



THE WEATHERVANE

OFFICIAL WESTPORT POINT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER

In This Edition:

- Church Events Calendar
- Local Events Calendar
- Pastoral Letter
- UMC Community 9/11 Reflection
- Howland Hall Updates
- Prayer List
- Church History Tidbits
- Brain Teasers



Westport Point UMC

October 2026

Westport Point UMC
1912 Main Rd, Westport Point

For more information:
westportpointumc.com
westportpointumc@gmail.com

Facebook: Westport Point UMC: A Source of God's Grace

Instagram: westportpointumc



SAT
3

Mobile Ministries

10 AM - St Paul's UMC in New Bedford, MA

Join our churching in partnering with St Paul's UMC
to deliver essential items to people in need.



Feed & Be Fed - 10:00 AM

The first Sunday of every month all are welcomed
to join in our communion worship and bring food
donations for the Westport Food Pantry

SUN
4

SUN
4

World Communion Sunday

10 AM

We will be using bread from different cultures and
celebrating the global connection of Christians.



All Church Meeting Following Worship

This is an opportunity as a congregation to prepare to
make informed decisions at Annual Church Conference

SUN
11

WED
**7, 14, 21, &
28**

Bible Study

7:00 PM

Weekly Bible Study following the Book of
Acts



Church Potluck

5:30 PM - 1832 Main Rd. (Parsonage)

Bring your favorite dish for a time of food
and fellowship. (Bible Study to follow)



WED
14



**FRI
16**

Massachusetts Hearts for Social Justice

5 PM - Zoom

The Conference is developing a group for legislative advocacy in Massachusetts based on the UMC Social Principles



**Laity Sunday
10:00 AM**

Celebrating the work of the Laity in our church.

**SUN
18**

**SUN
18**

Church Conference

**6:00 PM - Memorial UMC,
176 Somerset Ave., Taunton, MA**

As United Methodists, all members of the church are encouraged to attend this meeting



Meetings in October:

SPRC - October 3rd on Zoom with DS Wanda Santos-Perez

Prayer Group - every Tuesday at 6 pm

Trustees - October 13th at 7 pm

Ad Council - October 20th at 7 pm

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Local Events-October 2026

Oct. 2-4 – South Coast Harvest Festival

Westport Fair Grounds. Food, vendors, and family activities.

Tickets: \$10 adults, \$5 ages 5–12, free under 5.



Oct. 3 – WES-MAC PTO Fall Festival & Yard Sale

9 a.m.–1 p.m. at Macomber School.

Vendors, food, children's activities and a petting zoo.

Free admission.

Oct. 3 – Outdoor Movie Night: Supergirl

6:30–8:30 p.m. behind the Town Hall Annex.

Free admission; no registration required.



Oct. 4 – Little Legends Wave Fest

9 a.m.–3 p.m. at Horseneck Beach.

Inclusive youth surfing, music, art, and vendors.

Ticket prices vary.

Oct. 10 – Crush Festival

Noon–5 p.m. at Westport Rivers Vineyard.

Live music, food, drinks, hayrides, and harvest activities.

Free admission.



Oct. 18 – Halloween Happening

12–2 p.m. at Westport Woods.

Trick-or-treating, games, crafts, pumpkin painting, and music.

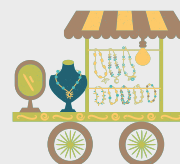
\$5 per child; adults free.

Oct. 24 – Purses for Paws

10 a.m.–2 p.m., 500 American Legion Highway.

Shop purses, jewelry, and accessories to benefit Habitat for Cats.

Free admission.



Oct. 31 – Kids' Halloween Costume Party

10 a.m.–1 p.m. at White's of Westport.

Breakfast, costumes, candy, music, and dancing.

Tickets: \$28 adults, \$16 ages 5–12, \$5 ages 4 and under.

Pastoral Letter



do not fear, for I am with you; do not be afraid, for I am your God; I will strengthen you; I will help you; I will uphold you with my victorious right hand.

- Isaiah 41:10 New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

October every year seems to be the time when we all talk about fear. Whether it be telling spooky stories, seeing creepy costumes and decorations, or watching horror movies, many people love to dive deep into what scares them in the month of October. And what we fear says a lot about who we are and the times we live in.

