



Phillips Memorial Baptist Church
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November 2024

Our Faith Connections

Dear PMBC,

It amazes me every fall, when the holidays start to roll around and I swear we just had Memorial Day. Maybe some of you are amazed that we are about to celebrate our 125th anniversary, and it feels like we just had our 100th or 75th. As we prepare for a full year of celebrating our 125th year of *God's Spirit Working Through Us*, things are rolling along at a rapid pace. Our cabinet has begun work on brainstorming our 125th goals, work that we will bring to you at our fall business meeting. These goals will be part of the discernment work we are going to do as a congregation, as we open ourselves up to what God is calling us to, in our next season of life together.

Since this newsletter is already lengthy, this message will be short: THINGS ARE HAPPENING HERE! And I am thankful for each one of you who make up the body of Christ gathered in this place. My prayers are with each of you and with our community as we discern together what it means to be Christ's hands and feet in Cranston and beyond.

We are called to be God's people, showing, by our lives, God's grace,

Pledge Sunday

Each fall we examine our stewardship practices, asking where God is leading us to give of our time, talents, and treasures to the work of the Gospel. This year we have been exploring the theme of "All Creatures Great and Small" and reflecting on how God creates and sustains this world and invites us into a life of care for it.

Part of our work of stewardship is to ask a pledge of our members for how they will financially support the work of Phillips Memorial in this next year. For 124 years we have survived and thrived on the generosity of our members! As we head into our 125th year of congregational life, we will do the same.

Join us on Sunday, November 10th for Pledge Sunday. Pledge cards will be mailed out and made available in service that day.

And thank you to all who give of their time, talents, and treasures!

Cranston Community Thanksgiving Service

Please join us on Sunday, November 24th at 6 p.m. at Temple Sinai (30 Hagen Ave, Cranston) for a joint, interfaith Thanksgiving service with other Cranston area faith communities. Some of our community members will be participating in this service as we celebrate and give thanks for God's abundance!

Digital and Retirement Giving

We will be rolling out digital giving soon! Keep your eyes peeled for upcoming information about how you can give digitally to any of our offerings.

Also, do you know that, if you are over 70.5 years old, you can take a required minimum distribution from your IRA and donate it directly to a non-profit organization, that you can do so *tax free*? Talk to your tax accountant and check out [additional information here.](#)

Courtyard Upgrade

By now you have probably noticed that we have begun work on revamping our landscaping in the courtyard and along Pontiac Avenue. Unfortunately, this has required the removal of some Bradford Pear trees that had reached the end of their lives. Fortunately, it has included the planting of a new Kousa dogwood, shrubs, and pollinator perennials. In the spring we will add new mulch to all of our beds as well as additional plants in the courtyard area.

Keep your eyes open, as we near spring, for ways that you can contribute to the community flower garden! Do you need to divide your hostas or other spring or summer blooming perennials? We'll take them! In the March newsletter you will see a "wish list" of additional plants. Our courtyard will be blooming with all the diverse colors of the PMBC family!

Save the Dates:

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. Teens will begin practicing their parts on Sunday, November 24th. Our children will begin practicing their parts in December. Costume fitting will happen on Sunday, December 15th immediately following service. All children and teens are welcome to participate!

Community Advent Devotionals

This Advent PMBC is encouraging folks, individuals or families, to use the SALT Project's *Starry Nights: An Advent Devotional Full of Light and Wonder* to help guide your Scripture reading through the season of Advent. Printed devotional books will be available in the narthex on Sunday, November 24th. Please reach out to the church office if you need this mailed to you.

History Corner



(Look - there's no sanctuary!)



Since we recently had some landscaping work started, how about a look at this old shovel from our history closet? This shovel was donated by Clarence Durfee, the original owner of Durfee's Hardware, in honor of his father. The shovel was used for the ground breaking ceremonies for the center building (where the parlors and offices are located) and the fellowship hall (which was built a few years before the sanctuary!) in May of 1947. In the photos of the ground breaking ceremonies, there are some names that might be familiar to you, including Winnie Hitchen (then Blaire), Fred Moorehouse, Jr., and Rev. Frank Thompson. The Executive Secretary and 1st VP of the Rhode Island Council of Churches were there as well.

Notes

Thank you dear PMBC friends for showing me such thoughtful and generous appreciation for Pastor Appreciation month. This pastor appreciates all of you! It is no surprise that I put some of the gift you gave toward a new clematis plant for my backyard. Now when it blooms I will think of all of you and how much I love this congregation.

Blessings,

Pastor Amy



**Join Us in Person or for On-line 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 November to all of Phillips family. We are hopeful that everyone has enjoyed leaf viewing, apple picking, and other fall outings.

We, your deacons, have been busy as always with continuing to watch over all aspects of our worship service. With Advent being a month away we are planning what this will look like, scheduling our Christmas activities and special events.

Our Zoom coordinator, Dawn Lindelow continues to manage our online production. Dave Fresch helps to control our sound management during services, and all seem to be doing fine.

We are always in need of people willing to be lay readers. If you would like to help out please see one of us. Also, if ushering is a calling, see us as well.

