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 2023 Volume 16 Issue 3

Worship With Us At Central Baptist Sunday Worship Service



Sanctuary 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

HOW TO CONTACT US

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To see the newsletter in color, visit our website



Mission, Music and Ministry

February at church had its share of special moments. (Clockwise from the right) Pam and Laura package up soup for the Mission Team's Souper Bowl Sale; Our Baptist Bowlers supported the Jonnycake Center; Our van was a moving billboard downtown; We celebrated Christian marriage on Valentine's Day Weekend; We had a full choir ready to lead worship; Our Worship Team sang in February and is now singing once a month.









CHURCH STAFF NEWSLETTER TEAM Rev. Dr. Cal Lord, Jr., Pastor Suzanne Vanaman Lynn Johnson, Music Director Dot Marra Dorothy McClure, Administrator **Dorothy McClure** Ray Deptulski, Jr., Custodian and Don West, Custodian A host of other contributors Church Office Hours Monday - Friday, 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Newsletter SMALL GROUP STUDIES Deadline Articles for The Good Sunday Mornings - 9:00 AM Word, are due the **The Gospel of Luke** - Led by Meredith Eckel in the Chapel 15th of the month. Please submit articles Thursdays - 6:00 PM - Themes of Genesis as a WORD document if Led by Pastor Cal in the Chapel We will explore what God teaches us about himself possible. through the wonders of creation? This class is thru e-mail all articles to: Lent. Suzanne Vanaman Wednesdays - 9:30 AM - Woman's Bible Led by Geri Maloney in the Chapel suzevan64@gmail.com Learn how to how to read and interpret the Bible to apply it to your life. **NEEDLEWORKERS** Sundays - 6:00 PM - The Chosen (Season 3) thru Lent Meetings: First and third ***** Mondays of each month, 尜 Pastor Cal's 12th Anniversary 9:30AM - 11:30AM 米 Location: On Sunday, March 5, we will be celebrating 💥 米 Church Parlor ∦ Pastor Cal's 12th anniversary here at Central 💥 If you enjoy doing ∦ Baptist. We are truly blessed that the Lord \divideontimes any type of 米 eedlework, please has sent us this man of God. Plan to come stjoin us. 米 and thank him for all of his love, time, caring, ∦ and devotion to Central Baptist for the past 尜 twelve years. 米 Thank You Pastor Cal ~ The work you have done for this congregation has truly been a blessing. We praise God to be so blessed as to have a shepherd who loves his flock this much March 4 8:00 AM Fellowship Hall All men welcome Bring a friend <u>TAKANANNANNANNANNANNANNANNANNANNANNAN</u>

PASTOR CAL'S CORNER

Dear Friends,

In the Baptist Church I grew up in we didn't really celebrate Lent. We called it the Easter Season. Each week we'd focus on Christ's journey to Jerusalem. We'd talk about sin and Jesus' atoning work on the cross. Yet we did all of this with an eye to the future and the hope of the resurrection. I never remember feeling sad. I never

thought about giving up chocolate or desserts. I was simply grateful that Christ rose from the dead. Two of my favorite hymns of the season were, and still are He Lives! And Christ Arose!

In the ensuing years I came to appreciate the traditional practices associated with Lent. I like to think Lent as a spiritual journey. It is a time of looking within ourselves and rooting out the sin that has crept into our lives. Lent provides an opportunity to look for ways to draw closer to Jesus. Last Sunday I suggested three practices that could help with that process and am adding one more here.

- 1) Read through the Gospel of Matthew, If you read a chapter a day you can complete the whole book by the beginning of Holy Week.
- 2) Spend five minutes a day in prayer. Just talk to God. Share what's on your heart. Tell him about the Concerns you have, the worries and fears. Tell him about the good things and thank him for them.
- 3) Attend worship services regularly. You will leave feeling empowered to walk with him into a new week.
- 4) Join one of our small group Bible studies.
 - ~ Sunday mornings Meredith Eckel is walking through the Gospel of Luke.
 - ~ Sunday nights we are watching the series, "The Chosen 3",
 - ~ Wednesday mornings Geri Maloney is leading a study for women on how to read and understand the Bible.
 - ~ Thursday nights we are discussing themes from the book of Genesis. These studies are designed to help you grow in your faith.

