



Phillips Memorial Baptist Church
565 Pontiac Avenue
Cranston, Rhode Island 02910
401.467.3300
pmbcoffice565@gmail.com
www.phillipschurch.org (Office Hrs: 9:00 am -1:00 pm)
Instagram: phillipsmemorial
Facebook: @PhillipsChurch

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

March 2025

Our Faith Connections

Dear PMBC,

In the epic *Lord of the Rings* trilogy, the smallest of the Middle Earth peoples have been tasked with destroying the evil powers that are growing in an attempt to control of the earth. Frodo Baggins, who journeys for 6 months and 3 days through dangerous conditions to destroy an evil ring being sought by an even more evil Dark Lord, reflects to the wizard helping him that he wished the cataclysmic rise of evil "need not have happened in [his] time." "So do I," replied Gandalf, "and so do all who live to see such times. But that is not for them to decide. All we have to decide is what to do with the time that is given us."

This congregation has been given 125 years of life, in which it has navigated two world wars, many other wars, multiple economic depressions, the post-war rapid growth and then slump of church participation, and the Civil Rights movement. It has navigated marriages, divorces, births, deaths, baptisms, departures of members, the birth of ABC-USA, 3 building campaigns, and has hired 11 senior ministers and multiple associate ministers. God's Spirit has worked through us, through the normal and the abnormal ups and downs of congregational and national life, for 125 years.

None of us were here in 1900 when a small group of folk from People's Baptist Church decided to start this congregation. We didn't sign the purchase agreement for the land or vote on the blueprints for the buildings. But, we have been given this time. I have no doubt that long into PMBC's future, our fingerprints will continue to be found. Perhaps when PMBC celebrates its 200th anniversary, people will say of us now - "can you believe how faithful/committed/justice-seeking/peace-making/joyful they were in the times that came to them?"

Beloved, let us not grow weary in doing what is good. For these uncertain times demand that we decide to do justice, seek mercy, and act in loving kindness with these times that have been given to us.

Blessings,

Pastor Amy

Church News

Please welcome PMBC's new church secretary Alicia Gilbert. Alicia was the hospitality coordinator at ABCORI/Canonicus.

Membership and Baptism Class

If you are considering membership or baptism, please join us for a three-week class at 9 a.m. on Sundays, March 23rd, 30th, and April 6th in the Hope Circle Room (2nd floor of the center building).

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 find individual Lenten devotionals at the link above 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)
- Saturdays, March 15th, 22nd, and 29th Coventry (due to space constraints, this group has reached capacity)

Join a Ministry Team on March 9th!

You may not know that much of our ministry here is done by six different volunteer ministry groups, all led by a liaison to the Church Cabinet. Participating in a ministry team is a great way to get to know other PMBCers in a small group setting and to invest in the aspects of our ministries that you are most passionate about. You don't have to be a member to participate in a ministry group! You don't have to make a long-term commitment to the ministry group to join in their work! Perhaps you aren't quite sure where you want to be involved. Feel free to try out a few!

To make it more accessible for people to be involved in our ministry team work, our teams will start meeting each month on the 2nd Sunday at 9 a.m.

If you are interested in:

- Working with children and youth, teaching Bible studies, or faith formation through education, join our *Christian Education Team*
 - This team will meet in the *Little Shepherd Preschool*. From the sanctuary, go down the hall, pass the offices, Trickett Parlor, and accessible bathroom, and turn left.
- Helping to maintain and keep our building beautiful, join our *Building and Grounds Team*.
 - This team will meet in the *Trickett Parlor*. From the sanctuary, take the hall to the first door on the right. From the lobby, go up one level and Tricket Parlor is across the hall.

