

THE SPIRE

Wakefield Baptist Church



2026

“How are you doing?”

“Fine”

“Just peachy”

“So so”

“Couldn’t be better”

“Can’t complain (*no one would listen anyway*)”

“You don’t want to know...”

“**How are you?**” is not a question that works well in a hurry. Most of us have learned that when asked, we aren’t meant to unload our soul. The other person doesn’t have the time to really listen to what’s going on inside me right now, and I don’t expect them to.

But what about at church? Many of us come to church *because* we need someone who will listen, and we can’t find that person anywhere else. We know God listens to us, but sometimes being alone in our need and talking with God in solitude leaves us missing the companionship of another faithful soul who can also be the ears of God and the assurance of God’s presence when we need it most. Church is a good place to be reminded that a faithful heart, a listening ear and caring soul can be among the most loving gifts we can give to someone else.

And this is a very good time to slow down, ask that question, and mean it. This is a good time in our church to reach out to those among us, take a deep breath, and settle in to hear the other person out. Too many among us are fearful of what the future will bring, because the present is so laced with economic fears, political fears, health fears, family fears.

The danger with most fear is that it alienates people. It divides us. Fear drops a low-hanging cloud over our heads and wraps our hearts in gloom, obscuring our view of what God is capable of doing in the midst of our circumstances.

The church is meant to be a family, a community of souls committed to one another. Relationships built on faith in God and love for one another matter most in the church, and our deepest fears can be met most effectively as we walk through them together, trusting one another with our darkest doubts, reminding one another of our greatest hope in Jesus Christ, and realizing that together, with God’s help and guidance, we will get through whatever challenges confront us.

So, **How are you?** Ask someone you love, and listen deeply, prayerfully, lovingly to all they have to say. And when a brother or sister in Christ asks you, trust that they really want to know.

God bless you – Clay



CHIP'S CHATS...

"There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven: a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot, a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build, a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance, a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them, a time to embrace and a time to refrain, a time to search and a time to give up, a time to keep and a time to throw away, a time to tear and a time to mend, a time to be silent and a time to speak, a time to love and a time to hate, a time for war and a time for peace."

This is not just the song, "Turn! Turn!, Turn!", by the Birds, but it's from King Solomon's writings (Ecclesiastes 3:1-8). Solomon was one of the wealthiest men who ever lived. At his anointing as king, he prayed for wisdom and God gave it to him in spades. In this passage he expresses that there's a time and season for everything under heaven. It's true. I remember a friend told me all about her problems, so much she was filled with woe. After, I responded by saying, "You're going through a difficult season." I could see a light pop on over her head; she had an a-ha moment. "Yes – a 'season'! I thought my life was bad but I'm just going through a difficult season." She was right. What a difference one word can make. One of my favorite gospel songs is "This Too Will Pass" by Rev. James Cleveland. Christians used to remind each other, "This too shall pass" (it's just a season).

I used to loathe the fall because things started dying and desolated winter would come. I only loved spring and summer. Then after a while I started to appreciate fall and winter. We need these seasonal rhythms to grow. My wife Christina loves every season; it's contagious.

As you read the Bible, especially Jesus and His Apostles' writings, you'll see the call to embrace even difficult times. Challenges help us grow. Coal needs time and pressure to become diamonds, and between earth to glory we will face all kinds of joys and struggles. Always remember in heaven we'll shine like diamonds, but we can still shine in the pressure-process; Jesus shined and called us to do the same. Think of the people we respect most in the Bible. Most of them went through difficult seasons and they shined – let's shine too.

Next time something horrible hits, try your best to say "it's a difficult season and not a horrible life" – SHINE!

See you in church! Love, Chip



CHOIR RESUMES!

Come, Make a Joyful Noise Unto the Lord!!

Please join us as the Wakefield Baptist Church Choir begin rehearsals on Thursday, September 3 at 3:30pm in the sanctuary. We meet weekly and sing every Sunday, beginning on September 13.

We would love to have you join us! All are welcome!



Men's Breakfast

Please plan to join us at 8:00am on Saturday, September 5 for breakfast, fellowship and devotions. We would love to see you!

