

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

3rd Sunday of Advent

December 12, 2021

10:00 a.m.

“The Life-Light blazed out of the darkness; the darkness couldn’t put it out.”

John 1:5

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 THIRD ADVENT CANDLE (Maren Tirabassi & Howard Thurman)

*One: We will light three candles
to sparkle with joy.*

*For God lights constellations
and the tips of angel wings
light years far away,
and light years as near as breath.*

*We light (and help to blow out)
ninety-five candles on a birthday cake,
the high circle of a Ferris wheel,
the smile of a pumpkin,
marshmallow of a 'smore,
branches of a Christmas tree,*

*and the luminarias that say
this is a home/church that welcomes all,
every age, race, education,
ability, orientation, ethnic origin,
gender identity, job status,*

*old friend or stranger becoming new one,
those who claim their history
and their identity,
others who close their lips to listen
and feel the joy in their hearts.*

Two: We raise three candles, and know we cannot do it by ourselves
for each of us have only two hands.

For ordinary, available, gentle, brave,
and with wide-open doors,
is the hope, peace and joy 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.**

PRELUDE

Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring

Johann Sebastian Bach

*RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

One: In this season of waiting,

Many: may patience be our companion.

One: In this season of demands,

Many: may gentleness be our companion.

One: In this season of expectations,

Many: may simplicity be our companion.

One: In this season of sharing,

Many: may gratitude be our companion.

One: In this season of good news,

All: may prayer be our companion.

* HYMN #154 (Green)

"In the Bleak Midwinter"

CRANHAM

UNISON PRAYER (Rev. William H. Willimon)

**Almighty God, you not only created a world where once there was chaos,
you not only brought forth humanity from the dust of the earth,
you not only gave us your holy law and your trustful prophets,
you also drew near to us.**

**For your advent in our empty world, your light shining in our darkness,
your word into our silence, we give thanks.**

**Today, O Lord, give us hearts open and receptive to your advent, spirits
expectant for your presence, lives ready to rise up and follow you at your call.**

**This we pray in the name of the one whom John the Evangelist told us was the
light breaking into the world, Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray together,
saying...**

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.

SOLO O Jesus, Grant Me Hope and Comfort
W. Osterwald/Johann Wolfgang Franck /arr. Carl Stein/ed. Walter E. Buszin

THE WORD OF GOD IS PROCLAIMED

SCRIPTURE John 1:1-5 The Message; Philippians 4:4-7

SERMON "Christmas, When the Lights Come Out To Shine" Pastor Reed

THE CONGREGATION RESPONDS

*HYMN #134 (Green) "Joy to the World!" ANTIOCH

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRAYER CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS

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.*

GOD SENDS US FORTH

* HYMN #404 (Green) "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" BEECHER

WORDS OF SENDING

POSTLUDE Organ Improvisation on "Joy to the World" Becket Senchur
(It is our custom to remain seated in silence during the Postlude)

* All who wish, please stand.

Thank you to Becket Senchur for being our guest organist today.

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

Peter Abraham (Rich's brother)
Roberta Booze (Robin Miller's mother)
Margaret and Bill Brummel (Roger Henson's sister and brother-in-law)
Josephine Bugryn (Joy Indomenico's sister)
Sandyi & Ken Campbell (friends of Dianna Henson)
Chris G. (friend of Christie Burns and Reed Baer)
David Darling
Ellen Davis
Judy Desrochers
Betsy Eidem (friend of Carol Allen)
Sean F (friend of Rebecca Moberg & the Moberg family)
Tim Foster (friend of Carol Allen)
Steve Gaddis (Susan Moeller's nephew)
Jenny Giering (friend of Christie Burns)
Jay Griffin (Peggie Bretz' brother)
Sharon Griffin (Peggie Bretz' sister-in-law)
Lee Haselton
Barbara Hall (friend of the Siedsmas)
Jeanie Hill and family (friends of Greg Williams)
Brian Hughes (neighbor of Joyce Joakim)
Mike Hovan (friend of Dan Enos)
Jason (nephew of Joy Indomenico)

Scot Johnson
Rosanne Kean (friend of Robin Fryer)
Marty Lichterman (one of Van Northcross's best friends)
Ann Lee (friend of Robin Fryer)
Bob Lonkart
Marisa Lonkart (Georgia's and Bob's daughter-in-law)
Jackie Mague
Brad Martin (friend of Marianne and Greg Williams)
Stewart Nelson (friend of Lynn & Randy Parker)
Jack Parmer (friend of Carol Allen)
Randy Parker
Joan Perry
Sylvia Powers (friend of Barbara Rogers)
Savannah
Alexis Teixeira (Cousin of Barbara Walsh)
Ernie Walsh
Tom & Rhys White (Bruce and Pat White's family)
Lee Williams (mother of Tripp Grohe's friend, Mark Williams)
Nancy Woodman (friend of Marianne Williams)

