

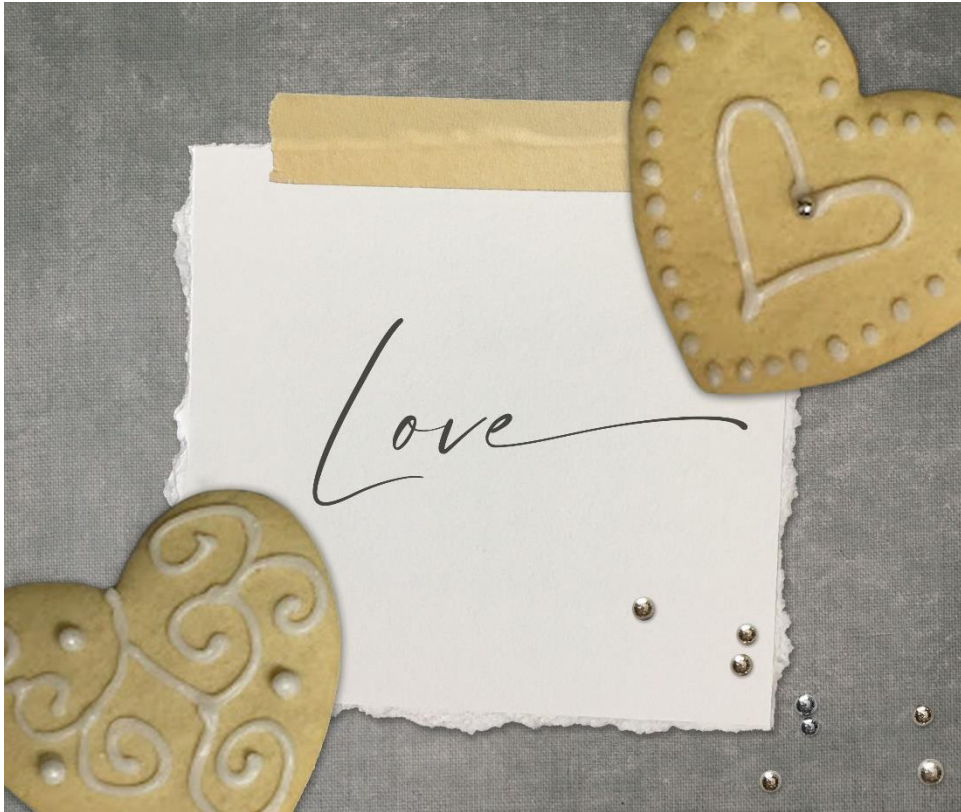
# *West Parish of Barnstable*

*Gathered in London 1616 - Present Meetinghouse Erected in 1717*

A Church in the Congregational Tradition

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

West Barnstable, Massachusetts



## **THE CHURCH AT WORSHIP**

*4th Sunday in Advent*

*Christmas Eve*

*The Christmas Story in Word and Song*

December 24, 2023

10:00 a.m.

All are invited to stay for the full service today.

Church School is offered for the children at our 4:30 Saturday contemporary service.

## OUR STATEMENT OF WELCOME

As a congregation which covenants to walk together in Christian love,  
believes that all persons are created equal before God,  
and affirms the inclusive love of Jesus Christ,  
we welcome to our work and worship all people  
regardless of race, gender, age, ethnicity, sexual orientation,  
ability, or economic circumstance.

*Adopted at Annual Meeting, June 26, 2005*

## GOD GATHERS US

WELCOME

Pastor Reed Baer

LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE

*One: I will wait for the RMV.*

*Two: I will wait for the right moment.*

*One: I will wait for the fire to grow.*

*Two: I will wait for the popcorn to pop.*

*One: I will wait for political reform.*

*Two: I will wait for the light to turn green.*

*One: I will wait to leave a message at the beep.*

*Two: I will wait for the kids to come home.*

*One: I will wait for the paint to dry.*

*Two: I will wait for the right words to say.*

*One: I will wait for Christmas to arrive.*

*Two: I will wait for a lot of things, but I will not wait for a chance to share love.*

*One: The world needs love. We need love.*

*Two: So today we light the candle of love to remind us to spread love wherever we go. May we be courageous enough to love our neighbors as ourselves. Amen.*

*(The fourth candle of Advent is lit)*

\*HYMN #114 (Green)

*“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”*

VENI EMMANUEL

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor Reed Baer

*One: We come in the bright joy of anticipated celebration. We come in the dark grief of unanticipated losses. In all times and places,*

**Many: We come to rejoice and give thanks!**

*One: We come from homes of comfort and feasting. We come from homes of discomfort and famine. In all times and places,*

**Many: We come to rejoice and give thanks!**

*One: We come in silent anticipation, seeking Advent glory. We come chatting and abuzz with excitement. In all times and places,*

