

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
February 2026
Volume 19 Issue 2

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/@CalLord

Upcoming Events in February



The Return of Anchor Church



Sermon Talk Back Group



Brothers in Christ Meetings



Soup-er Bowl Soup Sale



Another S.A.L.T. Luncheon with a terrific speaker.

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**

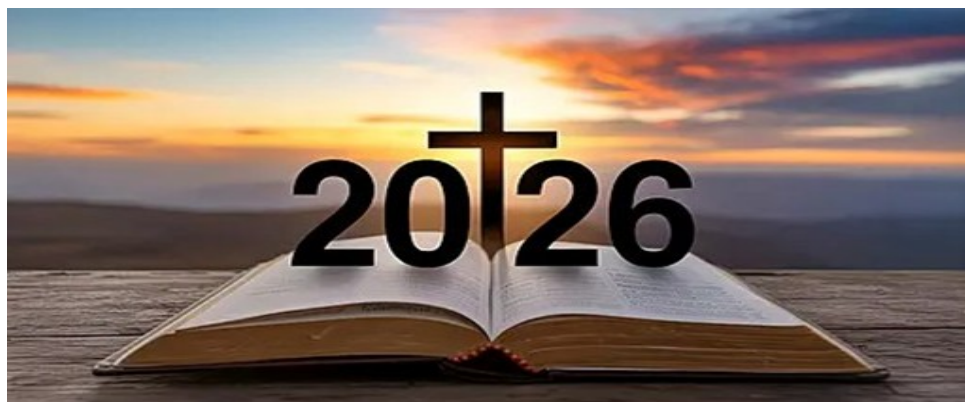
Dorothy McClure
 Suzanne Vanaman
 and
 A host of other contributors

**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

**Attn: All Boards/Committees & Small Groups**

The Board of Trustees has made a change on our custodial services at church. We have contracted with Partners in Grime to do the weekly church cleaning going forward. They will come twice a week on Mondays and Wednesdays to thoroughly clean the church. This means that each of us who use the church for events and meetings will be responsible for setting up tables and chairs, picking up after your gathering or meeting, and putting anything you use during the event back to the way it was when you arrived. Please pick up your trash and place it in the new trash containers located on each floor by the men's and women's rest rooms.

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 or meeting. The Property Team can assist you with your set-up. The team has a labeled box in the outer office for you to submit your form once completed.

Deb Peterson remains as our Sunday Morning Custodian. She is responsible for opening up the church, turning on the lights, opening the doors, ensuring that the heat is on and all areas are prepared for use. She is also responsible for cleaning all areas that have been used on Sunday morning, turning off the lights, turning down the heat and closing up after service has ended.

Tia Burgess is our Nursery School custodian and she is responsible for cleaning the areas within the walls of our Nursery School.

If you have any questions, please speak to Property Team leader, Bob Burnside or Pastor Cal.

Thank you for helping to keep our church clean.

**CHURCH MEETINGS**

February 3
 Mission Board

February 9
 5:30PM Christian Ed. Board

February 16
 4:30PM Trustee Board
 6:30PM Deacon Board

February 23
 5:30PM Church Council



February 7 - 8:00AM

Fellowship Hall

All men invited

PASTOR CAL'S CORNER

Dear Friends,

It appears that we are making up for the mild winters we've enjoyed the last few years. It snowed in December to knock out our White Gift Celebration. It has now snowed for two weeks in January and there is the threat of another storm the last weekend of the month as I write this. A few weeks back I said that I wouldn't be inclined to cancel church unless we had a blizzard or severe ice storm. Then God dropped 14 inches on us. We still had church and 31 hearty souls came out to worship. But here is the point. I will always be here. I can walk. The doors will be open if you need to be here on a Sunday morning. We will offer some type of live service. But, your safety is always my first priority. Don't be a hero. Now that we can broadcast the services on Facebook live and YouTube, you can still worship from the security of your home during inclement weather. Come when the weather is good. Stay safe when it isn't. I will try to send an email to alert you on what's happening. We will post it on our website and have it on the answering machine. If it is snowing in the morning, we will probably cancel the Adult Bible Study and Kids Church. As they say in the fire service, if you decide to come out, proceed under caution.



