



THE SPIRE AUGUST 2026

Wakefield Baptist Church



Come and Worship

(and I promise it will get better)

Whenever the oppressive forces of this world feel like they are making headway – and even winning – come and worship. Find your faith, summon your praise, then come and join your heart to those who know how to love you because they know how to love God.

This Sunday, as we have done for centuries, Christians all over the world will gather in the presence of the One true God of heaven and earth. There, in the name of Jesus Christ, we may rejoice that all of creation is governed with great care and purpose. Nothing escapes his notice. Nothing is beyond his influence. Nothing will supplant his purposes for all that he loves. And that includes you and me. Come, worship, and see.

Here, with others of faith, you will find your hope reinforced by the Word and Spirit of God. Your faith, joined with the faith of others, is multiplied in wondrous ways. As we rejoice together in the goodness of God, Jesus renews his church. As we share our sorrows in prayer, we are healed in unseen ways. As we surrender our broken lives into the hands of a Lord who can make all things new, we too become new creations in him.

The Peace of the Lord is reinforced in the quiet reflection of prayer. Joy is amplified as we join our voices in song. Love is deepened as we experience the graces of God and extend those graces to others.

Those promises may sound too good to be true, and too hard for us to accept in a world like this. And if it were up to us, they would never be realized. But it's not. God takes good care of his children. And our spiritual openness to God enables us to enjoy all that God can offer. Come and see. Come and worship.

It will not happen all at once. Grace grows within us. The Spirit's transformative work shapes us over time and through many experiences of God's love and care. But be with us each Sunday, if possible, and see how God's gifts become manifest to you. If that's not possible, then join our worship from home by watching on YouTube. If that is the option you choose, know that we love you and trust the Spirit is holding us close together in the heart of God. And if you can't watch it on Sunday morning, you can always go back and watch it later.

In the meantime, trust we are here for you, here for one another, and for those who do not even know us yet. Let's stick together as we walk in faith and Spirit through this tumultuous world, as we discover the good we can offer because we keep choosing to worship God.

God bless you all! Yours in Christ -- *Clay*

CHIP'S CHATS...



“Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?”
Jesus replied: “ ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.” (Matthew 22:36-40)

Pastor Clay spoke on this passage several weeks ago and it still resonates with me. Jesus sums up the Bible in these verses: to “Love God & Each Other”. Once you get this simple concept, it makes God’s promises, God’s proclamations, and all of God’s pleas toward us come to life – we need to love Him and each other.

We have been eating a lot together at church. It may feel unspiritual, but when you look at the fabric of Scripture, we see eating together as something sacred. The Bible has food coming to humanity in Genesis and ends with that in Revelation. The culmination of redemptive history will happen at the greatest family reunion ever called, “the Marriage Supper of the Lamb”. Even the most sacred Holy Day of the Hebrews was the Passover celebrated as a meal around the family table. Jesus announcing and celebrating the New Covenant happened at a meal too. The fledgling church, after Pentecost, shows the church breaking bread together in each other’s homes, and how many times did we see Jesus dining with friends, even those overlooked in society? We need to see our Fellowship Hall more than just a quick donut and coffee to more of an opportunity to love one another!

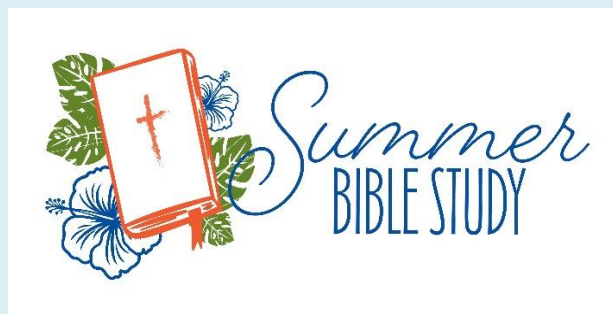
I call this idea of loving God and others as “The Big L”; the “L” shape points up and out. A living, thriving faith points upward and outward. On Sundays we come into the sanctuary and Love God together. Loving God is our vertical relationship, upward towards God. After worship, think of going into the fellowship hall as loving each other, a love that points outward, horizontally toward each other in community. Both spiritual and relational vitality is a balanced, beautiful faith. God smiles when we bless both Him and each other. Personally, we can love God and others any time, but when we corporately, as the body of Christ love God in the sanctuary and then after love each other in the fellowship hall, it makes great joy!

As the Psalmist says in Psalm 133, “How good and pleasant it is when we dwell together in unity.”

See you in church (and in the fellowship hall)!

Love, Chip





Take time to study God's Word.

Keep Calm and Carry On!
A 6-week study of 1st Thessalonians

On Sunday mornings, through August 30, before worship.
Starting promptly at 9:15 until 9:50 am. Meeting in the parlor.

Leader: Jim Vasques



Wednesday, August 12 at 4:30 pm

At the home of Cathy Holloway
1217 Shannock Road, Charlestown

Everyone welcome! Invite a friend!

Beverages, Grilled Hot Dogs and Hamburgers provided.
Bring a side dish or dessert to share.

OR, if you choose, make a small cash donation to offset costs.

Bring a lawn chair, but *only if it is easy* to do so!

Let's have food, fellowship and fun TOGETHER!

Please SIGN UP on church bulletin board.



