



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!*

March, 2025



The Jolly Beggars Return to WCC

Everyone enjoyed the beautiful Irish music that The Jolly Beggars played on Sunday, March 2. Pictured above are Chris Vece, David Uhl and Jeff DesRosier. Thank you Jolly Beggars!

Spaghetti DINNER

AT WAPPING COMMUNITY CHURCH

FRIDAY, MARCH 14 • 4-7PM

FREE

SPAGHETTI WITH SAUCE, MEATBALLS, FRESH SALAD,
ITALIAN BREAD, ICE CREAM

EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO CONNECT WITH FRIENDS &
NEIGHBORS IN OUR COMMUNITY FOR AN EVENING OF
GOOD FOOD AND GREAT COMPANY.

1790 ELLINGTON RD, SOUTH WINDSOR, CT
www.wappingchurch.org 860.644.0833



Love Your Neighbor Event

March 30, 2025, 1:00-2:30 p.m.
Fellowship Hall

On Sunday, March 30, Wapping Community Church will host a 90 minute **“Love Your Neighbor”** discussion moderated by the Connecticut Council for Interreligious Understanding (CCIU). CCIU promotes the development of stronger communities through greater understanding of the faith traditions found in residents of Connecticut cities and towns. In the Love Your Neighbor session we’ll hear brief presentations from three local residents representing Hindu, Christian and Jewish faith groups. The CCIU moderator will then open up the sessions for questions from the audience.



The Love Your Neighbor event will be held from 1:00 - 2:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall, followed by refreshments and an opportunity for all of us to meet more of our neighbors. The session is free and open to all who wish to attend, so feel free to pass this invitation along to anyone you think might be interested.

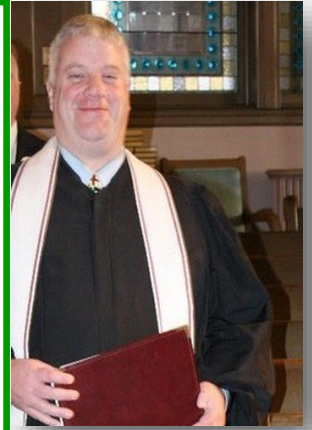
To RSVP, or for any questions or comments (including advanced questions for the panelists) please contact Rick Love at rlove863@gmail.com.

Join us for a Community Spaghetti Dinner on Friday, March 14, 4-7 p.m.!
Bring your neighbors and friends!
See details (left.)

“A Lenten Idea”

As you read through this March issue of the Parish Post, you will see a number of different things happening at our church during the season of Lent. Starting with an Ash Wednesday worship service at 6:30 pm on March 5th, the month of March is chock full of activity, including local mission opportunities, a community dinner, Youth Sunday, an Interfaith dialogue session and a “Paint Night” fundraiser for our SPF group. It’s hard to imagine we can fit too much more into our Lenten season!

Having said that, people in our church ask me from time to time if we can have an Adult Confirmation class where we would gather to talk about some of our foundational faith tenets and a few key theological concepts. Those requests often come to me in the wake of a Confirmation year, such as 2024. As a result, I have been pondering the idea of Adult Confirmation since last spring.



**Rev. Mark
Abernethy
Senior Minister**

In talking with our church’s Faith Formation group, I have identified two upcoming Lenten Sundays where I plan to lead two Confirmation sessions. The first will be on Sunday, March 23rd and the second will be on April 6th. We will start each session at 12:30 in the Reception Room and each session will last for about an hour. Anyone who is interested is welcome to bring a snack for themselves, since it will be around lunchtime.

Given how difficult it is for families with children and youth to come to weeknight events and programs at the church, I’m hoping early afternoon on Sunday time will be a time when busy people may be able to set aside some time to reflect on their own faith with a group. If you don’t have children or teenagers in your house, you are certainly welcome to come as well! And if the sessions are well received, we may continue past Easter into late Spring...

Peace and blessings, *Mark*

Special Music this Spring

**May 11 - Mother’s Day Music Sunday
10 a.m. Service Only**

Celebrate Mother’s Day with us on May 11 at a special Music Sunday service. Our choir, joined by The Unitarian Universalist Choir, and multiple instrumentalists, will present music by Randall Thompson set to poetry by Robert Frost. This will be a beautiful moment of reflection and gratitude for the nurturing love in our lives.



June 1 - Lisa Williamson, Soprano, Joins Our Choir

On June 1, we are honored to welcome Lisa Williamson, soprano, for a sacred collaboration with our choir. Together, they will perform "Light of a Clear Blue Morning", filling our hearts with divine grace and inspiration.