The “horror” genre goes back centuries, and even some of the earliest motion pictures dealt with frightening stories of monsters and deformed people causing havoc and mayhem in the world. These were examples of how we fear the unknown and different, often depicting the villains as some anomaly living outside society's expectations.

But recently, if you pay any attention to modern cinema, you might have noticed a trend in what are some of the most popular scary movies. The film “Get Out” in 2017 won critical acclaim and was a box office success, grossing over \$255 million worldwide. This film is primarily a commentary on the destructive forces of racism in America. Dystopian franchises such as “The Purge” and “A Quiet Place,” depict a possible future filled with unchecked violence and destruction have also seen major box office success.

What do these successes tell us about fear now?

That the call is coming from inside the house.



Pastoral Letter



Our fears are no longer of some unknown, mysterious bogeyman. Instead, people fear real, tangible challenges they see in everyday life. The 24-hour news cycle gives us a plethora of things to fear - economic collapse, global warming, increased violent crime, and politicians focused more on virtue signaling to their base than actually providing useful policies to benefit the people they were elected to serve. All of this leaves us weary, fearful, and disillusioned.

And yet, there is still hope. We find hope in the words of the prophet Isaiah, reminding us that God has promised to be with us always. We find hope in the people and movements that are seeking to create positive change in the world. And we hopefully find hope here, in this community, where we can gather together carrying our many differences, gifts, and fears, and lay them before one another and God so that we can all carry a bit of the weight for one another.

I pray that you always know
that through all of your fears and uncertainties,
you have a place, a home, a safe haven
where you are loved without condition
and where the burdens of this world can be shared,
so that we might be beacons of hope for others.

May your pain never outweigh your joy,
your uncertainty never outweigh your faith,
and your fear never outweigh your hope, Amen.

Blessings,

Rev. Heidi Fiore
Rev. Heidi Fiore

Faith Amidst the Rubble:

A Reflection on 9/11 and the Church

By Colleen Newcomb

I have found myself profoundly impacted by the events of September 11, 2001, even though I was not yet alive on that day. When I think of 9/11, I feel so much anger, hurt, and sadness, but also a deep and inexplicable sense of hopefulness.

As cliché as it sounds and seems, tragedy, sorrow, anger, and hope have a way of uniting people, and 9/11 did that in a way I cannot fathom. I have never seen our country as unified as it was in the months after September 11th.

What strikes me most when I consider that day is how quickly the Church became a place of refuge. In the hours and days following the attacks, United Methodist churches throughout New York opened their doors to people searching for comfort, prayer, food, and a sense of community. In interviews collected by United Methodist Communications, pastors and church members remembered sanctuaries filled with people who simply needed somewhere to go. Some churches expanded their feeding programs, others offered counseling, and members called families just to ask a simple but incredibly important question: Are you okay?

There is something so powerful to me about that kind of response. Nobody could undo what had happened. No prayer, meal, or conversation could bring back the people who died or erase what thousands of families had witnessed and experienced.

9/11 and the Church Cont'd.

Still, people chose to serve. At Washington Square United Methodist Church, volunteers continued feeding people experiencing homelessness while also serving firefighters coming from Ground Zero. Jennifer Rodia recalled seeing firefighters still covered in ash sharing meals together and recognized just how much the kindness of strangers mattered in those moments.

Jay Cardwell's reflection on John Street United Methodist Church makes that reality especially clear. The church sits only two blocks from where the World Trade Center stood.

On September 11th, Cardwell, a church trustee, made his way into Lower Manhattan unsure what he would find. He feared the windows might be shattered or that debris had damaged the building. Instead, when he entered, the church was still standing. Nothing was broken, but a fine layer of dust covered the pews, carpet, and altar. He even remembered finding papers that had blown from the World Trade Center into the area.

There is something truly heart-wrenching about that image. The church, your home church, a place that was normally familiar and comforting, was suddenly coated in the physical remnants of something horrific that had happened only a few blocks away. Yet almost immediately, the work began. Members cleaned the building, called one another to make sure everyone was safe, checked on neighbors, and looked for ways to help those around them.

9/11 and the Church Cont'd.

