



OPEN AND AFFIRMING
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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!*

May, 2026

Easter Sunday - April 5



“In the Right Place”

As many of you know by now, a little over halfway through our recent trip to Seattle, Josh fell during a flag football game and broke his elbow. It was a rainy night, which isn't unusual in Seattle, and I was simply there as a spectator trying to stay relatively dry. But when I saw Josh way across the field, kneeling, hunched over and holding his arm, I knew something was not right.

Obviously, Josh breaking his elbow was not part of our travel itinerary. Still, even though I wish it never happened, Josh continues to manage his injury and his recovery much better than I assumed he would. Certainly better than I would have if it had happened to me, which is a testament to the fact that it can be really good to be young!



Josh, Kristin and Mark Abernethy in Seattle before Josh's accident

As I think back on the night Josh and I spent in the Emergency Room at the University of Washington Medical Center, I'm struck by how fortunate it was that Kristin and I were there for Josh and with Josh when his crisis occurred. Chances are far higher we would have heard about Josh's injury here in Connecticut and then would have had to figure out the quickest and best way to help him clear across the country. Sometimes you and I are in the right place at the right time, even if the reason why we are there is not a happy one.

So often it works the same way with God. To be sure there are times when we wonder where God is and yearn for God's presence but we can't seem to find it. On the other hand, how many times can we point to in our lives when God was right where we needed God to be, just when we needed God to be there? When we're grieving and in need of comfort. When we're sick or injured and in need of healing. When we've lost hope and motivation and God provides Inspiration.

There are plenty of times in our lives when God bridges the miles and the pain and the loneliness to meet us exactly where and when we need God the most. God is both uncanny and amazing that way. A God who promises us through Jesus Christ that God will never leave us or forsake us. No matter what.

Josh breaking his elbow was hardly the highlight of our trip to Seattle. At the same time, being in the right place at the right time as parents turned out to be a really good thing. Not to mention the fact that the whole thing reminded me of God who promises to be there with us and for us whenever we need God...

A blessing for sure, *Mark*

Communication!

We have so many great ministries at WCC and we want to make sure everyone in our church family is aware of upcoming events and mission opportunities. One way we publish information about our activities is in the Parish Post, and through email, but sometimes it's hard to read all of our emails.

We also promote our events on our website and social media. Have you seen the Upcoming Events section on the home page of the website? Please take a look. As you scroll down on the home page, you will see upcoming events at the bottom of the page, and you can click to read the details. We also show the church calendar.

Have you seen the church's Facebook page? We post photos and information about our ministries. If you aren't seeing this, you might not be following us. To see our posts, visit Wapping Community Church on Facebook and click the blue Follow button.

May Calendar

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| Sat., May 2 | Bottle & Can Drive to Benefit Scouts, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., WCC Parking Lot |
| Sun., May 3 | Worship Services, 8:30 & 10 a.m. Confirmation Class, 11:15 a.m., Youth Room JPF/SPF Youth Groups, 4-6 p.m. |
| Mon., May 4 | Open & Affirming Meeting, 7 p.m., Earle Smith Reception Room |
| Wed., May 6 | Men's Choir Rehearsal, 6:30-7 p.m., Fellowship Hall |
| Thurs., May 7 | Foodshare Mobile Pantry, 11:30 a.m., WCC Parking Lot Stephen Ministry Class, 7-9 p.m., Third floor classroom |
| Sat., May 9 | MACC Volunteer Saturday, 1-5 p.m., 466 Main St., Manchester |
| Sun., May 10 | Worship Services, 8:30 & 10 a.m., Mother's Day Service, with Men's Choir, UCC Blanket Sunday SPF Youth Group, 4-6 p.m. |
| Mon., May 11 | Stephen Ministry Class, 7-9 p.m., 3rd floor classroom |
| Tues., May 12 | Deacon's Meeting, 7 p.m., Earle Smith Room |
| Wed., May 13 | SPF Fundraiser at Red Robin, 4 - 9 p.m., 360 Buckland Hills Dr., Manchester Outreach Meeting, 7 p.m., 3rd floor classroom |
| Thurs., May 14 | Choir Rehearsal, 7 p.m., Fellowship Hall |
| Sat., May 16 | Confirmation All Day Retreat, 8:30 a.m., Meet in WCC Parking Lot |
| Sun., May 17 | Worship Services, 8:30 & 10 a.m. JPF/SPF Youth Group, 4-6 p.m. |
| Wed., May 20 | Stephen Ministry Class, 7-9 p.m., 3rd floor classroom |
| Thurs., May 21 | Foodshare Mobile Pantry, 11:30 a.m., WCC Parking Lot Choir Rehearsal, 7 p.m., Fellowship Hall |
| Sun., May 24 | Memorial Day Worship Services, 8:30 & 10 a.m. |
| Mon., May 25 | Memorial Day, Church Offices Closed |
| Sat., May 30 | Midwest Volunteer Day, 9-11 a.m., 440 Adams St., Manchester (Look for Sign up Genius in your email) |
| Sun., May 31 | Worship Services, 8:30 & 10 a.m., Children's Sunday, (10 a.m.) Commissioning of Stephen Ministers (10 a.m.) Faith Formation Birthday Party after 10 a.m. service, Community Room Confirmation Class Sharing Statements of Faith with Parents & Deacons, 2:30 p.m., Sanctuary |
| Save the Dates: | Sun., June 7 - Summer Hours Begin, Worship Service, 9 a.m., Confirmation Sunday Sun., June 14 - Senior Recognition Sunday, 9 a.m. Mon., June 21 - Sat., June 27 - Vacation Bible School, 9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. |



