

West Parish of Barnstable  
**The Rooster Crows** Newsletter



***Worship at West Parish***  
**Saturdays at 4:30 pm**

April 6            Marks of Faith            John 20:19-31

April 13           Christ Among Us        Luke 24:36b-48

April 20           Swaddled in Love       John 10:11-18

April 27           Special service with Kim Moberg

*Kim Moberg is an award winning singer/songwriter and self taught, finger pick style guitarist.*

*Kim's passionate and heartfelt vocals mesmerize listeners while her compositions tug at feelings of melancholy, heartbreak, healing and social consciousness.*

**Sundays at 10:00 am**

April 7            “~~Three~~ Two Men in a Tub,” Humor Sunday!  
with Pastors Carl Heick and Reed Baer

April 14           “Drop Your Nets” Pastor Christie Preaches  
Special Music: Yoko Furihata Waynen

April 21           Poetry Sunday w/ West Parish Poets and Pastor Reed

April 28           Sharon Wyman and Pastor Christie Burns team up for the message  
**and** a Hymn Sing!

## MILESTONES

### BAPTISM

#### **Polly May Olson**

Daughter of Jessica and John Olson  
Sister of Sonny Olson  
March 24, 2024

## POETRY SUNDAY LOOKING FOR POETS!

We are reprising our well-received Poetry Sunday on April 21. If you would like to participate, please speak to Pastor Reed ASAP.

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## MEET OUR NEW MEMBERS

Joining the church on Easter, March 31, were:

#### **Rick and Nancy Serodio**

East Sandwich

Rick and Nancy have been worshipping with us for the past couple of years. Rick is very involved with the Sandwich Sailors Special Olympics and Nancy has helped out with the fair.

#### **Chuck Conway**

Sagamore Beach

Chuck has been worshipping with us the past couple of years; he helped lead a service themed on memory loss and its challenges, and has led informational sessions on living with someone with Alzheimer's at local churches and elsewhere. Chuck enjoys the Men's Breakfast group and helped out with the yard sale.

#### **Dr. Jack and Dr. Betsy Sinnigen**

Osterville

Betsy and Jack are retired veterinarians, and moved down from Sudbury last year to the family home in Osterville.

#### **Diane and Ken Juthe**

Centerville

Ken is a retired commercial builder; Diane was a bank manager/teller. Ken enjoys the Men's Breakfast group and the bridge group.

#### **Jessica and John Olson**

East Sandwich

Jessica and John joined on Palm Sunday, when their daughter Polly, was baptized. Polly made her stage debut as Baby Jesus in in the Christmas Pageant this past season!

#### **Allison McNaughton**

Alison, mother of Mark (now married!), a member in the late 90's and thereafter, has re-activated her membership – great to have you back!

*A number of folk wanted to join on Easter but were away, and so we will set a new date in the coming months. If you would like to join, speak to one of the pastors.*

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## 2024 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN TEASER



We fund our church each fiscal year (beginning July 1) through pledges of financial commitment made by church members, plus modest giving each weekend to “plate”, and earnings off invested funds. In the coming months we will be asking you to IMAGINE TOGETHER with us a church that is... well, that is the church of your dreams, a church you are proud to be a part of, a church you would be glad to share with your friends, a church of which Paul the Apostle and even Jesus himself might commend! And a church which you gladly make possible through your financial gifts.

## West Parish Family School

We started March with a visit from the Cat in the Hat, who visited the school for Dr. Seuss' birthday. The Cat in the Hat read The Cat in the Hat and Green Eggs and Ham to the whole school in Jenkins Hall.



