

Central Baptist Church of Westerly, 16 Elm Street, Westerly, RI 02891

THE GOOD WORD

Carrying News of God's Work into the Community and World
March 2026
Volume 19 Issue 3

**Worship With Us At
Central Baptist**



**Sunday Worship Service
10:30 AM**

Our services can be seen on
Facebook Live or on YouTube.
Access is always available
through our church website:
www.cbcwesterlyri.org

**NEED A RIDE
TO CHURCH?**



Call 401-596-4929
Call the church before
noon on Saturday.

HOW TO CONTACT US

Church Office: e-mail
centralbaptistchurch16@gmail.com

Telephone : [401] 596-4929

Newsletter submissions:
Suzanne Vanaman
e-mail: suzyv64@verizon.net

Pastor Cal Lord: e-mail
calstigers@gmail.com

Assoc. Pastor Enrique Newman:
e-mail
pastorenriquenewman@gmail.com

Website:
<http://www.cbcwesterlyri.org>

YouTube:
www.youtube.com/@CallLord

The Blizzard of February 2026



CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Dr. Cal Lord, Jr., Pastor
Assoc. Pastor, Enrique Newman
Lynn Johnson, Music Director
Dorothy McClure, Administrator
Deb Peterson, Custodian
Sofia Scarano

Church Office Hours
Monday - Friday, 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM



NEWSLETTER TEAM

Dorothy McClure
Suzanne Vanaman
and
A host of other contributors

**Newsletter
Deadline**

Articles for *The Good Word*,
are due the
15th of the month.
Please submit articles
as a WORD document
if possible.

e-mail all articles to:
Suzanne Vanaman

Suzyv64@verizon.net

Join Our Easter Band!

Do you play an instrument? Have you played in the past? Come join us as we prepare to launch our Easter service with the joyful sound of our Easter Band. We will be rehearsing immediately following worship for a few weeks preceding our Resurrection Sunday celebration. You can get the music from Lynn Johnson March 8. We will be playing two easy songs; "Christ the Lord is Risen Today" and "Up From the Grave." All ages and levels of experience are welcome. Friends are welcome too!



March 9
5:30PM Christian Ed. Board

March 16
4:00PM Trustee Board
6:30PM Deacon Board

March 23
5:30PM Church Council

Attn: All Boards/Committees & Small Groups

Please pick any trash and put away the tables after your gathering or meetings. If you need a set up for your event or gathering, please pick up a form in the church office and submit it a few days ahead of your event. Property Team can assist you with your set-up. The team has the outer office for you to submit your form once completed. If you have any questions, please speak to Property Team or Pastor Cal.

Thank you for helping to keep our church clean.



March 7 - 8:00AM

Fellowship Hall

All men invited

PASTOR CAL'S CORNER



Dear Friends,

It was fifteen years ago this coming week that I began my ministry with you. How time flies. It seems like it was just yesterday. I remember coming in on that first Tuesday morning and stumbling onto a men's Bible study going on in the parlor. I knew nothing about it. I popped in, introduced myself and then walked across the hall to start setting up my office.

I knew that day that the small group Bible studies were going to be a big part of our ministry here. People like Gary Engler, Norm Steadman, Roy Springer, Meredith Eckel, Brian and Janet Gerbutavich and others have ensured that we have had a steady stream of groups meeting in the church. Today, that tradition continues with Pastor Dave Jordan, Pastor Enrique Newman, Geri Maloney, Jon Humphrey and Phil Bryan. They join me in offering a number of opportunities for us to enjoy as we seek to grow our faith in Christ and go deeper into God's Word.

The week before I started here, Ron Rodehorst showed up in Norwich with his truck. He loaded several boxes of books into the back of his vehicle. Ron was the Chairperson of the Search Committee. He wanted to make sure I felt welcomed and was able to settle in without any difficulties. I can honestly say that I still have that same feeling of being welcomed and appreciated that I did on my first week among you. So thank you for being you!

I am a Star Trek fan. From the first days of my ministry I have adopted the idea of the five year plan, or as they stated in the prologue to that television series, five year missions. This month we embark on our fourth five year mission together. I am not sure what strange new worlds we will explore together but if this next five year period is anything like the last three, it is going to be memorable. So get ready. Let's explore where God is leading us together and give Him all the glory.

God bless! See you in church. Pastor Cal

Bibles, Bibles & More Bibles

Our original Bible Sunday was snowed out so we held it a few weeks later. If you missed it, we still have an assortment of Bibles for our children, teens and adults available in Fellowship Hall. If we run out you can sign up to receive one with our next shipment this spring.



We Have A Card Table!



Actually it is a card ministry that is sponsored by our Parish Committee. The table is in Fellowship Hall. Stop by and pick up a greeting card to send to a friend. Wish them well.

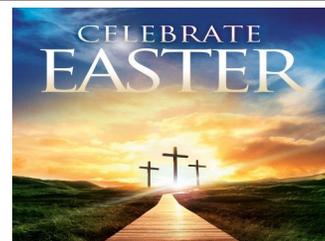
Send them birthday greetings. Let them know you are thinking of them. Be a blessing to somebody.

Easter Worship 2026

Community Sunrise Service @ 6:30 am

Easter at Avondale Chapel @ 8:00 am

Easter Worship at Central @ 10:30 am



Our services can be seen on Facebook Live or on YouTube. Access is always available through our church website:
www.cbccwesterlyri.org

Faith & Life with Pastor Enrique

Cultural Accommodation



One of the most wonderful aspects of Christianity is that its basic foundation, Jesus, remains unchanged. Society, though, does change. It adapts imperfectly to those changes in its decayed state. Because of this, the culture drifts farther and farther away from its moral compass, which is God's will.

Despite having all the divine tools at our disposal (the Holy Spirit, the Bible, and other believers), we choose to listen, obey, and cater to the world. Its demands and implementation lead to a weakened Christian testimony. If we say we have been saved but have not been transformed, then a careful review is in order. Self-reflection helps us see whether we are truly changing towards holiness or adapting towards worldliness.

The Bible is the only book that can properly teach us a Christian worldview. The Bible is not written to please you. The Bible is not written by the world or in accordance with the world. It was divinely inspired by God and written so that we could see how much God loves us and so that we would obey Him. When our lens is blurred by the world and we fail to properly clean it, we become susceptible to its demands. Satan does not want what God wants. Satan wants what is meant for God. He uses the fallen world to confuse, distort, and deceive those who desire to follow Jesus as well as those who already do.

