



Phillips Memorial Baptist Church
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September 2024

Our Faith Connections

Dear PMBC,

Every year when September comes I ask myself the same question: how did we get here so quickly?! Wasn't it just the first day of June with all the days of summer stretched out before us?

We can ask the same question of PMBC - how is it possible that we are finishing up our 124th year of life together? That is right - next June is our official 125th birthday! On June 25th, 1900, a service of the organization of PMBC was held at People's Free Baptist Church (now called People's Baptist Church). That service opened with the singing of the Gloria. While I haven't checked all 125 years of bulletins, I estimate that PMBC has sung the Gloria roughly 6,500 times. We have baptized hundreds of people. Sent scores of children to camp. Expanded our building three times. Ordained and called ministers. Prayed with each other. Studied the Bible together.

How did we get here?! We reached 125 years through God's abundant love, the Spirit's guidance, and our faithful following of Jesus.

The funny thing about seasons is that they come and go. In three months, today's humidity will be a faint memory as we navigate the coming winter. Then three months later we will be grateful for the upcoming spring as we watch for signs of crocuses. Church life does the same - seasons come and go and we keep trusting that God will be present and the Spirit will guide us through each new season. What does our next season of life at PMBC look like? Well, I'm no fortune-teller, but I hope it looks like us expanding our ministry and mission footprint. I hope it looks like us finding new ways to live out our old calling to Christian discipleship. I hope it looks like us expanding our table and our radical welcome to all folk who are seeking a body of Christ, where they are fully welcome to love God and love their neighbor.

And do you know how we will get there? We will get there together. We will get there through prayer and faithfulness, through kindness and service. And when we arrive at our 150th we will ask once again - how did we get here so quickly?!

This next year is the year of *God's Spirit working through us*. It is a year of dreaming and hoping. It is a year of remembering and reflecting.

May the Spirit lead us through our next year of life together and into God's dreams for us!

Blessings,

Pastor Amy

Launch Sunday, September 9th - Come and help us kick off a new year of ministry! Sunday School for children and youth will begin this day; Martha will fire up the organ; the bells will ring; and we will bless our students and teachers for the start of a new school year!

During the service we will have a blessing of the backpacks. If you are a student in any grade or a teacher or school administrator, make sure to join us in service with your backpack or briefcase so we can bless you as you start your new school year!

Intro to Membership and Baptism Class - September 15th

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, September 15th following worship (11:15) for an intro to membership and baptism class. We will meet on the 2nd floor in the Hope Circle Room.

AWAB Annual Lecture and Breakfast (awab.org/annuallecture/) September 16th-17th

This year's AWAB lecture is close enough for us to attend! The Association of Welcoming and Affirming Baptists will hold its annual lecture on Monday, September 16th at 6:30 p.m. at the Memorial Church of Harvard (1 Harvard Yard, Cambridge, MA). Rev. Dr. Brandon Thomas Crowley, Lecturer in Ministry Studies at Harvard University's Divinity School; Senior Pastor of the Historic Myrtle Baptist Church, West Newton, MA, will be lecturing.

In addition to the lecture, there will be a “Meet, Greet, and Walk” on September 16th from 1-3 p.m. (meeting at the Boston Common Visitor Center) and a regional breakfast on September 17th at 8:30 a.m. at the Old Cambridge Baptist Church.

Pastor Amy will be attending the lecture and breakfast - join her if you are able! Registration for each event is required and the registration links can be found [here](#).

Leadership Retreat - September 21st

Calling all cabinet members, ministerial staff, and ministry team members - plan to join us for our third annual leadership retreat! In the lovely setting of Canonicus' Shaub Dining Hall - complete with a view of Lake Adams. We will worship, pray, dream, and goal-set for this next year of life here at Phillips. It is important not to miss this event, as we will be working on our 125th-year-of-ministry goals with an eye toward our anniversary in June 2025!

Date/Time: Saturday, September 21st - 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Location: Canonicus Camp and Conference Center, 54 Exeter Road, Exeter, RI

Includes: Coffee and pastry breakfast, boxed lunch

- Shaub is handicap accessible.

Dominican Republic Mission Trip! - January 2025

We have the opportunity to join other Baptists from Rhode Island and Maine for a mission trip to the Good Samaritan Hospital in La Romana, Dominican Republic, on January 25 - February 1, 2025.

The week of service includes work with the medical team in the Batays (small villages in the middle of the sugar cane fields) and/or at the Good Samaritan Hospital with the construction team. Health professionals will see patients, others might play with children, paint parking lines, fill wheelbarrows with sand or gravel, mix cement, etc. There will be jobs for electricians, plumbers, etc. to practice their trade, for retired nurses and doctors, and for others who want to serve in a variety of ways.

