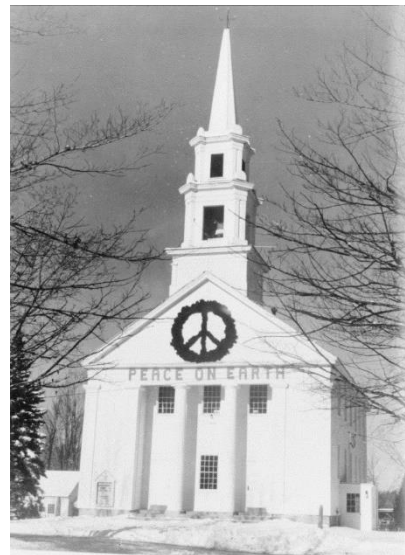


Congregational Church of Phillipston, U.C.C.
60 The Common
Phillipston, MA 01331



Phillipston
Community
Newsletter
Vol. 39 No.12

December 2025



The Phillipston Congregational Church, U.C.C.
Our Community Church

Dear Friends, Worship 10:00 a.m. with Children's story

Luke tells us that Caesar Augustus, emperor of Rome, decreed that a census be taken and that everyone return to their ancestral village of the head of the household. Mary and Joseph were living in Nazareth, but Joseph's ancestral village, his hometown was Bethlehem. The Roman authorities did not care that Mary was nine months pregnant. She and Joseph were forced to make the 80 to 90 mile journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem, which may have taken nine or ten days for a pregnant woman on foot. Even though we often see Mary on a donkey in paintings and stamps, the Scriptures do not actually tell us that information.

In a book titled Not a Silent Night I learned the walk from Nazareth to Bethlehem is at first flat, but then it is uphill, traversing mountains and valleys for days. Most likely Mary cried and got exhausted traveling. And she was probably missing her mother and the comfort of close friends who she would have hoped could have been with her during childbirth. It is hard to imagine Mary's disappointment in being forced to travel to Bethlehem without those people.

We do know that she gave birth in a space with an animal feeding trough. In those days many people often brought their sheep and donkeys in at the end of the day. In other words, Mary gave birth in a stable. We know that Mary was blessed by God, chosen as his handmaiden and given the most important task any human being would ever have. We need to remember that God does not promise that life will be easy, that all will be calm and bright, but that God will be with us.

Your sister in Christ, Stephanie C. Flynn. Christmas Eve worship service, Wednesday, December 24 at 4:00 p.m.

COA news

I will not be serving any Senior lunches in December.
Our next will be January 6, 2026. The menu will be in the January newsletter.
On January 20 we will have a program about the construction of The Hoosec Tunnel.
All are welcome. For more information call Paula at 978-407-9504

THE NEWSLETTER IS ON www.phillipston.com
January 2026 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE IS December 23th
For more info go to : www.phillipston.com/priceinfo.pdf
Email to: newsletter@phillipston.com

PHILLIPSTON'S CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING

* PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD *

MEMORY TREE CEREMONY

Sunday, ~December 7th~, 2025

4:30 P.M., On the Common

~ Everyone is encouraged to attend this **free** event ~

Senator Peter Durant and Rep. Susannah Whipps will participate in the tree lighting and Christmas carol. After the tree is lit we'll move into the Congregational Church for the reading of the names, events and memories on the 2025 Memory Tree list.

This event also includes the presentation of the 2025
Citizen of the Year award. Light refreshments will follow.

Each tree light represents a name, memory or event which is supported by a \$5.00 donation to Phillipston's Historical Society.

This is a great opportunity to meet Senator Durant and Representative Whipps who will be reading the names aloud.

Come join us for this memorable community holiday gathering!

The Phillipston Youth Supporters (PYS)

The PYS would like to thank all the vendors, shoppers and everyone else who helped make the Narragansett Craft Fair a success. As you know we help any Phillipston youth with school trips, high school scholarships and education or enrichment programs. Please reach out to us if you know someone who would benefit from a helping hand.

Email: phillipstonyouth@gmail.com

Facebook: Phillipston Youth Supporters

Phone: 978-277-3307

Our 2026 quarterly meetings are held on the second Thursday @ 6:30 at 330 Highland Ave. If for some reason the dates need to be changed we will post on FB. Hope to see you there.