I want to make you aware of a few new offerings this winter/spring. On Wednesday nights at 7:00 pm we are hosting "Sermon Talkback!" It is your opportunity to ask questions and to go a little deeper into the topic of the previous Sunday's sermon. Actually, you can bring any questions you have about Scripture, our sermons and church life to the group. We had ten people at our initial session as we discussed the nature of God. In coming weeks we will be discussing several other Basic Christian doctrines including the doctrine of Christ, the Holy Spirit, the nature of Man, the destructive nature of sin and the power of repentance and forgiveness, the work of the church, the role of Scripture and the end times. Come when you can and let's learn from one another.

The second offering to note is the return of Anchor Church. During the Lenten season we will be offering a shorter, contemporary worship service on Sunday evenings at 6:00 pm. This will begin on Sunday, February 22nd through Palm Sunday, March 29th. We hope some of you will take advantage of these services and invite a friend who may not be attending worship service already.

The planning for a short term mission trip in 2026 is just getting underway. If you are interested or have thoughts where we might go, to serve this year, please speak to Pastor Cal, Noreen Gerrish, Janet Gerbutavich or Carol Arnold. As we make plans, we have already scheduled our first fundraiser, the Soup-er Bowl Sunday Sale on February 8th.

Finally, we are proceeding with plans for the ordination of Pastor Enrique Newman. Last Fall he finished his Master's Degree in Ministry from Liberty University. Now we are working with ABCORI's Standing Committee on Ministry to move towards an ordination council and eventually an Ordination Service. Please pray for him as we go through this process. It is an exciting time for all of us.

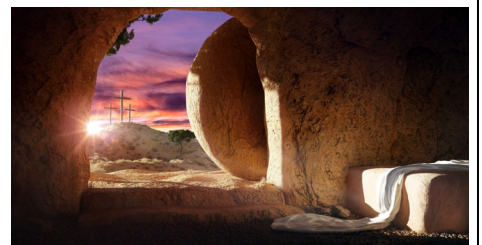
Be Blessed! See you in church. Pastor Cal

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

Sensitivity is Key



There is a tremendous difference between being sensitive and being overly sensitive. Part of the Christian life is making an effort to understand those around us. Each person's uniqueness reflects God's creativity in forming them. There should be no expectation that we are all alike or even think alike. Not even when you may both claim to be followers of Jesus.

Jesus had diverse experiences in his life. He encountered many in his inner and outer circles at different stages of their lives, with varied perspectives and approaches. Jesus always demonstrated sensitivity through compassion.

Every person carries a unique set of experiences and attitudes. We are not the center of the universe, Jesus is. Therefore, merging both can be complicated, but it helps respect the distinctness of each individual we encounter.

Application: Remember that the unifying element in humanity's diversity is Jesus and his work at the cross. When a Christian is sensitive to God, they become more aware and understanding of others.

"For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body - Jews or Greeks, slaves or free - and all were made to drink of one Spirit." **Corinthians 12:12-14 (ESV)**

Question: Have I been sensitive to the Holy Spirit? Or have I been overly sensitive to the flesh?

Call to Action: When the Holy Spirit tugs at you, pay attention. When he leads, follow His guidance. When He commands, obey without hesitation.

Blessings,

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



Board of Deacons



“The Month of Love”

What is the spiritual message of February? February is a month of purification, renewal and new beginnings. This may sound familiar to you. I feel every month is a chance for renewal and a fresh start. It is a time to connect with our inner selves and focus on spiritual growth.

Because February also contains Valentine’s Day, the day to express our love for one another, there could never be a better time to focus on God, the one who gives us unconditional love.

Unconditional love is such a radical concept, that it is hard for us to grasp it fully. To think that nothing we could possibly do will stop Him from loving us is a concept larger than we can imagine. But His love is perfect, even when we aren’t.

