



# 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!*

**August – September, 2025**



**More than 80 Children and 35 Volunteers  
Participated in Vacation Bible School's  
"Discovery on Adventure Island" during  
June. It was Truly an Exciting Adventure!**



## What's Happening at WCC

**Youth Confirmation Class Begins in the Fall:** We're inviting all students entering 9th & 10th grade and any older students who would like to participate in the confirmation journey to join the class this fall. To sign up, please contact Kristin Abernethy, 860-874-8698, or Kathy (office,) 860-644-0833. This class guides students in exploring their faith in a supportive group of peers and confirmation advisors. The class culminates in a beautiful confirmation service and celebration in June. More information will be sent to those who are interested.

### MACC Volunteer Saturdays:

**Sept. 13: 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.** - Food Preparation

**November 15: 2- 5 p.m.** - Food Preparation

We look forward to seeing you! We meet at MACC, 466 Main Street, Manchester. Contact Matt Desy, [mattdesy01@gmail.com](mailto:mattdesy01@gmail.com) to sign up.

### Did You Know? We have new QR codes located on the pews in the sanctuary.

We now have QR codes on the pews which take you directly to the WCC website. Just hover over the code with your phone's camera. QR stands for "**Quick Response.**" QR codes are capable of storing lots of data and allow the user to access information instantly – that's why it's called a Quick Response or QR code.

## What is a Stephen Minister?

People often ask, "What is a Stephen Minister?" One way to put it is that Stephen Ministers are the **After People**.

Stephen Ministers are there:

- ...after the phone call you hoped you'd never get.
- ...after the funeral, when everyone has left and the emotions you've held at bay come crashing in on you.
- ...after the relationship falls apart and the bottom falls out of your life.
- ...after the doctor says, "I'm sorry, but there's nothing more we can do."
- ...after the nursing home director shakes your hand and says. "Welcome to your new home."
- ...after the last child honks the horn, waves, and drives away-and the house suddenly seems empty.
- ...after the gavel comes down, the handcuffs go on, and your loved one is led away.
- ...after the baby arrives, demanding more of you than you ever dreamed possible.
- ...after you find a pink slip with your final paycheck.
- ...after your family and friends have heard your story one too many times, but you still need to talk it out.



**Stephen Ministers are the After People.** They are ready to come alongside you-or your friends, neighbors, coworkers, or relatives-and provide comfort, support and listening for as long after as needed. Wapping Community Church offers this free, confidential ministry. For more information please contact Nancy Calabrese at 860-558-8830, or speak with one of our ministers.

## **Annual Church Picnic - Sunday, September 14** **10 a.m. - One Service at Rotary Pavilion, Nevers Park**

Join us for one Worship Service at 10 a.m. and Church School at the Rotary Pavilion in Nevers Park, followed by the Annual Church Picnic at 11 a.m. Food provided includes grilled burgers, vegetarian burgers, hot dogs, water, lemonade and iced tea.



If your last name starts with A-L, please bring a salad or side dish to share. If your last name starts with M-Z, please bring a dessert.

Activities include meeting and visiting friends, games for the kids and a bounce house! We hope to see you! **R.S.V.P. to the church office, [wappingoffice@gmail.com](mailto:wappingoffice@gmail.com) or call 860-644-0833.**

**Volunteers Needed for the Picnic:** The board of deacons needs a few volunteers to help with the set-up and take down of the WCC Worship Service and Church Picnic at the Park! You'll assist with setting up chairs and tables, transporting food and picnic supplies from the church, and setting up items needed for the worship service and the choir. We ask that volunteers meet at the church at 9 a.m. If you'd like to help, please contact Matt Desy, [mattdesy01@gmail.com](mailto:mattdesy01@gmail.com) Thank you!

