

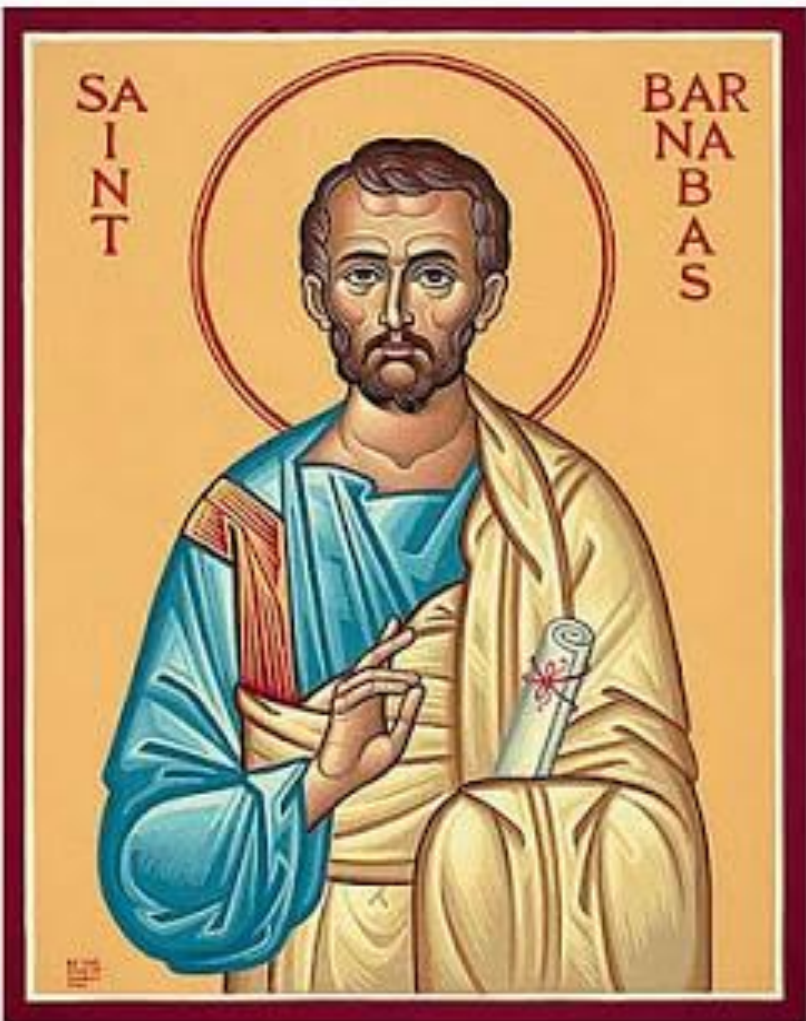
The Encourager

The Mission of St. Barnabas Church is to live and spread the Gospel of Christ as disciples making disciples.

Saint Barnabas Church
3257 Post Rd., Warwick, Rhode Island 02886
www.stbarnabaswarwick.org

401-737-4141

April 2026



Some FatherLee thoughts:

We will recount to generations to come

the praiseworthy deeds and the power of the LORD

(Psalm 78:4)

Bishop Knisely will lead our worship on May 10th. A big part of a bishop's visit focuses on Confirmation, Reception, and Reaffirmation. Basically, if you have not been Confirmed, you are invited. If you were Confirmed in the Roman Catholic Church, for example, your Confirmation is valid, so you are invited to be officially Received into The Episcopal Church. Or, if you are at a point when you want to rededicate your life to following Jesus, you are invited for Reaffirmation.

Now, there is no passage in the Bible that says you should be Confirmed. So why do we do it? Well, when a church baptizes babies, who can't make a decision of faith for themselves, there needs to be a time for a person to choose the faith. Confirmation is the public statement, "I choose to follow Jesus". The bishop then prays for the Holy Spirit to defend, strengthen, and direct your life.

Speak to me if you are interested in being Confirmed, Received, or Reaffirmed. There will be some classes to have conversations around faith, particularly in the Episcopal Tradition. Most of you know me well enough to know that I was brought up in The United Methodist Church and Confirmed in The Roman Catholic Church. I very much appreciate and claim different perspectives of faith, but there are many reasons that I have settled in The Episcopal Church. And, whether you have been here for decades or are just now getting involved, I celebrate whatever has led you to St. Barnabas.

