



Make the next legal U-turn.

...

Re-routing. In 100 yards, turn left, and take an immediate left.

...

Re-routing. Make the next legal U-turn.

...

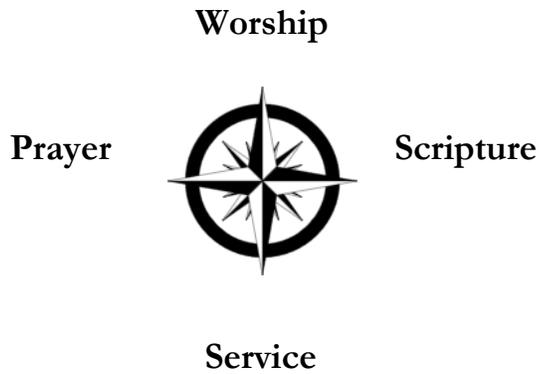
Dear friends in Christ,

I ignore my GPS all the time. Because *I* know better. Obviously.

Except that one time. Per usual, I thought I knew better. I took a shortcut, repeatedly ignored the voice coming from my dashboard, drove forever in circles, yelled at every street sign, panicked at the minutes ticking away, and got hopelessly lost. That time, I surrendered. In desperation, I let go of my ego and stubbornness, apologized to the GPS, followed her impeccable directions, and arrived at my destination just in time.

Sometimes my relationship with my GPS looks a little like my relationship with God. When the Holy Spirit tries to nudge me in one direction, sometimes I insist on taking another route. Often it's because I don't know the road ahead, and I'm afraid to leave my comfort zone—the well-travelled ways I know. Even when I'm lost, I don't always trust that God will help me find my way through.

In this season of Epiphany, I often think of the wise men from the east searching for the baby Jesus, following only the light of a star. What tremendous trust they must have had, to keep aligning themselves with that light from heaven, no matter where it led them on the ground. As this new year unfolds, the Spirit will prompt each of us in certain directions, and it will not always be easy to trust that God is showing us the right way. But when we feel like we're getting lost, we have all the compass points we need:



With these as our guides, trust in God comes a little easier. If we are engaged seriously with these practices, we won't need to wait until we're desperate and stressed to 'let go and let God,' because aligning our lives to the light of heaven will become second nature, as automatic to us as driving our cars.

Brothers and Sisters, in this new year, let's not ignore the GPS (God's Positioning System!) of the Spirit. God is faithful. God will never abandon us on the road, and the ways of faith are sure. Wherever we end up, if God is at our side, we're in the right place.

A blessed new year to all.
Yours in Christ,
Pastor Diane

Special Worship



EPIPHANY SUNDAY

January 6th - 9:30am

Join the Three Kings in adoration of our Lord as the newborn Jesus is revealed as the Son of God most high!

COMBINED WORSHIP AND ANNUAL MEETING

January 27th – 9:30am

Give thanks for all God's blessings on our church, celebrate our past year of ministry together, plan for the new year ahead. Stay after church for a potluck brunch. Bring a dish to share if you're able.



COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS - DECEMBER 2018



Vision & Mission: The team invites the congregation to attend a special fellowship event on January 3rd: *Finding Our 'Why?'* Together we'll explore the 'why?' behind our ministries—vital information that will help us discern our future mission. Please join the conversation!

Worship & Music Team: The Team offers special thanks to Andy Dixon, our Music Minister, and all of our singers, musicians, and worship leaders for helping us have a wonderful Christmas season. Advent & Christmas worship has been beautiful and inspiring. Special worship in January will include Epiphany Sunday, and our Annual Combined Worship and Meeting.

SCCCC: The daycare is holding steady financially, and continues to provide excellent care and learning for our community's children. SCCC received an unannounced, very thorough inspection from the state. We've been recertified, and the state praised our staff for providing a high quality program for the students. Holiday end of year bonuses will be given to the staff. The board treasurer, Dawn Place, has been providing services over and above the assigned duties of treasurer so the Board voted to pay her \$30 per/hour up to ten hours a month for bookkeeping services.

