

## WEEKLY NEWS - January 14th, 2026



***Please keep the following people in your prayers***

**Congregation & Community:** Sheila Babcock (Pet Pantry patron), Terri Bickford, David and Michelle Bickford, Candy Burgess, Carol Davis, Jean and Butch Goff, Sandra and Vince Golonka, Blanche Mays, The Moon Family, Steve Quentel, Lori Martin and Kaitlin Quentel, Holly and Charles Slonina, Susanellen Stearns, Nancy White

\*Our thoughts and prayers are with Sandra and Vince Golonka, and the rest of the family, on the passing of Reverend Nancy White.

**Wider World:** People recovering from disasters in Texas, No. Carolina, So. California, and elsewhere; Black Mountain Orphanage; Peace in Ukraine, Gaza, and elsewhere.

### Church Council News

We are seeking nominations for our various committees to be confirmed at our annual Congregational meeting on January 25, 2026. If you are interested in participating or changing to another committee, please reach out to any member of the Church Council or a committee chairperson. It is important to the health of our church to have diverse experience on all the different committees. We look forward to hearing from as many people as possible.

### From the Trustees

The Trustees held our regular meeting on Tuesday, January 13. We reviewed the financial report and voted to recommend that the 2025 surplus be rolled over into the 2026 budget, and that the proposed budget be submitted to the congregation at Annual Meeting for approval.

We also discussed the fee schedule for building rentals, which had not been reviewed in several years, and voted to recommend increases in rental fees to reflect the increased building operation costs. These recommendations will be forwarded to Council for discussion and final approval.

We reviewed the Standard Operating Procedure for the Trustees' responsibilities and will not request any changes at Annual Meeting.

The shed construction project is moving along nicely, and work will continue as weather permits.

## January Meetings

Council - Thursday, January 15th at 6:30 pm.

Choir - Rehearsal on Wednesdays at 6:30pm and on Sundays from 8:30-9:00am in the sanctuary.

Discipleship - Thursdays at 1pm in the Gathering Space

Pet Pantry is open on the second Saturday of each month from 9:00-10:00 a.m.

Men's Club meets on the third Saturday of the month at 7:30 a.m. at Toddy Brook.

Tuesday Gals meet at 10 am in the Fellowship Hall. Hall.

## New Computer for the Office

### New Computer for the Office

The church is seeking support to purchase a new computer for the office. The current system is no longer adequate or securely supported. The cost of a new computer and Windows 11 software is approximately \$600. Any amount given toward this need would be greatly appreciated. If you feel called to support this need, we invite you to contribute as you are able. Thank you for your continued generosity and support of our church.

Your Trustees

Office Hours  
Monday - Thursday  
8:00-12:00 pm

The Church will be closed on Monday, January 19<sup>th</sup> in observance of Martin Luther King Day.

### Rentals / Usage Fellowship Hall

Saturday, February 7<sup>th</sup> -1-4pm  
Marcia Smith Fuller Memorial Gathering

The Girl Scouts will begin using the Community Room every other Wednesday from 5:45-6:30pm starting on January 14th.

## From the Desk of Pastor Day

### Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

January 18–25 is the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. The Octave (8 days) begins on the Feast of the Confession of Peter (Matthew 16:13-20) and ends on the Feast of the Conversion of Paul (Acts 9:1-19). Thus, linking the two “founders” of the Church.

The Week was first celebrated by the Graymoor Franciscan Friars in 1908. Today it is coordinated by the Commission on Faith & Order of the World Council of Churches. It is observed by Christians around the world and across denominational and theological traditions.

This year's theme — One Body—One Spirit—One Hope — is drawn from Ephesians 4:1-6.

“I, therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace: there is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.”

On Sunday I distributed the daily prayer guides for the week. If you did not get one, I will have some available this week, too. Or you can access the material online at Daily Scripture and Prayer Guide English - Graymoor Ecumenical & Interreligious Institute.

In these times of deep divisions between nations and within our own country it is more important than ever to seek and pray for unity. It is also a good preparation for our congregational Annual Meeting on January 25th. I hope you'll join me and millions of our sisters & brothers in daily prayer.

Grace & peace,

Pastor Paul

## Annual Meeting Notice

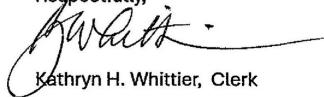
To the Members and Officers of the First Congregational Church, UCC:

The 220<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the First Congregational Church, UCC, will be held on Sunday, January 25, 2026, immediately following the morning worship.

The purpose of the meeting will be to act upon the following:

1. Annual roll call.
2. To discuss and vote on the Annual Report of the church.
3. To discuss and vote on the report of nominations.
4. To discuss and vote on the financial report.
5. To discuss and vote on the 2026 budget for the church.
6. To transact any other business that may legally come before this meeting.

Respectfully,



Kathryn H. Whittier, Clerk



### What is Shrove Tuesday?

Shrove Tuesday is observed by many Christians on the day before Ash Wednesday, which begins the Lenten season leading up to Easter. The expression "Shrove Tuesday" comes from the word shrive, meaning absolution following confession. Christians in many denominations and communities visit their church on *Shrove Tuesday* to confess their sins and clean their soul, thus being *shriven* (absolved) before the start of Lent. Shrove Tuesday is the last day of the Carnival or Shrovetide season, in which people indulge in richer, fatty foods before the fasting traditionally observed during Lent. Churches also ring bells to remind people to repent their sins and burn the palms from the previous year's Palm Sunday, to make the ashes Ash Wednesday services the next day.

## ~ January 2026 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>FH-Fellowship Hall</b>	<b>CR-Community Room</b>			<b>1</b> New Year's Day Church Closed	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 1p Kathy W. Birthday-FH
<b>4</b> 8:30a Choir Rehearsal 9:30a Worship 11a Diaconate Meeting	<b>5</b> 5p 4H-Swiners Potluck in FH	<b>6</b> 10a Tuesday Gals (FH) 6p Epiphany Rehearsal (FH) 6p Paley's Men's Group	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 9a Pet Place Pantry 11:30a Epiphany Rehearsal (FH) 2p Epiphany Concert (FH)
<b>11</b> 8:30a Choir Rehearsal 9:30a Worship	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 10a Tuesday Gals (FH) 6p Paley's Men's Group 6p Trustees	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 5:45p Girl Scouts -CR 6:30p Choir Rehearsal 7p AA	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 7:30a Men's Club Breakfast (Toddy Brook) 1p Epiphany Concert Snow Date if needed
<b>18</b> 8:30a Choir Rehearsal 9:30a Worship	<b>19</b> Martin Luther King Day Church Closed	<b>20</b> 10a Tuesday Gals (FH) 6p Paley's Men's Group	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 6:30p Choir Rehearsal 7p AA	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> 8:30a Choir Rehearsal 9:30a Worship Annual Meeting	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 10a Tuesday Gals (FH) 6p Paley's Men's Group	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 5:45p-Girl Scouts-CR 6:30p Choir Rehearsal 7p AA	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>