We are working on our plans for Holy Week and Easter too. I hope you will make some of our Holy Week services part of your Easter Season.

God Bless! See you in Church. Pastor Cal

Easter Egg Candy Hunt

Lent is upon us and we eagerly await a joyous Easter!

As part of this celebration, the Board of Christian Ed is excited to continue our traditional candy 🔤 Easter Egg hunt on Easter Sunday. This event is always a success, it seems every year more children join us! Last year we filled over five hundred eggs and are hoping to have at least that many this year!

X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X We need your help! We're asking for your donations of mini prewrapped candy to fill the plastic eggs! If you have any plastic eggs, we'll happily accept those, too! Please bring all donations by Sunday March 19th. On Tuesday March 21, at 5:00 pm, we'll get together to fill the eggs! Please join the fun in the Children's Church room on the 3rd floor! We thank you for your generosity and hope to see you there!





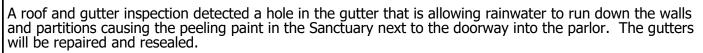
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Central Baptist Church of Westerly

Board of Trustees

A very important project has been completed. Every toilet seat in the church has been replaced!



The flooring replacement project continues successfully. I thank Richard DeBernardo who is working a lot of hours doing the prep work. Randy Sargent was helping until he had to have his knee replaced.

James B. Collins, Trustee Chairman

Treasurer's Report

	January Actual	January Plan	Jan 2023 Actuals	YTD Plan	Annual Plan
Total Income	53,399.93	39,078.17	53,309.93	39,078.17	483,138.00
Total Expense	32,831.98	38,830.73	32,831.98	38,830.73	482,884.28
Net Ordinary Income	20,567.95	247.44	20,567.95	247.44	253.72

With some donors giving annual gifts in January, we have a large surplus in income. In addition, we spent less than planned, giving us a net surplus of over \$20,000 for the month. These funds will be used for programs and other church expenses over the next several months. Your continued generous donations and faithful support allows Central Baptist to serve our members and community. Thank you so 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 search for Cal Lord's page.



Here are some easy options for online giving:

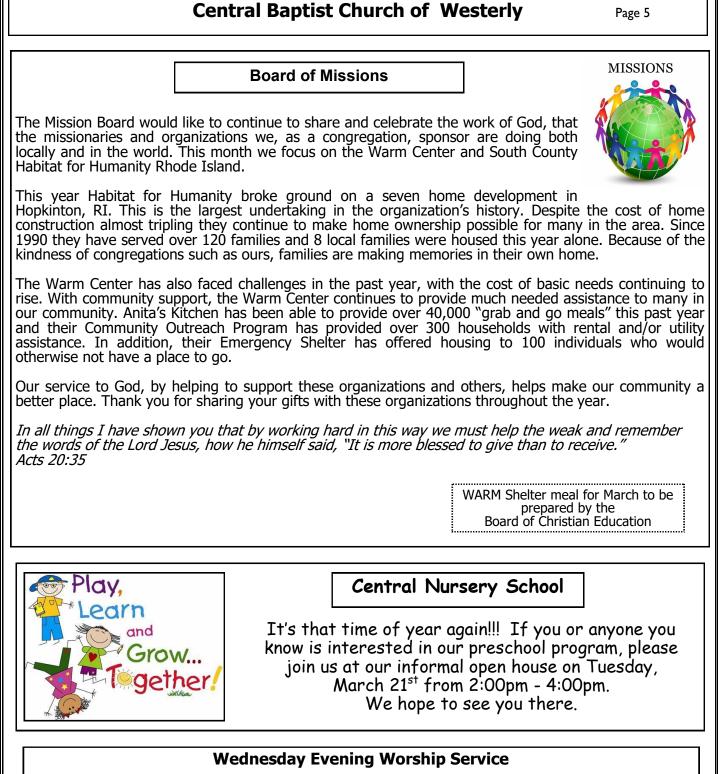
- 1 Add CBC's address (16 Elm St Westerly RI 02891) to your bank's Bill Payment site and schedule the bank to mail your check to the church. Add a memo if your gift is for a special cause.
- ² Text Giving is now available. Message the word "GIVE" to 401-414-4940 from your cellphone and easily send a donation.
- ³ Another option is to visit <u>www.cbcwesterlyri.org</u>, then click on Donations link at the top, or scan this code on your phone to access CBC's online giving app. If your phone's camera can't scan the code, the URL for the app is: <u>https://app.easytithe.com/app/Giving/cbcw.</u>

