

The Carillon

Nichols UMC

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The Grace of Giving – by Pastor David Piscatelli

Genesis 1:27-28 So God created human beings in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. ²⁸And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth." Matthew 2:1-3 & 10-11 - Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, ² saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." ... ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. ¹¹ And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.

From the very beginning of time giving has been a part of the work of God. God gives the world boundaries for water and land as well as day and night. God gives us birds, fish, plants, and animals. Then God gives us life, creating human beings: men and women in the very image of God. Our genetics, personalities, and talents are all part of what makes each one of us a child of God. Right after Jesus is born, the wise men came to give gifts to Jesus. They took the long journey to see God's greatest gift – Jesus, the Savior of the World, lying in a manger. They followed the star and fell down to worship Him with their adoration, their actions, and their treasures. Giving is part of the nature of a God who is loving, generous, and kind. Giving is also part of the nature of who God created us to be. Moreover, God invites us to actively participate in His work in the world. Adam and Eve were told to be fruitful and multiply as they live as stewards over God's creation. The wise men gave an act of worship out of the resources that God had provided them. When God gives us the *Grace of Giving* it is invited to be shared.

January is when our stewardship program takes place at Nichols UMC and our theme this year is *The Grace of Giving*. Everything that we have and everything that we are comes from a generous God who loves to give. God gives to us so that others may come to feel God's blessings through the words we speak and the way we live. God has provided each one of us with personalities, resources, and the DNA to do the work that God has called us to do. Whether our resources are abundant or very meager, God invites us to consider how what we have can be used in His Kingdom for ministry. While our participation might vary, the *Grace of Giving* is always part of who we are called to be.

As the calendar turns over and another year begins, there are new challenges and opportunities ahead. Ministry is constantly moving toward the needs that are presented. Thankfully, the *Grace of Giving* continues to be a part of the world around us. God is giving us this time and space to do the work that He wants us to do as an active and thriving congregation. We are not alone in this work; God is with us and has given us each other to share the stewardship responsibilities. God has provided all that we need; His gifts are everywhere! We are invited to follow where God leads and worship God with the resources that He has given us, just like the wise men. What treasures has God given us that we can share in ministry to the broken world? What blessings has God provided to us to reach out to the lost, the hurting, the broken, and the downtrodden.

God wants us to know Him, love Him, and serve Him by making God's love known in the world around us. As the new year begins, we are all invited to consider how the *Grace of Giving* might make a difference in 2023. It is my hope and prayer that we take time to reflect on how sharing in the gift of giving can help transform and heal a broken world that needs Him desperately.

~Grace & peace, *Pastor David*



New Year's Day, Sunday, January 1st - 10am

While there will be nursery care, there will be no Sunday School. As always children are welcome in the service. Also, there will not be a Coffee Hour so those that wish may spend time with their family.



Spirit Filled Conversation ~ Grapes & Hops

Tuesday, January 10th, 7-8pm at the Parsonage

This a new ministry led by Pastor David that will gather once a month to 'tap' into different theological topics. It is a great opportunity to gather and meet new people and ask deep questions about the Bible, faith, and life. This will be held at the parsonage (22 Shelter Rock Road, Trumbull) to accommodate more people and create a better environment for conversation. Iced tea, water, wine, and beer will be provided, so just bring your deep questions and yourself. If you would like more information, please contact Pastor David at pastordavidnumc@snet.net or 203-812-0793.



Sundays 9-9:45am Adult Bible Study - In Person

This study is taught by David Preusch and meets in the Numbers classroom. Have you ever stopped and asked yourself just who Jesus is? Why did He appear on earth? And, most importantly, what does that mean for me? The answers to these questions and much more can be found in the Gospel of John and this study will be seeking answers to these questions. This is an inclusive study that includes the reading of short passages followed by questions about the passage for group discussion. Notes on the history and geography of the time and place provide context. There is no homework required but to bring the Bible translation of your choice. If you are new to Bible study and would like a place to start or would like a group setting, the Gospel of John is the place to start!



Sundays 10am The Message Conversation Study - In Person

The Message Conversation study is back and meeting in the lounge after the 9am service. If young families are interested in joining us, please feel free to worship at 9am, stay for the children's sermon at 10am worship and join us in the lounge when the children go to church school. We are fine with the later arrival! No study guide or homework. Just a discussion of Pastor David's message. All are welcome! Any questions, please email Caryn Hammond at Caryn3u2d@gmail.com.



