

THE SPIRE

Wakefield Baptist Church



2025



When Prayer Feels Like a Last Resort

Troubled times evoke uneasy prayers, because they force us to be honest about how small our faith feels and just how little we have to offer in extreme circumstances. When action is required, but our prayer is all we seem to have, we may feel it to be a feeble last resort. *It is not!*

God gives us the gift of prayer for moments just like that, when our world has come unhinged and we're frightened by what we see and hear.

My friend, Rev. Jonathan Scott, must face this a lot. He's an ordained American Baptist minister and a hospital chaplain at Day Kimball Health Care in Connecticut. One day, a Korean War veteran asked him to pray for peace, adding: "If people only knew how much harm war does...." In response, Jonathan composed this prayer...

"God of peace,
we do know how much harm war does,
and yet we don't seem to know how to stop it.

God of justice,
we recognize greed and power grabs,
the exploitation of the poor by the rich,
and we don't know how to change it.

God of compassion,
we know the transforming potential of kindness and forgiveness,
and we don't know why it is so often rejected in favor of rage and violence.

So, we come to you, God of knowing,
asking for the wisdom and courage to end war and to establish a just society where all the peoples of the world love and forgive one another as they love and forgive themselves.

(continued)

We come,
asking that you help us start this campaign of peace
and compassion here and now:
in our own hearts,
in our own families,
and in our own communities. Amen.”

Praying with you for a world at peace. Yours in Christ, Clay

Introducing... Jesus

Reflections on the Gospel of John

Thursday afternoons at 2:30 beginning October 16

Who is Jesus, and why does he matter? Come and see!
All are invited to join us for prayer, reflection, and conversation as we listen to the Apostle John introduce Jesus to all who open his Gospel and read it in faith. This study will run up until Thanksgiving. At that point we'll take a break for the holidays, then resume early in the new year. For more information, speak with Clay.



Celebrating All Saints:

November 2

November 1 is officially All Saints' Day, though we will celebrate the feast with communion on Sunday, November 2 during our morning worship service. Our worship will remind us of the communion we still keep with those now at rest in the Lord's presence, gathered in peace enjoying eternal communion with him. We will specifically remember those from our congregation who passed into glory over the past year.

We invite you to bring photographs of those in your life who have died in the Lord and now live in his presence. These don't just have to be pictures of immediate family. They could include those who led you to the Lord, mentored or impacted your faith, or represented the Lord to you 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 at the Table, we'll celebrate that mysterious reality that we continue to keep communion with them in the Lord.



TWELVE ORDINARY MEN

Meets on Mondays, at 2:30 pm in Fellowship Hall. This is a book study on the twelve disciples. It started on September 22 and will continue through October 27. Fourteen have signed up to discuss and learn together. We will not finish the book in these 6 weeks but will continue the series later. If you are interested in joining us, let Nancy Bancroft know so we can purchase more books.

Our Mission \$\$ at Work

Sandra Lindstrom writes:

“As a cofounder for the organization called *United States - Philippines Library Partners*, we have been actively collecting and distributing books across the Philippines since 2016. With over 7,000 islands, the Philippines has struggled to improve their literacy skills with few resources. Most elementary schools do not have libraries for their students because they do not have books.

“I am currently working directly with 22 educators to distribute gently used books (K-12), teaching resources, puzzles, games, and manipulatives to numerous communities. In 2025 to date, I have shipped 144 boxes weighing approximately 100 pounds each.

“Our Rhode Island support is changing lives. Thank you, Wakefield Baptist Church!”

Through our church mission budget, Wakefield Baptist contributes \$330 annually toward shipping costs. If you have appropriate new or gently used books for K-12 students, puzzles or games, you may leave them in the marked box in the parlor. We can serve our neighbors near and far.





**Men's Breakfast will be held on
Saturday, October 4th
8:00 a.m.**

**Join us for good food, fellowship and meaningful devotions!
All men are welcome!**



CHOIR REHEARSALS HAVE RESUMED!

We would love to welcome **YOU** to the Wakefield Baptist Church choir. Our choir rehearsals have resumed on Thursday afternoons at 3:45pm 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 coffee hour – bringing in food, setting up, serving, and cleaning up. If you would like to take responsibility for a Sunday in November or December, please sign up on the bulletin board. Any of us who help would be glad to explain what is involved. Many hands make light work!

Thank you!



Scholarships Available

Thanks to the generous support of members and friends, Wakefield Baptist Church has a dedicated scholarship account. Scholarships are available to members and regular attendees as well as to children and grandchildren of members and attendees who are pursuing post-secondary education.

Please let the church office know the name of your nominee, the school attending, and a brief explanation of the program of study, as it is known. Please submit by November 30.