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



If you are unable to join us Sunday mornings, please come join us on Wednesday evenings at 7:00pm in the Chapel for an abbreviated worship service.

We have a short inspirational Bible message, a time of prayer and a little contemporary music.



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Central Baptist Church of Westerly

Board of Christian Education

Many times, faith and a relationship with God starts in the home. Families who spend time reading the Bible and discussing Christ have children who follow Christ. There are many websites that assist families with those conversations. One I found, **Seeds Family Worship**, contains free family devotionals. The website is <u>https://www.seedsfamilyworship.com/twenty-verses-in-2020-verse-3-devotion-1-john-336/</u>. I have included a devotional from John Majors to help families start the conversations.

Devotion:

The great Blondin began tight-rope-walking at a young age, performing for the first time at five-years old. Later he joined the circus and started traveling the world. When he came to Niagara Falls for the first time, he said, "I'm going to walk across that on a rope." His friends laughed, but not long after he did it. As incredible as that was, it was only the beginning of the amazing feats he had planned. He walked across in handcuffs and leg shackles, he walked on stilts, he walked blind-folded, he carried a big box camera on a tripod and stopped to take a picture mid-way. He stopped to read a newspaper, he laid down to take a nap and even did a somersault on the high-wire.

One day he showed up with a wheelbarrow. The story goes that before starting across, he asked the crowd, "How many of you believe I can cross while pushing this wheelbarrow?" The crowd, most of whom had watched him cross many times before, cheered, "You can do it! We believe in you!" After the noise died down, he said, "Great, I'm so glad you believe in me. Now who will be the first to ride in the wheelbarrow?" No one said yes to that. Although the crowd *believed* Blondin could make the journey, they weren't willing to *trust* him fully.

In English, we tend to use the words believe and trust differently. *Believe* usually means "I agree with that idea intellectually," while *trust* usually means, "I commit myself to that fully." But in the original language of the Bible, those words often came together in one idea. John 3:36 (ESV) says, "Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life. Whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him." When it says "Whoever believes in the Son", that word *believe* combines those two ideas of belief and trust. So to *believe* in Jesus is also to *trust* him. And just like climbing in Blondin's wheelbarrow, you would also be trusting your very life to him.

Prayer

Jesus, help us to both believe in you and trust in you in every area of our life today. Thank you for being trustworthy. Thank you for being the most trustworthy person we will ever know. Help us to know you better today.

Fiery Sermon

A member of the church, who previously had been attending services regularly, stopped going. After a few weeks, the pastor decided to visit him.

It was a chilly evening. The pastor found the man at home alone, sitting before a blazing fire. Guessing the reason for his pastor's visit, the man welcomed him, led him to a comfortable chair near the fireplace and waited.



The pastor made himself at home but said nothing. In the grave silence, he contemplated the dance of the flames around the burning logs. After some minutes, the pastor took the fire tongs, carefully picked up a brightly burning ember and placed it to one side of the hearth all alone then he sat back in his chair, still silent.

