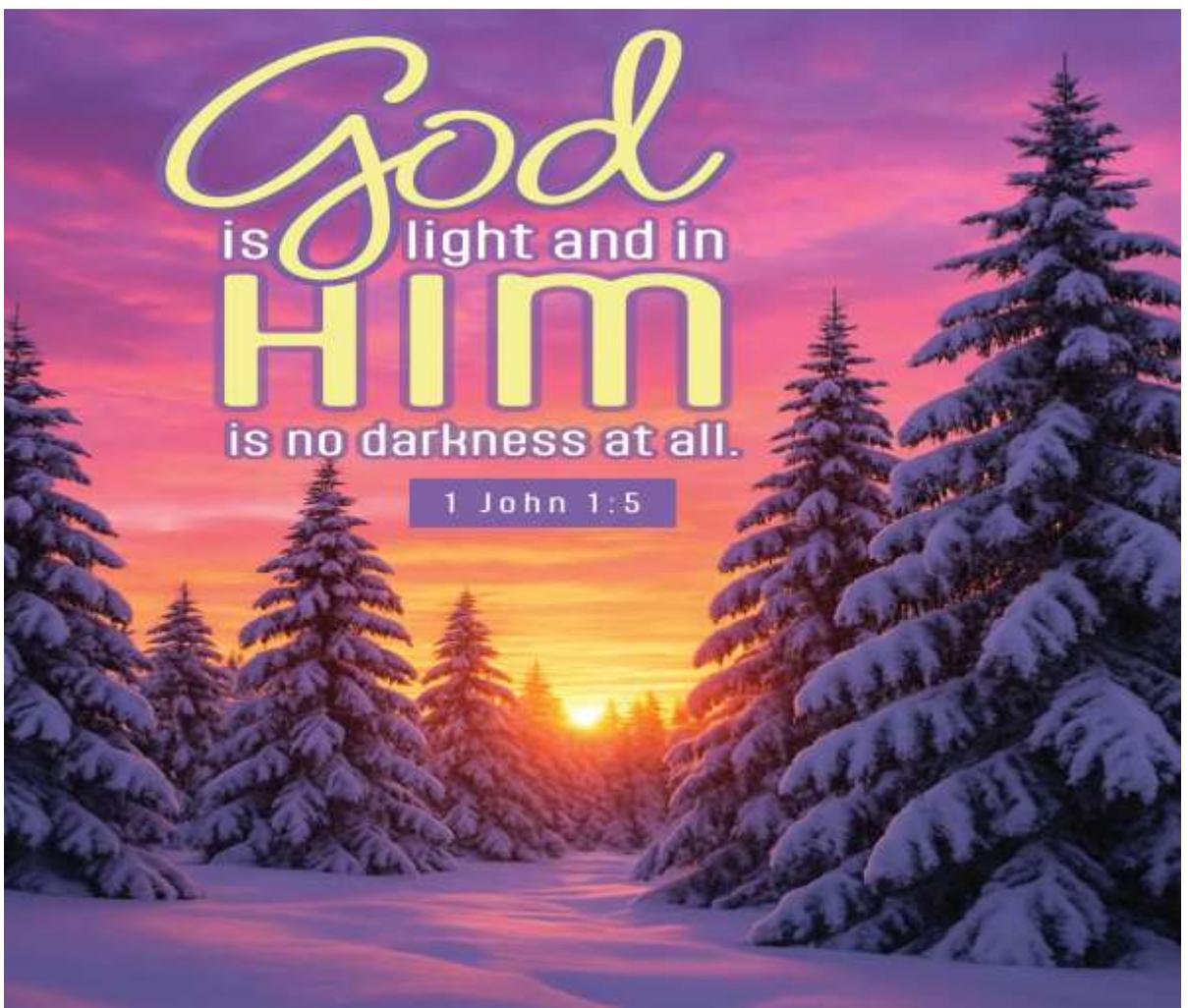


The Word



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January 2026

Pastor's Message

A Renewed Covenant with God

As we step into this new year, let us pause to thank God for His unfailing love and mercy that carried us through the past seasons. Each sunrise ahead is a fresh page in the story He is writing in our lives—a tale of grace, hope, and transformation. January invites us to reflect, to give thanks, and to look forward with holy expectation to what God will yet do among us.