### **August - September Calendar**

|                         |                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                       |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Sun., Aug. 31</b>    | <b>Worship Service, 9 a.m.</b>                                                                                                                                                     |   |
| <b>Mon., Sept. 1</b>    | <b>Labor Day - Church Office Closed</b>                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                       |
| <b>Sun., Sept. 7</b>    | <b>Worship Service, 9 a.m.</b><br><b>Church School Teachers &amp; Volunteers Potluck, 10 a.m.</b> Earle Smith Room                                                                 |                                                                                       |
| <b>Thurs., Sept. 11</b> | <b>Foodshare Mobile Pantry, 11:30 a.m.,</b> WCC Parking Lot                                                                                                                        |                                                                                       |
| <b>Sat., Sept. 13</b>   | <b>MACC Volunteer Day, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.</b> 466 Main St., Manchester                                                                                                                  |  |
| <b>Sun., Sept. 14</b>   | <b>Annual Church Picnic and Worship Service, 10 a.m.</b><br><b>Church School Begins, 10 a.m.</b><br>Picnic and Service take place at Rotary Pavilion at Nevers Park, South Windsor |                                                                                       |
| <b>Tues., Sept. 16</b>  | <b>Outreach Ministry, 7 p.m.,</b> Earle Smith Reception Room                                                                                                                       |                                                                                       |
| <b>Thurs., Sept. 18</b> | <b>Stephen Ministry, 7 p.m.</b> Earle Smith Reception Room                                                                                                                         |                                                                                       |
| <b>Sun., Sept. 21</b>   | <b>Return to Two Worship Services, 8:30 &amp; 10 a.m.</b><br><b>Faith Formation Volunteer Meeting, after 10 a.m. service,</b> Youth Room                                           |                                                                                       |
| <b>Thurs. Sept. 25</b>  | <b>Foodshare Mobile Pantry, 11:30 a.m.,</b> WCC Parking Lot                                                                                                                        |                                                                                       |
| <b>Sun., Sept. 28</b>   | <b>Worship Services, 8:30 &amp; 10 a.m.</b>                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                       |
| <b>SAVE the Date:</b>   | <b>Sun., Oct. 19 - CROP Walk, 12 p.m.,</b> Starts at Wapping Community Church                                                                                                      |                                                                                       |

## Outreach Ministry Helps Our Community



### Community Cookout a Success!

On June 20, a warm summer evening, about 150 community members enjoyed a cookout filled with lots of laughs and goodwill. More than 35 volunteers enjoyed all aspects of the planning and execution of the event. We are grateful to the donations from the Buckland Fund, Big Y Market, Highland Park Market, ShopRite, Stop & Shop, Trader Joe's, Whole Foods, and many church and committee members. Each of these free dinners to the community are special and allow us to extend our outreach to South Windsor and the surrounding communities. Thanks to everyone for helping to make the cookout a success!

**Share Your Veggies!** WCC Outreach is collecting your extra veggies and donating them to the South Windsor Food & Fuel Bank on Monday mornings for distribution during the week. SWF&F serves families in our community who are experiencing food insecurity. There are boxes in the Gathering Room to collect extra fruits and vegetables from your home garden that you are willing to share. We'll continue collecting through mid-September. SWF&F Bank is very excited to have fresh produce to share with people coming to the food pantry this summer. For questions, please contact anyone on the Outreach Team. Thank you!

### Oscar's All American Grill SPF Fundraiser was a Success!

Thanks to all who supported the SPF Fundraiser at Oscar's on May 27. Sales came in at \$2,204 and with the church getting 15% of that being \$330. The owner, Oscar Hernandez, decided to round up the amount and gave us a check for \$500! Thanks to everyone for attending and/or donating!

### Volunteers and Guests Enjoyed the Cookout Dinner for Church Members and the Community on June 20



## Youth Shine for Christ - Kids' Korner by Erin Murray

### Church School Update, May Recap:



Patty Albrecht presented the children's message on Sunday, May 4th. She showed the children blankets that people could donate through Church World Service's Mother's Day Blanket Program. Our donations help those in need throughout the U.S. and the world.



**Erin Murray**  
**Church**  
**School**  
**Coordinator**

**Children's Sunday, May 18th:** What a beautiful Children's Sunday Service we had on May 18th! The children did such a wonderful job teaching us the "Lost" Parables through skits. Our scripture came from The Parable of the Lost Sheep - Luke 15:1-7, The Parable of the Lost Coin - Luke 15:8-10, and The Parable of the Lost Son- Luke 15:11-32. If you did not receive your child/ren's end of the year certificate at our reception, please send me an e-mail and we can arrange pick-up.



**June 2025:** This year for VBS we teamed up with our Congregation to collect food for the South Windsor Food & Fuel Bank. Thank you to everyone who donated! Our Vacation Bible School families and volunteers are true angels!



We had a fabulous week at *Discovery on Adventure Island* for our Vacation Bible School Program June 23<sup>th</sup>- June 27<sup>th</sup>. More than 35 adult and teen volunteers led many different activities for the children each day at Vacation Bible School.

Everyone Enjoyed singing, making crafts, meeting new friends, and learning while having fun!

We learned about Creation, Moses and the Burning Bush, Faith through the Roof, The "Lost" Parables, and Mary at the Tomb.

Our Bible memory verse was, "Arise! Shine! Your light has come: the LORD's glory has shone upon you!" Isaiah 60:1.



## Church School Teacher Potluck - Sunday, September 7th!

**Calling all current teachers - and anyone curious about helping with our Church School Program!** We'll gather in the Earle Smith Reception Room on Sunday, Sept. 7. Come enjoy food, fellowship, and a conversation about the year ahead. If you're able, please bring a dish to share - coffee and juice will be provided.