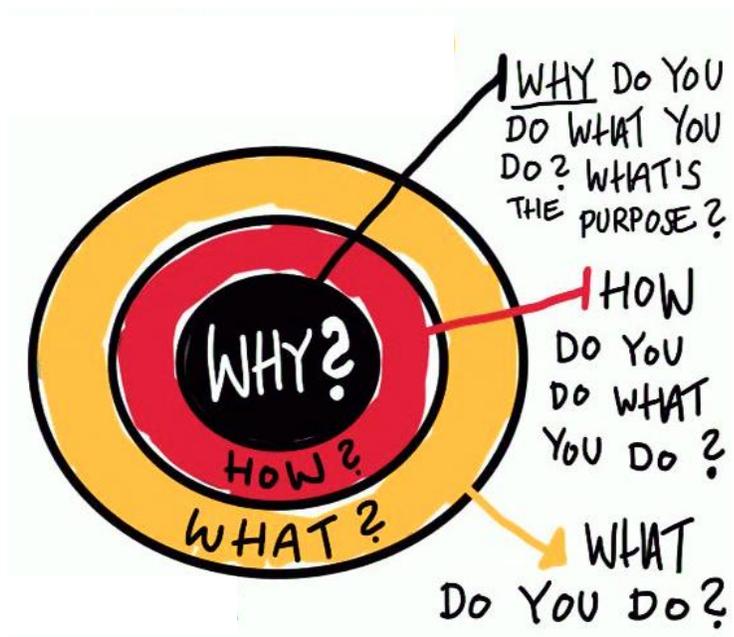
Search for new property: We are experiencing much difficulty in locating suitable property to relocate our ministry. There are simply no commercial buildings or land available in Naugatuck or surrounding area to meet our needs and finances. The Relocation Team is currently extending its search to include residential land (which may be used for a church by special permit). The cost of building is being researched.

SPECIAL COFFEE HOUR EVENT!

AFTER WORSHIP ON

SUNDAY, JANUARY 6th

FINDING OUR *WHY?*



WHY do we do what we do?

We're not asking **WHAT** we do, or **HOW** we do it.

But dig deep down... why does our particular congregation—
in this time and place—exist? Why is this faith community here, now?

WHY do we do what we do?

**OUR WHY? WILL TELL US
OUR WHAT, HOW, AND WHERE
AS WE MOVE FORWARD TOWARD A
NEW HOME AND A NEW MISSION!**

Let's get to the heart of things, together.

We'll be talking about our ministries: why we do them, and if they should continue or change. We want to know what matters most to you, and why. Join the discussion. Help forge the future of Grace!

Winter Weather Advisory

We all know we don't want to hear the dreaded word SNOW!!!



Sorry to say it is bound to happen at least once this winter.

Pastor Diane does not like to cancel worship services but the congregation's safety is also very important.

Please check the following for cancellations:

WTNH Channel 8, WFSB Channel 3, MYTV9
and our Facebook Page



January 4 – Beryl Montville
January 12 – Terri Hass

January 13 – Kathie Gabrielson
January 25 – Linda Clark



January 27 – Bill and Terri Hass
January 28 – David and Suzanne Frennesson

*If you don't see your birthday or anniversary,
please let the church office know, so we can add you to the list.*

JANUARY WORSHIP HELPERS

	<i>January 6</i>	<i>January 13</i>	<i>January 20</i>	<i>January 27</i>
GREETERS	Budge Gabrielson	Terri & Peter Meleschnig	Carol & Arnie Wallas	Charlotte Freer
READERS	Budge Gabrielson Diane Wood	Lisa DeBarba Harry Jancis	Katie Gabrielson Erik Krueger	Jean Frennesson Diane Wood
USHERS	David Frennesson Robert Frennesson	Gabriel Diamante Peter Diamante	Ted Kosko Arnie Wallas	Bob Burger Carl Nehm
WORSHIP ASSISTANT	Shirley Baillargeon	Deb Diamante	Allan Wood	Carolyn Raming
ACOLYTE	Gabriel Diamante	Jessica Baillargeon	Robert Frennesson	Annaliese Baillargeon
ALTAR GUILD	Sharon O'Donnell	Sharon O'Donnell	Carolyn Burger	Carolyn Burger

FELLOWSHIP FOR JANUARY

January 06 – Carolyn Raming & Mary Schmelcke

January 13 – Diane & Allan Wood

January 20 – Lisa DeBarba & Charmaine Lawton

January 27 – Sharon & Ted Kosko



We greatly appreciate the times when folks find their own replacements. Please let the office know so we put the correct names in the bulletin insert.

If for some reason you cannot find a replacement, please email or call the office. Thank you.

PRAYER

Please hold in prayer your brothers and sisters in Christ, especially:



Jacqueline Mezick, Adam Wood, Jenn Wood,
Brady Wood, John Karlak, Rhonda, Lillian Gregory,
Mike, Christina Hitchcock, Rickie Roy,
Allan Johnson, Edward and family.



*If you would like to add someone to the prayer list, please contact the church office.
Also, there is a prayer request sheet in the church entryway.*

If you want us to continue praying for someone beyond the month, just let us know.