For those who are not seeking Confirmation, Reception, or Reaffirmation, you have the incredibly important work of supporting and encouraging those who are. While Scripture doesn't mandate Confirmation, it does insist that we teach others about the incredible faith that has come to us. We must "recount to generations to come the praiseworthy deeds and power of the Lord."

That Psalm doesn't stop at recounting the stories, we must teach in such a way "That the generations to come might know, and the children yet unborn; that they in their turn might tell it to their children; So that they might put their trust in God." Are we telling the sacred stories of our God? Are we teaching them to our children, so "that they in their turn might tell it to their children"?

The words, "children yet unborn," demand that the work of faith is not so that we can feel good about ourselves. The work of faith is to remember the stories of how unbelievably wonderful God is to us, submit to the Lord, and to teach one another, especially children, trusting and praying that they will teach it to their children, who teach it to their children, so that faith is passed it on for generations and generations to come.

In a recent conversation, a matter-of-fact comment was made about how St. Barnabas was historically filled to overflowing on Easter and Christmas. Many churches were in "the good ole days". What changed? Well, some of it has to do with shifts in society, but we must take some ownership of the situation. Have we given young people a reason to get involved? Have we been faithful in telling the stories to them? Have we demonstrated how much better life is when we remember the greatness of our God, when we submit to our loving Lord, and teach others the sacred stories of hope and redemption and salvation?

I often comment to the Vestry that all of the decisions we make should be made based on what we believe will be best for St. Barnabas in thirty plus years. Am I doing now what I believe is best for the Church after I am dead and gone? Am I working to teach "children yet unborn" why this faith we have is so important? I invite you to join me in these questions and in the holy work of sharing our faith to generations to come.

Faithfully
Fr. Scott Lee



Deacon's Greetings

Deacon's Greetings

Through quiet and contemplation, repentance and preparation we move from the season of Lent into Holy week - from Maundy Thursday ("maundy" coming from the Latin word *mandatum* meaning "commandment" or "mandate" of Jesus's words in John 13:34, "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." and also connected to Jesus establishing the Eucharist, saying "Do this in memory of me."), to Good Friday, and through the Great Vigil of Easter into the light and joy and colors of Easter morning.

This season can feel like an emerging -- from darkness to light, from sorrow to joy, from the tomb to the resurrection. During Lent I've been reading a book based on the imagery of listening to the Holy Spirit in a quiet place, the Kiva, which I will explain in a moment, and emerging to a stronger life of faith as if climbing up a ladder.

Ladder to the Light: An Indigenous Elder's Meditations on Hope and Courage was written by Steven Charleston and published in 2021. The short bio on the back of the book introduces him as a leading voice of justice for Indigenous peoples, the environment, and spiritual renewal in North America. A member of the Choctaw Nation, he has written more than a dozen books, and has served as the Episcopal bishop of Alaska, President and dean of the Episcopal Divinity School, and professor at Luther Seminary. Charleston lives with his wife Susan, in Oklahoma, and writes daily meditations on social media, which reaches thousands.

His writings are short and heartfelt messages that he felt prompted by the Holy Spirit to share, as encouragement for himself and for us fellow pilgrims on our spiritual journeys. The inclusive language reflects both a grounding in Christianity and a welcome to all who seek the divine. These messages are in italics throughout each chapter, and his reflections are in plain text.

The book opens with an explanation of the Kiva, a tradition honored by Native American nations of the Southwest. A kiva is a small square or circular underground room with a roof of wooden beams that has an opening at its center. You enter it by descending a ladder, and once inside the packed earth chamber you are in darkness, with the only light coming from above. It's a sacred space or prayer and reflection - a kind of womb - a place of formation, symbolizing spiritual growth and resilience.

Continuing the imagery of a kiva and the ladder in/out, each chapter is a "rung" on the ladder as the spiritual pilgrim climbs from the womb of the kiva to a closer walk with God and the light of beloved community. Chapter 1 is the rung of Faith, followed by the rungs of Blessing, Hope, Community, Action, Truth, and Transformation. In Chapter 1 Charleston writes this about Faith:

"What next? Those two little words ask one of the biggest questions in life. Where do I go now? What do I do? These are crossroads questions, the ones we all have asked ourselves when we have been searching for a direction in life. Choosing a direction is making a decision. Making a decision is an act of faith. Even if we think we have no faith at all, we do when we take the next step on a path we have decided to make our own. We believe in our choice. We hope it is the right one. 'What next?' is a prayer, whether we realize it or not. 'What next?' is an invitation for the Spirit, who stands at every crossroads to offer a word of wisdom, if only we will listen."