**Many: We come to rejoice and give thanks!**

*One: We come with as many reasons as there are people. We come in all circumstances. In all times and places,*

**Many: We come to rejoice and give thanks!**

PRELUDE

The First Noel

“fr. W. Sandy’s Christmas Carols, 1833” – arr. Mary McDonald

UNISON PRAYER

**Spirit of the living God, speak your word to us in this time of worship. Fill us with true joy – the joy that comes from knowing you; the joy that comes from feeling your justice come to life in our midst; the joy that comes as we truly prepare our hearts as a dwelling place for the Messiah. Amen.**

MARY’S STORY

SOLO “Were You There On That Christmas Night?” Natalie Sleeth

READING The Annunciation (Edward Muir)

THE STORY OF THE BABY’S BIRTH

\*HYMN #151 (Green) “O Little Town of Bethlehem” vs. 1-3 ST. LOUIS

READING Christmas Carol (James Park)

MUSIC What Child Is This? Donna Murphy, pipe organ

READING Neighbors of the Christ Night (Nora Archibald Smith)

\*HYMN #150 (Green) “Away In A Manger” AWAY IN A MANGER

THE SHEPHERDS’ STORY

READING The Shepherds in Judea (Mary Austin)

ANTHEM Christmas Time with “Angels We Have Heard on High”  
Words and Music by Michael W. Smith and Joanna Carlson/ arr. Lloyd Larson

READING The Christmas Silence (Margaret Deland)

ANNOUNCEMENTS, JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

HYMN #153 (Green)                      “*What Child Is This?*”                      GREENSLEEVES

THE STORY OF THE MAGI

READING                                      A Christmas Carol                      (James Russell Lowell)

HYMN #162 (Green)                      “*We Three Kings*”                      KINGS OF ORIENT  
Congregation: vs 1 & 5 all, vs. 2-4 refrain only

READING                                      The Three Kings    (Henry Wadsworth Longfellow)

OFFERING INVITATION

OFFERTORY                                      Shepherd’s Light                      Kristen Abbott  
Kristen Abbott - soloist

\*SONG OF PRAISE

**To God, all glorious heavenly Light,  
To Christ revealed in earthly night,  
To God the Spirit now we raise,  
Our joyful songs of thankful praise. Amen.**

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

\*HYMN #132 (Green),                      “*O Come, All Ye Faithful*” vs. 1, 2, 4                      ADESTE FIDELES

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE                                      Good Christian Men, Rejoice                      Tune: “*In Dulci Jubilo*”  
Trad. German Melody - Robert J. Hughes.  
(*It is our custom to remain seated in silence during the Postlude*)

\* All who wish, please stand.

# Poinsettia Sponsors

Steve & Mindy Abbott in memory of Howard & Lois Abbott and Fred & Martha Strauss

Barbara Cameron in honor of my friends

Sandy and Rik Clark in memory of our parents: Eleanore, Doris, Bill, and Allen

David and Susan Cochrane in memory of Gordon and Eleanor Cochrane

Jean Birch in memory of her husband and parents

Kristine in memory of Janet's brother Roger

Bobbie Jordan in loving memory of my parents, Lloyd and Ida

Ken and Diane Juthe in memory of our parents: Randy & Evelyn and Mert & Bertha

Jane Skinner Ketchen & Greg Ketchen in memory of Clara Vergnani Skinner & Arlan Skinner  
and Charlotte Parker Ketchen & Gould Ketchen

Corinne Lilie in memory of Mary Ann Regan

Kristen Lind in honor of the wonderful faculty at West Parish Family School  
and all the church volunteers who oversee and assist us

Dan Lupfer & Liz Knox-Lupfer in celebration of our children and grandchildren

Heiti and Bill Manning in celebration of family and friends

The Moeller Family in memory of Alice, Jake, Bill & Helen who all loved Christmas

Laura Murphy in celebration of Martha Rosewell

Reed & Christie in celebration of Katie, Julia, Camden, Lydia, Chris, Tyler and Mel

Van & Wendy Northcross in memory of Judy Rockwell and our Northcross family

Lynn & Randy Parker to our 3 children and 5 "grands" who bring us joy!

