



The Monthly Newsletter of the
West Parish Church of Andover
United Church of Christ

WEST PARISH CHURCH

United Church of Christ
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Sundays 10:00 AM
Worship & Sunday School

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SEPTEMBER WORSHIP

Return to the Sanctuary

September 2 ~ 10:00 am
First Sunday Worship/Communion
Rev. Katrina preaching

September 9 ~ 10:00 am
Gathering Sunday
Sunday School Begins
Rev. Katrina preaching

September 16 ~ 10:00 am
Rev. Katrina preaching

September 23 ~ 10:00 am
Rev. Katrina preaching

September 30 ~ 10:00 am
Rev. Katrina preaching

October 7 ~ 10:00 am
First Sunday Worship/Communion
Rev. Katrina preaching

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

September 8
WPC Yard Sale
Andover Day

September 9
Sunday School Begins
CE Family Event

September 13
Women's Evening Circle

September 16
Youth Group
WPGC Information Session

September 22
WPGC Historic Walk & Hydrangea Day
Barbara Putnam Memorial

September 23
ACT/Habitat Information Session

September 29
Chocolate Fair

September 30
Leon Wilde Memorial

FROM THE SENIOR MINISTER



FROM THE DESK OF REV. KATRINA WUENSCH

Good people of West Parish, We have been living in the ordinary: month after month of liturgical “Ordinary Time.” Nothing very exceptional happening in these weeks of summer and now, as we enter early fall. In the church calendar, the Sundays stretch on in their ordinariness, the color on the pulpit staying green week after week. Nothing but “ordinary” stories of Jesus. We have to wait all the way until December 2, when we’ll finally change to the deep purple of Advent and there will be greater intention for our services.

But as we know, it’s all ordinary. Our lives are ordinary. Being discharged from the hospital, and baking the tuna casserole. Plucking the cherry tomatoes off the vine, and holding the hand of a weeping friend. Sweeping the kitchen floor and sitting in our favorite, soft chair. Washing the chipped dish, and resting our head on the pillow. It’s all terribly ordinary, all of our days. But that’s the beautiful thing about Christianity and our life together: the ordinary becomes sacred. The everyday is divinely embodied. God is present in the most seemingly routine moments, as well as those that cause our hearts to break and soar.

So when we gather to sing and pray on a Sunday, some might call this ordinary. Some might call it commonplace. Of little notice. Does it matter what we 100 souls do on a crisp September morning in our hard-backed pews? YES. Yes, it does. It matters an unfathomable amount to God, who knows even the number of hairs on our head – and it matters to each one of us, as we honor one another. This is why we gather together in our beautiful ordinariness: to affirm the holy worth and dignity and divine spark in all of us. Each Sunday we gather up our light to shine even more brightly. We center ourselves in God’s love so together we might radiate hope.

This is wondrous, holy stuff that we do! It matters. And it is why I love West Parish - because we do this beautiful work together! So come and join us as we begin another year together. From out of your ordinary days, come be with other ordinary folk who are also God’s beloved ones. Let us welcome one another!

Katrina

CONTACTING KATRINA

Katrina is at the church Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday. Monday is her day off, and Friday she works at home. You can **reach her by email:** revkatrina@yahoo.com or through the church phone (978-475-3528 x201). If you leave a voicemail, she is notified immediately via email, so can respond as soon as possible to a pastoral emergency.



FEEDBACK CIRCLES

Thanks to all of you who participated in our feedback circles this spring and summer on worship and music! Your willingness to give of your time and to think deeply about our life together is greatly appreciated. Based on the feedback we heard, we will be making some small changes and improvements to worship and music. Also, all of the music feedback was passed on to the Music Director Search Committee to assist them in their process and decision making. There will be more circles coming this fall, so stay tuned!



CHURCH STRUCTURE REVIEW

A dedicated team of folks has been meeting over the summer to assess the church’s organizational structure and by-laws. We hope to envision a way to organize ourselves that is both more efficient and creative, and also fills in some of the “gaps” in our current ministries. If you have any questions, suggestions or thoughts, feel free to speak with any member of the team: Jerry Greer, Lisa Doucette, Deb Schroeder, or Art Clark.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS



VICTORIA GAISFORD
DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN
EDUCATION

Beyond Sunday Morning Worship

Welcome to a new year of Christian Education! If you are new to West Parish, or you have never participated in a Christian Education program, we urge you to look beyond Sunday morning worship for ways to contemplate, learn, explore, discuss, and develop faith in community.

