

# SEAMEN'S BETHEL



John Robson

“In this same New Bedford there stand’s a Whaleman’s Chapel, and few are the moody fisherman, shortly bound for the Indian Ocean or Pacific, who fail to make a Sunday visit to the spot.”

—Herman Melville, *Moby-Dick*, 1851

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15 Johnny Cake Hill  
New Bedford, MA 02740  
508-992-3295



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Built in 1832 and once housing a school, seamen's register (which helped to connect seafarers with those staying ashore), library and reading room, the non-denominational Seamen's Bethel still serves the seafaring community of New Bedford while also providing a historical venue for joyous occasions such as weddings and baptisms as well as a somber setting for funeral and memorial services.

The Seamen's Bethel is owned and managed by the New Bedford Port Society, established in 1830 to "promote the interests of Seamen", and is supported primarily by the Society's Membership and the general public.

The Seamen's Bethel is open Memorial Day through Labor Day, Monday through Friday 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and is usually closed weekends year round to accommodate private services.