



Parish Post

October 2026

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

**JESUS SAID TO
LOVE ONE ANOTHER.
THERE ARE
NO EXCEPTIONS.**



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
a just world for all

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Music Ministry

Ministers, all of the Members of the Church

Rev. Mark B. Abernethy
Senior Minister
Revabernethy@gmail.com

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wappingfaith@gmail.com

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BUDGET CORNER FOR AUGUST, '26

	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenses</u>
Actual	\$298,406	\$320,837
Budget	\$295,406	\$311,926

Today's Factoid - Did you know...

Unexpected expenses by definition catch us unawares. Last winter's snow and extended cold, icy conditions - was such an example. With renters who need safe access from early to late each day the 2026 budget projection **1** was far below our actual costs.

Minister's Message



“A Proud History”

Nine years ago in 2017, Wapping Community Church, United Church of Christ, adopted our Open and Affirming (ONA) covenant. In the years since, we have spent time as a congregation not only proclaiming our Open and Affirming status publicly, but also living into how we can actively welcome all people into the worship and the life of Wapping Community Church. To that end, we continue to pledge as a congregation to more fully embrace with open arms God's people regardless of age, race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, marital status, or physical, cognitive or emotional ability.

Unfortunately, many of the people we named in our Open and Affirming covenant nine years ago have been pushed further to our society's margins in the year 2026. In the case of people in the LGBTQ community, there are ongoing threats by those in power to take away same gender marriage rights, health care rights for same gender couples and vital hormone treatments for transgender youth and adults, to name a few. Coupled with ongoing vitriol and scapegoating directed at our LGBTQ siblings, these are fragile and fearful days to be part of the queer community.

As part of my pastoral commitment to lead an Open and Affirming congregation, I'm dedicated to preaching and teaching about the importance of our ONA covenant on an ongoing basis. Looking ahead, I plan to preach about the subject of Open and Affirming in our worship services on Sunday, October 11 th .

Why that specific Sunday? October aligns with LGBT History Month and National Coming Out Day falls on October 11, serving as an important time for **Open and Affirming (ONA)** ministries and churches—particularly within the United Church of Christ (UCC) Open and Affirming Coalition—to celebrate LGBTQ inclusion, reflect on history, and lean into active advocacy. I hope you will plan to come to worship that morning and hear why its critically important and timely for Wapping Community Church to embody our Open and Affirming covenant in solidarity with our LGBTQ siblings.

I hope to see you in worship,



Church Financial Update:

Grateful for Your Support

Earlier this year, we shared concerns about the church's financial outlook and the growing gap between income and expenses. As we begin our fall stewardship campaign, we want to update you on our financial position.

The most encouraging news is that contribution income has increased since our spring update. Your faithful and generous giving has made a meaningful difference. However, some of that increase has been offset by a decrease in rental income. On the expense side, costs to maintain and operate our building continued to rise, but reduced hours in the new office administrator position have partially offset those increases.

Based on our current outlook, we now expect the church's 2026 deficit to be reduced to approximately \$10,000 to \$20,000. While a deficit remains, this is an improvement from the concerns we shared earlier this year.

Looking ahead to 2027, we currently anticipate a budget deficit of around \$10,000. This estimate depends on our congregation's continued support and on our ability to restrain increasing building expenses.

We are thankful for the generosity that has helped move our church in a positive direction. At the same time, continued growth in giving will be important to achieving a balanced budget and ensuring that we can sustain our ministries, care for our facilities, and serve our community for years to come.

As you prayerfully consider your commitment during this stewardship season, please know that every gift makes a difference. Thank you again for your faithful support and partnership in the work of our church.

Rev. Mark was in attendance and returned with the following to share!

7th Annual Meeting Re-Cap



Rev. Dr. Raphael G. Warnock preaching in front of the Conference Choir on Sunday.

The Southern New England Conference had record attendance at its 7th Annual Meeting Sept. 25 - 27 at the DCU Center in Worcester, MA, and online. At least 800 people attended in person despite the nor'easter, and more than 200 were online.

BUSINESS

On Saturday, delegates were asked to consider three separate motions accepting the legal mergers of the historic Rhode Island Conference, the historic Massachusetts Conference, and the Missionary Society of Connecticut into the Southern New England Conference. Each historic board and the SNEUCC Board had previously approved the proposed mergers.

Approval by SNEUCC's voting membership was an additional required step.