I am excited to be back after my summer vacation, which was full of visiting California family, camping in the mountains, and glorying in homework-free evenings with my kids. I am really looking forward to this Fall at West Parish, especially the new format for Adult Education, designed to be open and welcoming to the community beyond our church walls. Pick up an "Education at West Parish Church" catalogue and browse the educational offerings! Sign up for guided meditation, an art class, a book group, or a Bible study. Try a new spiritual practice -- join as we seek God together. Pass on the catalogue to your friends and family, so that they can join you!



FIRST FAMILY EVENT OF FALL
SEPTEMBER 9, 11:00 AM

After church on Welcoming Sunday, September 9, join other families for ice cream sundaes on the playground.

We offer events throughout the year to cultivate the community of families at West Parish. Getting to know each other and celebrating special times together allows us to share our lives as parents so that we can support each other in the most important role.

SUNDAY SCHOOL
SEPTEMBER 9, 10 AM

Sunday School is an opportunity for children to worship God in a way that is natural to them: through storytelling, play, and creativity. We urge you to bring your children regularly to hear the stories of the Bible from Creation to the Early Church -- children who come to Sunday School from September to June will get a cohesive story of encountering the presence of God that is told in the sweep of the whole Bible. These sacred stories lay the foundation of knowledge of the Christian heritage, and give them a vocabulary for spiritual life.



YOUTH GROUP NEWS & ACTIVITIES
SEPTEMBER 16, 5:00—6:30 PM

Join us in Fellowship Hall for our first youth group meeting of the new year. Youth Group is 6th through 12th grades, led by Sam Vano, Sue Lynehan, Victoria Gaisford and Rev.Katrina. We look forward to a year of fellowship, contemplation, and service. Our meetings this Fall will be based on issues raised in episodes of The Simpsons - perhaps it is a surprise to you, but there are some profound moral quandaries, existential questions, and challenges of faith in The Simpsons! Join us!



CONFIRMATION

Rev. Katrina and Victoria will be offering a Confirmation class this year for youth 8th grade and up. Confirmation is a religious coming-of-age where youth learn about and discuss the Christian religion, then develop and articulate their own faith. Confirmands may choose to join the church at the end of the year. If you are interested in confirmation class, please approach one of us at church or call the church office to sign up.

WPC ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEMORIAL SERVICES

Over the summer, we lost two beloved and longtime members of West Parish, and we will gather to celebrate their lives in September.

Barbara Putnam

The Memorial Service for Barbara Putnam will be held at the church on Saturday, September 22 at 1:30 pm, with a reception to follow in Fellowship Hall.

Leon Wilde

The Memorial Service for Leon Wilde will be held at the church on Sunday, September 29 at 1:00 pm, with a reception in Fellowship Hall.



MUSIC DIRECTOR SEARCH

The Search Committee for our new Music Director continues to focus prayerfully and purposefully on laying the ground work to find the best possible candidate.

During June, July and August the committee has worked purposefully to craft a thorough and inclusive job description for posting on many job opportunity sites. We have combined all the thoughts, needs and desires expressed in the congregational feedback from the circles, letter request and conversations with congregants. The job is posted on various sites and we hope that late August and September will begin to bring us new and exciting candidates.

We appreciate your continued prayers and support, and as always please feel free to reach out to any of us at any time.

The Committee: Jake Hafensteiner, Melanie Muggia, Jim Olson, Lenka Phelps, Cindy Pietra, and John Pearson.

STEWARDSHIP: KINDNESS COINS

Believe it or not, Stewardship season is fast approaching! As a reminder, Kindness Coins are available in every pew within the Sanctuary. What are Kindness Coins you ask? Well, they are “pledges” that represent a good deed that you will do in the upcoming week. Many parishioners contribute via check or electronically and feel awkward giving the “no thanks” wave as the collection plate goes by. The Coins allow you to give back and contribute to the ministry of Stewardship through non-financial means, like visiting a friend, giving to charity or simply passing along a smile. The Coins are not a replacement for pledges (yes, we still need actual money!) but another means of giving. We look forward to continuing our giving traditions this fall and going forward.

