

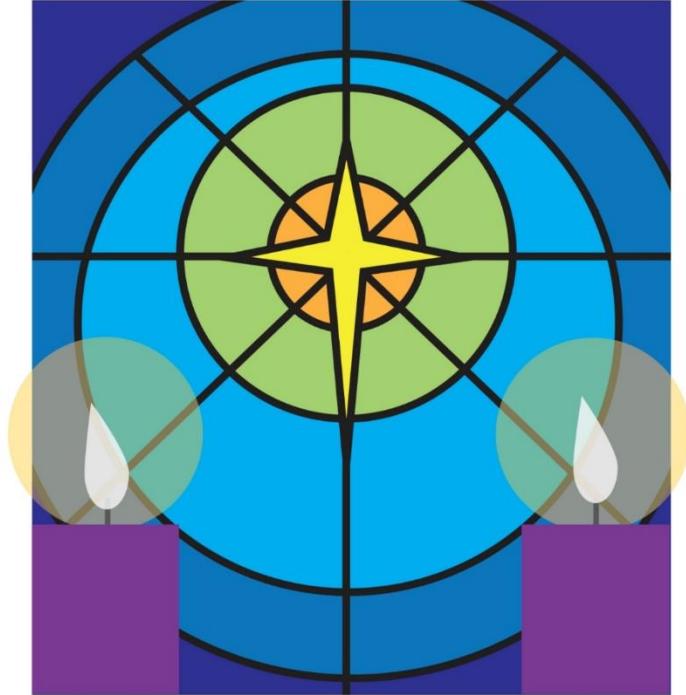
West Parish of Barnstable

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

December 7, 2025

10:00 a.m.

“Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son and shall name him Immanuel.”

Isaiah 7:14

All are invited to stay for the full service today.

Saturday School is offered for our children and youth at our 4:30 Saturday 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 SECOND ADVENT CANDLE (Howard Thurman)

*One: I light one candle here for hope
and it is like a small lamp,
lighting a bedside table with open book,
after a long day,
the glow of heart monitor in ICU,
a headlamp for a hiker on an unfamiliar trail,
or a miner down a shaft,
a toddler's paw-patrol nightlight,
or early-morning oven in a bakery.*

**All: We light one candle so we will remember
to notice this week's ordinary lights of hope.**

Two: For ordinary and available to all is the hope of Advent.

**All: I will light Candles this Christmas,
Candles of joy despite all the sadness,
Candles of hope where despair keeps watch,
Candles of courage for fears ever present,
Candles of peace for tempest-tossed days,
Candles of grace to ease heavy burdens,
Candles of love to inspire all my living,
Candles that will burn all year long.**

* HYMN #122 (Red)

"God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen"

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Come, dear ones, as an Advent people; praise the God of hope and promise.

Many: We come with glad and thankful hearts.

One: Follow the holy way; make the path straight.

Many: We will walk the road to Bethlehem, celebrating the Advent of our God.

One: O come, O Come, Emmanuel, and cheer our spirits by thine advent here!

PRELUDE

“Bring a Torch, Jeannette Isabella”

arr. M. Ham

UNISON PRAYER

We are on our way through Advent, O God, just as our whole culture is on the way to Christmas.

The world has the bright lights of the shopping mall seven days a week until the wee hours; we have but a solitary candle of hope.

The world has certain shopping days until Christmas; we have an uncertain time until the coming again of the One who was born in a manger, died on a cross, and promised to come back in power and glory.

As Mary and Joseph journeyed long ago to Bethlehem, carrying hope in their hearts, we journey through Advent, with hope in our hearts.

Fan our small flickers of hope, O God, that the darkness be less scary, that in the tiny, warm glow, we might truly see one another, and you. Amen.

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.

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 72:1-7, Isaiah 7:10-16

ANTHEM

“We Wait”

R.E. Schram

THE WORD OF GOD IS PROCLAIMED

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 3:1-12

SOLO

“My Soul in Stillness Waits” M. Haugen

MESSAGE

“The Scents of Advent”

Pastor Reed

THE CONGREGATION RESPONDS

*HYMN #156 (Green)

“I Wonder as I Wander”

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

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.*

OFFERTORY

“Lo How A Rose E'er Blooming”

traditional

*SONG OF PRAISE

**All praise, eternal Christ, to thee,
Whose advent sets thy people free;
Once more upon thy people shine,
And fill the world with love divine. 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

RESPONSIVE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

One: Eternal and gracious One, though we live in a world of need,

Many: here we have tasted your goodness and hungered for a world more just.

One: Though afflicted by brokenness and division,

Many: here we have heard your call to be a people of healing community.

One: Though daily we touch our limits,

Many: here we have received the fullness of your grace.

