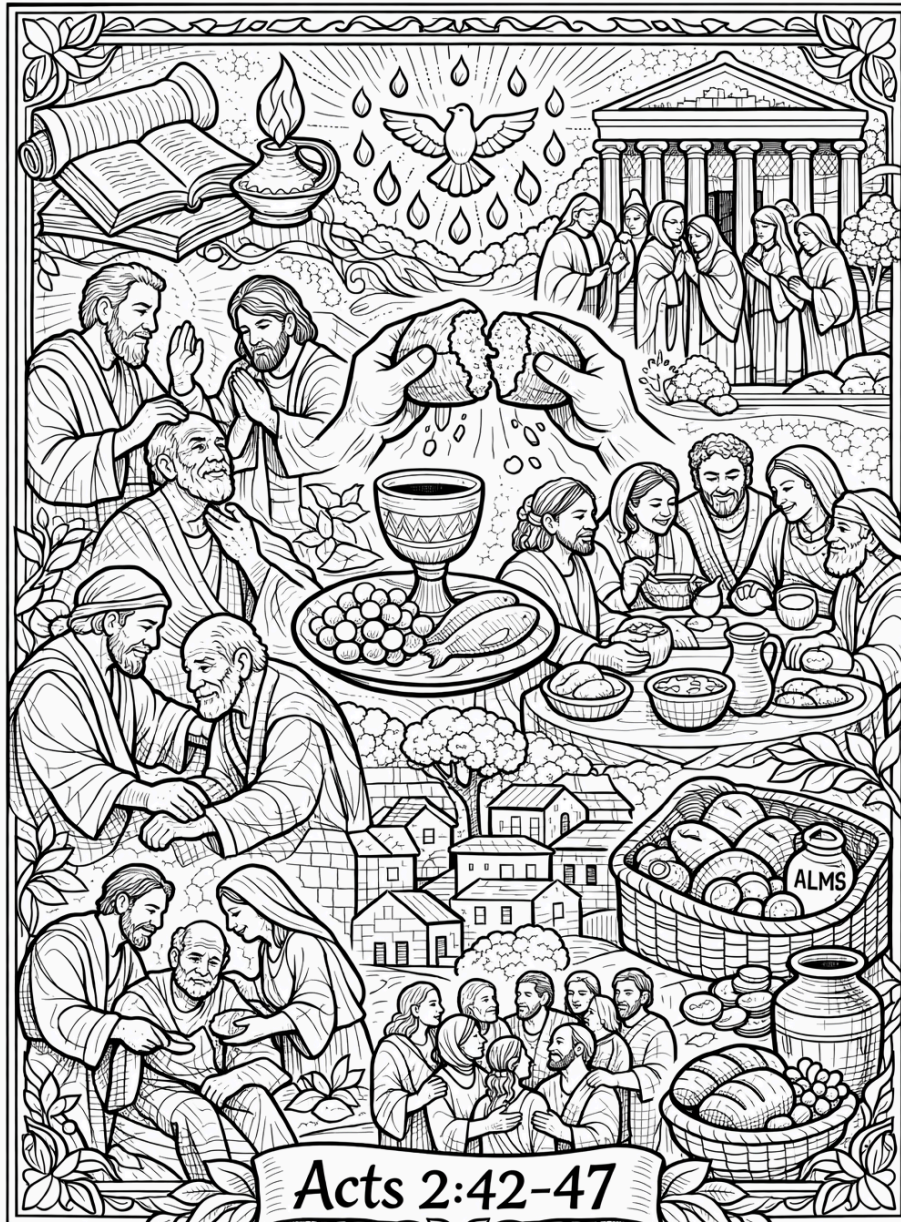


Welcome to First Congregational Church of Warwick, UCC

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.”



Acts 2:42-47

Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 26, 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: **(*) God who is Shepherd, Gate, and Way, we join together as a community in your presence and in your protection. Shield us from apathy and isolation. Fortify us against resignation and despair. Nudge us toward justice and righteousness in your name. As we gather to worship you, may we be transformed by your love, strengthened in grace, and rooted in faith for your glory and your kingdom come. Amen.**

~ Welcome and Announcements:

~ Opening Hymn: **(*) #349 Seek Ye First**

~ Call To Worship:

Call to Worship (inspired by Psalm 23)

One: *The Good Shepherd is the gate. Let us enter with thanksgiving and praise!*

All: The Shepherd restores our souls, satisfies our needs, and leads us on the right path.

One: *The Good Shepherd is the gate. Let us live with courage and conviction not fear and timidity.*

All: Through valleys and storms, chaos and confusion, threats and concerns, the Shepherd comforts us with power and strength, love and compassion, hope and peace.

One: *The Good Shepherd is the gate. Let us worship in the presence of the Holy One!*

All: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow us all our days of my life. Let us dwell in God's presence forever!