- Helping create fellowship events where PMBCers can build relationships and get to know each other and/or eat together, join our *Congregational Life and Fellowship Team*.
 - This team will meet in the *Fellowship Hall*, which is directly below the sanctuary and can be accessed by going down the stairs at the narthex entrance or taking the elevator to the H (Hall) level.
- Helping organize community service events, resource drives (such as the food collection or Salvation Army "Angel Tree" gifts), mission education and trips, or dispersing mission funding, join our *Mission Education and Projects Team*.
 - This team will meet in the *Library*. To get to the Library, take the elevator to level B, go through the room to the hall, turn left, and it is the second door on the left. Or go down the stairs from the lobby, turn left, it is the first door on your left.
- Supporting our housebound members and members in medical or other crises, through visits, calls, cards, and taking in-home communion, join our *Visitation and Care Team*.
 - This team will meet in the *Music Room*, which is directly below the narthex. To get to the Music Room, go down the stairs from the narthex or take the elevator to the H (Hall) level and go up the 3 stairs at the back of the Fellowship Hall.
- Helping organize and lead our worship services, including preparing for communion, organizing our fabulous group of lay leaders, ushers, and greeters, making sure our audio-visual and zoom elements are working, and planning special worship services, join our *Worship Planning and Arrangements Team* (the group formerly known as the Deacons).
 - This team will meet in the *Hope Circle* room, which is directly above the Trickett Parlor. To get to this room, take the elevator or stairs from the lobby to the second floor. From the elevator hall, turn left and the Hope Circle room is on your right.

RISCC Interfaith Forum on How to End Christian Nationalism

The Rhode Island State Council of Churches is hosting an interfaith forum on *How to End Christian Nationalism* on Saturday, March 22nd from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Community Church of Providence (372 Wayland Avenue, Providence). The keynote speaker will be Amanda Tyler, the executive director of the Baptist Joint Commission, and author of *How to End Christian Nationalism*. Pastor Amy will be teaching a class on patriarchy in Project 2025.

If you are curious about what Christian Nationalism is or how you can fight it, plan to join us. You can register [here](#) or by calling RISCC at 401-461-5558.

Kids and Youth Summer Camp

Do you have a child 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 new and powerful way. The program is broken up into cabins based on the age of

the campers. This fun, interactive experience helps campers gain 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!

Thank You!

Thank you to the PMBC cabinet and Hope Circle for your financial support for our recent mission trip to the Dominican Republic and to the whole congregation for your prayers and encouragement! Because of your support we helped run five medical clinics in the Haitian bateyes and barrios and helped renovate a wing of the Good Samaritan Hospital in La Romana. This was a life-changing trip that we hope to repeat in 2027!

Sincerely,

Pastor Amy, Nancy C., Amanda D., Dana M., and Juli S.

Blessings,

Pastor Amy



History Corner



PMBC has a long history of having a strong music program. You may have seen this photo before. This is the Phillips Memorial Choral Association's performance of "Joseph: A Dramatic Cantata." The Choral Association did three performances of "Joseph" in January of 1931, during which they raised over \$2000 for the Red Cross's relief efforts in response to the Dust Bowl drought!



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 available by emailing the church office.

[Click for Zoom Phone Info](#)

[Click for PMBC on YouTube](#)

[Click to Join the Meeting!](#)

Ministry Group Reports

Worship Planning and Arrangements

Phillips family,

Incredible to think we are heading into the Lenten season. We still haven't gotten over the joy of Christ's birth, yet now we look at His forthcoming sacrifice.

As we approach this somber time in a Christian's journey, we, as deacons, would encourage you all to contemplate some activities:

- (1) Bible reading - study Psalm 22,23 & 24. Read Isaiah 53. Go through any Gospel account of the story of Jesus. Drink deeply of what Christ did for humankind.
- (2) Join our Bible study - Wednesday's group reads and discusses scripture. If you are a child of Christ how can you grow without food?
- (3) Worship - make it a priority to attend service and commune with others, praising God.
- (4) Pray - lift up concerns and issues to the throne of God. Nothing is too small for The Father to hear and be concerned about.

If we all join in on these ideas what a strong membership we could be.

Jeff Damrad

Christian Education

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

Our next Christian Ed. Meeting is scheduled for March 9th at 9:00 am. (This is also the first day of daylight savings time.)

Parents are encouraged to join us.

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 through December 2025*

<u>Date</u>	<u>Lbs.</u>
1/12/2025	269.1
2/23/2025	222.8
Total	<u><u>491.9</u></u>



Music Ministry

PMBC Fun *Music* Fact:

Several years ago, Martha adapted the following from the Walnut Hills Baptist Church Newsletter, Williamsburg, Virginia, and posted it on the bulletin board. While it did not bring in any new choir members, many people commented on how humorous it was.

