



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;
(c)1-206-459-0881

January 2025

Our Faith Connections

Dear PMBC,

Happy birthday to us! Happy birthday to us! Happy birthday, dear Phillips! Happy Birthday to us! What does it feel like to be 125 years old?! I'd say we might be a bit creaky and leaky, but our bones are good and we are still young on the inside.

We began as a Sunday School in October of 1897. Some time in our first few decades together, it was voted that our official anniversary would be June 25th, which is the date in 1900 that we held our dedication service. So, this June we will hold our "birthday party," but I think when you reach the venerable age of 125, you get to celebrate all year!

And so, this year we join together in welcoming and celebrating **God's Spirit Working Through Us!** A church, after all, isn't a building or even a history - it is a community of people, committed to growing in their faith and doing God's work in the world. A church is a community filled with God's Spirit and empowered to walk in Christ's footsteps.

This year, as we celebrate, we will also explore, in worship, dialogue, and service, what it means to have God's Spirit working through us in service in Cranston and around the world. We began as a service to this neighborhood, providing a Sunday School for children in a neighborhood where there was none. But how will we continue to serve as Christ's hands and feet to one another, to our neighborhood, and to the world? For that answer, we pray the Spirit leads and guides as we open ourselves to her guidance!

Happy Birthday to us! May this year be a blessed year full of life and light and love!

Blessings,

Pastor Amy

125th Anniversary Dates!

January 19th - Annual Meeting ~ Join us as we reveal our 125 ministry goals!

June 1st @ 3 p.m. - Organ Concert ~ Come celebrate the organ's 40th birthday!

June 8th @ 10 a.m. - 125th Anniversary Homecoming Sunday, followed by a birthday luncheon!

November 23rd - Friendsgiving Service ~ Bring a friend and let's give thanks for God's Spirit Working Through Us!

New Sermon Series: The Spirit's Gifts!

Starting January 12th, Pastor Amy will be preaching through the gifts of the Spirit, with special attention on how those gifts are present at PMBC. How has the Spirit gifted *you*? Let's explore this together!

Dominican Republic Mission Team



On January 25th, PMBC will send a team to La Romana, Dominican Republic, to volunteer with the Good Samaritan Hospital. Our team is Pastor Amy, Dana Mennillo, Juli Scalzi, Amanda D'Allesio, and Nancy Carter. We will be joining others from First Baptist Church in America, Allendale Baptist Church, and ABC-USA folx from Maine. Together we will work on construction projects at the hospital as well as off-site medical clinics for Haitian field workers.

How can you be involved in this mission trip?

- First, keep our team in your prayers as we prepare for this trip!

- Second, consider donating medications and supplies for us to take to the medical clinics. All donations must have an expiration date of 7/2025 or later, and absolutely no gummies or gel caps. We will collect donations in the narthex through January 5th.

toothpaste
antacid tablets (generic Tums, all sizes, all flavors)
acetaminophen tablets (generic Tylenol or non-aspirin pain relievers - all sizes and strengths)
cough drops (all flavors and sizes)
cough and cold meds (all types, sizes, adult and children's, liquid and tablets)
topical creams (moisturizers, anti-itch, hydrocortisone, etc.)
topical antifungals (clotrimazole, tolnaftate)
anti-diarrheal tablets (generic Imodium)
allergy medicine (generic Benadryl, as well as non-drowsy generics)
pregnancy tests
vitamin tablets (adult, children's, infants, all sizes, flavors, etc.)

Commissioning of New Cabinet and Ministry Team Members

Join us in worship on Sunday, January 12th when we will commission our new Cabinet members and Ministry Team liaisons, pray for our leaders, and say thank you to our outgoing Cabinet members.

Adult Sunday School - January 12th

Our adult Sunday School class will meet once a month at 9 a.m.. *Our next meeting is Sunday, January 12th.* This year we are focusing on different spiritual practices. If you are wanting to grow your spiritual life, plan to join us! On January 12th, Daneli Ureña will be leading us through *lectio divina*. Meet us in the Hope Circle room (top floor of the office wing - above the Trickett Parlor).

