



# 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!*

**February, 2026**



**The WCC Faith Formation board and friends went to the Boar's Head Festival on Jan. 11**



**SPF Youth Group had a Great Time Sledding at Porter Collin's Hill on February 1.**



**Star Sunday Children's Message, "Epiphany"**

## **Prime Time Reading Event**

An all ages event focusing on the joy of reading

**When: Friday, February 20**

**Where: Wapping Community Church's Community Room**

**Time: 6-9 p.m.**

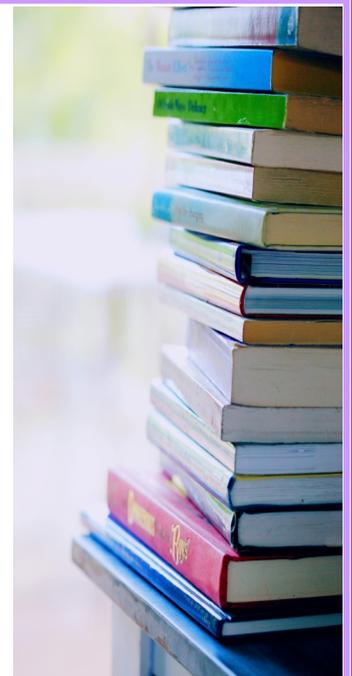
**Bring:**

- Books, Kindles, other reading materials
- Blanket, sleeping bags, stuffed animals, beach/camp chairs & pillows
- Your own dinner if you choose to

There will be guest readers, entertainment and a snack during this event.

We will be collecting gently used books which will be donated.

Questions? Contact Jill Limberger by email: [jmel3158@gmail.com](mailto:jmel3158@gmail.com)





## Outreach Moment – Cornerstone Clothing Bank, Vernon, CT

Wapping Community Church has supported the Cornerstone Foundation for many years. Cornerstone is a faith-based organization in Vernon, dedicated to providing safety, shelter, food, clothing and support to those in need in our community.

Often we give to a food or clothing drive and don't find out exactly where or how our donations were received. Linda Manning, a WCC member of our Outreach Ministry Team, recently received this letter (below) and photos from Christine Filanowicz, the director of Cornerstone's Clothing Bank. This is in response to our donation to their back to school clothing drive, and a \$1,000 monetary donation.

Dear Linda and Members,

September 18, 2025

On behalf of the Clothing Bank Etc., I want to extend our heartfelt thanks for your generous donations. Your contributions allowed us to purchase back-to-school clothing for K-12 students this year. Our first year calling it the Back-to-School Boutique was a success. We choose to make it all about school clothing, sneakers, hygiene, and accessories this year.

We were able to spread out our shopping days to hunt for the best clearance and sales, ensuring your donation went as far as possible. The event was a resounding success thanks to your support. We helped over 215 students and distributed more than 3,770 items, including clothing, accessories, and hygiene products. We were also able to assist families who were unable to attend by providing clothing through our main Clothing Bank.

The parents were so appreciative of the help they received. One young boy, without any prompting from his mom, came over and gave me a hug before leaving. It's these moments that truly highlight the difference we are making in our community.

While organizing this event is a big effort, seeing the positive impact on our community makes it all worthwhile. Your support directly benefits our most vulnerable youth.

Thank you again for your invaluable support.

Sincerely,

Christine Filanowicz, Director, Clothing Bank Etc.  
Christine.filanowicz@cornerstone-cares.org



## February Calendar

- Tues., Feb. 3**      **Visioning Council Meeting, 7 p.m., Fellowship Hall**
- Wed., Feb. 4**      **Foreign Policy Discussion Group, 7-9 p.m., Youth Room**
- Thurs., Feb. 5**      **Choir Rehearsal, 7 p.m., Fellowship Hall**
- Fri., Feb. 6**      **JPF Meeting 6 p.m., SPF Meeting, 7 p.m.**
- Sun., Feb. 8**      **Worship Services, 8:30 & 10 a.m.**  
**Confirmation Class, 11:15 a.m.- 12:45 p.m., Youth Room**
- Tues., Feb. 10**      **Deacon's Meeting, 7 p.m., Earle Smith Reception Room**
- Thurs., Feb. 12**      **Foodshare Mobile Pantry, 11:30 a.m., WCC Parking Lot**  
**Choir Rehearsal, 7 p.m., Fellowship Hall**
- Sat., Feb. 14**      **Happy Valentine's Day!**
- Sun., Feb. 15**      **Worship Services, 8:30 & 10 a.m.**
- Mon., Feb. 16**      **Presidents' Day - Church office closed**
- Tues., Feb. 17**      **Prayer Shawl Ministry, 10 a.m., Earle Smith Reception Room**  
**Outreach Meeting, 7 p.m., Earle Smith Reception Room**
- Wed., Feb. 18**      **Ash Wednesday Service, 6:30 p.m.**
- Thurs., Feb. 19**      **Stephen Ministry Meeting, 7 p.m., Earle Smith Reception Room**
- Fri., Feb. 20**      **Prime Time Reading Event, 6-9 p.m., Community Room.**
- Sun., Feb. 22**      **Worship Services, 8:30 & 10 a.m., Scout Sunday**  
**Confirmation Class, 8:30-10 a.m., Youth Room**  
**JPF/SPF Youth groups, 4-6 p.m., Youth Room**
- Mon., Feb. 23**      **Lenten Book Study, 7-8:30 p.m., WCC Location TBD**
- Wed., Feb. 25**      **Foreign Policy Discussion Group, 7-9 p.m., Youth Room**
- Thurs., Feb. 26**      **Foodshare Mobile Pantry, 11:30 a.m., WCC Parking Lot**  
**Choir Rehearsal, 7 p.m., Fellowship Hall**
- Sat., Feb. 28**      **SPF Paint Night Fundraiser, 5-8 p.m., Community Room**
- Save the Date:**      **Sun., Mar. 22 - The Jolly Beggars Music**



