



THE SPIRE

Wakefield Baptist Church



2018



Hospitality is Christian Spirituality Performed in Humble, Human, Heart-felt Ways

Come and See!

Hospitality is spirituality in action. It is something we offer, extend, prepare for, and clean-up from afterwards. Hospitality is faith we *do*. On the surface, it is quite simple, an act we accomplish, even a duty we perform. Any thought we might give to its significance is often lost among the details of making ready. Any realization of what the Spirit has accomplished through all that busyness may come as an after-thought. But take a moment and consider...

The *hows, whys, and whos* of hospitality can significantly deepen our faith, spirituality, and experience as followers of Jesus Christ. Reflecting together in community, praying for the Spirit's guidance, and seeking to understand hospitality from a Biblical perspective can become a means of building on our joy, strengthening our relationships for the better, and making new friends as we invite people into our lives. Consider...

How we extend welcome says everything about who we are. **How** we invite people into our church, homes, and personal lives speaks volumes about our relationship with Jesus. **How** we make room in our busy schedules and crowded hearts for those in need conveys the quality of our love, and that goes to the heart of our faith as children of God.

Why do we do it? Pondering that question on a deeper level can add profound meaning to the efforts we undertake to welcome people and help them feel at home.

Why did Jesus walk with those who were lonely, forgotten, and rejected by others?

Why did Jesus eat with tax collectors and prostitutes when strict social custom forbid it?

Why did Jesus listen, heal, touch and embrace those others simply ignored?

Why would Jesus expect his followers, his church, to 'go and do likewise'?

And if those questions aren't challenging enough, the *who* questions might be enough to discourage us completely! **Who** in our families and communities have been left out and forgotten by others? **Who** in our midst feels lonely, excluded, misunderstood, even feared? **Who** amongst us has been sent packing far too many times? And **who** might wander in our direction sorely in need of the simple basics like food and understanding?

Confronting those questions can be frightening, especially if we seek to take Jesus' teachings about hospitality seriously. And yet, hospitality is one of those expectations God has of his people throughout scripture. God expects us to accept hospitality from him, and he expects us to offer it to others. God invites us to come in faith, he welcomes us with joy, he provides for us through countless expressions of grace, mercy, justice, and love. "Love one another as I have loved you," Jesus told us the night before he died on our behalf. And in that free exchange of generosity and joy lives are changed, faith is born, relationships are made, and love flourishes in new and remarkable ways.

This new year, I propose we start asking those questions and begin listening for the answers. Our church, situated in the heart of the village of Wakefield, has been intentionally placed here by God. We are beautifully positioned to offer gospel hospitality. In many wonderful ways we already do! But let's not take that for granted. Indeed, let's take the opportunity to build on something we already do well. Let's discover what this humble, human act can become as we seek to understand it biblically, pray about it as a core component of our faith, and extend afresh the love so wondrously gathered in this congregation. God bless you - Clay

Grow Your Gift of Hospitality

Tuesday, January 30

6:30 p.m.

If you enjoy providing hospitality, or wish to grow in your ability to offer it, then we invite you to attend an informational session about a new discipleship experience at Wakefield Baptist Church.

The group will have three key components. It will be a community of prayer, study, and service. Together, we will pray for one another, pray for the Holy Spirit to bear fruit through our ministries of hospitality, and pray for those in need of welcome.

We'll also seek to appreciate the extraordinary tradition of hospitality offered through Christ's church down through the ages. This begins in Scripture, but extends through various movements of welcome offered by churches in places of needed refuge.

And, we will be open to how the Lord is preparing us to serve others as they come among us, whether that be in our sanctuary for worship, in the fellowship hall for meals, or in our own homes and dinner tables.

I hope you will join us! In the meantime, please give some prayerful, creative thought to how we might develop this group and improve on a ministry we already do rather well. God bless you - Clay

God's Word to us for **January**

Matthew 7:24-27

Jesus said: "Everyone then who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on rock. And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not act on them will be like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell—and great was its fall!"

