WAPPING COMMUNITY CHURCH

1790 Ellington Road
South Windsor, CT
860-644-0833

a just world for all
ucc.org

Parish Post

November 2026



No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.



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Ministers, all of the Members of the Church

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BUDGET CORNER FOR SEPT, '26

	Income	Expenses
Actual	$324,561	$368,097
Budget	$357,365	$358,192

Today's Factoid – Did you know...

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The Board of Finance is wrestling with an anticipated increase in the cost of our insurances due to a recent request for updated evaluations of our properties. The BOF is arranging that updated evaluation.

Minister's Message



"Surprises"

From the time I was a young child, I have always been a person who loved surprises. When it came to Christmas or my birthday, my parents would often ask me whether there was a gift I might like to receive. And so often I would say to them, "just surprise me." (Of course, when I had a family of my own, I realized that surprising my children wasn't always as easy as I thought it was when I was growing up!)

All of this is to say that I was totally surprised by what happened here at Wapping on Sunday, October 25th . Somewhere in the back of my mind, I was aware of the fact that October was Pastor Appreciation Month. Yet with all the things going on here at church and all the preparations we were making at home for Kristin's knee replacement surgery, I was fairly preoccupied. And I had no idea that the congregation was planning to recognize me in a special way.

As I cut the cakes in Coffee Hour that morning and read, in subsequent days, the wonderful cards and notes so many of you wrote, I remembered again what I remember in my life so often. Namely, how much I love Wapping Community Church and the people who are connected to this special place!

My deepest thanks to all of you for allowing me and encouraging me and trusting me and inspiring me to do the work of ministry in our congregation. Thank you for taking the time to affirm me a couple of weeks ago. Thank you even more for allowing me to be part of your lives, not only on Sunday mornings, but so many other times throughout each week. I feel your appreciation and I am grateful. Likewise, I express the same appreciation and affection for all of you!

And sure enough, you reminded me that I still love surprises...

Blessings,

Mark

Church News









community dinner

SUCCESSFUL EVENTS



CROP Hunger Walk











2026 Wapping Community Church Annual Craft Fair

Featuring Local Handcraft Artisans

Home Decor Candles Pottery Jewelry
Self Care Products Children's Books & Gifts
Needlework Knit & Crochet Holiday Themed Gifts

Saturday Nov 7 9-3

Free Admission!
Free Parking!



Great Raffle Prizes!

"Wapping Big" Baked Potato & Bake Sale





1790 Ellington Rd, South Windsor

Upcoming Events

On World AIDS Day on Tuesday, December 1st, the open and affirming ministry invites you to a candlelight prayer service at 6:30 pm in the Chapel. We want to raise awareness, honor lives lost and prayerfully work to erase stigma. If you wish, bring a poem, a reading or a prayer to share at the service."Questions: talk to anyone who is part of the open and affirming ministry"





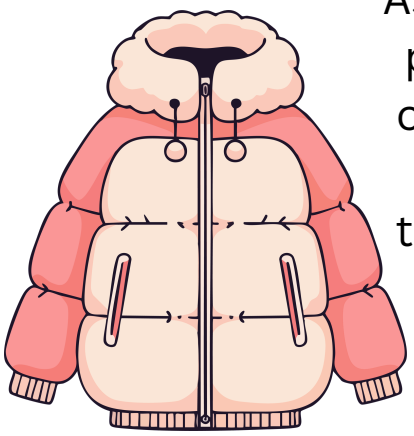
Saturday, December 19th we will take a group of Wapping volunteers to help sort food at Midwest food bank 9 to 11:30.

A link to sign up will be coming via a church email.

Anyone 6th grade and up can participate.

Come help those food insecure and have some great fun and fellowship too! See Kristin A for more information.

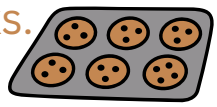
Lend a Hand



As the seasons change, and we bring out our winter coats please consider donating your gently used or new, clean coats, hats, scarves and gloves for our annual coat drive. Our **Foodshare Coat Drive** donations will be accepted through 11/29. These donations will be distributed at the Foodshare Holiday Luncheon on 12/3/26. Items may be dropped off in the Caring Ministries Room on the second floor next to the Church Library. Thank you for your support.

