



Phillips Memorial Baptist Church
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Cranston, Rhode Island 02910
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www.phillipschurch.org (Office Hrs: 9:00 am -1:00 pm)
Instagram: phillipsmemorial
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Rev. Dr. Amy Chilton: phillipsmemorialpastor@gmail.com;

April 2025

Our Faith Connections

Dear PMBC,

I have spent quite a bit of time this past month looking ahead to our anniversary celebrations, scheduled for this June, and sorting through the records of our past. I came across the old pulpit Bible, updated some of our membership records, while working with our treasurer and bookkeeper to get digital giving up and running. As I write this I feel like I'm standing in a confluence of the past and the future, pulled by both what was and the hope for what might be. And it is a "pull" some days, as we figure out how to honor the blessings of the past and still keep ourselves open for the blessings and callings of the future.

Our predecessors undoubtedly felt this same pull of hope as they planted a new church in Eden Park, with the dream of bringing Christian Education to the children of a newly developing neighborhood. They didn't have a church building full of history to sort through - but rather an empty lot and a dream. We are, in part, the outcome of their dream as we continue to serve as Christ's hands and feet here in this place.

As their future, we have stepped out with faith to be a publicly welcoming community, where all people - no matter the distinctions of society (as our ministry statement affirms) - are welcome to grow their faith through education, worship, prayer, and service. And we might dare to dream that the members who come after us will feel spurred on by the history we are creating, so that they might dream bigger and bolder dreams of what it means to be Christ's people gathered here at Phillips Memorial Baptist Church.

We are nearing time to blow out our birthday candles! Dream big my friends, making all the wishes the Spirit is calling you to make!

Blessings,

Pastor Amy

Freedom To Read Panel and Postcard Writing Session

Come join *Rhode Island Author's Against Book Bans* and learn about the current landscape of book bans and censorship, and how the Freedom to Read bill ensures Rhode Island communities continue to freely access and create books

for readers from all walks of life. The panel discussion will be followed by a postcard writing session. Here is a link for more information [Press Release](#)

Wednesday, April 9th @ 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.

Lent 311 Bible Studies

It is that time of year again - time for our Lenten Bible studies! Join a group for 3 one-hour Bible study meetings over one month. This year we will be using Kate Bowler's "[The Hardest Part: Hurt we Carry, Hope we Find: The Everything Happens Project.](#)" You can use this link to find individual Lenten devotionals that cover the whole of Lent (March 5th - April 17th). Then join a group for discussion, prayer, and fellowship!

- Tuesdays, Noon - 1 p.m. - March 25th, April 1st, April 8th in the Hope Circle Room (2nd floor of the center wing)
- Tuesdays, 7 - 8 p.m. - March 25th, April 8th, April 15th at the Fresch's home (30 West Blue Ridge Road, Cranston)

Second Sunday Team Meetings - April 13th @ 9 a.m.

This is an "all-hands on deck" moment in the life of the church as we seek to be Christ's hands and feet in this world - and that means *your hands are needed!* Join us as we actively serve our community and dream about our future!

- **Building and Grounds Team** meets in *Trickett Parlor* (1st floor, center wing)
- **Congregational Life and Fellowship Team** meets in *Fellowship Hall* (below the sanctuary)
- **Mission Education and Projects Team** meets in the *Library* (lower level, center wing)
- **Visitation and Care Team** meets in the *Music Room* (directly below the narthex)
- **Worship Planning and Arrangements Team** meets in *Hope Circle Room* (2nd floor, center wing)
- **Christian Education Team** meets in the *Little Shepherd Preschool*

Maundy Thursday Communion Service

Thursday, April 17th @ 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.

This is the day we remember Christ breaking bread with his disciples as we celebrate communion together at this contemplative service. *There will be no Zoom available, but Fellowship Hall is fully accessible.*

Easter Service

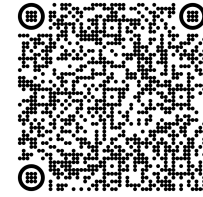
Sunday, April 20th @ 10 a.m.

Bring your family and friends to our **Easter Morning service** at 10 a.m. in the Sanctuary where our **memorial flowers** will brighten the chancel.

Then stay after service for coffee and pastries in Fellowship Hall as the children have their **Easter Egg Hunt**. *Want to help hide eggs? Join us in Fellowship Hall at 9:30 a.m. on Easter! Want to donate nut-free candy for our egg hunt? Bring it by Sunday, April 13th, to the Trickett Parlor.*

Online Giving

It is time to launch our online giving platform! While you will still be able to support our ministries with checks, cash, and bank transfers, we are expanding to also accept online giving for all regular and special offering donations. To set up your online giving account, simply [click here](#) or scan this QR code, and you will be taken to our Servant Keeper online giving portal. Thank you for your generous support that keeps our doors open and ministry happening!



