

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

Celebration of Epiphany

January 5, 2025

10:00 a.m.

*“And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod,
they left for their own country by another road.”*

Matthew 2:12

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

*HYMN #143 (Red) *"We Three Kings of Orient Are"* vs. 1, 4,5

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Jesus said: "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but have the light of life."

Many: We have seen the light of Christ like a star shining in the sky; and like the magi, we have come to worship.

One: Glory be to God, and to Jesus Christ, the Word of Light, in whom God is made known in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

PRELUDE

Impression on "We Three Kings"

Alfred V. Fedak

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

The radiance of a star guided the travelers to the feet of Jesus where they offered their most precious gifts - gold, frankincense, and myrrh. You have given us more than a star, O God, to guide us - you have revealed your glory and your love in the person of Jesus - Light of the world. As we offer our thanks for such wondrous gifts to us, we recognize our responsibility to be bearers of his light and love into the areas of people's lives darkened by pain and fear, poverty and oppression, sorrow and hopelessness.

We confess the times when we choose to go our own way rather than be guided by you - the times when we are reluctant to allow the power and radiance of Christ to flow through us.

Strengthen us with your Spirit to follow wherever you lead us and to reveal your glory and love through all we do and say. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: The God who “judges people with righteousness, defends the cause of the poor and gives deliverance to the needy” (Psalm 72 1,4) cleanses us from sin - for "if we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:9)

Many: Thanks be to God!

THE WORD OF GOD IS PROCLAIMED

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 2:1-12

SOLO

Follow the Star!

Ronald Kauffman

MESSAGE

“The Three Henchmen – and You”

Pastor Reed

THE CONGREGATION RESPONDS

*HYMN #167 (Green)

“Arise, Your Light is Come!”

ANNOUNCEMENTS, JOYS, AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

CALL TO PRAYER

One: God be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: Let us pray.

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD’S PRAYER

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 our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO OFFERING OUR GIFTS

*In thanksgiving to God and giving witness to generous hearts,
our financial gifts support our ministries here and in the wider community.*

We now accept Venmo, the qr code and instructions are on the back page.

*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

THE BREAD AND CUP ARE SHARED

Our service of communion is open to all seeking Christ's presence.

We will celebrate communion by intinction; come forward, take a piece of the bread, dip it into the cup, and consume it on the way back to your seat. If you would prefer to be served where you sit, raise your hand and the deacons will come to you.

For those who prefer, please take the packaged communion-to-go.

(We offer a gluten-free, wheat-free alternative – in the plastic bags – for those whose diet so requires. We serve cranberry juice out of respect for those who cannot consume alcohol.)

INVITATION

THE COMMUNION PRAYER

THE SHARING OF THE BREAD AND THE CUP

UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

We give you thanks, O God, that you have come to us through Jesus Christ, both in the midst of time and history in the town of Bethlehem, and in the timeless presence of Christ's Spirit, as we receive the gifts of bread and wine. Send us out into the world rejoicing, ready to share your love with the people we meet; through the grace of Jesus Christ. Amen.

GOD SENDS US FORTH

*HYMN #168 (Green) *"As with Gladness Men of Old" v.1-3*

WORDS OF SENDING

POSTLUDE Good news from Heavens the Angels Bring Johann Pachelbel
(It is our custom to remain seated in silence during the Postlude)

* All who wish, please stand.

All are invited to join together for fellowship and refreshments following the service.

Thanks to Charlene Higbe for being our guest musician today.

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

Carol Polidoro

Karolina Atsalis (friend of the Abrahams)
Bunny and Bart Chase (friends of Rik Clark)
Doug Clay (brother of Sharon Hunt)
Ginny Dolan (friend of the Haven Family)
Betsy Eidem (friend of Carol Allen)
Susan Emery (Jane Ketchen's sister)
Ned Flynn (Ted's father)
Tom Fuller (friend of Jane and Greg Ketchen)
Judy Ginns (friend of Sandy Clark)
Bob Gravino (friend of Greg and Jane Ketchen)
Jay Griffin (Peggie Bretz' brother)
Sharon Griffin (Peggie Bretz' sister-in-law)
Steve Howland
Deidre Hunt (daughter-in-law of Sharon and John Hunt)
Dick Kiusalis (friend of Joanna Wallace)
Martha Lant (sister-in-law of Peggie Bretz)
Adrienne Locklear (family of Kelly and Macayla Washburn)
Sue Maki (friend of Joanna Wallace)
Norma McElhenny (friend of Jane Ketchen)
Greg Miller
Judy Moakler (friend of Jane Ketchen)
Brian Murphy
Peggy Nelson
Diane Ollerhead (friend of Robin Fryer)
Paul (friend of Ellen and Tom Davis)
Savanna Ramotar (friend of Sharon Hunt)
Cyndi Rausch (Allison McNaughton's sister)
Blake Schroeder (friend of Robin Fryer)
Joanne Stubbins
Nancy Sturgis (friend of Joanne Wallace)
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)
Gina Yacinto (friend of Joanna Wallace)
Rev. Dr. Craig Yohn

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

The Week January 5, 2025

Sunday	1/5/25	10:00 am 5:00 pm	Worship AA (J)
Monday	1/6/25	10:30 am 5:00 pm	FS Classes (J) AA (J)
Tuesday	1/7/25	9:15 am 10:00 am 11:00 am 5:00 pm 6:15 pm	FS Science (J) Christie's Coffee Hours at Nirvana Choir Rehearsal (M) AA (J) Bell Choir (M)
Wednesday	1/8/25	9:15 am 12:00 pm 4:00 pm 5:00 pm	FS Science (J) Bible Study (G & Z) FS Faculty (G) AA (J)
Thursday	1/9/25	8:00 am 5:00 pm	Men's Breakfast at Jack's Out Back AA (J)
Friday	1/10/25	9:30 am 10:30 am 5:00 pm	Friends of Whelden Library (G) Knitting Group (G) AA (J)
Saturday	1/11/25	4:30 pm	Worship
Sunday	1/12/25	10:00 am 5:00 pm	Worship AA (J)

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

- ◆ **Please join us for Coffee Hour over in Jenkins Hall.** Our hosts today are Sharon & Bob Wyman.
- ◆ **The flowers gracing the Meetinghouse today** were arranged by Sharon Hunt.
- ◆ **The 2025 Flower Calendar is up** on the kiosk. Please sign up for sponsoring the flowers along with a dedication. The cost is \$32 and can be paid by cash, check, or Venmo with "Flowers" in the memo. One of the members of the flower committee will contact you to about the arrangement.
- ◆ **The Coffee Hour sign up** is on the kiosk in Jenkins. If you can spare a little of your time to help 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
Paula King, Music Director
Susan Moeller, Council Chair
Alycia Williams, Family School Director

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

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