

Welcome to First Congregational Church of Warwick, UCC

*"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."*



Summer Worship Week 2

July 12th, 2026

Worship 10:15 Sunday Mornings

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

Fellowship and Coffee 11:15 All are invited!

Deacons: *Sue L, Sandy A, Leslie Z, Peter P*

Minister of Music: *Tom Jones*

Handbell Director: *Stefani Caupuno*

Please Note: This service is subject to change by the guidance of the Holy Spirit
Words in **bold** are spoken aloud together

~ Spiritual Breath: Welcome friends! Wherever we are, indoors, outdoors, in sun or shade, God meets us here. Take a breath. Feel the air around you. Let this be a moment of rest, renewal and joy. (Pause for a breath together.)

Pastor: God is in the warmth of this day.

All: God is in the breath we share.

Pastor: God is in our gathering, simple and sacred.

All: We open our hearts to God's presence.

~ Blessing our Space: **All: Holy One, make this place a little sanctuary. A sacred space for us to worship. Amen**

~ Welcome and Announcements:

~ Opening Hymn: **#426 Blessed Assurance**

~ Prayer of Confession and Assurance: **Holy One, we incline our hearts toward you, but the concerns of the world and challenges of daily living pull us away. Keep us grounded in your promises, your purposes, your power, and your presence. Reorient us on the road of liberation, belonging, and communal care so that not only do we receive the gift of transformation, we companion with siblings, neighbors, and even enemies in your work of making all things new. Remove the misleading veil that disguises sufficiency with scarcity. Sustain us with being satisfied with enough and abundance materially while continuing to thirst for righteousness so that all may be well. In you, we hope and believe. Amen.**

~ Testimony and Prayer of Joy:

~ Hymn of Joy: **# 409 God of Our Life**

~ 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: **Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23**

~ Personal Reflection Moment: Take a moment to breathe and reflect. Where did you feel God this week? Where do you hope to feel God in the days ahead? (Moment for silent reflection)

~ Offering of Intent: Share some of the ways you intend on helping and healing this community in the coming weeks and we can bless them with our regular weekly offering.

"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) Generous God, receive these gifts and magnify them to bless our community and world. May these offerings reflect our gratitude for your beloved community and trust in your kingdom. Amen.**

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

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

~Benediction

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!



What's Happening at the FCCOW This Week and Beyond

Monday Night Handbell Practice: 6: pm

Bible Study: See you in September!

Island Getaway Group Wed Evenings at 6pm or whenever anyone has a chance to lend a hand.(foot, arm or toe!)

Sewing circle: See you in September!

(If you would like your event or group meeting added to this calendar OR If you would like to form a group or committee please see a church leader 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 – FCCWRITreasurer@gmail.com

Deaconess Sue Lapinski



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QR code
to SECURELY
donate**



Follow us on Facebook: @UCCWarwick to

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



We LOVE our COMMUNITY !!



Did you know? In the Parable of the Sower, only one of the four soils bears fruit—reminding us that spiritual growth isn't accidental; it's cultivated.



Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

The parable of the sower and the seed

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on a path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched, and since they had no

root, they withered away.

Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. If you have ears, hear!" "Hear, then, the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, yet such a person has no root but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of this age and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

Five simple ways you can worship God right where you are. No sanctuary, no special setup, just you and the Spirit moving!

We know with all the summer activities we might have goin on taking time to worship might seem almost impossible. Here are a few ways we can still move the spirit all summer long! Each of these keeps worship portable — no sanctuary required, just awareness and intention. (Don't forget to bless your space!)

1. **Pause and notice creation** Take a moment to breathe, look around, and thank God for what you see: the sky, the trees, the people nearby.
2. **Offer a short prayer of gratitude** Even a sentence like "Thank You, God, for being here with me" becomes worship.
3. **Sing or hum a hymn quietly** Music turns ordinary space into sacred space, whether you're driving or walking.
4. **Serve someone near you** A kind word, a helping hand, or a smile can be an act of worship when done with love.
5. **Reflect on Scripture** Recall a verse that speaks to you and let it guide your thoughts or actions for the day.

**Use This Space to Draw Your Favorite Summer Moment
!Give God a high five for making it possible!**



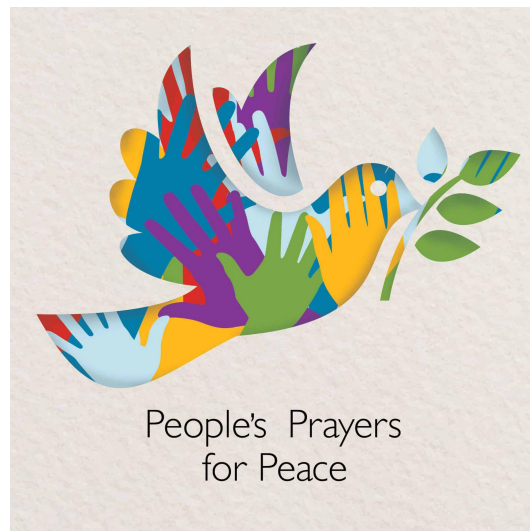
Prayer List of the People For the week of 7/5/2026

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, Leslie, Laurin, Cheryl, Our State, Nation, Church, Chad, Joe, Brian, Cheryl, Lynn, Tammy, Marty, Caitlin, Brian, Peter, Christine, Rick, Sandy, Gary, Pastor Michael, Craig, Peter, Lynn, Lillian and family, Cheryl, Brian, Kara, Cheryl, Gary, Uncle Melvin, Goerge, Harry, Julie, Gail, Ann, BootsPeace 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!