Guest Preacher - Rev. Dr. Brian Henderson

Join us on Sunday, April 27th during worship to hear Rev. Dr. Brian Henderson preach on the spiritual gift of faith. Following service we will gather in Fellowship Hall for a coffee hour chat, where Rev. Dr. Henderson will engage us on the topic of how we can best advocate for trans and queer folx in our current social and political realities.



Rev. Dr. Henderson is the executive director of the Association of Welcoming and Affirming Baptists. He is an ordained American Baptist minister who has served three congregations over 25 years. Brian started working with AWAB's Board and Staff in 2019, before beginning as full-time Executive Director in 2024. Outside of his ministry responsibilities, Brian loves traveling and spending time with his three young adult (nearly) children.

ABCORI Annual Meeting and Special Meeting Report

The ABCORI annual meeting has been rescheduled for Monday, April 28th at 7 p.m. More information will follow in the Friday Family News as it comes available.

On Wednesday, March 19th, ABCORI held a special meeting at which the majority of delegates voted not to sell Canonicus Camp and Conference Center. The summary of that meeting can be found at www.abcori.org.

Kids and Youth Summer Camp

Do you have a kid or teen interested in summer camp? This summer we hope to send kids to [Camp Wightman](#) (a camp of the American Baptist Churches of Connecticut) either 6/22 - 6/28 or 8/3 - 8/9. *PMBC will provide camp scholarships to make camp possible for our children and youth.* Please talk to Pastor Amy

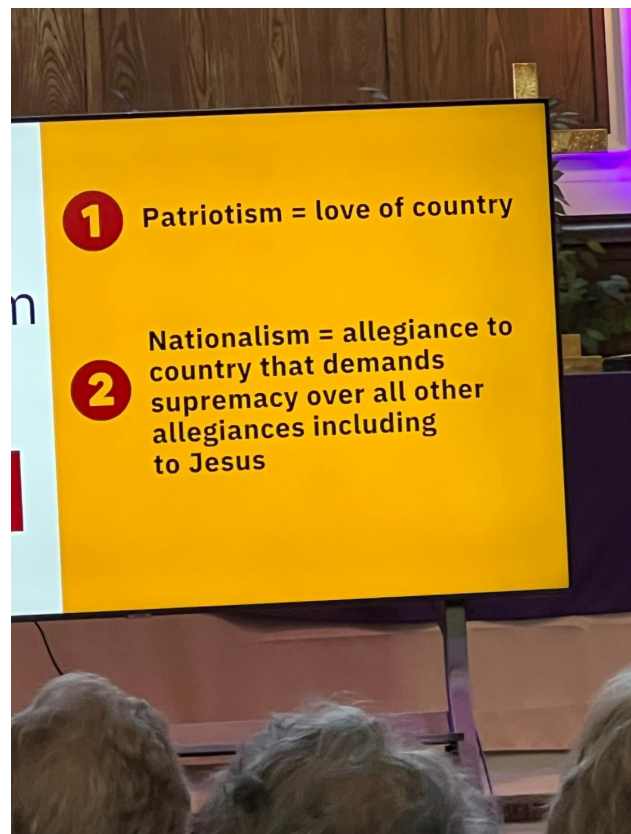
ASAP if you are interested in having your kids attend camp this summer!

At Camp Wightman, campers are welcomed to a time and place away. They step out of their comfort zones and away from their electronics to experience life in a new and powerful way. The program is broken up into cabins based on the age of the campers. This fun, interactive experience helps campers with self-confidence and enables them to experience God's creation firsthand. Come enjoy boating, swimming, art, nature, archery, campfires, s'mores and so much more!

Rhode Island State Council of Churches "How to End Christian Nationalism Forum"

The RISCC forum, hosted by Community Church of Providence, was well attended and included worship, a thought-provoking key-note address by Amanda Tyler (executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Religious Liberty), and lively classes - including one taught by Pastor Amy titled "Parasites, Patriarchy, and Project 2025."





**Join Us in Person or for Online Worship
Sundays at 10:00 a.m.**

**Remember services are held every week on
Zoom too. Click "Join the Meeting!" below.**

Recordings of services are made available in our



Family News the Friday following the service.

[Click for Zoom Phone Info](#)

[Click to Join the Meeting!](#)

Ministry Group Reports

Worship Planning and Arrangements

Phillips family,

As always we hope this message finds everyone looking forward to warmer weather, sunny days and the blooming of life all around. Spring is a wonderful rebirth period for the planet as well as people.