There are times when all of us feel unworthy of God’s love, when we are dissatisfied with our behavior we may find ourselves pulling away from God. We try to earn his approval by trying harder, when we could be running back to his outstretched arms! When we are feeling unworthy, or unloved, all we have to do is ask. In God’s unfailing love, He is waiting, willing, and wanting to welcome us back.

God does request something from us though. He asks that we share His love, and our love with others. As it says in John 4:15-16

“If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in him, and he in God. And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him.”

Continuing on with our monthly prayer request for Pastor Cal and Pastor Enrique please pray for Spiritual Strength: “But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.” Isaiah 40:31

Heavenly Father, We lift up Pastor Cal and Pastor Enrique before You. Please strengthen their spirit, renew their energy, and empower them to carry out Your work faithfully. Protect them from fatigue and discouragement, and fill their hearts with courage, joy, and perseverance. May they rise above every challenge, inspired by Your Spirit, to lead Your flock with clarity, wisdom, and unwavering faith. Let your power sustain them daily in all aspects of their ministry and their lives.

In the name of Your Son, Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

Submitted by Karen Boeniger

With some excerpts from Jesus Calling

Treasurer's Report

	December 2025 Actual	December Plan	Year-to-Date Actuals	Annual Plan
Total Income	\$46,696.17	\$54,007.65	\$509,334.62	\$547,520.00
Total Expenses	\$65,982.04	\$45,885.69	\$546,220.60	\$556,309.00
Net Ordinary Income	(\$19,285.87)	\$8,121.96	(\$36,885.98)	(\$8,789.00)

The 2025 financial plan was executed as planned. Comparing year-to-date revenues and expenditures to planned amounts 93.0% of planned revenues have been received and 98.2% of planned expenditures have been executed. Regular giving year-to-date totals \$244,529.00 representing an increase of 4.6% when compared to last year planned giving. At the end of the year 72% of funds planned to be drawn from the endowment have been utilized, leaving \$31,700.00 in the endowment providing access to additional revenue if it is necessary. End of Year Expenditures were less than this years planned amounts.

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.cbccwesterlyri.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

In recent years we have hosted several outdoor events in our back parking lot. Our volunteers have rolled out tables and chairs, set up the grills and designated a space for the event. As our crew has gotten older, it has become increasingly challenging to do so. Two years ago the idea arose of erecting a permanent pavilion that would be suitable for these events. The total cost has been estimated at 100,000. This space could be utilized for these events and so many more outdoor opportunities for our church family. It is a big ask but we've already received over \$12,000 in donations toward the project. Speak to Richard DeBernardo, Bob Burnside or Pastor Cal if you'd like to know more about the project or how you can direct a tax deductible memorial gift towards it.





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

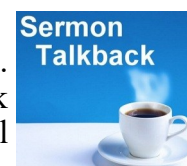
This yearlong study is designed to lead you into steady biblical growth as you walk through fifty commands of Jesus and learn to live them out. Guided by insights from John Piper's All That Jesus Commanded, you will be strengthened and supported in a continual journey of discipleship. Led by Pastor Enrique.

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.



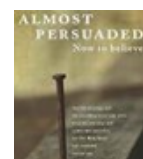
Thursday Morning at 10:00am - Women's Bible Study

Ladies Bible discussion on the Wonder of Grace and Mercy through the eyes of biblical characters as well as a few in the 20th century. Come and hear how we can be strengthened and encouraged in this coming year. Led by Geri Maloney. This small group began January 8th thru February 5th.

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 24 Fields View Road, Bradford, RI. Call Scott at 401-374-1435 with questions.

Next meetings is February 28.



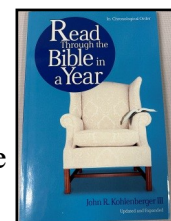
Our Monthly Bible Memory Verse:

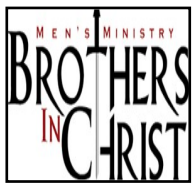
February -

"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."
Matthew 5:16

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. Copies will be available after the first of the year. 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.





