

THE SPIRE

Wakefield Baptist Church



2026

This Church Lives!

Leading us into worship recently, Chris Wright spoke of how this church lives. I felt freshly inspired by what is unfolding in our church's life, and a few thoughts came to mind....

This church lives... these words are the opening phrase of our mission statement. Bold, and full of vitality, they remind us that we have been given new life by the Lord of all creation, whose Spirit invigorates us with new promise and purpose. That suggests...

This church lives... not because we still list a number of "active" members on the roll.

This church lives... not because wealthy benefactors endowed this institution, cell companies rent space from us, and we are able to meet our budget

This church lives... not because we are able to staff all our ministries.

That all helps, of course! But it isn't sufficient. So instead, consider this...

This church lives... because on the night he was betrayed, Jesus broke bread with his disciples and said, "Do this, in remembrance of me" and we come back, again and again, to feast in fellowship with him and all his saints.

This church lives... because Jesus died on his cross to forgive our sins, reconcile us with his Father, and secure this life we now live to his glory.

This church lives... because Jesus rose again from the tomb so we may enjoy life forever with him, just as he promised: "Because I live, you also shall live" (John 14:19).

This church lives... because Jesus commissioned his church to carry out his mission and promised to abide with us to the end of the age (Matthew 28:20).

This church lives... because on the day of Pentecost, God poured out the Holy Spirit and created his church – this church! – now filled with the presence and power of God.

This church lives... because we are baptized into Christ's church. Our lives are changed, forever. Our tomorrows are renewed, eternally. Our fellowship on earth resembles that communion of saints in heaven and God's glory shines among us.

This church lives... because this church worships. With grateful hearts and eyes opened to his glory, we behold the majesty of God throughout creation and rejoice in his saving grace.

This church lives... because this church prays. We seek help from beyond: an infusion of daily grace, replenishing mercy, and the restoration which God offers through his Holy Spirit.

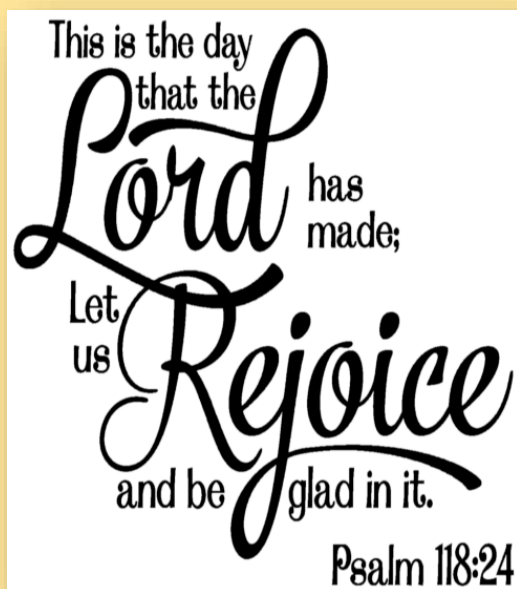
This church lives... because this church loves. As Jesus has loved us, so we love others by inviting them to new life in Christ as we seek to fulfill the mission to which God calls us all:

*to introduce Jesus Christ
to those who do not know and love him,
to deepen the faith and commitment
of those who already know and love him,
to demonstrate Christ's way of love
in service to the world.*

Yours in Christ- Clay

CHIP'S CHATS...

"This is the day the Lord has made; We will rejoice and be glad in it." (Psalm 118:24)



Ever heard this chorus? Some circles sing it in church. It's a good, little tune reminding us that God made this day, and as Paul says twice in *Philippians 4:4*, "*Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!*" It's so important that we don't lose our groove, that we don't lose our joy, even amid challenges.

Ever had a bad day?

- Your alarm didn't buzz and you're running late for an appointment.
- You forgot to put the filter in the pot and coffee spills all over the floor.
- Then you're tying your shoe and the lace snaps.
- And to-boot, you roll that stop sign and get a ticket!

Ugh – it's a bad day!!!

Or is it?

