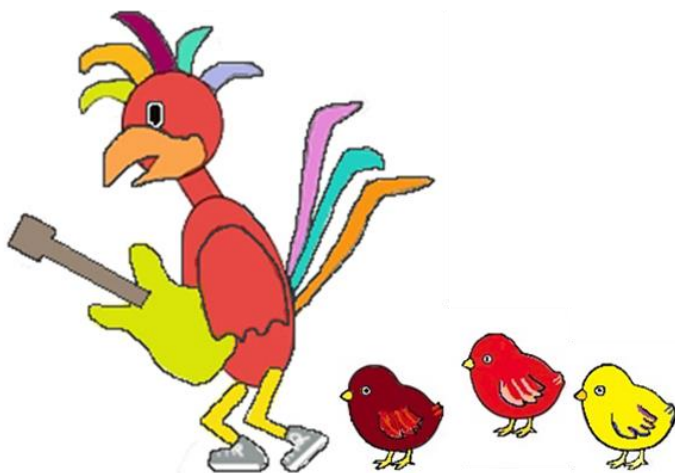


It's Saturday



Let's Do Church!

**WEST PARISH OF BARNSTABLE
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

September 16, 2023

4:30 p.m.

BE THE CHURCH

Fight for the powerless.

Forgiveness

Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?"

Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times."

Matthew 18:22-23

OUR STATEMENT OF WELCOME

We are:

PROGRESSIVELY UNTRADITIONAL: 21st century minds in a 1717 Meetinghouse!

Embrace diversity.

JOYOUSLY INCLUSIVE: Radically open and affirming, all ages, races, gender, and sexual orientation, everyone is welcome exactly as you are.

EXPRESSLY “ON THE WAY”: Faith is a journey. Journey with us!

COMMITTEDLY IN THE COMMUNITY: In helping others, we become our true selves.

GOD GATHERS US



*OPENING SONG

Put A Little Love In Your Heart

Al Green

**Think of your fellow man, lend him a helping hand
Put a little love in your heart
You see, it's getting late, oh, please don't hesitate
Put a little love in your heart**

Refrain

**And the world will be a better place
And the world will be a better place for you and me
You just wait and see**

**Another day goes by, and still the children cry
Put a little love in your heart
If you want the world to know, we won't let hatred grow
Put a little love in your heart**

Refrain

Take a good look around and if you're lookin' down
Put a little love in your heart, yeah
I hope when you decide kindness will be your guide
Put a little love in your heart

Refrain

Put a little love in your heart
Put a little love in your heart
Put a little love in your heart

WELCOME

Pastor Christie

One: Welcome home, whether this is your first visit or you have been here for years. We are glad you are here with us today whether joining us online or in person. Hello, I'm Pastor Christie, and here is Pastor Reed and we have Steve Gregory and Bob Moscato as our musicians, AND TOGETHER WE ARE

All: ONE diverse community

Growing up in faith

Reaching out in love

One: It is good when God's people are together here, and so we can rejoice, because,

All: It's Saturday, let's do church!



CALL TO WORSHIP

How blessed we are that God forgives us and loves us!

For all those times when we have fallen short of what God would have us be, we have been forgiven.

God makes us new in God's Spirit!

Now is the time to joyfully accept the newness of life which God offers to us.

Come, let us worship and be thankful.

Let us open our hearts to the peace and joy of God. AMEN.

OPENING PRAYER

God who calls, it is you who gathers us together and forms us as a community. It is you who makes us uniquely individual and who designs us for companionship. Let us journey together this day in your presence reminded of our interdependence with one another. We confess that we can be judgmental and hyper-critical of our neighbors, family, and friends. We project our own shortcomings on others in order to deflect attention from our mistakes. We withhold and condition forgiveness, mercy, and grace from those who wrong us at the same time we seek it for the wrongs we have done. Even still, we struggle to forgive ourselves. You have shown us the better way. Help us to follow your path—receiving and extending forgiveness in a world in need of an infusion of grace for transformation. In your mercy, O God, hear our prayer, and let us forgive as you forgive. Amen.