January 8th April 9th July 9th October 8th

“Support and Encourage Our Children and They Will Do Extraordinary Things”!

The P.F.F. and E.M.S. Assoc. is having its **Annual Toy Drive** for kids 8 thru 16 years of age. We appreciate your help again this year. The boxes will be placed at the Fire Station and Town Hall on Nov.29th thru Dec.19th. For more information please contact Don Smith at 978-895-3405. Thank you for your support. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

The Historical Society of Phillipston, Inc. 80 State Road, Phillipston

The Museum is closed for the season. Inquiries regarding research, artifact donations, or special requests to view artifacts, please contact Jane French, Curator.
Tel: 978-249-4356.

Annual Senior Citizen Holiday Luncheon

Senior Citizens from Phillipston & Templeton, join us for the annual

NRSD Holiday Luncheon



When: Wednesday, December 23, 2025

Where: Middle School/High School Cafeteria

Time: 12pm

Your choice of delicious turkey or ham, served with all the fixings!

Followed by an assortment of baked holiday treats and hot coffee/tea.

RSVP no later than December 17th

svarney@nrdsd.org OR ageyster@nrdsd.org

(978) 939-6232 or (978) 939-6234

The Need Goes On...because hunger never takes a holiday

I am writing to thank you all for your generous support for my Eagle Project. With all of your contributions, I raised enough money to purchase 14 of the new sturdy crates for the Gardner CAC, and customize them, 600 copies of the brochure I made, and a large amount of food for the CAC and the Montachusett Veterans Outreach Center! I also want to thank all of the residents of Phillipston and Templeton who contributed to my two Food Drives in May. The Templeton Food Pantry was very grateful for all the donations received. Please watch the video I created with TCTV (Templeton Community Television) which is posted on their YouTube channel. It features the pantries and State Representatives Susie Whipps and John Zlotnik. The direct link is: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ae-W2ennBUQ> or you can find it on their website and Facebook page as well.

I also wish to thank my scout leaders, Eric Olson, Brian Nason, Ken McClure and TJ Leano, without whom I never could have come so far, my coach Amy Maguy for her kind support, my fellow scouts and others who volunteered their time staffing the food drives, and local businesses Lyman Signs for producing the crate labels and for donating lawn signs, and White Dog Printing for creating such a professional brochure for me, TCTV for donating their time and studio use for my video, and all the video panel members who shared their perspectives. Thanks also to the Boynton Library and the Phillipston Church for allowing me to hold my food drives at their locations, and for always supporting me and other scouts. I especially want to thank Pastor Stephanie Flynn who has literally been my lifelong friend, supporter and champion. Through this project, I have learned a lot about the food issues facing so many people these days, and I hope to inspire others to continue supporting their local pantries and perhaps volunteer themselves. Together we can all make a difference! Sincerely, James Bennett, Eagle Scout 2025

Holly Berry Fair – December 13th 9:00 am to 1:00 pm



Phillips Free Public Library

Library Hours

Tuesday 9-2pm

Wednesday 5-7pm

Saturday 9-1 pm

Board of Trustees Meeting:

December 2, 2025, 2pm.

* “like” our Facebook page

Phillips Free Public Library

Winter Arrangement Program – Time change!

Karen Perkins will artfully demonstrate how to combine fresh evergreen clippings and other items into 2 beautiful and long-lasting arrangements.

Join us on **Tuesday, December 3 at 5:30**

.Door prizes and refreshments.

Tech-help

Bring your questions about laptops, tablets and phones to Savvy Saturday- December 6
11am-1pm for free and friendly help.

Holiday Hours

December 24 – CLOSED December 31 – CLOSED

New Materials

New books: The Widow by John Grisham, Finding a Way: a memoir by Malala Yousafzai, The Christmas Stranger by Richard Paul Evans, A Merry Merry Christmas by Debbie Macomber, The Proving Ground by Michael Connelly.

