



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!*

June, 2026



Confirmation Retreat - May 16
The Confirmation class and their advisors had a wonderful all day retreat on May 16th at Kelly Foster's lake cottage in East Hampton, CT. The confirmands wrote statements of faith, created mosaic, painted crosses and had profound faith filled discussions. They also had great fun and fellowship while eating, visiting, swimming and boating!



Wapping Church Commissions Five New Stephen Ministers

We'll commission five new Stephen Ministers at the Sunday worship service on May 31. They are: Kristin Abernethy, Peter Delaney, Jill Limberger, Erin Murray and Susan Theroux.

These five people have been meeting since early February, attending 20 specialized training classes in Christian caregiving led by our Stephen Leader. They join alongside a team of five existing Stephen Ministers at Wapping Church: Nancy Calabrese, Maureen Huff, Linda Manning, Becky McConnell and Jan Tarr.

Stephen Ministers provide confidential, one-to-one Christian care to people experiencing a crisis or going through a difficult time. A Stephen Minister would meet weekly with their care receiver for around an hour to listen, care, encourage, pray, and provide emotional and spiritual support for the person. Caring relationships last for as long as the person's need persists.

We are proud to be one of the 18 churches in Connecticut to continue this ministry to offer support and care to our congregation and community. Stephen Ministry is utilized in over 14,000 congregations and over 160 Christian denominations worldwide that use the Stephen Series system of lay caring ministry developed by Stephen Ministries in St. Louis.

Please lift up all of our Stephen Ministers in your prayers, asking that God bless their ministry and work through them to bring hope and healing to those they will serve. If you or someone that you know of could benefit from a Stephen Minister, please speak with Rev. Abernethy or Nancy Calabrese at 860-558-8830.

New Stephen Ministers

Pictured left to right:
Susan Theroux, Kristin
Abernethy, Jill Limberger,
Erin Murray and Peter
Delaney



June Calendar

- Thurs., June 4** Foodshare Mobile Pantry, 11:30 a.m., WCC Parking Lot
Choir Rehearsal, 6:30-7 p.m., Fellowship Hall
- Sat., June 6** Confirmation Rehearsal, 8 a.m., Sanctuary
- Sun., June 7** Worship Service, 9 a.m. - Summer Hours Begin (one service at 9 a.m.)
Confirmation Sunday, 9 a.m.
JPF/SPF Youth Groups, 4-6 p.m.
- Tues., June 9** Deacons' Meeting, 7 p.m., Earle Smith Reception Room
- Sun., June 14** Worship Service, 9 a.m., Senior Recognition Sunday
Glastonbury Pride Festival, 2- 6 p.m., 54 Hubbard St., Glastonbury, CT
SPF Youth Group, 4-6 p.m.
- Tues., June 16** Outreach Meeting, 7 p.m., Earle Smith Room
- Thurs., June 18** Foodshare Mobile Pantry, 11:30 a.m., WCC Parking Lot
Choir Rehearsal, 7 p.m., Fellowship Hall
- Sun., June 21** Worship Services, 9 a.m. Father's Day, Blessing for Mission Trip
SPF Mission Trip to Maine SeaCoast Mission Begins
- Mon., June 22 -** Vacation Bible School Begins, 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.,
(Monday-Friday)
- Fri., June 26** Vacation Bible School Ends
- Sun., June 28** Worship Services, 9 a.m., SPF Shares their
Mission Trip experience
Open & Affirming Sunday Pride Celebration



Home Handyman Outreach Group

A handyman group has been created to address the needs of fellow members of our congregation. Many have lost the mobility, hand strength, balance and endurance for doing everyday projects such as hanging pictures, minor repairs, bringing in or out annual patio furniture and many other small things we all take for granted until we get older or are limited by medical issues.

We have list of volunteers that will be contacted when a request comes into the church office. Anyone who is available can directly contact the person and send a reply to the email that the need is being addressed. Participation is voluntary and based on your level of interest and availability at that particular time.

Please sign up by sending your name, phone number and email to wap-pingoffice@gmail.com or mark_edson@xsmail.com Thank you!