Church News

New Stephen Ministers to be Commissioned

Exciting news!!! I am so pleased to announce five new Stephen Ministers that will be commissioned on Sunday, May 31st. These dedicated members have been in training since early February. Upon finishing 50 hours learning Christ-centered caring skills, they will be joining our current Stephen Ministers to offer free, confidential support to those experiencing life difficulties.

If you or someone you know is going through a difficult time and could benefit from this care, please speak with Rev. Abernethy or Nancy Calabrese at 860-558-8830.



MACC Volunteer Saturdays

Please consider joining us for a half day at one of our upcoming MACC Volunteer Saturdays. We help with a variety of tasks around the MACC Campus at 466 Main Street in Manchester, including preparing and cooking hot and cold meals, sorting and repackaging weekly store donations, and labeling non-perishable foods. We also help out at the MACC Thrift Store, sorting and marking donated clothing and household items. You can come for all or part of the time to enjoy fun and fellowship while supporting this vital community resource.

The Saturday dates are:

- May 9:** 1:00 - 5:00 p.m.
- Sept. 12** 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
- Nov. 14** 1:30 - 5:00 p.m.

Contact Matt Desy mattdesy01@gmail.com for more info or to sign up. Hope to see you there!

Spring Cleaning Reminder

As you clear out your winter coats for the season, please remember that throughout the year WCC accepts clean, new or gently used winter coats, hats, scarves and gloves for our **Annual Foodshare Holiday Luncheon** in December. Please leave your donations on the table in the Caring Ministry Room next to the church library on the second floor.



Confirmation Class Schedule

May and June are busy and important months for this year's confirmation class and their advisors. After working hard all year, they're wrapping up their studies. Here are some key dates:

- Sunday, May 3:** Last Confirmation Class, 11:15 a.m.
- Saturday, May 16:** All Day Retreat, 8:30 a.m.. Meet in WCC Parking Lot
- Sunday, May 31:** Confirmands share statements of faith with their parents and the deacons, at 2:30 p.m.in the Sanctuary
- Saturday, June 6:** 8 a.m. rehearsal for confirmation Sunday, in the Sanctuary
- Sunday, June 7:** Confirmation Sunday, 9 a.m. Worship Service in the Sanctuary

Church School Update:

“See! The winter is past; the rains are over and gone. Flowers appear on the earth; the season of singing has come.” —Song of Solomon 2:11–12

Upcoming Events:

Church School Registration

We are already looking ahead and actively planning for the fall Church School program! Early registration helps us prepare class groupings, order materials, and ensure we have the right number of teachers and volunteers in place for a smooth and meaningful start to the year.

Please take a moment to [register](#) for Church School 2026–2027. Your early response makes a big difference in helping us create a welcoming, well-prepared, and engaging experience for all of our children.

Thank you for your continued support of our Faith Formation ministry!



Erin Murray
Church School
Coordinator



May 31st: Children’s Sunday:

All children in grades preschool through eighth will lead the 10:00 AM service. This special morning will highlight the many gifts of our young people, including participation from our talented musicians and confident “star readers” who will help guide us through worship. It promises to be a joyful and meaningful celebration of faith, leadership, and community—one you won’t want to miss!

Intergenerational Hike:

We had a wonderful turnout for our Intergenerational Hike on Sunday, March 29th, with around 40 people in attendance! A large group gathered to enjoy lunch together before heading out to explore the Major Michael Donnelly Preserve in South Windsor. JPF and SPF joined us in place of their regular meeting, which made the day even more special. The weather was absolutely beautiful, making it a perfect day for fellowship, fresh air, and time in nature.



