



Phillips Memorial Baptist Church
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December 2024

Our Faith Connections



Dear PMBC,

With how late the warm fall weather ran this year (no complaints here!), and preparing for the Christmas Bazaar, it is hard to believe that Advent is here! We are no longer waiting for the season of expectant waiting. Instead, we find Zecchariah meeting Gabriel, John jumping for joy in Elizabeth's womb, Mary questioning Gabriel, and the Holy Family fleeing across the border to Egypt to save their lives from a rampaging, child-killing political ruler. Every Advent we find ourselves circled back around to the beginning of the church year and these stories of the birth of the Christ-child.

Have you ever counted up the number of sermons you have heard or the number of times you have heard Scripture stories told and retold? Telling and retelling our sacred stories is part of how we walk in faithful discipleship. By telling and retelling them we constantly remind ourselves that the God we serve shows up in surprising ways. Each year we retell the stories, and each year we open ourselves to meeting God anew in the familiar words.

The old and the new come together in these sacred seasons in sometimes brilliant ways. As we conclude the last month of our 124th year of ministry, we might ask ourselves: how are the old and the new coming together at PMBC? As we retell our stories, how will God meet us in new and brilliant ways as we, as a congregation, celebrate *God's Spirit working through us* in our 125th year of life?

We don't know all of the answers to those questions. Perhaps the answers will be for our future generations to sort out. But now, as we head into Advent once again and tip the new year over into our 125th year of life together, my prayer is always that we would hear God's voice calling us into a future alive with God's Spirit.

Blessed Advent,

Pastor Amy

Advent Sermon Series - *God Still Speaks - Are We Listening?*

Many folk wonder if God even listens to our prayers, and if so, why doesn't God talk to us? Join us on Sundays in Advent as we explore how God met and spoke to the various people in Jesus' birth stories. Zechariah, Elizabeth, baby John, Mary, Joseph, Simeon, and the shepherds were all met by God in profound ways, either through the Spirit or divine messengers - and they responded differently! Some doubted, some jumped for joy, and some needed reminders! Join us for the journey as we meet them in their stories and ask how God continues to speak today.

Community Advent Devotionals

This Advent, PMBC is encouraging folk, individuals, or families to use the Salt Project's *Starry Nights: An Advent Devotional Full of Light and Wonder* to help guide their Scripture reading through the season of Advent. Printed devotional books are available in the narthex.

Knitters Group Christmas Potluck

The PMBC Knitters are invited to the Trickett Parlor on Tuesday, December 10th @ 1 p.m. for our annual Christmas potluck. We may or may not also knit. We will definitely eat.

Christmas Eve (Eve Eve) Service

Join us Sunday, December 22nd at 6:30 p.m. for an interactive service of song, candle-lighting, and our youngest members of the PMBC family presenting the Christmas story to us. Hot chocolate and cookies to follow.

If our teens and children would like to participate in the dramatic portions of our service, they will be practicing during the 9 a.m. Sunday School hour. Costume fitting will happen on Sunday, December 15th immediately following service. All children and teens are welcome to participate!

Guest Preacher - Jeremy Langill, Executive Minister of the Rhode Island State Council of Churches will be preaching at PMBC on Sunday, December 29th.

Christmas Hymn Sing - Sunday, January 5th, 2025.

Save the Date:

Annual Meeting and Ministry Fair - January 19th immediately following service in Fellowship Hall. Join us as we kick off our 125 goals!

17th Annual RI Interfaith Poverty Vigil - January 28th @ 2 p.m. - [Register here.](#)

New Member Class - January 19th @ 9 a.m. in the Hope Circle room (top floor in the center building).

History Corner

Do you know that for the first 80 years of PMBC's life there was no stop light out front? Thanks to Peg Chatellier's taking it to the city council, we got our very own safe passage from the market across the street (then the Star Market) in 1980! Members with initiative make profound differences!



(Here's the church with no elevator lobby or crosswalk signal!)



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 posted on YouTube.

[Click for Zoom Phone Info](#)

[Click for PMBC on YouTube](#)

[Click to Join the Meeting!](#)

Ministry Group Reports

Worship Planning and Arrangements

Happy Advent to our Phillips family! We are looking forward to bringing a wonderful worship experience for this season.