Peace & Prayer: Mid-Week Time of Devotion - Zoom

Wednesdays 11:30-11:45am

Judy Lang hosts a brief time of devotion and prayer via Zoom. This will be an opportunity to spend about 15 minutes centering ourselves in reflective thought and prayer. The link for this mid-week centering time can be accessed by clicking here: [Peace & Prayer Midweek Time of Devotion](#) OR Dial in: (646)-876-9923, Meeting ID: 366 149 7977, Password: 35#.

Word & Coffee Thursdays, 9-10am - Zoom



Pastor David will lead a new study beginning January 5th. The book of the Bible will be determined soon. Each week we will open in prayer, read the passage, and discuss what we have learned/questioned during our reading and reflection. All are welcome, and you may drop in (via Zoom) any week. If you would like to attend, please email Pastor David pastordavidnumc@snet.net. NOTE: a recorded video version will also available upon request for those who cannot attend the live session.



The Grace of Giving - Stewardship 2023

Our 2023 Stewardship campaign theme is *The Grace of Giving*. Generosity, the act of giving, is a gift from God. Grace is the unearned lovingkindness and favor of God. Because of who God is, He generously gives us every good gift we need to live and thrive as individuals and a church. These gifts are not for us to keep to ourselves; they are to be used and shared in the broken world in which we live. As has been our tradition the last several years, our

stewardship campaign will take place beginning January 8th and will culminate with Dedication Sunday on January 22nd. During those weeks we will hear sermons and testimonies that invite us to consider *The Grace of Giving* that we have each received and how that can be used to support the good work of Jesus Christ at Nichols UMC. May God continue to bless and guide each one of us as we prayerfully reflect on the goodness of God's grace and the call to faithful giving during this season. ~Blessings, Your Stewardship Committee



Happy New Year from the Finance Committee. As we enter the new year and approach the annual Stewardship campaign, the Finance Team wants to remind you about several convenient and secure ways to donate gifts to the church.

Venmo - Let's you use a mobile device to pay an individual or organization electronically once you've set up an account. Venmo is a service of PayPal and is an App that can be downloaded from Venmo.com. The NUMC Venmo address is

@NicholsUnitedMethodist-Church. You will see the picture of the church to verify you are in the right place.

Vanco - Vanco e-Service Payments allows you to transfer funds directly into the church's bank account. You can set up a debit from your bank account or pay with a credit card as either a onetime gift or as a recurring gift. The secure Vanco website can be reached by clicking the "OnLine Giving" menu on the homepage of the church's website (www.nicholsumc.org).

Appreciated securities -We now use JP Morgan Chase Bank as our broker. If you plan to donate stock to the church, please contact the church office for details contained in our one-page flyer. The flyer has the codes your broker will need to set up the transfer. Please let the office know what you are transferring so we can confirm its arrival and direct it to the proper account.

Qualified Charitable Distributions - A qualified charitable distribution (QCD) is a distribution from your IRA. You must be age 70½ or older to make a QCD. A QCD is not taxed, nor is it included in your taxable income, and it counts towards your annual required minimum distribution. The funds must go directly from your account to the church.

Thank you for your continued generosity in support of our missions and ministries. We hope you experience the grace of giving as spoken by Paul in 2 Corinthians - "Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." (2 Corinthians 9:7). ~Blessings, Steven Bozek, Finance Chair



How lucky am I to have begun working with your children under the amazing Miss Debbie! We are all so blessed to have received her wisdom, charity, kindness, and dedication. She will be missed by us in Sunday School but are so happy she won't be far!

An enormous THANK YOU to Tom and Jennifer Clark; our annual pageant continues to bless us through the generosity of their time

and talents. Congratulations to all the children, we are so incredibly proud of you!

As the new year is upon us, I'm looking forward to getting to know the children better, while they get to know me. Together, we'll be getting to know Jesus and learn of His ministry. We will see how a relationship with Him relates to us today, tomorrow, and always! I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you all for the very warm welcome - I know I have landed in the right place to help your children grow, learn, and build a personal relationship with God.

Mabel Buttress, Children's Education Director ~ 203-400-0894 ~ mbuttressnumc@gmail.com



Welcome 2023! I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and I wish you all a happy, healthy New Year. We have been having tons of fun at youth group. In December we enjoyed a meal provided by the Braun Family. They also decorated and provided party favors. We were treated like royalty. We also went out to the NIA tree lighting, had a movie night, a Christmas party, and we participated in Habitat for Humanity. In January we will be starting a series called *Alpha*. This is a video series that we did with the youth about 3 years ago. They loved it, our leaders loved it, and I look forward to some great

conversations. Our retreats are right around the corner. The Middle School retreat is February 3rd - 5th and will be held at Pilgrim Pines in New Hampshire. Registration is open. We will be joining Covenant Church in Easton. Follow this link to register and remember to click on the Winter Blast 2 choice, February 3rd to the 5th date <https://www.pilgrimpines.org/winterblast>. Also, if it asks you what church you are registering with you can put down Covenant of Easton. (I don't think NUMC is a choice) but we will be together as our own separate group. The cost of this retreat is \$145 (and worth every penny). The 8th - 12th graders retreat is February 23rd - 25th and will be at Lake Champion in New York. This retreat is \$180 (again, worth every penny)! I will let you know when registration opens for this retreat.

