



Phillips Memorial Baptist Church
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March 2024

Our Faith Connections

Dear PMBC Family,

I write this from the middle of Lent, a season in which the church has historically spent time in self-reflection and meditation, in preparation for Easter weekend. For me this has been a season of contemplation, reflection, aided by listening to the daily lectionary reading in the lectio divina format (I use the Ritual app), and rest (do you know how amazing it is to pair yoga and prayer?). Last week our guest preacher encouraged us to consider how to save our lives by losing them in service to Christ. I want to encourage each of us in this Lenten season to consider that Christ has called us to say “yes” to service and also to say “no” to an economic and social system that would drain us by making us run around wildly in search of obtaining everything. Lent is a season of contemplation, so I ask - what does it look like to find ourselves grounded and rested so that we might be more present to others in love and service? Where can I say no to the things that drain me, so I can say yes to the things through which the Spirit brings life?

As we prepare for the joy and celebration of Easter, let us not gloss over the pause that is Lent - and may each of us find space in that pause to rest and know that we are deeply loved, to rest and know that we are enough, to rest and know the life that comes through service.

YOU are loved by the God who created you, the Son whom you follow, and the Spirit who gives you life. This season, may you know that truth more deeply.

Blessings,

Pastor Amy

Baptism and Membership

If you are interested in Christian baptism or in placing your membership at PMBC, please contact Pastor Amy.

ABCORI Annual Meeting

If you are interested in the polity of our region of the American Baptist Churches, join us in Westerly on Saturday, March 9th for the ABCORI Annual Meeting. This year's annual meeting includes various workshops, worship, lunch, and the annual business meeting. Registration and more information can be found [here](#).

The church cabinet has elected Peg Chatellier, Peter Chatellier, and Diana Litterick as our delegates, but all are welcome to attend.

Lent 311 Groups

*There is still time to join a small group Bible study. Contact the church office to be added to a group and get additional details on gathering locations. This year we will use Salt's *The Poetry of Lent: A Lenten Companion to Mary Oliver's Devotions* as we study the biblical stories leading up to Easter.*

Saturdays 10-11 a.m.

- February 17th, March 2, March 16th
- Martha Sobaje and Ruthie Moran teaching
- Due to limited space, this group is full

Tuesdays Noon to 1 p.m.

- February 27th, March 5th, March 12th,
- in Hope Circle Room and on Zoom
- Pastor Amy teaching
- *Contact the Church office for the zoom link*

Fridays 7- 8 p.m.

- March 8th, 15th, and 22nd
- In person at Sarah and David Fresch's house

Maundy Thursday

Thursday, March 28th @ 6:30 p.m. in the 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 our Fellowship Hall is accessible.*

Easter Service

Sunday, March 31st @ 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 the fellowship hall as the children have their **Easter Egg Hunt**. *Want to help hide eggs? Join us in the fellowship hall at 9:30 a.m. on Easter! Want to donate candy for our egg hunt? Bring it by Sunday, March 17th, to the Trickett Parlor.*

NOTICE OF CONGREGATIONAL MEETING to be held immediately following worship service on **Sunday, March 3**, for the purpose of voting on a liaison to the Cabinet for the Visitation and Care team.



**Join Us in Person or for On-line Worship
Sundays at 10:00 am**

**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!](#)

Treasurer

Collections in February were for the Deacon's Fund - \$448.

Worship Planning and Arrangements

Deacons Adventure Recap and March Goals

In January, we set as goals to: (1) read a chapter a day from the Bible and (2) 24 out of 31 days spend prayer time with God.

February goals: (1) add 2 Psalms a day to your reading and (2) pick 2 people in your life to pray every day over.

March goals: (1) 1 Proverb a day and (2) pick one governing body to pray for every day.

Stay with it and we'll all grow together. Let us know how you're doing.

Jeff Damrad

Mission Education and Projects

The America for Christ Offering will be collected March 17th. This year's theme is based on Lamentations where we read that God's compassion never fails. "We must accept finite disappointment, but never lose infinite hope." (M.L.King.) This offering supports many kinds of ministries, including scholarships, disaster response, and neighborhood action programs. Many different stories illustrate the effectiveness of various efforts. Stories such as Sam, who, after a tragedy years ago, rediscovered her wholeness in God's love; and chaplains, who are there in disasters, grief, loss, and tragedy. Hopefully people will be assured that "God's love is a close and constant companion."

Rhode Island continues to have a large portion of residents needing food assistance, so our food donations are definitely needed! You can bring your cans, etc ANYTIME and put them in grocery carts at building entrances.

"Fixate on whose you are (not who you are)."