The first Sunday after the attacks, John Street United Methodist Church had no electricity. Members gathered anyway. They worshiped by candlelight, without the sound of the organ, surrounded instead by silence and prayer. Cardwell remembered seeing familiar faces as well as others from the surrounding area who simply needed somewhere to worship. Churches and United Methodists from around the world sent phone calls, cards, and banners of support. In a city filled with destruction, fear, and uncertainty, this small church continued to stand and continued to welcome people inside.

That mental image is perhaps one of the most powerful ones. A church only blocks from Ground Zero, covered in dust, without electricity, filled with people praying by candlelight.

And the work did not stop with prayer. Members of John Street found elderly neighbors nearby with no power, food, water, or medicine. They helped draw attention to people who might otherwise have been forgotten. They also assisted church members who were alone in hospitals and needed someone to advocate for their care. United Methodist relief workers and clergy also provided emotional and spiritual support. The needs were enormous, and yet the response often came down to caring for one person at a time.

9/11 and the Church Cont'd.

I think that is one of the most important things the Church can remember from September 11th. We do not always have to know how to fix something in order to help. We do not have to understand why suffering happens before we can respond. Christ calls us to love our neighbors, and sometimes that calling becomes clearest when everything else feels uncertain.

The United Methodist reflections from New York also show that this love extended beyond physical needs. Churches became places where people wrestled with grief, fear, anger, hatred, and what it meant to respond faithfully.

Some congregations sought dialogue with members of the Muslim community while others reflected on teachings about peace and peacemaking. Jennifer Rodia remembered feeling that people of faith needed to demonstrate that love was more powerful than hate.

Twenty-five years later, I think that remains one of the greatest challenges of remembering September 11th. It is easy to remember the anger. It is easy to remember the images of smoke, fire, and people running through the streets. Those things should never be forgotten. Neither should the nearly 3,000 lives lost or the countless others forever changed by what happened that morning.

But we should also remember what happened afterward.

9/11 and the Church Cont'd.

We should remember the firefighters sitting down together for a meal. We should remember church members calling one another to ask if they were okay. We should remember volunteers checking on elderly neighbors who had been overlooked. We should remember a congregation sitting together in a dark church illuminated by candles. We should remember strangers praying together because, for a moment, the differences between them seemed far less important than the grief they shared.

September 11th reminds us that there is no promise that tragedy will never come. It does, however, give us a way to respond when it does. We pray. We serve. We feed people. We comfort them. We open our doors. We refuse to allow hatred to become stronger than love.

Perhaps that is why, despite all the sorrow I feel when I think about September 11th, I also feel hope. That day's destruction showed some of the darkest things humanity is capable of. The response showed some of the best. Amidst the rubble, the church became a place where faith could be found again.



Clean-up of the World Trade Center collapse, Sept. 13, 2001. Photo: FEMA

9/11 and the Church Cont'd.

Below is a reflective prayer written by the United Methodist Global Ministries and UMCOR for the 25th year of remembrance.

God of a different way,
Twenty-five years later and we still remember:
the shock, the dust, the grief, the loss.
And if that was not enough, we remember the fear.
The fear that led to hatred and the hatred that led to violence.

Twenty-five years later and we have not forgotten
the outpouring of a church that chose a different way.
A people who extended compassion and care,
recognizing your image in the faces of their neighbors.

Twenty-five years later and we confess:
the strong grip of fear, its leveraging for power, has not lessened. It has grown.
Again and again, you have told us that fear does not have the final say,
and yet, we watch in disbelief as people keep choosing it.

Twenty-five years later, we must remember:
As your people, peace is something we are called to practice.
Again and again, may we lean into grace, love, and hope.
Today, O God, let our remembrance be a recommitment.

Amen.



Howland Hall Update

Work on Howland Hall continues, with many new structural frames being built in the basement to accommodate the handicap accessibility aids that will be installed. Access to Howland Hall has been closed off during this process for safety reasons. In addition to the accessibility redesign, energy-efficiency goals are in place to reduce the carbon footprint.

These goals include temperature regulation. Recent planning has been focused on improving the hall's heating and cooling system. Two HVAC options have been proposed for the first floor and basement, both using energy-efficient heat pump systems. Several factors need to be considered for either option. The church is reviewing these options and considering which approach will best meet the space's needs. Overall, there has been significant progress, and we look forward to seeing how the renovations continue!



