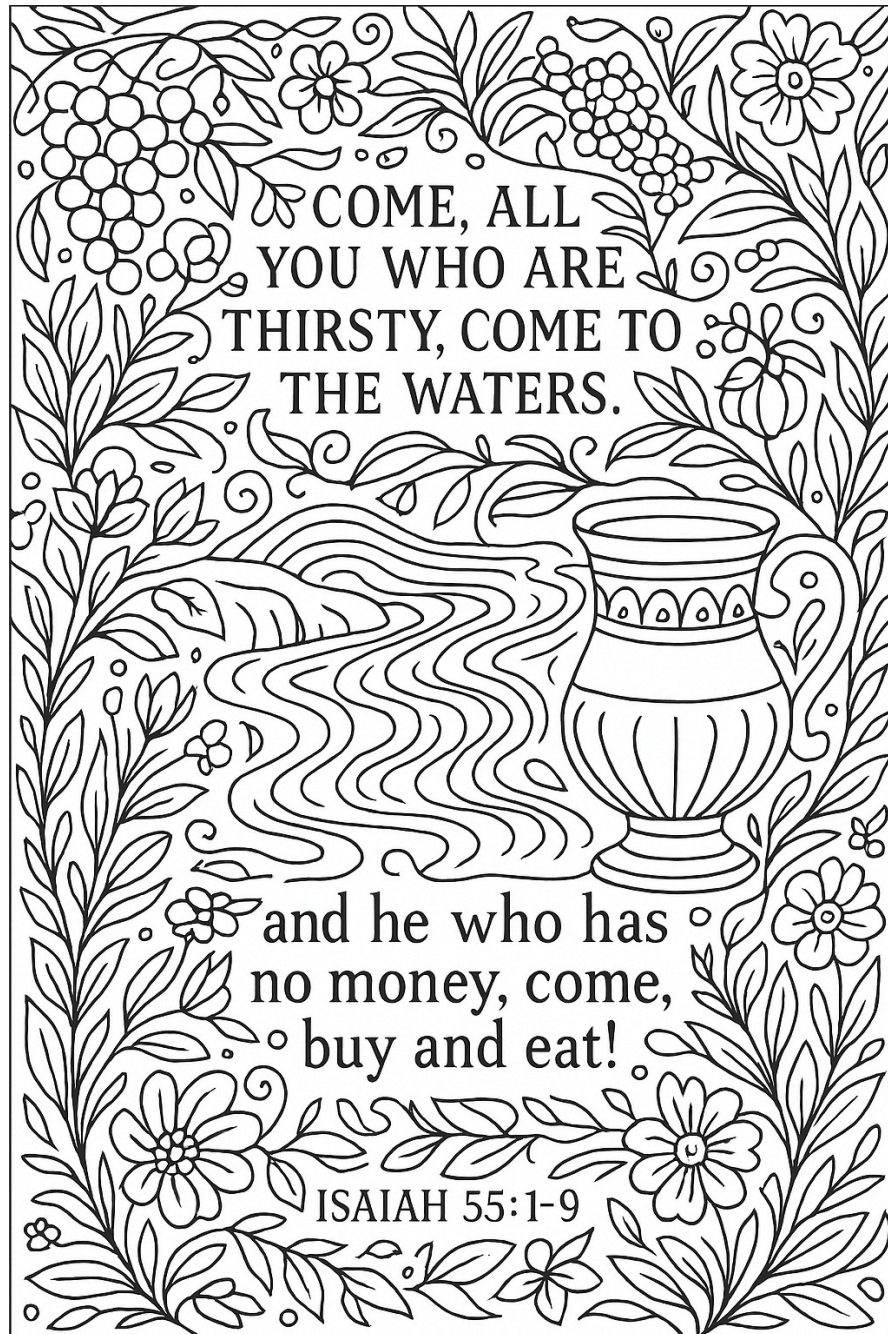


# Welcome to First Congregational Church of Warwick, UCC

715 Oakland Beach Ave Warwick RI 02889

"We are committed to serving our community and sharing the love of Christ. We believe that everyone is welcome in our church, and we strive to create a safe and inclusive space for all people."



*Third Sunday after Epiphany*  
*January 25, 2026*

Worship 10:15 Sunday Mornings

Minster: *Pastor Michael Ashe and All Members of our Church*

Fellowship and Coffee 11:15 All are invited!