Jeff Damrad

Christian Education

Adult Sunday School

Our adult Sunday School class will meet once a month at 9 a.m., usually on the 2nd Sunday. *Our next meeting is Sunday, November 10th.* This year we will focus on different spiritual practices. If you are wanting to grow your spiritual life, plan to join us! On November 10th, Pastor Amy will be teaching on the Ignatian practice of the Daily Examen. Meet us in the Hope Circle room (top floor of the office wing - above the Trickett Parlor).

Kathy McKinney

Visitation and Care

We are working on where we are and where we need to be. Volunteers are always welcome.

You may contact me or any team member (Dana Mennillo, Bonnie DerManelian, Diana Litterick, Ginny Rasmussen) with info on a member or friend with a need or desire for visitation. Names, and hopefully phone numbers, and addresses are helpful.

Dana Mennillo
Visitation Team Liaison

Thank you PMBC for making the October food collection of 262.4 pounds our best ever. We only need a total of 434.6 more pounds to reach our 2024 goal of ONE TON. Let's make it happen!



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 October 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
Total	1,565.4

Thank you!!



Music Ministry

PMBC Fun *Music* Fact:

Beginning in 2022, Martha launched a program of enlisting children in grades 2-5 to assist her at the organ occasionally, during the postlude. These children serve as organist assistants, and pull out stops when needed. There are times when, with both hands and feet in motion, Martha cannot get a hand free to change or add to the registration herself, and welcomes the additional help provided by the

children. Last year, a new duty was added to the organist assistant responsibilities. They now also ring the bell that is heard throughout the neighborhood. Many thanks to Antonia Souza, Trent Dufour, and Andre Mennillo for providing this important assistance.

Organist Assistant for November 24th is Trent Dufour.

NOVEMBER REHEARSALS:

JOY Praise Team, Chancel Singers, and Sanctuary Ringers will rehearse at their regular time on 11/7 & 11/21. There will be **no rehearsals on 11/14** (JOY attending MercyMe concert) **and 11/28** (Thanksgiving).

Chime Choir will rehearse immediately following worship on November 10th & 24th.

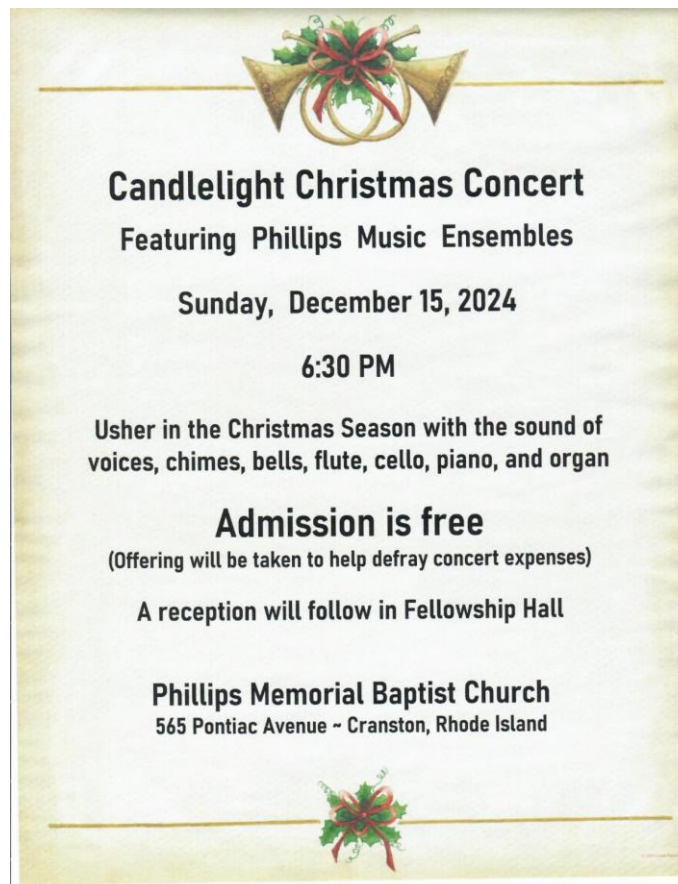
Bass Clef Carolers will rehearse at 9:00 AM on November 17th.

Bass Clef Carolers welcomes new member Michael Dermksian!

I Can Only Imagine is the **JOY Praise Team's** theme for the month of November. On Thursday evening, November 14th, the members of the *JOY Praise Team* will attend the MercyMe Concert at the Amica Mutual Pavilion in Providence. As many of you probably know, this Christian Group's most popular song is *I Can Only Imagine*. The *JOY Praise Team* will sing this song during worship on Sunday, November 17th. Those of you who would like to know more about MercyMe and/or the song, *I Can Only Imagine*, may watch the movie *I Can Only Imagine* on Netflix. It is a 2018 faith-based drama about the life of Bart Millard, the composer of MercyMe's 2001 Christian Rock ballad of the same name.

CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Everyone is invited to attend the Candlelight Christmas Concert on Sunday evening, December 15, at 6:30 pm. Phillips ensembles, including Children's Chime Choir, Bass Clef Carolers, Sanctuary Ringers, Chancel Singers, and the *JOY Praise Team*, will perform. Anne Diamond, flutist, and Roberta Ricci, cellist, will join on some of the selections. The concert is free and open to the public. A reception in Fellowship Hall will follow the concert.



Members of the **Chancel Singers** are invited to a **Christmas Party** at the Fresch home on Thursday, December 19, at 7:00 pm.

The **JOY Praise Team** will lead a **Carol Sing** during worship on Sunday, January 5th.



Holiday Bazaar: Now Accepting Donations!

Please Volunteer! Your time is the greatest donation. Sign up in the Parlor or contact Sarah Fresch or Linda Liebrich.

List of **Accepted** Items:

- Monetary gifts for expenses
- Jewelry
- Dishes/glassware
- Gently-used yard sale items
- Gently-used toys and children's books

- Baked goods (& cookie dough)
- Homemade canned jellies/pickles/jams

Please mark donations as “Bazaar” and place them in the closet across from the choir room. Cookie dough can be brought Sunday, November 17th and baked goods can be dropped off the day before the bazaar or the morning of.

List of **Not Accepted** Items:

- Electronics – computers, TVs, printers, music players, etc.
- Large items
- Baby furniture, walkers, strollers, etc.
- Clothing
- Bicycles
- Furniture, lamps
- Books, videos, DVDs

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

(11/30/23 - 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)



CHRISTMAS MEMORIALS 2024



During this Christmas season, we will continue our custom of decorating the Sanctuary with memorial Poinsettia plants. If you wish to memorialize loved ones with a plant, you may order it through the church office.

Plant orders must be in by November 20, 2024

If you prefer, you can make a donation to one of the funds listed below or indicate a "Special Designation". Please indicate your choice of memorial and the name(s) of the person(s) memorialized. Return this completed form with your check (*payable to "Phillips Memorial Baptist Church"*) by November 20, 2024, to assure your memorial will be included in the bulletin on Sunday, December 22.

The Poinsettias will be used in the Sanctuary through December 22. After that, people will be able to take them home after Christmas Eve (Eve Eve) service.

- Plant** I will take plant I will leave plant for a shut-in
- 6 ½" pot - Red (\$15) 6 ½" pot - White (\$15)
-
- Memorial Fund** **Endowment Fund** **Organ Fund**
- Music Fund** **Deacons Fund** **Taking Care of Our Church Home**
- Special Designation** _____

IN MEMORY OF _____

GIVEN BY _____

(Please print clearly)

AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____ Cash Check# _____



Sunday, November 10
2nd Sunday Food Donations for
CCAP's Holiday Food Drive

Sunday November 10, 9:00 a.m.
Adult Sunday School

Monday, November 11, 7:00 p.m.
Bazaar Planning Meeting on Zoom

Monday, November 11
Church Office Closed for Veteran's Day

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

Saturday, November 23
2024 Holiday Bazaar

Thursday, November 28 & Friday, November 29
Church Office Closed for Thanksgiving & Day After

Sunday, December 15, 6:30 p.m.
Candlelight Christmas Concert

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.

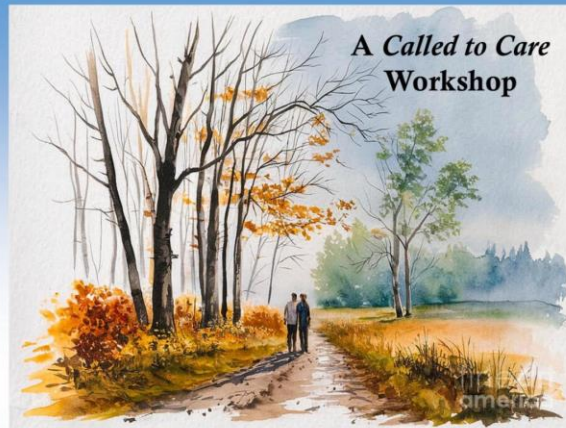
It is into this deeply tired world of ours that God sends Jesus to speak the voice of love. Jesus says, "Follow me. Don't keep running around. Follow me. Don't just sit there. Follow me." The voice of love is the voice that can completely reshape our life from a wandering or just-sitting-there life to one that is focused and has a point to go to. – Henri Nouwen

NAVIGATING A WEARY WORLD

October 9	Embracing Possibility
October 16	Recovering Purpose
October 23	Taking Risks
October 30	Making Connections
November 13	Reflecting Light
November 20	Practicing Gratitude

For Zoom link, contact eldercare@abcori.org

Elder Care Ministries
American Baptist Churches of Rhode Island



A Called to Care Workshop

Accompanying People with Dementia & Their Caregivers

This workshop for individuals/teams from ABCORI churches will offer ideas, practices, and resources to help with providing spiritual care to people with dementia and their caregivers. To register, contact (401) 522-9731 or eldercare@abcori.org by November 12.

Saturday, November 16 9:00-11:00 a.m.

A program of Elder Care Ministries
American Baptist Churches of Rhode Island

Hosted by Greenville Baptist Church
582 Putnam Pike, Greenville, RI 02828



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Visit our Website

