

Phillips Memorial Baptist Church



May 2020

Dear Phillips members and friends,

One of the recurring themes of Holy Week was forgiveness. Jesus at the Last Supper said that the bread and the cup were symbols of forgiveness and on the cross, he forgave those who crucified him. As we move into this post-Easter season, we see that Jesus continued with his forgiveness of Peter for his denial. This same theme marks the letters of Paul. There are some 50 references to forgiveness in the New Testament, which makes it a central part of what it means to be a Christian.

Jesus taught us to pray “Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.” It is so essential that we and many churches worldwide recite it nearly every Sunday.

Paul and the Apostles realized how important forgiveness is to Christian living. Paul couldn't be any plainer in his advice to the church in Colossae, which had been going through some troubling times. He wrote, “Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.” (Colossians 3:13) Paul offers similar admonitions in his letters to several churches that had experienced conflict.

My ministry for the last 20 years has been focused on the important work of forgiveness. Whether I was working with couples, families, neighborhoods, community groups, or congregations the same core principle applied: if there is not effort put into the hard work of forgiveness the brokenness is never healed and the future is in jeopardy.

Last year, the Phillips family experienced distress, which has left scars that you have revealed even in these few weeks I have been with you.

I would suggest that this is a part of the necessary work ahead for the congregation before the next chapter of Phillips Memorial can be written. The two questions to consider is “How has what happened affected you and your sisters and brothers? and “What can be done to heal the harm that has occurred?”

I encourage you to ponder these questions in this COVID in-between time. And when it is again safe to meet face to face perhaps the good people of Phillips Memorial will be ready to uncover the answers.

In Christ,

Alan Newton

A Note From the Interim Transition Pastor

I don't know how long I will be with you but for now I am here serving as your pastor. Given that church offices are closed I wanted you to have my contact information. Phone: **401-340-0819** (cell), Email: **agnewton79@gmail.com** If you are in need of pastoral care please don't hesitate to contact me.

Family News

Our love and concern is extended to Agnes Luther on the death of her daughter, Nancy, on March 2, 2020. Having lost her husband, Larry, only two months before, she needs us to surround her with our thoughts, prayers and sympathy. Her new address is Cedar Crest Nursing Center, 125 Scituate Avenue, Cranston, RI 02920.

Hi Everyone,

I am excited about my new position as Church Secretary at Phillips!

I was born and raised in Providence and am currently living in Warwick. My sister Nicole is my only sibling. She lives in Albany, NY with her husband and two sons. Our extended family is quite large and we're spread out across the country, but we keep in touch. Besides listening to music and reading, I love playing with my 8-year-old grandson Cam and my 2-year-old granddaughter Cassidy who are full of energy and pretty exhausting!

Please feel free to reach out to me if I can be of help: churchoffice@pmbc.necoxmail.com; 467-3300.

Donna Brown

Daily Bible Reading for May

Fri. May 1	1 Thessalonians 4:1-12	Sat. May 16	Proverbs 7:6-18
Sat. May 2	1 Thessalonians 4:13-18	Sun. May 17	Luke 2:41-52
Sun. May 3	1 Thessalonians 5:1-11	Mon. May 18	Mark 3:13-19
Mon. May 4	1 Thessalonians 5:12-28	Tues. May 19	Luke 9:57-62
Tues. May 5	2 Thessalonians 1:1-5	Wed. May 20	Mark 10:46-52
Wed. May 6	2 Thessalonians 1:6-12	Thurs. May 21	Luke 8:1-3
Thurs. May 7	2 Thessalonians 2:1-12	Fri. May 22	John 12:12-19
Fri. May 8	2 Thessalonians 2:13-3:5	Sat. May 23	John 21:20-25
Sat. May 9	2 Thessalonians 3:6-18	Sun. May 24	Acts 3:1-10
Sun. May 10	Genesis 3:1-13	Mon. May 25	Acts 5:12-16
Mon. May 11	Genesis 24:1-21	Tues. 26	Acts 8:26-40
Tues. May 12	Numbers 20:14-21	Wed. May 27	Acts 9:1-19
Wed. May 13	2 Kings 6:8-23	Thurs. May 28	Acts 12:6-19
Thurs. May 14	Exodus 2:5-9	Fri. May 29	Acts 16:6-15
Fri. May 15	1 Kings 18:1-16	Sat. May 30	1 Corinthians 16:5-12
		Sun. May 31	Acts 2:1-13

Although we may not be physically present with one another, it is hoped that together, using these readings, we may sense an enduring spiritual connection as we join together with our sisters and brothers of faith.

From the Treasurer

Thanks to those who have sent checks to the church. That has been a help. We need all the help we can get to pay regular expenses and even more to help pay for roof repair and other building maintenance costs. Please be as generous as you can.

What To Do About Your Tithes and Offerings...