**Chickadees**, the youngest toddler classroom, made lions to bring in the month of March by mixing yellow and orange paints to paint paper plates to make lion faces. They loved hearing Llama Llama Misses Mama, Yummy, Yucky an opposites book, and Splash. - Miss B, Miss Sue, and Miss Cordelia



**Toucans**, the middle toddler classroom, made wildflower goop by mixing cornstarch and water. In keeping with reading Dr. Seuss books, they read Fox in Socks and The Lorax. The students made truffula trees using coffee filters decorated with marker dots. They then "watered" the trees and watched what happened to the marker dots. - Miss Brie, Miss Jillian, and Miss Devan

**Cockatoos**, the oldest toddler classroom, learned about transportation. They painted with cars, and pushed them down a ramp. They also enjoyed their rainy day walk which included lots of puddle jumping. - Miss Sylver, Miss Anne, and Miss Anna

The **Sun Rays** preschool classroom celebrated March by making St. Patrick's Day hats with rainbow streamers and read How to Catch a Leprechaun. - Miss Selina and Miss Jillian

The **Little Explorers** read The Little Leprechaun. The students made a rainbow pot of gold and put the first letter of their names into the pot. There was also dancing the Irish jig and looking for clovers in the grassy field and leprechaun footprints. - Miss Margo and Miss Erika

Upstairs in the **Lemon Drops** classroom the students read Miss Rumphius, and made a mural of all the things that remind them of spring. They also read How to Catch a Leprechaun and then made blueprints on their leprechaun traps. - Miss Hannah and Miss Nicolle

In **Radiant Rainbows**, the students learned about 6 simple machines: ramps, pulleys, levers, screws, wedges, and the wheel and axle. They then applied this knowledge to their leprechaun traps made from shoeboxes which were painted green, decorated with rainbows and each had a pot of gold to lure the leprechauns. Unfortunately, the students were unsuccessful catching any leprechauns and the leprechauns made a mess of the classroom leaving glitter all over, chairs on their sides, green footprints. They left a scavenger hunt for the students to find a lucky charm snack which the students loved. - Miss Anne, Miss Lenora, Miss Stephanie, and Miss Hillary



**Literacy Lolapalooza** - Miss Hillary comes in weekly to work in small groups in the Preschool and Pre-K classes to work on letter identification, rhymes, and games with literacy links.

**Science** - Miss Debbie comes in to share STEM lessons tailored to each age group each week. This month the students learned about wind, the differences between shamrocks and clovers, and animals we see in the spring.

**If you have an IRA  
and are required to take a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD)  
PLEASE read this article!**

The following are excerpts from an article in the Wall Street Journal:

*“Seniors who give money to charity to lower their taxable income often make a mistake. They withdraw money from their bank account or a traditional IRA and then write a check to the nonprofit of their choice. As a result, they are missing a valuable tax deduction.*

*Instead, tax pros say they should use a qualified charitable distribution, or QCD, which allows individuals over 70 and ½ (currently 73) to transfer up to \$100,000 a year from their traditional IRA directly to a charity tax free even if they are itemizing deductions. Married couples can transfer up to \$200,000.*

*In years when you have to take the annual withdrawal known as a required minimum distribution, or RMD, you can direct your administrator to direct your distribution as a QCD to an eligible charity. That would exclude that RMD distribution from your taxable income.”*

West Parish of Barnstable is an eligible charity. You can have your administrator send the check to West Parish, or send the check to you to give to West Parish, or some IRA administrators will provide you a checkbook from which you can write checks directly to charities. I know that TDAmeritrade and Schwab both will issue you a checkbook. In all cases the check must be made out to the charity. Using this method to contribute lowers your gross income and your taxes. It also lowers the income used by Medicare to compute the costs of your monthly premium. And, if you itemize, it lowers the threshold for taking a medical expense deduction. And it may also impact other calculations like how much of your Social Security is taxable.

*“Tax professionals caution that this QCD issue can be tricky because custodians of qualified retirement accounts such as IRAs aren’t required to break down distributions from an account that went to charity. They just provide the gross distribution amount on the 1099-R Tax Form. It is up to the taxpayer to sort this out and make sure it is reported correctly to his or her tax preparer.”*

This really isn’t that hard, especially if your administrator/custodian gives you a checkbook. The Checks would also be listed as “Transactions” on your Monthly reports from your administrator, although not shown as a distribution to a charity.

Your final authority on taxes will be your tax preparer who I’m confident will agree that the above is the best way to give to charity and lower your taxes. I am quite familiar with this topic and am willing to answer any question you might have.