The host watched all this in quiet contemplation. As the one lone ember's flame flickered and diminished, there was a momentary glow and then its fire was no more. Soon it was cold and dead.

Not a word had been spoken since the initial greeting. The pastor glanced at his watch and realized it was time to leave. He slowly stood up, picked up the cold, dead ember and placed it back in the middle of the fire. Immediately it began to glow, once more with the light and warmth of the burning coals around it.

As the pastor reached the door to leave, his host said with a tear running down his cheek, 'Thank you so much for your visit and especially for the fiery sermon. I will be back in church next Sunday.'

We live in a world today, which tries to say too much with too little. Consequently, few listen. Sometimes the best sermons are the ones left unspoken.

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COME VISIT THE

CHURCH LIBRARY

Library Corner

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. Don't miss the following books!

Religion

Made For Glory: In the Image and Likeness of God - by Joshua A. McClure

Three Rhode Island ministers write praises for this book on the first page and back cover. These ministers include our own Rev. Dr. Clayton (Cal) Lord, Jr. Rev. McClure writes a powerful biblical study opening the way for deep reflection on past assumptions and misinformation about the purposes of God for his created beings. A must-read for anyone pursuing the truth of who you are and what it means to be made in God's glorious image.

Biography

Castaway Kid - by R. B. Mitchell

Rob Mitchell was abandoned by his parents when he was just three years old. He began his journey as one of the last "lifers" in an American orphanage. He grew up with kids who were not friends but rather "co-survivors." As Rob's loneliness and rage grew, his hope shrank. Would he ever find a real family or a place to call home? Find out how Rob was able to overcome his past, forgiving his relatives and forging healthy family relationships of his own. Heartbreaking, heartwarming, and ultimately triumphant, this true story shows how, with faith, every person can leave the past behind and forge healthier, happier relationships.

Spirituality

Psalm 91: God's Shield of Protection - by Peggy Joyce Ruth

In this book, Peggy Joyce Ruth, a veteran Bible teacher, guides you through a personal study of this psalm, explaining verse by verse God's promises of protection. You will find hope and encouragement in the stories of people from all walks of life who have found refuge in this covenant promise from God. Some people who read this book, begin reading it all over again. Each time something new is revealed. This psalm is a truly a place of total protection through life's storms.

Parish Committee

The season of Lent is upon us. It's that time when we recall Jesus fasting in the wilderness and our own need for repentance. The practice of giving something up for Lent is a way to do penance, as well as participate in some small way with Jesus' suffering in the desert. But what if this year, instead of giving something up, we committed to *doing* something instead?

What if we chose to strengthen our faith by attending weekly worship, participating in a Bible study, and having a personal time of daily prayer and devotions. Lent is the perfect time to pursue a deeper, richer relationship with God.

This season is also an opportunity to serve others. Look in the church bulletin or newsletter for ideas. Perhaps you can give to The WARM Center's "Dollar Makes a Difference" program, or the Operation Christmas Child program. How about finally remembering to drop off that bag of clothing items at the St. Pauly clothing shed? Or choosing a card from the table in Fellowship Hall to send to a shut-in or a friend you haven't seen in a while. For the next 40 days, instead of concentrating on ourselves ("Should I give up chocolate for Lent?") let's be more like Jesus and look for ways to bless others.

The Persecuted Church

Bangladesh

Bangladesh ("Land of the Bengals") is one of the most densely populated countries in the world, and its people are predominantly Muslim. It was the province of Bengal in British India until 1947 when it became the Pakistani province of East Pakistan, one of five provinces of Pakistan, separated from the other four by 1,100 miles of Indian territory. In 1971 it became the independent country of Bangladesh, with its capital at Dhaka. It



is mostly low lying river delta terrain, being the site where the Brahmaputra and Ganges rivers meet the Bay of Bengal.

Religious freedom is guaranteed in the state constitution, but in reality, persecution is rising as the number of Christian converts increases.

This is the story of Omar.