We will be hosting a coat drive and luncheon for our Foodshare recipients on Thursday, December 3rd. I am looking for volunteers to make cookies, brownies or other finger desserts. If you're able to help, please text Mary K at 860-528-3289. Thanks.





Creche Set up- Help needed! Saturday November 28th, 9 a.m. Join us on the front lawn to help assemble the creche for the season. All are welcomed.

Questions? Contact Ken Johnson 860-841-6041







Thanksgiving and Christmas offer many giving opportunities. You can purchase gift cards throughout the year for yourself or others. Even purchase for some of our holiday drives! There are hundreds of merchants who offer a small percentage of return for the purchase.



Find Pat in the Community Room at coffee hour each Sunday morning. Pat Anderson 860-614-7587

Outreach



With the holidays upon us, a season that's normally a time for celebration, it may have a more somber tone to some, whether it be from the loss of a loved one, health concerns, anxiety, depression, loneliness or life changes.



Having someone to talk with who doesn't judge or try to fix situations, but simply walks alongside reminding them of God's presence, can be such a blessing. The relationships that Stephen Ministers form with their care receivers have shown to have such a positive impact in their lives. Wapping Church offers a free, confidential ministry to anyone experiencing a difficulty. Stephen Ministry is an ongoing group of trained members from our congregation who offer Christ- centered listening, caring, and support during a time of life's challenges.

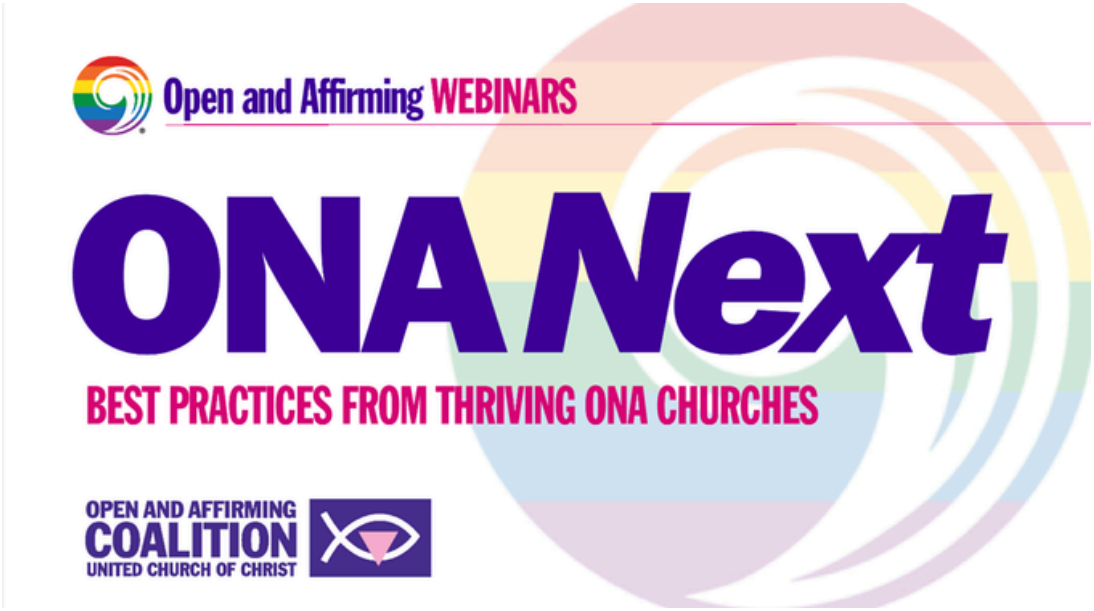


If you, or someone that you know of may be interested in the care that a Stephen Minister has to offer, or interested in becoming a Stephen Minister, please speak with Rev Abernethy or contact Nancy Calabrese at 860-558-8830.



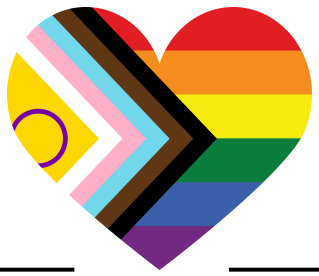
South Windsor
Human Services

Thank you for all of the donations given throughout the month of September for the South Windsor Food Bank. We delivered 2 car loads of groceries to the Community Center. Your donated items were greatly appreciated.