The beginning of a new year often brings resolutions—promises we make with good intentions, yet ones that can fade with time. John Wesley understood this human struggle well. Rather than placing our hope solely in resolutions rooted in our own strength, Wesley invited the Methodist people to renew their covenant with God. In 1755, he introduced the Covenant Renewal Service, calling believers to gather at the dawn of the new year to experience God's healing power and be renewed for faithful living. This practice reminds us that our hope does not rest in willpower alone, but in God's grace that always goes before us.

In the Wesleyan tradition, renewing our covenant is not a private transaction but a communal act. We gather as the Body of Christ to offer ourselves again—heart, soul, mind, and strength—to the God who has already claimed us in love. Through Jesus Christ, God makes a new covenant, promising new life, forgiveness, and freedom. Our response is gratitude expressed through faithful living, compassionate service, and joyful obedience. Trust in the Lord's plan and step into this year with courage and faith, knowing that God's mercy is never dependent on our deserving.

May this year be one where our faith deepens, our love overflows, and our service shines brighter than ever. Let us walk together in unity, lifting one another in prayer, and keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus, the Author and Perfecter of our faith. As we renew our covenant, may we also renew our commitment to worship, to fellowship, to justice, and to caring for God's creation.

May God's presence fill your heart with peace and joy. May you experience God's guidance and protection in every step you take. Trust in God's promises and walk boldly into the blessings He has prepared for you. May the love of Jesus Christ

surround you today and always, and may the New Year, 2026, bring spiritual growth, renewed faith, and countless blessings for you and for our church family.

Grace and peace, and wishing you a blessed New Year,

Premkumar Immanuel Clement

Highlights of December Parish Council

12/15/25 Parish Council meeting

Called to order by Carol Greene 6:54 PM

Present: Gideon Frisbee,, Pastor Prem,, Ruth V,, Stephanie,, Barb Jones,, Carol Greene,, Susan Frisbee, Joe Greenfield via Zoom

Excused: Eloise Henault

Absent: Fred Onasch

Devotions: none for tonight

Topic of the Month: No topic picked out. The date for the annual meeting has not yet been scheduled as we await to hear from the District Superintendent. Possible dates are January 18 or 25, 2026..

Approval of Meeting minutes November 17, 2025. Joe made a motion to approve with corrections, 2nd Susan, Motion carries unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: The November financial report was presented. Barb motion to approve, Ruth V 2nd, motion carries..

Trustee's Report: Met on 12/8. Completed parsonage walk through with SPR on 11/24. Need to re-test the parsonage for radon and remediate as necessary. Will need to do one last transfer from investments before the end of the year, depending on what Fran needs to make sure all end of year bills are paid.

Finance: We just met prior to Parish Council to finalize the budget. There are still 7 expected pledges outstanding. Gideon will send out a general email reminder to submit their pledges to support the budget. Fran reported that the fraudulent Chase credit card issue was resolved with the assistance of Delhi PD. One more

transfer from investments will be needed to make sure the books balance for the year. The draft budget was presented. A motion to approve the budget as submitted by Finance with expected changes as further pledges arrive. Final adjustments to the budget will be provided by the necessary posting date prior to our Annual Meeting. 2nd Ruth V. Motion carries unanimously.

SPR:-Carol commended Barb, Prem and the SPR for the thorough and excellent annual conference reports that were completed by the December 1st deadline. The SPR met on November 18th to work on the report and it was all completed on time. Discussed staff evaluation process, which will be done in the spring. They are working on the idea of establishing a nurture network for outreach to members for both joyful celebrations and in times of need and support.

Pastor's Report: Prem has been attending many meetings and events in the past month. Saturday 12/20 the Farms and Forests will be hosting a carol sing at our church at 2PM. Prem and family attended the Community Thanksgiving dinner at the firehall. His mentor meetings are now once per week. He has passed his test and interview at this point in his ordination process. He has been selected for the Board of Ordained Ministries on February 3rd and 4th in Boston. We need to have a Safe Sanctuary meeting in January or February for our church/congregation. Nominating committee met on December 11. Joe made a motion to get \$50 gift cards for the staff, 2nd by Ruth V. Motion Carried unanimously.