April this year also brings us to the defining moment in a Christian's life, the death and resurrection of our Savior Jesus. Christianity is the only religion that serves a living Savior, a wonderful song we sing every year. Without the death of Christ there would be no forgiveness of sin, we would be lost with no way home to God. Without the resurrection of Christ, everything He promised would be in question. For every time He told of His death He always included that He would rise from the grave. If He did not, how could a person believe anything He said. But, and this is the glorious *but*, Jesus accomplished both! He died so we could live and He rose so we could count on His every promise.

As someone who believes in Christ, really think upon this and rejoice. We serve an incredible risen Savior who will never leave one of His own.

Jeff Damrad

Congregational Life and Fellowship

Congregational Life Committee team will be doing a Pot Luck luncheon on April 27th after service. Please sign up, and we thank you.

Dana Butler and team.

Christian Education

Sunday School and the Teen Bible Study meet at 9:00 am each Sunday.

Our next Christian Ed. Meeting is scheduled for April 13th at 9:00 am.

Parents are encouraged to join us.

On Palm Sunday our children and youth will be collecting the food donations in the church narthex and then processing into the service with palm branches. If

you would like your child to participate, please bring them to the church narthex by 9:45 a.m.

If you have any questions, please contact Kathy: Kattt88@hotmail.com.

Kathy McKinney

2nd Sunday Food Collection

Food is collected at our monthly food drive to benefit the food pantry at Cranston Community Action Program (CCAP):



Food Donations in Pounds January 2025- December 2025

<u>Date</u>	<u>Lbs.</u>
1/12/2025	269.1
2/23/2025	222.8
3/9/2025	247.7
Total	739.6



Music Ministry

PMBC Fun *Music* Fact:

On Sunday, April 13, the Chancel Singers will present this year's Easter musical, *Come, Touch the Robe*. The tradition of performing an Easter musical at Phillips is 37 years old, with the first performance taking place on Palm Sunday, March 19, 1989. The musical performed was *Then Came the Morning*. A few items of interest regarding that first musical performance, are:

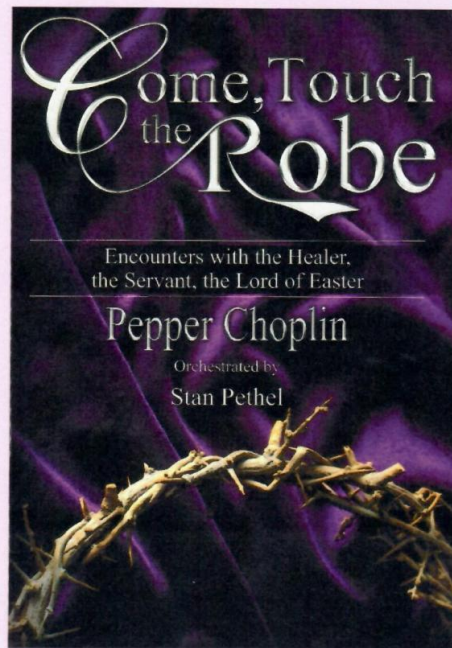
- There were 44 singers, and an orchestra of 16 players.
- Soloists were Ruthie Moran, Emery Stephens, Jr, James Harris, Karen Plunkett, Jonathan Cash, and Amy Lukowicz.
- Eugene Plunkett and David Barber were the narrators.
- Phillips did not own music stands at that time, so the Ponagansett High School Music Department loaned them to the church.
- The performance was made possible by gifts to the Church in memory of Nancy A. Harris and Rolland F. Hall.

Chime Choir will rehearse immediately following worship on April 6 & 27.

Organist Assistant for April 27th is Trent Dufour.

Looking ahead...

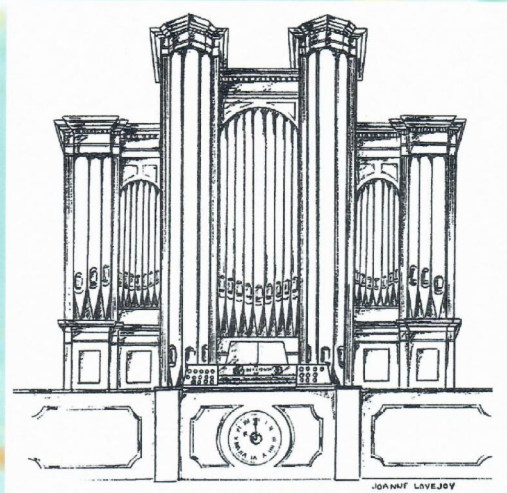
- This year's Easter musical *Come, Touch the Robe*, will be presented by the Chancel Singers, instrumentalists, and narrators, during worship on Palm Sunday, April 13th. Soloists will be Ruthie Moran, Dawn Lindelow, Debbie Barber, and Laurie Mokaba. Narrators will be Sally Riley and David Barber.
- The **JOY** Praise Team will lead the congregation in a hymn sing during worship on Sunday, May 5th. Be prepared to request your favorite hymn!
- Organ recital performed by Martha Sobaje on Sunday, June 1st, at 3:00 PM.