MOVING FORWARD AT CANONICUS

We heard great news about the progress for revitalized camping and conferencing ministries at the Canonicus property in Exeter from the Rev. Tony Pappas after worship on July 19. Tony is one of the eleven board members of the newly formed Canonicus Ministries, Inc. (CMI)

The Board has been working diligently preparing to leap into action as soon as the property is legally transferred to CMI. Tony invited our church and individuals to help launch the new ministries by praying, volunteering and making financial gifts to Canonicus Ministries, Inc.

Volunteers are needed for taking care of outdoor brush, repairs and painting in buildings, office work, help with mailings, and much more.

If you would like to make a donation or volunteer or need more information, contact Tony via email at pappas.anthony@gmail.com.

Our Mission and Discipleship Ministries will be discussing how we as a church and individuals can actively support Canonicus Ministries.

Stay tuned!



A Word from the Mission Front

Amy Estelle wrote a few weeks ago that since the 7.8 earthquake hit their area, they are safe and are busy assisting others who were not so fortunate.

They gathered volunteers and supplies to pack for those in need. The first week they prepared 100 relief packs with rice, powdered milk and other food for affected families. The next week they packed another 100 food bags. At the time of her writing more than 700 families were provided with goods. God is good!

They drove to remote areas seeing extensive damage to roads and buildings, and meeting people firsthand and hearing their stories about losing jobs or lack of access to food/clean water, or even just need for a generic medicine to relieve a headache.

Please pray for their work in the local community, for successful language study and for financial support to meet their expenses.

Wakefield Baptists on Mission in Our Community and the World



RED WAGON MINISTRY

Many thanks for July's contributions of Breakfast items which are being delivered to St Peter's Community Market in Narragansett.

Throughout the month of August and into September we will fill the Red Wagon with needs suggested by the Jonnycake Center for Hope. They are looking to fill their "miscellaneous staple shelf" with items such as condiments (Salad dressings, Marinades, Ketchup, Mayo, etc.) as well as cooking oils and healthy snacks. Every contribution will make a difference.

Back to School will soon be here and SOCKS will be in demand.
Girls, boys, teens. Short ones are always popular.
ALL SIZES ARE WELCOME!

LET'S TRY FOR 100 PAIRS!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT IN ALL
OUR MISSION PROJECTS!



Tuesday, August 4, Noon to 2:00pm
Hostess: Christina Northup

Join me for an afternoon of creativity, conversation, and fellowship as we make beautiful decoupage seashell magnets.

We'll also enjoy some lunch, play a fun "Get-to-Know-You" game, and spend time getting acquainted as the shells dry.

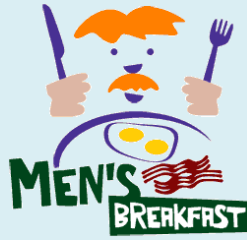
I look forward to meeting you and connecting with our church family! ~Christina

Please sign up on the bulletin board so we will have a count for lunch



AUGUST 16

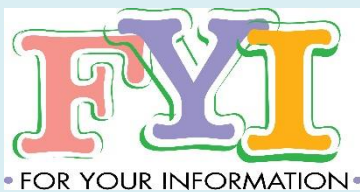
**Following morning worship
Come and have a bite to eat and
hear what our Ministries are planning and accomplishing.**



**The Men's Breakfast will be held on Saturday, August 1 at 8:00am.
Join us for food, fellowship and devotions.
Following breakfast, we will continue cleaning downstairs in the church.**



In July the Deacon's made a visit to Brookdale Senior Living in South Kingstown. We enjoyed visiting with the residents, served Communion and sang some favorite hymns. For some, they had not had communion since moving there. We will return soon.



Can you use it?

Our **Miscellaneous Table** with an assortment of jewelry, journals, photo albums, gifts and other items is back in Fellowship Hall. If you can use something, please take it. If you care to leave a small donation, all income collected will be used for various WBC mission projects.



Your offerings to the church will help us continue to strengthen and expand our ministries here, throughout our community and around the world. Envelopes are available in the pews and offering plates are conveniently placed at the front and rear entrances of the sanctuary if you wish to make a donation. Thank you!



If you would like to receive a birthday card from our church and have not already done so, please send your name and birthday to Dian in the Office. Thank you and Happy Birthday!



...to all who have volunteered to provide food for Fellowship Hour after worship this summer! There are still some dates open if you are able to help.

Please bring whatever you would like to share with us. Coffee and beverages are supplied. Contact Julie or Dian if you have any questions. Thank you!

The deadline for the September Spire is **Friday, August 21**. Please give some thought to things that are starting (or restarting) in the fall. The plan is to have it available on **Sunday, August 30**.

Each Week

Sunday

Worship Schedule

10:00 a.m. Worship

Sundays	9:15am	Bible Study in Parlor
Sundays	6:00pm	Women's Step Study
Mondays	6:00pm	Men's 12 Step
Mondays	7:30pm	Al-Anon
Tuesdays	10:00am	AA Book Discussion

Meetings

Tuesday, Aug. 11	3:00pm	Worship Ministry
Tuesday, Aug. 11	4:30pm	Trustees
Wednesday, Aug 12	2:00pm	Deacons Ministry
Sunday, August 16		Congregational Meeting (following worship)
Tues. August 18	4:00pm	Missions & Discipleship

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

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***This Church Lives** 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.*