



We are God's Community

*Growing Love . . .
Serving Others*

THE CHIMES

December 2025

Thoughts for the Journey:



*From our families to yours,
blessings, joy, peace and love.*

Buon Natale, Pastor Laurie

The Spirit of Christmas

It's much more than a gift to lift the spirit from the soul
A special part that hits the mark that makes the heart feel whole
Around the tree a family of feast and festive cheer
To raise a glass of moments past to grasp a brand new year
A wondrous face a child's embrace a space of cozy feel
In words of prayer to fill the air to share of what is real
A cherished dove from up above enough to hold us strong
A smile a laugh a photograph a craft of comfort song
To have that touch and say as such how much I love you so
All wrapped inside with bow in tied of pride and mistletoe
And in each way this Christmas Day that lay this child be
The silent star shines where you are as far the eye can see
With gift of hope that we must cope the rope we fear to tread
With every peace we must release and cease the blood we shed
To spread in joy each girl and boy employ of what we got
That to believe if to achieve we must receive in thought
As to in still of strength and will to fill each guiding light
A fire keep to nestle deep to sleep each silent night
To bring us here as close and dear sincere right to the bone
In all his grace of Gods embrace a place you welcome home...



Gedge, Martin. *The spirit of Christmas*. Invisible Poets. December 9, 2023 Accessed November 24, 2025. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1178576906113839/posts/1329042861067242/>.



Calvary United Methodist Church

200 Turner Road
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

Rev. Laurie Percival Pauley
Pastor
calvarypastor@necoxmail.com
Cell # (315) 269-3724

Betty Serls
Coordinator
Mission and Family Life
calvarylife@necoxmail.com

Eric Mazonson
Music Director
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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.



December Birthday

Wishes go to ...

4. Barry Spaulding
6. Russ Myslewicz
12. Katie Beltz
18. Talia Spaulding
22. Carolyn Spaulding
27. Darlene Crow
30. Ruth Emerson

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.

December Altar Flowers

December 7
Chuck Beltz & Holly Johnson

December 14
Kathy Bronson

December 21 and 28
Poinsettias



2026 Altar Flowers

If you would like to sign up for altar flowers in 2026, the Flower Sign Up Sheets are located on the bulletin board outside of Crocker Hall. The cost is \$45.00. If you have ??, contact Betty.



SUNDAY MORNING Worship

We invite you to join us for **Worship on Sunday Mornings** in the Sanctuary beginning 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=aldEN09mTFZ4VIN5Q3lWQI90cmRGOT09>

Poinsettias and Blankets

We will once again adorn our altar with poinsettia plants this Christmas season, using the beautiful artificial plants which were given to us.

Our poinsettias will still be placed on the altar in memory or honor of your loved ones so please, if you wish, add your name and dedication line to the sign up sheet in the hallway.

You are welcome to provide your own live plant if you wish and take it home with you anytime after the Christmas Eve Service.

We will continue to collect monies for the CWS Blanket Program. Blankets are \$10.00. To find out more about this program, go to cwsglobal.org/blankets. Checks can be placed in the offering plate or you may give online. Please designate "CWS Blankets" on your donation.

A sign up sheet will be available Sundays through December 14th.



Prayers in Pajamas . . . or Dressed for the Day

Join me Thursdays at 6:45 or 7:00 a.m. on Zoom for 15 minutes of *Thoughts for the Day* and a prayer to energize our lives! Any questions, contact me at 315.269.3724. - Pastor Laurie



"Come to the Stable" An Outdoor Nativity Event for the children, big & small!

Come hear the Christmas Story,
Sing some favorite Carols, Enjoy Hot Cocoa & Cookies

Saturday, December 20, 2025

4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Volunteers are NEEDED to help with set-up, portray the Nativity figures, serve hot cocoa & cookies, & clean-up!

Let us know how you can help!

calvarylife@necoxmail.com or (401) 847-6181

We Need Your Empty Ink Cartridges!!

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



Mission News



With the arrival of cold weather, many of our Community Meal guests are in need of some winter attire. Throughout the winter months, we will be collecting **New Hats & Gloves** to be distributed at the Community Meal. The biggest need is always for **men's hats & gloves** but all donations are appreciated.

Donations may be left in the container outside of Crocker Hall. Thank you!



Community Meal Update

Calvary hosted the Community Meal on Thursday, November 20th. We served 61 meals of beef stew, rolls, salad, fruit, applesauce, pudding, water and cookies to our guests. Along with their meal, they were also offered a variety of toiletries. Thank you to everyone who helped with last month's meal. **We will serve the Community Meal again on Thursday, December 18th.** For more information or to volunteer, please contact Chuck Beltz, Mission Chair.



Thanks to your generosity, we collected and donated 591 non-perishable food items to the Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center and the Salvation Army Food Pantries. Thank you for giving!

** Just a reminder: Our Feed A Friend Program is year round. Please consider making donations of non-perishable food items throughout the year. Just bring your gifts to church and leave them outside the office. We will deliver them!

The Angel Tree is Up! ***Thank you to everyone who already took an angel!***

Gifts are due back to Calvary no later than **Sunday, December 7th**. Gifts **should NOT be wrapped**. **Just include the paper angel with the gift.**



If you have a **gift receipt**, please include that also.

If you are unable to shop, please consider making a **cash donation**. We have volunteers who are able and willing to shop. Donations can be made online, dropped off or mailed to the church. Please designate "Angel Tree" on your donation.

Any questions, please contact Betty at 847-6181 or calvarylife@necoxmail.com or message Ashley through face book. Thank you!



Christmas Eve Service

Carols, Communion & Candles

Wednesday, December 24th
7:30 p.m.



Community Caroling

Sunday December 14, 2025 4:00-7:00pm
Common Fence Point
Arts, Wellness & Community Center
933 Anthony Road Portsmouth, RI

4:00pm: Gathering Together at the Center
Caroling Through the Neighborhood

5:00pm: Return to the Center for
Cookies and Hot Cocoa










Everyone is Welcome!!!
All ages, All voices



Liturgists, Greeters & Coffee Hour Hosts NEEDED!
Sign up sheet is located on the table outside of Crocker Hall.



December 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30  First Sunday of Advent	1	2	3	4	5	6 Angel Tree Gifts are due back tomorrow! 
7  Second Sunday of Advent	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 Community Caroling 4-7 p.m.  Third Sunday of Advent	15	16	17	18 Community Meal 5:00 p.m. 	19 CHIMES Deadline 	20 Pageant Rehearsal 10:00 a.m. Come to the Stable 4:00-5:00 p.m.
21 Pageant 10:30 a.m.  Fourth Sunday of Advent	22	23	24  Christmas Eve Service 7:30 p.m.	25 Office Closed 	26 Office Closed	27
28 Pajama Sunday 	29	30	31	Jan. 1 Office Closed 	2 Office Closed	3
4 Epiphany Sunday 	5 Office Closed	 Sunday Morning Worship Sanctuary 10:30 a.m. Adult Spiritual Conversation Sunday Mornings 9:00 a.m. Christmas Pageant Rehearsal for ALL children and youth during Children's Church Time Office Hours Monday - Friday 8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.				