



THE SPIRE



2026

Good News for the World!

The Season of Epiphany

Traditionally, January 6 is the Feast of the Epiphany, and the start of a new season of the church year, when the Church of Jesus Christ celebrates the Lord's "manifestation" to the world. (Epiphany is from the Greek for "appear" or to "manifest").

Jesus was born in Bethlehem for the whole world. He was heralded by the angels, visited by the shepherds, then came those three pilgrims from the east, following a star. Whether they were kings or not, they were royal visitors all the same, bearing princely gifts for the One who would be King of all.

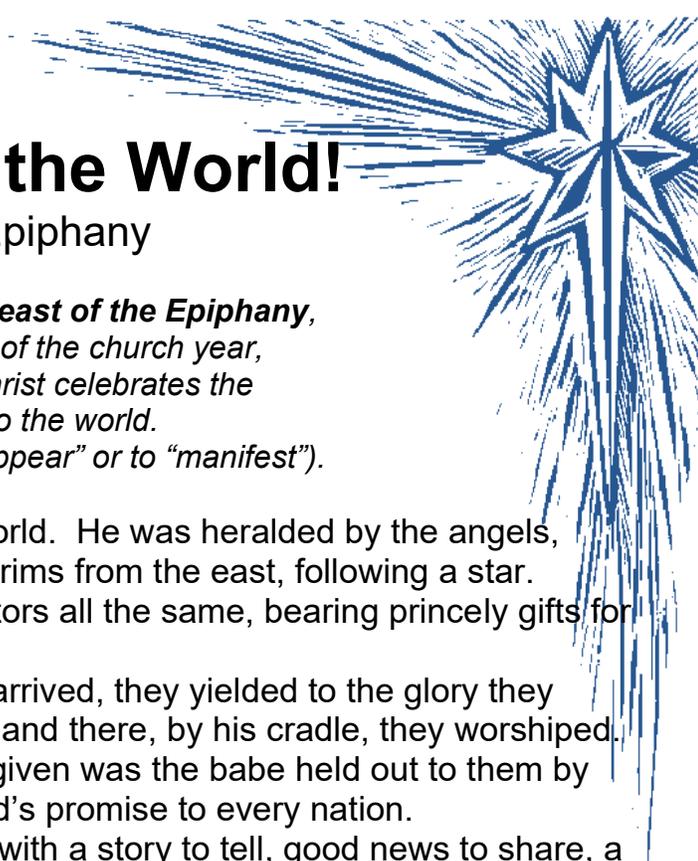
And, for sure, they were wise! For when they arrived, they yielded to the glory they beheld in the newborn child, recognized his majesty and there, by his cradle, they worshiped. They laid their gifts before him, but the greatest gift given was the babe held out to them by Mary. In him they saw the hope of the world and God's promise to every nation.

Then, those three departed. They went home with a story to tell, good news to share, a Gospel to proclaim. We recognize these three foreign visitors as some of the first missionaries. As they depart for home, they help to inaugurate the international mission of Jesus Christ.

Throughout the season of Epiphany, our attention shifts from the manger in Bethlehem to those wider fields of ministry to which God is calling us. The light of Christ's glory could not be contained in the stable, nor will it be maintained within the walls of the local church but will be manifest to all creation.

This makes Epiphany the perfect season to pay special attention to Christ's mission to the world and our church's participation in it. With other American Baptists around the world, our congregation joins missionaries and mission efforts all over the globe. Such ministries continue to manifest Christ in those darkened regions of our world where suffering is the greatest, and hope may be most dim.

We will hold our annual Epiphany celebration on Sunday morning, January 4, at 10:00. You will find more information about that later in the Spire. I hope you will join us for the celebration! Then, throughout this coming season of Epiphany, remain in prayer for our congregation's mission to the wider world. God bless you - Clay



Light for the World!

An Epiphany Celebration

Sunday, January 4, 2026

During worship on January 4 we will celebrate like the Magi did long ago, and bring *our* gifts to honor the newborn King, Jesus. As the Wise Men shared with the world the Light they found when they worshipped Baby Jesus, we follow their example today sharing the Light of Jesus with others around the world through our American Baptist Global Servants.

AmyEstelle and Aaron Trout, in Southeast Asia, work to share good news with unreached and underserved populations. Their family farm functions as a food bank for the local community, and they use the land for training and enrichment opportunities. At the farm they raise squash, coffee, green beans, rice, coconuts, and have 4 fish ponds:

- they support small church pastors,
- have ministry outreach,
- supplement school events in the community.

Our Epiphany Mission Project will raise funds to help purchase a much-needed vehicle for their ministries. This will allow them to:

Transport children from school to the farm for ministry gatherings,
Bring sacks of rice to feeding outreaches in town or up in mountain villages,
Take Youth camp trips.

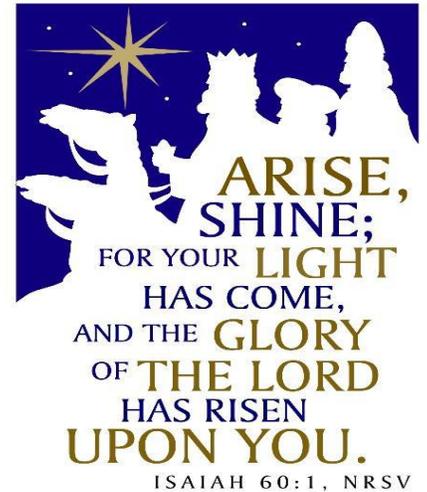
Van cost = \$16,897. Our gifts will help them make this purchase.

You will find special envelopes in the pews for your gifts. Make checks payable to: Wakefield Baptist Church.

BOOKS, PUZZLES AND GAMES, TOO!

