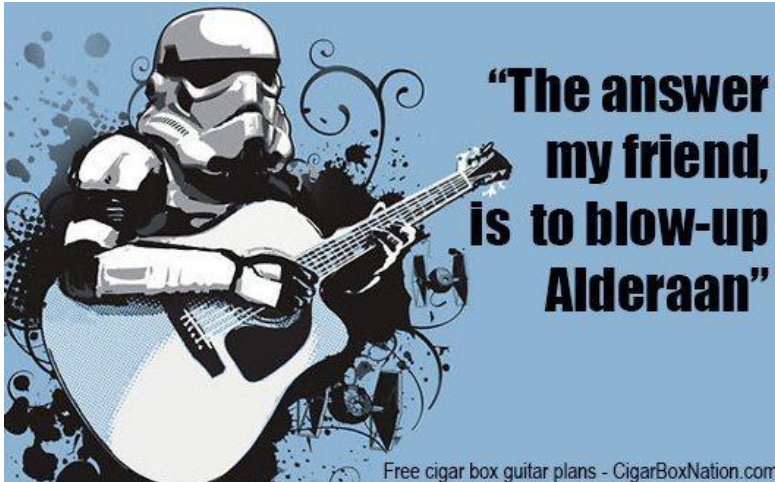


***It's Saturday***



# ***Let's Do Church!***

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

**May the Fourth, 2025**

**4:30 p.m.**

**May the Fourth**

*So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said,  
"Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here,  
has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit."  
And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was  
restored. Then he got up and was baptized, and after taking some food,  
he regained his strength. Acts 9:17-20*

**BE THE CHURCH**

**Fight for the powerless.**

## 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

Stars and Planets Flung in Orbit

NCH 567

**Stars and planets flung in orbit, galaxies that swirl in space,  
Powers hid with within the atom, cell that form an infant's face:  
These, O God, in silence praise you; by your wisdom they are made.**

**Skies adorned with sunset splendor, silent peaks in clam repose,  
Golden fields awaiting harvest, foaming surf and fragrant rose:  
Earth, its bounty clothed with beauty, echoes all creation's praise.**

**Life in wondrous, wild profusion, seed and fruit, each flower and tree,  
Beast and fish and swarming insect, soaring bird, rejoicing, free:  
These, your creatures, join in chorus, praising you in wordless song.**

**Humankind, earth's deepest mystery, born of dust but touched by grace,  
Torn apart by tongue and color, yet a single, striving race:  
We, in whom you trace your image, add our words to nature's song.**

**Gracious God, we bring before you gifts of human life alone,  
Truth that throbs through song and story, visions caught in paint and stone:  
These, O God, we gladly offer, gifts to praise the Giver's name.**

**Christ, the Word before creation as creation's final goal,  
Once you came for earth's redemption; by your Spirit make earth whole.  
Then, O God, the new creation will your praise forever sing.**

WELCOME

Pastor Christie

One: Welcome home, whether this is your first visit, or you have been here for years. Here at West Parish, no matter who you are, and no matter where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here. We are glad you are here with us today whether you are joining us online or in person. Today, coincidentally, in global popular culture, today being May the Fourth is also known as "Star Wars" Day, as in "May the Fourth be with you". So this morning, in the spirit of Star Wars Day, we extend to you a modified version of our UCC words of welcome: "No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey; no matter your ancestry or immigration status or what kind of car you drive or whether you drive at all; no matter from which star system you may be visiting us or whether the Force is strong or weak in you... YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!" I'm Pastor Christie, we have Steve Gregory as our director of music with the band, 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 (*inspired by Psalm 30*)

O God, you have lifted us up,

**So empires of this galaxy will not enjoy our defeat.**

In our most desperate hour we cried to you:

**"Help us, O God! You are our only hope!"**

Hearing our cries for help, you healed us;

**Bringing us from Chaos, you restored our lives.**

May we be as Jedi trained to feel emotions, understand them, and then let them go.

**For your anger, O God, lasts but a moment, while your graciousness lasts a lifetime.**

Weeping lingers for a night,

**But joy comes with the morning.**

With Easter mornings lasting fifty days,

**Our spirits dance like Ewoks on Endor.**

You have transformed our lives from mourning to joy.

**May we give thanks, and praise God for ever and ever.**

# 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

*We now accept Venmo, the QR code and 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 cranberry juice and cracker.