Jewelry for Mission

In the last few months we have had a table in Fellowship Hall with costume jewelry available to anyone. Take what you can use and leave a donation in the box on the table. So far, we have received \$304 which has been donated to South County Habitat for Humanity.



RED WAGON for OCTOBER

Jonnycake Food Pantry has need of the following items:

Rice (Brown or White)
Canned Vegetables
Jars of Sauce
Canned Fruit in 100% juice

Cereal
Healthy Snacks
Soups

Other non-perishable foods are always welcomed

MISSIONS/DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRY



Returning in December **CHRISTMAS JOY!**

As you do your Fall cleaning and get out your holiday decorations let us help you. We are looking for gently used items that can be used as gifts for men, women, teens and kids. Also, Christmas trims for homes. You may drop off at church any time.

More Missions News:



THANK YOU!

Thank you to all individuals who generously donated tools and garden items for our South County Habitat for Humanity gift basket for a new homeowner. And thank you to the Men's Breakfast guys who donated \$125 for the purchase of new tools to add to our WBC gift.



Habitat House Dedication October 1

A renewed gift of love! On Wednesday, Oct 1, promptly at 6:00 pm, South County Habitat will hold a house dedication at 116 Lewis Lane, South Kingstown. This house, located off Broad Rock Road, is the one constructed in 1998 by our church, with help from others. We raised \$35,000 and provided labor with more than 70 WBC volunteers helping.

The home has recently been completely renovated inside and outside and is now ready for a new family of Mom and three children. All are welcome to attend the dedication and view the renovated home. Nancy Bancroft will represent our church at the dedication.

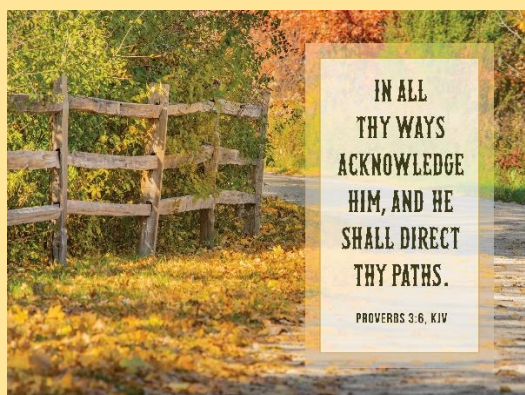
If you plan to attend, please carpool and plan to arrive a bit early; parking is limited.



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.



Sunday, November 2nd is the end of Daylight Saving Time. Remember to set your clocks back before going to bed on Saturday night

Each Week

Sunday

10:00 a.m. Worship

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| Monday | 6:00 pm | Men's 12 Steps |
| | 7:30 pm | AlAnon |
| Tuesday | 10:00 am | AA Book Discussion |
| Thursday | 3:45 pm | Choir Rehearsal |
| Sunday | 6:00 pm | Women's Step Study |

Meetings, etc. in October

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| Sat. Oct. 4 | 8:00 am | Men's Breakfast |
| Tues. Oct. 14 | 4:30 pm | Trustees |
| Tues. Oct. 14 | 3:15 pm | Worship Ministry |
| Wed. Oct 22 | 3:15 PM | Discipleship/Missions |
| Tues. Oct. 28 | 3:00 pm | Ministries Council |

CHURCH ADMINISTRATION

Rev. Dr. Clay Berry - Pastor
Dian Arnold - Church Admin. Assistant
Catherine Holloway - Minister of Music
(Choir)
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

www.Facebook.com/WakefieldBaptistChurchRI



DEACONS

We WELCOME Sue and Jim Vasques into our Church membership. They come to us with strong Christian beliefs and with much experience in moving forward God's kingdom here in Wakefield. Be sure to introduce yourself and give them your personal welcome.



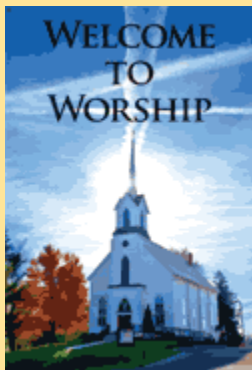
FALL LUNCHEON

On Thursday, October 23rd, the DEACONS are sponsoring a FALL LUNCHEON.

This will be a time for lunch and fellowship for those who find Sunday worship time difficult to attend due to various circumstances.

We will be asking for help with transportation, serving, cooking, etc. Please consider helping if you are able.

Wakefield Baptist Church
236 Main Street
Wakefield, RI 02879



OCTOBER EVENTS

Men's Breakfast

Habitat Home Dedication

Fall Luncheon

Sunday Morning Worship

10:00 am

*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.*