Minister of Music: *Tom Jones*

Handbell Director: *Stefani Caupano*

Please Note: This service is subject to change by the guidance of the Holy Spirit

\* Denotes please rise in body and/or spirit. Words in **bold** are spoken aloud together

\*\* Church responds to scripture blessings by saying **"Praise be the word of God"**

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~ Invocational Prayer: **(All) Holy One, your light rises where our shadows are deepest, and your presence never leaves us. Awaken us to the glimmers of your glory breaking into our weariness. Shine on the paths we walk, especially where fear and burden weigh heavy. Draw near to us as you drew near in Galilee's borderlands, and help us behold your radiance in overlooked places and in one another. Make us ready and courageous—people who move with your Spirit and join your work of release. Descend upon us, Spirit of the Living God, and guide our worship into the brightness of your new day. Amen.**

~ Welcome and Announcements:

~ Opening Hymn

~ Call To Worship:

Pastor: Come, people of God—the dawn is breaking! A new day rises where sorrow had settled in.

**People: The dawn is breaking— and we rise with it.**

Pastor: Where burdens have bent us low, the Holy One draws near, steadying our steps.

**People: The Holy One draws near— and we gather our courage.**

Pastor: Where yokes have weighed on shoulders and spirits, God is loosening what has held us down.

**People: What held us down is lifting— and we move toward freedom.**

Pastor: Come, all who yearn for justice; all who hope for healing; all who hunger for joy.

**People: We come to the dawning way, we come to the hopeful way, we come to the way God makes glorious.**

~Prayer of Confession: **(All) Holy Companion of our difficult days, you call us toward what is new even when we feel worn or uncertain. We confess the weight we carry— worries we rehearse, the fears we nurture, the habits that hold us tight, patterns we cling to, the moments we turn from compassion, the truths we avoid. Unbind what tightens around our hearts. Lift what has grown too heavy. Make room in us for generosity, justice, and the courage to begin again. Shape us for your healing work as this new day unfolds. Amen.**

~ Words of Assurance.

~ First Scripture Reading: Matthew 4:12-23

~ Testimony and Prayer of Joy:

~ Hymn of Joy: #

~ Psalm Reading:

~ Share our Concerns and Prayers: (At this time you are invited to share your prayer requests with the congregation. When you

are finished you may say **"This is my Prayer"** The congregation will then reply **"Lord hear our prayer"**)

Pastoral Prayer / Moment for reflection and meditation / Lord's Prayer

( Please use the wording that is the most meaningful to you )

Gloria Patri: Hymn# 734 (Laminated Sheet)

**"Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen!"**

~ Focus Scripture Reading: Isaiah 55:1-9

~Invitation to Generosity and Dedication:

~ Hymn of Gratitude (\*) 688 We Give Thee but Thine Own

**"We Give Thee but thine own, what e'er the gift may be : All that we have is thine alone, a trust O Lord from Thee."**

We ask that you leave your generous donations in the collection plate as you enter or exit the sanctuary we do not pass a collection plate but do rise in the spirit of prayer as we dedicate these gifts together (\*)

(Continued. . .)

*~Prayer of Dedication: (All) O Way-Making God, You are the source of every mercy and every new beginning we give thanks for the gifts gathered here and for the hope you are stirring among us. As you lift burdens from weary shoulders and open paths we could not see before, shape these offerings into acts of healing, deeds of justice, and lives of shared joy. Bless the giving and the givers, that generosity may widen your way and strengthen the communities we touch. With gratitude for all you are doing in us and through us, we dedicate these gifts to the work of compassion you entrust to our care. Amen.*

*~Hymn of Dedication: 147: Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow (Laminated Sheet)*

*~Closing Hymn: # 440 Savior, Like A Shepherd Lead Us*

*~Benediction and invitation to fellowship:*

**Please Join Us Downstairs after Worship for Coffee and Fellowship!**

**Service closes in song to the tune of Amazing Grace**

***"Through Christ you are a child of God, who dearly loves us all. Go forth in peace to share God's love. Rise up to heed that call, Amen! "***

## **What's Happening at the FCCOW This Week and Beyond**

Monday Night Week3 Word Processing 6:30(ish) till 7:30(ish)

Bible Study: Wed 6:30pm

Sewing circle: Thursday 6pm

Handbell Practice: Friday 7pm

Hymn Practice Sat 10am (Join us and help mold the mood of our WORSHIP and PRAISE)

**The Annual Meeting is coming up Feb 1st!! Please bring a dish for the potluck after!**

*(Please See the church office if you would like your event or group meeting added to this*

*calendar at least 2 Sundays before the event)*

**Do you need a visit? A meal?**

**Someone to pray with?**

Contact Pastor Michael, a Deacon,

or a member of our Care&Prayer Team!