Summer Driving

by Freeman Palmer | published on Jul 7, 2026

[Jesus taught them, saying,] “Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.” – Matthew 7:13-14 (NIV)

It's that time of the year. Summer. Longer days. Shorter nights. It is the season for summer road trips: vacation destinations, family reunions, day trips for sightseeing, picnicking, hiking, swimming—just about anything. The open road is my happy place, whether I am going somewhere or nowhere in particular.

I am hardly alone. According to Hertz, gas prices notwithstanding, a whopping 64% of Americans are on a road trip this summer. That is a lot of company. More than likely they will be on wider roads—main highways, interstates—crisscrossing the country at 60+ miles an hour on expressways with four to twenty-six lanes. (Interstate 10, the Katy Freeway in Houston, is the widest highway in the world.)

During his Sermon on the Mount, Jesus describes two entrances that open to roads. One is broad. One is narrow. Wider roads can be blessings when one needs to get there from here by a certain time. Yet they can encourage speeds that bypass beautiful scenery, create pollution-intensifying traffic jams, and induce stress while navigating busy lanes and others whose driving habits can range from obnoxious to dangerous. These wide-road conditions might not be destructive per se, but they can be life depleting.

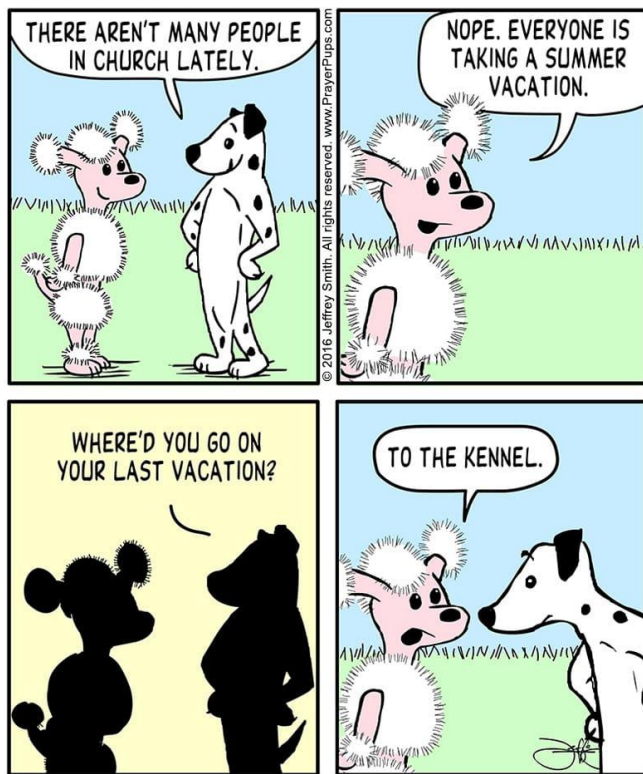
Narrow roads have blessings of their own. They provide the chance to appreciate the splendor of trees, streams, and wildflowers. They have far less traffic and can create far less anxiety. In my experience, two-lane roads foster a sense of mindfulness and presence that enables more appreciation of the journey itself. This summer, whether on a physical journey or a spiritual one, opting for the narrow road can be life giving.

Prayer: Great Way Maker, during summer and any season, lead us on a road that leads to life. Amen.





PRAYER PUPS BY JEFFREY SMITH



Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

H	U	N	D	R	E	D	F	O	L	D	A	C	A
Y	R	E	E	F	L	L	T	H	O	R	N	S	A
L	E	H	S	T	P	I	B	G	O	N	S	T	S
E	W	T	E	H	A	S	O	A	E	E	O	E	P
T	O	R	E	A	T	T	M	S	R	E	N	R	A
A	S	A	D	E	H	E	H	D	A	D	R	T	
I	I	E	G	A	O	N	M	S	B	O	P	D	D
D	E	H	C	R	O	C	S	E	S	H	O	A	E
E	S	D	N	A	T	S	R	E	D	N	U	G	K
M	D	W	D	T	I	U	R	F	D	O	O	G	O
M	R	H	T	L	A	E	W	O	T	S	F	I	H
I	I	J	E	S	U	S	O	T	A	D	D	A	C
N	B	R	O	C	K	Y	G	R	O	U	N	D	R
W	I	T	H	E	R	E	D	S	B	E	E	S	S

BOAT
SCORCHED
LISTEN
GOOD FRUIT
HEAR THEN
SEED
THORNS
CHOKED
GOOD SOIL
HUNDREDFOLD
SEA
BIRDS
UNDERSTANDS
PARABLE
WITHERED
IMMEDIATELY
SOWER
PATH
WEALTH
ROCKY GROUND
JESUS
AGE

Play this puzzle online at : <https://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/9793197/>

Wanna Hear Something Funny?

- ~ Why did the unemployed man get excited while reading his Bible? He thought he saw a job.
- ~ How do we know Peter was a rich fisherman? By his net income.
- ~ Why did Adam and Eve do math every day? They were told to be fruitful and multiply.



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