Top 10 Reasons for Joining the Choir

10. You are running out of clean clothes and the choir robes save on laundry.
9. You recently were selected for jury duty and want to see what it feels like sitting with a group of people.
8. It's just like *American Idol*, but for God, and we let you stay.
7. For years you have wanted to know who sits in the back pews but were afraid to turn around.
6. Singing has proven health benefits.
5. You will always have a great, reserved seat for Christmas and Easter.
4. Every time you sing, an angel gets its wings.
3. The offering plate is never passed to the choir.
2. In heaven, you will know all the words to the songs.

And the number one reason to join the Phillips Memorial Baptist Church Choir

1. It will make you happy, and happiness is contagious!

Chime Choir will rehearse immediately following worship on March 2nd & 23rd.

Organist Assistant for March 23rd is Antonia Souza.

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.
 - The **JOY** Praise Team will lead the congregation in a hymn sing during worship on Sunday, May 4th. Be prepared to request your favorite hymn!
 - An organ recital will be performed by Martha Sobaje on Sunday, June 1st, at 3:00 PM.
-

Sharing Prayer Concern

Tessa Thompson's Aunt Sylvene Davoren, Friend of the Belmains Kenneth Johnson, Carolyn Belmain's sister Sheila McFarland, Diana Litterick, Jeff Damrad, 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 granddaughter-in-law Jeanie,

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



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!



Debbie Barber	March 5
Amy Smith	March 5
David Fresch	March 6
Anne Crocker	March 8

Kiarra Violante	March 8
Ed Onanian	March 10
Rev. Dr. Amy Chilton	March 17
Richard Zambarano	March 21
Barbara Hopkins	March 26

Anniversaries!



Scott & Kristen Trahan	March 8	27 Years
Ken & Betty Clark	March 13	70 Years

What's Happening

Sunday, March 2 (following service)
Building Walk-through

Sunday, March 2 and 23
Chime Choir will rehearse immediately following worship

Sunday, March 9, 9:00 a.m.
Team Meetings

Sunday, March 9, 2025
2nd Sunday Food Donations

Sunday, March 16, 2025
Rev. Tim Chesser Preaching

Saturday, March 22
"RISCC How to End Christian
Nationalism" Forum

Sunday, April 13
Palm Sunday
Easter Musical (during worship)
- *Come, Touch the Robe*

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 18
Children and Youth Sunday

Sunday June 1
Organ Concert @3 pm

Sunday June 8
125th Anniversary Homecoming Service and Luncheon

Saturday, June 21
R.I. Pride Booth

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



Elder Care Ministries
Zoom Coffee Chats
10 a.m. Wednesdays

For Zoom link, contact
eldercare@abcort.org

Everyday Practices

Sometimes it's everyday practices that help us grow spiritually. During this series, we will consider such practices that may enrich our lives and encourage our journeys.

February 5
The Journey

February 12
Willingness

February 26
Curiosity

March 5
Empathy

March 12
Generosity

March 19
Delight

American Baptist
Women's
MINISTRIES
of Rhode Island

Save the Date!

**ABWMRI Spiritual Retreat
Creativity in Christ - Colossians 1:16
Saturday, March 15, 2025
North Scituate Baptist Church**

We invite all to submit a digital picture for the program cover of something you have drawn or painted on the program theme.

Also

Invitation to write words to an existing song (or own music) on the theme
Submit by March 5 to president's email address

**Bring items that day of items you have made, especially with Biblical theme for display - art, poetry, photography, and more.
If needed, bring an easel for display.**

Phillips Memorial Baptist Church
565 Pontiac Avenue

Cranston, RI 02910
401.467.3300
www.phillipschurch.org
pmbcoffice565@gmail.com

Office Hours: 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Rev. Dr. Amy Chilton: phillipsmemorialpastor@gmail.com

Visit our Website



Phillips Memorial Baptist Church | 565 Pontiac Avenue | Cranston, RI 02910 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!