# Outreach Ministry Helps Our Community



## Midwest Food Bank Volunteer Event

Confirmants and Wapping volunteers sorted and packaged 1,140 lbs. of food at the Midwest Food Bank in Manchester on Sat., January 10. The food is given to nonprofit agencies and then distributed to people who are food insecure.



## 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.





Dear Church School Families,

As we enter the month of February, we are reminded of the ways love and leadership shape our lives of faith. Valentine's Day invites us to reflect on God's love and the care we show one another, while Presidents' Day calls us to pray for our leaders and for wisdom, justice, and compassion in their service. Together,

these themes encourage our families to live out faith through love, responsibility, and prayer for the world around us.



**Erin Murray**  
Church School  
Coordinator

## **Bible Stories and Happenings in February & March:**

- **February 1st: Communion/Children's Message by Vanessa Donovan**
- **February 8th: "Jesus' Baptism" Matthew 3:13-17/Faith Formation Meeting**
- **Faith Formation Meeting** after the 10am 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](mailto:wappingfaith@gmail.com)
- **February 15th: President's Day/Prayer Lesson**
- **February 22nd: "The Disciples" Matthew 4:12-23; 9:9-13; 10:1-4, 15/Bible & Faith Chest Presentation/VBS Meeting**
- **VBS Meeting** after the 10am service in the Youth Room. **Come help us plan the VBS 2026 "Camp Firelight."**
- **March 1st: Communion/Children's Message by Abi Levesque**
- **March 8th: "Salt and Light" Matthew 5:13-20/VBS Meeting**
- **VBS Meeting** after 10am service in Erin's Office. Come help plan VBS 2026 "Camp Firelight."
- **March 15th: "Youth Sunday" Wear your Church School t-shirt/Faith Formation Meeting:**
- **Faith Formation Meeting** after 10am 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](mailto:wappingfaith@gmail.com)
- **March 22nd: "Holy Week" Matthew 21:1-11; 26:14—27:66**
- **March 29th: "The Empty Tomb" Matthew 28:1-10**

## **Important Dates & Family Activities:**

- **Sunday, February 8th** Faith Formation Meeting in the Youth Room at 11:15 a.m. Come help plan annual events such as VBS, Advent Fair, Christmas Pageant, and more!
- **Friday, February 20th** Prime Time Reading 6-9 p.m. (See the front page for all the details!)
- **Sunday, February 22nd** Bible & Faith Chest Sunday, 3rd & 8th Graders, VBS Meeting after the 10am service in Erin's Office. Come help us plan VBS 2026 "Camp Firelight." (Cont. next page)

# Youth Shine for Christ

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**Sunday, March 8th** VBS Meeting after the 10am service in Erin's Office. Come help us plan VBS 2026 "Camp Firelight."

**Sunday, March 15th** Faith Formation Meeting in the Youth Room at 11:15 a.m. Come help plan annual events such as VBS, Advent Fair, Christmas Pageant, and more!

**Sunday, March 29th - Palm Sunday in the Sanctuary & Intergenerational Hike after church**

**Palm Sunday Procession** - All Church School children and families are invited to arrive by 9:50 a.m. to take part in our Palm Sunday procession. Erin will walk with the children together behind the donkey, remembering how Jesus entered Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. Children are encouraged to wear their Church School t-shirt (either tie-dye or solid blue) as we begin worship together in this meaningful and joyful tradition.

**Intergenerational Hike & Picnic – Major Michael Donnelly Preserve** - All ages are invited to join us for an **intergenerational hike at the Major Michael Donnelly Preserve** in South Windsor, CT. Come enjoy fellowship, God's creation, and time together as a church community. **Meeting Location:** We will gather at the **main parking and picnic area** of the preserve, located at **1165 Sullivan Avenue**. This area includes parking, open fields, picnic-friendly spaces, and the trailhead for our hike. Look for the picnic tables and open meadow near the main entrance, where we will begin our hike together.