One: Send us forth, O God,

Many: in faith, in hope, and in love. Amen.

GOD SENDS US FORTH

*HYMN #444 (Green)

“Lord of All Hopefulness”

WORDS OF SENDING

POSTLUDE

“Theme and Variations on ‘Stuttgart’ ” G. Winston Cassler
(It is our custom to remain seated in silence during the Postlude)

* All who wish, please stand.

Christmas Poinsettias



The plants are on order to grace the Meetinghouse during the Christmas season.

Use this form and drop it off with \$6.00 (cash or check) to the church office

Donor(s): _____

Dedication to read: In memory / honor / celebration of:

(please print)

The plants will be available to take after worship on Sunday, December 28, 2025.

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:*

Chloe Alexander & Alasdair McEwen

(Susan McEwen's daughter-in-law & son)

Christopher Allen

(Carol & David Allen's grandson)

Karolina Atsalis (friend of the Abrahams)

Rick Clay (Sharon Hunt's brother)

Neil Constantine

(Alexander Constantine's brother)

David Coward (Betsy Miller's brother)

Bill and Dottie Brower

Betsy Eidem (friend of Carol Allen)

Emy and Yessica (friends of Christie Burns)

Ned Flynn (Ted's father)

George Flynn (Betsy Miller's brother)

Jay Griffin (Peggie Bretz' brother)

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

Deidre Hunt

(Sharon and John Hunt's daughter-in-law)

Gina Jacinto (Joanne Wallace's friend)

Nelson Jenkins (Tripp Grohe's friend)

David Kuehn

(friend of Robin Miller and Kim Baker)

Martha Lant (Peggie Bretz's sister-in-law)

Meredith Leonard (Debbie Barrette's mother)

Cheryl Lickteig (Jeanne Douglass' friend)

Adrienne Locklear

(Kelly and Macayla Washburn's family)

Sue Maki (Joanne Wallace's friend)

Jacquie and Don Martin

Bill McEwen (Susan McEwen's husband)

David Mendelow (Sandy Clark's friend)

Stephen Merritt (Sharon Wyman's cousin)

Greg Miller

Robin Miller

Brian Murphy

Peggy Nelson

Jordan Northcross (Van Northcross' brother)

Randy Parker

Colleen Pastore (friend of John Hunt)

Carol Polidoro

Savanna Ramotar (Sharon Hunt's friend)

Andrea Schwamb (friend of Robin Miller)

Joanne Stubbins

Benji Stuart

(Heiti and Bill Manning's grandson)

Jim Sweeney (Randy Parker's brother-in-law)

Gary Toye (Bobbie Jordan's brother)

Marvin Toye (Bobbie Jordan's brother)

Roy Urbach (Karen Datlowe's friend)

Nancy Woodman (Marianne Williams' friend)

Rev. Dr. Craig Yohn

The Week of December 7, 2025

Sunday	12/7/25	10:00 am 5:00 pm	Worship West Barnstable Tree Lighting and The Christmas Story and Carol Sing
Monday	12/8/25	9:00 am 5:00 pm 6:00 pm 7:00 pm	FS Enrichment (J) AA (J) Meetinghouse Farm (G) AA (J)
Tuesday	12/9/25	11:00 am 11:00 am 4:30 pm 5:00 pm	Christie's Coffee Hours at Nirvana Choir Rehearsal (M) Bell Choir Rehearsal (M) AA (J)
Wednesday	12/10/25	9:00 am 1:00 pm 4:00 pm 5:00 pm	FS Science (J) Bible Study (G & Z) FS Board (G) AA (J)
Thursday	12/11/25	8:00 am 5:00 pm	Mens Breakfast at Jack's Out Back AA (J)
Friday	12/12/25	9:00 am 10:00 am 5:00 pm	FS Science (J) Knitting Group (G) AA (J)
Saturday	12/13/25	4:30 pm	Worship
Sunday	12/14/25	10:00 am 5:00 pm	Worship AA (J)

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

- ♦ **Please join us for Coffee Hour in Jenkins Hall after worship.** Our host today is Ted Gould.
- ♦ **The flowers gracing the Meetinghouse today** are given by Marianne and Greg Williams in memory of Constance Williams. They were arranged by Diane Juthe.
- ♦ **Thank you to everyone** who has sponsored the flowers for the Meetinghouse this year.
- ♦ **The Coffee Hour Host sign up** is on the board next to the kitchen pass thru window 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.
- ♦ **Prayer List** - please notify the church office of any additions, deletions, or changes you wish to make. Call 508-362-4445, email office@westparish.org, leave a note, or stop on by.

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 @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 such as "Deacons Fund", 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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