

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



"What are you, some kind of religious nut?!"

from *The Joyful Noiseletter*

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THE CHURCH AT WORSHIP

2nd Sunday after Pentecost

Humor Sunday

June 7, 2026

10:00 a.m.

"But God said to him, 'You fool!'"

Luke 12:20

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

*HYMN #32 (Green) *“God of Grace and God of Laughter”*

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Come, let us worship our God with all our divinely-gifted selves;

Many: With not only our cares, but also with our celebrations;

One: With not only our sorrows and our hurts, but also with our joys and our hopes;

Many: With not only our seriousness, but also with a lightness of spirit.

*One: Come, let us worship the one who through Christ enables us not only to endure suffering,
but also to laugh even at death itself!*

PRELUDE

*“When the Saints Go Marching In”
(sing-a-long!)*

Bell Choir

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We give you praise, O God, for the wonders of creation, and especially for the divine sense of humor with which you have endowed us.

Forgive us when we take ourselves too seriously – may humor gently reveal the truth about ourselves.

Pardon us when we go about your work with the gravity of an IRS auditor – bring us back to ourselves with the realization of the absurdity of your calling us, with all our weaknesses and smallness of abilities, to the mighty task you set before us.

Absolve us when we use logic to close ourselves off from the surprising delights you have in store for us, were we only to lighten up a bit.

This we pray in the name of Jesus Christ, who never would have been invited to all those dinner parties had he lacked a sense of humor! Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Here the good news: Anyone in Christ becomes a new person altogether; the past is finished and gone, everything has become fresh and new. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:

ALL: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and set free.

ANTHEM

“All You Need is Love”

J. Lennon

(sung by a bunch of hippies)

THE WORD OF GOD IS PROCLAIMED

SCRIPTURE

Luke 12:13-21

SOLO

“If I were a Rich Man”

J. Bock, S. Harnick

MESSAGE

“Foolish Thoughts”

Pastor Reed

THE CONGREGATION RESPONDS

*HYMN #215 (Green)

“Joy Dawned Again on Easter Day”

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.

BELL CHOIR ANTHEM

“Whistle While We Work”

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

“Pennies Dropping”

F. DeWitt, W. Kirkpatrick

*SONG OF PRAISE

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow!
Praise God all creatures here below,
Praise God above ye heavenly host,
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. 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

Thank you gracious God, for life in the Spirit of Jesus: for the witness we cannot forget and the mission of justice you have made your own. Give us the gifts of the Holy Communion; oneness of heart, love for neighbors, forgiveness of enemies, the will to serve you every day, and life that never ends. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

GOD SENDS US FORTH

*HYMN #316 (Green) *“Let us Talents and Tongues Employ”*
(On the refrain first time is softly, the second time, joyously!)

WORDS OF FAREWELL

One: O Saints of God, let us join together in a final prayer to our Lord and Savior, the One for whom nothing is too wonderful.

Many: Lord, grant us joyful hearts and a holy sense of humor.

One: Give us the gift of faith, to be renewed and shared with others each day.

Many: Teach us to live in this moment only, looking neither to the past with regret, not to the future with apprehension. Let love be our guide, and our lives, prayers.

One: And now, may the God of Grace and Laughter bless you and keep you and abide with you always.

Many: Amen.

POSTLUDE "Jesus Loves Me" W. Bradbury, arr. D. Hustad
(It is our custom to remain seated in silence during the Postlude)

* All who wish, please stand.

BULLETIN BLOOPERS

For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery in Jenkins Hall.

Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on April 24 in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.

A bean supper will be held on Tuesday evening in the church hall. Music will follow.

At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be 'What Is Hell?' Come early and listen to our choir practice.

The ladies of the Church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.

Low Self-Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7 PM. Please use the back door.

Miss Charlene Mason sang 'I will not pass this way again,' giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.

The Stewardship Chair unveiled the church's new campaign slogan last Sunday: 'I Upped My Pledge - Up Yours.'

Please consider remembering West Parish in your will. Once you're dead it's too late. Really. Trust me on this one.

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

The Family of Pat Clark (family of Rik & Sandy Clark)
Judy Crawford (Robin Fryer's friend)

Christopher Allen (Carol & David Allen's grandson)
The Atsalis Family (friends of Rich & Lauren Abraham)
Matt Burch (son-in-law of Suzanne McMillan)
Emy and Yessica (friends of Christie Burns)
Rudy Giannetti (friend of Paula King)
Donna Grohe
Tripp Grohe
Sarah and Cody Hudspeth (Sharon Hunt's niece & her husband)
Clyde Hunt (brother of John Hunt)
Gina Jacinto (Joanna Wallace's friend)
Dave & Barbara Kern (friends of Joanna Wallace)
Beverly Lipson-Ketchen (Greg Ketchen's sister)
Sue Maki (Joanna Wallace's friend)
Lily McCardle (granddaughter of Elaine & Stephen Bartlett)
Jason Miller (Robin & Jim Miller's son)
Greg Opp (family member of Bobbie Jordan)
Randy Parker
Carol Polidoro
Betsy Sinnigen
Gary Toye (Bobbie Jordan's brother)
Marvin Toye (Bobbie Jordan's brother)
Roy Urbach (friend of Karen Datlowe)
Joanna Wallace
Bryan Welch (Rik & Sandy Clark's grandson-in-law)

*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.*

The Week of June 7, 2026

Sunday	6/7/26	10:00 am 11:15 am 5:00 pm	Worship Deacons (G) AA (J)
Monday	6/8/26	5:00 pm 7:00 pm 7:00 pm	AA (J) AA (J) New Building Committee (G)
Tuesday	6/9/26	5:00 pm 6:45 pm	AA (J) W. Barnstable Festival Committee (G)
Wednesday	6/10/26	4:00 pm 5:00 pm 6:00 pm	FS Board (G) AA (J) CC Woman of the Year (M)
Thursday	6/11/26	8:00 am 5:00 pm	Men's Breakfast at Jack's Out Back AA (J)
Friday	6/13/26	10:00 am 5:00 pm	Knitting Group (G) AA (J)
Saturday	6/14/26	4:30 pm 5:30 pm	Worship All Church BBQ
Sunday	6/15/26	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 in Jenkins Hall after worship for Coffee Hour.** Our hosts today are Paula McNabb and Peggie Bretz.
- ♦ **The flowers gracing the altar today** were given by Robin Fryer in memory of loved ones in heaven. They were arranged by Jeanne Pelletier.
- ♦ **The 2026 Flower Calendar** is up on the sign-up board in Jenkins Hall. Sign up for sponsoring the flowers along with a dedication. The cost is \$32 and can be paid by cash, check, Vanco, or Venmo with "Flowers" in the memo. One of the members of the flower committee will contact you 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 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 @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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