**Bob Stolte, Financial Secretary**

Email [rrstolte@aol.com](mailto:rrstolte@aol.com)

Message or Phone Call - 774-994-1433



## “Notes” from the Loft

*from The Music Director*

How can it be closing in on the end of March, Easter just more than a week away and already Spring? We so look with anticipation to the end of the cold and snow thinking that when we begin to feel it back in October it will be endless months with it, harboring safely in our homes away from it all, with dismal feelings of isolation. But there is a hope...hope in the light that shines in our lives, seeing it in the candlelight of Christmas Eve, the beacons of light shining in the windows of houses along 6A during the winter nights, and perhaps even during a Maundy Thursday service when the extinguishing of candles during a reading of the Passion helps us to realize the days of Holy Week in the life of Christ, culminating in the joy of Easter and the hope of life eternal. It is said that the cracks in a piece of pottery, just as in a less than perfect human being, is a thing of beauty – it is how the light may shine through, a sign of hope and beauty. *This Little Light of Mine*, that familiar hymn, *I'm gonna Let It Shine, let it shine, let it shine, let it shine...* gives us words of inspiration for life. All is not dismal and dark, unless we allow it to be. We can go out and make our light shine, make a difference by our attitude, hope and love. It can be like magic as when the lights on Christmas Eve are extinguished once all the candles are lit and we find ourselves engulfed in the beauty and awe of the moment, reflecting then on the soon to be birth of Christ. And, once again during Holy Week, when we see the candles being put out, but this time in a totally different thought process not reflecting on a joy to come, or so we think, as we realize it is depicting the story of a life being extinguished. But, oh the joy we can anticipate and now know will happen a short two days later when Christ will rise to save us all.

There is a story about how when someone dies the angels hang a star in the heavens in memory of the light, love, and laughter that person shared on earth. So, hanging an angel holding a star by those left behind will always be a reminder of a loved one gone. I believe that hanging a crystal in a sunny window and viewing the beautiful colors coming through it into a room is a sign that our loved one lost is always there with us. I have several of them hanging in windows that I hung following losses of special people to me. The light will shine in our lives on Easter and always if we allow it to. And then pass it on, letting your light shine in the world around you as you reach out... it is not a solo act, but a brightness that can be caught, bringing others into sharing as well. *Jesus is the light of the world...* let Him be the reason we all let our light shine and with hopes that when we are in need there will be others who will shine in our lives. *Thank you, Lord, for the inner light we have been blessed with. Help us to find ways to polish it and share it to help heal the world closest to us as well as beyond. Amen.*

Blessings ~ *Donna*



## WITS April 10 — Celebrate Spring and Rebirth.

Come to Pastor Christie's home and celebrate the Easter Season. Come over to celebrate the Easter season on Wednesday, April 10 at 7:00 p.m. at 8 Earl Road, East Sandwich. Come alone or bring a friend. Come if you are happy and come if you are sad. The Easter season is for all of us.

From Kate Bowler

*"Easter isn't just one day—it is an entire season. The next fifty days celebrate Jesus' victory over Sin and Death—which is even longer than Lent. It's a reversal that resounds through all time and eternity, but can we party that long?"*

*You may have experienced that Easter joy again this year, where the truth of the resurrection felt fresh and real. Perhaps you sensed the immediacy of it, like the women at the tomb when they were told by two bright angels that Jesus was not there because He had risen from the dead. Or when Jesus appeared to the disciples in the upper room in his resurrection body that was no pale ghost, but was His real Jesus self, translated.*

*Or maybe Easter is more like the golden hour, that time late in the day where the sun is so low in the sky it bathes everything in perfect candlelight, but it slips away too soon. How often do we miss this daily ritual promising we'll pay attention another day? I wonder if that was what it felt like for the disciples. After the resurrection, Jesus stayed with them—not just for a weekend—but for weeks and weeks. And if we're honest, how sustainable is Easter joy in our every-day life?"*

### Happy Birthday

to our West Parish members and friends



- 1 Chris Haven
- 2 Lynn Parker
- 5 Sandie Siedsma
- 10 Donna Murphy
- 10 Layla Vickers
- 11 Betsy Smith
- 11 Rosalie Jones
- 12 LeRoy Malouf
- 12 Don Martin
- 12 Deb Lee
- 13 Alison McNaughton
- 16 Robin Fryer
- 17 Jane Ketchen
- 21 Lindsay Smith
- 21 Greg Ketchen
- 21 Sophie Murphy
- 24 Jane Hayward
- 25 Linda Dalrymple
- 27 Leona Christine Estey
- 28 Leah Grohe-Rogers
- 30 Jane Smith

*If you'd like to have your name included, please contact the office with your information.*



### Rooster Crows Creative Crafting Corner

*Inquiring minds want to know...  
are you eating your spinach?*

We, the Rooster Crows Creatives, are busy doing some Spring cleaning. We are sorting through our supplies and getting organized for our upcoming in-person crafting season.