Trustees Mark Ruegg (above) and Mark Edson installed all of the air conditioners in the Church School classrooms and church offices. Thanks for your hard work!

Outreach Ministry



Summer Food Drive to Benefit South Windsor Food and Fuel Bank

This combined effort with Vacation Bible School participants will help feed children during the month of June. **Dates of collection are June 7- June 27**

Collection site- Blue buckets in Outreach alcove and Gathering Room. Thank you!

Items Needed

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| Kid snacks | Laundry detergent |
| Juice/juice packs | Paper towels |
| Fruit cups | Toilet tissue |
| Cereal | Laundry detergent |
| Tuna | Dish detergent |
| Canned pasta | |

MACC Volunteer Saturdays

Six of us, four pictured below, from Wapping helped out at the MACC pantry on May 9th. Working with other volunteers, we sorted and labeled incoming food donations picked up by the Manchester US Postal Letter Carriers.

Please join us for our next MACC Volunteer Saturday on September 12 for some fellowship and for a chance to support this vital community resource. Contact Matt Desy mattdesy01@gmail.com for more information and to sign up. Thank you.



Peaceful shots, above, at the Confirmation Retreat, May 16, in East Hampton.

SPF Red Robin Fundraiser

The recent SPF fundraiser at Red Robin raised \$604.57 for the Mission Trip! Thank you for coming out and supporting SPF!

The Youth Group and advisors will travel to the Maine Seacoast Mission in Cherryfield, Maine from June 21– 27. They'll paint and repair decks, doors and windows, and complete other home improvements projects for people in need.

Church School Update:

As our Church School year begins to wrap up, we want to thank all of our children, families, teachers, and volunteers for a wonderful year of learning, laughter, and growing together in faith. It has been such a joy watching our children build friendships, ask thoughtful questions, and deepen their understanding of God’s love.

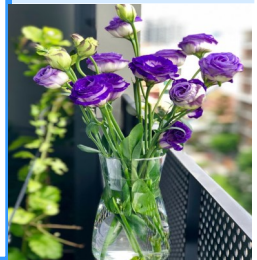
As we look ahead to summer, we are excited for all the fun and faith-filled memories still to come — **especially Vacation Bible School: Camp Firelight, taking place June 22–26!** We cannot wait to gather together for another amazing week of music, games, crafts, Bible stories, and fellowship.

As we head into summer adventures, we hold close the words of Psalm 56:3: **“When I am afraid, I put my trust in you.”** Thank you for being part of our Church School family. We are looking forward to a wonderful summer together!

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Erin Murray
Church School
Coordinator



Students Receive Faith Chests, one of the many activities offered at Wapping Community Church



May 3rd: Children’s Message “Friendship” by Patty Albrecht



Church Picnic Fun!

Church School Registration:

We are trying to plan for Church School in the fall. I want to make sure I order enough curriculum and supplies for our children. Please [register](#) for Church School 2026-2027 by using the QR code:

Erin Murray for the link wappingfaith@gmail.com



Vacation Bible School 2026 - Camp Firelight

VBS Dates: June 22–26 | 9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.,

Ages: 4-12 years old

Cost: \$45 per child, 3 children \$120, 4 children \$150, each additional child \$25
\$20 VBS t-shirts (optional)

Payment: Cash, check, credit card

Thank you to those who have already registered - we are nearly full!

Volunteers needed: ages 12- Adult - E-mail Erin Murray wappingfaith@gmail.com for a link. (Decoration Committee, Registration, Science Helpers, Group Helpers, set-up & take-down.)

Registration is LIVE! (Ages 4, must be potty trained through entering Grade 8)



VBS Registration QR code

• **VBS Amazon Wish List: Help support crafts, snacks, decorations and mission projects - see emails with the link to sign up!**

- **We're also collecting:**
 - Artificial Christmas Trees
 - White Christmas lights
 - Amazon brown packing paper
 - Camping supplies
 - Lanterns



- Please consider signing up to support our VBS through volunteer donations. Your contributions help make this week possible and meaningful for our children and youth. Thanks for your generosity and support! You can view needed items and sign up here:
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040C4AADAA2BA4FC1-63051828-vbs2026>

Use this QR code for VBS payment or to SPONSOR a child at VBS:



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



JPF Youth Group Had Fun Decorating Cakes

At one of their recent meetings, the JPF Group decorated cakes (left) in the community room kitchen. The kids were very creative and had a great time!