Vacation Bible School 2026 - CampFirelight

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

Thank you to those who have already registered - we are more than halfway full!



We are already planning for VBS! We're excited to introduce a new middle school experience this year:

God's Violet Wings of Faith (Grades 6–8)

This unique group is designed especially for our older youth and will include:

- **Faith-centered discussions** geared toward middle schoolers
- Age-appropriate **STEAM activities** that build creativity and collaboration
- **Mission and service opportunities**, including helping within VBS

This program offers a fun, engaging, and purposeful experience while building community among our middle school youth.

- **Registration is LIVE!** (Ages 4 (must be potty trained) through entering Grade 8)
Volunteers needed: Incoming 9th grade through adults (email Erin wappingfaith@gmail.com)
- **Don't forget:** *Register and pay by April 30 to guarantee your VBS t-shirt*
- **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!

Faith Formation Mission

Faith Formation is once again collecting gently used or new items of clothing for Cornerstones "back to school shop!" (K-12 grades). This year they would really appreciate sweat pants and or lounge pants for middle schoolers and high schoolers (think comfy!) There will be a marked bin for donations outside of the sanctuary. Donations will be accepted between now until June. If you have any questions please feel free to reach out to Jen DeCormier or email her at jjbinvt@gmail.com

You can view needed items and sign up here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040C4AADAA2BA4FC1-63051828-vbs2026>

Faithfully,

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

BOTTLE & CAN DRIVE

Benefiting Hartford Scouting Programs



Saturday, May 2ND
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Wapping Community Church

1790 Ellington Road, South Windsor, CT

(Parking lot adjacent to the Town Library - Use Sullivan Ave entrance!)

Please come out and donate your redeemable
bottles and cans to support the activities of:

Hartford Boy Scout Troop 2, Girl Scout Troop 10036, & Cub Scout Pack 2!

CASH DONATIONS WELCOME!

Checks may be made payable to:
HARTFORD KIWANIS FUND, INC.
P.O. Box 1167, South Windsor, CT 06074
Hartford Kiwanis Fund, Inc. is an IRS 501(c)3 nonprofit



For more information about this event, or about the mission of
Hartford Kiwanis' Suburban Hartford Initiative Program, please contact:
Peter DeMallie | (860) 922-0920 | pdemallie@dpinc.co
Daniel Jameson | (860) 752-3499 | djameson@dpinc.co
Ken Johnson | (860) 841-6041 | kjkj3@att.net

Donations are tax deductible!



Red Robin® will give

**20% OF FOOD SALES*
BACK TO**

WAPPING COMMUNITY CHURCH SPF

Show this flyer or simply mention the fundraiser to your server to have your sales counted.

FUNDRAISER DETAILS

360 Buckland Hills Dr, Manchester, CT 06460
May 13, 2026*

If ordering online, please follow these instructions:

- 1 Start your order at redrobin.com/order and select the restaurant above.
- 2 In the menu, go to the category labeled "Fundraisers (To-Go Only)" and click on that item.
- 3 Click the "add" button, and then "add to bag."
- 4 Add your meal items and check out.
- 5 Arrive at Red Robin, come in, say hi, grab your food and be on your way! If your location has curbside pick-up, we can bring it to your car too!

*Fundraiser during restaurant operating hours. Visit redrobin.com and find this location to view hours. Donation based on all eligible net dine-in and to-go food sales only. Excludes sales from catering (at select locations), 3rd party ordering and delivery sites, alcohol, gift cards, retail, tax and gratuity. Offer void if flyer is distributed in or near the restaurant during fundraiser day & hours.



JPF May Schedule

JPF will meet on:

- **May 3rd** from 4-6 p.m.
We'll go to Wickham Park! The Park has several new displays for us to explore! If the weather is not good, we will meet at church.
- **May 17th** from 4-6 p.m.



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

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1790 Ellington Road, South Windsor, CT 06074

Website: www.Wappingchurch.org

www.facebook.com/WappingCommunityChurch

Budget Corner March 2026:

Here is the church's income and expenses, and how the figures match the budget set at the beginning of the year. Here are February's figures:

| | <u>Income</u> | <u>Expenses</u> |
|---------|---------------|-----------------|
| Actual: | \$131,873 | \$137,031 |
| Budget: | \$133,271 | \$125,760 |

Today's Factoid - Did you know? Winter 2026 Snow Removal contract was budgeted at \$10,000 based on experience but this year has cost us \$17,045. (Note: the contract is being re-bid for next winter.)