

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 in Lent

March 8th, 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

~ Invocational Prayer: (*) **Into the stream of those who have labored before us, Spirit, let us flow. Into the river that rolls down with justice, Spirit, let us step. Into the well that is deeper than our divisions, Spirit, let us draw. In this moment, in every moment, we pray: give us this water, Jesus, so we will never be thirsty again. Amen.**

~ Welcome and Announcements:

~ Opening Hymn: (*) **#253 Lead Me To Calvary**

~ Call To Worship:

Pastor: In our bones, there are lineages; we carry the seeds of division and the seeds of connection. Look around you and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting.

All: We are called to prayer that reaps with honesty and awareness what our ancestors have sown.

Pastor: In our cells, there are lineages; we carry the genes of harm and the genes of flourishing. Look around you and see how we are part of one another.

All: We are called to devotion that holds with tenderness and justice what our ancestors have enfleshed.

Pastor: In our sanctuaries, there are lineages; we carry the kernels of domination and the kernels of interdependence. Look around you and see how roots run deep.

All: We are called to praise that tills with care and clarity what our ancestors have composted.

Pastor: In our nation, there are lineages; we carry the marrow of chains and the marrow of freedom. Look around you and see how beneath us the water of life flows.

All: We are called to worship that thirsts with passion and courage for what our ancestors have dreamed.

~Sacrament of Holy Communion~

~ First Scripture Reading: **Exodus 17:1-7**

~ Testimony and Prayer of Joy:*

~ Hymn of Joy: (*) #

~ Psalm Reading: Psalm 95

~ 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: **John 4:5-42**

~ 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 (*)

~ Prayer of Dedication: **(All) Let these offerings become seeds taking root in love and justice. Let these seeds become harvests of liberation for all of us.**

Let these harvests become offerings toward the slow work of healing and transformation. Amen.

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

~ Closing Hymn: * **# 260 The Old Rugged Cross**

~ 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! "

We are delighted to Worship with you today!

*"In this church, no matter who you are
or where you are on life's journey,
you are welcome here!"*



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

(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

Deaconess Sue Lapinski



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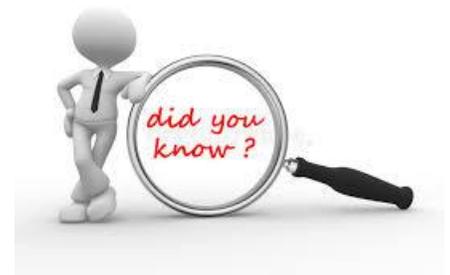
Get added to our Church Chat!

Check our Website: www.fccwri.org

You are visiting: 715 Oakland Beach Ave

Warwick RI 02889

Call our Office: (401) 738-3377



What is the forbidden word during Lent?

The word not said during Lent, particularly in Catholic and some other Christian traditions, is "Alleluia," a joyful Hebrew word meaning "Praise the Lord," which is omitted to emphasize the penitential and somber nature of the season, building anticipation for its triumphant return at Easter. It's a form of spiritual fasting, saving the ultimate praise for the Resurrection, with the Gloria also often omitted from Worship.

WEEKLY READINGS



Exodus 17:1-7

Water from the rock

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?" But the people thirsted there for water, and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?"

So Moses cried out to the LORD, "What shall I do for this people? They are almost ready to stone me." The LORD said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the LORD, saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

Psalm 95

The rock of our salvation

Deacon: O come, let us sing to the LORD; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

All: Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!

Deacon: For the LORD is a great God and a great King above all gods.

All: In his hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his also.

Deacon: The sea is his, for he made it, and the dry land, which his hands have formed.

All: O come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!

Deacon: For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand. O that today you would listen to his voice!

All: Do not harden your hearts, as at Meribah, as on the day at Massah in the wilderness, when your ancestors tested me and put me to the proof, though they had seen my work.

Deacon: For forty years I loathed that generation and said, "They are a people whose hearts go astray, and they do not regard my ways."

All: Therefore in my anger I swore, "They shall not enter my rest."

John 4:5-42

The woman at the well

So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon. A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water." Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back." The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband,' for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!" The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem." Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me,

the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming and is now here when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us." Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking to you." Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you want?" or, "Why are you speaking with her?" Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, "Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?" They left the city and were on their way to him. Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, "Rabbi, eat something." But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about." So the disciples said to one another, "Surely no one has brought him something to eat?" Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. Do you not say, 'Four months more, then comes the harvest'? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.' I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor." Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I have ever done." So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. And many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world."