Question: How should I respond to a broken and sin-soaked world? Does my spiritual accommodation give God all the room He deserves, or does it leave God on the edge? Am I letting the world enjoy its comfort in my life in the name of tolerance?

Application: Do NOT let the world dictate to you what Christianity is about. That role belongs only to God's Holy Word. Biblical truth will always overrule secular pressures.

"And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed." **John 3:19-20 (ESV)**

Call to Action: Repent and reconsider your spiritual stance. Renounce any or all pronouncements that are not Jesus-centered and aligned biblically. Promote Jesus and His way.

Blessings,

Pastor Enrique Newman, MDiv, MA
pastorenriquenewman@gmail.com



Board of Deacons



Focus on Jesus

The month of March is entirely included in the season of Lent, the days leading up to Easter. Lent is a time of prayer, fasting and giving, and was established to refocus our spiritual lives on Jesus and what he did for us on the cross.

Prayers, as Cal often reminds us, do work and are an import part of our day. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 tells us; "Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." So, we should be praying every day.

Fasting has changed over the centuries, when Lent was first established by the Council of Nicaea in 325 AD people were to fast for 40 days which involved eating only 1 meal a day after 3:00 PM.

That gradually changed to 3 days a week, then 2, and in present days it's only Ash Wednesday and Good Friday and only involves giving up meat leading to the concept of fish on Friday. And many look to just give up something for Lent instead of fasting. Fasting was intended to help you focus on prayer and seeking God's will. An example would be Ezra 8:23 "So we fasted and petitioned our God about this, and he answered our prayer."

On giving, 2 Corinthians 9:7 says "Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." And remember, giving isn't just money, it can be our time and talents as well.

So, this March let us refocus our lives on Jesus, whether it's through prayer, fasting, giving or just spending more time reading the Bible. Easter is just around the corner and we need to remember Jesus' sacrifice on the cross for our sins. Ephesians 2:4-5 "But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions, it is by grace you been saved."

Monthly Prayer for our Pastors

Dear God, we pray that our pastors Cal and Enrique ministry would be blessed by You and that Your Word would resonate in the hearts of our church family. Empower them with Your Spirit to preach Your Word. May they always proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ. Amen

Don Plante - CBC Board of Deacons

Our Monthly Bible Memory Verse:

March -

"But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed." Isaiah 53:5



ABCORI ANNUAL Meeting

The Annual Meeting of (ABCORI) American Baptist Churches of Rhode Island is scheduled from Saturday, March 7 at the Phillips Memorial Baptist Church in Cranston. If you'd like to go, speak to Pastor Cal.



Friendship Circle

Join us on the **first Monday of every month at 7:00pm** as we come together to plan for the Christmas bazaar, share ideas, laugh, and build lasting friendships. Whether you're a regular or it's your first time, everyone is welcome! Don't miss out-see you there! Co-chairs Cathy Burnside and Sarah Rofrano



Treasurer's Report

	January 2026 Actual	January 2026 Plan	Year-to-Date Actuals	2026 Annual Plan
Total Income	\$63,335.74	\$60,412.59	\$63,335.74	\$550,241.00
Total Expenses	\$49,799.91	\$56,266.02	\$49,799.91	\$555,499.00
Net Ordinary Income	\$13,535.83	\$4,146.57	\$13,535.83	(\$5,258.00)

The 2026 financial plan was approved by the congregation on February 8, 2026. The month of January started as planned. Total income for January represents 11.5% of the annual planned amount and total expenditures for January represent 9.0% of planned amount. Regular giving year-to-date totaled \$32,850.00. Actual expenditures for the month of January 2026 are 1.3% less than for the same time last year.

As always, the generous donations and faithful support of Central Baptist members and friends allows the church to actively serve our community while also proactively maintaining our church properties. Your continued support is greatly appreciated. Thank you so very much!

If you are unable to come to church, we hope that you're watching the live stream services on Facebook. If you miss it, you can search Facebook for the Central Baptist Church of Westerly, RI page and scroll down. It is also available on YouTube, just

Here are some options for online giving:

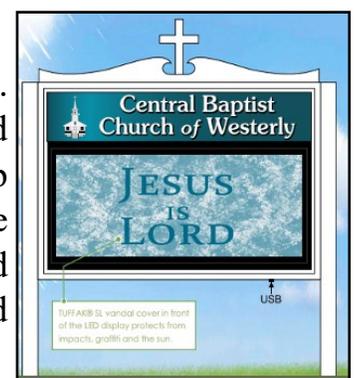
- 1) Add CBC's address (16 Elm St., Westerly RI 02891) to your bank's Bill Payment site and schedule the bank to mail your check to the church. Add a memo if your gift is for a special cause.
- 2) Text Giving is now available. Message the word "GIVE" to 401-414-4940 from your cellphone and easily send a donation.
- 3) Another option is to visit www.cbwesterlyri.org, then click on Donations link at the top, or scan this code on your phone to access CBC's online giving app. The URL for the app is <https://app.easytithe.com/app/Giving/cbcw>. You can give either directly from your bank account or... (for a higher fee) use a debit/credit card. The app uses the same security as bank web sites, so your personal information is secure. Also, it allows you to schedule your donations in advance, so "once and it's done."



Please look to see how online giving can make giving easier for you!

Memorial Opportunities

We recently looked into the cost of a new digital sign for the church. This would give us the ability to promote our worship services and activities to the community on an ongoing basis without cluttering up the lawn. The cost is a little more than we anticipated. The estimate came back at \$21,000. So we are putting it on our "Wish List" and noting that it would make a fitting memorial gift to honor a loved one in the future.





Small Group Studies at Central this Winter



Sunday Mornings at 9:00 am

Join Pastor David Jordan as he leads us in an exploration of the lives of key figures in the Bible. Their history and background are examined along with key events in their lives. The purpose is to find helpful lessons from their lives which we can apply to our lives today.

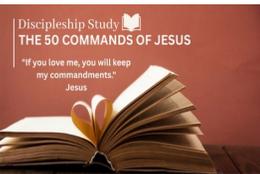


Monday Mornings at 10:00 am - Coffee with the Pastor

This winter we will begin a look at Paul’s letters to the Thessalonians. Come join us. The coffee pot will be on and we can share the delights of reading scripture together... and a few snacks too!