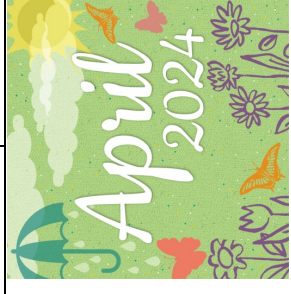
So, if you are eating your greens and you are getting ready to send those clear plastic containers to recycling, please bring them to us instead. They are perfect for sorting and corralling small bits and pieces, beads and shells, felt, ribbon, glue sticks and so on...

We are specifically looking for the containers that spinach and greens come in as they do not have ventilation holes that would allow small items to fall out. Both the larger 10-16 oz and smaller 5 oz sizes are helpful. You can bring them by the church anytime in April and leave them on the shelf at the back of Jenkins for us.

Thank you!!



7 10 am Worship	8 5 pm AA (J) 6 pm Meetinghouse Farm (G)	9 10 am Christie's Coffee Hours at Nirvana 12 noon - 5:15 pm Music Lessons (M) 5 pm AA (J)	10 9:15 am FS Science (J) 4 pm FS Board (G & Z) 5 pm AA (J) 7 pm WITS at Psstor Christie's	11 8 am Men's Breakfast At Jack's Out Back 9:15 am FS Science 5 pm AA (J) 7 pm WB Festival Committee (G)	12 9:15 am FS Science (J) 10:30 am Knitting (G) 5 pm AA (J)	13 4:30 pm Worship	
14 10 am Worship	15 5 pm AA (J)	16 10 am Christie's Coffee Hours at Nirvana 10 am Choir Rehearsal (M) 12 noon - 5:15 pm Music Lessons (M) 4:30 pm Finance (G & Z) 5 pm AA (J)	17 9:15 am FS Science (J) 5 pm AA (J) 6 pm Faith on Tap at Cape Cod Coffee, Mashpee	18 <b>ROOSTER CROWS ARTICLES DUE</b> 9:15 am FS Science (J) 5 pm AA (J)	19 9:15 am FS Science (J) 10:30 am Knitting (G) 5 pm AA (M)	20 4:30 pm Worship	
21 10 am Worship	22 4 pm Council (G) 5 pm AA (J)	23 10 am Christie's Coffee Hours at Nirvana 10 am Choir Rehearsal (M) 12 noon - 5:15 pm Music Lessons (M) 5 pm AA (M)	24 9:15 am FS Science (J) 5 pm AA (J)	25 9:15 am FS Science (J) 5 pm AA (J)	26 9:15 FS Science (J) 10:30 am Knitting (G) 5 pm AA (J) 7 pm 1717 MHF program (M)	27 4:30 pm Worship	
28 10 am Worship 2 pm Gondim (J)	29 5 pm AA (J)	30 10 am Christie's Coffee Hours at Nirvana 12 noon - 5:15 pm Music Lessons (M) 5 pm AA (J)					



For the most up to date calendar go to <https://westparish.org/calendar-2/>

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

**West Parish of Barnstable**

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On Palm Sunday, we were most blessed to hear the amazing voice of Amran Biruk performing *Via Dolorosa*.

Watch and listen to her on West Parish's You Tube channel.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SaaMG3EBSGI>

***Rooster Crows Newsletter Deadline***

The deadline for submissions for the May 2024 newsletter is Thursday, April 18th.

Submissions can be made by mail, email, calling, or coming into the office.

P.O. Box 219, W. Barnstable, MA 02668 [contact@westparish.org](mailto:contact@westparish.org) 508-362-4445