Intro to Membership and Baptism Class - January 19th

Are you interested in joining PMBC as a member or in being baptized? At PMBC we practice baptism by immersion as a sign of faith in Christ and newness of life. While baptism precedes membership, baptism in other forms in prior church communities is accepted for new members.

If either membership or baptism are steps you are considering as part of your faith journey, please reach out to Pastor Amy and/or join her on Sunday, January 19th at 9 a.m. for an intro to membership and baptism class. We will meet on the 2nd floor in the Hope Circle Room.

Annual Meeting & Ministry Fair

Are you interested in learning more about the ministry teams at the church and where you might find a place to serve? Please join us **Sunday, January 19th,**

immediately following the service for the Annual Meeting and Ministry Fair. We will celebrate the work we have done together in this past year and reveal our **125 goals**, focused on how we might serve our community and one another more fully. Each ministry team will be present to answer questions about what working on their team might look like!

RI Interfaith Fighting Poverty With Faith Vigil

The 17th Annual RI Interfaith Poverty Vigil will take place on **January 7th** with a 1 p.m. faith leader's march to the State House. Pastor Amy will be participating. Faith Leaders, Advocates, and Community members are invited to come together at 2 p.m. at the State House to announce 2025 legislative priorities to reduce Poverty in Rhode Island.

[Find more information and register here.](#)

Building Walk Through

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.

History Corner



Do you know that there are lots of photo albums on the second floor, with images dating back to 1901 when the original building was built? You can find them in the Hope Circle Room and carefully peruse them. There are some real gems in there - like this wedding photo of Steve and Marlyn Marler! In this our 125th year, it is time to update our photo album collection to make sure that YOU are included in our print records.

If you were married, baptized, or dedicated here, print out and bring a copy of the picture to the church to help expand our collection of PMBC memories!



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 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

Phillips family,

We hope that God blessed you during the time we were celebrating His Son's birth. It's a special time of year to soak in the joy of Christ and all He brings. As we look through 2025, we deacons are hoping for a few things that our members can agree to try this year:

- (1) Join the Zoom Bible study or, when the in-person church has one, attend it.
- (2) Pray everyday, whether that's morning, noon, or night, at some point stop and talk to God
- (3) Regularly attend service

If, as a congregation, we can commit to these simple tasks we believe that, as a whole, we will grow in the grace of Christ.

Jeff Damrad

Christian Education

Thank you to our children and youth groups for participating in our Christmas Eve service. The performance of the "Forgotten Gift" play and singing "Away in the Manger" helped deliver the spirit of Christmas to our congregation. A special thank you to Bonnie and Heidi for organizing, directing and performing.

For the month of January, there will be no Sunday School or Youth Group classes at the regular 9:00 am meeting time. On Sunday, January 5th, we invite children and teens to join their families in the carol singalong during the church service.

For January 12, 19, and 26, children are invited to join our Children's worship activity time following the children's story part of the service.

Kathy McKinney

2nd Sunday Food Collection

Great news! We reached our 2024 goal of donating more than ONE TON, 2,181 pounds, of food to Cranston's Comprehensive Community Action Plan (CCAP), to benefit households in need in our community.

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 December 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
11/10/2024	262.8
12/8/2024	353.4
Total	2,181.6

Thank you!!



Music Ministry

PMBC Fun *Music Fact*:

Several Years ago, the Little Shepherd Preschool was holding an open house in the church sanctuary. It just so happened that the handbells were set-up in the chancel in preparation for an upcoming rehearsal. One of the fathers, seeing this, asked if Phillips had a bell choir, and how he could join. This is the story of how we came to have Erik Finger in the Sanctuary Ringers. His daughters were in preschool at the time. They are in college now, so it has been several years that we have enjoyed having Erik as part of the bell choir. It turns out that he had been in a bell choir in his youth, so he is a very experienced ringer.