Blessings,

The Committee: Chris Swain, Joe Gaspar



DIANA HAMMER WALKS 2018 WALK TO END ALZHEIMER'S

Diana Hammer is participating in the 2018 Walk to End Alzheimer's – on Sunday, September 16th in Andover, MA (registration begins at 8:30 AM). You can help support the walk in multiple ways: join Diana's team “Larry's Angels” or sponsor her team with a donation. Prayers and well wishes are welcomed and much appreciated too. Together, we can make a difference and help end Alzheimer's and brain-based diseases along with providing much needed support and resources to caregivers. For more information contact Diana at 978-886-5837 or hammerdl@comcast.net.

WPC ANNOUNCEMENTS

PERMACULTURE UPDATE

Permaculture West Parish has already had a very busy season. We planted many of the same crops as in past seasons, with a few new additions. Our standards are tomatoes, zucchini, summer squash, two varieties of lettuce, scallions, spinach, kale, swiss chard, eggplant, cucumbers, basil, garlic, onions, butternut squash, green beans, and peppers. We continue to cultivate our strawberry patch and our herb and perennial garden. This year we added spaghetti squash and are trying our hand at potatoes. As of August 1st, we had harvested and donated over 500 pounds of produce. The recipients of our harvest are: Cor Unum, Si Se Puede, Esperanza Academy, Lazarus House, Meals on Wheels, and Steve's Basket.

We established Steve's Basket last year in memory of our beloved church member, Steve Vano. Our vision for Steve's Basket is as an offering to church members and friends who may need/enjoy a bit of fresh produce. Steve's Basket is available every Sunday after worship—outside the Chapel until August 26, and then in Fellowship Hall thereafter. In addition, the members of the Permaculture Team have begun to make and store soup from the garden produce in preparation for a fall harvest luncheon, TBA.

We invite all members of the congregation to stop by and see our work in progress. We would especially appreciate any time you might be willing to donate to help keep our garden tidy and weed-free.



A BETTER CHANCE

A Better Chance Andover (ABC) seeks a Resident Assistant for the 2018-2019 academic year. Since 1967, ABC has been bringing motivated students of color to live in Andover, where the students attend Andover High School to better prepare for college.

Resident Assistants require a Bachelors degree, be enrolled as a full-time student, or be employed full time elsewhere. Requires a car, current drivers license, and auto insurance. For more information, visit: www.andoverabc.org or [Facebook.com/ABCAndover](https://www.facebook.com/ABCAndover).

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

We welcome these new members of our community, who became “official” in June. Please be sure to say hello, introduce yourself, and welcome them into our shared life together!

Diana Hammer grew up in Ohio where family values, her love of history, music, and all things country were cultivated. Church, 4-H, sports, and family vacations to Lakes Erie and Michigan were typical back in those days. After graduating from The Ohio State University, she moved to New England and began working in Human Resources. She fell in love at some point and continued working in a fast paced career, taking breaks frequently to travel and enjoy the simple pleasures in life. Diana came to West Parish Church over a year ago and decided to make it her home. “I love the people and all the church stands for. It’s a welcoming and spiritual space.” Diana is recently widowed and lives in Tewksbury occasionally spending time in Scottsdale, AZ.

Helen Long grew up in PA and moved to the Boston area for graduate school (after Undergrad at University of Delaware). She has worked at Winchester Hospital for 29 years and also works for a large pediatric practice in the area for the past 10 years. Helen has lived in Andover for 26 years and has 3 wonderful young adult children: Chris (28), Allyson (25), and Jaclyn (21).

Lisa O’Connell has been an Andover resident for 15 years. After 28 years in Corporate sales operations and analysis, she’s enjoying some time off volunteering at Andover Senior Center and for Big Sister of Greater Boston. Lisa enjoys yoga, gardening, weekend getaways, spending time with family, friends and her 13 year old Yorkshire Terrier, Sydney.

Jason and Tiffany Harding: Jason is from Naperville, IL and Tiffany is from North Canton, OH. They met at Miami University in Oxford, OH in 2004. They moved to Massachusetts in 2008 and were married in 2009. They have two kids, Cole is 5 and Zoey is 3. The family enjoys living on the east coast and going to the beach when not at soccer, or t-ball, or gymnastics, or karate... The entire family enjoys running and spends a lot of weekends at races throughout New England. They also enjoy traveling and exploring new places.

