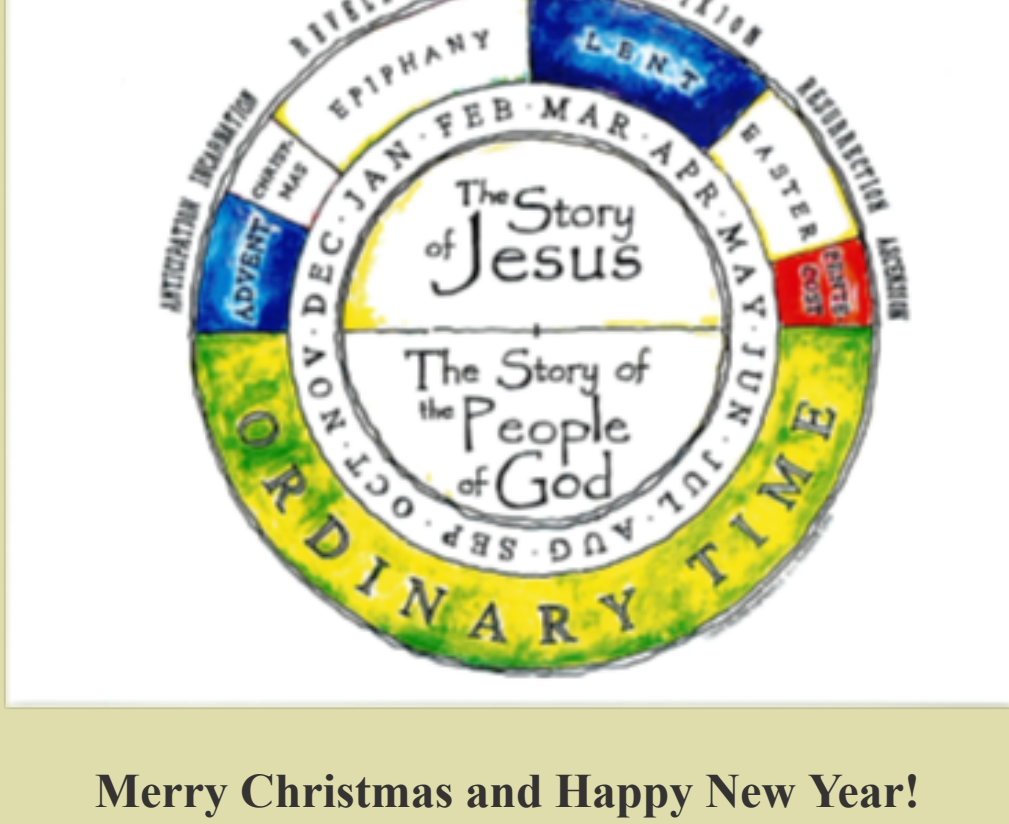




## January 2025 Newsletter



### Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

According to the church liturgical calendar (depicted above), the new Church Year C began in Advent, and moves into the Christmas season of Incarnation which began December 25 and runs through January 6 when we begin the Season of Epiphany. We will spend the time of Epiphany exploring the Revelation of Jesus Christ as we open our eyes to the stories of Jesus and who He is in the world. We look forward as a congregation to ordain and install our new class of ruling elders on Sunday, January 12 which is the Baptism of the Lord. This is an appropriate time to celebrate how our new leaders are living into their baptismal vows in taking on particular roles of service at Little Chapel.

After the Season of Epiphany, March 5 is Ash Wednesday when we enter the Season of Lent, which is an introspective period of 40 days as we prepare for Holy Week (Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday) leading up to the Day of Resurrection on April 21. The Season of Easter runs for 50 days until Pentecost on June 8, when we celebrate the birth of the Church and move from the Story of Jesus into the Story of God's People (the Season of Pentecost also known as Ordinary Time). We hope you can join us for worship as we celebrate the seasons and high holy days together!