As we journey from Lent to Eastertide, as we plan our H.O.P.E. ministries, and as we pray "What's next?" for ourselves and our faith communities, it may help to remember that this spiritual practice of seeking a quiet place and climbing the rungs of the ladder is not a one-time thing. Life is full of change. The kiva (or wherever we meet the Holy Spirit) is always there for us when we need that space and time to rest, recharge, draw closer to God, pray, and listen. Wherever you are in the sacred room or ladder of your faith journey, may you be blessed to hear the still small voice calling you to prayer, to divine love, and to connection with community, and may your Easter season be one of peace and joy. Alleluia, alleluia!

Yours in Christ,
Deacon Andrea

Healing Prayers April 12th



You have the opportunity to participate in prayers for healing, the laying on of hands, and anointing with Holy Oil. At the end of the service, simply move to the front of the church. After Fr. Scott greets those leaving church he will join you as we pray for ourselves and those in need. If you ever need prayers for healing please speak to Fr. Scott, you do not need to wait until the first Sunday of the month.



Michelle's Memos

Happy April and Happy Easter my fellow parishioners,

We are gathering all the information for the updated directory, which should be coming soon.

We are looking forward to spring and the May breakfast on May 3rd. There will be an attendance sign-up sheet in the back of the church after Easter. If anyone would like to bring a dish to share, it would be greatly appreciated.

The work on the handicap bathrooms is complete. Make sure to take a look.

Also, if anyone is interested in helping a local family, my son's friend's wife has a terminal brain disorder and needs some assistance with meals. They can take delivery for meals any time after 1pm. There are 4 people in the family (3 adults and a young girl). Mike and his wife will appreciate anything. There are no food sensitivities/allergies. You can visit the website: <https://takethenameal.com/QAKP9062> to sign up.

Thank you & warmest regards,
Michelle Gilbert (Sr. Warden)

Confirmation / Reception



Bishop Knisley will be here on Sunday, May 10, 2026, and will be at both services. These visits are when members are Confirmed in the Christian Church. It also offers anyone from a different denomination to be officially welcomed by our Bishop into the Episcopal Church. Fr. Scott will be having classes for preparation. If you are interested in being Confirmed or Received, please speak with Fr. Scott

Mid-week Eucharist & Bible Study



On Wednesdays, there is another opportunity for worship and study. At 10:00 a.m. there will be a Rite I Eucharist in the Guild Room immediately followed by a Bible study. All are welcome!

Flowers & Sanctuary Candle



If you would like to have flowers on the Altar or the Sanctuary Candle lit in memory of someone special or in celebration of a special event, there is a calendar with envelopes located in the back of the church. Please complete and drop in the collection plate or you may hand to an usher.

Happy Birthday



We would like to wish those celebrating birthdays in the month of April a very Happy Birthday!

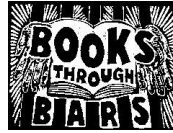
Carolyn Schofield	Faith Arthur
Christopher Baldassi	Steve Riley
Corey McMahon	London Hinz
Daniel Carignan Jr.	Jason Simonian
Daniel Carignan Sr.	Cheryl Clements
David Gagnon	Beth Peterson
Jeff Federico	Al Prata
Jim Turner	Steve Medeiros Sr.
Valerie Records	Timothy Newell
Mikaela Newell	Thomas Burdick
Paul Schofield	Carol Gravelin
Richard Kyte	Liz Balkom
Robin Beckwith	Adam Phillips
Kevin Rogers	

May Potluck Brunch



On Sunday May 3rd our annual May Brunch will be held following the 10am service. This will be a potluck event. A list will be on the back table in church for attendance and what dish you would like to bring.

Books Through Bars



We are thankful for the new floors in our library space. Special appreciation to Stan Schofield for his help in removing the bookcases and securing them to the walls again before and after the floor project. He contributed countless hours and his usual good humor to the task. A special shout out to Caden Crandall from Troop #7 Buttonwoods for the 4 bookcases he constructed for his Eagle Project. They have expanded and improved our book displays. We are celebrating 4 years of your hospitality to us. As always, we appreciate paperback donations of popular mysteries, science fiction, thrillers and westerns.