Pastor Michael Ashe – Call or Text (401)391-8647

Clerk: Sandra Ashe – OliveOil61761@gmail.com

Treasurer: Leslie Zanella – [FCCWRIreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:FCCWRIreasurer@gmail.com)

Deaconess Sue Lapinski

Scan this QR Code

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Get added to our Church Chat!

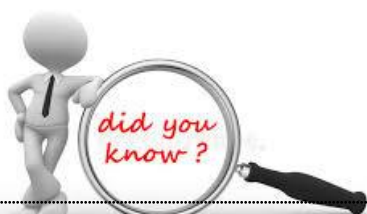
Check our Website: [www.fccwri.org](http://www.fccwri.org)

You are visiting: 715 Oakland Beach Ave

Warwick RI 02889

Call our Office: (401) 738-3377

We at FCCOW are continuing to ask for prayers for peace, patience and understanding in the aftermath of the Renee Good Shooting in Minneapolis.



**Green** is used after Epiphany because the season that follows—often called “Sundays after Epiphany”—is part of Ordinary Time, and green symbolizes growth, discipleship, and the ongoing life of the Church. The feast day of Epiphany itself is white, but the season that comes right after shifts to green.



## WEEKLY READINGS



### **Matthew 4:12-23**

#### **Christ revealed as a prophet**

Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: "Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali, on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the gentiles-- the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned." From that time Jesus began to proclaim, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he

saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea for they were fishers. And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fisher of people." Immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him. Jesus went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

### **Psalms 27:1, 4-9**

#### **God is light and salvation**

Deacon: The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

**All: One thing I asked of the LORD; this I seek: to live in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to inquire in his temple.**

Deacon: For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble; he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will set me high on a rock.

**All: Now my head is lifted up above my enemies all around me, and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy; I will sing and make melody to the LORD.**

Deacon: Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud; be gracious to me and answer me! "Come," my heart says, "seek his face!" Your face, LORD, do I seek.

**All: Do not hide your face from me. Do not turn your servant away in anger, you who have been my help. Do not cast me off; do not forsake me, O God of my salvation!**

### **Isaiah 49:1-7**

#### **Invitation to the Thirsty**

"Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters, and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost. Why spend money on what is not bread, and your labor on what does not satisfy? Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good, and you will delight in the richest of fare. Give ear and come to me; listen, that you may live. I will make an everlasting covenant with you, my faithful love promised to David. See, I have made him a witness to the peoples, a ruler and commander of the peoples. Surely you will summon nations you know not, and nations you do not know will come running to you, because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has endowed you with splendor."

Seek the Lord while he may be found; call on him while he is near. Let the wicked forsake their ways and the unrighteous their thoughts. Let them turn to the Lord, and he will have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will freely pardon. "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the Lord. "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts."



## **Prayer List of the People For the week of January 18th, 2026**

Please note: Prayer requests can also be submitted by calling the Church Office at: (401)738-3377 or by e-mail to: OliveOil61761@gmail.com

**Pastor Michael, Brian, Richard and the Hutchinson family, Christine, Rick, Bev and Norm, Deana, U.S. Immigrants, Chris, Kyle, Ken, Charlie, Pat, Jamie, Kim, Sean, Myself, Church family, Lisa, Chad, Brian, Myranda, Paul, Joseph, Brian, Kara, Cheryl, Gary, Aunt Ruth, Uncle Melvin, George, Wendy, Andrew, Gail, Ann, Julie, Harry, Pam, Our Church, State, Nation, Military, Joe, Brian, Chad, Louann, Karma, Folks of the FCC/UCC, Sandy, Gary, Pastor Michael, Craig, James, Richard, Peter, Peace in Gaza and other places. Continued prayers for all veterans and those serving on active duty in the military both in the United States and abroad.**

Please note: We, the church, are in constant prayer for our church family, our community, our nation, and our world. We are in need of prayer, all of us. It is what brings us together! If you have requested an addition to the prayer list, it is helpful for you to provide updates to the church office, whenever possible, or request that the prayer concern be removed as it is no longer a concern or the issue has passed. If we have removed a prayer concern and you would like it added back to the list because there is a great need to keep the prayer in the forefront of our hearts and minds, please go ahead and make this known to the church office. Thank you!



