

The Word



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Ministers Musings

Turning Our Hearts Toward the Light

Dear Beloved Congregation,

"Return to the Lord your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love." (Joel 2:13)

As February unfolds, the Church invites us to a meaningful turning of the heart. We stand at a threshold: looking back with gratitude, attending to the present with care, and preparing for the sacred journey ahead. Before we enter the season of Lent on Ash Wednesday, February 18, we will gather for Transfiguration Sunday, when Christ is revealed in glory—a reminder that even as we descend into reflection and repentance, we are guided by divine light.

This turning feels especially timely as many of us continue to recover from the impact of Storm Fern. While the snow has begun to clear, winter's weight can linger in body and spirit. I gently invite you to reflect on how you are coping during this season—physically, emotionally, and spiritually. If you're feeling tired, remember that the church remains a space for warmth, prayer, and mutual support.

At the heart of our life together is our shared responsibility to discern where God is leading us. In that spirit, I extend my sincere thanks to all committees and ministry teams who worked diligently and prayerfully to submit their reports for the Annual Charge Conference on February 1. Your faithfulness in documenting the work of the church allows us to reflect honestly on our ministry and to move forward with clarity and purpose. The Annual Charge Conference itself is more than a formal meeting; it is an act of stewardship. As we gather, we do so with prayerful hearts, listening for God's wisdom, affirming our shared mission, and recommitting ourselves to faithful service in the year ahead.



As Lent approaches, Scripture calls us not simply to outward observance, but to inward renewal. Lent invites us to return to honest prayer, to fasting that makes room for God, and to generosity that reflects Christ's compassion.

These practices do not end in themselves; they are pathways that lead us back to love.

May this season be one in which we turn our hearts toward the light revealed in Christ, trusting that God meets us with mercy, even in the wilderness. As winter slowly loosens its grip and we prepare for the journey to the cross, may we do so together, grounded in faith, strengthened by community, and hopeful in God's transforming grace.

I am grateful to walk this path with you.

Grace and Peace,

Premkumar Immanuel Clement



Highlights of January Parish Council

1/19/26 Parish Council meeting

Called to order by Carol Greene 6:35 PM

Present: Gideon Frisbee, Pastor Prem, Ruth V, Stephanie, Barb Jones, Carol Greene, Susan Frisbee, Eloise Henault

Joe Greenfield via Zoom

Excused: Fred Onasch

Devotions: Barb Jones led devotions- a Winter Meditation- Book called Reservoir Year by Nina Shengold, a writer from near the Ashokan Reservoir. Reminds us to be present and intentional.

Topic of the Month: 50th Anniversary Letter input. The group reviewed the draft letter which is very well written and that will be sent out soon. There was discussion about the Architecture Tour and integration of our church. Barb Jones will follow up with a few detail clarifications. There will be subsequent reminder mailings for each event planned.

Grants – We received an unsolicited grant at the end of 2025 from the O’Connor Foundation for \$8,665 for the Food Pantry. Carol made a motion to accept this grant. 2nd by Barb, motion carries unanimously.

The EVAN is looking to apply for a grant to the O’Connor Foundation for an additional storage closet for equipment storage. The youth grant opportunity would allow for the cost to be covered fully and is due by February 1st. Carol made the motion to approve the EVAN to apply for an O’Connor Foundation Youth Grant for \$1,549.68, 2nd Susan. Motion carries unanimously.

Play School grant to upgrade equipment storage for Play School classroom. Wood storage closet and shelving. Carol made the motion to approve Play School to apply for an O’Connor Foundation Youth Grant for \$2,000, 2nd by Eloise. Motion carries unanimously.

Approval of Meeting minutes – December 15, 2025.

Susan made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted, 2nd by Barb, Motion carries unanimously.

Treasurer’s Report: The December (2025 year-end) financial report was presented. Gideon motion to approve, Ruth V 2nd, motion carries.

