



We are God's Community
Growing Love . . .
Serving Others

THE CHIMES

February 2026

Thoughts for the Journey:

Pentimento - the reappearance in a painting of the original drawn or painted element that was eventually painted over by the artist. It signifies a mark left by an earlier painting that shows the artist made changes, often due to the artist's regret or correction. The word originates from the Italian word, "pentirsi", meaning to repent.¹

One of the most important classes I took among my undergraduate courses was "Introduction to the Fine Arts". The instructor, an established local artist with many years of instruction and teaching behind her, did more than just introduce styles, genres and painters of various eras or artistic expression over the millennia. She challenged us to "see" beyond the dismissive statement of "that's interesting". What she did was to force us to connect with the emotion (or lack of) that a piece of art held for us. We toured paintings and sculptures virtually. We walked among halls that held painting masters, contemporary installations, even experienced performance art on the street. What I came away from this experience with still informs my living today. Unpacking form, technique, and motivation of each artist brought me into layers of relationship not just surface assumptions or judgements. My hope is this realization long ago continues to support my experiences with people, circumstances, and decisions until the end of my time in this world.

Recently, I re-read Robert Fulghum's book, "Words I Wish I Wrote: A Collection of Writing That Inspired My Ideas". Much like my experience with that fine arts class, Fulghum realizes that his own words have been informed by multiple writers, philosophers, sacred texts. I had an "aha" moment as I read the first short chapter, really an introduction to some of his most cherished readings included in the book. He reminded me of the term included at the top of the page that I learned so long ago in that undergrad class – *pentimento*. I knew the definition of the word but what I had forgotten was its origin. Repent. One can see in art of all forms the change of mind or course the artist realizes and then actively moves in a new direction, covering over the past but not erasing it. To become something more beautiful while understanding under the beauty are mistakes. But those mistakes do not define us. It is the new directions toward beauty that define us.

We are not to be afraid of discovering the faults in our behaviors, our thoughts, our words or actions. Granted, God is certainly the Master Creator who imbues us with power of free will. This offers us the power to create our own life art. Like every artist, once we step back and look at what we are creating, we see where the composition does not work. That gives us the choice of *pentimento* – correction, change. If we observe the work of the Master Creator in the masterpiece that is Jesus the Christ we must take time to recognize the emotions this relationship evokes. As we strive to make our own life art inspired by the work that has gone on before us, we are given the chance to re-create our lives as beautiful representations of this relationship. When we share our life art with others, they may see some of the past peeking through but if they step back to observe and connect with the emotions that you evoke in them, they have the opportunity to see the beauty of the whole picture.

(I told my professor that I couldn't draw a straight line! She said, "Laurie, if you could, that would be so boring.") Pastor Laurie

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**Calvary United
Methodist
Church**

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Middletown, RI 02842
Office Phone (401) 847-6181

Web page:
www.middletownmethodist.com
Facebook: Calvary UMC

Office Hours:
Monday - Friday
8:30 a.m. - 1:30 noon

Staff

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Worship Schedule

Sanctuary Worship
10:30 a.m.

**Children's Church for
children 3 years - 3rd grade
following Children's Time
in Worship.**

**Children in grades 4th-6th
2nd and 4th Sundays**

Our Mission:

We are called to
Produce disciples of Jesus Christ
for God's transformation
of the world;
Praise God through worship,
Provide for one another in
God's name,
Proclaim God's Good News,
and
Promote growth in the Spirit.



February Birthday

Wishes go to ...

- 2. Frank Freeland
- 6. Mary Day
- 18. Morgan Amaral
- 28. Daniel Russell

If you would like to add your name or a family member's name to our Birthday List, please contact the office at calvarylife@necoxmail.com.

February Altar Flowers

February 1
AVAILABLE

February 8
Kathy Bronson

February 15
Meg & Kyle Barrett

February 22
No Flowers during Lent



We Need Your Empty Ink Cartridges!!

We turn your empty ink cartridges in to Staples each month for savings on office supplies! There is an orange Collection bin outside the office. Thank you for helping us save!



The Chimes



JOIN US FOR Worship!

We invite you to join us for **Worship on Sunday Mornings** in the Sanctuary at **10:30 a.m.**
If you are unable to attend in person, please join us on Zoom. The link is:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2821697807?pwd=aldEN09mTFZ4VIN5O3lWQl90cmRGQT09>



Mission News



Community Meal Update

Calvary hosted the Community Meal on Thursday, January 15th. We served 89 meals of beef stew, salad, rolls, fruit, applesauce, water and dessert to our guests. Along with their meal, they were also offered a variety of toiletries, winter hats & gloves, and socks. Thank you to all who volunteered to help with the meal. We will serve the Community Meal again on Thursday, February 19th. If you would like information or would like to help with the Community Meal, please contact Chuck Beltz, Mission Chair.