As he sat in a park one day a man gave him a tract. Omar, age 21 at the time, was captured by the gospel message and determined to learn more, so he bought a Bible. He was convinced of the truth of the message when he came to John 14:6 where Jesus proclaims Himself to be the Way, the Truth and the Life. He committed his life to Christ even though for the next five years he never met another Christian or saw a church. The Bible guided him to worship God through prayer, continue to study and start to witness to his faith. His witness to his family resulted in his ejection from his home, but a friend took him in and he found work on the buses in the city. He witnessed to coworkers and passengers, even though few would listen. In 2014 a stranger asked what he had been sharing and invited him to his home. At the home he found a group of Islamists who became outraged as he shared. He had brought a Bible and Quran to show how Jesus was portrayed in both, but one of the men grabbed the Quran and tore it in two. Omar was surprised but he was then told to leave.

The actions of the man tearing the Quran became clear the next day as he was arrested. What followed was four days of severe beatings which put him in hospital and later a prison sentence for destroying the Quran. In prison he was beaten by the other Muslim prisoners because of the blasphemy charge , but eventually befriended two prisoners with whom he was able to share the gospel. He was released 13 months later on parole and returned to his village where he was attacked by the same group of men who had originally framed him. He survived the knife attack and shortly after attended Bible college and became a pastor in 2016 overseeing 13 house churches.

His blasphemy case was never settled so he remains on parole and trusts that he will not be returned to prison as he is now married with a 5 year old daughter.

On reviewing his Christian journey, he says "Our life is temporary here – I have a small amount of time to preach the gospel. I will not stop."

God help us to have that level of commitment.



April 2 - Palm Sunday-10:30am, Come wave your palms and celebrate with those being baptized.

April 6 - Maundy Thursday Communion Service-7:00pm, Gather around the Lord's Table, hear the story of the betrayal of Christ.

April 7 - Good Friday Remembrance-noon, Revisit the day Christ gave his life for us on the Cross.

April 9 - Sunrise Service on Misquamicut Beach-6:30am, Celebrate the resurrection as the sun rises.

April 9 - Sunrise at Avondale Chapel-8:00am, Celebrate Easter at the Historic Avondale Chapel.

April 9 - Easter Breakfast-9:00am,

April 9 - Easter Celebration Worship Service-10:30am, Share in the Joy of Christ's Victory over Death.

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Dear Friends,

Nothing beats homemade chocolate chip cookies. Even if he had to do an ungodly amount of pushups, he told us it was worth it. The crowd laughed as he told the story from his days as a Marine in boot camp on Parris Island. I didn't catch his name, but it was one of the lighter moments at the recognition service for Vietnam era veterans from Stonington.

They filled the Stonington High School auditorium. Some had seen time in the swamps of Vietnam. Others had played support roles back home and at various stations in Europe and in the South Pacific. A few shared stories about the mistreatment and disrespect they received as they returned home. It should never have happened that way. The Secretary of State said this recognition was long overdue.





As I listened to their names being called and watched the veterans come forward to receive their awards, it struck me that each of them had a story. They all had unique experiences. The keynote speaker was an official from the Department of Veteran Affairs. She had been a nurse flying missions in and out of the country with the wounded. The experiences changed her life and she found a way to give back.

Sometimes we look at a group of people and lump them together. Whether it's veterans, millennials, people of color or people of faith, we treat them as if they were a homogenous group. Media outlets reinforce the idea. The result is that we embrace stereotypes and base our interactions with individuals upon the collective understanding of which group a person is from.

The truth is that we need to see people for who they are, not who we think they are. We need to sit down and listen to one another. We need to hear the stories that shape people's lives. Then we can begin to see each person as the unique and beautiful person God created them to be. That's how God sees us. He doesn't see black or white, old or young. Each and every one of us is a child of God.