Monday Evenings at 6:30 pm - The 50 Commands of Jesus

This yearlong study is designed to lead you into steady biblical growth as you walk through fifty commands of Jesus and learn to live them out. Guided by insights from John Piper’s All That Jesus Commanded, you will be strengthened and supported in a continual journey of discipleship. Led by Pastor Enrique.



Wednesday Night at 6:30 pm - A study of the “Hymns We Sing”

Each week we gather for a short devotion followed by a study of some of the most popular hymns that we sing along with a few which have very interesting backgrounds. Led by Nancy Balentine.

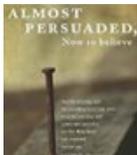
Wednesday Night at 7:00 pm - Sermon Talkback!

Come and take the opportunity to ask the Pastor questions about the previous week’s sermon. This will be a discussion that will give participants the opportunity to seek clarification, talk about personal application and discover a deeper understanding of the text as well. We will also discuss how to live out the message. Led by our pastors.



Almost Persuaded - 4th Saturday each month at 10:00 am

Spend an hour with Scott Gail talking about the basic aspects of our faith. This study will be at the church going forward. Call Scott at 401-374-1435 with questions. **Next meetings is March 28.**



PARISH COMMITTEE

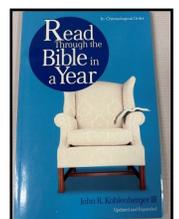


The Parish Committee remains active, visiting members who are homebound or in nursing facilities. I’ve been with this ministry long enough that I am visiting folks that were once on a Parish Committee team. It’s bittersweet the way time marches on.

If you would like to know more about this ministry, please contact me. The time commitment is just a few hours a month at your convenience. Anita Greene ~ (401) 596-8914 ~ akgreene@mac.com

Read Through the Bible - Year 2

Were you able to read through the Bible in 2025? We are going to do it again in 2026 and we have a new resource to help you. Feel free to use the book from last year if you prefer.... But let’s do it again. Or if you didn’t quite make it in 2025, let’s try again.





The next meeting will be on Monday, March 30th at 6:00pm. This group is led by Pastor Enrique. The Men's Ministry was very well received in 2025, this year we will plug into Jesus even deeper. This ministry is for you to walk alongside other men as you get to know Jesus. It allows the men to talk about issues they face and how to deal with them by using Biblical insights. Look for announcements on our next topic.



The next Sisters in Christ meeting will be Tuesday, March 10th at 6:00pm.
All are welcome to attend and bring a friend.
Please note that our meetings have changed from 7:00pm to 6:00pm going forward.



MISSION BOARD

America for Christ

This offering is taken annually in February. Due to our America for Christ offering envelopes being sent the middle of February we will also collect a few Sundays in March. May you consider and be blessed in your decision to continue the support that is much needed. Thank you for your generosity. The Mission Board



If you are like me, March and April signal at time of spring cleaning around the house. A time when we focus on decluttering and getting rid of those items in our homes that no longer serve a purpose. It is also a time when we can look at our own spiritual renewal by decluttering our hearts and minds as well. I often look at cleaning time as prayer time when I show gratitude for all that I have and look for ways that I can share what I no longer need with others, I thought I would share a few places that you can donate those items you no longer need and plan to get rid of during your spring cleaning.

Jonnycake Center - 23 Industrial Drive, Westerly - Household items, clothing, furniture, books and more. Helps to fund their food pantry and community programs.

Blue Mitten Thrift Shop - 135 Main Street, Westerly - Clothing and housewares. Helps to fund the Chorus of Westerly and its many music programs in the community and for children.

Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center - 27 Chase Street, Pawcatuck CT - Accept clothing and housewares for their thrift shop. Funds help those in need in the community.

Warm Center - 56 Spruce Street - Gently used or new clothing in season, gently used or new houseware items. Items are used to help individuals get back on their feet.

ReStore RI - 1555 Shannock Road, Charlestown RI - They accept gently used furniture, building materials, appliances, and home accessories. Items sold in their re-store fund building affordable homes in the area.

Central Baptist Church St. Pauly Shed - Accepting clothing, blankets, towels and shoes, please bag up items when donating. Funds from these donations go directly to the church.

While I am sure there are plenty of other places that will accept your donations, I just wanted to highlight a few. As you are cleaning this spring, give praise to God for all that you have and think of ways that you can share your unwanted or unneeded items so that they can continue to bless others.

Respectfully Submitted
Jodi Savage



Persecuted Church



Benin

Benin is a country in West Africa bordered by Togo to the west and Nigeria to the east. Most of its population lives on the southern coastline. Benin covers an area of 43,484 sq mi, and its population is 13 million. It is a tropical country with an economy heavily dependent on agriculture and the exports of palm oil and cotton. Its religious mix is Christian – 48%, Muslim – 28%, African – 12%.

The African religion most prominent in Benin is Voodoo or Vodun. We associate voodoo with Haiti or even New Orleans but its origin is in Benin. Their current President is a voodoo practitioner.

Winna's husband, Osawaru, told her he had converted to Christianity and so she accompanied him the church where she embraced Jesus as her Saviour. Osawaru was pressured by a voodoo priestess to return to his old religion as she told him the snake spirit living in him was going to starve! He returned to his veneration of the snake spirit and warned his wife against continuing to serve God. Osawaru set up a snake idol in their house and raised a white flag, the color representing the snake, in front of their house. Though Winna tried to keep peace for the sake of their three children, eventually Osawaru told her she was inhibiting the snake spirits' power and she had to leave. If you need anything, your God will have to give it to you, he told her.

She tried to find another hut to live in but even her brother refused to let her live in one he had, telling her that she had to practice voodoo to live there.

Eventually, homeless and destitute she was given a place to stay by a Christian woman in the village. Soon even her parents rejected her and she turned to the local pastor for help. He was able to connect her with VOM, a Christian ministry, who helped provide the support she needed. Now, sometime later, her life completely changed by God's love and provision, she and her children, who have now graduated from school, are able to live for God in her village where she is a witness to her unsaved voodoo practicing neighbors and family. Her prayer is that her community will come to serve the God who demonstrated His love for her by blessing her life despite the persecution she had to endure.

