



Phillips Memorial Baptist Church
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Rev. Dr. Amy Chilton: phillipsmemorialpastor@gmail.com;

February 2025

Our Faith Connections

Dear PMBC,

I am writing this message a few days early, as I board a plane for the Dominican Republic in about 36 hours. The snow from last weekend is still piled up, and yet our team members are packing t-shirts and expecting temps in the mid 80s. One thing that travel has given me great appreciation for is the diversity of human experiences. Here we are freezing, there they are sweating! Our team members are going to be changed from this trip, as they experience life lived differently, and as they witness the injustices of immigration and poverty. I am praying that God opens our eyes and hearts so that we might come back changed from seeing God at work in different places.

Service changes people! Whether it is here or abroad, when we serve as Christ's hands and feet, the Spirit meets us and we are changed. We might become braver, wiser, more compassionate, or any number of things - because service is joining in *God's Spirit Working Through Us*, and God's Spirit is transformative!

This year as we celebrate the 125th anniversary of this faith community, we are not only looking back at our history, but we are also looking forward to what God is calling us to be. We are opening ourselves to God's Spirit working through us in relationships, mission, and ministry as we continue the work of those who came before, in creating a community of justice and love.

Where will you experience God's Spirit this year? How will you use the colorful, beautiful, creative, and gifted parts of you to be a co-creator with God's Spirit in this faith community and in the wider world?

Friends, I cannot wait to find the answers to those questions together!

Blessings,

Pastor Amy

Join a Ministry Team in February!

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 of Phillips 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 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 Trickett 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 "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 Group**.
This team will meet in the *Library*. To get to the Library take the elevator to the "copy room," 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 one level, turn left, and it is the first door on the left.
- Supporting our housebound members, 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 "Hall" level and go up the short staircase 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** (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.

Guest Preacher - Rev. Dr. Brian Henderson



Join us on Sunday, February 9th during worship to hear Rev. Dr. Brian Henderson preach on the spiritual gift of faith. Following service we will gather in Fellowship Hall for a coffee hour chat, where Rev. Dr. Henderson will engage us on the topic of how we can best advocate for trans and queer folk in our current social and political realities.

Rev. Dr. Henderson is the executive director of the Association of Welcoming and Affirming Baptists. He is an ordained American Baptist minister who has served three congregations over 25 years. Brian worked with AWAB's Board and Staff since 2019, before beginning as full-time Executive Director in 2024. Outside of his ministry responsibilities, Brian loves traveling and spending time with his three young adult (nearly) children.

Building Walk-Through - DATE CHANGE

Do you want input into the development of our building upgrade program? We are working with an architect (Cornelis J. de Boer) for a full-building assessment and developing a strategic plan for building maintenance and upgrades. As part of this process, we need to develop a "wish list" and would like your input.

If you are interested, join us on Sunday, February 16th, immediately following service. We will walk in groups through the building, assessing its possibilities.

We will then gather for a sandwich lunch and dialogue. We should be finished by 12:30 p.m.

Please RSVP to pmbcoffice565@gmail.com by Sunday, February 9th.

Free Garden Seeds!

Once again we will have a variety of garden seeds available for free in late February. The URI Master Gardener Free Seed Program partners with Ocean State Job Lot to distribute free seeds to non-profits. Our Missions Team then sorts the seeds and makes them available to you and to the AA groups that meet in our fellowship hall. Flower, herb, and veggie seeds will be available.

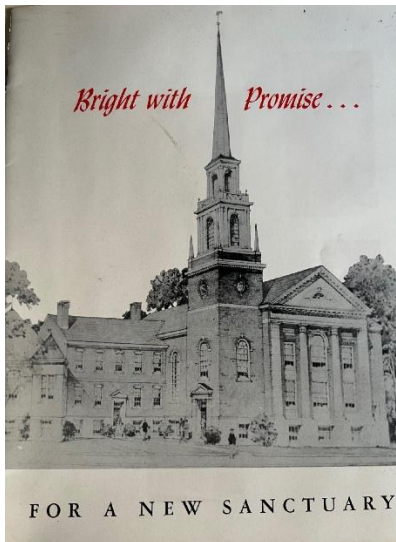
Consider growing a few things this year for donation to the CCAP foodbank!