A look at the framing of the new accessible entrance



Prayer List

Sharon Andrade (health) - 1325 Drift Rd., Westport, MA 02790

Huxley Conkiln (health) - 241 Cornell Road, Westport, MA 02790

Cathy Davis (health) - 443 Division Road, Westport, MA 02790

Ryan Doyle (health) - 479 Pleasant Street, Raynham, MA 02676

Charlene & Jordan Fiore (health & home repairs)- 425 Winthrop St.,
Taunton, MA 02780

Ben Furtado & Sarah (pregnancy)

Laura Gifford (health) - 1476D Drift Road, Westport, MA 02790

Garrett & Laura Grimley (pregnancy)

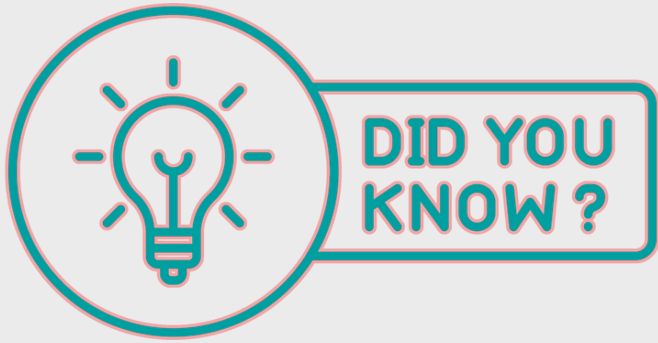
Kim & Brian Lima (pregnancy) - 1384 Drift Rd.

Megan Shufelt (health) - 19 Old Farm Rd., Westport, MA 02790

Val & Jim Turner (Grandson Parker's health) - P.O. Box 77, Westport
Point, MA 02791

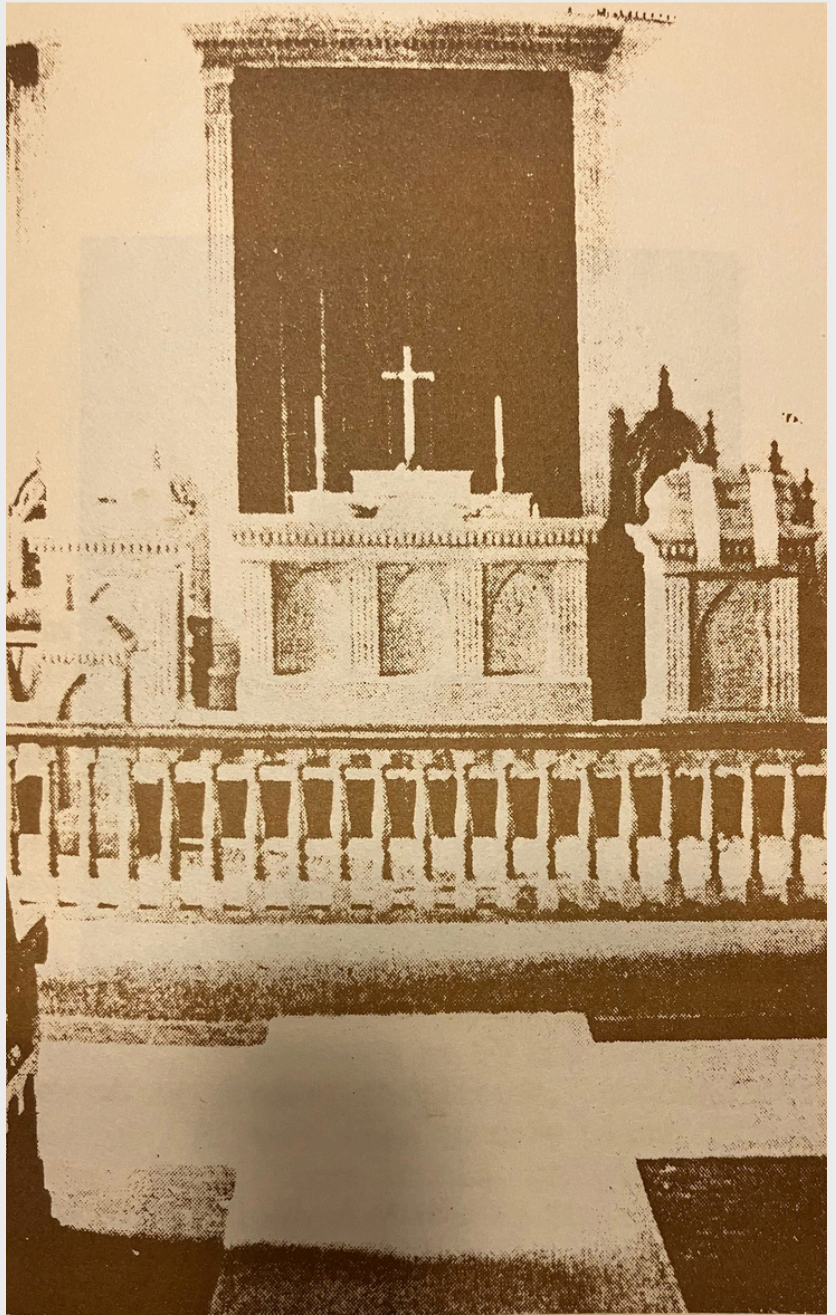
Inge VanPelt (health) - P.O. Box 345, Westport Point, MA 02791