Easter Plants

I wish to provide a plant for Easter Sunday, April 5, 2026, in loving memory of:
(Please PRINT clearly)

Please check for choice of plants \$13.50 each:

() Lilies () Daffodils () Tulips () Hyacinth

() I will pick up my plant after the 10:30 AM service

() _____ will pick-up my plant for me.

Please note, **no** sonshine deliveries this year. So that we can order the plants on time order forms must be returned with payment to the office by Sunday, March 22nd

Name of Donor: _____ Phone _____



Central Nursery School

From Central Nursery School,

We finished up the month of January with our Quiz Game Show! The children answered questions about Arctic Animals and the weather. We had 25 parents and grandparents who came to support and cheer on the children. You would be surprised at how much these children have learned.



At the beginning of February, the M/W/F class had a Super Bowl Party. They wore their favorite team shirt or sport shirt. A couple of girls wore their team cheerleading outfit. We colored and decorated paper footballs with football stickers and had a pizza party to celebrate. All children were given mini footballs to take home.

We have been talking about “Healthy Food,” “Valentine’s Day” and “Dental Health.” Before the month is up, we will have a visit from a Dental Hygienist to promote brushing teeth.

A special thank you goes out to Bob and Cathy Burnside who have stepped up to help us on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons. We really appreciate their dedication and love for our amazing children and how they give up their time to be a part of our wonderful program.

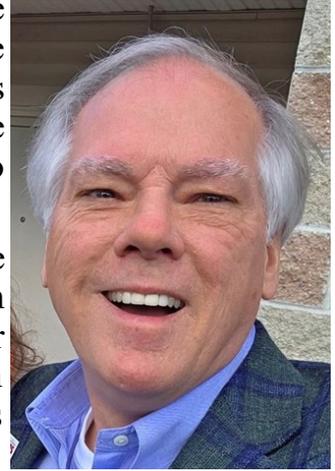
Miss Leslie and Miss Tia



March S.A.L.T. Luncheon

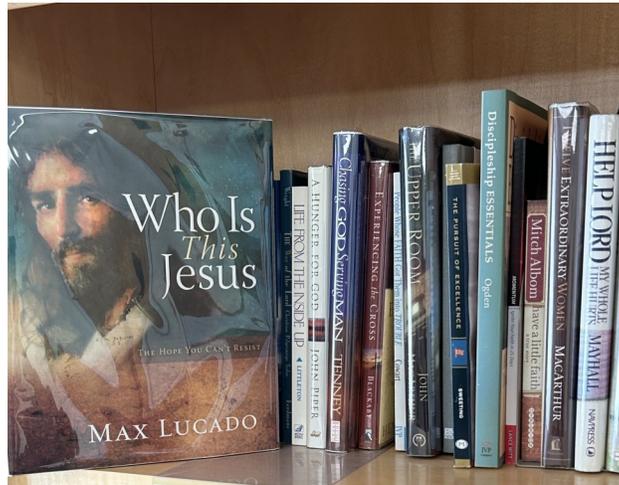
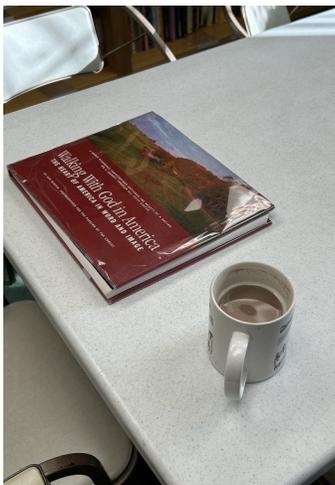
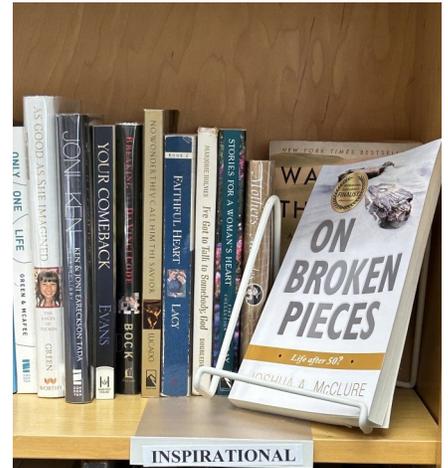
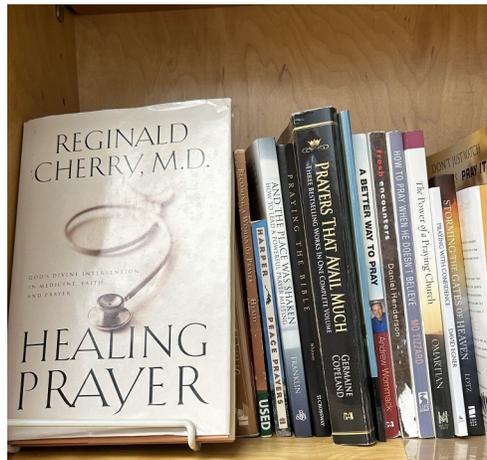


We were snowed out in February so we are hoping to have Carly Callahan, the Executive Director of the United, join us for our May gathering. The Pastor spoke with her and she is looking forward to being with us.



We are going to welcome a member of the Westerly 250th Committee for our March gathering on the 25th. Check out our website for more details. We hope you will join us for our Luncheon at noon in Fellowship Hall. Invite a friend. They will thank you, it's always a blessing to attend.

The Church Library: Our Quiet Corner



Come Worship the Lord and Remember His Passion, His Sacrifice and His Resurrection!



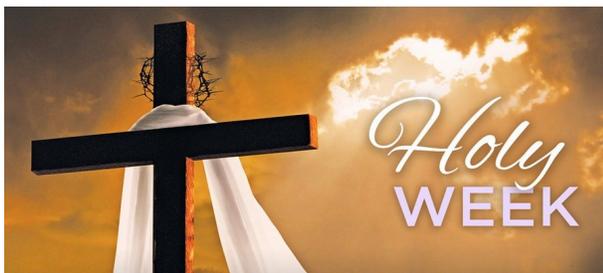
March 28 at 4:00pm at Ashaway 7th Day Baptist
March 29 at 4:00pm at Hope Valley Baptist

Sunday Nights - 6:00 pm
Contemporary Worship
Weekly During Lent



Join us and bring a friend!