Instead of looking at it as one bad day, can't we look at it as four isolated incidents that happened in a very good day? Why let a junk alarm, spilled coffee, a silly shoelace, and a 50-dollar ticket make you think the day is horrible? Don't let these situations steal your joy & blessings – it's a good day that God made, and despite the funk, I'm going to rejoice – I'll be glad! It's a rejoice-choice not a doomed-gloom.

...but what about real tragedy, real trauma, hardship, physical pain, losing loved ones, grief, etc. What about that stuff; still rejoice?... YES!!! Paul says, "*Rejoice always*" (X2!).

When we think of authentic tragedy, who comes to mind? Job! Job lost everything; the enemy of our souls had a field day with him. But he persevered in the faith, and he looked up toward the Lord and fought groveling in the dust.

My favorite verse in the Bible is *Job 19:25-27*, "*I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand upon the earth. And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God; I myself will see him with my own eyes—I, and not another. How my heart yearns within me!*"

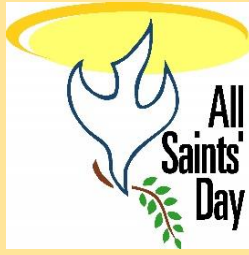
Read the Book of Job sometime. It's an odyssey of Creator triumphing over creation, God's goodness over Satan's grotesqueness. There are allusions to the coming suffering servant. It's a snapshot of how we can have faith, how we can look forward with hope during tragedies of the worst kind. But also, a subtext of application illustrating how we can look forward with hope beyond our tragedies toward triumphs.

Loved ones, always remember, no matter the challenges, "*This IS the day the Lord has made, we WILL rejoice (despite the junk) and be glad in it.*"

Now get out there, wipe up that spilled coffee, slow down, and **REJOICE!**



See you in church! *Love, Chip*



**Celebrating All Saints:
Sunday, November 1**

The "Feast of All Saints" occurs each year throughout the worldwide Church on November 1, and we will celebrate the feast with special service of communion on that Sunday. Our worship will remind us of the fellowship we still keep with those now at rest in the Lord's presence, gathered before his eternal throne in peace, enjoying eternal communion with him.

During a special time of remembrance, we will recognize those from our congregation who passed into glory over the past year.

We invite you to bring photographs of those saints in your life who have died in the Lord and now live in his presence: pictures of those who led you to the Lord, or who represented the Lord through their life-lesson and example. We will display these pictures at the front of our sanctuary to remind us that "we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses" (Hebrews 12:1) and continue to keep communion with them in the Lord.



ALL GUYS WELCOME!!

Men's Breakfast,

Saturday, October 3

8:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall

Join us for GREAT FOOD, a DEVOTION and GOOD FELLOWSHIP!

Call Whitney at 783-4231 to save you a place.



CHOIR REHEARSALS HAVE RESUMED!

Come, Make a Joyful Noise Unto the Lord!

We would love to welcome **YOU** to the Wakefield Baptist Church choir. Our choir rehearsals are on Thursday afternoons at 3:30pm in the sanctuary. Please contact Cathy Holloway, our Choir Director, at 789-3238 or by email at Roncathhol@verizon.net if you would like to join.



Many thanks to all who have been helping with our Fellowship Hour – bringing in food, setting up, serving, and cleaning up. If you would like to host a Sunday, there is a sign - up sheet on the bulletin board. We have begun putting out a basket for monetary donations. The money that is collected is offered to those who host a Fellowship Hour to help defray costs. Many hands make light work.

Thank you!



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Game Night at Wakefield Baptist!

Friday, October 30, 2026, 5-7 PM

If able, bring Board Games.

Potluck Finger Foods & Desserts.

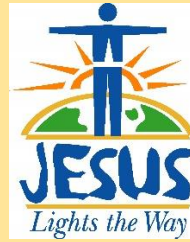
Pumpkin Painting

**All Ages: Seniors, Kids, Grandkids,
Youth, Families, Friends.**

Wear a costume, if you like!



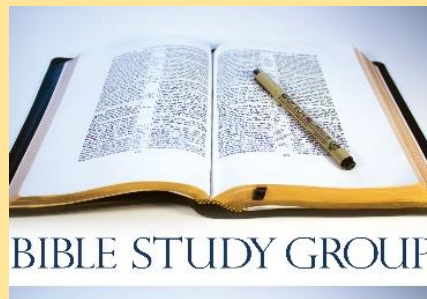
BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES.....