Delegates voted on the merger. In total, 381 delegates voted yes, 259 voted no, and there were 19 abstentions. Because the resolution required approval by a two-third margin, it did not pass.

During a pause in business, the SNEUCC Board decided to withdraw both the Massachusetts and Connecticut merger motions from further consideration, meaning neither merger proceeded to a final vote.

On Friday, delegates approved the election of the new slate of officers and Board of Director members.

REV. RAPHAEL WARNOCK

U.S. Senator the Rev. Dr. Raphael Warnock spent an hour with the 35 youth attending the Woven Youth Collective program on Saturday morning, gave a rousing keynote address on Saturday afternoon and participated in a book signing, and on Sunday preached at Conference-wide worship service. That service was livestreamed, and was viewed by more than 1,100 people on Vimeo and the SNEUCC website - in many of those cases, the viewing was by congregations and groups - and was seen by another 3,400 people on Facebook.

The recording is available [here](#).

STRATEGIC VISION REPORT

Delegates heard a presentation by the strategic planning consultants Yvette Wynn and Dr. Edith Guffey, who walked through the four priorities for the SNEUCC moving forward that they said surfaced most among participants in listening sessions and a survey.

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

Other highlights of the meeting included a busy Marketplace, a screening of Walking the Journey with You: Imani Village, a packed house for a storytelling event, and multiple workshops. Delegates also received printed [Impact Reports](#).

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

Great
Raffle Prizes!

“Wapping
Big”
Baked
Potato
&
Bake Sale

Saturday

Nov 7

9-3

Free Admission!
Free Parking!



1790 Ellington Rd, South Windsor

Upcoming Events

Craft Booth

donations of
handmade items
made by members
&
friends of our
church.
Contact: Patty
Albrecht

Jewelry Booth

looks for gently used
jewelry. All types
accepted: ladies, men's
and children's and we
will be happy to clean
and shine. Contact:
Liza Love *

Bakery Booth

looks for anything
you would like to
bake. More info to
come soon.
Contact: Betty
Malley

Regifting Booth

we will be looking
for new items that
you were gifted/
bought and know
that you will never
use.

**A SMALL
DONATION
MAKES A
DIFFERENCE**

Gift Card Raffle

we can use
donations for
in any amount
to cover the
cost of the gift
cards.

Day-of Help

help to set-up,
clean-up and to
work the
day of the fair.

It's time to start thinking about
our Church Craft Fair
and time to ask yourself;
WHAT CAN I DO THIS YEAR TO HELP.

WCC
CRAFT FAIR
Nov. 7, 2026

*we will have a marked box in the
Gathering Room



CROP Hunger Walk

October 18th 1:00 p.m.



Our local recipient, Manchester Area Conference of Churches (MACC), receives 25% of the donations from our walk.

Please visit the website below or scan the QR code to register with our team: Wapping Walkers.

crophungerwalk.org/manchesterct



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 in late October or November.

Anyone 6th grade and up can participate. Children under 18 must have a waiver signed which will be on the sign up link.

Come help those food insecure and have some great fun and fellowship too! See Kristin A for more information. 7

Lend a Hand

The sale of gift cards is not just for the Thanksgiving and Christmas giving opportunities. You can purchase gift cards throughout the year for yourself or others. There are hundreds of merchants who offer a small percentage of return for the purchase.

Wapping Church receives a portion of that...thus the Fund Raiser. On the order form, indicate the number of cards desired, pay by cash or check made out to Wapping Community Church. Cards are ordered on Sunday afternoon and you have them the next week. Find Pat in the Community Room at coffee hour each Sunday morning. Pat Anderson 860-614-7587



Mission Trip Fundraiser



Lyman Orchards® Pie & Cookie Dough



Lyman Orchards Pie, Cookie Dough, and Gift sale has started!

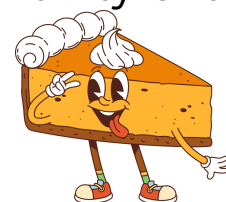
Get ready for the holidays by buying some desserts to keep in your freezer and heat up when you go to those social gatherings. (However, please note that 2 types of pies are ready to serve and enjoy.)

During each coffee hour, we will have a table to pre-order your dessert!

Cash or check made out to Wapping Community Church with "pie" in the memo.

Order
Online

[Click here!](#)



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Pie pickup on Sat. 11/14 at 1-3pm.