1 Corinthians 3:11

For no one can lay any foundation other than the one that has been laid; that foundation is Jesus Christ.

Reflect on the promises God has made to his children through his word to us. Are you building your life upon those assurances? Consider the coming year, the plans you are making, the hopes you have. Are they established in Christ and built upon his word?

Pray for greater understanding of God's Word and for a deeper desire to shape your life according to the promises offered there. Pray that the Spirit would "illumine" you with new wisdom from the Scriptures.

Share Christ's word, the Good News of the Gospel, with others. Encourage others to consider the truth and hope found in the Scriptures. If you wish to give someone a Bible we have copies available to share.

WBC Snow Policy

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

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

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

***You Are Most Cordially
Invited to Tea!
Saturday, January 27
3:00 – 5:00 p.m.
At Wakefield Baptist Church***

I would be honored by your presence
as I celebrate the completion and publication of
Through a Shattered Looking-glass.

Drop in for a cup of something warm to drink
and hear more about the experiences that led to writing
this book and the insights gained along the way.

While the event is informal,
and you are free to drop by at any time,
a formal discussion and presentation will
commence at 3:30.

Copies of the book will be available for purchase.
A portion of all proceeds from the sale of this novel
will be donated to Gould Farm in Monterey,
Massachusetts (gouldfarm.org),
and to Harvest Acres Farm in Richmond,
Rhode Island (rainbowrunwalk.com).
These therapeutic farming communities provide
holistic environments dedicated to recovery
and healing from mental illness.
I encourage you to support the care
they give to others.

God bless you – Clay Berry

The Healing Team

Meeting scheduled for January 4, has been rescheduled to
Thursday, January 11 at 10:00 a.m.

Healing & Hope through Prayer & Meditation
Thursday, January 18, in the Chapel

Wakefield Baptists on Mission in Our Community and the World

Buckets of Hope



Our Advent/Epiphany mission project is an effort to give hope to families in the Dominican

Republic. That hope is in the form of filtration buckets that make water clean and safe for drinking, cooking, and bathing.

To date we have raised \$1,412 which will provide 25 buckets to help families be healthier. ***Thank you to all for your generosity.***

Red Wagon Offering



We are now collecting personal hygiene items: toothpaste, men's and women's deodorant, razors, shaving cream, soap, shampoo, band-

aids, cough drops and toilet paper.

These are shared with local groups who give a helping hand to neighbors in need.

Rebuilding, Restoring, Renewing Puerto Rico

Little needs and big needs continue for our brothers and sisters in Puerto Rico.

Recently a team from American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS) visited Puerto Rico to continue assessment following Hurricanes Irma and Maria. They carried in eight suitcases packed with more than 400 pounds of batteries. Already tarps, solar generators, hygiene kits and many other relief items have been delivered.

One newly built church had its roof ripped from the walls. At Academia Bautista de Puerto Nuevo, a Christian school for preschool through grade 12, the children and youth attend classes with no electricity. Signs of trauma remain. Piles of brush

and debris litter the roads; blue tarps protect home interiors from rain pouring through missing roofs. "Compassion fatigue" affects those weary from the toll of so much loss.

The ABHMS has a goal to raise \$1 million to help. Volunteer work group projects are expected to begin soon.

Eat Pancakes!

Watch for details of a ***pancake fundraiser*** for Puerto Rico coming soon. We would like to have a bake sale with this, and invite other churches to participate with us. Speak to a Mission Board member if you are willing to help.

Poverty in the Pulpits Sunday, Feb. 4

~ 1 in 10 people in Washington County are living in poverty.

~ Several towns in Washington County are among the least affordable to rent or own.

~ Welcome House of South County has provided shelter to more than 100 individuals during the year, with additional people using the emergency winter shelter from November through March.

~ Numbers using food pantry services are increasing.

The Rev. Victoria Strang, executive director of the RI Interfaith Coalition on Poverty, will preach for us on February 4, as we join other area churches highlighting the issues of poverty in our local community.