Be inspired by our pastors and church leaders as we come together for worship with a contemporary flair in Fellowship Hall ! We will be offering something a little different each week. Come and be blessed!



Maundy Thursday - 7:00pm with the Lord's Supper
Good Friday - Noon Service in the Chapel
Easter Prayer Vigil - From 2:00pm Friday - 2:00pm Saturday (Either in the sanctuary or from your home.)

Celebrate the Resurrection With Us On Sunday, April 5, 2026



INVITE A FRIEND TO CHURCH THIS SUNDAY

Share God's Love ~ Invite a Friend to Church

We have post cards available in the Welcome Center if you'd like to invite a friend to church. Recent surveys say that most people would accept an invitation to attend church if invited by someone they trust. We also have bookmarkers! Why not try?

INVITE A FRIEND TO CHURCH THIS SUNDAY



Our Security and Medical Teams

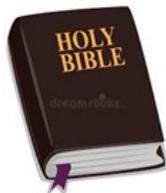
In light of recent events, we are reconstituting our church safety protocols. We are putting together a response team to handle any emergency situation that might arise. Your safety is our ultimate concern when you are attending worship and all church events.

Memorial Garden Bricks

An order for memorial bricks went out in January. If you are interested in ordering memorial bricks it is never too late. Please submit your order form and check in the memorial brick box in the outer office. Your order will go out with the next batch. Any questions or if you need suggestions on wording please contact Noreen Gerrish or Pat Anderson.



Do You Need A Bible?

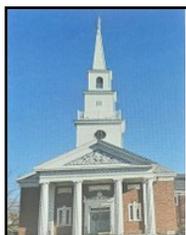


The Bible provides the foundation for our faith in God and a life that glorifies Him. It has been called "Life's Instruction Manual" given to us by our creator. That's why we are encouraging everyone to read through the Bible this year and working together to commit key verses to memory. If you need a Bible, we have one for you. Speak to one of the ushers on a Sunday morning. They will make sure you receive one.

"Belief is truth held in the mind; faith is a fire in the heart."

-Joseph Fort Newton

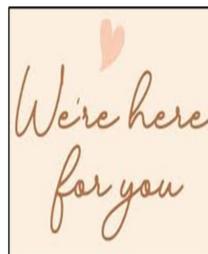
Reach out to Others



Central Baptist Church
16 Elm Street
Westerly, RI 02891
401-596-4929
www.cbwesteryri.org
Pastor Reverend Dr. Cal Lord
Associate Pastor Enrique Newman

If you're thinking about someone, do not let the moment pass. You don't even have to go out and buy a card. In Fellowship Hall Anita Greene has set up a card table. Choose a card, you can even enclose a CBC Bookmarker. You never know what someone is going through. It's always a blessing when someone knows they're thought about.

The Pastors are here for you...



If you need prayer, are going into the hospital, would like a visit or would like to make and appointment with one of the pastors, please call the church office (401) 596-4929. You can also send an email

directly to them:
Pastor Cal (calstigers@gmail.com).
Pastoral Enrique (pastorenriquenewman@gmail.com).
Thank you.



Jonnycake Food Pantry Needs:



Condiments ~ Canned Meats ~ Side Dishes

Soup ~ Pasta ~ Crackers ~ Coffee ~ Tea

*Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.
Philippians 2:4 (NKJV)*



HELP WANTED FOR KID'S CHURCH

We need volunteers to join us in leading Kid's Church. As our program grows, we are seeking team leaders and weekly helpers. It's a great opportunity for all ages to serve.



Right Now Media is a free for you

Do you have RightNow Media? It is like the Netflix of Christian video and Bible studies. It is free to all of our members and friends. There are things for men, women, couples, and children. Great messages from popular Christian authors and speakers. Please email the church office (centralbaptistchurch16@gmail.com) and we will send a link if you'd like to sign up!

Weekly Offering Envelopes

The 2026 weekly offering envelopes are available in Fellowship Hall. Please contact Nancy Gibson if you do not see yours. Thank you.

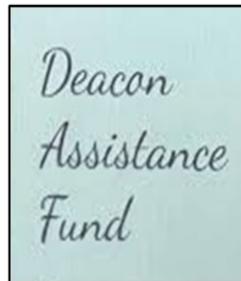


**Volunteer Help Needed at
Central Baptist Nursery School**

We are looking for individuals who love children and are willing to be on a list as a volunteer or substitute teacher for our nursery school. If you are interested and would like to know what is required, please contact Cathy Burnside.



The Deacon's Fellowship Fund

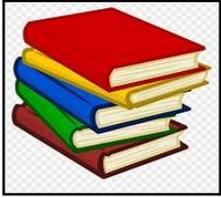


If you need help with groceries, a small home repair, home heating assistance or a medical expense, please speak to Pastor Cal or Scott Gail Chair of the Deacon

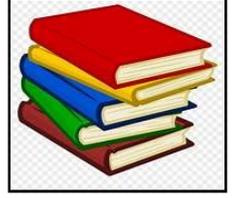
Board. You can find Deacon Outreach forms in the office or Acts 2 forms in the office for heating. Your request will be held in confidence.

FELLOWSHIP FUND

Library Corner & Library Room



The Library Corner bookcase is located in the back of Fellowship Hall.
New additions and suggested readings are available.
Please visit the complete Library Room down the Nursery School Hallway near Fellowship Hall.
There are many more titles and topics to catch your interest.
A sign-out sheet is available at both locations.
Why not read a library book to start the month.



Christian Living

The Last Christian Generation by Josh McDowell

The research on today's young people reveal an alarming trend. They have redefined what it means to be Christian. The majority of our church young people do not believe Christ is the Son of God, do not believe the Holy Spirit is a real entity, and think 'doing good' earns them a place in heaven, which is virtually no different from non-Christians. Here Josh McDowell strikes at the heart of the problem and offers a clear solution. "We must bring this new generation face to face with who Christ really is. They know the facts, but they don't know Him. They are believing distorted views of Christianity. This book documents the urgency of the crisis but provides a fresh revelation of the heart of God through seven lifelong responses of a true follower of Christ. It is essential that we reintroduce the real and relevant Christ to our young people.

Spirituality

The Prodigal God: Recovering the Heart of the Christian Faith by Timothy Keller

In *The Prodigal God*, Keller takes his trademark intellectual approach to understanding Christianity and uses the parable of the prodigal son to reveal an unexpected message of hope and salvation. Within that parable Jesus reveals God's prodigal grace toward both the irreligious and the moralistic. This book will challenge both the devout and skeptics to see Christianity in a whole new way.