As we enter the month of celebration of the Lord's birth, let's join together to raise up our voices to the heavens. Christ came into the world to save sinners, Paul told us and we, as His church, need to keep that message going loud and clear.

Some things that the deacons would like you to think about as we enter December:

- (1) How is your prayer life? Could you go deeper?
- (2) Are you opening up God's word daily? Could you join a Bible group?
- (3) Have you committed to spending as much time in worship as possible? Fellowshiping with your fellow Christian children?
- (4) Have you found a place where your talents can be used? Have you stepped out and gotten involved in a organization within the church?

Lets commit to grow and share with each other.

Jeff Damrad

Christian Education

9:00am Sunday mornings

Sunday School: Children will be learning about the true meaning of Christmas through our Advent lessons and activities.

Teens will be working on drama presentations for Christmastime. All teens are welcome to be a part of this fun and meaningful way to celebrate the birth of Christ.

There will not be any classes on Sunday, December 29th.

Kathy McKinney

Mission Education and Projects

It's December already! That means Christmas AND our chance to contribute to Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering! This is our opportunity to help support retired ministers and missionaries. ABCUSA remembers each of them in the form of a "Thank You" check or direct emergency assistance.

Even though many ministers are paid more than decades ago, they are very grateful for this gift, and over the years have written about how they were able to pay for medical expenses, car repairs, travel to see relatives....or just "how nice it is to be remembered." We will collect our gifts the last two weeks of December.

"May the energy of God's love inspire us, guide us, and strengthen us as we plan ways to share His Love,-."

-Anon

Diana Litterick

Congregational Life & Fellowship Ministry Group

I have enjoyed the last three years as fellowship liaison. I am not leaving but will step back and remain on the team. I will help whoever takes over the team.

When I started doing the lunches, my hope was that we would all come together over a meal to recover from the pandemic. It seems to have worked. There is a lot of togetherness among us and new arrivals to join us in our mission. May God bless our new year 2025 - 125 years of faith.

In God's Love,

Fran Shaw

2nd Sunday Food Collection

Great news! We only need 171.8 pounds at our next food collection to reach our goal of ONE TON of food donated to CCAP. A recent report on the status of hunger in Rhode Island states that 38% of all households in the state are considered food insecure. It is a blessing that PMBC is able to share its abundance with those who are having difficulty affording adequate food.



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

Phillips Memorial Baptist Church
Food Donations in Pounds
January 2024 through November 2024

<u>Date</u>	<u>Lbs.</u>
1/21/2024	108.8
2/11/2024	57.0
3/10/2024	135.4
4/14/2024	234.0
5/12/2024	211.4
6/9/2024	139.6
7/14/2024	93.8
8/11/2024	163.4
9/8/2024	159.6
10/13/2024	262.4
11/10/2024	262.8
Total	<u><u>1,828.2</u></u>

Thank you!!



Music Ministry

PMBC Fun *Music Fact*:

In 2003, our Phillips Choir, accompanied by orchestra, presented the Christmas portion of Handel's Messiah. As part of the orchestra, a harpsichord was rented. During the dress rehearsal, Martha remarked that she knew what she would like Santa to bring her for Christmas, indicating the harpsichord. Cheryl Crawford, one of the singers, heard this, and surprised Phillips with the funds for a harpsichord. This memorial gift was given by the Crawford and Rapa families in memory of G. Allen & Maude Crawford, and Alfred & Marie Johnson. You will have an opportunity to hear it played at the December 15th Candlelight Christmas Concert.

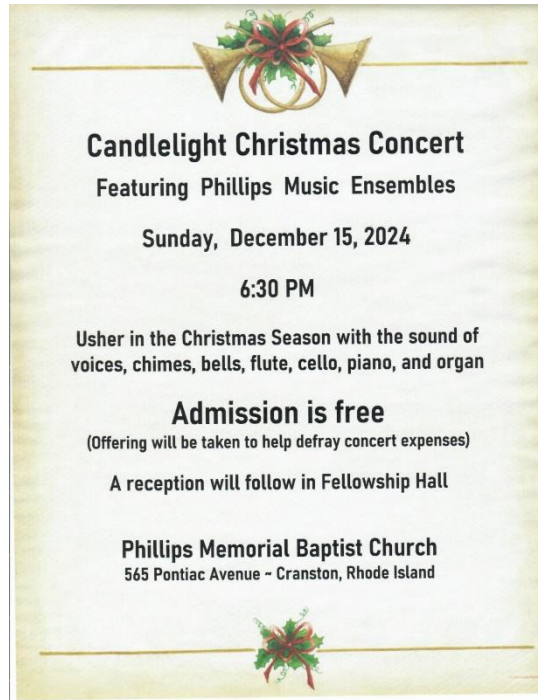
DECEMBER REHEARSALS:

