed.

On behalf of our entire congregation, the Nominating Committee would like to thank the elders who are leaving the Session this year for their valuable service: Dennis Charpentier, Jean Greco, and Denise Mair. Also, elders Susan Capobianco, Sheila Curran, and Kevin Golde who resigned earlier in the year.

The Nominating Committee would like to present the following individuals for election to the office of elder: to be ordained and installed to serve 3-year terms (class of 2029), Millicent Budlong-Springer, Jaimeson Jacobs, and Catherine Maguire; to be installed to serve a 3-year term (class of 2029), Glenn Fairbairn; and to be installed to serve a 1-year term (class of 2027), Jeffrey Plouffe.

On behalf of the entire congregation, the Nominating Committee would like to thank the deacon who is leaving the board this year for her valuable service: Cheryl Bowser. Also, deacons Anne Kenniston, Louis Messier, and Robert Whitney, who resigned earlier in the year.

The Nominating Committee would like to present the following individuals for election to the office of deacon: to be ordained and installed to serve a 3-year term (class of 2029), Mary MacLean; and to be installed for a 3-year term (class of 2029), Karen Baxter, Jean Brown, Jillian Brown, Deborah Burrows, James Burrows, and Brandon Phillips.

The Nominating Committee would like to nominate the following individuals for election to the 2026 Nominating Committee. Five at large members are needed. The nominees are Susan Capobianco, Lisa David, Jean Greco, Antoinette Snyman, and Janet Swanson.

The Nominating Committee would like to nominate the following individuals for election as alternates to the 2026 Nominating Committee. Two at large alternates are needed. The nominees are Jeniece Fairbairn Summers and Tracy Traficante.

The Nominating Committee would like to present the following individuals for election as auditors and alternate auditors for 2026. Two of each are needed. The nominees for auditor are Marc Cobb and Michael Snyman and for alternate auditor, Jay David and William Springer. (Auditors are not required to be members of Greenwood Church.)

I would like to thank the members of the Nominating Committee for their extraordinary work in finding quality individuals to lead our church, Elder Evelyn Murray, Deacon Cynthia Pisano, Alexis Cobb, Lisa David, Joan Eichenfeldt, Jaimeson Jacobs, and Catherine Maguire, and Interim Pastor Dallas Bradel, whose guidance as an *ex officio* member was very helpful.

Elaine Magyar, Chair

CLERK’S CORNER

You have read about much of the work of the Session over the past few months in the articles from the various committees. We also want to share with you a few additional items of general interest.

As most of you know, this fall Mary Phillips was hired to be our part-time Office Administrator. At the same time Sue Whiteside was working in the office as a temporary employee. At its January meeting , the Session voted to hire Sue on a permanent basis. Because Mary and Sue will each work twenty hours per week, for the first time in many years we will have a full forty hours per week of work from office staff. The office will be open on Monday thru Friday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. except in special situations. This arrangement will be beneficial in getting all the administrative work of the office accomplished in an efficient and timely manner. The bylaws amendment approved at the congregational meeting will also allow Sue to assume the role of Financial Secretary.

The Session has spent considerable time learning about the Mission Study process. After a discussion of the diverse talents that would make individuals well suited to contribute as members the Mission Study Team, we unanimously elected Millicent Budlong-Springer, Marc Cobb, Jeffrey Hebert, Catherine Maguire, and Antoinette Snyman and were very happy when they all agreed to serve Greenwood Church in this important role.

We are happy to report that the Session and the Commission on Ministry approved the new contract for Pastor Dallas to continue as our Interim Pastor, effective March 19, 2026.

The February Session meeting is when officers and Committees are chosen for the coming year.

Officers

- President of the Board of Trustees: Millicent Budlong-Springer
- Vice President: M. Barry Baxter
- Treasurer: Denise Mair
- Clerk of Session: D. Elaine Stedman Magyar
- Financial Secretary: Suzanne Whiteside

Session Committee Appointments for 2026

Christian Education

Joann Rudolph, chair

Member Care

D. Elaine Stedman Magyar, chair
Evelyn Murray

Mission

Debra Stacey, chair
Catherine Maguire

Worship

Jaimeson Jacobs, chair

Stewardship

M. Barry Baxter, chair
Millicent Budlong-Springer

Building and Grounds

Jeffrey Plouffe, chair
Glenn Fairbairn

Personnel

M. Barry Baxter, chair
Evelyn Murray
D. Elaine Stedman Magyar

Columns: Jeff Plouffe, Building and Grounds chair, has been working diligently to arrange for a major project at the church. The portico and columns at the front of the church are showing their age. They are almost 70 years old and badly in need of repair. You will be hearing much more about this enormous project in the next few months.