Communion: 12/7-35 served.

Please see full Pastors report attached.

Playschool: Eloise - no report- everything is going fine. January 12th is the next Playschool Board Meeting.

Mission: Food Pantry: - There were many Thanksgiving food baskets given out, and a successful food giveaway right before Thanksgiving. There will be 15 or so Christmas food baskets put together next week. There will be a gift card Christmas giveaway for the residents at the Senior Apartments.

Witness: Fred - No report

Other Business: Facility Use Forms - DSS Employee Holiday Luncheon 12/18
Individual Cooking Co-op - Monthly going forward. Originally approved via email:
Ackerly Family Christmas Celebration in McIntosh Hall.

Joe motions to approve all forms submitted, Barb 2nd, motion carries unanimously.

Next meeting of Parish Council will be January 19th, 2026..

Gideon moves to adjourn;, Carol seconds;, motion carries.

The meeting closed with prayer at 8:28 PM..

Respectfully submitted;

Gideon Frisbee

Pastor's Report Presented at the December 15, 2025, Council Meeting

Premkumar Immanuel Clement

1. On November 22nd, Rev. Karen Monk, the District Superintendent, organized a Zoom meeting with all the Catskill-Hudson District pastors to address the upcoming risk of ICE raids and discuss emergency procedures. I participated in this meeting.
2. I attended the Community Thanksgiving Service at the First Presbyterian Church on November 23rd, 2025.
3. I conducted the memorial service for the Helios Hospice Care on November 23rd at 2:00 PM
4. I took part in the Zoom meeting organized by the NYAC Immigration Group on the 26th of November 2025.
5. I took part in the community Thanksgiving dinner on the 27th of November 2025
6. This month, I attended the weekly meeting with my mentor, Rev. Thomas Getchell-Lasey.
7. I participated in casual café gatherings and Men's Breakfast meetings.
8. Attendance on 11/16/25 was 36 in person and 48 including online viewers; on 11/23/25, 39 in person and 53 including online viewers; on 11/30/25, 41 in person and 59 including online viewers; on 12/07/25, 43 in person (Holy Communion) and 56 including online viewers; and on 12/14/25, 38 in person and 53 including online viewers..
9. On December 2, 2025, I attended an interview with the District Committee on Ordained Ministry. This was a screening interview based on the documents I submitted for Provisional Membership in the UMC's New England Conference. I am pleased to share that I was selected in the initial screening phase and have been invited to

progress to the Board of Ordained Ministry review and interview on February 3 and 4,, 2026..

10. For my pastoral visit this month,I met with Mr. John Bramley on December 4.
11. I was unable to attend the Delhi Clergy Association Meeting on December 2nd because I had an interview with the District Committee on Ordained Ministry, which took place at the same time.
12. No Farms and Forests Cooperative Parish Committee meeting is scheduled for December.
13. As usual, the Kids' club activities are taking place with two kids.
14. The Nomination Committee was convened on December 11th,with all members present. The second meeting is scheduled for December 18th.
15. I attended the funeral of retired pastor Rev. John Capen at Rondout Valley UMC located at 25 Schoonmaker Lane, Stone Ridge, NY, on December 13th.
16. The Forms and Forest Cooperative Parish is hosting a Christmas Concert, which will be held on December 20th at the United Ministry of Delhi. Invitations have been sent to all pastors in Delhi, asking them to announce the event in their respective churches..

Respectfully submitted,

Premkumar Immanuel Clement

Annual Meeting, Sunday,February 1

Immediately Following Worship

Mark your calendars now and plan to attend the Annual Meeting! District Superintendent Karen Monk will be joining us. We need you to help make this meeting a valuable and meaningful gathering for discussion, discernment and decision-making!



Dish-to-Pass Lunch

As is our tradition, the Annual Meeting will be preceded by a Dish-to-Pass lunch in McIntosh Hall. Bring your favorite dish to share and table service and join us for fellowship before the meeting!