During these cold months, we will continue to collect **New Hats & Gloves** to be distributed at the Community Meal. Check out the Winter Clearance in the stores you frequent. This is a great time to stock up on those winter items which will help keep our neighbors warm. The biggest need is always for **men's hats and gloves** but all donations are appreciated. Warm socks can also be used. Donations may be left in the container outside of Crocker Hall. Thank you!



The Season of Lent begins on Wednesday, February 18th

We will observe Ash Wednesday and the beginning of the Lenten Season with a combined Service of Worship with St. Paul's UMC and Portsmouth UMC at **St. Paul's UMC, 12 Marlborough St., Newport**

Service will begin at 6:00 p.m.

2026 Altar Flower Dates

If you would like to sign up for a 2026 Altar Flower date, the Sign Up Sheets are located on the bulletin board outside of Crocker Hall. The cost is \$45.00. If you have any ??, please contact Betty at calvarylife@necoxmail.com or (401) 847-6181.



Children's Church

All children ages 3 years through 3rd grade are invited to join us for Children's Church in Dunfey Hall following the Children's Time in Worship.



The children will enjoy a small snack *(usually cookies & water), hear a Bible story (or other Christian value story), maybe play a game or do an activity page. Children should be picked up immediately following the end of the Worship Service.

*Please indicate on the Sign In sheet if your child has any allergies.

The Sign In sheet is located on the table at the back of the Sanctuary. Please sign your child(ren) in as you enter for worship. You will be asked to sign them out when you pick them up. Any ??? Talk to Betty or Ashley!



"Bible 101" for 4th-6th graders meets on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month. Our older Elementary/young Middle School students are

welcome to join us following the Children's Time in Worship. On these weeks, we offer our tweens an opportunity to learn and discover "What's in the Bible?" Please encourage your child to bring their own Bible with them each week to church, to use it on the weeks they stay in church and to use it for our lessons and activities in class as well.



We will celebrate **Scouting Sunday** on **Sunday, February 8th**. All **Scouts (Boys & Girls)** are encouraged to wear their uniforms to church.

Candy Cane Bazaar Re-Cap Meeting

Sunday, February 8th following Worship

Join us as we talk about the 2025 Bazaar and look ahead to 2026!

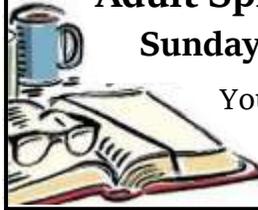
Everyone Welcome!!



Adult Spiritual Conversation

Sunday Mornings 9:00 a.m.

You are invited to join us Sunday morning in Crocker Hall for "Adult Sunday School".



"Feed A Friend" Food Donations NEEDED!

Many of our neighbors need help to feed their families not just at the holidays, BUT all year long!! Our Feed A Friend program is a year-round mission. Please help us help those in need by picking up a few extra food items at the grocery store each week and dropping them off at church. "Family-friendly" foods and complete dinner kits, as well as lunch & breakfast items and boxed milk are always needed.



Prayers in Pajamas . . . or Dressed for the Day



Thursdays at 7:00 a.m. on Zoom - 15 minutes of *Thoughts for the Day* and a prayer to energize our lives and weave hope into the fabric of the world.

Every Thursday, wherever you might be - rising from bed, preparing for the day, eating breakfast, driving to work - let us come together for various thoughts, scripture and prayer to begin the day. My prayer is that out of this time together, we might be inspired in new and creative ways to meet the challenges of daily life and live into our faith more genuinely.

The schedule is:

Rise Up & Pray

- 7:00 Greeting
- 7:02 Prayer Concerns
- 7:07 Thought for the Day
- 7:12 Prayer
- 7:15 Blessing & Goodbye



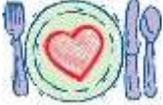
Any questions, contact me at 315.269.3724.

Praying we make a difference for each other,
Pastor Laurie

Immediate Openings for Liturgists, Greeters & Coffee Hour Hosts A sign up sheet is located on the table outside of Crocker Hall.



February 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 	3	4	5	6	7
8  Scouting Sunday (All Scouts) Candy Cane Recap Mtg. after worship 	9	10	11	12	13	14 
15	16 Office Closed  Happy Presidents Day	17	18 Lent Begins Ash Wednesday  6:00 p.m. Service St. Paul's UMC	19 Community Meal 5:00 p.m. 	20	21
22 First SUNDAY IN LENT 	23	24 CHIMES Deadline Newsletter 	25 Trustees/ Finance 6:00 p.m. Council 6:15 p.m..	26	27	28 Cooperative Parishes Gathering @PUMC 10:00 a.m. - 12 noon
March 1	2	3	4	5	6	7  Set your clocks ahead one hour before you go to bed!
8	<p align="center">Sunday Morning Worship Sanctuary 10:30 a.m. Adult Spiritual Conversation meets at 9:00 a.m. "ish" in Crocker Hall Children's Church for children 3 - 3rd grade every Sunday following Children's Message 4th - 6th graders—2nd & 4th Sundays Office Hours Monday - Friday 8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.</p>					