

# Phillips Memorial Baptist Church

January 2021



*Happy New Year!*

*Dear Members and Friends,*

I grew up with the New Year's tradition of letting the old year out and letting in the new year by opening both front and back doors to the house. My wife and I have continued this tradition, that is if we can stay awake until midnight on New Year's Eve. This year I will keep the back door open for a longer period to be assured that 2020 finds its way out of our lives for good!

Despite the pandemic and all the oddities of life we have had to accept, I do believe that there has been some good that has come out of the past year. There have been some lessons learned that may help us in the future.

The first lesson is realizing how resilient we are as a church and a people. In short order, churches, businesses, organizations adapted their ways making it possible to accomplish their mission. We learned how to meet and work virtually. We accepted new habits to protect ourselves and our neighbors from this virus. That is the Great Commandment put in action!

Another lesson is how important it is to have an emergency fund. Never could we have anticipated a circumstance where the greater share of the economy would be shut down. From the time when I was able to start earning money, I was taught to set aside a portion of my earnings for a rainy day. Granted, a rainy-day fund is challenging if not impossible for people who do not have enough to live on; however, some people could have and yet did not. They did not see the need for it. Now we do.

We have learned how to make every day count with our loved ones and to say all that we need to say to them often. Again, we could not have imagined a situation when a loved one could get desperately ill so quickly, leaving us

without the ability to visit them, hold their hand, to pray, to say those important parting words. Moving forward we are more likely to cherish every moment we can spend with loved ones and make more quality time available to our loved ones. Even now, I have found new ways to connect with loved ones at a distance, like playing remote chess with my daughter in New York, or having a virtual get together with friends and family spread across the country. Fortunately, our cell phone plans have free long distance and how we have been using it in 2020 to keep in contact.

Another lesson I learned is that some of the most necessary workers: healthcare workers, first responders, teachers, day care providers, grocery and store clerks are some of the most necessary workers in our society and yet are sorely underpaid when considering the value of their contribution to us all. I have learned to express my appreciation more regularly and to advocate for them in receiving a wage commensurate with the value they bring.

These are only a few of the lessons learned in 2020 that can be applied to 2021. I am certain that you have many more lessons that you have learned. I hope that you will share them. Perhaps it can be our Coffee Hour topic one Sunday morning following worship.

For now, I will just invite you to sing with me, "Fast away the old year passes, Fa, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la! Hail the new, ye lads and lasses! Fa, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la!

Blessings with the hopes for a better 2021.

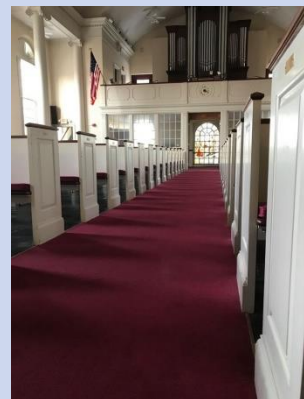
*Pastor Alan Newton*

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## Join Us for On-line Worship Sundays at 10:00 am

**Remember services are held every week on Zoom.** 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!](#)

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## **Board of Deacons**

Phillips Church Family,

2020 has been a rather interesting year. As deacons we have been working through the issues of safety, social distancing and appropriate worship etiquette during a pandemic. Not subjects we had started the year thinking about. Please know we continue to monitor and discuss at every one of our meetings (1) how the Zoom experience is working, (2) what the policies are for in-person worship, (3) when it would be safe to go back to the building together and (4) how we can do that in the best possible way. We have felt very strongly that the road we are traveling right now is the best one. We know that to not be meeting together in-person is disappointing to us all, but everyone's safety has to be top priority at this moment in time.

As a deacon board we will be losing a couple of members going into 2021. If anyone would like to join in and help out with the deacons please feel free to let me know. Also, if I have missed anyone that would like to help with our Zoom worship service and be a reader please let me know that also.