Play School - January 2026

As we wrapped up December 2025 the Play School kids had a lot of fun building gingerbread houses with their families, a special story time with Mrs K., the adventure and wonder of the gingerbread man story! Thank you to everyone who helped make that happen!

Thank you to everyone who has donated to Play School and made our school year extra special so far! We look forward to what the New Year will bring! We have some fundraiser events in the works for the spring along with some special events, guests, and activities planned for the class!

If you would like to make a donation to Play School you can place items in the Play School donation box outside of Pastor Prem's office, in the Play School church mailbox, cans and bottles in the can by the conference room, or stop by Play School and say hello! Just remember, if doing a monetary donation by check, please write Play School in the memo portion of your check. Thank you again!

Wishing you all a joyous New Year!

Respectfully submitted,

Pam

Pamela Savage,
Program Director
[Play School](#) | [United Ministry of Delhi](#)



"Run, run, run as fast as you can! You can't catch me, I'm the gingerbread man!" The class searches for the gingerbread man, following clues throughout the building.



Making gingerbread houses with family members.

Story time with Ruth Kazmierski.



Women's Open Circle

The Women's Open Circle will meet on Thursday, January 15th at 12 noon in the Harder Room. This is the third Thursday because the second Thursday falls so early in the month and so soon after the holiday rush. Bring lunch; dessert and beverages provided.

Christmas Adopt-A-Family

Once again, the generosity of our congregation was witnessed by the many gifts that appeared under the tree in the Harder Room. We were able to provide gifts and food for two families in our area. These families together included 7 children and their parents. In addition, the Food Pantry provided each family with a large box of staples which was supplemented by the purchase of the perishables needed for Christmas dinner. We certainly made Christmas a little brighter for these families. Thanks to everyone who helped make this happen.

Chelsea Frisbee

Carol Greene

O' Connor Foundation Support

As many of you are aware we were blessed in 2025 with receiving many grants from the O'Connor Foundation. These grants supported our music program, helped us sustain our mission of allowing use of building by many groups and supported the update our fire alarm system.

At the end of 2025 we received a pleasant surprise when the O'Connor Foundation offered us a \$8,665.00 grant for our Food Pantry. They have asked that the money be used to support and feed the community of Delhi. Many ideas are being discussed about ways we can continue our Food Pantry ministry with these new funds.

As a church and a community, we are thankful for their continued support and strive to be good stewards of this money.

Puzzle!

In the New Testament, followers of Christ are called by many names. Use the hints to fill in the blanks. Need help? Check an NIV Bible for the missing letters.

D _____ s
(Acts 6:7)



C _____ n P _____ e
(1 Peter 2:9)



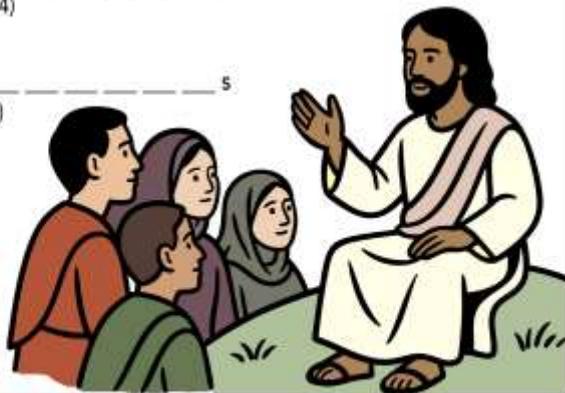
S _____ s of C _____ t
(1 Corinthians 4:1)

C _____ s
(Acts 11: 26)

B _____ s and S _____ s
(1 Thessalonians 4:9-10)

B _____ s
(Acts 5:14)

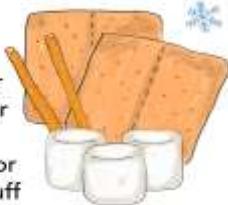
W _____ s
(Acts 1:8)



Celebrate the beauty of winter with these fun snowflake-inspired treats!