Outreach

On September 12th, nine WCC volunteers participated in our third MACC Volunteer Saturday at the MACC campus in Manchester. We prepared and served lunch in the kitchen and sorted and staged clothing donations in the Community Thrift Store.

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



The month of October is

LGBTQIA+

history month. The Open and Affirming ministry will be displaying posters around the church celebrating various members of the LGBTQIA community or their allies who have contributed in meaningful ways to our world. Please take time to read about these folks and to give thanks for their gifts.

The **South Windsor Food and Fuel Bank** has informed us of the need for several items. We will be collecting peanut butter, kids snacks, small-medium sized laundry detergent and dish soap through the month of September.

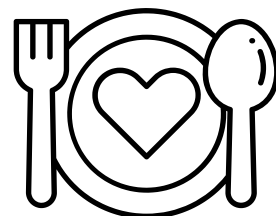


Please leave your donations in the Wapping Wagon in the Gathering Room





COMMUNITY DINNERS



Over the past few years WCC has put on *free* Community Dinners open to anyone in need of a warm meal, good conversation, and a sense of community. We usually serve about **150 people** at each dinner!

Our first Community Dinner for 2026-2027 is scheduled for Friday, October 23rd so it's time to begin planning!

Outreach is looking for anyone who would like to join the planning committee to get the ball rolling for October.

If you are interested in helping out...or just curious to see what goes into planning... please join one of our planning meetings.

These are being held every Thursday morning from 10-11am in the Reception Room. If you can't make these meetings but would like to help please contact the church office.

We will be looking for "day of" help closer to the dinner.

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



**TRICK-OR-TREAT
FOR UNICEF**

Give Like a Kid Again



Over 75 Years of Kids Helping Kids!

Since 1950, Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF has empowered children and families to make a difference for kids around the world. Every October, instead of collecting just candy, children and parents raise funds to help provide lifesaving supplies like clean water, nutrition and medicine.

What Can Your Donations Do?



\$1

can buy pencils
for a class of
students

\$10

can provide
up to 4 story
books



\$25

can provide
a family in an
emergency with
a first aid kit



\$51

can provide
10 children with
safe water for up
to one year

Halloween is about more
than just candy!

Pick up a Unicef box outside the
Church Office & return full
after Halloween!

How to Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF

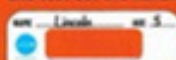
It's easy! And you can feel good, because you're doing something good!
Just follow the three easy steps below. An adult can help you, if you need it.



STEP 1

Get Your Box Ready

Unflatten your little
orange box and make
sure it's sturdy. Write
your name on the back
and test out the handle!



STEP 2

Bring Your Box Along With You!

When you ring
someone's doorbell,
say "Trick-or-Treat
for UNICEF!"
Say "thank you"
if someone makes
a donation!

And/Or

Help All October Long!

Take your box
with you to any
Halloween parties,
pumpkin patches,
trunk-or-treats,
and more!

STEP 3

Send In Your Donations

Count your collected
money and have your
parent or guardian remit
the total anytime at
trickortreatforunicef.org



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Youth Fellowship



**JPF will meet on
October 16th and the 25th.
All Middle School students
are welcome to attend.**

Please contact Patty Albrecht at albrmp@cox.net or [860-670-8058](tel:860-670-8058),
Rebecca Shinkoff or Shari Worthington with questions.
Registration forms are required.

UPCOMING DATES:

10/4 4-6pm
10/11 4-6pm
10/13 Pie sales due
10/18 Offsite Activity
10/25 Pumpkin Carving 4-6



Seek out Micaela
with any questions
abernethymicaela@gmail.com



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 has your answers!

860-550-0405



A Wonderful Start to Our Church School Year!

September was a wonderful month for our Church School families! Thank you to everyone who joined us for our annual Fall Church Picnic. Although the weather moved our celebration indoors, it certainly didn't stop the fun! Our children enjoyed an indoor scavenger hunt, games, coloring activities, and creating beautiful fall flower arrangements centered on gratitude. It was a wonderful opportunity to reconnect with friends, welcome new families, and begin another year of Faith Formation together.

Throughout September, our Church School classes also spent time getting to know one another and creating their Classroom Covenants. Together, the children discussed how to make their classrooms welcoming spaces where everyone feels heard, respected, and loved.

On September 27, our PreK-Grade 3 students explored the Parable of the Vineyard. Our older students began their Echo curriculum, with Grades 4-5 learning about Creation and Grades 6-8 exploring the Parables. We're excited to see how their faith grows throughout the year!