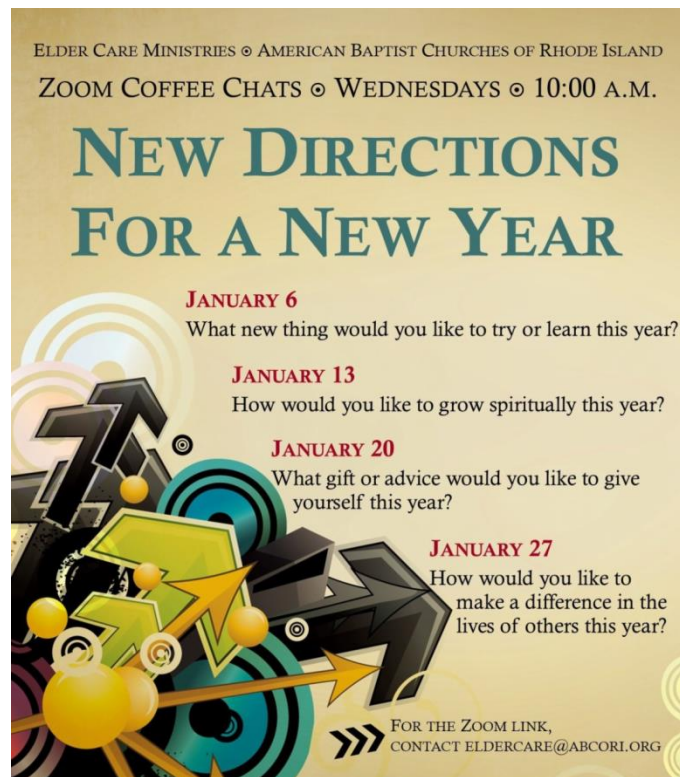
*Jeff Damrad*

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## **Board of Education**

The Board of Education is still looking for new members! If you are interested please contact Sarah Blusiewicz.

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## Board of Mission

Thanks for the great turn out for the food drive! The food will be going to Church of the Master food pantry. The hats and \$150 in gift cards will be going to Project Outreach. The next one will be January 9th from 11 am - noon. We will be collecting food and adult socks.

*Cindi LaCroix*

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## More Mission News

It's not too late to say Thank You to our retired ministers and missionaries! Mark your check RMMO.

Our next food drive (January 9) will benefit Calvary Baptist. Church of the Master was very grateful for the large food donation; Project Outreach was very appreciative of the knit hats, scarves, and \$200 worth of gift cards. Food donations given directly to food closets are particularly helpful. Food insecurity is now 25% in RI...40% in households with children under age 12.

Diana Litterick



[Click for Daily Bible Study for January](#)

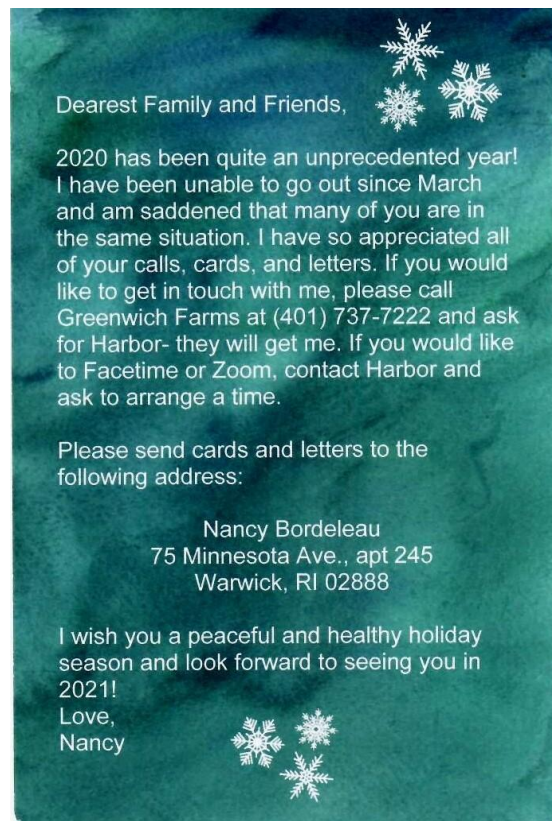
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**Sharing Prayer Concerns, Celebrations, Pastoral Prayer,  
and the Lord's Prayer**

Bonnie DerManelian's daughter Heidi, Diana Litterick's granddaughter, Rina Hopkins, Rev. Dr. Tom McKibbens, Sheldon Belmain's sister Judy Carver, Linda Liebrich's parents, Peggy Chatellier's brother, Joyce Smith, Jean Mannochia's daughter-in-law's mother Linda, David Fresch's friend Evan, David Barber's colleague's brother, Jean Manocchia's son-in-law Gary, ABC Missionaries in lock down around the world, our shut-in members.

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## Bible Stories & Activities for Grandparents to Share



*Generation to Generation* is the first offering in a new Elder Care Ministries program.

This series provides a fun and meaningful way to engage in religious education in a home setting. The series is designed to help grandparents share Bible stories and activities with their grandchildren—or other adults engage with the children in their lives—either virtually (FaceTime, Skype, etc.) or in-person.

Each story focuses on a family in the Old Testament and includes related activities. The “lessons” are designed to be easy to prepare and share.

Congregations are welcome to use the series as part of their Christian education programs.

[Click here to download Generation to Generation](#)

### *Birthdays!*



Lori Hynes	January 1
Winnie Hitchen	January 3
Janet Calligano	January 4
Pat Davies	January 6
Ruth Moran	January 6
Guenther DerManelian	January 7
Tommy Soe	January 7
Joanne Lovejoy	January 8
Ginny Rasmussen	January 9
Linda Weeks	January 10
Christina Weeks	January 14
Mary Nelson	January 15
Fran Shaw	January 21
Betty Clark	January 22
Jim Capp	January 23
Carolyn Belmain	January 26
Melendy Johnson	January 28
Emily Trahan	January 29

### *Wedding Anniversaries*



Sheldon & Carolyn Belmain      January 9

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