## Faith Formation Meeting in the Youth Room - Sunday, September 21st.

Come help us plan the year! **We Need You! Want to help our Church School year?** From the **Advent Fair** and the **Vacation Bible School to Bible & Faith Chest presentations** and our beloved **Christmas Pageant**, there's a place for your gifts and talents! Join us in the Youth Room on the 2nd floor, next to the elevator, to learn more about how you can get involved. We'd love to see you there! We'll be having our October meeting on October 26.

## Church School Registration

**Our first day of Church School will be Sunday, September 14th at 10 a.m. at the Nevers Park Pavilion.** All are invited to join us for church and a picnic. I want to make sure I order enough curriculum and supplies for our children. Please [register](#) for our FREE Church School Program for 2025-2026:



**Faithfully, Board of Christian Faith Formation and Erin Murray, Church School Coordinator**

Erin Murray for the link [wappingfaith@gmail.com](mailto:wappingfaith@gmail.com)

## **NEW!** Wapping Community Church's Tree of Life

The Board of Deacons is introducing our new **WCC Tree of Life**, dedicated to the memory of **Clynton Buckland**. The tree, donated and hand crafted by Larry Geissler, is displayed on the wall in the Gathering Room heading into the hallway.

The tree will be decorated with engraved leaves, which will be a great way to honor or memorialize loved ones, friends, or family members.

**Donors may choose among five leaf colors: gold, silver, bronze, copper, or green for a price of \$50 per leaf.** The price covers the cost of the leaf, its engraving, and a donation to Wapping Community Church's general budget. To purchase a leaf or leaves, find the Tree of Life Leaf Order Forms in the Gathering Room. You can give your order forms to Liza Love on Sunday mornings, drop them in the Church Administrator's mailbox outside the elevator on the 2nd floor or mail them back to the church.

If you would like a form mailed to you, please call or write to Kathy at [wappingoffice@gmail.com](mailto:wappingoffice@gmail.com) or call the office, 860-644-0833. See or contact Liza Love for questions and more information. Liza's cell: 860-212-1724 or email: [lizalove863@gmail.com](mailto:lizalove863@gmail.com)



## Book of Life



### Entered into Eternal Life

Elizabeth J. Gerich - April 20, 1929 - October 4, 2024

Charlotte Collins - April 3, 1930 - May 30, 2025

Alfred L. Arnett - January 10, 1951 - May 11, 2025

Warren Paul Brink - June 14, 1943 - August 13, 2025



Abi Levesque with Reisa Clark, from DCF, with 45+ of your donated backpacks! Thank you!

## Something for Everyone at the August 9th Tag Sale Fundraiser!

On Saturday, August 9 the Community Room was full of wonderful, donated items and 31 hard working volunteers. At the end of the day after expenses, we had a final profit of \$2,054.30! In addition to the wonderful camaraderie in the group, the shoppers commented on the warm welcome, cleanliness, presentation, variety of goods and the affordable prices. It took a few weeks to plan, organize and price each item. But, like magic, after the sale ended, the remaining items were packed up and delivered to various shops within an hour, incredible! Patty Albrecht, Betty Malley and Pat Anderson thank you for all your donations, time, suggestions and participation.

## Annual Craft Fair & Baked Potato Sale - Saturday, November 8

**\*\*Calling all WCC crafters, artists, woodworkers** and anyone who would like to donate a hand-made item or two to the WCC Craft Fair. All donations gratefully accepted. Please call Patty Albrecht, 860-670-8058, or email, [albrmp@cox.net](mailto:albrmp@cox.net) with questions or donations. Thank you!

**\*\*Do you have jewelry you haven't worn for years?** Or items you never really loved? We have just the answer for you, donate to the jewelry booth! Last year it was quite successful, and we hope to repeat that. A donation box is located in the Gathering Room. If you have questions, contact Liza Love ([lizalove863@gmail.com](mailto:lizalove863@gmail.com)) or Holly Richardson ([merryhillfarm@gmail.com](mailto:merryhillfarm@gmail.com).)



### 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

**Church Telephone: 860-644-0833**

**Email: [Wappingoffice@gmail.com](mailto:Wappingoffice@gmail.com)**

**Everyone had a Great Time at the Yard Goats Game at Dunkin' Park in June.** Left photo: Erin Murray and Len Dion, Middle photo: Erin, Caelinn, Cormac, Richard and Lucas Murray and Jim (blue hat) and Holly Richardson. In right photo: Juliana, (Liam's friend,) Liam Murray, Liam Levesque and Keegan Murray.