A Fun-Filled Evening at Foster Family Farm!

A huge thank you to everyone who joined us for our intergenerational evening at Foster Family Farm on Saturday, September 19!

We had a fantastic time taking hayrides, enjoying delicious food, running through the corn mazes, and sharing fellowship with our church family. It was wonderful to see different generations of our congregation come together for an evening of fall fun.

We look forward to planning even more opportunities for fellowship throughout the year!

We would love your input as we plan future Faith Formation programs and events. If you haven't already completed our family survey, please take a few minutes to share your ideas.

[Complete Our Faith Formation Family Survey](#)



FALL



October Church School Schedule

OCT **4**

World Communion Sunday & Bible and Faith Chest Presentation

A few of our Deacons will lead a special lesson about Communion. During worship, we will also celebrate our second and third graders and sixth through eighth graders as they receive their Bibles and Faith Chests.

OCT **11**

Church School Lessons

- PreK-Grade 3: The Wedding Banquet
- Grades 4-5: Disruption
- Grades 6-8: Kingdom Treasures

OCT **18**

Church School Lessons

- PreK-Grade 3: Paying Taxes
- Grades 4-5: The Promise
- Grades 6-8: Jesus' Encounters

OCT **25**

Fall Harvest Festival

All Church School classes will celebrate together during the 10:00 a.m. service.

Costumes are welcome!

Please watch for our weekly emails with additional program updates and reminders.



Fall Harvest Festival

Sunday, October 25, 2026 | During 10:00 a.m. Worship

All Church School-aged children are invited to join us upstairs for our annual Fall Harvest Festival! Children are welcome to wear their costumes and enjoy snacks, crafts games, and science activities, all with fun connections to the Bible.

We would love donations of small or medium pumpkins and snacks. If you would like to volunteer or contribute, please email

wappingfaith@gmail.com



Our Nursery: Birth Through Age 2

We are blessed to have a beautiful Nursery space designed especially for our youngest children. The Nursery is available each Sunday for families who need it, and the worship service is streamed directly into the room so parents and caregivers can remain part of worship.

If your child would benefit from using the Nursery on a consistent basis, please email wappingfaith@gmail.com so we can arrange for two volunteers to staff the room that morning.

We look forward to welcoming your little ones!

Volunteers Needed!

Our Church School program depends on our wonderful volunteers, and we would love to have more people involved! Whether you can help once a month or more frequently, your time makes a meaningful difference in the lives of our children.

We welcome both adult and high school volunteers in our Nursery and PreK-Grade 8 classrooms. High school students can also earn community service hours.

♥
**TEACHING IS A
WORK OF HEART**

[Sign Up to Volunteer in Church School](#)
[Sign Up to Lead a Children's Message](#)



Our Church School also has an Amazon Wish List! If you would like to support our program by donating classroom supplies, crafts, or other needed items, please visit our [Church School Amazon Wish List](#).

Thank you to our families, teachers, and volunteers for making Faith Formation such a meaningful part of our church community. We look forward to a wonderful October together!

Blessings,
Erin Murray, Church School Coordinator
Wapping Community Church
wappingfaith@gmail.com


Fellowship Café

We are looking for volunteers to help with Fellowship Café after the second worship service. If you would like to help, please [sign up here](#) or email Jenn Rho at cj_rho@yahoo.com.

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 • 4 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

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, and help lead our congregation in worship!

FROM SHADOW TO LIGHT: A CALL FOR PEACE

Choral Concert & UConn Shadow Puppetry

Saturday, November 21, 6 PM - Trinity Episcopal Church, Hartford
Sunday, November 22, 4 PM - Wapping Community Church, South Windsor

A powerful choral and visual collaboration exploring the enduring call for peace. Music by Felix Mendelssohn and Karl Jenkins, including The Peacemakers, incorporating words of peace from Martin Luther King Jr., Gandhi, St. Francis of Assisi, and others - provides the foundation for an evening of reflection, hope, and reconciliation.

The Choir School of Hartford, the Choirs of Trinity Hartford, Old St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, and Wapping Community Church are joined by UConn Shadow Puppetry, whose shadows, light, and movement respond to and illuminate the music - creating a visual journey from darkness toward light.

**Directed by Markus Centola, Maria Centola,
and Dr. Kelly Whitesell Powers**