#### INVITATION

At the Master's Table in this season of resurrection, we look not to Luke Skywalker, but to Luke, the Evangelist, who wrote of our Savior, not only the night of the first Communion, but later wrote of the Risen Christ who appeared to the disciples on the road to Emmaus, but they didn't recognize him. Later, at the table, with two of the disciples, he broke the bread and blessed it, and then their eyes were opened. That was when they recognized the Risen Christ in the breaking of the bread. So, now, we come to this table, in company with all believers, not just a long time ago, but also today, and a long time from now: this ritual serves as witness to our unity with all believers in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, to the ends of the earth and galaxies far, far away.

#### AFFIRMATION

**People: It is right to give God our thanks and praise.**

**All: So be it!**

Pastor: Just as many grains of wheat are gathered to make one loaf of bread

**People: And many grapes are gathered to make one cup of wine,**

Pastor: And just as billions of stars populate each galaxy

**People: we, the many people of God, are made one in the body of Christ.**

#### WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Let us remember that on the night when one of his own disciples turned the dark side, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Master's death until he returns even more glorious and powerful than you can possibly imagine.

#### PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AFTER COMMUNION

**Gracious God, we come before you in the name of Jesus Christ, our crucified and risen Savior, the one who walks with us, talks with us, eats with us. We thank you for this holy meal which we have shared among humble and grateful hearts: we have broken bread**

together; we have shared the same pot of rice; one taro root has fed us all. Sustain us also with your Holy Spirit. Amen.

## THE WORD OF GOD IS PROCLAIMED



SPECIAL SONG

Star Wars Theme

John Williams



SACRED WORDS FOR SACRED SPACE

Acts 9:1-20

SERMON INTRODUCTION Imperial March aka “Darth Vader’s Theme”

John Williams

MEDITATION

May the Fourth Be with You

Rev. Christie Burns

## GOD SENDS US FORTH



CLOSING SONG

God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens

NCH 556

**God who stretched the spangled heavens infinite in time and place,  
Flung the suns in burning radiance through the silent fields of space;  
We, your children, in your likeness, share inventive powers with you;  
Great Creator, still creating, show us what we yet may do,**

**We have ventured worlds undreamed of since the childhood of our race;  
Known the ecstasy of winging through untraveled realms of space;  
Probed the secrets of the atom, yielding unimagined power,  
Facing us with life’s destruction or our most triumphant hour.**

**As each far horizon beckons, may it challenge us anew,  
Children of creative purpose, serving others, honoring you.**

**May our dreams prove rich with promise, each endeavor, well begun;  
Great Creator, give us guidance till our goals and yours are one.**

WORDS OF SENDING



SONG OF SENDING

Go in Peace

Sam Baker

**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.**







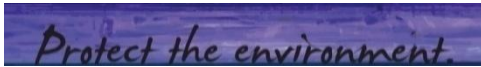
## **WE ARE GLAD YOU WORSHIPPED WITH US TODAY!**

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

Pastors Christie Burns and Reed Baer

“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.

**Would you like to play in the Saturday Band?** Contact Steve G.



by recycling this bulletin.

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

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



**venmo**

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”, note that in the description.

### **Church Staff**

Reed Baer, Pastor and Teacher  
Paula King, Music Director  
Susan Moeller, Council Chair  
Chris Haven, Sexton

Christine Burns, Associate Pastor  
Susan McEwen, Office Administrator  
Bobbie Jordan, Deacons Chair  
Alycia Williams, Family School Director

Box 219, West Barnstable, MA 02668  
508-362-4445 [contact@westparish.org](mailto:contact@westparish.org) [www.westparish.org](http://www.westparish.org)

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The Week May 3, 2025			
<b>Saturday</b>	5/3/25	4:30 pm	Worship
<b>Sunday</b>	5/4/25	10:00 am 5:00 pm	Worship AA (J)
<b>Monday</b>	5/5/25	10:15 am 5:00 pm	FS Classes (J) AA (J)
<b>Tuesday</b>	5/6/25	9:15 am 10:00 am 11:00 am 4:30 pm 5:00 pm	FS Science (J) Christie's Coffee Hours at Nirvana Choir Rehearsal (J) Bell Choir (M) AA (J)
<b>Wednesday</b>	5/7/25	8:00 am – 12:00 pm 12:00 pm 4:00 pm 5:00 pm	FS Picture Day (J) Bible Study (G & Z) FS Faculty (J) AA (M)
<b>Thursday</b>	5/8/25	8:00 am – 12:00 pm 5:00 pm	FS Picture Day (J) AA (J)
<b>Friday</b>	5/9/25	10:00 am 5:00 pm	Knitting Group (G) AA (J)
<b>Saturday</b>	5/10/25	4:30 pm	Worship

**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