JOY Praise Team, Chancel Singers, and Sanctuary Ringers rehearse at their regular time on 12/5 & 12/12. The next rehearsals will be on Thursday, January 9th.

Chime Choir will rehearse immediately following worship on 12/1 & 12/15.

Bass Clef Carolers will rehearse at 9:00 AM on 12/15.

CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS CONCERT



CHANCEL SINGERS CHRISTMAS PARTY

Members of the Chancel Singers are invited to the annual Christmas Party at the Fresch home on Thursday, December 19th, at 7:00 PM.

CAROL SING

The JOY Praise Team will lead a **Carol Sing** during worship on January 5th. Come prepared to request your favorite carol and tell why it is meaningful to you.

Hope Circle

The Hope Circle team sends a warm thank you to everyone that helped out with the Holiday Bazaar this year! This is the largest volunteer event we host at the church and we couldn't do it without everyone's support. From donating items, to making handmade gifts, baking and cooking, setting up, and working tables everyone's individual efforts came together for a true community event. A special thank you to our new volunteers and welcome to the team! The holiday spirit was felt by everyone who came to visit our church and that is because of your spirit! The proceeds from the bazaar will be used to continue Phillips community service to those in need this year.

Merry Christmas!

Pantry Restocking Help Needed at CCAP

There is a need of a few volunteers on Mondays, Tuesdays, and/or Thursdays with restocking shelves at the CCAP Food Pantry located at 311 Doric Avenue in Cranston. It is best to park behind the building on South Clarendon Street, which is the first block off Park Avenue. When coming to the building enter the building using the accessibility entrance and take the elevator to the basement.



Volunteers can come any time on these days.

Come with a church friend or family member and make a outing of it.

Contact Alan Newton (401)340-0819 to let him know when you would like to volunteer and he will let the pantry staff know.



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)



Sunday, December 8
2nd Sunday Food Donations

Tuesday, December 10, 1:00 p.m.
Knitter's Potluck

Tuesday, December 10, 7:00 p.m.
Cabinet Meeting - Trickett Parlor
Sunday, December 15, 6:30 p.m.
Candlelight Christmas Concert

Sunday, December 22, 6:30 p.m.
Christmas Eve Eve Eve Service

Sunday, December 29
Jeremy Langill, Executive Minister of
RI State Council of Churches preaching

Sunday, January 5, 2025
Christmas Hymn Sing

Sundays (following worship)
Coffee Hour in the Trickett Parlor

2nd Sunday - Each Month (following worship)
Building & Grounds Group Mtg.

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



Zoom Coffee Chats
Wednesdays 10:00 a.m.
For Zoom link, contact
eldercare@abcors.org

Advent BLESSINGS

May the Advent God be with you, inviting you to an eager expectation of new life within you. May you know hope, may you know peace as you await the birth of what is yet to be in you. May the life you embrace be a sharing in the God of life and incarnation among us. May the Advent God bless you.

- Martin Shusk, Blessing Upon Blessing: A Book of Blessings

November 27	Blessing of HOPE
December 4	Blessing of PEACE
December 11	Blessing of JOY
December 18	Blessing of LOVE

ELDER CARE MINISTRIES
American Baptist Churches of Rhode Island

**ABCORI Special
Business Meeting**
10:00 a.m. Saturday, January 11
Norwood Baptist Church
40 Durling Avenue, Warwick

Looking Ahead

ABCORI Annual Gathering
Friday evening, February 28
Lakewood Baptist Church
255 Atlantic Avenue, Warwick

Saturday, March 1
Warwick Central Baptist Church
3270 Post Road, Warwick



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