Our January calendar is as follows:

- January 7th - special event – stay tuned
- January 8th - ASP meeting
- January 14th - Habitat for Humanity
- January 15th - 5-7pm
- January 22nd - 5-7pm
- January 29th - 5-7pm



If you are 16 or older and would like to volunteer at Habitat on Saturday, January 14th, please sign up at this link. <http://umc.habitatcfc.volunteerhub.com/>.

Chrissy Ferrante, Youth Director ~ 203.558.7848 ~ chrissy842001@comcast.net



NUMC Body and Soul Yoga

The goal of Body and Soul Fitness was to encourage men and women to see their bodies as a temple of the Holy Spirit of God, who lives inside of them, once they receive Christ. Together we cared for our “temples” and enjoyed much fellowship and fun in the process. We thank God for the privilege of serving Him in this unique and powerful way. This program has been able to reach out to our NUMC family and the greater community with our classes for many years. The Body and Soul Fitness Program started with a morning exercise class, then added PACE (People with Arthritis Can Exercise) and Christian Yoga classes. The Yoga classes have been the only portion of the program to have continued most recently and our instructor has retired in December 2022. I will also be retiring from the program as coordinator and treasurer this winter. If there is anyone from the church who may be interested in taking over the Body and Soul Fitness Program, please contact me for more information. If no one comes forward to take over the program it will be ceasing to exist at end of January 2023. It has been a pleasure to have been able to participate in this program. ~Janel Foote, 203-521-1714

Condolences

Our condolences and prayers go with the families of:

- Ruth Norell, who died on November 21st. A funeral service was held at Nichols UMC on November 26th.
- Ruth Liptak, who died on November 28th. A funeral service was held at Nichols UMC on December 10th.
- Rev. Jane Sibley (Former Nichols UMC Pastor), who died November 28th. A funeral service was held at Newtown UMC on December 17th.
- Hjalmar Norell, who died on December 4th. A funeral service was held at Nichols UMC on December 8th.



January's outreach is for Appalachia Service Project (ASP). ASP is a Christian ministry open to high school youth that fosters spiritual growth through completing home improvement projects in central Appalachia. Our goal as volunteers is to give hope and help to impoverished families. The purpose of the trip is to make homes warmer, safer, and drier for people in extreme poverty. This past trip when we left those homes, we knew that one more home's roof would not leak due to the new roof we put on, another home would have an accessible front door because of the new wheelchair ramp that was built, and a home would be warmer and safer because of the new floor and insulation. But beyond that, what is important is to lift spirits and remind the families of God's love and provision, we discover that regardless of geography, education, or economics, we are all equal members of God's family. NUMC is honored to have served for over 35 years in this incredible mission. We are asking for your support for our 2023 trip. Donations of any amount are greatly appreciated. All funds will be used to improve houses in Appalachia. Checks may be made payable to NUMC with ASP in the memo line, and outreach envelopes are on the table at the back of the sanctuary. Thank you in advance for your donations and support. We could not continue this valuable ministry without your help.



Helping Connecticut's Children in Need.

It was the most wonderful time of the year thanks to all of you. Thought my heart was going to burst. Everyone came together to make this Christmas so very special for families less fortunate than ourselves. Thank you, friends, family, church members, scouts pack # 167 and MDO. Together we touched the lives of over 85 children with multiple gifts and a very special activity gift for each family. My heart is filled with hope, joy, love and peace. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. ~Blessings, Debbie Redin





January 1 Bill Lover
January 3 Raeann McLaren
January 3 Mike Rolleri
January 3 Helen Sweet
January 4 Nancy Fettig
January 4 Fran Levine
January 4 Timothy K. Owen
January 4 Aiden Weir
January 5 Colette* Shay
January 6 Helen Rosselli
January 7 Carol S. Grzyb
January 7 Ryan Kingston
January 7 Michael Kyrytschenko
January 7 John Nigro
January 7 Grant Smith
January 8 Sean O'Leary
January 8 Craig Packnick
January 8 Sara Rolleri
January 9 Tyler Hoggatt
January 10 Joseph Berkowitz
January 10 Jace Rockwell
January 10 Giovanni* Stagnetta
January 11 Paula Koch
January 11 Cynthia Nigro
January 11 Steven Otfinoski
January 12 George Grafton
January 14 Mabel Buttress
January 14 Judy Dalaker
January 14 Amy Maltas
January 15 Barbara Cole
January 15 Sarah Greene

