



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, 2026

Please Join Us for Holy Week Services

- Sunday, March 29** **Palm Sunday Services, 8:30 & 10 a.m., in WCC Sanctuary**
Intergenerational Lunch & Hike after 2nd service at Major Donnelly Preserve, 1165 Sullivan Ave., South Windsor
- Thursday, April 2** **Maundy Thursday Service, 7 p.m. Community Room**
- Friday, April 3** **Good Friday Service, 12 p.m., Sanctuary**
Walk the Labyrinth, 12 - 7 p.m., Community Room
SPF Good Friday Vigil, 8 p.m. - 12 a.m.

Sunday, April 5

Easter Sunday Services:

- Sunrise Service, 6:30 a.m., at Major Donnelly Preserve, 1165 Sullivan Ave., South Windsor**
- Sunday Worship Services, 9 a.m. & 11 a.m., in the Sanctuary at Wapping Community Church**



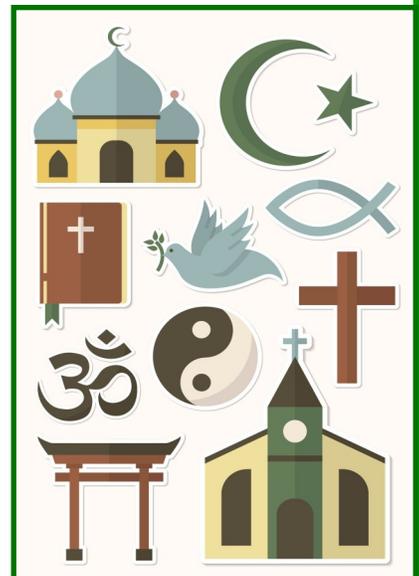
Love Your Neighbor Event

WCC will be hosting our second "Love Your Neighbor" event on Sunday, March 22, from 2-4 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.

Love Your Neighbor is a program sponsored by the Connecticut Council for Interreligious Understanding (CCIU.) The events are designed to foster a greater sense of community among people of faith, with a recognition that faith of many types plays an invaluable role in many lives.

At the event, representatives from three different faith traditions will provide 10-15 minute overviews about their faith's basic tenets and how their faith informs adherents' daily lives. The overviews are followed by a question and answer period run by a CCIU moderator, and time for everyone to enjoy some snacks and conversation.

This year's Love Your Neighbor session is one of 25 that CCIU plans to present across the state during 2026. Attendees will hear from followers of the Sikh, Bahai and Buddhism traditions. If you've ever wondered about any of those faiths, enjoy learning something new, or think you might enjoy conversations with kindred spirits, please plan on attending. If you have any questions please contact Rick Love at rlove863@gmail.com



The Jolly Beggars Musical Group is Coming to WCC on Sunday, March 22

We're excited to welcome **The Jolly Beggars** back to our church for a special performance of beautiful Irish music!

Join us on **Sunday, March 22nd** for their live music at both the **8:30 a.m.** and **10:00 a.m.** services. It's sure to be a joyful and inspiring way to start your Sunday — don't miss it!

The SPF Paint Night Fundraiser Party on Saturday, March 28, was a Success! Everyone had a Chance to Paint a Springtime Boot and Flowers Painting, Visit with Friends and Enjoy Snacks.



March Calendar



- Thurs., March 5** **Choir Rehearsal, 7 p.m., Fellowship Hall**
- Sun., March 8** **Worship Services, 8:30 & 10 a.m.,
Girl Scout Sunday
Confirmation Class, 11:15 a.m.- 12:45 p.m., Youth Room
JPF & SPF Youth Groups, 4-6 p.m., Youth Room**
- Mon., March 9** **Lenten Book Study, 7-8:30 p.m., Earle Smith Room**
- Tues., March 10** **Deacon's Meeting, 7 p.m., Earle Smith Reception Room**
- Thurs., March 12** **Foodshare Mobile Pantry, 11:30 a.m., WCC Parking Lot
Choir Rehearsal, 7 p.m., Fellowship Hall**
- Sat., March 14** **MACC Volunteer Saturday, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., 466 Main St. Manchester
Margo Lazzerini's Calling Hours, 2 p.m., Memorial Service, 3 p.m.**
- Sun., March 15** **Worship Services, 8:30 & 10 a.m., Youth Sunday**
- Tues., March 17** **Happy St. Patrick's Day
Prayer Shawl Ministry, 10 a.m., Earle Smith Reception Room
Outreach Meeting, 7 p.m., Earle Smith Rec. Room**
- Wed., March 18** **Foreign Policy Discussion, 7-9 p.m., Youth Room**
- Thurs., March 19** **Choir Rehearsal, 7 p.m., Fellowship Hall**
- Fri., March 20** **Free Mac & Cheese Community Dinner, 4-6:30 p.m., Community Room**
- Sat., March 21** **Confirmation Class Journey Home Service Project, 9 a.m.– 1 p.m.**
- Sun., March 22** **Worship Services, 8:30 & 10 a.m., The Jolly Beggars Music, both services
One Great Hour of Sharing Special Collection
Confirmation Class, 11:15 a.m., Youth Room
Love Your Neighbor Community Event, 2-4 p.m., Fellowship Hall
JPF/SPF Youth groups, 4-6 p.m., Youth Room**
- Mon., March 23** **Lenten Book Study, 7-8:30 p.m., WCC Location TBD**
- Wed., March 25** **Foreign Policy Discussion Group, 7-9 p.m., Youth Room**
- Thurs., March 26** **Foodshare Mobile Pantry, 11:30 a.m., WCC Parking Lot
Choir Rehearsal, 7 p.m., Fellowship Hall**
- Sun., March 29** **Worship Services, 8:30 & 10 a.m., Palm Sunday
Intergenerational Lunch & Hike, Donnelly Preserve, 1165 Sullivan Ave, SW
Confirmation Class, 8:30-10 a.m., Youth Room**