Church History Tidbits



Did you know that the altar rail for our church is not original to the building?

It was acquired from the Hotel Westport, the hotel that once stood at the top of Hotel Hill until it was largely destroyed in a fire in 1920.



The railing served as an actual stair rail for the Hotel Westport before the church acquired it in 1921, launching a major restoration of the church as a whole.

Brain Teaser

Fall Fun

E F N J S M R F T J A E T V O Z O Z Y R U W U F C G T Z N Y
Z W U P N E B T X E N K M F R O J D I W P B X W I O L R R A
G D S C B Z Y B K N F K S U M P O A N I M Y L E D A M T C T
Z K R O T E O Q H B G K U Z T R Z D O R C Z N H E C S A B Y
H P T U E Z A V U Z C Q P R Q S C T S M W S P M R I E P R H
P C A X Q W W R D R M L G Z F V O H S Y J W X T N Q P U T H
O K A R A Z Y B W Y L M R Q K D T C G Q R S S I R L P R W G
U R U D T R G E Z Z W L T S Y A E T X B O W M Q C N S D S E
E S O Y E O U P Q F H B Y S S H U X M E B L N Y K T R T A B
S F I M S H R M B G B G S U T F I D Y M E S V Z L Q O H N A
G Q P Z M K H C S A N C T U A R Y T E O H K N C S W E D P U
N D V C B L W R H N D E B R J Q A C M V Z S D U M E Z S F P
T B Y A A E M D J A H S A L A M V A N I O Y E K K A W B F K
I W J C S T R B G X R S L A V A V Z O K P T O C O V O O L J
K N R Y O U N U U Y B D Q N Y B P D V M X T I M J N O L K B
V Q S I T M U H T G X C P Y W R D Z M J U X C O F B E D C Y
H D Q O D A A Y H P H U R U W J J G B G I I X I N C J J Q X
X I Q E C I V R E S I C V K E B Z M X Y P C R A A S T O W S
X C U E R I S V K T R R A T P S D W N G I E B G N C K N Z M
I P V F R T Q I D J C A C C P B Z O G O F R O K G L O C A L
W F L O U Q C D F M E R Q S Q T N R V M V S J Y A T N X M B
K T J B J B I Q R Q Z F D O A C O C S E P H Q T I M L Y D E
J W U F K K K L W S G Q Z A O B I E I E I Z S K U B P W R D
H G Y Q M D D Y A M K C J Q Q V N R L Q I N F F M N M D V X
P A M G S N I Z C A M K B Z M M U A W X R O Q X P O G V I V
Y Q J V M Z K N X X W T F G B R M C L O B J H C R O I Z O Y
G R A F I F O L I A G E E K V V M S C J X I C E A K K W X S
F E L L O W S H I P M K K C V Z O W S Y E I K C I I M W W V
N E E W O L L A H S H U V H A B C B I P D A A N S Z V K W H
U T B J D H X N Q B K Y Q V W A N M A F W S Z A E I T V W T

October
Foliage
Orchard
Cider
Bonfire

Halloween
Costume
Scarecrow
Cornstalk
Sanctuary

Devotion
Praise
Gospel
Service

Scripture
Communion
Ministry
Fellowship