### **Boundaries in Pleasant Places**

**by Molly Baskette | published on Jan 17, 2026**

**The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; surely I have a delightful inheritance. – Psalm 16:6 (NIV)**

As a longtime pastor, I fell hard for the following words from therapist/author Lori Gottlieb, and immediately started quoting her in all kinds of conversations:

“Boundaries aren’t about distance—they’re about clarity. They tell others, ‘Here’s how to love me without losing yourself.’”

“Healthy boundaries are an act of connection—they make real intimacy possible.”

“Boundaries aren’t walls. They’re doors. They don’t shut people out. They show people how to come in.”

The unwillingness to set healthy boundaries, and the inability to recognize and respect the boundaries of others, are two big ingredients in a lot of our relational suffering. There are so many ways we love both very well and abominably poorly.

“Here’s how to love me without losing yourself” is a beautiful gospel. The psalmist makes it sound almost too easy. He claims he didn’t have to set boundaries—they just naturally fell “in pleasant places.” I call BS. All healthy boundary-setting is an inside job. We have to do it ourselves if it’s going to happen.

But the psalmist did do this, from which boundary-setting naturally flowed: put God first. If our primary loyalty and love is to God, we can more easily discern what and how to best be in relationship with others. We don’t have to act impulsively, or out of guilt, shame, fear or deeply engrained patterning. Our clarity and call come from the most mature source.

With the basic structure in place—floor, roof and walls of the shelter that God provides our souls—we can show people the door in to relationship with us.

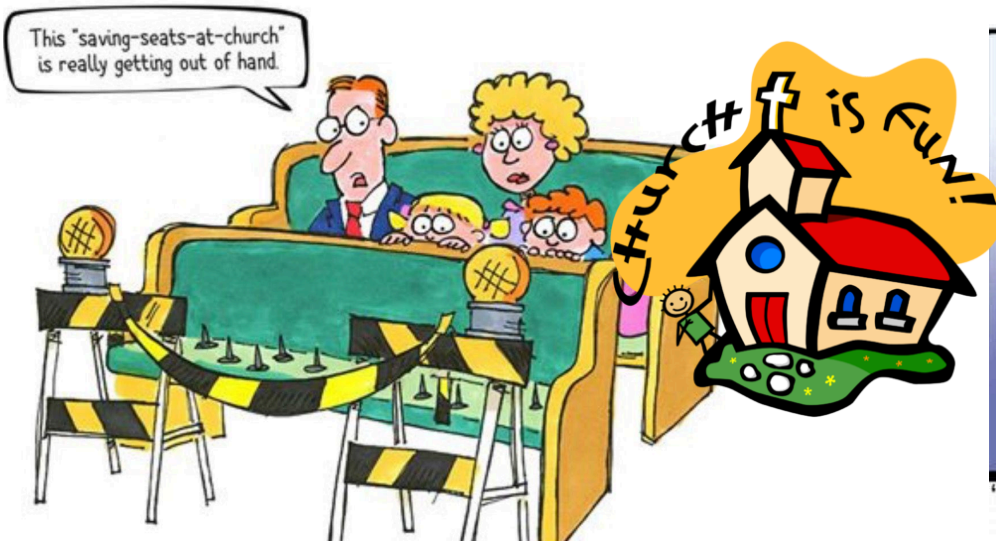
And we can show them the door again if they don’t meet us inside with mutual love and respect.

**Prayer: God, may I love and listen to you most of all so I can love all others without losing myself.**



### **About the Author**

Rev. Molly Baskette is the lead pastor of First Church Berkeley UCC and the author of books about church renewal, parenting, spiritual growth and more. Sign up for her author newsletter or get information about her newest book at [mollybaskette.com](http://mollybaskette.com).



"It's from our church... we've been called up for active duty."

THE BACK PEW - Jeff Larson



<http://thebackpew.com>

Leonard would never join a church after hearing a great theologian once say..

"I don't want to be a member of any club that would let me in."

- Groucho Marx

## Wanna Hear Something Funny?

~ Why did Noah discipline the chickens on the ark? They were using fowl language!

~ How do we know Peter was a rich fisherman? By his net income.

If you or someone you know have upside-down -mouth-syndrome...PLEASE PASS THIS ON!

## Isaiah 49:1-7 Invitation to the Thirsty

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FORSAKE

THIRSTY  
COST  
FAITHFUL  
MERCY

WATERS  
BREAD  
LOVE  
PARDON

WINE  
DELIGHT  
DAVID