Following worship we will have a light lunch and a time for questions and dialog about how we as people of faith can address poverty concerns in our community. **Plan to stay and join in this time for food and sharing.**

News from Wakefield Baptist Church



By the time you see this, you will have learned that the Epiphany Event to benefit Buckets of Hope event planned for Saturday, January 6 had to be cancelled. As of last Sunday, we had raised \$1412, which will provide 25 buckets. If you would like to support the Buckets of Hope project, please use the special envelopes provided in the pews. Thank you for your generosity!

Mark your Calendars:

Due to the unpredictable weather we have here in the winter, we will not be having Lunch with a Bunch in January or February. **Wakefield Baptist Church will be hosting an Ecumenical Lenten Service and Luncheon on Wednesday, March 21.** Please plan to join us!

6	Yayin Wang
7	Penny Cahill
11	James Paulhus
13	Caleb DeLuise
18	Helen Lundberg
19	Edith Grist
20	Dana Crandall
23	Jeffrey Alan Hill
23	Josh Sargent
24	Julie Wardwell
26	Cindy Phillips
28	Abby Hall
30	Deborah Sargent

We would love to list your birthday. If we don't have it, please call the office and let us know

From the Deacons:

We offer our continued prayers for those in our congregation facing health challenges. If you need information (phone numbers, addresses, info on those who are hospitalized), please call the Church Office. Also, if you have any information about someone entering the hospital or other facility, please let Dian know.

As always, all are encouraged to remember those in our church family who are homebound or unable to be with us at worship or other activities by not only keeping them in your prayers but also with phone calls, cards, and visits.

Please keep in mind that requests for money from the **Deacons' Fund** usually increase during the heating season. You can use your Communion envelope, or use the "generic" envelope supplied in the pews. Just write "Deacons' Fund" on it so it will be directed properly. Thank you so much for your generosity!

Each Week

Sunday

Worship Schedule

*** 10:00 a.m. Worship for all ages**
8:30 a.m. B.A.S.I.C.
(Every other Sunday)
** Child care provided*

Mondays 12:30 p.m. Just for Today Group
 5:00 p.m. Women's Step Study
 6:00 p.m. Men's 12 Step
 7:30 p.m. Al Anon

Tuesdays 9:30 a.m. Church Women United
(3rd Tuesday)
 10:00 a.m. AA Book Discussion
(2nd Tuesday)
 7:30 p.m. Positive Steps

Wednesdays 10:00 a.m. Adult Day Care Worship
(3rd Wednesday)
 11:45 a.m. Lunch with a Bunch
(2nd Wednesday)
 12:30 p.m. Just for Today Group
 6:00 p.m. Women's AAWOL

Thursdays 10:00 a.m. Healing & Hope
 Prayer Time
(3rd Thursday)
 10:00 a.m. Healing Team
(1st Thursday)
 6:00 p.m. ACOA
 6:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
 6:30 p.m. VASA *(2nd Thursday)*
 7:30 Al Anon

Fridays 12:30 p.m. Just for Today Group

Saturdays 8:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast
(1st Saturday)

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

Board Meetings

Thursday Jan. 11 12:15 p.m. Missions
 Saturday Jan. 13 9:00 a.m. Trustees
 Tuesday Jan. 16 6:30 p.m. Deacons



Many thanks to the Missions Board for supplying the Welcome House meal in December. The Deacons will provide the meal in January.

CHURCH ADMINISTRATION

Rev. Dr. Clay Berry, Pastor
Dian Arnold, Church Admin. Assistant
Catherine Holloway, Minister of Music, Choir
Keith Sousa, Sexton
Julie Wardwell, Minister of Music, Organ & Piano

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 Web Page: www.wbcrti.org

Two beloved members of our congregation have left us to join the Lord over the last couple of weeks:

Services for Ann Adams

Calling Hours at Carpenter Jenks Funeral Home
 Tuesday, January 9 from 4:0 to 7:00 p.m.