Presented
by
Phillips Memorial Baptist Church
Chancel Singers
with
soloists, narrators, and instruments

Sunday, April 13, 2025
10:00 a.m.

**Phillips Memorial Baptist Church
565 Pontiac Avenue, Cranston, Rhode Island**



Sunday, June 1, 3:00 pm
Phillips Memorial Baptist Church

Recital

Dr. Martha Sobaje, Organist

Celebrating the Organ's 40th Birthday

Free-will Offering to Benefit Organ Fund
Reception in Fellowship Hall

565 Pontiac Avenue Cranston Rhode Island

Sharing Prayer Concern

Dawn Lindelow's sister Abbie Kirwin,
Tessa Thompson's Aunt Sylvene Davoren,
Friend of the Belmains
Kenneth Johnson, Carolyn Belmain's
sister Sheila McFarland, Diana Litterick,
Steve Sarkisian, The Family of Shirley Long,
The Family of Kathy Chesser, The Family of Jean Sutton,
Don Lovejoy, The Family of Betty VanLeuven,
Steve Brown, Friend of Ralph and Ed Flori
Cheryl Hollar, The Manocchia Family,
Fran Shaw's uncle Robert Bergstrand,
Nancy Carter's

Pam Lukowicz, Heidi Queen, Pat Cruso,
Sarah Fresch's friends Beth and Steven Gordon,
Sheldon Belmain, Jim Capp, Sally Riley's
brother Jack Preston, Carole Carlsten,
Victoreen Thompson, Sheila Zambarano's
friend Rick Johnston, Sheldon Belmain's
sister Judy Carver, Linda Liebrich's family,
ABC missionaries around the world and in U.S.
and Puerto Rico, our shut-in members

granddaughter-in-law Jeanie,



Daily Lectionary Bible Readings

(11/28/24 - 11/27/25)

This daily Bible reading list has two series, complementary and semi-continuous. American Baptist Churches USA has used either series. If you are not sure which to use, follow the complementary series.

If anyone wishes to have a printed copy mailed to you, please contact the church office.

Here is the internet address/link:

<https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/daily.php?year=C>

(Click the link above for readings)

Birthdays!



Laurie Mokaba	April 2
Kathy McKinney	April 16
Melissa Day	April 17
Sheila Zambarano	April 17
Dekontee Soe	April 19
Joyce Carpenter	April 22
Karen Petit	April 24



Sunday, April 13

Palm Sunday

9 am Team Meetings

Easter Musical (during worship)

Come, Touch the Robe

2nd Sunday Food Donations in the narthex

Thursday, April 17

Maundy Thursday communion service @ 6:30 pm

Sunday, April 20

Easter Service and Children's Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday, April 27

Rev. Dr. Brian Henderson Preaching

Sunday May 4th

Hymn Sing

Sunday May 18

Children and Youth Sunday @10am

Sunday June 1

Organ Concert @3 pm

Sunday June 8

125th Anniversary Homecoming Service and Luncheon @10 am

Saturday, June 21

Shared booth at RI Pride Festival

Sunday June 22

Time Capsule Sunday

Wednesday June 25

PMBC's Official 125 Birthday

July 3-6

ABC-USA Biennial Mission Summit

Sunday August 3

Joint Worship in the Park (with Community Church of Providence) @10 am
in Goddard Memorial Park

Sundays (following service)

Coffee Hour in the Trickett Parlor

Tuesdays - 1:00 p.m.

Knitter's Group meets in the Trickett Parlor

You don't have to knit - just join us for a lively exchange of ideas

Tuesdays & Fridays - 7:00 p.m.

AA Group Meeting – Fellowship Hall

Wednesdays - 7:00 p.m.

Bible Study on Zoom

Thursdays

Music Rehearsals

6:15 – 7:00 p.m. JOY Praise Team

7:00 – 8:00 p.m. Chancel Singers

8:00 – 8:30 p.m. Sanctuary Ringers

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Rev. Dr. Amy Chilton: phillipsmemorialpastor@gmail.com

[Visit our Website](#)



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