### Staff Love Offering

The church staff would like to express our deepest appreciation and heartfelt thank you for the Christmas Love Offering and for the many other wonderful acts of kindness you have shown us throughout this Christmas season. You have certainly made each of us feel special through your cards, notes, letters, and gifts. You are such an amazing congregation, and it is such a blessing to serve as your staff!

### Staff Update

Our former church sexton/custodian, Dan Holt, resigned on December 29, 2024. We appreciate Dan's faithful service over the past two decades on staff as he was a strong and steady presence around the building, and we wish him well in his new endeavors. The Personnel & Planning and Property Committees will be working together to discern next steps regarding custodial work, furniture moving, and landscaping maintenance in the future. We appreciate your patience and help as we adjust in the new year!



Thank you to Janice Willetts and all who helped with Christmas Day Meals on Wheels!



### Congregational Care in the New Year

by Betty Woodard

Elder elects have been involved in weekly training and orientation sessions since early November and will assume our new roles mid-January. This training has been carefully curated by Caroline and others, and the resources provided have been many. We have been introduced to the *Book of Order*, the *Book of Confessions*, the organizational structure of the Presbyterian Church (USA), as well as a more in-depth look into the work of Little Chapel on the Boardwalk. We are excited to engage with each of you in a way that will be personally meaningful.

As I'm learning, the opportunities to care for one another are numerous and varied. As we evaluate what we are already doing well, we will also be looking for gaps that we need to fill. What opportunities are we missing? WHO are we missing? How can we best meet the diverse needs of our members and how might we organize that?

The way we have cared for one another at Little Chapel has been profound and has produced a ripple effect far beyond our walls. I hope you will join us in expanding those blessings as we move into the New Year. All are welcome to join our **Congregational Care Committee** at our upcoming meeting on **Thursday, January 16 at 11am**. We can't wait to welcome you!

### SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

Thanks to your generosity, eighty Christmas stockings were prepared for children served by the Salvation Army.

Newly-elected elders were our guests at the December session meeting who were examined and approved for leadership. They will be ordained and installed on January 12.

It is possible that we will end the year in a deficit situation, since the number and amount pledges are less than needed to cover our expenses. However, December is usually a generous month with offerings.

Rev. Jenkins continued to teach the elders about our ordination vows, particularly about caring for our congregation.

Updates to the Wedding and Funeral policies were approved, with some additional fees for non-members.

Jordan Davis, incoming Communications & Marketing Moderator, will be leading the search for solutions for those members who have difficulty hearing during worship services.

Membership rolls are being examined and will be updated. If you know someone who has been away for an extended time and who wishes to remain a member, please ask them to contact Lynn McIver or Delores Dyer.

Christian Education is already planning for VBS, and continues to refine Sunday School and Nursery services.

Let there be light! LED lights have been installed in many of the areas of our building to provide brighter, cooler, and more efficient and cost-effective light.



### The next best thing to being here is.....

Throughout the year there are Sundays when we are traveling, hosting family and friends, perhaps not feeling well, or recovering from an illness. Anytime you are unable to join us in person for Sunday worship, please remember you can live-stream the 10:30 service on your TV, computer, tablet, or phone. Also remember, if it's not possible to view the Sunday service at 10:30 am wherever you are, since it's recorded for playback, you can watch it at anytime - and as many times as you like!!

Little Chapel on the Boardwalk has its own YouTube channel, and if you are a subscriber, you can enable a setting to notify you before the service begins each Sunday. Access to our channel can be made through our website at:

<https://littlechapel.org/>  
Click on "Watch" at the top of the screen

OR

you can connect from YouTube at:  
<https://www.youtube.com/@littlechapelontheboardwalk4904/featured>

Bookmark either or both of these addresses once, and joining after that is fast and easy. Stay connected virtually and spiritually when you can't participate on Sundays in person. If you have questions, speak with either Robert McIver or Gary Kohunsky.