Please plan to join us on these two Sundays for this special music



March Calendar

- Wed., Mar. 5** **Ash Wednesday Service, 6:30 p.m.**
- Thurs., Mar. 6** Community Dinner Planning Meeting, 10 a.m., Earle Smith Reception Room
Choir Rehearsal, 7 p.m., Fellowship Hall
- Sat., Mar. 8** **Martin Luther King Service Activity, 9-11:30 a.m., Midwest Food Bank,**
Meet at 440 Adams St., Manchester, CT
- Sun., Mar. 9** **Worship Services, 8:30 and 10 a.m.— Daylight Savings Time Begins**
Faith Formation Meeting/VBS Planning, 11:30 a.m., Erin’s office, 2nd floor
Sacred Dance Rehearsal, Sanctuary, 11:15 a.m.
- Tues., Mar. 11** Deacons’ Meeting, 7 p.m., Earle Smith Room
Pollinator Pathway Meeting, 7 p.m., Fellowship Hall, All are welcome.
- Wed., Mar. 12** Foreign Policy Discussion Group, 7-9 p.m., Youth Room
- Thurs., Mar. 13** Community Dinner Planning Meeting, 10 a.m., Earle Smith Reception Room
Foodshare Mobile Pantry, 11:30 a.m., WCC Parking Lot
Choir Rehearsal, 7 p.m., Fellowship Hall
Visioning Council Meeting, 7 p.m. Earle Smith Reception Room
- Fri., Mar. 14** **Community Spaghetti Dinner, 4-7 p.m. Community Room**
- Sat., Mar. 15** **Youth Sunday Rehearsal, 8-10 a.m.**
- Sun., Mar. 16** **Worship Services, 8:30 and 10 a.m., Youth Sunday**
Sacred Dance Rehearsal, 11:15 a.m., Sanctuary
- Mon., Mar. 17** **St. Patrick’s Day**
- Tues., Mar. 18** Prayer Shawl Ministry, 10 a.m., Earle Smith Room
Outreach/Witness Ministry, 7 p.m. via Zoom
- Thurs., Mar. 20** Choir Rehearsal, 7 p.m., Fellowship Hall
Stephen Ministry, 7 p.m., Earle Smith Room
- Sun., Mar. 23** **Worship Services, 8:30 and 10 a.m., One Great Hour of Sharing**
Intergenerational Resurrection Garden Activity, 11:15 a.m., Comm. Room
Sacred Dance Rehearsal, Sanctuary, 11:15 a.m.
- Thurs., Mar. 27** Foodshare Mobile Pantry, 11:30 a.m., WCC Parking Lot
Choir Rehearsal, 7 p.m., Fellowship Hall
- Sat., Mar. 29** SPF Fundraiser Annual Paint Night, 6-8 p.m., Community Room
- Sun., Mar. 30** **Worship Services, 8:30 and 10 a.m.**
Sacred Dance Rehearsal, 11:15 a.m., Sanctuary
“Love Your Neighbor” Event, 1-2:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall



Outreach Ministry Helps Our Community

MLK Day of Service

Saturday, March 8th - We'll head over to Midwest Foodbank in Manchester. In past years we have re-packaged bulk food into family-sized amounts. It's an easy activity open to anyone 8 yrs and older but it does require standing for a few hours. Please note that children under 12 do need a parent at the event with them. **If you are interested, please use the link to sign up.**

[https://
volunteer.midwestfoodbank.org/
registrations/DWN9tdUtQz/
claim_spot](https://volunteer.midwestfoodbank.org/registrations/DWN9tdUtQz/claim_spot)

March is a Month of Undie Sundays

During the month of March, we will be accepting donations of NEW socks and underwear for Cornerstone and MACC. Any donations are appreciated, however there is a specific need for:

- Women's Crew Socks,
- Women's small undies
- Men's small boxers and briefs
- Men's X-LG boxers and briefs



Please leave your donations in the marked blue bucket in the Gathering Room. Thank you!

Lenten Secret Prayer Partner

We're starting our *Secret Prayer Partner* activity this Sunday, March 9. If you haven't already done so, please fill out a slip of paper with your name and address on it and put it in the church model in the Gathering Room. On Sunday, you'll draw someone else's name and during Lent, you'll pray for that person and someone will be praying for you. During the week leading up to Easter you'll send your prayer partner an Easter card identifying yourself, so simple, yet so rewarding.

Betty Malley will be in the Gathering Room before and after worship on Sunday to check you off and record your number.

If you can't be in church on Sunday, contact Betty by e-mail, bettymalley@att.net or phone, 860-646-2321, and she can draw a name for you.