Our next meeting will be on Monday, February 23rd 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.



Friendship Circle

A new year has begun, the Circle is right in the swing of things. To start, we have elected new officers: Co-chairs - Cathy Burnside & Sarah Rofrano, Treasurer - Noreen Gerrish, Assistant Treasurer - Georgette DeBernardo and Secretary - Meredith Eckel.

We will continue to meet at 7 o'clock on the first Monday of the month and our agenda is full. Among other things, we will be reviewing our by-laws and setting goals for this year. All ladies are invited to come and to be part of the fun and frivolity. We've already started planning for our next Christmas Bazaar. Truly, the past one was a big success, and we are determined to be even better in the future. Many thanks to all who helped make the bazaar a success, as a worker, a donor or a supporter. We appreciate you all.



Soup-er Bowl Sunday

It's time for our Annual "Soup-er Bowl Sunday" soup sale for future mission trips. If you would like to contribute now is the time to think about is your favorite soup to make. Any soup donations should be made and dropped off in the church kitchen on Saturday, February 7th, before 11:00am. Soups will be sold after church on Sunday, February 8th. Any questions please contact Carol Arnold or Janet Gerbutavich.

PARISH

PARISH COMMITTEE

PARISH

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



MISSION BOARD

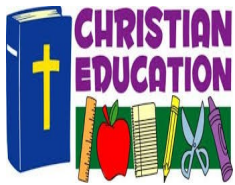
America for Christ

Your gifts to the America for Christ offering impact thousands through ministries with marginalized children, mission trips that transform lives torn asunder by hurricanes, resources that cultivate Christian leaders, chaplains who bring comfort to hospitals and nursing homes, and much more. Two-thirds of received offerings are directed to the American Baptist Home Mission Societies and one-third are directed to the ABC regional

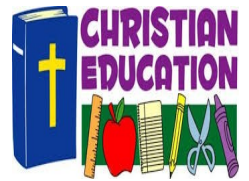
office of Central Baptist Church.

For nearly 200 years, American Baptist Home Mission Society has answered God's call to meet the needs of those living on the margins. They develop programs, publications and resources that encourage, equip and strengthen Christian leaders to make a positive impact in peoples lives. They promote the Christian faith across the United States and Puerto Rico by cultivating Christ-centered leaders and disciples, who heal and transform communities in partnership with American Baptists and others.

This offering is taken annually in February. 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



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



The Beautiful One (Jesus)

Philippians 4:13 I can do all through Christ who gives me strength.

There is no such word as can't with Jesus! All things are possible with Him!

One night I was attending a church that was having a testimony night. The Holy Spirit came upon me like never before and I gave one of my best testimonies to this day! After the testimony night was over the pastor brought me up to his office and showed me this verse. I never forgot that verse. It has helped me in so many ways throughout my life. Whatever the situation is you can overcome anything with Jesus, the beautiful One! The Bible always has the answer. Amen!

Christian Education happens in many places, at many times. In discipleship we spread the word and love of Jesus! Part of sharing the Lord's word is sharing our testimony. The world is waiting to hear yours!

Bring your children to church

The earlier you begin bringing your children to church, the more accustomed they will be to coming. It will become a natural environment for them and the people will become like extended family.



Believer's Baptisms at Central

What is Christian Baptism? It is the means by which a person makes a public profession of faith and commits to discipleship. In the waters of baptism, a person says, "I confess my faith in Christ; Jesus has cleansed my soul from sin, and I now have a new life in him." Believer's baptism illustrates, in dramatic style, the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. At the same time, it also illustrates our death to sin and our new life in Christ. As the person confesses the Lord Jesus, he dies to sin ([Romans 6:11](#)) and is raised to a brand-new life ([Colossians 2:12](#)).

Being submerged in the water represents death to sin, and emerging from the water represents the cleansed, holy life that follows salvation. ([Romans 6:4](#)) puts it this way: "We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life." Very simply, water baptism is an outward testimony of the inward change in a believer's life. If you'd like to know more about baptism, please call the church office or speak to one of the pastors.

