



PARISH POST

Wapping Community Church, United Church of Christ
No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey,
you are welcome here!

December, 2024



Special Advent & Christmas Services

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| Sunday, Dec. 8 | One Worship Service Only, 10 a.m. Special Advent Music including Brass Quintet, Choir and other musicians
Advent Fair, 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., Community Room |
| Thursday, Dec. 12 | Dark Night Service, 6:30 p.m. Sanctuary
<i>All Are Welcome</i> |
| Sunday, Dec. 15 | Worship Services, 8:30 & 10 a.m.
Christmas Pageant, 10 a.m.
Living Creche, outside on front lawn, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. |
| Sunday, Dec. 22 | Christmas Sunday Worship Services, 8:30 & 10 a.m. |
| Tuesday, Dec. 24 | Christmas Eve Early Service, 5:30 p.m. with Sacred Dancers
Candlelight Christmas Eve Service, 10:30 p.m. |
| Wednesday, Dec. 25 | <i>Merry Christmas!</i> |
| Sunday, Dec. 29 | One Worship Service , 9 a.m. <i>New Year's P.J. Sunday</i> |

“Coming Attractions”

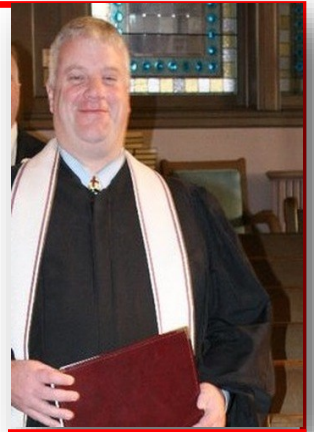
Thursday, December 12th at 6:30 pm sounds like an odd time to have a worship service. For those of you who go to bed early, you may already have your pajamas on by 6:30pm. For those of you who have young children, 6:30pm might be bath time or story time or winding down time in your house. If you have teenagers, 6:30 pm might be the time when you are making or eating dinner to try and accommodate your son or your daughter's school or after school schedule. Some of you, I imagine, may be still at work at 6:30 pm on 12/12, trying to complete end of the year projects or trying to finish enough work that you can take a couple of days off when Christmas comes.

If you can fit it into your schedule, however, we are holding what I call a “Dark Night” service in the sanctuary. And this year, the Dark Night service is scheduled for Thursday, December 12th at 6:30 pm. Here's why you might want to come... If you feel busy and stressed and bombarded by the “noise” of the Christmas season, the Dark Night service will be quiet and reflective. If you feel sad or you are grieving the loss of a special loved one in your life during this Christmas season, the Dark Night service is designed to be comforting and reassuring. If you feel lonely during this Christmas season, you will be surrounded at the Dark Night service by the support and love of others who will be there with you. Or if you feel anxious about the state of the world and what the future looks like, the Dark Night will serve as a reminder that God continues to work even in our fear and discomfort.

Or maybe, you just want to spend an hour or so of your Christmas season with God. Praying, singing, listening, lighting candles, holding onto hope. Sitting in the comfort of our church sanctuary and remembering God's Christmas promise that we are never alone.

I know Thursday, December 12th is kind of a crazy time for a worship service. On the other hand, coming to the Dark Night service might wind up being one of the better things you do on your way to Christmas this year.

Hope to see you there, Mark



**Rev. Mark
Abernethy
Senior Minister**

Stephen Ministry

With the holidays upon us, a season that's normally a time for celebration, it may have a more somber tone to some, whether it be from the loss of a loved one, health concerns, anxiety, depression or life changes.

Wapping Church offers a free, confidential ministry to anyone experiencing a difficulty. Stephen Ministry is an ongoing group of trained members from our congregation who offer Christ centered listening, caring, and support during a time of life's challenges.