ONA: Next- Best Practices From Thriving ONA Churches
A power point presentation from the Open and Affirming Coalition of the United Church of Christ.

In recent ONA ministry meetings we discussed the importance of providing vital information to WCC and the community outside our doors on how we can actively live out our ONA covenant 365 days a year. Becoming a designated Open and Affirming church was only the first step. This power point presentation will provide us with valuable insights and actionable ideas on how to fully embrace and deepen our commitment. Please join us on Sunday, November 15th at 11:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall for this presentation and follow-up conversation. Please contact Becky McConnell at skebas@outlook.com with any questions.



Our next MACC Saturday is November 14th, please join us for an afternoon of good fellowship while supporting this vital local charity.
Contact Matt Desy to sign up: **mattdesy01@gmail.com**

WCC Holiday Giving Opportunities

It's that time of year again when we begin thinking about the holidays ahead. Here, at WCC, we remain committed to our mission of sharing Christ's love with the world. With your help we look forward to bringing joy and hope to many in our community this holiday season. It may seem early, but starting now allows us to get all donations out in time for both Thanksgiving and Christmas.
Please take a few moment to review the holiday giving opportunities and join us in giving if you are able and feel called.



THANKSGIVING GIFT CARDS - SOUTH WINDSOR FOOD PANTRY

October 25th - November 15th

All donations will be used to purchase grocery store gift cards to Walmart, Target or Stop & Shop for the South Windsor Food Pantry.
These gift cards will be distributed to Pantry clients who can then shop for their Thanksgiving dinner.

Please contact Gretchen Bickford at 860-644-1422 with questions.

JOY OF COMMUNITY GIVING - MACC

November 22nd - December 13th

We are once again supporting MACC with our annual holiday gift card collection. All donations will be used to purchase gift cards to Walmart, Target or Stop & Shop. These gift cards will enable MACC families and individuals who fall at or below the poverty level to shop for food as well as small gifts for Christmas.

Please contact Gretchen Bickford at 860-644-1422 with questions.



HOLIDAY GIFTS for CHILDREN - Cornerstone Foundation



November 1st - November 30th

Over the years we have provided gifts to our Covenant to Care partners in the form of gift cards. We've gotten a lot of feedback that people miss providing actual gifts. With that in mind we are making a change this Christmas season.

First, WCC Outreach will be providing gift cards from WCC to the Social Workers in our Covenant to Care program as we have done in past years. These will be funded through our Outreach budget for 2026.

In addition, this year WCC will be helping the Cornerstone Foundation in Vernon provide holiday gifts for children in their programs.

Throughout the month of November we will be collecting toys, games, art supplies, dolls, trucks, dinosaurs, and anything else you can imagine in our Wapping Wagon in the Gathering Room.

These will be delivered by December 1st so that the folks at Cornerstone can sort and prepare these for distribution.
(Just a note... they have plenty of books and stuffed animals but they do especially need gifts for older kids...games, legos, etc.)

Please know that whatever you choose to donate, it will surely help bring a smile to a child's face on Christmas morning!

Thank you for your generosity and for keeping these efforts in your prayers as together we help make a difference in the lives of individuals and families in our community.

TOUCHSTONES 2026

Holiday Giving for Homebound Church Members

Touchstones Ministry is once again looking to bring joy to our homebound members this holiday season.

If you'd like to donate, look for the tree and tag display in the gathering area, as well as a drop off box.

All donations are due by November 22rd to allow for packaging and distribution. If you are willing to make door drop-off deliveries of these bags in December, please let me know!

Thank you again!

Nancy Calabrese- 860-558-8830

THE HANDYMAN WORK GROUP

aims to provide assistance to homebound fellow church members. We have a dozen church members who will volunteer their time and expertise to help those older members who need help with simple tasks that are now challenging. Picture hanging, faucet leaks, changing light bulbs and other routine tasks that occur.

Send requests to Mark Edson at mark_edson@xsmail.com with the request, along with name, phone number, email and street address.

Also, if interested, please let us know if you would like to be added to the list of volunteers

Youth Fellowship

JPF will meet at church on November 8th 4-6 p.m.

November 15th we will be going to MACC for to help them prepare for Thanksgiving. Meet at 1:30 at WCC to carpool.