The last JPF meeting before fall will be this Sunday, June 7, from 4-6 p.m. Bring your water bottle and come enjoy games and visiting!



June is PRIDE Month! Here is the Open and Affirming Statement Approved at the Annual Meeting on January 22, 2017:

We, the members of Wapping Community Church, United Church of Christ, recognize the foundational importance of the prayer of Jesus: "That they may all be one" (John 17:21) by inviting all people into the full life, ministry, leadership, fellowship, sacraments, mission, and responsibilities of our congregation.

The sacred worth of all people as unique individuals made in the image of Christ is welcome here. Whatever age, race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, marital status, or physical, cognitive or emotional ability, we invite you to find a safe and nurturing spiritual home at Wapping Community Church. All are welcome to participate in the life, leadership, ministry and mission of this church as we seek to grow together in our faith community.

At each morning service the call to worship shall include the following summary of this position: "No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome at Wapping Community Church."

Glastonbury PRIDE Festival - Sunday, June 14 2-6 p.m.
Wapping Community Church will participate with a table at the Festival on Hubbard Green from 2-6 p.m. Come visit us and share inclusive love with all of our brothers and sisters!



PRIDE Sunday at WCC Sunday, June 28, 9 a.m.
Join us at 9 a.m. for Pride Sunday. Wear the Pride colors to show your love for all people!



WCC's Latest Series on Our Outdoor Sign: Beware the Seven Deadly Sins

Book of Life

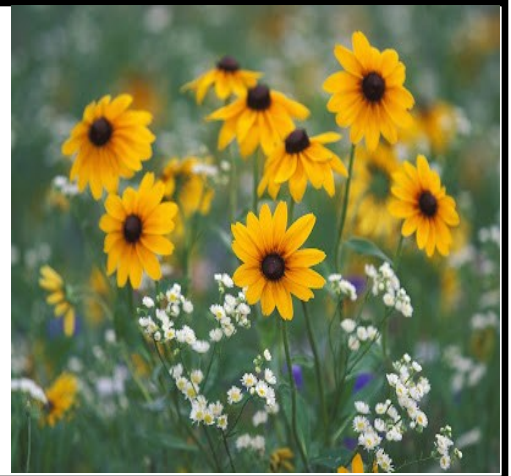


Entered Into Eternal Life

Kay Hevenor, February 12, 1935 - January 2, 2026

Jean A. Clay, January 28, 1930- April 26, 2026

Henry A. Syphers, September 1, 1946 - April 27, 2026



Backpack Program Partners with Vacation Bible School

This year, the Outreach Ministry's Backpack Program is excited to partner with our Vacation Bible School (VBS) to help local students start the upcoming school year equipped for success!

While our VBS kickoff is a major part of this effort, our collection will continue throughout the summer to ensure we meet the needs of every child before school begins.

We invite our church family and VBS participants to support this wonderful initiative in one of two ways:

- **Pick up a tag at VBS Drop-off:** When dropping off your children at VBS, parents and caregivers can select a tag labeled with a specific grade level. Each tag includes a tailored list of required school supplies. If possible, please return the filled backpack on the final day of VBS.
- **Sign-Up Online:** If you prefer a digital option or won't be at VBS drop-off, you can view the needed supply lists and claim a spot online through our Sign-Up Genius (see future emails for link.)

Thank you for your continued generosity and support in making this collaboration a meaningful success for our community's students.

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

Budget Corner for April, '26

	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenses</u>
Actual:	\$166,269	\$170,604
Budget:	\$ 172,644	\$161,233

Today's Factoid - Did you know?

WCC's property (including the Church building, the parsonage and the grounds) is worth +/- \$1,656,000 and on average costs ~ \$130,000 (~7.8 % of its value) per year to maintain.