Family Dedications at Central Baptist

A family dedication is a ceremony in which believing parents, and sometimes entire families, make a commitment before the Lord to raise that child according to God's Word and God's ways. At the same time, the congregation promises to encourage and support the family as they fulfill their promise. Many Christian churches practice baby dedication instead of infant baptism (also known as *Christening*) as their primary celebration of a child's birth into the community of faith. If you have small children and would like to know more about having your child(ren) dedicated, please contact the office or one of our pastors.



Christian Weddings at Central and at the Avondale Chapel



The essence of a traditional Christian marriage is a covenantal commitment between two people, a man and a woman, that is founded in God's love. The wedding is the ceremony in which two people publicly unite as husband and wife in the presence of God and their family and friends. The pastor is an official representative of the church and gives his blessing to the union. The gathered family and friends join in affirming the marriage through their presence, their prayers, and their blessing. At both Central and Avondale, our pastors have the liberty to perform weddings for any couple, even non-members, who would like to have God's blessing on their marriage. They also have the right to turn down wedding requests for those that they feel are not looking for God's blessing or are not committed to Christ and each other.

Central Nursery School

From Central Nursery School,

The holidays flew by and we're already in the middle of January. This month we have been talking about "Winter", "Weather" and "Penguins and Cold Weather Animals". The animals that we are focusing on are the Arctic Fox, Emperor Penguins, Snow Leopard and Polar Bears. The children have been studying 5 facts about each to get ready for their "Quiz Game Show" at the end of the month.



The Monday/Wednesday/Friday class has been learning about the letters "J, K and L" and doing many educational activities to reinforce their learning. The children have also been proudly displaying their Art Work and writing samples in the hallway. We will have a "Penguin Week" with all learning and literacy activities focusing on these interesting animals. Science is in the plans when we will do an ice experiment with the children when they will be able to make predictions.

The children and teachers also were able to talk about Martin Luther King Jr. We talked about how he wanted everyone to be friends regardless of how they looked or where they came from or what they have. The M/W/F class wrote about what they could do to be a friend.

We would like to thank Mrs. Serra, our student Easton's mom for donating 24 whiteboards with erasers and markers. The children have been using them every day as they learn to spell their first and last names. Also, thank you to Miss Melanie from the Westerly Public Library who came to our classroom to visit, read and do an Art activity with the children.

Next month we will celebrate Valentine's Day, love and friendship.

Miss Leslie and Miss Tia



**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

A order for memorial bricks went out in January. If you are interested in ordering memorial bricks it 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.



*Thank you
for everything
you have
done for us*

Central Family,

We would like to extend our sincere gratitude for all the cards, prayers, phone calls, food, and visits during our recent health issues. We both had the flu and landed us in the hospital for a few days. Glad to report we are both doing so much better and look forward to getting back to being healthy and happy. The prayers were felt and the love from our church family kept us going. Thanks again to all of our sisters and brothers in Christ.

Sincerely, Skip & Judy

"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

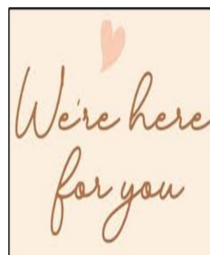
www.cbwesteryri.org

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 Kids 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 teachers 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

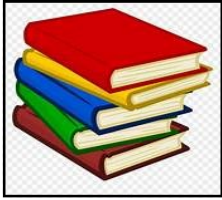


If you need help with groceries, a small home repair, home heating assistance or a medical expense, please speak to Pastor Cal or Scott Gail Chair of the Deacon

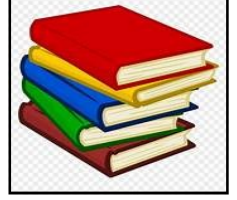
Board. You can find Deacon Outreach forms in the office or Acts 2 forms in the office for heating. Your request will be held in confidence.

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 New Year.



What is the purpose of a Church Library?