Please contact Patty Albrecht at albrmp@cox.net or 860-670-8058, Rebecca Shinkoff or Shari Worthington with questions.
Registration forms are required.
All Middle School students are welcome to attend.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

11/8	Bowling Party at Spare Time, Vernon 4-6pm
11/14	Pie sorting 12:30
11/15	Friendsgiving 4-6pm
11/20	Meeting at 7pm

See Micaela with any questions
abernethymicaela@gmail.com

Sacred dance

Sacred dance has begun for the season. Join us for rehearsals Sundays 11:15-12 in the Sanctuary.

We are just starting to prepare for the Christmas services.

Ages 4-17 welcome
Questions? Shari Worthington 860-550-0405



Kid's Korner by Erin Murray





SAVE THE DATES!

Advent Fair:

Saturday, December 5th: Come help set-up for our Annual Advent Fair 8AM-12PM.

December 6th, after the 10am service, we will have our Annual Advent Fair in our Community Room from 11:30 am-1:30 pm. We will have lunch, snacks, face painting, a hot chocolate bar, wreath making, a photo booth, gingerbread house making, and crafts!
Want to help at a Craft station or donate items? Sign up here.

Living Creche:

December 6th, 11 am-2 pm Sign up: Living Creche
Please contact Donna Bereza donnal14@gmail.com if you would like to participate this year.
We are offering thirty-minute time slots.
New this year- who can earn the most car honks with their Christmas Spirit!



Christmas Pageant:

December 11th: Christmas Pageant Practice 5-6:30PM (ALL Church School Children)
December 12th: Christmas Pageant Practice 8-10AM (ALL Church School Children)
December 13th at 10 am "'The Animal's Christmas Story" Pageant
We will start practicing our Christmas Carols on 11/1.
All children will be a part of the Children's Choir. We will be singing This Little Light of Mine and We Wish You a Merry Christmas as a Children's Choir, and Go Tell It on the Mountain and Joy to the World with the congregation.











Fall Harvest Festival 2026

Thank you to everyone who participated in our Fall Harvest Festival this year! Fun was had by all ages as we enjoyed games, science experiments, crafts, food, and wonderful fellowship together. It was such a great morning, and we are so thankful to everyone who helped make it special!





Help Needed:

Would you like to volunteer to help?
Email Erin Murray at wappingfaith@gmail.com to inquire about volunteer opportunities.



November Church School Schedule:

11/1	Children's Message given by Abi Levesque		
11/8	PreK- Grade 3	"Ten Bridesmaids"	Matthew 25:1-13
	Grades 4-5	"The Promise"	Genesis 12-13; 15-18; 21
	Grades 6-8	"Jesus' Encounters"	John 3-4; 8
11/15	PreK- Grade 3	"Parable of the Talents"	Matthew 25: 14-30
	Grades 4-5	"Exodus"	Exodus 1-5; 7-15
	Grades 6-8	"Rising Tension"	Luke 22; John 13-15
11/22	PreK- Grade 3	"Sheep and Goats"	Matthew 25:31-46
	Grades 4-5	"Commands"	Exodus 19-20; 24-25; 31-32; 34; 40
	Grades 6-8	"New Promise"	Luke 22; John 13-15


FROM SHADOW TO LIGHT
A CALL FOR PEACE
CHORAL CONCERT
& UCONN SHADOW PUPPETRY
FELIX MENDELSSOHN · KARL JENKINS
Hear My Prayer, A Sacred Cantata
Excerpts from The Peacemakers
SAT NOV 21 · 6 PM
TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH · HARTFORD
SUN NOV 22 · 5 PM
WAPPING COMMUNITY CHURCH · SOUTH WINDSOR
Choir School of Hartford · Choirs of Trinity Hartford
Old St. Andrew's Episcopal Church · Wapping Community Church

Music Ministry

Experience the beauty of Advent through scripture, music from our choir, and familiar hymns sung together. This special service invites us to pause, reflect on the season's promises of hope, peace, love, and joy, and prepare our hearts for Christ's coming.



Choir rehearsals are weekly on Thursdays from 7:00–8:30 p.m. If you enjoy singing and would like to become part of our welcoming musical community, we would love to have you join us. Come make music, build friendships, & help lead our congregation in worship!