One Great Hour of Sharing Sunday, March 23

One Great Hour of Sharing is part of UCC's Wider Mission, working domestically and internationally to bring humanitarian and developmental assistance where needed. This includes providing clean water sources, education, food, healthcare, refugee settlement, disaster and emergency preparedness and response.

Last year we sent UCC a check for \$1,035, supporting God's message of hope and love. A special offering will be collected on March 25, 2023. Please make checks payable to WCC and put OGHS in the memo line. Thank you!

We're including small, white envelopes with gray and gold writing in this mailing for your convenience.

MACC Volunteer Saturdays are Back! Once again, WCC members and friends have an opportunity to help at MACC in Manchester. We have four Saturdays scheduled. Two Saturdays are scheduled food preparation and serving in the mornings, and two Saturdays are assisting with sorting and labeling of items donated during afternoon food drives. Volunteer dates are:
April 26: 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
September 13: 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
May 10: 2- 5 p.m.
November 15: 2- 5 p.m.

We'll meet at MACC, 466 Main Street, Manchester, CT. Join us for some fun and fellowship while supporting this vital charity. Contact Matt Desy (mattdesy01@gmail.com) to sign up. We look forward to seeing you!

Youth Shine for Christ - Kids' Korner by Erin Murray



We have been busy learning and having fun in Church School. We enjoy beginning our months with very special people in our church giving Children's Messages and looking forward to Peter Delaney this month! We are already planning Vacation Bible School and are looking forward to the comeback of "Discovery on Adventure Island." We are seeking volunteers ages 12 years and older. We are looking forward to springing ahead and warmer weather soon!



Erin Murray
Church School
Coordinator

In February, we were blessed to have Toni Clay, above, give a beautiful Children's Message on Prayer.

Silver Lake Summer Camp

Looking for a camp opportunity for your children or even your whole family?

<https://www.silverlakect.org/summercamp>

Fellowship Cafe NEEDS Volunteers!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080448ABAC28AFA7-50735690-fellowship#/>

Open Dates: 3/16, 3/23, 3/30, 4/6, 4/20, 4/27, 5/11, 5/18, 5/25, 6/1, 6/8, 6/15, 6/22

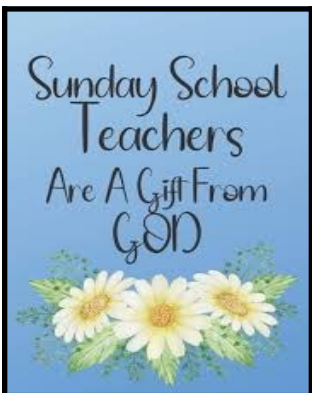
Contact Heather Fago with questions heathergutie@yahoo.com



Church School

We're still looking for volunteers to teach Church School. We can't run our program without you! Please visit the following link to sign-up to help out when you can.

Spring Sign-up Genius: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040C4AADAA2BA4FC1-55002125-spring>



Winter Sign-Up:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040C4AADAA2BA4FC1-54037935-winter>

Questions? Email Erin Murray wappingfaith@gmail.com

P.S. Don't forget to check our website for updated information and important announcements! www.wappingchurch.org

Bible Stories and Happenings in March:

March 9th: “Tempted” Luke 4:1-13

VBS Meeting after the 10 a.m. service in Erin’s Office. Come help us plan VBS 2025 “Discovery on Adventure Island.”

March 16th: “Youth Sunday” - Wear your Church School t-shirt/

Faith Formation Meeting after 10 a.m. service in the Youth Room. Come join us in helping to put on fun, seasonal events at the church. We have very casual meetings. We’d love for you to join us with your ideas! No RSVP required, just show up! Contact Erin Murray with any questions: wappingfaith@gmail.com

March 23rd: “Parable of the Fig Tree” Luke 13:1-9

Intergenerational Resurrection Garden Activity during Fellowship Cafe

March 30th: “The Prodigal Son” Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

Interfaith Discussion Event, 1-2:30 p.m. Fellowship Hall

Important Dates & Family Activities

- Sunday, March 23rd:** Intergenerational Lenten Event: Resurrection Gardens during Fellowship Cafe at 11:15 a.m.
- Sunday, March 30th:** Interfaith Discussion Event
- Sunday, April 6th:** Bible & Faith Chest Sunday, 3rd & 8th Graders
- Sunday, May 18th:** Children’s Sunday with Sacred Dance
- Sunday, June 8th:** Children’s Choir performance



Vacation Bible School

Monday, June 23 - Friday June 27th, 9a.m.-12:30p.m.