In honor of those who seek peace

Peter & Betsy Smith in memory of our parents and loved ones

Bob and Shirley Stolte in memory of loved ones

Alan & Maggi Tyson in celebration of Bey, Libby, Grady & Lilah

Marianne & Greg Williams in memory of Florence Stasiowski  
and in memory of Sharon Goguen

Sharon and Bob Wyman in memory of Sunny & Wesley Merritt and  
Evelyn & Edward Wyman

1717 Meetinghouse Foundation in memory of: Mary Jane Eicholzer, John Bjork, James Otis  
Ellis, Sr., Patricia Davies White and Joyce Joakim

## OUR PRAYER LIST

*May the presence of Jesus Christ be with those on our prayer list and with those who care for them.  
The prayers of the congregation are asked for:*

### New to the Prayer List

**Cary Young** (friend of Rev. Christie Burns)

**Peter Abraham** (Rich's brother)

**Karolina Atsalis** (friend of the Abrahams)

**Betsy** (Susan McEwen's sister)

**Margaret and Bill Brummel** (Roger Henson's sister and brother-in-law)

**Doug Clay** (brother of Sharon Hunt)

**Judy Desrochers**

**Betsy Eidem** (friend of Carol Allen)

**Ned Flynn** (Ted's father)

**Jay Griffin** (Peggie Bretz' brother)

**Sharon Griffin** (Peggie Bretz' sister-in-law)

**Ann Harris** (friend of Robin Fryer)

**Steve Howland**

**Mike Hovan** (friend of Dan Enos)

**Martha Lant** (sister-in-law of Peggie Bretz)

**Mac MacLaren**

**Elaine Markey** (Friend of the Clarks)

**Norma McElhenny** (friend of Jane Ketchen)

**Judy Moakler** (friend of Jane Ketchen)

**Peggy Nelson**

**Paul** (friend of Ellen and Tom Davis)

**Jack Parmer** (friend of Carol Allen)

**Carol Polidoro**

**Sylvia Powers** (friend of Barbara Rogers)

**Savanna Ramotar** (friend of Sharon Hunt)

**Blake Schroeder** (friend of Robin Fryer)

**Joanne Stubbins** (friend of Jean Birch)

**Alexis Teixeira** (cousin of Barbara Walsh)

**Pete Tufflie** (friend of Bob Wyman)

**Gary Toye** (brother of Bobbie Jordan)

**Mary-Ann Tu**

**Linda Watson** (friend of Barbara Rogers)

**Bruce and Tom White**

**Nancy Woodman** (friend of Marianne Williams)

**Sarah Woodruff** (niece of Peter and Betsy Smith)

**Rev. Dr. Craig Yohn**

*Please notify the church office (508-362-4445) of any additions, deletions or changes you wish to make.*

## The Week of December 24, 2023

<b>Sunday</b>	12/24/23	10:00 am	Worship
<b>Monday</b>	12/25/23	<b>Merry Christmas! Office Closed</b>	
		5:00 pm	AA (J)
<b>Tuesday</b>	12/26/23	8:00 am-4:30 pm	Cape Cod Learning Tours (J)
		5:00 pm	AA (J)
<b>Wednesday</b>	12/27/23	8:00 am-4:30 pm	Cape Cod Learning Tours (J)
		5:00 pm	AA (J)
<b>Thursday</b>	12/28/23	8:00 am-4:30 pm	Cape Cod Learning Tours (J)
		2:30 pm	Music Rehearsal (M)
		5:00 pm	AA (J)
<b>Friday</b>	12/29/23	8:00 am-4:30 pm	Cape Cod Learning Tours (J)
		10:30 am	Knitting Group (G)
		5:00 pm	AA (J)
<b>Saturday</b>	12/30/23	No service this week	
<b>Sunday</b>	12/31/23	10:00 am	Worship

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

- ◆ **Please join us for fellowship at Coffee Hour in Jenkins Hall after worship.**
- ◆ **The 2024 Flower Calendar is up!** Look for your special date(s) and sign up. Then send \$32 to the office and one of the members of the flower committee will put together an arrangement to put in the Meetinghouse.
- ◆ **Thank you** to all the folks who have sponsored the flowers in the Meetinghouse this year.
- ◆ **The Coffee Hour sign up** is on the kiosk in Jenkins. If you can spare a little of your time to help with preparing and serving at our Sunday *Coffee Hour* it would be greatly appreciated. It's a wonderful way to socialize with old friends and to make new ones. Thank you.

**We ask your cooperation** in protecting the 1717 Meetinghouse by not parking your vehicle in or alongside the circle closest to the Meetinghouse. Although it is not marked, it is a FIRE LANE and preserves clear access to the Meetinghouse for Emergency Vehicles.

**Need to get connected? Wi-Fi: Meetinghouse Password: 1717Rooster**



**venmo**

**Venmo @WestParish** or scan the QR code.

To make a donation, simply scan the QR code with your phone's camera or search "@WestParish" on the Venmo app.

Be sure you select "West Parish of Barnstable" under the charity profiles.

If you would like your donation to go toward something specific like "Deacons", just note that in the description.

### **Church Staff**

Reed Baer, Pastor and Teacher  
Donna Murphy, Music Director  
Kristen Lind, Family School Director  
Susan Moeller, Council Chair

Christine Burns, Associate Pastor  
Susan McEwen, Office Administrator  
Chris Haven, Sexton  
Roberta Jordan, Deacons Chair

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