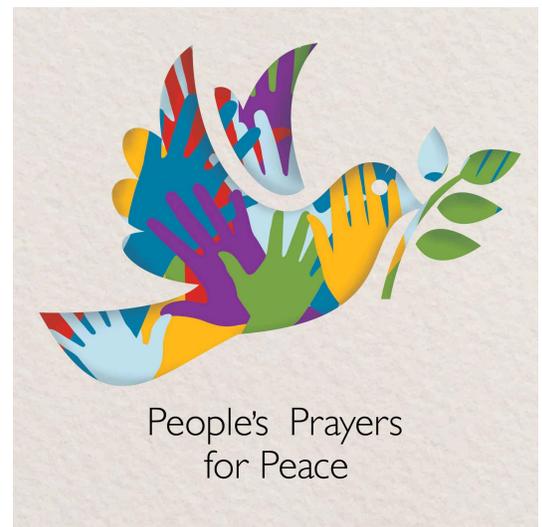
Prayer List of the People For the week of March 8th, 2026

Please note: Prayer requests can also be submitted by calling the

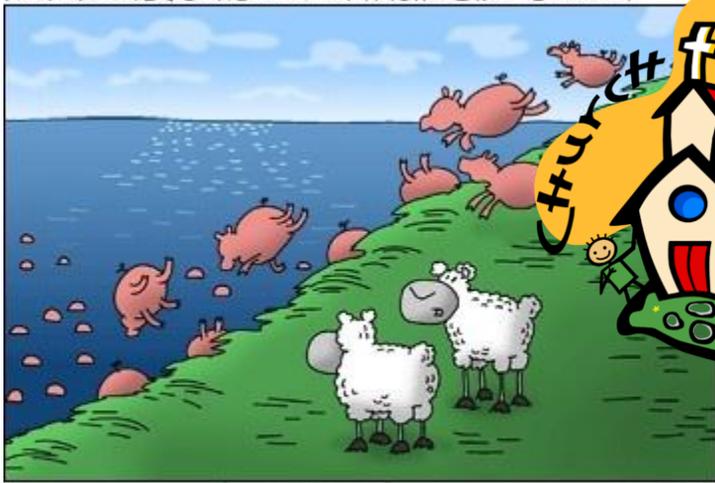
Church Office at: (401)738-3377 or by e-mail to:

OliveOil61761@gmail.com

Our Church, Nation, State, Military, Chad, Brian, Joe, Chris, Kim, Kyle, Pat, Sean, Charlie, Ken, Myself, Church Family, Brian, Pastor Michael, Elderly who do not have help in times of need, Mikayla, Cocoa, My family, Lennon Family, Nicole, Mom, Nadean, Louann, Karma, David, Folks of the FCC/UCC, Courtney, Christine, Brian, Rick, PeterB and Peter P, Ginny, Keith's family Brian, Kara, Cheryl, Gary, Gail, Uncle Melvin, Aunt Ruth, Harry, Julie, Pam, Sean, Peter, Paris family. 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!



John 3:16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life" This verse reminds us that God's love is not an abstract idea but a love that moves, gives, and sacrifices. As we move through the rhythms of our day—its joys, its frustrations, its quiet moments—we're invited to remember that we are held by a love that chose us long before we chose God. This verse calls us to rest in the truth that we are not alone, not forgotten, and not defined by our failures. Instead, we are embraced by a God who gives generously and invites us into a life shaped by grace. Today, may we live with the quiet confidence that comes from knowing we are deeply loved, and let that love spill into the way we speak, act, and care for others.



Thanks to J.R. Lucas (See Mark 5:1-19) 01-04-2013
 I'D SAY IT'S PRETTY OBVIOUS THAT GOD PREFERS SHEEP



(See Genesis 19:1-29) 02-25-2003
 SOMETIMES I MISS THE OLD TESTAMENT DAYS WHEN WE COULD SMITE THEM FOR THAT KIND OF BEHAVIOR

John 4: 5-42



T	A	N	C	E	S	T	O	R	I	H	K	N	J
A	L	P	H	O	P	H	E	T	S	N	I	S	A
R	S	P	R	I	N	G	A	S	I	A	O	N	C
S	L	J	O	S	E	P	H	R	T	S	A	G	O
S	N	E	E	O	O	B	D	N	E	T	B	A	B
P	H	K	T	R	H	O	U	R	I	S	M	P	S
G	I	O	Y	O	U	O	H	R	A	E	L	E	W
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R	R	O	T	S	A	L	V	A	T	I	O	N	D
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- MESSIAH
- THIRSTY
- WORSHIP
- ANCESTOR
- JOSEPH
- MOUNTAIN
- JACOBS WELL
- HUSBAND
- LIVING WATER
- SHARE
- SPRING
- SALVATION
- SAMARITAN
- JERUSALEM
- RESTING
- DEEP
- DRINK
- PHOPHET
- BUCKET
- SYCHAR

Play this puzzle online at : <https://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/9499921/>

Wanna Hear Something Funny?

- ~ What is a physics teacher's favorite Bible verse? Romans 8:39: "Neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."
- ~ A priest, a rabbi, and a minister walk into a bar. The bartender says, "What is this, a joke?"
- ~ Moses is wandering around and he finds the burning bush. He looks closer and sees that while the bush is clearly on fire, it is not burning up. He just can't believe his eyes, and in his amazement he says "No way!" Then, a voice comes from the bush, and says "Yah way!"

Give your smile a workout and Pass it ON! Let's get our smiles in shape together!!!