Finance: Met January 6th and discussed year-end report, Food Bank funding, and pledges. Gideon moved to approve the final, updated 2026 Budget presented by Fran today. Joe 2nd. Motion carries unanimously. Next meeting February 3rd.

Trustee’s Report: Transferred \$20,000 for Fran at the end of December. Completed and submitted annual conference Trustee reports. We did not meet in January due to illness. We are moving forward with the installation of a radon mitigation system in the parsonage at an estimated cost of \$1,800. Many thanks to Peg Baldwin and Chris Savage for their time served as Trustees.

SPR- no report – SPR meets this week on 1/27.

Pastor’s Report: 12/20 the Farms & Forest Carol sing occurred. Prem gave an update on the nominations committee. Clergy association has grants available for financial hardships in the community (Heating costs, medical). There are 10 grants available.

12/21- 34, 12/24 -70, 12/28 – 28 -in person attendance numbers only.

Prem goes to Boston 2/3 and returns 2/7. He is planning a vacation in late April and June.

Eloise – Playschool- the Board met last Monday. There will be a few fundraisers this spring. Things are going well.

Mission: Food Pantry – there continues to be food coming in that keeps Edie and Patty busy. Carol will be doing a food give away on January 31.

Fred - Witness: No report

Other Business: No building use forms submitted.

There have been rallies held on the Court House square recently. Carol received a request that the doors be open to the Church for restroom use as they had in the past. The Parish Council does not feel it is necessary to open the doors for these events at this time.

Joe made a suggestion that someone (acolyte?) could bring the hand-held microphone around to folks in the pews who are sharing joys and concerns. This will make it easier for all to hear.

The Annual Meeting will be held on February 1, 2026.

Next meeting of Parish Council will be February 16th, 2026.

Gideon moves to adjourn, Carol seconds; motion carries.

The meeting closed with prayer at 8:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted; Gideon Frisbee

Bible Quiz

The New Testament uses several Greek words to describe love. Which of the following best represents the **selfless, sacrificial love** that God shows to humanity?



A) Eros
B) Phileo
C) Agape
D) Storge

Women's Open Circle

Women's Open Circle will meet on Thursday, February 12th at noon in the Harder Room. Bring your own lunch and beverages and dessert will be provided.



Food Missions

After the hustle and bustle of the holidays January has felt quiet. We were closed for Martin Luther King Jr. day and we took a snow day on the 26th. We continue to receive donations, which are always welcome and to shop for perishables. We did deliver boxes to those who are in need of housing and Carol will be doing her giveaway on the 31st.

Hopefully everyone is staying warm and safe. February is a short month but we are scheduled to be open 7 days and look forward to supplying food to all who need our help. We will also be giving away boxes about the middle of the month and ask you to look for an announcement of Carol's next giveaway,

We have several people who may be stopping to offer information on insurance and other programs available through Delaware Opportunities. Although not food related this is another way we can be useful to our clients.

Edie

Play School Update - February

Play School has been busy with the topics of winter, ice, cold, snow ❄️ and we are so looking forward to the Groundhog NOT seeing his shadow in hopes for an early spring!! 🌞



During the month of February we are working on Valentine's Day projects, continuing with the letters of the week, Miss Liz will be in to do her Dental Unit with the kids, and fun learning in a variety of ways, even by playing!

Looking ahead, March will bring our annual bake sale at the St Patrick's Day parade. If you would like to make a donation of baked goods, monetary, or other way of support, please let me know, it will be greatly appreciated!

Thank you for the donations of cans and bottles that were left for us in the New Year and also those handy jelly jars from Sandy Russell. Much appreciated!

Wishing you all well! Stay warm and stay safe!

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela Savage, Program Director





Kid's Page



LOVE CODE BREAKER

Change some of the letters below to reveal this verse!

Change:	C's to L	Z's to H	P's to R
	J's to A	Q's to T	X's to E
	K's to O		

(The other letters stay the same.)