January 15 Cameron Holmes
January 16 Barbara J. Bauer
January 16 Mike Rolleri
January 17 Timothy Cantafio
January 17 Kim Heard
January 17 Paulo Lage
January 17 Joyce Mack
January 18 Nicholas Cantafio
January 18 Ian Hall
January 19 Ryan Janik
January 19 Thomas Metz
January 20 Allie MacDonald
January 20 Pryce Palmero
January 22 Dylan Koury
January 22 Kyle Koury
January 23 Jan Gaulin
January 23 Brooke Godsill
January 23 Nate Shay
January 23 Janice Wendt
January 24 Megan Griggs
January 25 August Metz
January 26 Robert G. Cole, Jr.
January 26 Jennifer L. Martin
January 27 Corinn Ouellette
January 28 Douglas Platz
January 29 Annabelle Liptak
January 30 Tyler Janik
January 31 Linda Kojalowicz
January 31 Peyton Ponzeka
January 31 Lorenzo Sevilla

January 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Every Sunday 25 8 AM Worship w/ communion 9 AM Contemp Service 9 AM Bible Study 10 AM Worship w/ nursery care, church school & Message Study 11 AM Coffee Hour	26	MDO 2 27 9:30-1:45 Tues-Friday MDO 3 9:15-1:45 Tue & Fri	28	29	30	31
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
			11:30 am Peace & Prayer - Zoom 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm Boy Scouts 8:00 pm AA	9:00 am Word & Coffee 10:00 am AA 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	12:00 pm AA	
10 am Worship 7 pm AA Mtg.	Office Closed 12:00 pm AA	5:30 pm AA 6:30 pm Bells 7:45 pm Praise Band Rehearsal				
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
9 am Confirmation Class 5-6:30 pm Sea Scouts 5-7 pm Youth Group 7 pm AA	12:00 pm AA 6:00-8:00 pm Cub Scouts 7:00 pm SPRC Meeting - Zoom	9:30 am Memoir Writing Group 5:30 pm AA 6:30 pm Bells 7:45 pm Praise Band Rehearsal	11:30 am Peace & Prayer - Zoom 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm Boy Scouts 8:00 pm AA	9:00 am Word & Coffee 10:00 am AA 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	12:00 pm AA	Habitat Work Day
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
5-6:30 pm Sea Scouts 5-7 pm Youth Group 7 pm AA 7 pm Boy Scout Comm. Mtg.	The Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday Office Closed 12:00 pm AA 6:00-8:00 pm Cub Scouts 7:00 pm Finance Mtg. - Zoom	5:30 pm AA 6:30 pm Bells 7:45 pm Praise Band Rehearsal	11:30 am Peace & Prayer - Zoom 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm Boy Scouts 7:00 pm Trustees Mtg. - Zoom 7:00 pm ASP BD Mtg. 8:00 pm AA	9:00 am Word & Coffee 10:00 am AA 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	12:00 pm AA	 7:30 am Merton House Sandwiches
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
9 am Confirmation Class 5-6:30 pm Sea Scouts 5-7 pm Youth Group 7 pm AA	12:00 pm AA 6:00-8:00 pm Cub Scouts 7:00 Church Council Meeting - Zoom	9:30 am Memoir Writing Group 5:30 pm AA 6:30 pm Bells 7:45 pm Praise Band Rehearsal	11:30 am Peace & Prayer - Zoom 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm Boy Scouts 8:00 pm AA	9:00 am Word & Coffee 10:00 am AA 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	12:00 pm AA	
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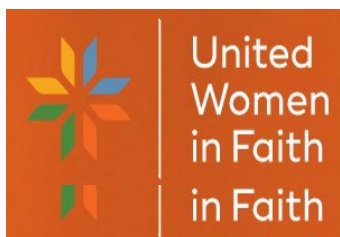
Holly Piscatelli, Editor

Submit articles through

e-mail: numccarillon@yahoo.com

DEADLINE FOR THE February 2023 issue is January 12th

The Carillon is published monthly except during July by the Nichols United Methodist Church, 35 Shelton Road, Trumbull, CT 06611. Send address changes to; The Carillon, 35 Shelton Road, Trumbull, CT 06611. Submissions should be emailed to NUMCCarillon@yahoo.com will be confirmed by the Editor.



United Women in Faith will not be meeting in the month of January. We do however want to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has supported us, and our mission outreach programs both local and globally. Thank you one all and have a happy and healthy New Year!