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December Calendar

Sun., Dec. 8:	One Worship Service Only, 10 a.m., Special Music including Brass Quintet & Choir Sacred Dance Practice, 11:20 a.m. Advent Fair, 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Community Room
Tues., Dec. 10	Deacons' Meeting, 7 p.m., Earle Smith Room Pollinator Pathway Meeting, 7 p.m., Fellowship Hall Outreach Meeting, 7 p.m., via Zoom
Thurs., Dec. 12	Dark Night Service Choir Rehearsal, 7 p.m., Fellowship Hall
Sun., Dec. 15	Worship Services, 8:30 and 10 a.m., Christmas Pageant, 10 a.m. Living Creche, 11 a.m.- 2 p.m., front lawn Sacred Dance Practice, 11:20 , Sanctuary SPF Youth Group, 4-6 p.m.
Thurs. Dec. 12	Dark Night Service, 6:30 p.m. All are welcome.
Sun., Dec. 15:	Worship Services, 8:30 and 10 a.m. Christmas Pageant at 10 a.m. service Living Creche, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m., outside, front lawn Faith Formation meeting, 11:20 a.m., Erin's office JPF/SPF Caroling to shut-ins
Tues., Dec. 17	Prayer Shawl Ministry, 10 a.m., Earle Smith Room
Thurs., Dec. 19	Foodshare Mobile Pantry, 11:30 a.m., Parking Lot Choir Rehearsal, 7 p.m., Fellowship Hall
Sun., Dec. 22	Christmas Sunday Worship Services, 8:30 & 10 a.m. Sacred Dance Practice, 11:20 a.m.
Tues., Dec. 24	Christmas Eve Services: 5:30 p.m. Family Service with Sacred Dance 10:30 p.m. Candlelight Christmas Eve Service
Wed., Dec. 25	<i>Merry Christmas!</i>
Sun., Dec. 29	One Worship Service, 9 a.m. New Year's Pajama Sunday

Outreach Ministry Helps Our Community

Fill the Giant Christmas Stockings with Socks!

The Cornerstone Foundation in Vernon has asked for socks for their clients. If you can pick up some socks, bring them into church, and put them in the giant stockings we'll have on display. All sizes are needed but especially men's. Help your neighbors have warm feet this winter. Thank you!



MACC Volunteer Saturdays

At our final MACC Volunteer Saturday on November 9th, we emptied ambulances full of donations and sorted and labeled cans and packages of food. We have a lot of fun while supporting MACC, Manchester Area Conference of Churches, a local charitable organization that is vital to our community.



We'll announce the 2025 dates in January. Please consider joining us. Thanks to all of our wonderful Wapping volunteers who really make a difference. Contact Matt Desy for more information, mattdesy01@gmail.com, 860-999-1736.

WCC Needs MACC Donations

All clean, gently used or new clothing, shoes, sneakers or boots are accepted. Also, non-perishable food items are requested and are always greatly appreciated. Donations can be left in the two collection bins located in Fellowship Hall under the Sanctuary. Many thanks from our neighbors in need.

WCC Donates Holiday Gift Cards to the South Windsor Food & Fuel Bank

Gretchen Bickford, right, poses with South Windsor Human Services Director, Andrea Cofrancesco, left, at the Community Center, with the 52 gift cards that Wapping Community Church members donated for folks in need.

Many thanks for reaching out to those individuals and families this holiday season!



TOUCHSTONES Holiday Giving for Homebound Church Members

Touchstones Ministry would like to thank you for all the generous donations for our homebound members. We filled 13 bags which will be delivered by volunteers.

Thank you again, for bringing joy to our shut-ins this holiday season.

Merry Christmas!



Kids' Korner by Erin Murray

Church School

Church School has been going very well this year. We are continuing to grow our numbers by the week! Thank you for your dedication to our Church School program by getting your children here, volunteering to teach, and praying for our program.



Erin Murray
Church School
Coordinator

Advent Fair 2024

We are excited about our Annual Advent Fair coming up on December 8th. We will have numerous crafts for all ages, make your own gingerbread houses, wreath making, a hot chocolate bar, a photo booth, and Miss Jenna The Face Painting Mama!

We will also have Fellowship Cafe and lunch.

Please bring family and friends. All are welcome!

I can't thank all of our volunteers enough! This event cannot run without you!


A festive poster for the Advent Fair 2024. The background is a green wreath with red and yellow ornaments and gold stars. Text is overlaid on the wreath in various colors and fonts.

MAKE YOUR OWN CRAFTS

HOT CHOCOLATE BAR

MAKE YOUR OWN GINGERBREAD HOUSES

ADVENT FAIR

11:30 AM - 1:30 PM Sunday, December 8, 2024

Wapping Community Church

1790 Ellington Road, South Windsor, CT 06074

Questions and Volunteer Opportunities:
wappingfaith@gmail.com

FACE PAINTING

PIZZA & SNACKS

Everyone is welcome!