The Search for Significance: Seeing Your True Worth Through God's Eyes by Robert McGee

We are all searching for significance to ourselves, to others, to our community and to our world. Discover that true significance is found only in Christ.

This powerful book tells us that the journey begins in a very private place—your thoughts. The lies that trigger the cycle of self-doubt, robbing you of joyful living are revealed in this book, confronting these lies, dismantling them, and pointing us to the truth that God, the source of all life, is the source of life's meaning.

The God You May Not Know by David Jeremiah

Our personalities inevitably conform to our gods. When we worship inferior versions of God – money, status, security, power, pleasure, you name it – we become like our idols. But if your God is the almighty Creator of Scripture, you've got a lifetime of joy ahead of you. So, it is no exaggeration to say that the study of God is the supreme study of a lifetime. It lifts our thoughts, steadies our nerves, purifies our motives, expands our confidence, and strengthens our influence. The study of God is the apex of all reality. One of the reasons we don't love God as much as we should is because we don't know Him as well as we ought. Trying to comprehend the person of God is like trying to capture all the galaxies of the universe in a child's prism. Yet the Bible encourages us to try, for God seeks to be known. Knowing our eternal God changes our daily lives—and He is well worth knowing, for He alone is worthy of all praise!

Fiction

A Dream Fulfilled (Angel of Mercy Series #4) by Al Lacy

Continuing with the adventures of Old West heroine Breanna Baylor, this book traces the growing friendship between Breanna and fellow certified medical nurse Stefanie Andrews. When she arrives in Denver to work at the new Mile High Hospital, the lonely young Stephanie is nursing deep wounds from her childhood, caused by the death of her mother and abandonment by her father. Yet Denver holds new beginnings for the woman of faith as she faces danger, builds touching new friendships, confronts the father who once left her, meets the man of her dreams, and miraculously rediscovers the mother she believed to be lost in this heart-warming story.



"Travelling in the company of those we love is home in motion."



*** IT'S NOT TO LATE! - SEATS AVAILABLE ***

The **Central Baptist Travelers** will be traveling to Lancaster, Pennsylvania for a three-day trip, **June 18-20, 2026**. We will be going to the **Sight and Sound Theater** in Lancaster to see **"Joshua."** The cost per person is **\$560.00**. This includes, lodging, breakfast, three meals, theater tickets, transportation, fun and all gratuities.

For those who have never traveled with us and would like more information before making your decision please see Agnes Trebisacci in church. If you are interested in going, we ask that you please mail in a non-refundable deposit of \$100.00 each for you and your roommate. (The deposit will be returned if you cannot go and we fill your spot.) Checks should be made out and mailed to Central Baptist Church, 16 Elm Street, Westerly, RI 02891, or placed in the brown locked box outside of the church office with a notation on both check and envelope **"Joshua Trip."** This trip is filling up so get your deposits in soon. Once your deposit is made you can make periodic payments with last payment due by **May 18, 2026**.

For more information you can also contact our church office (centralbaptistchurch16@gmail.com) or call our church office (401-596-4929) and speak to Dorothy.
Blessings,

Human Resource Team



We are putting together a Human Resource Team. If you have experience or a skill set that would help us navigate the complexities of today's employment environment, please speak to Pastor Cal. We have an employee manual and some policies in place. We'd like to review them and bring them up to date.



Substitute Church Bus Drivers



CHURCH BUS

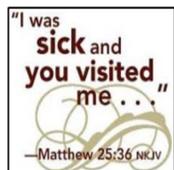
We have a dedicated core of drivers who are making schedule stops each week.



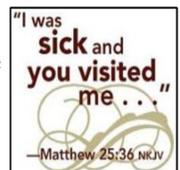
CHURCH BUS

A big thank you to Ed Lowe, Fritz Eckel, Rick Mann, Duane Maranda and John Riley. Every once in a while there is a gap in our schedule. We are looking for individuals with a clean driving record who would be willing to step in if a need arises. Speak to Ed Lowe or Pastor Cal.

Elderly and Shut-In



Please remember our elderly and shut-in members. It's always nice to give them a call, ask if they need anything. You can also visit them or send a card. We are all Brothers and Sisters in Christ and should look after each other.





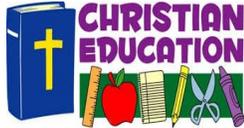
BOARD OF TRUSTEES



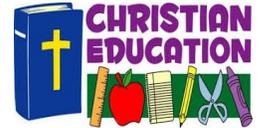
The Board of Trustees has completed the Spend Plan for 2026, and it was approved on February 8. Thanks to the professional staff for accepting no annual increases for this year and the hard work of Pastor Cal, George Rezendes, Fritz Eckel, Melissa Lestinsky, and Francine Sullivan reducing our estimated deficit to less than \$3,000.

This month the Board will be evaluating the list of things that need to be done to maintain and improve our Church facilities and grounds. We will discuss priority, cost, and capability. This will be used to set up the work planning for the reinvigorated Properties Committee. As of now we have 8 volunteers who are willing to help as needed. If you are interested, please text Bob Burnside at 860 460-7944 or email at rburnside@tasmx.com.

Respectfully, Bob Burnside



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



March: A Season of Renewal

The month of March often marks a beautiful transition—from the quiet stillness of winter to the fresh awakening of spring. In the natural world, it is a season of renewal, new beginnings, and growth. Spiritually, this change reflects God’s divine pattern of renewal woven throughout Scripture.

The Bible reminds us, *“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!”* (2 Corinthians 5:17). In Christ, we experience true transformation. We leave behind our old ways and embrace a new identity rooted in Him. This is the hope and renewal found in our faith.

Springtime reveals God’s design for growth and new life in all creation—and that includes each of us. Just as the earth is refreshed, we too are invited into spiritual renewal.

Scripture guides us in this process: *“Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.”* (Romans 12:2). We renew our minds by reading, reflecting on, and living out God’s Word. The Bible is our faithful guide, equipping us to understand and follow His will.

It is important to remember that transformation is not a one-time event, but an ongoing journey. As we continue to grow in Christ, we are continually being renewed.