Outreach Ministry Helps Our Community

March is a Month of Undie Sundays

During the month of March, we are collecting donations of NEW socks and underwear for Cornerstone and MACC.

Any donations are appreciated including:

- Women's Crew Socks and underwear
- Men's Crew Socks, boxers and briefs

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



MACC Volunteer Saturdays are Back!

Everyone is invited to spend half of a Saturday with friends 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. Our activities include cooking and preparing 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. Please consider joining us for all or part of the time to enjoy fun and fellowship while supporting this vital community resource. **The 2026 Saturday dates are:**

Mar. 14: 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

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)

Come Join Us and Celebrate Spring with a **FREE** Community Dinner!



~ALL ARE WELCOME~

When: Friday, March 20

Time: 4:00-6:30pm

Where: Wapping Community Church

1790 Ellington Rd., South Windsor

In the Community Room

What: Mac and Cheese, Spiral Ham, Tossed Salad, & Dessert

(Menu Affords Lenten, Vegetarian, and Child Friendly Options)



One Great Hour of Sharing, 3/22

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

We'll collect a special offering on March 22. Please make checks payable to WCC and put OGHS in the memo line. Thank you!

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.



Church School News & Faith Formation Update

We have been busy learning and having fun in Church School! We love beginning each month with the gift of a special Children's Message from members of our congregation, and we are looking forward to Abi Levesque sharing with us about prayer in March.

Even with all the snow, we know it won't last forever—so get out and enjoy it while you can. Warmer days are on the way!



Erin Murray
Church School
Coordinator

Vacation Bible School 2026 - Camp Firelight

We are already planning for VBS and are 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:

- Age-appropriate **STEAM activities** that build creativity and collaboration
- **Faith-centered discussions** geared toward middle schoolers
- **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)

We are still in need of Bible Storyteller and Group Leaders.

VBS Donations Needed:

- VBS Amazon Wish List:** Help support crafts, snacks, decorations and mission projects

T-Shirts: Included for all children registered and paid by **April 1, 2026**

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!

Bible Stories & Happenings in March

March 1 – Communion & Children's Message by Abi Levesque "Prayer"

March 8 – "Jesus and Peter Walk on Water" (Matthew 14:22–33)

VBS Planning Meeting after worship in Erin's office

March 15 – Youth Sunday (Children & Youth: Wear your Church School T-shirt)

Faith Formation Meeting after worship in the Youth Room

(Come help plan seasonal events—very casual, no RSVP needed!)

March 22 – The Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9–13)

March 29 – Holy Week (Matthew 21:1–11; 26:14–27:66)

Children & Youth: Wear your Church School T-shirt



JPF Schedule

Sunday March 8th
from 4-6 p.m. at
church

Sunday March 29th after church
for lunch and to
take a hike at the
Major Donnelly
Preserve, 1165
Sullivan Ave.,
South Windsor.
Join others from
church. Any ques-
tions, contact Patty
Albrecht at
albrmp@cox.net.

Youth Shine for Christ

6

Palm Sunday Procession - All Church School children and families are invited to arrive by 9:50 a.m. to walk together behind the donkey, remembering Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. **Please wear your Church School t-shirt (either tie-dye or solid blue.)**on.

Intergenerational Hike & Picnic – Major Michael Donnelly Preserve - All ages are invited for fellowship in God's creation.

Lunch Provided: Faith Formation will provide lunch before the hike at Major Michael Donnelly Preserve. Please **RSVP to join us for lunch** by emailing wappingfaith@gmail.com.

Meeting Location: Main parking and picnic area, 1165 Sullivan Avenue. Look for the picnic tables and open meadow near the main entrance.

Volunteer in Church School: We are always grateful for helping hands. Our program cannot run without you!

Growing Faith at Home:

We encourage you to: Pray together as a family, giving thanks for God's love and praying for one another and for our leaders, Talk about Bible stories at home and how they shape our daily lives.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership in nurturing our children's faith journeys within the life of our church. **Blessings, Erin Murray, Church School Coordinator, wappingfaith@gmail.com**
P.S. Visit www.wappingchurch.org for updates and important announcements.