For those interested in joining us or in supporting a team from PMBC, please [join us on zoom on September 17th at 7 p.m.](#) for an information meeting with leaders from First Baptist Church in America. The zoom meeting link will be sent out in Weekly Family News on Friday, September 13th.



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!](#)

Worship Planning and Arrangements

Phillips Family,

Here comes the fall! Hoping and praying everyone had a good summer, took some time off if needed, and truly enjoyed themselves.

As always, September marks launch month for Phillips. Interesting studies start up, kids' church begins, and we move forward toward the end of year celebrations. As deacons, we would ask a few things of all of you: (1) Continue praying for this church family. We all go through times of hurt, and as Christ's children this is a great privilege we have to give. (2) Really think about committing to a Bible study. Gaining wisdom from God is so important and, if neglected, can put a damper on spiritual growth. God gave us a love letter, how involved are you in it? (3) Try to make fellowship a weekly priority. Paul encouraged the early churches to remember to gather together. It is so important to come into fellowship and look to recharge ourselves for our jobs within the world - preaching Christ.

If, as a church, we can commit to these values, we believe God will bless us on a whole new level.

Jeff Damrad

Christian Education

Join us on Launch Sunday, September 8th, as we start up Sunday School and Teen classes, again.

Both are at 9:00am. Elementary school children will meet on the main floor of the church school wing (through the fire door beyond the Trickett Parlor). Teens will meet in Room D, across from the Hope Circle Room.

A special thank you goes out to Rene Dufour, Bonnie Dermanlian, Joanne Lovejoy, Jean Lieberman, and Peg Chatellier for leading our Children's Worship this summer. Your time and dedication are much appreciated.

Kathy McKinney

Parent/Guardian Meeting - September 29th

We are at the beginning of a new and exciting ministry year! Our chime choir is starting up with some new young members. Sunday School is about to resume. And we have some exciting new opportunities to attend children and youth events with some of our sister churches. There is also the potential for more youth drama presentations in services - in addition to the many wonderful ways our children and youth are already active in our congregation and worship leadership!

Please join Pastor Amy and Kathy McKinney on Sunday, September 29th at 9 a.m. while your kids and teens are in Sunday School. Get to know the other parents/grandparents/guardians and give your input on how we can best minister to your children. Meet us in the Hope Circle Room. Coffee and snacks will be provided!

Adult Sunday School Start - October 13th

This year the adult Sunday School class will meet once a month on 2nd Sundays at 9 a.m. This year's class will focus on different spiritual practices and will include some guest teachers.

If you are wanting to grow your spiritual practices, join us for this experiential class in which we will focus on various spiritual practices such as the prayer labyrinth, movement and breath prayer, prayer journaling, centering prayer, lectio and visio divina, the daily examen, chanting, and Taize style worship. No experience is necessary - just an interest in and willingness to try new ways of connecting with God!

Our first session will be on October 13th in the Hope Circle room (top floor over the Trickett Parlors). where we will focus on prayer journaling. Journals and drawing utensils will be provided.

Mission Education and Projects

American Baptist Churches, USA has announced that ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING is now receiving donations for Hurricanes Debbie and Ernesto (in USA). One hundred percent of this offering goes to relief efforts. Envelopes are in the Narthex and the Trickett Parlor.

Diana Litterick

"The church is a unique bunch of people bound together by a God who is the essence of Love and whose love is the essence of life. The church is called to embody that love.. Only as we fulfill that calling will others have the opportunity to see the face of God." - Unknown

Pounds of food collected at our monthly food drive to benefit the food pantry at Cranston Community Action Program (CCAP):

Only 153 pounds more to reach a ton of food since 2023!

Phillips Memorial Baptist Church Food Donations in Pounds September 2023 through August 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
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
Total	<u>1,847.0</u>



Music Ministry

PMBC Fun *Music Fact*:

The ***JOY Praise Team*** was the brainchild of Ruthie Moran. Her vision created this contemporary ensemble in March, 2002. That year, they performed in other churches as well as Phillips, with the high point being the tour to Halifax, Nova Scotia in August, 2002. The members of ***JOY*** selected their name (**J**esus first, **O**thers second, and **Y**ourself last) because they felt it best described their ministry. Original members were Ruthie Moran, Joetta Creasia, Melissa Day, Debbie Barber, and Phil Goldthwait. Members have varied over the years, as people came and went, including Melendy Johnson, Megan Rasmussen, Ron Roberts, Shae McKenna, and Allyson Violante. The present membership of ***JOY*** is Ruthie Moran, Debbie Barber, Dawn Lindelow, and Laurie Mokaba.