-A. Lamott

Diana Litterick

Pounds of 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
September 2023 through January 2024**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Lbs.</u>
9/9/2023	94.0
10/14/2023	90.0
11/11/2023	145.0
11/19/2023	162.2
12/10/2023	212.4
1/21/2024	108.8
Total	812.4

Congregational Life & Fellowship Ministry Group

Potluck Luncheon on March 10th

Got through February now to face March -- in like a lion out like a lamb.

March 10th will be our Potluck Lunch. Please let me know what you plan to bring so we will have a balanced diet. Unless it's all desserts -- yummy!

There will be five Sundays in a row of activity:

- March 3 - Rabbi Goldwasser
- March 10 - Lunch
- March 17 - St. Patrick's Day
- March 24 - Palm Sunday
- March 31 - Easter

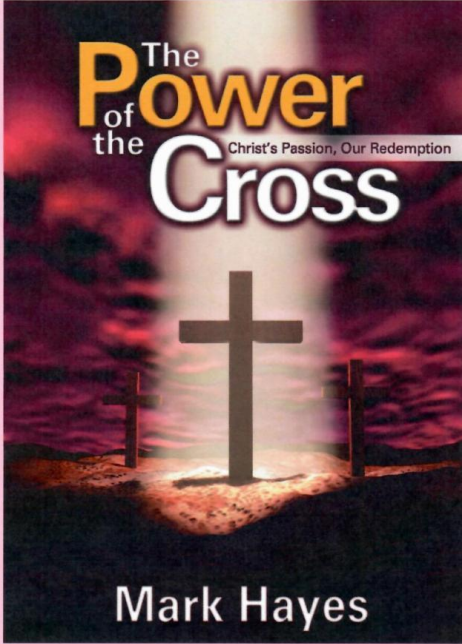
Fran Shaw



Music Ministry

Organist Assistant for March 10: Trent Dufour

The JOY Praise Team is happy to announce that Laurie Mokaba has joined them.



The Power
of the
Cross
Christ's Passion, Our Redemption

Mark Hayes

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

Sunday, March 24, 2024
10:00 a.m.

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



Daily Lectionary Bible Readings

(11/30/23 - 11/28/24)

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=B>

(Click the link above for readings)



Saturday, March 2 - 10 a.m. to noon

Saturday Arts and Crafts
Hope Circle

Sunday, March 3 (following worship)

Congregational Meeting

Sunday, March 3

Rabbi Jeffrey Goldwasser from Temple Sinai
in Cranston will join us for worship and for a
Q & A session in Hope Circle following the service

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Tuesdays Noon to 1 p.m.

- *March 5th, March 12th,*
- in the Church Parlor and on Zoom
- Pastor Amy teaching
- *Contact the Church office for the zoom link*

Fridays 7- 8 p.m.
- March 8th, 15th, and 22nd
- In person at Sarah and David Fresch's house

Tuesday, March 12
Cabinet Meeting - Parlor - 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, March 24 - Palm Sunday
Easter Musical

Thursday, March 28
Maundy Thursday - 6:30 p.m.
Fellowship Hall

Sunday, March 31
Easter Service and Easter Egg Hunt

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

Thursdays – Music Rehearsals
6:15 p.m. – 7:00 pm JOY Praise Team
7:00 p.m. – 8:00 pm Chancel Singers
8:00 p.m. – 8:30 pm Sanctuary Ringers



Zoom Coffee Chats
Wednesdays 10:00 a.m.

For Zoom link, contact
eldercare@abcori.org

WILDERNESS DISCOVERIES

- | | |
|-------------|---------------------------|
| February 28 | A place of preparation |
| March 6 | A place of reconciliation |
| March 13 | A place of transformation |
| March 20 | A place of reorientation |

Elder Care Ministries
American Baptist Churches of Rhode Island



Gathering Your Equipment to Build Up the Body of Christ

Eph PH: 4: 12-13 to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

American Baptist Woman's Ministries of RI

Annual Spiritual Retreat

When: Saturday, March 16, 2024

Where: Norwood Baptist Church RI

48 Budlong Ave., Warwick, RI 02888

9:00 a.m. – 3:00 pm

Conference fee - \$20.00

Please join us as we gather to bond with Christian friends, both old and new. Renew and enrich your faith! Dr. Reppa M Cottrell, our keynote speaker, will guide us to a deeper understanding of God's plans for us in the world today. Donna Sherman, Lay Pulpit Supply pastor, will offer reflections and discussions on how this relates to us at this particular time in our life.

There will be hymn singing ---special music--- a storyteller portraying one of the women in the.

There will be breakout sessions – a Prayer Walk – A Song to Sing – God's Angel's Bible Study

Norwood Baptist Church of RI has a food pantry which provides groceries to 26 families in need. If you wish to donate items to their food pantry, please see the attached registration form for a list of items needed. The registration form also provides details about sending in payment for the event.

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