

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



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THE CHURCH AT WORSHIP

Holy Humor Sunday

April 7, 2024

10:00 a.m.

"A merry heart is a good medicine, but a downcast spirit drieth the bones." -- Proverbs 17:22

"We are fools for the sake of Christ...." -- 1 Cor. 4:10

"Oh yes, you did laugh." -- Genesis 18:15

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

*HYMN #32 (Green)

“God of Grace and God of Laughter”

SOUTH BRANCH

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Carl Heick

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

Humoreske

Anton Dvorak (1841-1904)

UNISON PRAYER

Dear Lord, we thank you for this day and for this opportunity to worship you and to celebrate your goodness and your humor. You are the source of all joy and laughter, and you delight in your creation. You have given us the gift of humor to help us cope with the challenges and difficulties of life, and to bring us closer to you and to each other.

We ask you to bless us with your presence and your grace today, and to fill us with your Holy Spirit. Help us to see the humor in our situations, and to laugh at ourselves and with others. Help us to be humble and gracious, and always to use our humor for good, and not for evil.

We pray together, with all the saints above and here below, as Jesus taught us, 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.

THE WORD OF GOD IS PROCLAIMED

SCRIPTURE

Genesis 18:1-15

SOLO

Swingin' With the Saints
Maxie Davidson, soloist

Traditional Spiritual
arr. Mark Hayes

MESSAGE

“Faith is Nothing to be Laughed At! Except When It Is”

Pastor Reed, Rev. Carl Heick

THE CONGREGATION RESPONDS

*HYMN

“God of Laughter, God of Love”

(Dedicated to all humorists who help us to see ourselves as God sees us.)

Robert Hoffman Naylor - Dix 7.7.7.7.7 - 2014

**God of laughter, God of love,..... Maker of the sky above,
You, the source of human joy,..... we our songs of praise employ
As we feel an ecstasy,.....bowing down on bended knee.**

**Help us God to stay the Path..... and remember how to laugh
At the foolishness we do,.....when we turn our hearts from You.
God, forgive us when we stray,..... call us, claim us each new day.**

**Steel our souls when others laugh.....as we follow in Your Path,
When we do what's just and right;.....what is pleasing in your sight.
Keep our spirits light and free.....seeking divine comedy.**

**God of laughter, God of love,.....Risen One and wing-ed dove.
God of humor, God of smiles,.....God of wit that frees, beguiles,
Fill us with a joy divine,.....that's a resurrection sign.**

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.*

Here, we don't try to guilt you out of your money.
We still want it, but we try to laugh it out of you instead.
Seriously.

OFFERTORY

Six "Surprise" Variations

Mark Nevin

*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 #207 (Green)

“Tis the Gift to be Simple”

SIMPLE GIFTS

WORDS OF SENDING

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, nor 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

Sunshine and Joy Medley

Tunes: SUNSHINE by John Sweney and I'VE GOT THE JOY by George Willis Cooke

arr. Mark Hayes

(It is our custom to remain seated in silence during the Postlude)

* All who wish, please stand.

Thanks to Maxie Davidson for being our soloist this morning.

We get email:

Dear Pastor, I know God loves everyone, but God never met my sister. Yours sincerely, Arnold, age 8.

Dear Pastor, I'm sorry I can't leave more money in the plate, but my parents didn't give me a raise in my allowance. Could you have a sermon about a raise in my allowance? Love, Patty, age 10.

Dear Pastor, I think a lot more people would come to church if you moved it to Disneyland. Lorren, age 9.

Dear Pastor, I hope to go to heaven some day but later rather than sooner. Love Ellen, age 8.

OUR 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

Ernie Walsh

Karolina Atsalis (friend of the Abrahams)
Margaret and Bill Brummel (Roger Henson's sister and brother-in-law)
Doug Clay (brother of Sharon Hunt)
Nancy Komenda (friend of Carol Allen)
Betsy Eidem (friend of Carol Allen)
Ned Flynn (Ted's father)
Jay Griffin (Peggie Bretz' brother)
Sharon Griffin (Peggie Bretz' sister-in-law)
Steve Howland
Buzz Kolbe (step brother of Betsy Miller)
Martha Lant (sister-in-law of Peggie Bretz)
Adrienne Locklear (family of Kelly and Macayla Washburn)
Mac MacLaren
Norma McElhenny (friend of Jane Ketchen)
Judy Moakler (friend of Jane Ketchen)
Peggy Nelson
Paul (friend of Ellen and Tom Davis)
Margaret Parker (grandchild of Lynn and Randy Parker)
Sylvia Powers (friend of Barbara Rogers)
Savanna Ramotar (friend of Sharon Hunt)
Blake Schroeder (friend of Robin Fryer)
Joanne Stubbins
Alexis Teixeira (cousin of Barbara Walsh)
Pete Tufflie (friend of Bob Wyman)
Gary Toye (brother of Bobbie Jordan)
Mary-Ann Tu
Linda Watson (friend of Barbara Rogers)
Bruce and Tom White
Nancy Woodman (friend of Marianne Williams)
Sarah Woodruff (niece of Peter and Betsy Smith)
Rev. Dr. Craig Yohn

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

The Week of April 7, 2024

Sunday	4/7/24	10:00 am 5:00 pm	Worship AA (J)
Monday	4/8/24	5:00 pm 6:00 pm	AA (J) Meetinghouse Farm (G)
Tuesday	4/9/24	10:00 am 12:00 pm 5:00 pm	Christie's Coffee Hours at Nirvana Music Lessons (M) AA (J)
Wednesday	4/10/24	9:15 am 4:00 pm 5:00 pm 7:00 pm	FS Science (J) FS Board (G) AA (J) WITS @ Pastor Christie's
Thursday	4/11/24	8:00 am 9:15 am 5:00 pm 7:00 pm	Men's Breakfast @ Jack's Out Back FS Science (J) AA (J) WB Festival Committee (G)
Friday	4/12/24	9:15 am 10:30 am 5:00 pm	FS Science (J) Knitting Group (G) AA (J)
Saturday	4/13/24	4:30 pm	Worship
Sunday	4/14/24	10:00 am 5:00 pm	Worship AA (J)

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

- ◆ **Please join us for fellowship at Coffee Hour in Jenkins Hall after worship.** Our hosts are Bob & Shirley Stolte.
- ◆ **The flowers gracing the Meetinghouse** were given by Melissa and Courtney Palmer in memory of Mom and Dad. They were arranged by Kenyon Gregoire.
- ◆ **The 2024 Flower Calendar is up!** Look for your special date(s) and sign up. Then send \$32 to the office and one of the members of the flower committee will put together an arrangement to put in the Meetinghouse.
- ◆ **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. 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.

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", just note that in the description.

Church Staff

Reed Baer, Pastor and Teacher
Donna Murphy, Music Director
Susan Moeller, Council Chair
Chris Haven, Sexton

Christine Burns, Associate Pastor
Susan McEwen, Office Administrator
Roberta Jordan, Deacons Chair

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