WPC UPCOMING EVENTS

MENS GROUP YARD SALE SEPTEMBER 8, 8:00—1:00 PM

Please help to support the biggest Men's Group fund raiser of the year! All proceeds go to the college education of needy kids. The typical scholarship recipient who attends a Massachusetts state school needs to come up with approximately \$6,000 annually out of pocket. Most kids we support are on their own without any support from home; and it's nearly impossible for them to close this gap working minimum wage jobs. Know that our scholarships are very meaningful and that your help is significant. We have helped nine students graduate college and many more to stay in college.

Donations accepted beginning August 26th, from 7:00-9:00 PM and 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM (Monday—Thursday). And please volunteer to help:

- Sort and arrange items in advance! Sorting and pricing starts the evening of the 27th and continues each evening until the doors open at 8:00 on Saturday the 8th.
- Sale day! Arrive between 7:00-7:30 AM on the 8th and enjoy a few hours of camaraderie, coffee and donuts and taking people's money.

Contact Jon Glesmann at jmglesmann@verizon.net or 978-470-3158 to volunteer or with any questions.

Items being accepted include household, clothes, books, toys, CD's, decorative, etc. We accept just about anything.

Items NOT being accepted include:

- No big/bulky furniture - If you cannot carry it yourself then it is too big
- No Large Rugs
- No Microwaves
- No CRT type tv's
- No Skis or Skiing Equipment
- No Large Appliances
- No Tires
- No Infant and Child Car Seats
- No Infant furniture
- No Building Materials - remodeling leftovers
- No Hazardous material - requires Hazardous waste recycling or pay to dispose- must be able to throw away into the trash
- Any item you need to pay to dispose of

ANDOVER DAY SEPTEMBER 8, 10:00 AM—2:00 PM

We'll again have a table at the Andover Day celebration downtown! Last year, we had a great time greeting our neighbors, telling folks about West Parish, and just enjoying being part of this great community event! Please consider joining us at the table for an hour or two. Email Jill Sergeant if you can help: jillsergeant@comcast.net.



INFORMATIONAL MEETING WEST PARISH GARDEN CEMETERY SEPTEMBER 16, 11:30 AM

Join us in Fellowship Hall for an informational meeting on the West Parish Garden Cemetery. We'll hear about the short and long term plans of a new memorial project from the cemetery.

The initial project is to erect a 30-foot flagpole in the upper area of the cemetery by the arch by Lowell Street. (The Burke-Maglioizzi Funeral Home in Andover has a flagpole of this same size if you are interested.) The longer term project would be to add to this area with a veteran's memorial.

You'll have the chance to hear from the committee and have them respond to any questions and/or concerns you may have on this project.

Light refreshments will be served.

If you want to learn more about the project before the meeting, please see or contact any of the people below:

Abby Martin, Blake Martin, Chris Swain, Deb Schroeder, Jerry Greer, Pam Denny

WPC UPCOMING EVENTS

WOMEN’S EVENING CIRCLE
SEPTEMBER 13, 6:30 PM

All women are invited to WEC’s annual potluck supper in Fellowship Hall. Bring a small main dish, side dish or dessert to share. We look forward to seeing you!

Jenn Harmoning and Kim Glesmann



ACT/HABITAT HOUSING PROJECT
SEPTEMBER 23, 11:30 AM

Andover Community Trust in Partnership with Merrimack Valley Habitat is developing six permanently affordable housing units on land purchased from South Church at 8 Lupine Road. Following worship on September 23rd current and former ACT board members Joan Johnson, Blake Martin and John Pearson will discuss the project and engage in a discussion on how West Parish can join other Andover houses of worship in an Andover faith community initiative to make this project possible.

West Parish has been a faithful supporter of ACT making possible the construction of seven homes to date for income eligible families. And we have supported Merrimack Valley Habitat with donations and volunteer labor. The Lupine Road project is ACT’s largest, Habitat’s first Andover project, and the first collaborative project by these organizations. The ACT duplex will be built by students of the Greater Lawrence Technical School. The two Habitat duplexes will be built by volunteers and future homeowners. All units will have a ground lease with ACT to ensure that the homes are affordable in perpetuity.

