

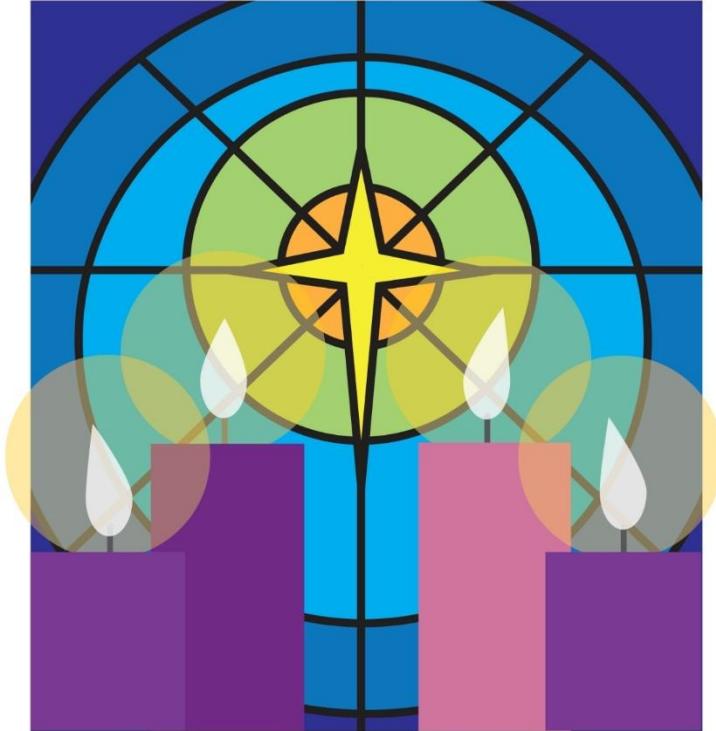
West Parish of Barnstable

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 of Advent

December 21, 2025

10:00 a.m.

*“She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus,
for he will save his people from their sins.”*

Matthew 1:21

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 (Maren Tirabassi & Howard Thurman)

*One: We will light four candles
and I will be willing to light
every taper in my life,
for love asks for all that is needed
and then ... for everything else,*

*for this is how incarnation happens,
how God comes.*

Two: We light four candles
or a hundred or a thousand more
whatever it takes
to remind ourselves to live in love.

As ordinary and gentle as the holy welcome
that turns the world upside down,
comes hope, peace, joy, and love
to illuminate our 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 #154 (Green)

“In the Bleak Midwinter”

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Grace to you, and peace from God.

Many: As Advent people we give thanks to the One who is faithful.

One: Let us proclaim the wonder of the God who came, is coming, and will always come.

Many: In word, action, and with gentleness of spirit, we celebrate the Advent of our God!

PRELUDE

“Winter Improvisation” for Crystal Bowls and Synthesizer

Paula King and Kathy Warren

A RESPONSIVE PRAYER

Madeleine L'Engle

One: Christ didn't wait till the world was ready, till nations were at peace.

Many: Christ came when the heavens were unsteady and prisoners cried out for release.

One: Christ didn't wait for the perfect time.

Many: He came when the need was deep and great.

One: Christ didn't wait till hearts were pure. He came to a people wounded within and without.

Many: To a world like ours, he came, and his Light would not go out.

One: Christ came to a world that didn't mesh, to heal its tangles, shield its scorn.

Many: In the mystery of the Word made Flesh the Maker of the stars was born.

One: To come to him and give our feelings voice we need not wait till all is well.

Many: For to share our grief, to touch our pain, he came with Love: Emmanuel.

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.

ANTHEM

“Come to Set Us Free”

J.A. Shaffermann/L. Larson

THE WORD OF GOD IS PROCLAIMED

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 1:18-25

SOLO

“Now the Heavens Start to Whisper”

Welsh melody, arr. T. Keesecker

THE CONGREGATION RESPONDS

*HYMN #149 (Green) *“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”*

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 *“Prelude on an Ancient Melody” (Wachet Auf)* R. Schulz-Widmar

*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

GOD SENDS US FORTH

*HYMN #151 (Green) *“O Little Town of Bethlehem”*

WORDS OF SENDING

POSTLUDE *“Bereden vag for Herran” (Prepare the Royal Highway)* arr. M. Sedio
(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.

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

Dave & Barbara Kerns (friends of Joanna Wallace)

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)

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 (Joanna 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 (Joanna 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

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



Poinsettia Sponsors



- Steve & Mindy Abbott in loving memory of our parents:
Howard & Lois Abbott and Fred & Martha Strauss
- Barbara Cameron in memory of Vincent Conroy and Jean Birch
- Rik & Sandy Clark in memory of our parents
- Rev. Betsy Garland & Kim Baker in celebration of great-grandchildren: Willa and Itsuki
- Paul & Lisa Fackler in celebration of Henry Fackler Chen and
Chloe Fackler Chen
- Bobbie Jordan in celebration of family
- Ken & Diane Juthe in memory of our loved passed family members
- Greg & Jane Ketchen in memory of Gould & Charlotte Ketchen,
Clara & Arlan Skinner and Susan Emery
- Liz Knox-Lupfer & Dan Lupfer in celebration of our children & grandchildren
- Heiti & Bill Manning in celebration of our children, grandchildren,
and loved ones
- Toni & LeRoy Malouf world peace
- Laura Murphy in celebration of family and friends
- Gretchen & Bob Naylor in memory of Anna & Ray Naylor
and Phyllis & Herb Hoffman
- Jan Scarpatto in memory of my husband, Bob
- Peter & Betsy Smith in memory of Dr. Harold R. & Helen C. Smith,
Newton J. & Muriel P. Buren,
and Carol R. Woodruff and James W. Buren
- Bob & Shirley Stolte in memory of Elizabeth & Alfred Hodgkins and
and Lucia & Albert Stolte
- Annie Taber & John Linhares in memory of family who are no longer with us
- Sharon & Bob Wyman in memory of Sunny & Wesley Merritt
and Evelyn & Edward Wyman
- The 1717 Meetinghouse Foundation in memory of Thomas Davis, Russ Gessner,
Donald Foster, Steven Howland, Everard Munsey, Barbara Rogers,
Rick Serodio, and Jay Tracy

The Week of December 21, 2025

Sunday	12/21/25	10:00 am 5:00 pm	Worship AA (J)
Monday	12/22/25	5:00 pm 7:00 pm	AA (J) AA (J)
Tuesday	12/23/25	11:00 am 4:30 pm 5:00 pm	Choir Rehearsal (M) Bell Choir Rehearsal (M) AA (J)
Wednesday	12/24/25	4:30 pm 8:00 pm	Family Candlelight Service Candlelight Service
Thursday	12/25/25	5:00 pm	MERRY CHRISTMAS Office Closed AA (J)
Friday	12/26/25	5:00 pm	Office Closed AA (J)
Saturday	12/27/25		
Sunday	12/28/25	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 hosts today is Ted Gould
- ◆ **Thank you to everyone** who has sponsored the flowers for the Meetinghouse this year. The **2026 Flower Calendar** is now up on the sign-up board in Jenkins Hall. 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 Host sign up** is on the board next to the kitchen pass thru window in Jenkins Hall. 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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