The church library is a teaching tool; it is an important place to study for the individual and the congregation. The library supports the mission of the church as well as the growth of individual members' faith.

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.

Our February S.A.L.T Luncheon

In January of 2025 we launched a new program called S.A.L.T. Luncheons. The acronym stands for Senior Adults Living Triumphantly. Bob Elmer was our first speaker and he shared the history of Watch Hill and the Ocean House. Since then we have had several wonderful speakers. On February 25th we will continue that tradition by hosting Carly Callahan, the Executive Director of the United Theater Organization.

Our gatherings feature a light lunch, a short devotion and the speaker. We begin at noon and try to end by 1:10 pm. These luncheons are especially designed for those age 55+ but all are welcome. We ask people to make a reservation so that we can plan accordingly for lunch.

A big thank you for our S.A.L.T. Leadership team. Martha Geehan, Prudy Williams, Mabel Payne and Meredith Eckel are arrange for our speakers, the beautiful theme decorations and table settings and act as servers. Brian Gerbutavich, Don Plante and Skip Terwilliger have been working in the kitchen to provide the light lunches each month. These programs are funded through a free will offering that is taken each month.

If you have an idea for a future speaker, please speak to a member of the leadership team.





*** IT'S NOT TOO 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,



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





BOARD OF TRUSTEES



The Board of Trustees has been busy with the 2026 spending plan preparation for vote Sunday February 8th. We are looking to reinvigorate the Properties Committee and are actively recruiting members to be part of a properties team. We are looking for members who are available to help with some repairs and maintenance projects needed this coming year. We are building contact information for all who are interested. No special skills required, just a desire to join in caring for our amazing facilities and grounds. A little bit of work, and a lot of fellowship is the objective.

Respectfully, Bob Burnside, Chairman



Substitute Church Bus Drivers



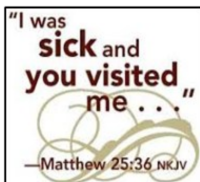
We have a dedicated core of drivers who are making schedule stops each week. A big thank you to Ed Lowe, Fritz Eckel, Rick Mann, Duane Maranda and John Riley. Every once in a while there is a gap in our schedule. We are looking for individuals with a clean driving record who would be willing to step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



Human Resource Team

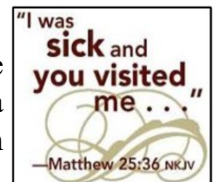


We are putting together a Human Resource Team. If you have experience or a skill set that would help us navigate the complexities of today's employment environment, please speak to Pastor Cal. We have an employee manual and some policies in place. We'd like to review them and bring them up to date.



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.



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.



Change some of the letters below to reveal this verse!

C's to L	Z's to H	P's to R
J's to A	Q's to T	X's to E
K's to O		

(The other letters stay the same.)

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} \text{" } & L & & & & & \\ C & K & V & X & Q & Z & X \\ & & & & C & K & P & D & Y & K & U & P \\ G & K & D & W & I & Q & Z & J & C & C & Y & K & U & P \\ Z & X & J & P & Q & J & N & D & W & I & Q & Z & J & C & C \\ Y & K & U & P & S & K & U & C & J & N & D & W & I & Q & Z \\ J & C & C & Y & K & U & P & M & I & N & D & J & N & D \\ W & I & Q & Z & J & C & C & Y & K & U & P \\ S & Q & P & X & N & G & Q & Z & . & " \end{array}$$

Answers: Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength..

SMILES AND SO FORTH

Humor, Wisdom, Poetry, Quizzes, and So Forth

Shine Without Wax



How sincere are you, really? How honest, dependable, and genuine? These are traits that shape our character and help others see Christ in us.

The word *sincere* comes from an old Latin phrase meaning "without wax." In ancient Rome, potters sometimes used wax to hide cracks in flawed pottery. Buyers would hold each piece up to the sunlight to see if it was truly solid and not hiding any imperfections.