SUNDAY STUDY

Please join us for Early Light Fellowship on Sundays from 9:00-930pm in the Parlor. We'll open the word, share from the Scripture and our lives and pray for each other and the church. All are Welcome! His mercies are new every morning.

Great is His Faithfulness!

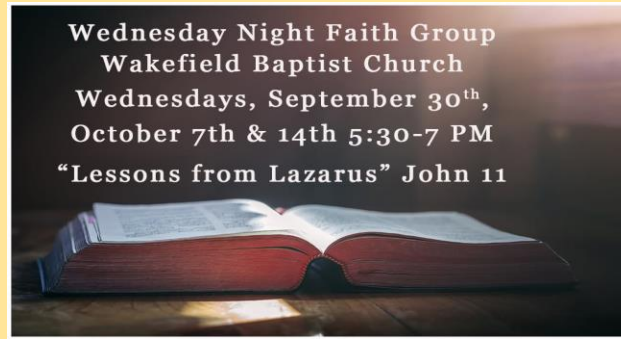


Walking With Jesus Through the Gospel of Mark

Join us for Scripture reflection, conversation, and prayer each Thursday at 2:00 p.m. beginning September 24.

Led by Clay Berry

WEDNESDAY NIGHT FAITH GROUP.....



Friends, join us for Wednesday Night Faith Group, September 30th, October 7th & 14th, 5:30-7 PM in Fellowship Hall. We'll have a different soup each week and read from John 11 and look at the pivotal chapter in John's Gospel that changed human history -- this event would catapult our Lord's ascendancy to the cross but this event has many faith lessons in it for our lives too. We'll have soup, sing, read Scripture with discussion and offer prayers.

Feel free to bring breads for soups and even if you want to bring a soup for yourself or to share, that's okay too. All are welcome!



RED WAGON for OCTOBER

Think **FALL** and **THANKSGIVING**

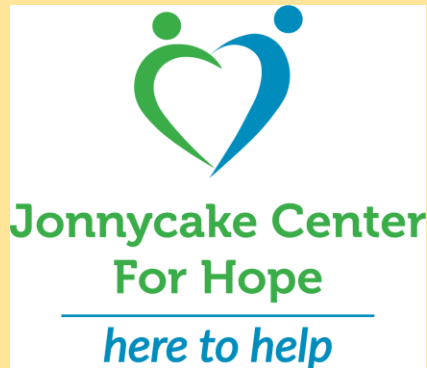
Stuffing, Gravy, Soups, Bread Mixes, Veggies, Sauces, Oil, Cereals, Boxed Potatoes, etc.

Donations will be divided between URI Food Pantry and St. Peter's By-the-Sea Food Pantry.

Other non-perishable foods are always welcomed

Thank you for your support of this important mission!

MORE MISSION NEWS.....



OUR MISSION \$\$ AT WORK **Jonnycake Center for Hope, Peace Dale, RI**

Our Minister of Outreach and Discipleship, Chip Northup, took a tour offered by the Jonnycake Center to gain more information about their work in our community to assist neighbors in need. Here are just some brief notes from his visit.

The Center provides food, housing and educational support to residents of South Kingstown, Narragansett, Block Island and Jamestown. Services are "place-based" rather than income based.

Food Pantry - Serves 900-1,000 individuals monthly (approximately 2,000 different people annually). Visits have increased 16% year-over-year, correlating with a drop in SNAP benefits.

Nutrition Focus - The center spends \$200,000 annually to purchase fresh produce, milk, eggs, and protein, supplementing donations and RI Community Food Bank provisions.

Health Services - The "Thundermist" mobile van visits weekly for basic care. The Center is seeking grants to provide a mental health clinician, especially for youth.

The Center also provides Housing & Advocacy and Child, Youth & Community services. More about these in another report.

Our **Wakefield Baptist** mission budget includes a line item to support the Jonnycake Center. In addition, we provide various gifts throughout the year, including Christmas items and gift cards. Let's include prayers for the staff, their work and those they serve.