REHEARSALS:

JOY Praise Team, **Chancel Singers**, and **Sanctuary Ringers** resumed rehearsals on Thursday, August 29, and are already hard at work on Christmas music.

Chime Choir will rehearse immediately following worship on the following dates: 9/8, 9/22, 10/6, 10/20, 11/10, 11/24, 12/1, 12/15

Bass Clef Carolers will rehearse at 9-9:15 AM on the following Sundays: (For those who would like to learn an additional Christmas piece to join with the Chancel Singers, rehearsal will extend until 9:30.)

9/15, 10/20, 11/17, 12/15

Bass Clef Carolers is pleased to welcome new members, Charlie Mokaba & Bonnie DerManelian.

Organist Assistant for September 8th is Trent Dufour.

CONCERT IN NOVEMBER

The CCRI keyboard faculty will present ***Keyboard Collage Concert 3*** on Sunday, November 3rd at 3:00 pm in our Phillips sanctuary. Admission is free. Reception (with baked goodies by Ruthie Moran) to follow.

Keyboard Collage Concert 3

Timeless Classics as well as Original Compositions

Dr. Martha Sobaje, *organ*
John Norigian, *piano*
Dr. Audrey Kaiser, *piano*



A Joint Faculty Concert
**Keyboardists from the
Community College of Rhode Island**
November 3, 2024
3 p.m.
Admission is Free
Phillips Memorial Baptist Church
565 Pontiac Avenue, Cranston, RI 02910

Reception to Follow
for more information: mhsobaje@ccri.edu; akkaiser@ccri.edu



COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF 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)

Church News

Please welcome Phillip's newest staff member! Janet Marshall is the church's Bookkeeper. Jan started on August 6, 2024.



Sunday, September 1 (following service)
Community Meeting - Hope Circle re: Canonicus
Monday, September 2
Church Office Closed for Labor Day

Sunday, September 8
Launch Sunday
Children & Youth Sunday School Begins, 9:00 a.m.
Blessing of the backpacks and briefcases (in service).
2nd Sunday Donations
Pie Social (following service)

**Chime Choir will rehearse immediately
following worship on the following dates:**
9/8, 9/22, 10/6, 10/20, 11/10, 11/24, 12/1, 12/15

Tuesday, September 10
Cabinet Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, September 15 (following worship)
Baptism Membership Class
2nd floor - Hope Circle Room, 11:15 am

Saturday, September 21
PMBC Leadership Retreat, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Canonicus Shaub Dining Hall

Sunday, September 29, 9:00 a.m.
Parent/Guardian Meeting in Hope Circle

Sunday, October 13, 9:00 a.m.
Adult Sunday School Begins

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

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

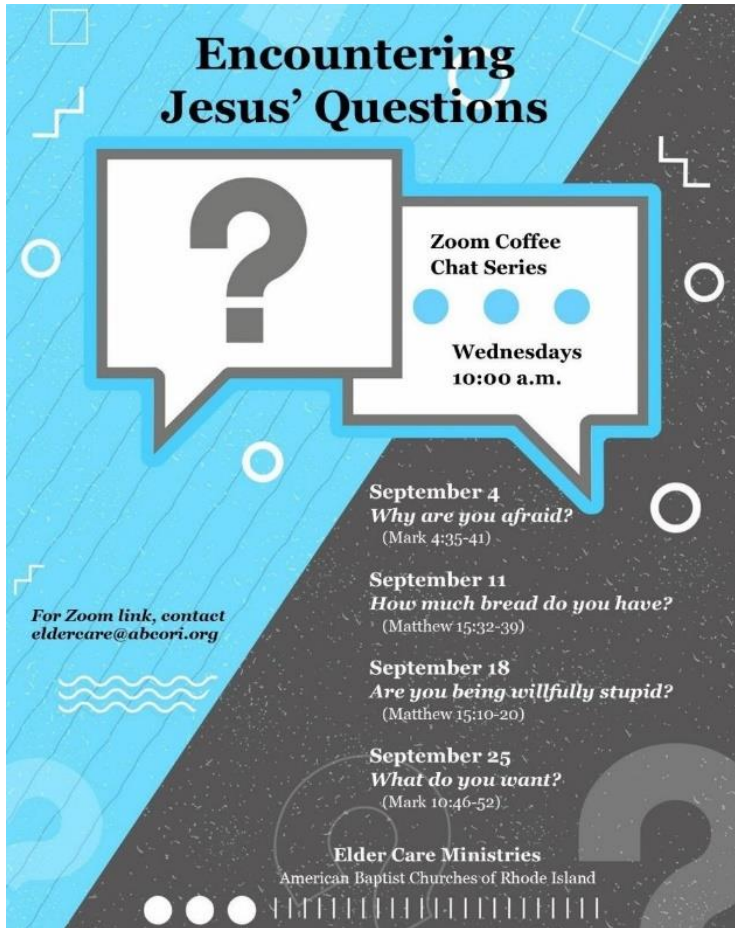
You don't have to knit - just join us for a lively exchange of ideas