We invite you to join one of our many small groups as we share the Good News, encourage one another, and grow together in faith and in the knowledge of God’s Word. Let this Blessed season be one of renewal for us all.

From Our Tax Advisor

The legislation that was passed on July 4, 2025, creates a permanent, above-the-line, deduction for charitable donations of \$1,000 per single tax filer and \$2,000 per couple who file jointly.

This is for non-itemizers, taxpayers who use the standard deduction, and it starts in 2026. This provides tax benefits to a large number of taxpayers who donate but do not itemize, since about 90% of taxpayers take the standard deduction. A similar policy was temporarily available in 2020 – 2021 during the pandemic when non-itemizers had a \$300 deduction per filer (joint filers had a \$600 deduction for 2021).

The OBBBA is permanent. This new deduction means that if you don’t itemize you have a way to reduce your tax bill. To illustrate, a non-itemizer single filer in the 12% marginal tax bracket will have a \$120 tax reduction for a \$1,000 cash donation and a couple will have a \$240 tax reduction for a \$2,000 cash donation. For those in the 22% marginal tax bracket, the non-itemizer single filer will see a \$220 tax reduction for a \$1,000 donation and a couple a \$440 tax reduction for a \$2,000 donation.

Just For Kids



MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE

It's time to tune up your Bible brain!

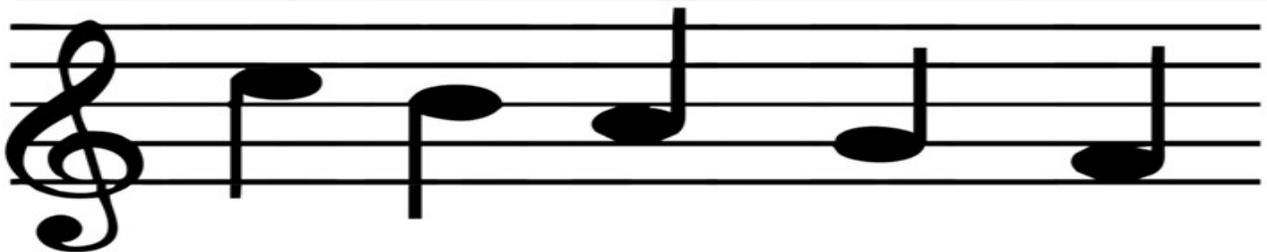
Decode the notes to discover a verse that sings with joy.

Using the musical note code, write the words of Psalm 100:2 (NIV) in the correct order below.

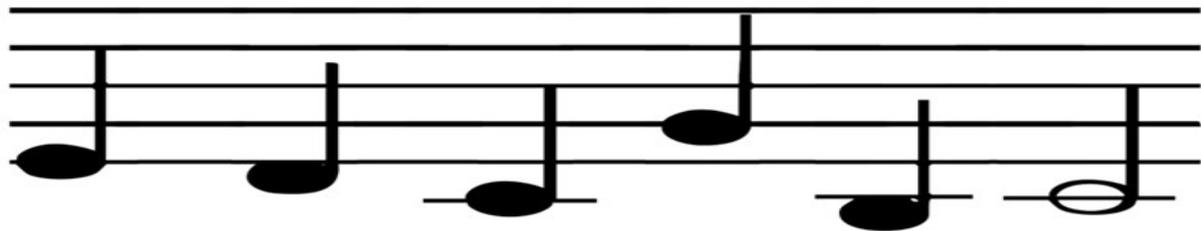
CODE: before come gladness him joyful LORD songs the with Worship



_____ the _____ ;



_____ .

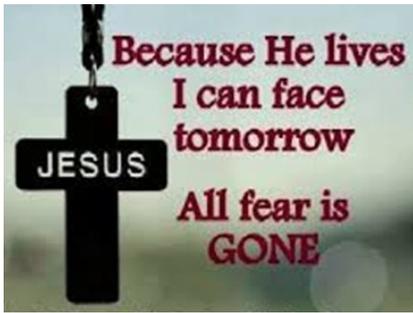


Answers: Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs.

SMILES AND SO FORTH

Humor, Wisdom, Poetry, Quizzes, and So Forth

We Have Tomorrow!



During the Korean conflict, journalist Marguerite Higgins, a courageous and award-winning war correspondent, spoke with a young soldier shivering in the bitter cold. He was eating from a tin can, his face streaked with mud, when she asked, "If I could give you anything in the world you wanted, what would you ask for?"

The soldier paused for a moment, then answered quietly, "Give me tomorrow."

What a simple yet profound longing. For those living in hardship, tomorrow represents hope - the chance to see another sunrise, to experience peace, to begin again.

As Christians, we live with the blessed assurance that we not only have today, but also tomorrow - an eternal tomorrow promised through the risen Christ. Scripture reminds us, "Death has been swallowed up in victory" (1 Corinthians 15:54, NRSV). And again, "Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Corinthians 15:57, NRSV).

Because of Christ's resurrection, we no longer fear what tomorrow may bring. Our future is secure, our hope unshaken. In Him, tomorrow is already ours.



Bible Quiz

In Bible times, shepherds spent most of their days with their sheep - guiding them to food and water and guarding them from danger. When a sheep was injured, the shepherd treated the wound with a special liquid. What was it?



- A. Water
- B. Honey
- C. A Salt Solution
- D. Olive Oil

Answer: D (See Psalm 23:5)

Prayer List

- 
- 
- Mary Lee B
 - Henry Boeniger
 - Bob Booth
 - Arthur Burton
 - Emily Clapham
 - Joan Cushman
 - Marcia Erskine
 - Mark Faiola
 - Katie Feinstein
 - Arline Fitzhugh
 - Angelo Gaccione
 - Connie Gavitt
 - Judy Grady
 - Peggy Hewett
 - Harry & Barbara Higgins
 - Al Hume
 - Vicky Keane
 - Dan & Valerie LaPointe
 - Lori Lord
 - Gary Lowe
 - Marilyn Main
 - Ann Mason
 - Fred Mason
 - John Millett
 - Brian Moore
 - Barbara Neugent
 - Dr. Newman, Mission Honduras
 - Kay Perrone
 - Terri Plumley
 - Paulette Retsinas
 - Dolores Sais
 - Roy Springer
 - Karen Stellmaker
 - Ruth Ann & Jim Stewart
 - Skip Terwilliger
 - Elizabeth Webster
 - Our Missionaries
 - Our Kids' Church Program
 - Our Pastors
 - Unsaved
 - World Peace

We are revamping and updating our Text and Prayer chains. If you'd like to receive notices of prayer requests, please email the church office with your preference, (email or text) and we will add you to the list.