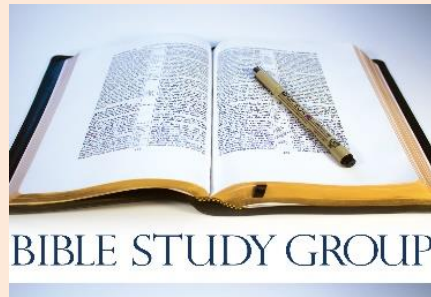


Fellowship Hour

Thank you to everyone who provided food for our Fellowship Hours this summer. We had great food and wonderful conversations! There is a new sign-up sheet for the Fall on the bulletin board. Please consider hosting a week if you are able as we continue this wonderful ministry. It doesn't have to be a full lunch but whatever you would like to share with us.

You have probably noticed there is a donation basket on the food table. We appreciate all donations which are given to the person who is hosting to help offset the increased cost of food. Please see Julie Wardwell or Dian Arnold if you have any questions. Thank you!!

BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES.....



SUNDAY STUDY UPDATE

Our Sunday morning study group has been a good experience and well attended.

BUT, a time change, starting September 6, will be made to accommodate choir members and others who have responsibilities for morning worship.

NEW TIME:

9:00 to 9:30 am, in the parlor. It's a short time frame, so please be prompt. Watch for more information for the continuing study.



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 ascendency 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!



Thank you for the Special Summer Music

Thank you very much to everyone who provided music during our worship services this summer and to Sue Vasques who played the organ for the hymns while Julie played the piano. All were beautiful additions to our services and greatly appreciated.

Blessings,

Julie Wardwell

MISSIONS



RED WAGON MINISTRY

Thank you to all who donated food for the Red Wagon this summer. It has been brought to local agencies who distribute it to those in need.

SEPTEMBER RED WAGON

THINK BACK TO SCHOOL

Socks in all sizes for boy and girls

School Snacks: popcorn, animal crackers, peanut butter/cheese crackers, granola bars, fruit/ pudding cups, cereals, peanut butter, jelly

MISCELLANEOUS GIFT TABLE

Our Gift Table in Fellowship Hall has a continually changing variety of items on it. Check it out! If you can use something, please take it, and if you choose, leave a donation in the container.

The Mission and Discipleship Ministry has decided that all donations at this time will be given to Canonicus Ministries.

**Thank you for your support in
all Mission Projects!**

FROM OUR TREASURER....

A SUMMARY OF OUR REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES ENDING 7/31/26



Wakefield Baptist Church
Summary of Revenues and Expenditures
For the Seven Months ended 7/31/26

	Actual 7/31/2026	Seven Months 2026 Budget	Over (Under) Budget
REVENUES			
Local & Missions	62,815	58,333	4,482
Endowment	59,000	69,417	(10,417)
Sherman	27,574	32,170	(4,596)
T-Mobile	20,741	19,639	1,102
Other	959	1,458	(499)
	<u>171,089</u>	<u>181,017</u>	<u>(9,928)</u>
MINISTRY EXPENDITURES			
Missions	15,428	18,640	(3,212)
Trustees	156,161	165,609	(9,448)
Deacons	562	1,079	(517)
Worship	266	1,371	(1,105)
Hospitality	653	729	(76)
Discipleship	-	729	(729)
	<u>173,070</u>	<u>188,157</u>	<u>(15,087)</u>
Revenues Over (Under)			
Expenditures	<u>(1,981)</u>	<u>(7,140)</u>	<u>5,159</u>

Our cash flows for the seven months of 2026 have been sufficient to allow us to continue paying our operating expenses, mission commitments, and most importantly to pay our excellent staff.

Trustees expenditures include compensation for all staff, operating costs such as utilities, repairs and maintenance, insurance, office equipment and supplies.

ENDOWMENT FUND ACTIVITY-1/1/26-07/31/26

Balance 1/1/26	1,264,802
Dividends & Interest	15,996
Realized gain on sale of investments	53,870
Change in Fair Market Value	19,921
Management fees	(6,241)
Transfers to WBC Checking	<u>(59,000)</u>
Balance 7/31/26	<u>1,289,347</u>

Our endowment fund has experienced a small gain in market value from the beginning of the year even with increased monthly withdrawals. The fund consistently remains stable and continues to provide a major source of revenue for our budget.