Tuesdays & Fridays - 7:00 p.m.

AA Group Meeting – Fellowship Hall

Wednesday - 7:00 p.m.

Bible Study on Zoom



Encountering Jesus' Questions

**Zoom Coffee
Chat Series**

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**Wednesdays
10:00 a.m.**

September 4
Why are you afraid?
(Mark 4:35-41)

September 11
How much bread do you have?
(Matthew 15:32-39)

September 18
Are you being willfully stupid?
(Matthew 15:10-20)

September 25
What do you want?
(Mark 10:46-52)

Elder Care Ministries
American Baptist Churches of Rhode Island

For Zoom link, contact
eldercare@abcori.org

Passport to the Psalms

special experiences for grandparents & grandchildren



Join us as we journey through the psalms. From September 2024 through May 2025, we will make stops to experience things featured in the psalms—from sheep to music and dancing to trees and gardens.

Our first stop will be on Saturday, September 14, to take in the moon and stars. We will gather at 6:30 p.m. at the Frosty Drew Observatory and Science Center for International Observe the Moon Night. The observatory is located inside Ninigret Park at 61-62 Park Lane, Charlestown.

Grandparents and grandchildren of all ages are welcome to join us for one or all of the stops along the journey. Participants' passports will be stamped at each stop.

Watch for more information about upcoming stops and experiences.

Stop 1: Moon & Stars

When I look at the night sky and see the work of your fingers—the moon and the stars you set in place
Psalm 8:3

Saturday, September 14 6:30 p.m.

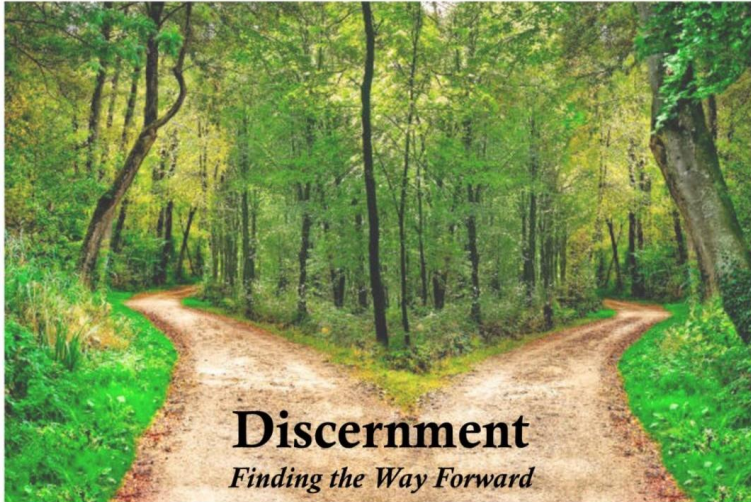
Frosty Drew Observatory & Science Center

(The observatory is located inside Ninigret Park at 61-62 Park Lane, Charlestown.)

Please contact eldercare@abcori.org or (401) 522-9731 by September 10 to let us know you plan to join us and to receive additional information.

Elder Care Ministries

American Baptist Churches of Rhode Island
eldercare.abcori.org



Discernment is more than making a decision. When we discern God's will, we are defining who we are and finding the way forward in our journey.

Join us as we explore the ways in which God communicates with us—through prayer, scripture, emotions, intellect, nature, and the people around us.

A Third Third of Life Retreat

Saturday, October 5 9:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Facilitator: Kathryn Palen, associate executive minister for elder care ministries

Location: Lakewood Baptist Church, 255 Atlantic Avenue, Warwick

Registration: Contact eldercare@abcori.org or call (401) 522-9731 to register and/or get additional information.

The \$25 registration fee includes lunch.

The registration deadline is September 27.

Elder Care Ministries

American Baptist Churches of Rhode Island



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