Children’s Books: The Humble Pie by Jory John and Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Partypooer by Jeff Kinney

New DVDs include: ‘The American Revolution- a Ken Burns film’

Book Club & Yankee Swap

Our next read is **The Four Winds** by Kristin Hannah. We will meet to discuss on **Tuesday, January 13 at 5:30**. Copies available to borrow. We will also have a voluntary Yankee Swap during our meeting! Bring a wrapped gift \$5- ish. New members are always welcome!

Phillipston Lions

We, the Lions of Phillipston, would like to thank you all for supporting the Phillipston Lions Club this year. With Easter Egg Hunts, Breakfast, Dinners, Grill Raffle, Vendor Fair and Haunted School. We also sponsor the Farmer Market, Narragansett Craft Fair, Pumpkin Weigh In. We will be back March 21, 2026, with Breakfast, Homemade Corn Beef Hash Special.

Phillipston Lions Club holding Lions meeting December 9, 2025, at the Library @ 7 pm. We do collect old eyeglasses as well as hearing aids. New box at the transfer station. Please wrap your glasses in a plastic bag, place them in the box.

**Special Town Meeting
December 3, 2025 7:00pm
At the Phillipston School Building**

Narragansett Regional Middle/High School

Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) Roof Project Summary

Based on the Existing Roof Conditions & Schematic Design report, the overall conditions of the Narragansett Middle and High School facilities show extensive aging, deterioration, and moisture-related damage across multiple building systems. The roofs exhibit worn membranes, failing flashing, loose or corroded fasteners, compromised sealants, and ineffective drainage elements, all of which increase the likelihood of water infiltration. There are 35 separate leaks throughout the building. Exterior façades, including metal panels and trim, show corrosion, dents, sealant failure, and surface degradation, while interior spaces display staining, damaged finishes, and substrate deterioration consistent with ongoing leaks and prolonged exposure to moisture.

Corresponding repairs identified in the report include replacing damaged or deteriorated roof flashings and accessories, addressing corrosion and fastener failures, and restoring or fully replacing roof membrane sections where performance is compromised. The exterior envelope requires re-sealing joints, replacing failed or rusting metal components, repairing damaged panels, and improving water-management details to prevent further infiltration. Interior areas affected by leaks will require removal and replacement of damaged finishes and substrates once the envelope issues are resolved. Together, these repairs are necessary to restore watertightness, stabilize the facilities, prevent structural and material degradation, and extend the useful life of the buildings.

Narragansett Roof Project Key Points

- **Submission & Approval**

- Statement of Interests submitted Feb 2024 to Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) Accelerated Repair Program (Middle & High School roofs)

- MSBA Project Invitation: Oct 2024

- MSBA assigned Owner's Project Manager (OPM) & Designer: Jan 2025

- The district paid (\$115,000) for the OPM & Schematic Design planning stage, and is not asking for the towns to pay for this.

- Town Meetings & Election: November/December 2025

- Roof Construction: Summer 2026

- **Scope & Eligibility**

- MSBA reimburses roofs more than 25 years old

- HS Built in 1997

- MS Built in 1958, Sections repaired in 1997 & 2011

- Construction to replace the High School roof & repair qualifying sections of the Middle School roof

- **Project Cost Overview**

- Total construction cost: \$10,864,548

- MSBA Reimbursement
Approved Oct 29, 2025, at a 59% reimbursement rate.
Total Estimated Max Facilities Grant: \$6,111,695
 - Local Funding Share
Remaining local cost: \$4,752,853
District to issue 20-year bond
Estimated cost of Bond (Principal & Interest): \$7,057,471
Templeton(85%): \$5,998,850
Phillipston(15%): \$1,058,621
 - Tax Rate Increase
Phillipston: Approximate \$75.00 annual increase to the average single-family home
Templeton: Approximate \$95.19 annual increase to the average single-family home
-



The Hoosac Tunnel took 25 years to build, went bankrupt three times and came in ten times over budget. Sound familiar? We'll take talk about why the tunnel in western Massachusetts was needed, how it was funded, the new technology developed, labor practices and the absolutely amazing reality that this 100-plus-year-old hole through a mountain range is still an important part of our transportation infrastructure. Interspersed with images and music.



Council on Aging will present a program about the construction of The Hoosac Tunnel. All are welcome. For more information call Paula at 978-407-9504 January 20, 2026, at the Senior Lunch. Phillipston church.