In February, we were blessed to have Vanessa Donovan give a beautiful Children's Message on kindness.

We Presented Bibles and Faith Chests to 3rd and 8th Graders on February 22

8th Graders who received Bibles: Vivian Thankful DeCormier, Nathan Thomas Donovan, Brent Fago, Jaxson Michael Foster, Maxwell David Marsh, Xavier Miska, Lara Morgenthau, Lochlann Thomas Murray and Kevin John Rho

8th Graders who received Faith Chests: Vivian Thankful DeCormier, Brent Fago, Maxwell David Marsh, Xavier Miska and Lara Morgenthau

3rd Graders who received Bibles: Emma Nicole Bereza, Emma Donovan, Jack Rock-Burns, Oliver Thomas, Lillian James Zilinski

We give thanks for our children, their families, and all who support Christian Faith Formation at our church.

He has been raised.
— Mark 16:6



Easter Flowers

Help celebrate the joy of Christ’s resurrection by purchasing spring flowers that will be used to decorate the church on Easter morning, April 5, 2026.

Members of the Flower Committee will be available on March 8, 15 and 22 to take orders. Flower orders may also be dropped off at the church office by Wednesday, March 25. Dedications will be printed in a special section of the Easter bulletin.

After the service, please take your flowers home to enjoy, bring to a friend or shut-in, or plant in your garden for next year’s blooms.

Thank you for contributing to the beauty of Easter morning at Wapping Community Church.

(Please Print)

In Memory Of: _____

In Honor Of: _____

Other: _____

Given By: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

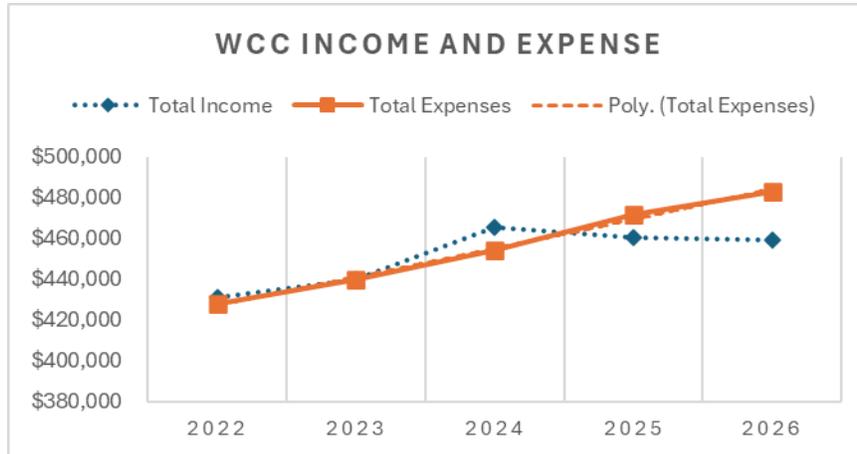
Quantity: _____ Lilies @ \$12.00 per plant

_____ Tulips @ \$10.00 per plant

Total Enclosed \$ _____ (Please make checks out to WCC)

Please mail this form to Wapping Community Church, 1790 Ellington Rd., South Windsor, CT 06074

A Message About Our Church Finances



We are deeply grateful for your continued support of our church. Your generosity allows us to worship together, maintain our church building, support our staff, and serve our community.

We want to share an important update on our church's finances presented at our January Annual Meeting. The church's total income increased modestly from 2022 to 2024, mainly due to rental income, but it has since leveled off. Contribution income, which makes up about 75% of our total income, has remained essentially unchanged from 2022 through 2026.

During this same period, expenses have continued to rise each year. Costs for building maintenance, utilities, insurance, and salaries have all increased. In 2025, expenses exceeded income, and that trend is expected to continue in 2026. Looking ahead, we expect expenses to increase by \$15,000–\$20,000 per year due to inflation in necessary building and staffing costs. This increase in expenses creates a growing gap relative to income that cannot be sustained over time.

To sustain our church's ministries and mission—and to responsibly care for our building and staff—we need to grow our overall giving. We recognize that our diverse congregation includes a wide range of financial resources. Therefore, in addition to your planned 2026 giving, we invite each household to consider an additional contribution of \$200, \$100, or \$50 between now and the end of 2026. When shared across our church community, even modest increases can make a meaningful difference.

If you can immediately increase your 2026 giving, please send the gift to the Wapping office, drop it in the collection plate on Sunday, or contribute online at: <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-Z4FC/campaign/C-128V8>. Otherwise, if you can increase your giving during the remainder of the year, it will be gratefully appreciated. We'll regularly keep everyone posted on our progress in the bulletin and Parish Post throughout 2026. Thank you.

Wapping Community Church Finance Team

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

Budget Corner 2026: Here is the church's income, our expenses, and how the figures match the budget set at the beginning of the year. Here are January's figures:

	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenses</u>
Actual:	\$42,666	\$42,263
Budget:	\$45,201	\$39,596

Did you know? The "Budget" projected values are based on the averages over several years for the same period.