**Lunch Provided: Faith Formation will provide lunch first** before our hike begins. Please **RSVP to join us for lunch** by emailing [wappingfaith@gmail.com](mailto:wappingfaith@gmail.com).

**Sunday, May 31st** Children's Sunday

**Monday June 22 - Friday June 26th**, 9a.m.-12:30p.m. VBS "Camp Firelight"

**VBS T-Shirts:** A VBS t-shirt is included with registration for all children who *register and pay by the deadline of April 1, 2026*. Registration for VBS is for ages 4 (must be potty-trained) to entering grade 8.

**VBS Registration is Live! Register [here](#). View and purchase from our VBS [Amazon Wish List](#).**

**Volunteers Needed:** Vacation Bible School depends on the generosity of our volunteers. Volunteers may be **anyone who has completed 8th grade through adults**. Sign up to volunteer [here](#).

To help Vacation Bible School run smoothly and to **keep costs down**, we are grateful for donations of supplies and materials. These items support daily activities such as crafts, extra snacks, decorations, and hands-on mission projects that make VBS engaging and meaningful for our children.



**We encourage you to: Pray together as a family:** Set aside time to give thanks for God's love, to pray for one another, and to pray for our leaders as they serve with wisdom and compassion.

**Incorporate faith conversations at home:** Talk about the Bible stories being explored in class and how they invite us to show love, kindness, and responsibility in our daily lives.

**Volunteer in Church School:** We are always grateful for helping hands that make our Church School program meaningful and enriching for our students. We are currently seeking volunteers to teach and support Church School - our program can't run without you. Please consider sharing your time and gifts by signing up when you're able.

**Sign-Up Genius:** From one of our own happy teachers at Wapping Community Church, "I try to sign up once a month. One Sunday teaching and then 3 other Sundays to enjoy church."

**Thank you for your continued support and partnership in nurturing our children's faith journeys with in the life of our church community. Blessings, Erin Murray**

# Lenten Book Study

Sponsored by the Open & Affirming Committee

## All The Young Men by Ruth Coker Burks

The memoir by Ruth Coker Burks details her experience as an unlikely caregiver during the AIDS crisis in the 1980s, where she risked her life and reputation to help dying gay men in conservative Arkansas when no one else would.

When: Monday, February 23  
 Monday, March 9  
 Monday, March 23

Where: Wapping Community Church—Room: TBD

Time: 7:00pm—8:30pm

Sign-ups will begin after January 25th coffee hour

You can get your own book through the Public Library\* or ordering online.

\* Beginning February 10th, you can get a book on loan from SWPL under WCC's book club (8 available)

# 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 Maine Seacoast Mission in Cherryfield ME, where youth and their advisers will serve those in need throughout the community.

We will be painting a whimsical springtime painting. 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, February 28th  
 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

**\$45 per person**

**REGISTRATION IS EASY!**

Pay by check or cash at Coffee Hour on Sunday:  
 February 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> or 22<sup>nd</sup>  
 OR  
 Venmo Craig & Jennifer Rho @CRho71

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

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

## Endowment Ministry News

Through the generosity of those who have given to the Endowment Fund over the years, we are pleased to announce the Endowment Fund has grown to \$586,000 as of 12/31/25.

As a result, disbursement of funds will support the following mission and ministries of our church.

All Souls Fund	\$11,380	Goes to Operating Budget
Property Trustees Fund	\$ 820	Goes to Property Trustees
Kennedy Music und	\$ 5840	Goes to Music
Mission Fund	\$ 149	Goes to Outreach
Sharp Education Fund	\$ 1669	Goes to Faith Formation
Sharp Youth Aid Fund	\$ 490	Goes to Faith Formation

You may want to consider a gift to the Endowment Fund when doing your financial planning.

If you have any questions about giving to the Endowment Ministry Fund, the members of the committee will be happy to help you. Committee members include: Bill Baker, Larry Brown, Gay Foster, Rich Gacek, and Roy Normen. Endowment brochures are available on the wall outside the Gathering Room.

**Entered into Eternal Life**



**Janice Gay Sayre, May 20, 1935 - June 30, 2025**

**Clinton Wilson Charter, September 4, 1939 - August 5, 2025**

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

**Scott S. Trinks, March 6, 1963 - October 1, 2025**

**Renate Replin Centola, October 25, 1946 - October 8, 2025**

**Lorraine 'Rainey' Mae White, March 1, 1929 - October 31, 2025**

**Donald R. Sharp, June 22, 1938 - November 10, 2025**

**Margo Cope Lazzerini, March 28, 1941– January 12, 2026**



**WCC Confirmands recently created their own images of God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit with clay and markers.**



**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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