VBS “Discovery on Adventure Island”

VBS Registration:

<https://forms.gle/jRw1Du6wu8WEeeiw6>

Want to volunteer for VBS? Please check out our link:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Dk_bt82mUXHv80CfMi40q-irMax3EqchOehbRgQUv08/edit?usp=sharing

JPF March Meetings

JPF will meet from 4-6 p.m. at church on:

March 9

March 23

All middle school youth are invited to attend. If anyone would like more information, please contact Patty Albrecht, 860-670-8058 or Rebecca Shinkoff, 860-978-8613.

SPF's Chili-Brownie Cook-off was a Great Success!



The SPF Chili-Brownie Cook-off on Feb. 23 was a great success, raising more than \$1,200 for the SPF Mission Trip to Philadelphia in July.

Thanks to all who cooked, tasted and donated!

Paint Party!

Join your friends as we enjoy a wonderful evening of painting fun!

This is a special fundraiser for Wapping Community Church's SPF youth group service trip to Philadelphia, PA where youth and their advisers will serve those in need throughout the city.

We will be painting a serene and relaxing view of a sunset pier. Connecticut Art School will walk you through the process step-by-step and will guide you to create a beautiful painting of your very own!



Supplies and Refreshments included

Saturday, March 29th
6:00- 8:00 pm
Doors will open at 5:30 pm

Wapping Community Church
1790 Ellington Rd, South Windsor

Minimum 8 years old
Younger children can come
(no charge- include name/age on registration) and assist their grown up

All proceeds directly support the service trip.
Questions? Contact Kirstin Abernethy
860-874-8698

\$45 per person

REGISTRATION IS EASY!

Pay by check or cash at
Coffee Hour on Sunday:

March
2nd, 9th, 16th or 23rd.
OR

Venmo Craig & Jennifer Rho
@ CRho71

Include name, phone number,
email, and number of participants

Income and Expenses for 2024 and 2025 Presented at Annual Meeting

	2024	2025
	2024	2025
	Actual	Projection
Income		
Contributions	343,395	342,750
Shared Expenses (Rentals)	102,046	95,410
Other Income	32,044	29,100
Total Income	477,485	467,260
Expenses		
Programs	11,851	15,000
Benevolences	12,437	12,429
Compensation & Benefits	290,235	298,942
Building & Administration	151,602	148,045
Total Expenses	466,125	474,416
Surplus or Deficit	11,360	-7,156

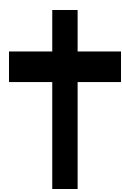
At the January Annual Meeting, Finance presented the end-of-year budget results for 2024 and the projected Income and Expenses for 2025. The table to the left shows these numbers.

For 2024, the church finished with an operating surplus (\$11,360), primarily due to the collection of back rent from the previous year and rental income exceeding our projections.

For 2025, we expect Contribution Income to remain the same as in 2024, while Rental and Other Incomes will decrease. In 2024, we had some one-time rental income that will not be repeated this year.

The 2025 budget shows an operating deficit of \$7,156. If we finish 2025 with a deficit, we will use some of the 2024 surplus to balance the budget at the end of the year. This smoothing of year-to-year surpluses and deficits enables the church to run fully funded over multiple years while maintaining our reserve fund at a constant level.

Book of Life



Entered into Eternal Life

Sherman Gardner Tarr

June 13, 1933 – February 17, 2025



Flowers for the Sanctuary

If you would like to have flowers on the pedestal or communion table in memory or in honor of a loved one, you can help brighten up the sanctuary on Sundays. Sign up on the flower sheets on the 2nd floor outside of the Gathering Room.

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

Phone: 860-644-0833

Email: Wappingoffice@gmail.com

1790 Ellington Road, South Windsor, CT 06074
 Website: www.Wappingchurch.org
www.facebook.com/WappingCommunityChurch

Stephen Ministry

Are you feeling sad, lonely, anxious? Are you wondering, "Where is God in my times of need?"

Wapping Church offers one-to-one free, confidential, Christian support to those going through difficult times. Stephen Ministers are trained members of our congregation who can offer this support to bring peace and comfort.



If you, or someone you know of could benefit from the care of a Stephen Minister, please contact Rev. Abernethy or Nancy Calabrese at 860-558-8830.



Just a friendly reminder from the WCC Property Trustees and the Board of Deacons

- *No food or beverages are allowed in the sanctuary at any time.*
- *Communion juice cups - The Board of Deacons has placed wastebaskets at the two sanctuary entrances for disposal of communion juice cups. Please take your cup with you when you leave your pew and dispose of it in the wastebaskets. With the flu and other unpleasant ailments being prevalent, this will go a long way toward keeping everyone healthy!*

Thank you for your cooperation, The Deacons.