Remembering Friends & Family

Addresses are listed below for our members who are currently unable to attend services.
A card or note is always welcome.

Betsy Robb

500 Woodside Ave
Middlebury, 06762

Michael Roland

The Village at East Farms
180 Scott Rd, Room #154
Waterbury, 06705

Allan Johnson

40 Lorann Dr
Naugatuck, 06770

Lindy Parson

366 Millville Ave
Naugatuck, 06770

Mildred Evenson

75 Trowbridge Place,
Naugatuck, 06770

Dorothy Fritz

Southbury Lutheran Home
990 Main St. N, Southbury, 06488

Anita Peterson

Apple Rehab
35 Bunker Hill Rd
Watertown, 06795

Ruth Glick

357 May St
Naugatuck, CT 06770

Thank You For Caring!

NEWSLETTER 

Reminder: February newsletter articles and announcements must be in no later than February 15th. Thank you!

JANUARY 2019 CALENDAR

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
			OA 12pm Choir Practice 7pm	AA 8pm		OA 11am
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
8:45am Choir Practice Epiphany Sunday 9:30am Worship Vision/Mission Coffee Hour Event Sunday School 10:45	Calvary in Sanctuary 6:30-8pm Boy Scouts in Hall 7pm – 9pm		OA 12pm Choir Practice 7pm	AA 8pm		OA 11am
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
8:45am Choir Practice 9:30am Worship Sunday School 10:45	Calvary in Sanctuary 6:30-8pm Boy Scouts in Hall 7pm – 9pm		OA 12pm Choir Practice 7pm	AA 8pm		OA 11am
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
8:45am Choir Practice 9:30am Worship Sunday School 10:45	Calvary in Sanctuary 6:30-8pm Boy Scouts in Hall 7pm – 9pm		OA 12pm Choir Practice 7pm	AA 8pm		OA 11am
27	28	29	30	31		
8:45am Choir Practice 9:30am Worship Annual Congregational Meeting after Worship Sunday School 10:45	Calvary in Sanctuary 6:30-8pm Boy Scouts in Hall 7pm – 9pm		OA 12pm Choir Practice 7pm	AA 8pm		

PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR

Loving God,

Thank you that you make all things new. Thank you for all that you've allowed into our lives this past year, the good along with the hard things, which have reminded us how much we need you and rely on your presence filling us every single day.

We pray for your Spirit to lead us each step of this New Year.

We ask that you will guide our decisions and turn our hearts to deeply desire you above all else. We ask that you will open doors needing to be opened and close the ones needing to be shut tight. We ask that you would help us release our grip on the things to which you've said "no," "not yet," or "wait." We ask for help to pursue you first, above every dream and desire you've put within our hearts.

We ask for your wisdom, for your strength and power to be constantly present within us. We pray you would make us strong and courageous for the road ahead. Give us ability beyond what we feel able, let your gifts flow freely through us, so that you would be honored by our lives, and others would be drawn to you.

We pray that you'd keep us far from the snares and traps of temptations. That you would whisper in our ear when we need to run, and whisper in our heart when we need to stand our ground.

We ask that you would keep our footsteps firm, on solid ground, helping us to be consistent and faithful. Give us supernatural endurance to stay the course, not swerving to the right or to the left, or being too easily distracted by other things that would seek to call us away from a close walk with you.

Forgive us for the times we have worked so hard to be self-sufficient, forgetting our need for you, living independent of your spirit. Forgive us for letting fear and worry control our minds, and for allowing pride and selfishness wreak havoc over our lives. Forgive us for not following your ways and for living distant from your presence.

We ask that you would provide for our needs, we ask for your grace and favor. We pray for your blessings to cover us, we pray that you would help us to prosper and make every plan that you have birthed in our heart to succeed. We pray that others would take notice of your goodness.

Help us to be great givers, help us to be generous and kind, help us to look to the needs of others and not be consumed by only our own.

May we be lovers of truth, may the fruits of your spirit be evident in our lives - your love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Shine your light in us, through us, over us. May we make a difference in this world, for your glory and purposes. Set your way before us. May all your plans succeed. We may reflect your peace and hope to a world that so desperately needs your presence and healing.

To you be glory and honor, in this New Year, and forever.

In Jesus' name,
Amen.

Prayer from:

<https://www.crosswalk.com/blogs/debbie-mcdaniel/a-prayer-to-keep-god-first-this-new-year>

**"Behold,
I am making
all things
new."**
Revelation 21:5
Studio JRU

*Have A
Blessed
New Year!*



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