For additional details visit: www.andoverclt.org and www.merrimackvalleyhabitat.org.



WEST PARISH CHOCOLATE FAIR
SEPTEMBER 29, 6:30—8:30 PM

“When you hear about the high school dropout rate in Lawrence, instead of thinking that there are bad kids dropping out, think about the good kids trying to succeed in a bad situation. We celebrate that we are able to give scholarships to such deserving young adults, but what overshadows our gifts, is the fact that these kids have triumphed over the challenges and the odds”, said Jon Glesmann, West Parish Church Men’s Group Scholarship Chairperson.

100% of the proceeds from the chocolate fair go to College Scholarships for the Greater Lawrence Boys and Girls Club. Past recipients of West Parish Scholarships are attending a variety of colleges including Nichols College, Worcester State, UMass Dartmouth and UMass Amherst.

Tickets for the Fair will be \$8 before September 27th, and \$10 after. Student tickets are also \$8, and \$5 for those under 8 Years old. Tickets will be available for purchase in September.

Check out our web page to see exciting details of this event, along with the amazing business donations for the raffle and silent auction that you won’t want to miss!

http://westparishchurch.org/choco_fundraiser_2018

In September, we’ll have a signup sheet for volunteers to bake and/or work the event. Thank you very much for your support on this incredibly fun, community focused West Parish fundraiser. Please contact Pam Denny at andbflodenny@gmail.com or 978-273-1731 with any questions!

Peace, Love and Chocolate –

Pam Denny

UPCOMING EVENTS

WEST PARISH GARDEN CEMETERY EVENTS SEPTEMBER 22

HYDRANGEA DAY 9:00 am—1:00 pm

Cut your own hydrangeas from our 100+ year old plants in Hydrangea Circle. Bring your own clippers. This is a free event but donations are appreciated.

HISTORIC CEMETERY WALKING TOUR 10:00 am—12:00 pm

Enjoy a beautiful guided walk through the cemetery while learning about the notable people buried here. The tour includes a look inside the Chapel. Meet at the arch. This is a free event. Wear walking shoes or sneakers.



SUPER SATURDAY OCTOBER 20

Gather with hundreds of other UCC folks to worship and learn for a whole day! This event on Saturday, October 20 at the Keefe Regional Technical High School in Framingham will offer almost 50 different workshops to choose from, including topics on worship, faith formation, justice, communication, prayer, capital campaigns, stewardship, and safe church. For more event details or to register, visit: www.macucc.or/ss-oct2018.

WEST PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Beginning Tuesday, September 4, office hours will be Monday—Thursday, 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM.



NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The deadline for the October Newsletter is **September 18**. Please email your articles or notices to westparishchurch@verizon.net.



COFFEE HOUR

September after Worship fellowship hour is sponsored by the Fellowship Committee and volunteers.



CALL TO CARE

Please contact the West Parish Church office at 978-475-3528 or westparishchurch@verizon.net, with the names of any church member experiencing a life event in which church members may assist, i.e. Birth, funeral receptions, cards, meals, etc.

GOVERNING BOARD

Governing Board Chair	Pam Denny
Governing Board Vice Chair	Deb Schroeder
Acting Clerk	Deb Schroeder
Treasurer	Jerry Greer
Moderator	Blake Martin

MINISTRIES

Education	Yvonne Ratner
Fellowship	Steve Morrison
Outreach	Ed Pass
Stewardship	Chris Swain
Worship	Jill Sergeant

COMMISSIONS

Investments	David Bertetti
Operations	Blake Martin
Collector	Suanne Dillman

COMMITTEES

Flowers	Abby Martin
Music	Melanie Muggia
Nominating	Heather Gaspar
Planned Giving	
Smith Purdon	Lisa Doucett
Women's Evening Circle	Jenn Harmoning & Kim Glesmann

CHURCH STAFF

Senior Minister	Rev. Katrina Wuensch
Church Administrator	Larisa Henderson
Dir. of Christian Ed.	Victoria Gaisford
Sunday School Teacher	Susan Berube
Sexton	Ed Pass
Wedding Coordinator	Kathy Vano
Cemetery Superintendent	Mark Atwood

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