WORDS of GRACE

Beloved, grace has always been part of God's relationship with humanity. God does not want you condemned or held captive by unresolved anger leading to bitterness. Rather, Creator desires you to be released as both forgiven and forgiver so that all may live a life that is whole, free, and flourishing.

Forgive often.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (we will sing this in echo fashion)

**Our Father... who art in Heaven... .hallowed be thy name... .Thy kingdom come... .thy will be done... .on Earth as it is in Heaven.
Give us this day... . our daily bread... . and forgive us all our sins...
And lead us not... into temptation... . but deliver us from evil.**

Unison:

For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory

Echo:

Forever... .and ever... .

Our Father... .who art in Heaven... .hallowed be thy name.

A TIME OF PRAYER



A TIME FOR CELEBRATIONS AND CONCERNS

A SONG OF PRAYER

INVITATION TO SHARING OUR GIFTS

Text to Give instructions are on page 10.

Care for the poor.

Share earthly and spiritual resources.

**THE BREAD OF LIFE
AND THE CUP OF NEW BEGINNINGS
ARE SHARED**



Our service of communion is open to all seeking Christ's presence.
Whether children receive the elements we leave to their parents' discretion.

We shall be receiving communion by the ancient practice of intinction.

Come forward, take a piece of the bread, dip it in the cup,
and consume it on the way back to your seat.

We offer a communion cup and wafer system of grape juice and cracker.

INVITATION

Molly Phinney Baskette

The psalmist sang, "You prepare a table for me in the presence of my enemies."
This is not a taunting meal with Usses and Thems. It's a place, a time when even
enemies can feast together. Come, then, you who have harsh words between you.
Stand side by side in silence. Come, you who have fought good fights and bad
fights and everything in between. Find peace, if only for a moment. Come, you

who can't find the face of God in every sibling. God abhors abuse, and never asks us to submit to the domineering strength of one another. But true reconciliation among people on equal footing sets us free and transforms conflict into amazing grace. So lay aside argument, distance, alienation, confusion, power over, and even principles. Come to this feast empty, hungry and ready.



Enjoy this life.

PRAYER OF COMMUNION

Holy One, you inhabit these elements of bread and cup. As each has been transformed from what it was into something more nourishing, ready to give energy to the body, so transform us into those who can nourish the world. As we pull from a common loaf, unite us. As we dip into a common cup, a symbol of shared fate, send us down the same road, with strength in numbers. Make us truly one in Christ.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELEMENTS

We remember that on the night before he died, Jesus sat at a table with all of them: friend and foe. He didn't ask how they had voted, where they stood on church doctrines, or whether they would remain true, even to him.

He took the bread, and giving thanks to God, he said to all, **“Take, eat, this is my body given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”**

He took wine and said, **“This is not just a cup, it's a covenant, to bind us together, to help us forget the sins of the past. Take, drink, in remembrance of me.”**

Ministering to you in Jesus' name, the Great Uniter, we give you this bread and this cup.

UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

God, let the unity we have at this table endure long after we have digested these elements. Feed our minds the manna of gentleness and the ability to take another's perspective. Juice us with the joy that comes when we can set aside our differences and come together as your children. Thank you that every time we eat this meal together, you give us an opportunity to lay down arms, stop taking sides, and find our common humanity and divinity. Amen.

THE WORD OF GOD IS PROCLAIMED



SPECIAL SONG

Have a Little Faith In Me

John Hyatt



SACRED WORDS FOR SACRED SPACE

Matthew 18:21-35

MEDITATION

Forgiveness is What We Must Do

Christie Burns

GOD SENDS US FORTH



CLOSING SONG I Am Weak But You are Strong / Green 436

**I am weak, but thou art strong; Jesus, keep me from all wrong;
I'll be satisfied as long as I walk, let me walk close to thee.**

Refrain

**Just a closer walk with thee, grant it, Jesus, is my plea,
daily walking close to thee: let it be, dear Lord, let it be.**

**Through this world of toil and snares, if I falter, Lord who cares?
Who with me my burden shares? None but thee, dear Lord, none but thee.**

Refrain

**When my feeble life is o'er, time for me will be no more;
guide me gently, safely o'er to they shore, dear Lord, to thy shore.**

WORDS OF SENDING

May the love of God assure you, the hope of God guide you, and the peace of God sustain you as you go receiving and extending God's grace in the world.