Respectfully submitted, Jill McGuire, Treasurer



CANONICUS HOMECOMING REVIVAL



FAITH • COMMUNITY • LEGACY



SEPTEMBER 20th



TIME: 2 - 5 PM



EVENT LOCATION: 54 Exeter Rd. Exeter, RI 02822



FOOD
DELICIOUS
FOOD FOR ALL



MUSIC
LIVE MUSIC
& WORSHIP



GAMES
FUN GAMES
& ACTIVITIES



TOURS
GUIDED HISTORICAL
TOURS



AND MORE!
SOMETHING FOR
EVERYONE!

VOLUNTEERS APPRECIATED!

WANT TO LEND A HAND? VISIT WWW.CANONICUSMINISTRIES.ORG
Canonicus Camp and Conference Center



Ladies, join us Saturday, October 10, 2026, 10-11:30 AM for brunch. We'll have some food, share a devotion, and enjoy a fall themed craft. Feel free to bring a friend. Call the office or sign up at church so we can order supplies.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Save the date! On Friday, October 30, there will be a **Halloween Happening** in Fellowship Hall, from 5:00-7:00 pm. For all people of all ages - seniors, kids, grandkids, youth, families, friends.

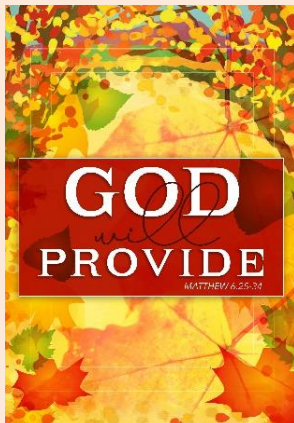
There will be food, games, pumpkin decorating, and lots of FUN! Wear a costume if you want!



September

15	Shayla (Perry) Reihl
18	Rebecca DeLuise
20	Joyce Kagels
21	Jill McGuire
27	Benjamin Berry

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



OCTOBER SPIRE

**The deadline to submit articles for the October Spire is September 20.
It will be available on Sunday September 27.**

Each Week

Sunday

Worship Schedule

10:00 a.m. Worship

Weekly Meetings:

Sun. 6:00 pm Women's Step Study
Mon. 6:00 pm Men's 12 Step
Mon. 7:30 pm AlAnon
Tues. 10:00 am "Big Red" Book Discussion
Thurs. 3:30pm Choir Rehearsal

Upcoming Meetings:

Tues. Sept. 1 3:00 pm Worship Ministry
Tues. Sept. 8 4:30 pm Trustees
Wed. Sept. 9 3:00 pm Deacons
Tues. Sept. 15 4:00 pm Missions/Discipleship Ministry

CHURCH ADMINISTRATION

Rev. Dr. Clay Berry, Pastor
Dian Arnold, Admin. Assistant
Catherine Holloway, Minister of Music (Choir)
Chip Northup, Minister of Community Outreach and Development
Jim Paulhus, Sexton
Julie Wardwell, Minister of Music (Organ/Piano)

CHURCH OFFICE Phone/Fax (401) 783-2472

E-mail:

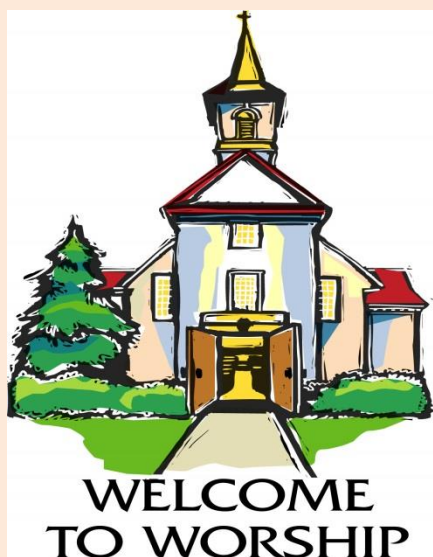
Dian-Office@wbcni.org

Clay-Pastor@wbcni.org

www.Facebook.com/WakefieldBaptistChurchRI

Website: wbcni.org

Wakefield Baptist Church
236 Main Street
Wakefield, Rhode Island 02879-3512



Sunday Morning Worship
10:00 a.m.
Online and In-Person

SEPTEMBER EVENTS
Men's Breakfast
Choir Resumes
Bible Studies
Canonicus Homecoming

***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.*