What you need:

- Graham cracker squares or sugar cookies
- White frosting or marshmallow fluff
- Pretzel sticks (snowflake arms)
- Shredded coconut or white sprinkles
- Mini marshmallows or candy pearls



What you do:

1. Frost each cracker or cookie.
2. Arrange pretzel sticks in a crisscross for the snowflake base.
3. Sprinkle with coconut or sprinkles for snow.
4. Add marshmallows or candy pearls to the ends for detail.

Lesson tie-in:

Remind kids that God made each of us unique—just like no two snowflakes are alike!
(Psalm 139:14, KJV)

Coloring Page



When they saw the

STAR, they

rejoiced

exceedingly with

GREAT
JOY.

Matthew 2:10, ESV



A Purposeful New Year



The man who goes into the new year without some priorities governing his life and without some principles guiding his behavior, is prey to the tempting, unimportant and destructive things in life.

The new year is an opportunity to sort out the useless tasks and plan for the important; to review the failures and resolve to be successful; to take an inventory of causes and pledge life to purpose and service. These being done, the new will truly be new, different and better.

— C. Neil Strait

What We Really Need

Twelve ministers were on a flight headed to a conference in Seattle when the plane hit a fierce storm. Trying to calm their nerves, they told the flight attendant, "Let the pilot know everything's fine — there are twelve ministers on board!"

A few minutes later, the flight attendant returned from the cockpit.

"Well?" one of the pastors asked with a grin. "What did the pilot say?"

She smiled and replied, "He said he was glad to have 12 ministers aboard, but he would rather have four good engines."

Christian Symbol

SHIP — The Christian church has long been symbolized by a ship. While the Old Testament tells of Noah's ark preserving righteous people during the flood, the New Testament recounts Jesus calming the storm that battered the disciples' fishing boat. St. Ambrose described the church as a ship with the cross as its mast, and others have compared salvation to being drawn out of the sea of death into the safety of the church (ship). Indeed, many large churches are constructed to represent a big boat, with the main worship space called the nave — Latin for ship.



Bible Quiz

Fill in the blank to complete this verse from 2 Corinthians:

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new _____.
The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.”



- A) Creation
- B) Beginning
- C) Season
- D) Covenant

Answer: A (See 2 Corinthians 5:17, ESV)

When All Else Fails, God Reigns

When we deliberate, God reigns;
When we decide wisely, God reigns;
When we decide foolishly, God reigns;
When we serve God in humble loyalty, God reigns;
When we serve God self-assertively, God reigns;
When we rebel and seek to withhold our service, God reigns
The Alpha and the Omega, which is, and which was and which is to come, the Almighty.



— William Temple
at the Lamberth Conference, 1930

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.

Coffee Hour

Jan 4 _____
 Jan 11 _____
 Jan 18 Jeff & Susan Ackerly
 Jan 25 _____



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.

Flowers

Jan 4 _____
 Jan 11 _____
 Jan 18 _____
 Jan 25 _____

Sign-up sheets are on the bulletin board outside the office.

JANUARY Birthdays

Duane Buddle	1/4	Landa Palmer	1/18
Don Haight	1/9	Evan Kruppo	1/18
Taso Pantilieris	1/11	Noah Kruppo	1/18
Bryce Burrows	1/16	Olivia Kruppo	1/18
Ryan Burrows	1/16	Cyndee Pattison	1/20
Emily Briggs	1/17	Glenn Reynolds	1/24

Word and Worship

January 2026

January 4

Epiphany Sunday
communion

Jeremiah 31:7-14; Psalm 147:12-20; Ephesians 1:3-14; John 1:1-18

January 11

Baptism of the Lord

Isaiah 42:1-9; Psalm 29; Acts 10:34-43; Matthew 3:13-17

January 18

Second Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 49:1-7; Psalm 40:1-11; 1 Corinthians 1:1-9; John 1:29-42

January 25

Third Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 9:1-4; Psalm 27:1, 4-9; 1 Corinthians 1:10-18; Matthew 4:12-23

Lectors

January 4 - Ruth Kazmierski

January 11 – Carol Greene

January 18 – Gideon Frisbee

January 25 – Edie Campbell

Acolytes

January 4 - Madison Vredenburg

January 11 – Wyatt Frisbee

January 18 – Olivia Kruppo

January 25 – Virginia Mills

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