When we allow the light of Christ to shine through our lives, it reveals both our rough spots and our strengths. The good news is that Jesus never shames us for the cracks; he restores us. As his light works within us, we grow into people of integrity who are whole, authentic, and sincerely his.



"Don't worry. I'm a church pastor. First little problem, and they'll find me."

Bible Quiz

The New Testament uses several Greek words to describe love. Which of the following best represents the **selfless, sacrificial love** that God shows to humanity?



- A. Eros
- B. Phileo
- C. Agape
- D. Storge

Answer: C (See John 3:16 and 1 Corinthians

Prayer List

Mary Lee B.
Bob Booth
Arthur Burton
Jenn Bryan



Carly
Joan Cushman
Marcia Erskine
Mark Faiola
Katie Feinstein
Arline Fitzhugh
Angelo Gaccione

Connie Gavitt
Judy Grady
Peggy Hewett

Harry & Barbara Higgins

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.

Nobody
can stop
what God is
about to do
in your life.



Barbara & Harry Higgins - 16th

God's timing is
always better.

Even when the wait feels
long or the path seems
unclear, He's never late.
Trust that He's aligning
everything for your good
and His glory.

TRUST IN
THE LORD WITH
ALL YOUR HEART,
AND DO NOT LEAN
ON YOUR OWN
UNDERSTANDING.
PROVERBS 3:5, ESV

GOD
IS NOT ASKING YOU
TO FIGURE IT OUT

GOD
IS ASKING YOU
TO TRUST
THAT HE
ALREADY HAS

**Our Shut in Members at Home**

Judy Grady & Ann Mason

Royal Nursing Home

Kay Perrone & Marilyn Main
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



1 Sharon Mitchell
4 Joan Cushman
4 Bruce Titterington
8 Brandon Greene
10 Karen Cioffi
10 Suzanne Vanaman
12 Marie Bertsch
12 Karter Bressette
13 Sandy Scavello
14 Julian Payne
15 Arthur Burton
17 Karen Stellmaker
19 Michelle Hallamore
22 John Millett
23 Michael Marra
25 Emma Waters
26 Noreen Gerrish
28 Don West Jr



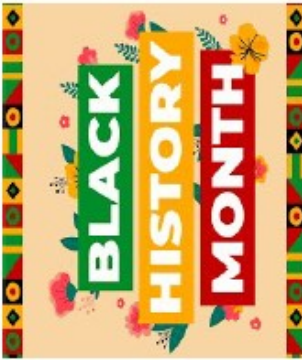
2 Donna Antonino
3 Jennifer Bryan
3 Kay Perrone
4 Kurahn Payne
7 Linda Hume
11 Linda Bruno
11 Marcia Erskine
14 Steve Fish
15 Sandra Lawing

Happy Birthday!

This is the day that the Lord
has made; let us rejoice and
be glad in it.

- Psalm 118:24

NO
PRAYER
IS TOO
SMALL
FOR THE
LORD



FEBRUARY 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Communion Sunday 9:00AM Adult Sun School 10:30AM Worship	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 10:00AM Women's Study 6:30PM Men's Study	6 7:30PM Intro to Worship Band with Scott Gail	7 8:00AM Men's Breakfast
8 9:00AM Adult Sun School 10:30AM Worship	9 10:00AM Coffee w/Pastor 5:30PM Christian Ed Board 6:30PM Commands/Jesus	10 6:00PM String Ensemble 7:00PM 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	14 Newsletter Deadline <i>Valentine's Day</i>
15 9:00AM Adult Sun School 10:30AM Worship	16 10:00AM Coffee w/Pastor 4:00PM Trustee Board 6:30PM Deacon Board 6:30PM Commands/Jesus Closed for Washington's Birthday CNS Vacation	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 6:00PM Brother's in Christ 6:30PM Commands/Jesus	24 6:00PM String Ensemble	25 5:30PM Choir Rehearsal 6:30PM Hymns We Sing 7:00PM Sermon Talkback Weight Watchers WARM Meal - Christian Ed	26 6:30PM Men's Study	27	28 10:00AM Almost Persuaded Bible Study

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



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