That's what stands out in Jesus' encounters with people throughout the Gospels. It is as if time stood still when he met someone. Think about the story in Luke 8. Jesus is on route to visit a dying girl when a woman who had been sick for years brushes up against him. He stops. He looks around and asks the crowd, "Who touched me?" He sees the woman. She stops, falls down and shares her story.

Everyday people came into Jesus' life and he celebrated each encounter. Whether it was a Jewish leader named Nicodemus, a leper who asked for healing, a Samaritan woman he met at the well or Zacchaeus, a hated tax collector, Jesus saw them as individuals that needed the good news he had come to bring. The truth is that every day God sends people our way. They brush up against us hoping to find a healing word.

What would happen if we slowed down and started noticing the people that God sent our way? What would happen if we took the time to engage people and listen to their stories? Some of the divisions that we experience would begin to disappear. People would treat one another with more civility. Just maybe we would begin to see the kingdom of God materialize right in front of us. It is worth a try. So let's do it.

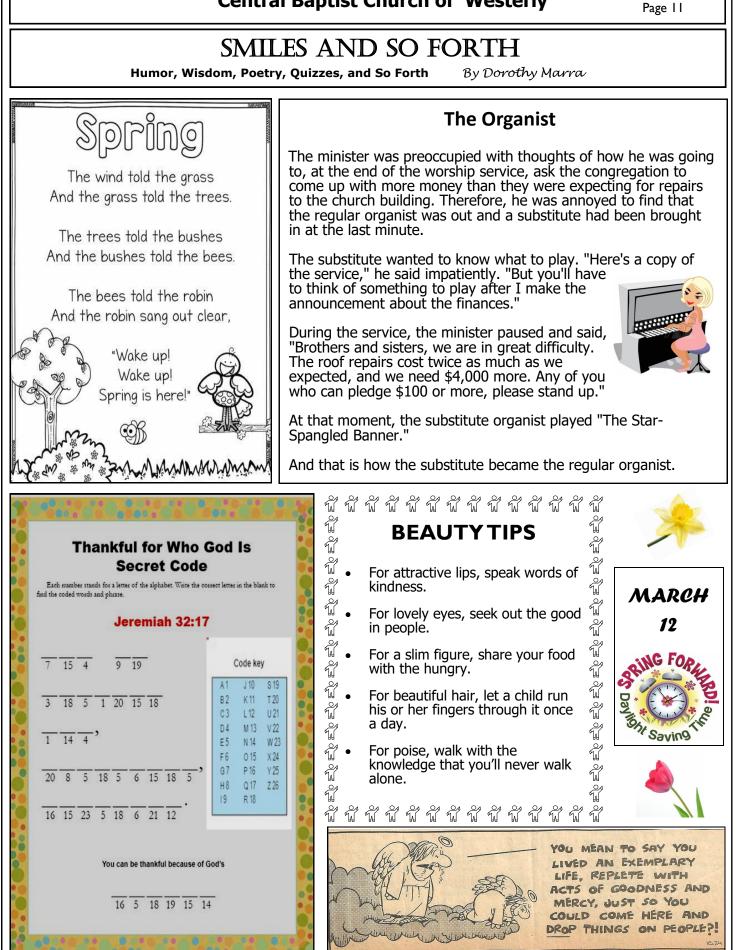
God bless! See you in church. Pastor Cal



Just For Kids By Marcia Erskine







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centralbaptist@cbcwesterly.org

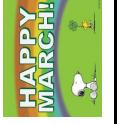
Return Service Requested

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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MARCH 2023



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Mon			9	9.30AM Needleworkers	13		20	9:30AM Needleworkers 4:00PM Trustee Board 7:15PM Deacon Board	27	
Sun			Q	Communion Sunday Pastor Cal's 12 th Anniversary 9:00AM Gospel of Luke 10:30AM Worship 6:00PM The Chosen-3	12	9:00AM Gospel of Luke 10:30AM Worship 6:00PM The Chosen 3 Daylight Savings Begins	19	9:00AM Gospel of Luke 10:30AM Worship 6:00PM The Chosen 3	26	