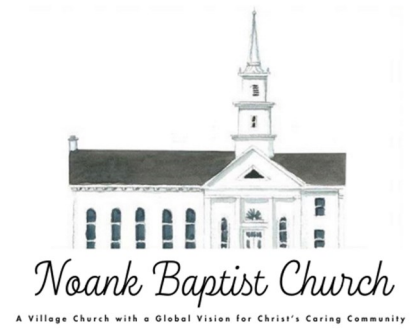


he NBC Anchor

Newsletter of the Noank Baptist Church, Noank CT
860.536.7129 www.noankbaptistchurch.org



January 2024

NBC & ME

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN
LEARNING MORE ABOUT
NOANK BAPTIST CHURCH?

SUNDAY 1/7 OR 1/14

**IMMEDIATELY
FOLLOWING
WORSHIP**



ANNUAL MEETING

**Sunday, January 21, after
worship at 11:15 am**

We are welcoming another year with our Annual Business Meeting in the sanctuary. We will elect new council members for 2024 and hear short summaries from our ministry leaders.

Annual Reports for 2022 are due by Tuesday, January 16, in time to finalize them for distribution before the meeting.



SOUPER BOWL

**NBC WILL BE COLLECTING
CAN SOUPS FOR THE
GROTON FOOD LOCKER
FROM 1/21 - 2/12**



People of Presence

As we approach Epiphany, Lent will begin to come into focus for February. Looking back on Advent, my soul is brightened by the Noank light of love which was clearly visible throughout the holiday season. Our Christmas Eve services brought in a lot of welcoming faces. I considered this a compliment to the testament of grace at Noank Baptist Church. From what I have been told, this was possibly our largest gathering since 2001. Although I am not a numbers person in relation to growth and unity, I am encouraged by the willingness of our community to spend their day worshipping with Noank. Whatever the New Year holds for NBC, may we become “People of Presence” embracing each moment with our desire to just “Be.”

Nearing the end of our Advent devotional, I am grateful for the amount of participation and discussion around the significance of women in the scriptures. One thing I learned for sure is that there is always more to learn to expand our outlook on the Divine. Since this was a devotional, we did not meet often. However, with the input of our group discussion around *Expecting Emmanuel*, it became very clear that the participants desired less space between chapters. I assure you, our next book review will be accommodated with weekly-biweekly gatherings with the intent of slowly examining our hearts in relation to the study. Deidra Riggs, author of *One: Unity in a Divided World*, will take us on a journey toward restorative justice. Along with weekly discussions, Deidra will fill our pulpit the last week of February followed by a Q&A in the Chapel. I encourage you to go ahead and purchase this material as we look to become increasingly aware and more inclusive.



January will be brimming with opportunities! Our annual business meeting will come with council elections, budgetary affirmations, and much more. Will you consider attending this meeting which is quite possibly one of our most deciding factors for 2024? In addition, we hope to see a few new deacons appointed followed by a wonderful service of anointing them into their positions. Our NBC&Me membership class will see the Chapel full of individuals willing to learn and participate in our efforts at NBC. Please pray for these participants as they seek to journey with us. Of course, these are only just a few things happening in the life of Noank, but I hope it finds you encouraged and hopeful.

Blessings of Peace,

Rev. Junior White

Miss a Sunday? Check Out Sermons on the Go!



If you are traveling or not able to make it to NBC on a Sunday morning, you can still listen to Pastor Junior's sermons on your smartphone or computer. Each Tuesday we will add audio files of the most recent sermon to the NBC website, www.noankbaptistchurch.org/sermons. It will also be available on the Podbean app (available in the App Store or click below).

Search for Noank Baptist Church and LIKE and SUBSCRIBE!



Prepare to join us at our Ministry Expo in the vestry for Coffee, Food, Fun, and Fellowship as you peruse the many ministry displays:

- from Missions to Memorial Garden;
- from Greeters to Flowers;
- from Sunday School to Bible Study;
- from Council to Choirs;
- from Hospitality to Holiday Bazaar;
- and much more!

There will be something for everyone. And yes, there will be mirrors! You will leave with lots of information, goodies, and a warm feeling in your heart.

The Corner Closet **Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday 10-1**

Thank you to all who deliver the wonderful donations to the Corner Closet and thank you to the workers who sort and run the store.

Founded nearly 60 years ago by the NBC Evening Circle, the Corner Closet helps our neighbors in need and *all* proceeds are donated back into the community. Throughout last year, the Corner Closet also made generous donations to the New London Homeless Hospitality Center, Thanksgiving baskets and Christmas gifts for clients of Groton Human Services and Riverfront Children's Center, Groton Parks & Recreation's special needs programming, assisted a formerly incarcerated person, and funded bus trips for the City of Groton's Riverfront Children's Center. Your donations benefit the community!