Our Christmas Pageant will take place during the 10 am service on Sunday, Dec. 15th. Sacred Dance will perform, we have our all Church School Choir, and numerous children have speaking roles. We hope you'll join us for this beautiful service.

Christmas Pageant Practice Dates:

- Friday, December 13th 5-6:30pm
- Saturday, December 16th 9am-11am (Church School & Sacred Dance together)

Living Creche

This year the Living Creche will take place after the Christmas Pageant on December 15th. Sign up for a ½ hour time slot by emailing Donna Bereza at donnal14@gmail.com or sign up on the Sign up Genius: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409094BA5AF2CAAF58-53113565-living#/>

Save the Dates:

Sunday, December 29th there will be one service at 9 am. We'll sing carols. Please feel free to come in your pjs and bring a bell to ring.

Sunday, April 6th is Faith Chest & Bible Presentations for our 3rd & 8th Graders. Your child/ren must be a *registered Church School attendee to be a part of this celebration.* Please register here:

<https://forms.gle/7YiC2j6wjbAJ5Df27>

Merry Christmas!

See you soon! ~ Blessings, *Erin*

Erin Murray,
Church School Coordinator

JPF Youth Group News

Sun., Dec. 8th, 4-6 p.m. We'll be baking Christmas cookies to bring to the people we're visiting for caroling. We'll have some fun games too.

Sun., Dec. 15th, 4-6 p.m. We'll meet for our annual caroling expedition to spread Christmas cheer.

If you have any questions, please contact Patty Albrecht, 860-670-8058.



Christmas Pageant

December 15th, 2024 at 10 AM
1790 Ellington Road
South Windsor

at Wapping Community Church

Invite your friends and family to share in this divine celebration and embrace the spirit of Christmas! Everyone is welcome to attend.

Plus, enjoy complimentary refreshments after the performance.

2024 Endowment Gifts

"The true meaning of life is to plant trees, under whose shade you do not expect to sit."

Nelson Henderson

Our church continues to benefit from those who previously 'planted' through their contributions to the life and ministry of this church and endowed us in perpetuity for continuing that legacy

This year we are grateful to members of the Endowment Ministry Legacy Society who thoughtfully included the WCC Endowment Ministry in their will or financial plans. **Gifts were received from the Estates of Clynton B. Buckland, and M. Robert and Joan Swift.** The gift from the Estate of Clynton B. Buckland included funds that were used for mold remediation, outreach, and church communication upgrades. The gift from the Estate of M. Robert and Joan Swift is used exclusively for the continuation of the ministry and mission of our church.

The mission of the Endowment Ministry is to work to assure that this tradition continues. These gifts are often the result of conversations centered around financial/estate planning. It's not the size of the gift it's the spirit, faith, and vision of those who contribute that serve as an inspiration to the generations that follow. Gifts to the Endowment Fund are recorded in the books housed in the Gathering Room.

Brochures are available in the corridor outside the Gathering Room. Estate Planning Guides are available upon request. Please contact Marge Kelliher at (860) 874-2052 or mhk4671@gmail.com.



Creche Crew

Each November, a crew gathers to assemble the creche on the front lawn of the church. It's a time of fellowship, working together and creating a manger scene for the whole town to enjoy. This year, Ken Johnson organized the event and Kevin Greer brought his trailer to transport the boards. Several others assisted. Let us know if you'd like to help!



2024 Christmas Flowers

Christmas is just around the corner! The Flower Committee will once again be accepting donations to defray the purchase of poinsettias which will decorate our church this holiday season. The suggested amount is \$10.00 but it can be whatever your heart leads you to give. Dedications will be printed in a special section of the Christmas Eve bulletin.



Members of the Flower Committee will take dedications in person after services on November 24, December 1st and December 8th

If you wish, you may also mail your dedication to the church office at Wapping Community Church, 1790 Ellington Road, South Windsor, CT 06074.

All dedications and orders must be received in the church office no later than 12:00 noon on Tuesday, December 10th. Thank you!

In Memory of: 1): _____

2): _____

In Honor of: 1): _____

2): _____

Other: _____

Given by _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

(Please make checks payable to Wapping Community Church)

Church Staff

Ministers, all of the Members of the Church

Rev. Mark B. Abernethy, Senior Minister
Maria Centola, Director of Music Ministry
Kathy Brady, Office Administrator
Erin Murray, Church School Coordinator

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