We all have heard about the millions of people who are out of work and struggling to make ends meet. No doubt some of these people are our friends, neighbors and family members, and that is where some of your giving needs to go.



If you are able to continue giving to support the church and our ministry, please mail your gifts to the church. Church expenses and obligations still must be met.

If you have the means to help out others in this time of need, one way to give through the church is to give to the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering, our American Baptist Churches relief work. Simply add the following note with your gift: **OGHS - COVID**. 100% of these gifts will be given to those most in need.

Join Us For On-line Worship

It is clear that it will be a number of weeks until it is safe for us to be able to gather in worship in our Sanctuary.



During the past three weeks, we have been worshipping on-line using the Zoom Meeting platform.

You can use the following link to join us on Sundays or use the phone numbers below to call in and listen. Worship bulletins will be sent out each week by email.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/148720336>

Meeting ID: 148 720 336

One tap mobile

+13126266799,148720336# US or +19292056099, 148720336# US

Telephone numbers:

+1 312 626 6799 U +1 929 205 6099 U +1 253 215 8782 US

+1 301 715 8592 US +1 346 248 7799 US +1 669 900 6833 US

If you need help connecting, you may contact Pastor Newton (information on Page 1)

Rhode Island COVID-19 Guidelines

Anyone who is sick should stay home and self-isolate (unless going out for testing or healthcare).

The people who live with that person and who have been in direct close contact with that person should self-quarantine for 14 days after the last day of that person's isolation.

Direct close contact means being within approximately 6 feet of a person for a prolonged period.

Help is available for people living in quarantine or isolation due to COVID-19. Visit www.RIDelivers.com for connections to groceries, home supplies, restaurants, and mutual aid groups.

People can also call 2-1-1.

When people are in public, they should wear a cloth face covering. A cloth face covering is a material that covers the nose and mouth. It could be sewn by hand or improvised from household items such as scarves, T-shirts, or bandanas.

Groups of more than five people should not be gathering. Always avoid close personal contact with other people in public.

Healthcare workers should not be going to work if they are sick (even with mild symptoms).

People who think they have COVID-19 should call their healthcare provider. Do not go directly to a healthcare facility without first calling a healthcare provider (unless you are experiencing a medical emergency).

People with general, non-medical questions about COVID-19 can visit www.health.ri.gov/covid, email RIDOH.COVID19.Questions@health.ri.gov, or call 401-222-8022. This is the COVID-19 Hotline that RIDOH has available to the public.

Everyone can help stop the spread of viruses in Rhode Island

Get your flu shot, and make sure the people around you do the same.

Wash your hands often throughout the day. Use warm water and soap. If soap and water are not available, use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.

Cough or sneeze into your elbow.

Stay home and do not leave your house if you are sick, unless it is for emergency medical care, food, gas or other essential items.

Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth. Germs spread this way.

From the Moderator

Spring has arrived and “Mother Nature” never ceases to amaze us in the beauty we see around us. Unfortunately, this year has been like no other. We have been told to stay home, wash our hands frequently, practice distancing when in public, no more than five people in a group, wear masks when we go out. It is a very scary and depressing time for many of us. But God is always with us, even if we can’t be with family and friends – when we are happy, sad, scared, depressed, or whatever we are experiencing. Remember, we need to isolate not BE isolated.

PASTOR TOM: I had contact with Pastor McGibbens last week. I am pleased to tell you he is doing well, coming along slowly but surely. He said he still gets tired. Perhaps he may be frustrated because he is used to being so active. The good news for him is that the doctor cleared him to drive. He wanted me to thank all of you for your prayers. He really appreciates all the good thoughts and prayers.

PASTOR ALAN: I want to take this opportunity to thank Pastor Alan Newton for stepping up to help Phillips during a period of turmoil, not only at Phillips, but also during the global pandemic. Pastor Alan has been a beacon in the middle of the turmoil. He has helped us to maintain a sense of community before churches were shut down, and he has now created virtual church every Sunday at 10:am on “Zoom.” The virtual church services are a wonderful way to bring some normalcy during this time. If you have not joined the group, try it soon. Originally Pastor Tom thought he would be back by Easter, so Pastor Alan agreed to be with us until then. When Pastor Tom’s situation changed, we approached Alan and asked if he would consider staying on. Without hesitation, he agreed. We are so fortunate to have Pastor Alan with us.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING donations will assist immediate needs (unemployment, loss of income, housing, hunger, access to health care) in the USA and PR. Also funded will be programs supporting mental health of faith leaders and congregations. International response will have particular support for refugees and asylum seekers. **Make your check to PMBC with memo: OGHs – COVID.**
Jesus is alive in our love!

Do keep on collecting food for Church of the Master and bring it all in when we open!

Also contagious: kindness, patience, love, enthusiasm, positive attitude.... don't wait to catch it from others...be the carrier!