" L _____
C K V X Q Z X C K P D Y K U P

_____ G K D W I Q Z J C C Y K U P

_____ Z X J P Q J N D W I Q Z J C C

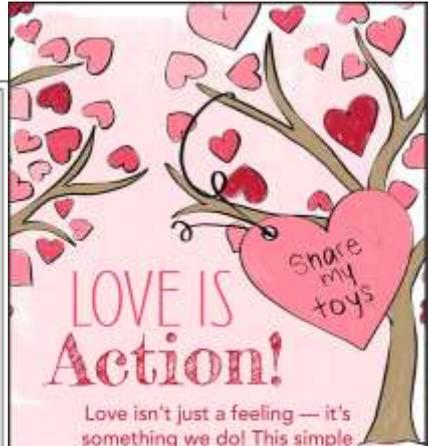
_____ Y K U P S K U C J N D W I Q Z

_____ J C C Y K U P M I N D J N D

_____ W I Q Z J C C Y K U P

_____ S Q P X N G Q Z _____ "

Mark 12:30



LOVE IS ACTION!

Love isn't just a feeling — it's something we do! This simple activity reminds us that acts of love, big or small, can grow and bless others.

What you need:

- Construction paper (brown for the trunk, pinks and reds for hearts)
- Scissors
- Glue or tape
- Markers or crayons



What you do:

1. Cut a large tree trunk and branches out of brown paper and glue it onto a sheet of paper or poster board.
2. Use colorful paper to cut several hearts — these will be your "leaves."
3. On each heart, write loving actions like "share my toys," "pray for others," or "help clean up."
4. Glue the hearts onto the branches to create a full, love-filled tree.
5. Hang it somewhere visible as a reminder to put love into action every day!



Coffee Hour Hosts & Flowers for the Sanctuary



Have you signed up to host Coffee Hour yet? Coffee, tea, lemonade, and paper goods are supplied. Cookies are optional.

Sign up on the sheet on the Bulletin Board or call the church office to pick your date.

Would you like to commemorate a loved one or special event in your life? Garden and wild flowers are always welcome! If you are uncomfortable creating the arrangement, call the office and we can make the arrangement for you.



Coffee Hour

Feb 1 Annual Mtg & Lunch
 Feb 8 _____
 Feb 15 _____
 Feb 22 _____

Flowers

Feb 1 _____
 Feb 8 _____
 Feb 15 _____
 Feb 22 Tom Pandick

Sign-up sheets are on the bulletin board by the main entrance.



Amanda Green	2/2	Jack Tessier	2/13
Michele Jetter	2/2	Jeff Ackerly	2/14
Michael Griswold	2/2	Gideon Frisbee	2/14
Liz Frisbee	2/3	Lori Teitelbaum	2/22
Fred Onasch	2/8	Pam Guy	2/23
Dawn Jensen	2/10	Patrick Sturdevant	2/23
Chris Savage	2/12		

Word and Worship

February 2026

Sunday, February 1

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Micah 6:1-8; Psalm 15;
1 Corinthians 1:18-31;
Matthew 4:12-23

Sunday, February 8

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 58:1-12; Psalm 112:1-10;
1 Corinthians 2:1-16;
Matthew 5:13-20

Sunday, February 15

Transfiguration Sunday

Exodus 24:12-18; Psalm 2;
2 Peter 1:16-21; Matthew 17:1-9

Ash Wednesday

Joel 2:1-2, 12 -17; Psalm 152:1-17;
2 Corinthians 5:20-6:10;
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Sunday, February 22

First Sunday in Lent

Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7; Psalm 32;
Romans 5:12-19; Matthew 4:1-11

Lectors

February 2 - *Liz Frisbee*
February 9 - *Fred Onash*
February 16 - *Ann Peet*
February 23 - *Evelyn Jacksto*

Acolytes

February 2 - *Cameron Mills*
February 9 - *Wyatt Frisbee*
February 16 - *Madison Vredenburgh*
February 23 - *Olivia Kruppo*

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