Those in the Military:

- Sargent Jordan Payne , Camp Lejeune, NC
- Cpt. Evan Caval, Ft. Campbell, KY
- Lieutenant Colonel Brian Gavitt
- Lance Corporal Christian Smith
- Sargent David Aiello, US Marines



All of those who serve in our armed forces.

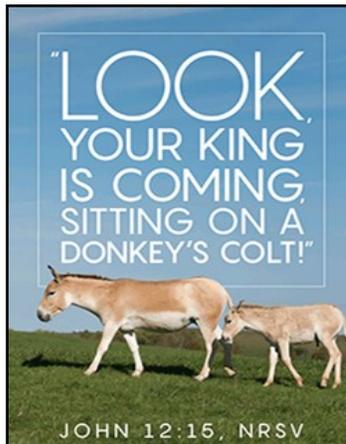
Blessed is he
who comes in
the name of
the LORD!
Psalm 118:26, ESV



Ken & Linda Chaffee - 29th

... he **humbled** himself
and became **obedient**
to the point of **death** —
even **death on a cross.**

PHILIPPIANS 2:8, NRSV



"Blessed
is the
one
who comes
in the
name
of the
Lord!"
Mark 11:9, NRSV



Our Shut in Members at Home

Judy Grady & Ann Mason

Royal Nursing Home

Kay Perrone
79 Beach St, Westerly 02891

The Elms

Joan Cushman
Tom Beaudoin
Peggy Hewett
Ron Taddy
22 Elm Street, Westerly, RI 02891



Benchmark Plymouth Crossing

Winnie Hamilton, 157 South Street - Apt 218,
Plymouth, MA 02360

Pendleton Rehabilitation and Nursing Center

Elizabeth Webster, 44 Maritime Drive
Mystic, CT 06355

Sick & Shut-in



- 2 Donna Antonino
- 3 Jennifer Bryan
- 3 Kay Perrone
- 4 Kurahn Payne
- 7 Linda Hume
- 11 Linda Bruno
- 11 Marcia Erskine
- 14 Steve Fish
- 15 Sandra Lawing
- 17 Gia Newman
- 17 Roy Springer
- 20 Susan Capalbo
- 20 Kathy Caval
- 22 Dolores Sais
- 23 Nancy Balentine
- 23 Sofia Scarano
- 24 Jon Humphrey
- 24 Catherine Knight
- 25 Rachel Meyer
- 26 Tony Brewer
- 27 Dale Rahl
- 31 Vanessa Checralah
- 31 Don Plante



- 2 Olivia Flanagan
- 3 Paul Georgetti Jr.
- 8 Janet Gerbutavich
- 11 Marissa Lombardo
- 12 Mark Gildea
- 13 Al Samuel Jr.
- 14 Phyllis Penhallow
- 15 Linda Chaffee
- 15 Susan Cozzolino
- 15 Casey Payne



HAPPY MARCH!



MARCH 2026



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Communion Sunday 9:00AM Adult Sun School 10:30AM Worship 6:00PM Anchor Church	2 10:00AM Coffee w/Pastor 6:30PM Commands/Jesus 7:00PM Friendship Circle	3 6:00PM String Ensemble 6:00PM Mission Board	4 5:30PM Choir Rehearsal 6:30PM Hymns We Sing 7:00PM Sermon Talkback Weight Watchers	5 6:30PM Men's Study	6 7:30PM Intro to Worship Band with Scott Gail	7 8:00AM Men's Breakfast ABCORI Annual Meeting
8 9:00AM Adult Sun School 10:30AM Worship 1:00PM Bowl-a-thon 6:00PM Anchor Church	9 10:00AM Coffee w/Pastor 5:30PM Christian Ed Board 6:30PM Commands/Jesus	10 6:00PM String Ensemble 6:00PM Sisters in Christ	11 5:30PM Choir Rehearsal 6:30PM Hymns We Sing 7:00PM Sermon Talkback Weight Watchers	12 6:30PM Men's Study	13 CNS Professional Development Day - No School	14 9:00AM ABWM Retreat
15 9:00AM Adult Sun School 10:30AM Worship 6:00PM Anchor Church	16 10:00AM Coffee w/Pastor 4:00PM Trustee Board 6:30PM Deacon Board 6:30PM Commands/Jesus	17 6:00PM String Ensemble	18 5:30PM Choir Rehearsal 6:30PM Hymns We Sing 7:00PM Sermon Talkback Weight Watchers	19 6:30PM Men's Study	20 7:30PM Intro to Worship Band with Scott Gail	21
22 9:00AM Adult Sun School 10:30AM Worship 6:00PM Anchor Church	23 10:00AM Coffee w/Pastor 5:30PM Church Council 6:30PM Commands/Jesus	24 6:00PM String Ensemble	25 Noon - SALT Luncheon 5:30PM Choir Rehearsal 6:30PM Hymns We Sing 7:00PM Sermon Talkback Weight Watchers WARM Meal - Trustees	26 6:30PM Men's Study	27	28 10:00AM Almost Persuaded Bible Study 4:00PM Cantata-Ashway 7th Day Baptist
29 Palm Sunday 9:00AM Adult Sun School 10:30AM Worship 4:00PM Cantata-Hope Valley Bapt 6:00PM Anchor Church	30 10:00AM Coffee w/Pastor 6:00PM Brothers in Christ	31 6:00PM String Ensemble				

Central Baptist Church

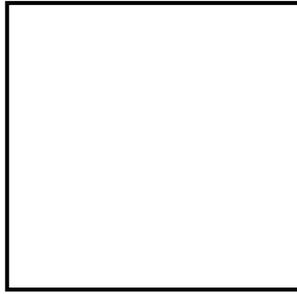
16 Elm Street
Westerly, RI 02891
Phone [401] 596-4929

centralbaptist@cbcwesterly.org

Return Service Requested

*We join together to nurture
Christ-centered faith, foster
Christ-like maturity, and share
Christ's ministry within our
family, community and world.*

Monthly Newsletter



NONPROFIT ORG.
US POSTAGE PAID
WESTERLY, RI
PERMIT # 67