Elaine Magyar, Clerk

GREENWOOD COMMUNITY CHURCH, PRESBYTERIAN
EIGHTY-ONE YEARS OF FAITH, HOPE, AND LOVE

We will be taking a short break in our trip through Greenwood’s History as we catch up on some of the work of the present. Stay tuned for future installments!

CAUGHT IN THE NET/NOTES RECEIVED & SENT

Here is a summary of some of the news we have received since our last issue.

Their card came on time, but this is the first chance to share it. Charter member Joan Gardiner and her husband George sent a Christmas card to the church wishing everyone “Christmas Greetings and warmest wishes for a Happy New Year.”

Joyful music: Member and friend Bob Nordstrom, who now resides at the Veteran’s Home in Bristol, was highlighted in a news item on Channel 10 about musicians performing for the veterans. Check it out at the address below and be sure to play the video. (You just need to ignore all the ads.)

<https://turnto10.com/news/coronavirus/show-us-something-good/musician-duo-performs-free-concert-for-veterans-in-rhode-island-bristol-programming-home-classical-music-jan-29-2026>

We offer condolences to several families that have lost family members since our last issue. While we are very sad to have lost these dear friends, we know that they are now at peace and with their Lord.

Another Angel for Christmas: Ginny Jacobs shared that her mother, Florence Hachadorian, passed away on December 8, 2025. Florence was an active member of our congregation, serving as a Deacon and an involved member of PW. She planned many a reception, visited shut-ins, played an active role in bazaars and May Breakfasts and much more.

Greenwood Church lost another faithful member on January 4 when Cheryl Bullock went to be with her Lord and Savior. Cheryl became a member of Greenwood Church in June 1971. She was ordained a deacon in 1974 and served as PW Moderator from 1979-1981. As many of you know, Cheryl has been in hospice care at Kent Regency. Please pray for her daughter Melissa and granddaughter Rebecca and other family members, that the Lord will provide comfort and strength.

Member Marge Allstrom passed away on February 21, 2026. We pray for her husband Kenneth and all her family members who will miss her dearly. Marge and Ken were among the families we visited when we went caroling in December. Marge really appreciated our visit exclaiming, “It made my day!”

Many of our “old-timers” remember JoAnn and Wayne Svehlik who were active Greenwood members when their children were growing up. JoAnn passed away unexpectedly on Sunday, March 15. Her family and her close friends at Greenwood are greatly saddened by this sudden loss. We pray that our Lord will walk beside them in their grief, sustain them by their faith, and help them to celebrate her life.

Passing on a message from our shut-in members with thanks to all who have donated flowers for our Sunday morning worship services. Many of these bouquets are then delivered to our shut-ins. They all want to let you know how much the lovely flowers brighten their day. They especially like knowing that they are being remembered and appreciate the visit with whomever is delivering the flowers.

A tremendous thank you to everyone who contributed to my surprise birthday celebration at coffee hour on February 22. Flowers, balloons, cards made by our wonderful Sunday School children inspired by their ingenious teacher Lisa David and from members of the congregation, an amazing cake created by our multi-talented Treasurer, Denise Mair, and a rousing chorus of “Happy Birthday” by all present, accompanied by Mike Kelly on the piano. It was overwhelming. Special thanks to Cathy Maguire, Deb Stacey, and Denise Mair, who I suspect orchestrated it all. I am ever thankful for my Greenwood Church family. I love you all!

Elaine Magyar



Happy Birthday to all who celebrated or will celebrate birthdays!



March

- Karsten Dietz 3-01
- Robert Gungle 3-03
- Marc Cobb 3-05
- Jeffrey Devolve 3-05
- David Tanner, Sr. 3-07
- Jay David 3-10
- Jillian Jacobs Brown 3-10
- Martha Sommer 3-17
- Raymond Greco 3-17
- Zackery Snowman 3-21
- Jean Brown 3-24
- Wilma Swanson 3-26
- Jeffrey Hebert 3-27

April

- Betty McClung 4/2
- Keegan Carson 4/2
- Nancy Taylor 4/4
- Sheila Curran 4/8
- Julia McKeever D’Arrezo 4/10
- Nancy Collins 4/11
- Harry Curran 4/15
- Evelyn Murray 4/18
- William Hebert 4/21
- Monika Algozino 4/22
- Debra Stacey 4/23
- Michaela Lindia 4/24
- Evelyn DesRoches 4/26
- Sue Stock 4/26
- Alexandra Petrucci 4/30

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