Ladies' Brunch

Saturday, October 10

10:00-11:30 am - Fellowship Hall

BRUNCH DEVOTIONS SINGING CRAFT

Please sign up or call the church office so
we have adequate supplies.

Invite a friend to come with you!

*Donations Welcome
to cover costs*



Sunday, November 1st is the end of Daylight Saving Time. Remember to set your clocks back before going to bed on Saturday night.



Returning in December: **WELCOME CHRISTMAS**

On December 5, everyone will be invited to the Men's Breakfast, which will be followed by decorating the sanctuary for Christmas.

THEN: From 10:30 – 2:00pm, we will be holding our **Welcome Christmas**.

YOUR help is needed. Bring your gently used items at any time and leave them in Fellowship Hall. **NO DUMPSTER ITEMS PLEASE!**

Christmas decorations you no longer need, items kids can use as gifts for family members, things that are in need of a new home.

We will also need workers that day: greeters, greens arrangements, craft help (crafts provided), lunch servers, gift wrappers, picture taker and floaters.

Don't wait to be assigned your job! See Jan T., Nancy B., Denise C. or Jim V.

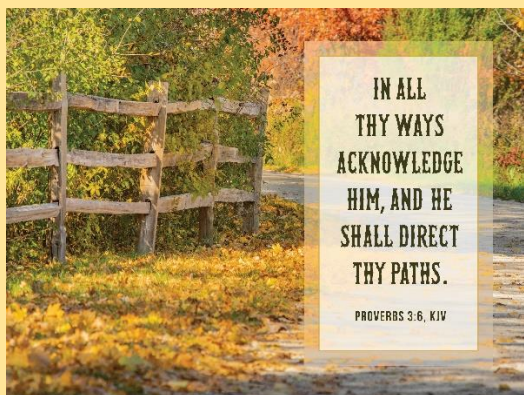




October Birthdays

- 3 Dave Phillips
- 11 Warren LeValley
- 12 Heidi Travers
- 29 Catherine Holloway
- 31 Nicholas Burdick

We would love to list your birthday. If we don't have it, call the office and let us know.



Our thoughts and prayers are with Susan Thompson, whose husband, Bill, passed away on Monday, September 21. His funeral will be held at the church on Friday, October 23 at 10:00am.

Each Week

Sunday

10:00 a.m. Worship

Sunday.....9:00am- Bible Study in Parlor

Sunday.....6:00pm Women's Step Study

Monday 6:00 pm Men's 12 Steps

Monday 7:30 pm Al-Anon

Tuesday 10:00 am AA Book Discussion

Thursday 2:00pm Bible Study on Mark

Thursday 3:30 pm Choir Rehearsal

Meetings, etc. in October

Sat. Oct. 3 8:00 am Men's Breakfast

Tues. Oct. 6 3:30 pm Worship Ministry

Tues. Oct. 13 4:30pm Trustees

Wed. Oct. 14 3:00 PM Deacons

Tues. Oct. 20 4:00pm Missions/Discipleship

Tues Oct. 27 3:30 pm Ministries Council

CHURCH ADMINISTRATION

Rev. Dr. Clay Berry - Pastor

Dian Arnold - Church Admin. Assistant

*Catherine Holloway - Minister of Music
(Choir)*

*Chip Northup - Minister of Community
Outreach and Discipleship*

Jim Paulhus - Sexton

*Julie Wardwell - Minister of Music
(Organ/Piano)*

CHURCH OFFICE Phone/Fax (401) 783-2472

E-mail:

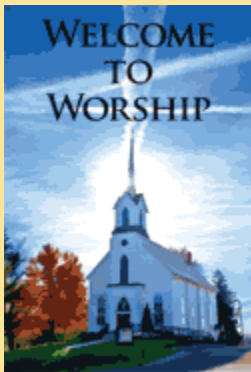
Dian-Office@wbcni.org

Clay-Pastor@wbcni.org

Website: wbcni.org

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Wakefield Baptist Church
236 Main Street
Wakefield, RI 02879



OCTOBER EVENTS

Men's Breakfast

Ladies Brunch

Bible Studies

Game Night

Sunday Morning Worship

10:00 am

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to deepen the faith and commitment of those who already know and love him,
to demonstrate Christ's way of love in service to the world.*