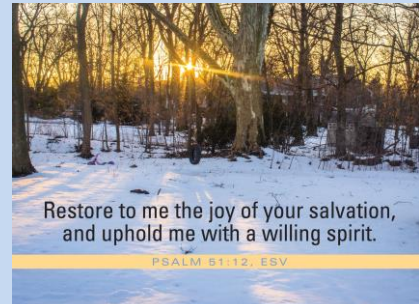
Funeral Service Wednesday, January 10
 10:30 a.m. at Wakefield Baptist Church

Burial at Veteran's Cemetery in Exeter
 12:00 Noon

Followed by Collation Luncheon at Wakefield
 Baptist Church

Memorial service for Lois Mackay

Saturday, January 13 at 1:00 p.m.
 Time of Fellowship will follow service



JANUARY 2018

Events calendar 1/6/2018

WAKEFIELD BAPTIST

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 12:30 PM Just for Today Group 5:30 PM Women's Step Study 6:00 PM Men's 12 Step 7:30 PM AI Anon <i>Happy New Year</i>	2 10:00 AM AA Book Discussion 7:00 PM ACOA 12 Step 7:30 PM Positive Steps	3 12:30 PM Just for Today Group 6:00 PM Women's AAWOL	4 10:00 AM Healing Team Mtg. 6:00 PM ACOA 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM AI Anon	5 12:30 PM Just for Today Group	6 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">8:00 AM Guys' Breakfast - Cancelled</div> 6:00 PM Epiphany Event - Cancelled
7 10:00 AM Worship 6:00 PM Women's Step Study	8 12:30 PM Just for Today Group 5:30 PM Women's Step Study 6:00 PM Men's 12 Step 7:30 PM AI Anon	9 10:00 AM AA Book Discussion 7:00 PM ACOA 12 Step 7:30 PM Positive Steps <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Welcome House Meal - Missions</div>	10 10:30 AM Funeral Service for Ann Adams 12:30 PM Just for Today Group 6:00 PM Women's AAWOL	11 12:15 PM Missions Mtg. 6:00 PM ACOA 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal 6:30 PM VASA Mtg. 7:30 PM AI Anon	12 12:30 PM Just for Today Group	13 9:00 AM Trustees Meeting 1:00 PM Memorial Service for Lois MacKay
14 10:00 AM Worship 6:00 PM Women's Step Study	15 12:30 PM Just for Today Group 5:30 PM Women's Step Study 6:00 PM Men's 12 Step 7:30 PM AI Anon Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	16 9:30 AM Church Women United 10:00 AM AA Book Discussion 6:30 PM Deacons' Mtg. 7:00 PM ACOA 12 Step 7:30 PM Positive Steps	17 10:00 AM Worship at Adult Daycare 12:30 PM Just for Today Group 6:00 PM Women's AAWOL	18 10:00 AM Healing & Hope Prayer Time 6:00 PM ACOA 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM AI Anon	19 12:30 PM Just for Today Group	20
21 10:00 AM Worship 6:00 PM Women's Step Study	22 12:30 PM Just for Today Group 5:30 PM Women's Step Study 6:00 PM Men's 12 Step 7:30 PM AI Anon	23 10:00 AM AA Book Discussion 6:30 PM Church Council 7:00 PM ACOA 12 Step 7:30 PM Positive Steps	24 12:30 PM Just for Today Group 6:00 PM Women's AAWOL	25 6:00 PM ACOA 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM AI Anon	26 12:30 PM Just for Today Group	27 3:00 - 5:00 Tea & Introduction of Clay's Novel
28 10:00 AM Worship 6:00 PM Women's Step Study	29 12:30 PM Just for Today Group 5:30 PM Women's Step Study 6:00 PM Men's 12 Step 7:30 PM AI Anon	30 10:00 AM AA Book Discussion 6:30 PM Hospitality 7:00 PM ACOA 12 Step 7:30 PM Positive Steps	31 12:30 PM Just for Today Group 6:00 PM Women's AAWOL	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> Dec 2017 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> Feb 2018 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 </div> </div>		

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

Return Service Requested



January Events

Welcome House Meal
Adult Day Care Worship
Healing & Hope Prayer Time
Tea and Introduction of Clay's Novel
Grow your Gift of Hospitality

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