Have you ever wanted to go on a Mission Trip



Our brothers and sisters at Warwick Central Baptist Church are planning a mission trip to Oklahoma this Summer. They have invited anyone from St. Barnabas who may be interested to join them. Please contact Pastor Sam at W.C.B.C for more information, he can be reached at 401-739-2828. Warwick Central has a Ministry Team meeting the first Thursday of every month at 7:00 p.m. Perhaps some of our Outreach can be partnered together.

Prayer Shawls



Fr. Scott has prayer shawls that are made and donated by our wonderful parishioners in our prayer shawl ministry. If you or a loved one are in need of extra prayers and would like a shawl, please speak with Fr. Scott or call Robin in the parish office. All our welcome to join this ministry.

What is your calling?



Sunday school teachers – Sunday school has resumed, and we need you. Would you be willing to volunteer your time to be a teacher or aide?

Choir - Are you passionate about music and looking to connect with others who share your love for singing? Our church choir is on the hunt for enthusiastic members who want to elevate our worship experience through harmonious melodies and joyful voices. Whether you're a seasoned vocalist or a beginner eager to learn, there's a place for you in our musical family. Join us as we explore the uplifting power of song! To find out how you can get involved, reach out to Twaun Doyle our music director after Sunday services.

Usher, Reader, Acolyte, Counter – Have you wanted to volunteer in church but not sure of what or how? There are many opportunities.

Altar Guild - The Altar Guild sees to the weekly set-up of services and the needs of Father Scott, Deacon Andrea and guest priests. This is a quiet, prayerful ministry, always in need of more members to share in the duties. If you are interested in helping with this important work, please reach out to Joan Schofield.

Prayer Chain Coordinator: Our prayer chain is organized to meet the prayer needs of our parish family as well as those in our community of family, friends and neighbors. It functions as a rapid response to anyone in need of prayers. Because prayer requests are communicated by e-mail, the Prayer Chain is available 24/7. We are currently without a coordinator, if this is something you may be interested in, please let us know, we always welcome new volunteers! If interested or have any questions, please speak with Fr. Scott or any Vestry member.

Be on the lookout for more opportunities as we roll out our H.O.P.E program.

H.O.P.E.

Hospitality, Outreach, Pastoral Care, and Education



We're growing and so are our opportunities for connecting with our parish family and the wider community! Prayfully consider where you might like to get involved to help with supporting and expanding *H.O.P.E.* as we discern the intersections of our deep joy and the world's deep need. For questions, please contact Fr. Scott or Deacon Andrea.

Archdeacon's Library



All are invited to browse and borrow books from the Archdeacon's Library and pick up a few bookmarks too. Many thanks to Susan Federico who has volunteered to be our librarian! If you have questions about the library, please reach out to Deacon Andrea.

Donate Pull Tabs



Minutes of expensive treatments and other support services for the children are supplemented by selling the recycled metal. Whenever you pop a top, say a prayer for the children and bring your tops to church and place in the collection containers! Keep those tab tops coming and transform them into a blessing instead of sending them to the landfill. Just another small way you can make a difference! ***Thank You!!!***

Morning Prayer



On Tuesdays & Thursdays mornings at 10:00 a.m. Fr. Scott holds a short Morning Prayer Service. This gives us another chance to pray for this world, this nation, our church, our friends, family and even our enemies.

St. Barnabas Church streams on YouTube!



Please visit the link below to watch our first video featuring Fr. Scott and be sure to subscribe. <https://youtube/tUOnRWfSo8s> You will be able to watch us live on YouTube or our website. After worship, the video will be shared back to Facebook, so it will be available after the fact.

Please like our Facebook page (St Barnabas Episcopal Church, Warwick, RI) and our Instagram page (stbarnabaswarwick). With everything going on you won't miss out on any parish news.

Warwick, RI) and our Instagram page (stbarnabaswarwick). With everything going on you won't miss out on any parish news.



westbay community action
Helping people. Changing lives.

Thank you to those who continue to donate to the Food Bank during these difficult times. They are much appreciated and help local residents in need. You can bring them to church on Sunday mornings; there is a donation bin at the back of the church. Thank you to Richard Carr who has volunteered to bring the donations to Westbay.