### January Birthdays

5 Elizabeth Dinko  
6 Mike Hamby, Sr.  
6 Kevin King

7 Harry Peterson, III

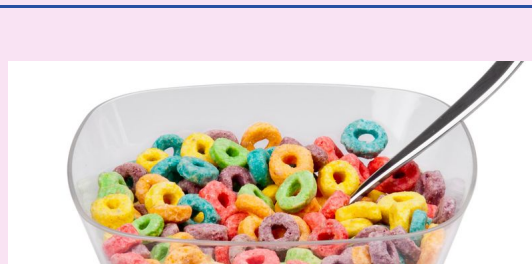
8 Zoe Laakmann  
9 Martha Anne Camden  
12 Helen Brumbaugh  
18 Patty Rogers  
19 Karl Allen  
19 Reuben Allen, III  
23 Mary Jo Kohunsky  
23 Megan MacDaniel  
27 Ross Bulger  
27 Tonia Hines  
27 Noah Rogers  
28 Riley Shogi  
28 Abe Walston  
28 Joan Welsh  
31 Phyllis Warren



### Breakfast Is Back!

Sunday January 26, 2025

We hope you can join us for our next church breakfast on Sunday, January 26, 2025. The Food and Fellowship Committee sponsors breakfast on the 4th Sunday of each month.



### Food of the Month

The Mission Committee will be collecting Cereal during the month of January for the Salvation Army.



I want to extend my sincere thanks to Little Chapel on the Boardwalk Presbyterian for offering me the Traditional Music Director position which started on November 25, 2024. With only one week of preparation, I particularly want to thank both the Chancel and Handbell Choirs for putting together such joyous Advent and Christmas music during the month of December. January of any year is always a time of reflection on how we will engage in quality, meaningful, and rewarding activities! I invite you to consider the words of St. Paul to the Ephesians: *Encourage each other with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your hearts to the Lord*—Ephesians 5:19. We read his words again on this same subject in his letter to the Colossians: *Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God*—Colossians 3:16

If you've ever thought about contributing to our music ministry, we have openings in both our Chancel and Handbell choirs. The ability to read music is not a prerequisite, so we welcome anyone wishing to "sing and make music in your hearts to the Lord". Our rehearsal schedule is:

Chancel Choir—Sunday mornings from 9am-10:15am  
Handbell Choir—Thursday mornings from 10am-11am

Anyone interested in sharing in our music ministry can catch me on a Sunday morning, call me at the church—910-256-2819, or send me an email: [tradmusic@littlechapel.org](mailto:tradmusic@littlechapel.org)

On another note, I'd like to introduce our Choral Scholars who will start singing with the Chancel Choir in January:

Victoria Gibson, soprano, is from Jacksonville, NC and just graduated this past December as a Theatre Performance Major with a minor in Musical Theatre. She sang in the Wilmington Pops Orchestra's July 4<sup>th</sup> concert, numerous UNCW Music Department Honors Recitals, several musical theatre productions at Thalian Hall, and the leading soprano role in UNCW's recent production of *Head Over Heels*.

Marissa Hartz, alto, will be joining our Chancel choir every Sunday after she directs the music at our Arise service. I worked with Marissa at UNCW during her Freshman and Sophomore years as her vocal coach. Not only is she gifted with contemporary Christian songs, but she has a lovely classically trained voice, and is looking forward to singing in a choral setting once more.

Henry Clickner, bass, is a Freshman at UNCW with an undeclared major. He sings in the collegiate choirs at UNCW, and was the leading bass in the chorus selections for UNCW's *Head Over Heels* musical in November.

Evan Hamula, tenor, is a sophomore pursuing a double major in the Theatre Performance and Film Studies. He held a leading role in UNCW's *Head Over Heels*, and sang in several Thalian Hall musicals. Evan loves to sing and is honored to be joining our Chancel choir as a choral scholar.

The Scriptures encourage us to sing "psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God". Colossians 3:16.

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

To have the word of Christ dwell in your hearts means to invest in the rich beauty of the Psalter.

Ephesians 5:19-Encourage each other with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your hearts to the Lord. Always give thanks to God the Father for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

When you meet together, sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, as you praise the Lord with all your heart.

-Dr. Betsy Curtis

[To visit our Website Click HERE](#)