Looking Ahead:

- **Lent 311 Bible Study Groups** will begin in March!
- **A Four Week Membership and Baptist Class** will be held in March for those desiring Baptism or membership.
- A **Plant Drive** will take place in April to help us beautify our landscaping. If you have hostas, Lenten roses, or other plants (TBD) to be divided, consider donating some for the courtyard!
- **Organ Concert** - June 1st at 3:30 p.m.
- **Anniversary Homecoming Service and Luncheon** - June 8th at 10 a.m.

History Corner





If you look at the front of the sanctuary up near the top of the brickwork you will see that the sanctuary was dedicated in 1955. That means that not only is this our 125th anniversary, it is also the sanctuary's 70th birthday! This old building was built in multiple stages. In the 1900 we started work on the white wooden building (currently Little Shepherd Preschool). In the 20s, we dug out its basement to create Sunday School rooms. Then in the 1940s we built Fellowship Hall and the center wing that houses our offices and parlors.

That's right, Fellowship hall (which is below the sanctuary) was finished and dedicated eight years before the sanctuary was! In the picture above, you can see the door that you currently enter to go up into the sanctuary from the courtyard - only there is no sanctuary above it. At the dedication service for Fellowship Hall, the congregations sang the hymns "We Love Thy House" and "The Church's One Foundation." Those were excellent choices!

Also, we are still asking folx to contribute copies of their family's important life events that took place at PMBC so we can update our historical records!



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,

One month already in the books for 2025. Hard to believe it really.

Your worship team is busy attending to the spiritual needs of the church.

Our Zoom team is active in every event we have, carefully coordinating production and sound. A bright spot we now claim from the Covid time.

We have come from the birth of Christ and are moving toward Lent, the season of His death and resurrection.

We highly encourage you all to become involved in Bible study, prayer, and worship. Our Zoom Bible Study group meets regularly and is ready for more involvement. Prayer, individually as well as together, is a hallmark of fellowship and togetherness, joining with our members to lift praises to the Father.

Again, we encourage this membership to use the gifts God has blessed you with and join in.

Jeff Damrad

Christian Education

Sunday school and teen Bible study will be at 9:00 a.m. in February and March. If anyone is willing to help out by teaching or assisting, please let the church office know (pmbcoffice565@gmail.com).

Kathy McKinney

Congregational Life & Fellowship Ministry Group

We are celebrating 125 years!

The Fellowship team is doing Refreshments for Ministry Service on February 9th 2025.

We are going to do a St. Patrick's luncheon instead of Mardi Gras, we're having corned beef and cabbage -- yum!

Dana Butler

2nd Sunday Food Collection

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 2025 through December 2025

Thank you!!

<u>Date</u>	<u>Lbs.</u>
1/12/2025	269.1
Total	<u><u>269.1</u></u>



Music Ministry

PMBC Fun *Music* Fact:

We are so blessed to have such a wonderful Steinway grand piano in our sanctuary. Until the Kenney family donated the funds to purchase this piano in 1983, there was no piano in the sanctuary. On the rare occasion that a piano was needed, one was wheeled in from the parlor. Don Rasmussen put the need for a piano in the sanctuary on a wish list, and the Kenney family decided to fund it in memory of George & Gladys Kenney.

There will be no rehearsals on Thursday, February 20th.

The Chime Choir will rehearse immediately following worship on February 16th.

Organist Assistant for February 16th is Trent Dufour.

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!



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)



Sunday, February 9, 2025
2nd Sunday Food Donations
Guest Preacher: Brian Henderson

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

Tuesday, February 11, 7:00 p.m.
Cabinet Meeting - Hope Circle

Sunday, February 16, 2025 (following service)
Building Walk-Through

Sundays (following service)
Coffee Hour in the Trickett Parlor

2nd Sunday - Each Month (following service)
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

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[Visit our Website](#)



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