JANUARY REHEARSALS:

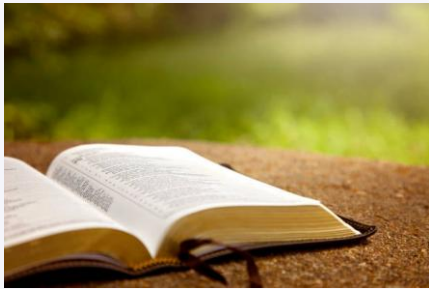
JOY Praise Team, Chancel Singers, and Sanctuary Ringers rehearse at their regular time on January 9, 16, 23, & 30.

There will be no Chime Choir Rehearsals until February.

Organist Assistant for January 26th is Antonia Souza.

CAROL SING

The JOY Praise Team will lead a **Carol Sing** during worship on January 5th. Come prepared to request your favorite carol and tell why it is meaningful to you.



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, January 5, 2025

Carol Sing

Saturday, January 11, 2025 - 10:00 a.m.

ABCORI Special Business Meeting Concerning Canonicus Camp
at Norwood Baptist Church

JOY Praise Team, Chancel Singers,
and Sanctuary Ringers

rehearse at their regular time on January 9, 16, 23, & 30.

There will be no Chime Choir Rehearsals until February.

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



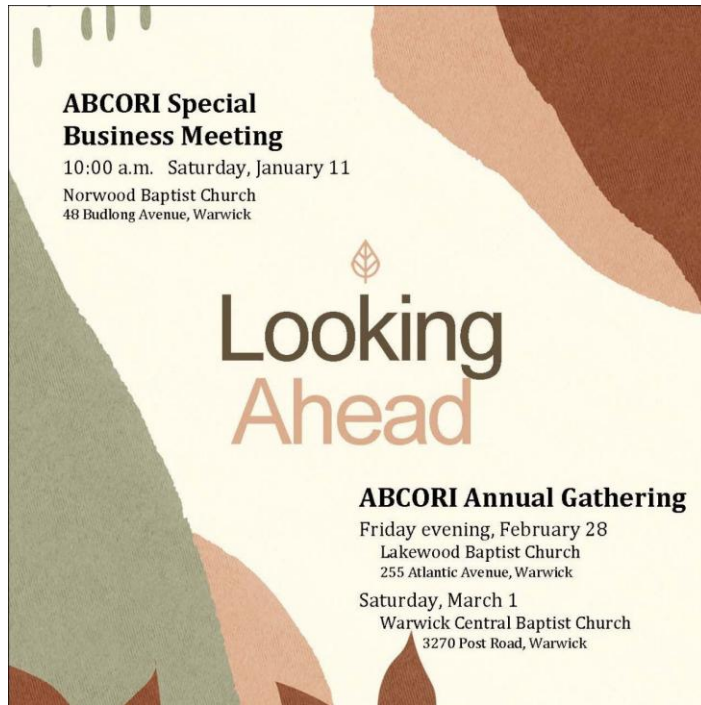
ABCORI Special Business Meeting Concerning Canonicus

ABCORI will hold a special business meeting for pastors, delegates, and members/attendees of ABCORI churches at 10:00 a.m. on January 11, 2025, at Norwood Baptist Church to discuss the sale of the Canonicus Camp and Conference Center property.

Advance registration is required for everyone who plans to attend the special business meeting, including pastors and those who have been named as delegates by their churches*.

Registration is available online at <https://forms.office.com/r/pgJFFWK2Xi> or by calling the ABCORI office at (401) 294-6318. The registration deadline is January 3, 2025.

*Only individuals who were named as delegates by their churches via the delegate submission forms that were to be submitted to ABCORI by December 6 will be able to register as delegates.



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Visit our Website



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