With this project, we will also collect books, puzzles and games appropriate for children in grades K-12 that will be shipped to the Philippines, hopefully to their local school. There is a special box marked for these items by the bulletin board.

Following worship on January 4, we'll enjoy a simple meal together in Fellowship Hall and learn more about the Trouts and their work.



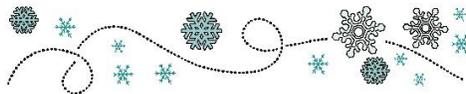
Come join us!



**BREAKFAST FOR ALL &
UNDECORATING PORTIONS OF THE
CHURCH BUILDING**

**Saturday, January 3rd
8:00 a.m.**

**THERE IS A SIGN UP SHEET ON THE BULLETIN BOARD-- PLEASE SIGN UP
SO WE KNOW HOW MUCH FOOD TO PREPARE!**



SCHOLARSHIPS FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS

Thanks to generous gifts of members and friends, our church has an Education Resource Fund from which we are able to award scholarships for post-secondary education.

The Mission and Discipleship Ministry is responsible for the distribution of these funds. Those who will receive the 2025 scholarships are:

Erik Lindstrom, a student at Bentley University, Waltham, MA, is in his junior year of a five-year Masters degree program in Business Finance.

Jaqueline Lindstrom is a graduate student at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI, working toward a Master of Science degree in Biostatistics.

Cara Holloway is a freshman at Community College of Rhode Island, in General Education, hoping to transfer into a program for Social Work or Special Education. Cara is the granddaughter of Cathy Holloway.

Emily Kisilywicz is a student at Community College of Rhode Island, pursuing an Associate Degree in Business. Emily is the granddaughter of Julie Wardwell.

We wish each of these students all the best for a successful year as they develop their skills and knowledge and pray God's blessings upon them.



Wakefield Baptist Mission Ministry

RED WAGON FOR JANUARY AND FEBRUARY



SOUP FOR THE SUPER BOWL
All kinds- Cans, Packages, Boxes,
Ingredients to make your own:
Broth, canned carrots, mixed
veggies, small pastas, etc.

GOAL - 100 ITEMS

All non-perishable items are welcomed.



Missions in Action!

THANK YOU to all who transformed all tags on our "Giving Tree" into physical gifts for our community. Jan Travers, super shopper and mission coordinator extraordinaire, reports that all deliveries were joyfully received.

- > Jonnycake Center for Hope - Clothing for children and youth, games, toys, store gift cards, knit hats, scarves.
- > Galilee Mission - Twenty-four Christmas stockings filled with toiletries, socks and snacks; and also underwear, tee shirts, and knit hats for the men they serve.
- > South County Nursing and Rehab - Clothing gifts, slippers, lap robes, lotions, and activity items such as puzzle books and art supplies for the elders residing there.

In addition, Wakefield Baptist supported our neighbors by giving to two other local serving groups:

To Tabitha's Closet at Peace Dale Congregational Church, we donated good clothes for children and adults, including many new items, for their clothing ministry.

To South County Habitat for Humanity ReStore, we gave several cartons of Christmas tree ornaments and many other Christmas decorations. Soon we will also donate several boxes of household items left from our Welcome Christmas "give-away."

These are wonderful acts of kindness and sharing as we at Wakefield Baptist spread God's love with others. Each act of giving is a blessing.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF ALL MISSION PROJECTS!

Meetings this year:

Ministries Council Tuesday 1/27 3 pm
Annual Financial Meeting Sunday 2/15 after Worship
Ministries Council Tuesday 4/28 3 pm
Annual Meeting 5/17 after Worship
Ministries Council Tuesday 7/28 3 pm

We ask you to mark your calendar for the Annual Financial Meeting and the Annual Meeting- Your attendance is greatly appreciated!





- 6 *Yayin Wang*
- 11 *James Paulhus*
- 13 *Caleb DeLuise*
- 23 *Jeffrey Alan (Jay) Hill*
- 24 *Julie Wardwell*
- 26 *Cindy Phillips*
- 28 *Luke Stanton*
- 30 *Deborah Sargent*

WBC Snow Policy

In the event of heavy snowfall, please keep the following in mind:

For Worship: An abbreviated service of worship will be held for those who can safely travel to church. If you have any doubts, then we encourage you to stay safe, and stay home. If you have responsibilities for the morning and can't make it in, then please call Clay Berry at home (789-5061) by 9:00 a.m.

Services will be canceled if we lose power or heat, or if a state of emergency is mandated by the authorities.

Every effort will be made to make the service available on YouTube, but this will depend upon our tech crew making it in for the service!

For meetings & studies: such meetings will be canceled if travel advisories or warnings are posted due to weather conditions in Washington County. If in doubt, please contact your group leader.

Each Week

Sunday

Worship Schedule

10:00 a.m. Worship for all ages

Mondays

6:00 p.m. Men's 12 Step
7:30 pm AlAnon

Tuesdays

10:00 a.m. AA Book Discussion

Thursdays

3:45pm Choir Rehearsal
6:30 p.m. VASA (2nd Thursday)

Sundays

5:00 p.m. Women's Step Study

Board Meetings

- | | | | |
|---------|---------|-----------|--------------------------------|
| Tuesday | Jan. 13 | 3:15 p.m. | Missions/
Discipleship Mtg. |
| Tuesday | Jan. 13 | 4:30 p.m. | Trustees Meeting |

Other Meetings & Events

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| Saturday | Jan. 3 | 8 a.m. | Men's Breakfast for All
(Undecorating the Church) |
| Tuesday | Jan. 27 | 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



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



January Events

**-Breakfast for All with
Undecorating of our
Church Building
Epiphany Service with Lunch to
Follow
Happy New Year!**

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