



.... to our Advent Acolytes: The Monteiro Family, The Conley Family, Dave & Mary Stryker,



.... to our Deacons and helpers for decorating our church and making it more glorious during this Blessed Season!

.... To our December pulpit supply: Reverend Robert Conner.

... to everyone who donated items for the NICE Center Christmas room during the month of December.

...to our members and friends who donate time, energy and items , we are so thankful and blessed to have you!!!

...to the individuals who purchased poinsettias to make our church more beautiful!

... to Pastor Paul Lee, for community/joint worship services on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and New Year's Day.



Thank you to all that helped with our Christmas Fireside Luncheon.

The donated food and the time that was volunteered was greatly appreciated.

**Again THANK YOU to everyone involved.
Linda Loudermilk**

Dear Members,

We have two beautiful Middle School students who are studying very hard, both last year and this year, for their Confirmation in the spring. I ask that you please remember Cameron Russell and Delia Diehl in your prayers and if you are so moved please send them a card or a positive thought to encourage their journey.

The NICE Center, located in Lee, Illinois, is open every Saturday from 8:30 am to 11:00 am. All clothing and food items are free and have been donated from various people within the community.

We will be in need of volunteers to staff the facility for the month of February. Please check the bulletin board at the church about mid to late



UMPEC delivered food baskets on December 17th. Thank you to all who shopped for and delivered the baskets.

There are a few churches that support NICE by doing a monthly collection of a named item from their congregations. It is usually an item that is expensive for the Center to buy or that is very popular. For the month of January we would like to collect jelly. The items can be put into the collection box in the narthex. Watch the newsletter and bulletins for what we will be collecting each month. **Again, thank you for your support. The families that come to the NICE Center are very appreciative of all that you do!!!!**

Happy New Year

It's the new year, and many people will be making resolutions. The custom of making New Year's resolutions happens all over the world. As we welcome 2017, let's look back at when and why the New Year's resolution tradition got started, and how it's changed over the course of history.

The ancient Babylonians are said to have been the first people to make New Year's resolutions, some 4,000 years ago. They were also the first to hold recorded celebrations in honor of the new year. However, their year began in mid-March, when their crops were planted. The Babylonians crowned a new king, or reaffirmed their loyalty to the reigning king at a massive 12-day religious festival known as Akitu. They made promises to the pagan gods to pay their debts and return any objects they had borrowed. The Babylonians believed if they kept to their word, their gods would show favor on them for the coming year. If not, they would fall out of the gods' favor.

A similar practice occurred in ancient Rome. Julius Caesar adjusted the calendar and established January 1 as the beginning of the new year circa 46 B.C. Named for Janus, the two-faced god whose spirit inhabited doorways and arches, January had special significance for the Romans. They believed that Janus looked backwards into the previous year and ahead into the future. The Romans offered sacrifices to the deity and made promises of good conduct for the coming year.

For early Christians, the first day of the new year became the traditional occasion for thinking about one's past mistakes and resolving to do, and be better in the future. In 1740, John Wesley, created the Covenant Renewal Service, most commonly held on New Year's Eve, or New Year's Day. Also known as watch night services, they included readings from scriptures and hymn singing, and served as a spiritual alternative to the wild celebrations normally held to celebrate the coming of the new year. Now popular within evangelical Protestant churches, watch night services held on New Year's Eve are often spent praying and making resolutions for the coming year.

Despite the tradition's religious roots, New Year's resolutions today are a mostly secular

Please Pray for: The Family of Steve Bock, Jodie Schuck, Family of Herb and Donna Leifheit, Norm Johnson, Jennifer Hipple (Florence Hipple's granddaughter) Alma Schweitzer and Our Church. **Our military personnel:** Staff Sgt. Vadon Loudermilk Jr., Major Garrett Slack & Major Bob Mitchell.

The per capita assessment for 2017 is \$36.11

(GA-\$7.50; Synod-\$3.81; Blackhawk

January Birthdays:

9th..... Josh Johnson

Please have all Annual Reports into the church office by Sunday, January 29th.

Our Annual Congregational Meeting will be on Sunday, February 12th,

Neighbors In Christ Ecumenical

346 S. County Line Road
PO Box 5
Lee, IL. 60530-0005

NICE

Waterman Presbyterian Church
250 N. Cedar
Waterman, IL 60556

December 4, 2016

On behalf of the Neighbor's in Christ Ecumenical Center, I would like to thank you for your generous donation.

Your gift of \$160.00 (Check# 8401), will help our organization fulfill its mission.

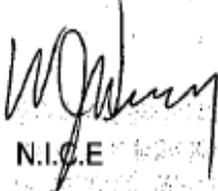
Wherever there is a need, we try to help as many families as we can in our NICE community with food, clothing, furniture and any need that arises. Sometimes all they need is a little love from us to help them keep going! We all get such a warm feeling from just listening and helping.

We rely on donations to keep our center functioning. The people of this community have been very generous with their help. "We are people helping people!"

We are very blessed by having so many caring people like you who give of themselves.

Our thanks for your generous gift.

Sincerely,



N.I.C.E



"Emergency clean up bucket"

They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor, their righteousness endures forever. Psalm 112:9 (NRSV)

Dear Friends:

Thank you for your generous contribution to the work of Church World Service – which we appreciate more than ever in these challenging times.

Your compassionate support is helping impoverished communities:

- Develop clean, reliable water sources.
- Teach poor farmers sustainable ways to create food security.
- Provide food, water, shelter and other necessities to families struggling to rebuild their lives and livelihoods, after natural disasters and civil conflict.

I have seen both the resilience and the resolve of the women, men and children we assist. And I have been deeply moved by the generosity of people like you, who give hope and opportunity to people in need, here in the U.S. and around the world.

May God bless you for your kindness.

Rev. John L. McCullough
President and CEO
Church World Service

To stay informed on how you're helping people in need, at home and around the world, visit www.cwsglobal.org, and follow us on Facebook, YouTube and Twitter.



Gift Receipt

Thank you!

Date of Gift: December 5, 2016
Amount: \$3.00
Purpose: around the world for processing and shipping

Waterman Presbyterian Church
250 North Cedar Street
P.O. Box 208
Waterman, IL 60556-0208

No goods or services were provided in exchange for this gift; therefore, your gifts to Church World Service are tax deductible as allowed by law. Please keep this receipt for your records.

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