SONG OF SENDING

Go In Peace

Rob Leveridge
Featuring Allen Nelson

**Go in peace
Go in kindness
Go in love
Go in faith
Leave the day
The day behind us
Day is done
Go in grace
Let us go
Into the dark
Not afraid
Not alone
Let us hope
By some good pleasure
Safely to
Arrive at home
Let us hope
By some good pleasure
Safely to
Arrive at home.**

WE ARE GLAD YOU WORSHIPPED WITH US TODAY!

All people, young and old and in-between, are lifted up wherever they are on the journey. We look forward to worshipping with you again soon!

Pastors Christie Burns and Reed Baer

Christie holds coffee hours by appointment at Bread and Roses in Hyannis. Call, text, or email her for an appointment. 508-494-6409 associatepastor@westparish.org

Our "Saturday School" is underway, a special class for our youngsters, held over in Jenkins Hall, led by Pastor Reed and an adult lay teacher/volunteer, during the last 20 minutes of the service. Interested in joining in as a teacher or an extra pair of hands, speak to Reed after church.



by recycling this bulletin.

Text to Give!

West Parish is now accepting donations via text! It's easy:

1. Text 508-593-7761 (the give-by-text number for West Parish) and in the body of the message enter the amount you wish to donate and send.
2. You will receive a registration link. Click on it and enter your contact and payment information, and then press "Process."
3. After registration is complete, you will receive a verification text and receipt via email.

You only need to register and set up your payment information once.

For future giving, simply send a text with the amount you wish to give, and it will process automatically.

Add "West Parish Give by Text" as a contact on your phone to make it even easier!

Church Staff

Reed Baer, Pastor and Teacher

Christine Burns, Associate Pastor

Donna Murphy, Music Director

Susan McEwen, Office Administrator

Kristen Lind, Family School Director

Chris Haven, Sexton

Susan Moeller, Council Chair

Bobbie Jordan, Deacons Chair

Box 219, West Barnstable, MA 02668

Phone 508-362-4445 Fax 508-375-6431

contact@westparish.org westparish.org

The week of September 16, 2023

Saturday	9/16/23	4:30 pm	Worship
Sunday	9/17/23	10:00 am	Worship
Monday	9/18/23	5:00 pm	AA (J)
Tuesday	9/19/23	9:15 am	FS Science (J)
		12:00 pm	Music Lessons (M)
		4:30 pm	Finance (G & Z)
		5:00 pm	AA (J)
		6:15 pm	Handbells (M)
Wednesday	9/20/23	9:15 am	FS Science (J)
		4:00 pm	FS Faculty (G)
		5:00 pm	AA (J)
Thursday	9/21/23		Rooster Crows Articles Due
		9:15 am	FS Science (J)
		10:00 am	Fair Creative Crew (J)
		5:00 pm	AA (J)
		7:00 pm	Fair Creative Crew (J)
Friday	9/22/23	10:00 am	Handbell Rehearsal (M)
		10:30 am	Knitting Group (G)
		5:00 pm	AA (J)
Saturday	9/23/23	11:00 am	Pat White Memorial Service (M)
		12:00 pm	Pat White Reception (J)
		4:30 pm	Worship
		7:00 pm	Kim Moberg Concert (M)

Key: FS = Family School; G = Guild Room; J = Jenkins Hall; M = Meetinghouse; Z = Zoom

BE THE CHURCH

Protect the environment.

Care for the poor.

Forgive often.

Reject racism.

Fight for the powerless.

Share earthly and spiritual resources.

Embrace diversity.

Love God.

Enjoy this life.

God is still speaking,
**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**