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

The Week of December 12, 2021

Sunday	12/5/21	10:00 am 3:00 pm	Worship Cape Cod Chorale Concert (M)
Monday	12/6/21	5:00 pm	AA (J)
Tuesday	12/7/21	9:30 am 10:30 am 5:00 pm	FS Science (J) FS Science (J) AA (J)
Wednesday	12/8/21	9:30 am 10:30 am 5:00 pm	FS Science (J) FS Science (J) AA (J)
Thursday	12/9/21	9:15 am 1:00 pm 4:00 pm 4:30 pm 5:00 pm 7:00 pm	Rooster Crows Articles Due FS Science (J) Bridge Group (G) Rouillard Wedding (M) Rouillard Reception (J) AA (M) AA (M)
Friday	12/10/21	9:30 am 10:30 am 10:30 am 5:00 pm 6:30 pm	FS Science (J) FS Science (J) Knitting (G) AA (J) Steve Gregorry (J)
Saturday	12/11/21	4:30 pm	Worship
Sunday	12/12/21	10:00 am	Worship

- ◆ **Assisted hearing devices are available upon request.**
- ◆ **The ushers today are** Sharon & Bob Wyman and Ted Gould.
- ◆ **Coffee Hour today is hosted by** Jane & Greg Ketchen and Shirley Stolte.
- ◆ **The Coffee Hour sign up** is on the kiosk in Jenkins. If you can spare a little of your time to help with preparing and serving 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. Please pick a Sunday on the sign-up sheet at the kiosk in Jenkins Hall. Thank you.
- ◆ **Thank you to all who have sponsored flowers over the past year!** They enhance our services every week. The sponsor sign up calendar for 2022 is now posted on the kiosk in Jenkins Hall. As before, for \$32 payable in the church office you can provide flowers in honor or memory of someone and an arranger will have it in place in the Meetinghouse. Sign up now for your favorite dates!

Christmas Poinsettia Sponsors

Steve and Mindy Abbott in loving memory of Howard and Lois Abbott
and Fred and Martha Strauss

Jackie Clayton in memory of Paul from his family

Corinne Lilie my dear pets: Minette, Samantha and Magic

Bob and Shirley Stolte in memory of Alber and Lucia Stolte
and Alfred and Elizabeth Hodgkins

The 1717 Meetinghouse Foundation in memory of:

William Breisky

Robert Jones

Holbrook R. Davis

Peggy Newton

Catherine Coffman Crocker

Miles Leonard

Lois Leonard

Rosita Fattler

William Reiland

Silja Emrich

Linda Oberly

Lucille McCallum

Judith Rockwell

Nancy Wood

Robert Wood,

Frances Dickson

James W. Gould

Thomas Jenkins

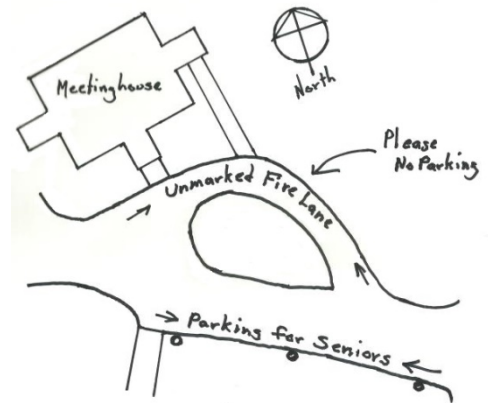
Richard White

Robert W. Bamberg

Jane Alcock

We ask your cooperation in protecting the 1717 Meetinghouse by not parking your vehicle in or alongside the teardrop closest to the Meetinghouse. Although it is not marked, it is a FIRE LANE and preserves clear access to the Meetinghouse for Emergency Vehicles.

However, more parking is available. At least three, maybe four, spaces can be used on the west side of the Tear Drop for those with mobility issues.



Text to Give

If you haven't tried it out, it's easy:

1. Text 866-586-0169 (the give-by-text number for West Parish) and in the body of the message enter the amount you wish to donate and send.
2. You will receive a registration link. Click on it, enter your contact and payment information then press "Process."
3. After registration is complete, you will receive a verification text and receipt via email.

You only need to register and set up your payment information once.

For future giving, simply send a text with the amount you wish to give, and it will process automatically.

Add "West Parish Give by Text" as a contact on your phone to make it even easier!

If you have questions or would like help setting it up, see Marianne Williams.

Church Staff

Reed Baer, Pastor and Teacher
Donna Murphy, Music Director
Kristen Lind, Family School Director
Wendy Northcross, Council Chair

Christine Burns, Associate Pastor
Susan McEwen, Office Administrator
Fred Clausen, Sexton
Susan Moeller, Deacons Chair

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