Of Interest From ABCORI



Help Available for Older Adults During Coronavirus Pandemic



Elder Care Ministries volunteers are available to help older adults in Rhode Island who may need groceries delivered, medications picked up, errands run, repairs made, etc. If you are aware of someone in your congregation, neighborhood, or family who could use this help, **please contact Rev. Kathryn Palen at eldercare@abcori.org or 401-522-9731.**

Please also **watch for new resources and opportunities to engage** by visiting eldercare.abcori.org and/or by joining the Elder Care Ministries (ABCORI) page on Facebook.

Join Elder Care Ministries



Each week we will chat about a different question. For instance, on April 22nd, our question will be: "During these challenging and uncertain days where have you found light or hope or joy?"

You may **join us via computer or telephone.** For info on how to connect, contact Kathryn Palen at kpalen@abcori.org or (401) 522-9731. **Grab a mug of coffee or tea and join us Wednesday mornings.**

2020 Summer Camping Moving To Virtual Format

I write to you with the difficult news of the decision to close the summer camping programs for Camp Canonicus. As Director of Camping Ministries, I have met and talked with many different groups, pastors of our congregations, sought wisdom from different planning teams, and monitored updates from the health department. Based on what was discussed and learned, we have decided that closure of the summer camping program will be what is safest for our campers, families, and churches. Though we may not be having a regular summer program, we have decided to develop a "virtual camp." We will share ideas, crafts, videos, and small-group activities that kids and families may take part in from the comfort of their homes. We will utilize our social media platforms to engage with our families. Stay safe, *Amanda Ogilvie*



We'll Miss You Rina!

What strikes me most particularly about Rina is her absolute devotion to the task at hand, whatever that task might be, from the RI Plumbers Association newsletter to Phillips' Sunday bulletin, the knitters group, choir, children's messages, May breakfast, Christmas bazaar, and much more. There are individuals who enable a church to thrive (not just survive). I have always referred to such special folk as "Extra Mile Christians." Rina, above all else, with her heart of gold, is an "Extra Mile Christian," and Joyce and I pray that her new Wyoming address, with her angel-like kid sister, Lorraine, will bring her peace and joy.

Rina, you are in our prayers and thoughts. Well done, sister and friend. God be with you 'til we meet again. In Christ's never-ending love,

Wes Smith

I met Rina 6 years ago on my return from Texas. I quickly found out that she is a force -- nothing gets by her. Her faith in our Lord is strong and she lives it each day. Rina was the leader and organizer of "the Knitters". She led our group through dancing the Mexican Hat dance and the Texas two-step (you may still be able to find the videos).

And who can forget the Easter Bonnet Parade? (I still wear mine at the May breakfast). Outside of church, she has become a close personal friend. I am privileged to know her and will miss her. But the story doesn't end there. I'll be visiting Wyoming and we're already planning a ladies' cruise in the future. I wish her all the best in her new home with Sophie.

Can't forget Lorraine. She has spent 6 months away from home to care for Rina. I have added another friend to my life.

Thank You God for the blessings of these Soul Sisters.

Fran Shaw

I know you all know Rina as our long-time secretary at Phillips. Rina has moved to Wyoming to live with family. Rina retired last fall due to health issues. During her recuperation process, her sister Lorraine was by her side. Lorraine and her family, who live in Wyoming, encouraged Rina to move to be with them. She was happy about the move as there are nieces, nephews, and a new baby on the way in June. She was looking forward to her new adventure. We would like to thank Rina for all she did for Phillips not just as secretary but for all the other things she was involved with, known and unknown. On behalf of the church I wish her good health, inner peace, and much love. May God bless her and her "new life".

Jean Manocchia

Thanks to Rina for setting a fast pace and a great example in her office of what it means to be faithful as a worker, friend, initiator of good ideas, leader, teacher, lover of animals, children, and just people in general. She had time for everyone and any need. Her good-natured manner, kindness, and caring were infectious and motivating. We will miss her and wish her happiness, knowing that she will continue to shine her light even as she has shone it while with us.

Ginny Rasmussen

Rina's new address: 6301 Lone Tree Drive, Gillette WY 82718

Phillips Memorial Baptist Church
565 Pontiac Avenue
Cranston RI 02910

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The church office will be switching to a new on-line format for weekly and monthly announcements and news. This will include our monthly newsletter.

In an effort to cut down on expenses, we are planning to eliminate the bulk mailing, which is very expensive because it requires over 200 pieces. Instead, we hope our members and friends will be willing to receive online mailings instead. We will, of course, send news and notices through first-class mail if you are unable to access the information online. Unfortunately, this will result in your not getting the information in a timely way, but you will receive it.

We need **everyone** to do one of the following:

- Send your current email address to churchoffice@pmbc.necoxmail.com with **"Email Address"** as the Subject
- or
- Let us know that you need to continue to receive mailings through the US Postal Service

Please send this via churchoffice@pmbc.necoxmail.com or by dropping us a note in the mail by Wednesday, May 20th.