~ Prayer of Confession and Assurance: **(All) Shepherd of our lives, like sheep, we wander and stray. We come to you for sustenance yet distance ourselves from your realm when you require more from us. We bite one another with words that cut and attitudes that reflect more apathy than care. We lie down and become stuck when you would expand our territory and sphere of belonging. We give you thanks for not giving up on us and continuing to lead us by your Spirit. Give us courage and confidence to do your will and to love with our lives. We devote ourselves anew to your teaching, to community, to the sacramental life, and to prayer. Lead us in the ever full and renewed life in Christ. Amen.**

~ Words of Grace

~ First Scripture Reading: Acts 2:42-47

~ Testimony and Prayer of Joy:

~ Hymn of Joy: **(*) How Great Thou Art - Handbells**

~ Psalm Reading: Psalm 23

~ 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 10:1-10

~ 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) Generous God, may these gifts bless our life together, fortify our ministry, and transform our community. Receive them as we give them—with gladness and thanksgiving. Amen.**

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

~ Closing Hymn: *** #414 I Know My Redeemer Lives**

~ 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!

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 – FCCWRITreasurer@gmail.com

Deaconess Sue Lapinski



Scan this QR code to SECURELY donate



Follow us on Facebook: @UCCWarwick to

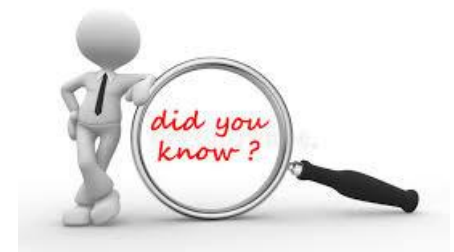
Get added to our Church Chat!

Check our Website: www.fccwri.org

You are visiting: 715 Oakland Beach Ave

Warwick RI 02889

Call our Office: (401) 738-3377



Did you know? *Did you know that Easter isn't just one day, but a 50-day season of celebration? From Easter Sunday all the way to Pentecost, the Church traditionally treats every one of those days as a continuation of the Resurrection — basically one long, joyful feast of new life. A lot of people don't realize Easter is actually the longest season of joy in the Christian year.*

WEEKLY READINGS



John 10:1-10 **Christ the shepherd**

Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers." Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits, but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly."

Psalm 23

My head anointed with oil

Deacon: The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

All: He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters;

Deacon: he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.

All: Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

Deacon: You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

All: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD my whole life long.

Acts 2:42-47

The believers' common life

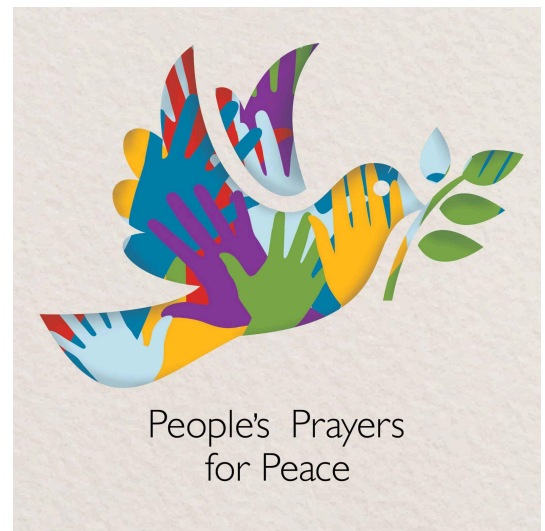
They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Awe came upon everyone because many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

Prayer List of the People For the week of April 26, 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, Sandy, Gary, Pastor Michael, Craig, Peter, Sherri, Lillian, Everyone suffering with mental illness, Louann, David, Karma, Folks of the FCC/UCC, Brian, Pastor Michael, Thaddeus,, Leanne, Kim, My dad, Tim, Tammy, Norm and Bev, Rick, Christine, Brain, Brianna and dad, Chad, Brian, Elaine, Joan, Rick, Tina, Pastor Mike, Boots, Brian, Uncle Melvin, George, Gary, Kara, Cheryl, Pam, 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!



Fuzzy

by **Quinn G. Caldwell** | published on Apr 19, 2026

I said in my consternation, 'Everyone is a liar.' – Psalm 116:11 (NRSV)

One of the puzzles that has kept philosophers busy is the liar's paradox. If I say, "I am lying," what then? If I'm lying when I say I'm lying, I must be telling the truth. But if I'm telling the truth when I say I'm lying; I can't be telling the truth! Everybody has something to say about this one and I don't understand most of it.

But I'm pretty sure I understand this: One way through the contradictions is to abandon strict categories altogether; let go of the assumption that something must either be 100% true or 100% false. Admit that something can be, like, half-true and half-not, at least sometimes. They call this "fuzzy logic," and it's a real thing, and it does a pretty good job of resolving the liar's paradox.

It also does a pretty good job of approximating the human condition. The psalmist's cry, "Everyone is a liar!" is often pointed to as an early instance of the liar's paradox.

Instead of getting all twisted up about it, we could just say something like, "Everyone is a liar at least once in a while, but most of us are trying hard not to be most of the time." Everyone—me among the rest—is a sinner at least once in while, but most of us are trying hard not to be. You're not all good or all bad, and neither is that guy over there. Let go of the idea of perfect states or forever categories. Let fuzz free you from the binaries.

Fuzziness is the human condition, but one thing is always in perfectly sharp focus: God's love for you, no matter your state. Not logical, just the one thing that's 100% true.

Prayer: For love amidst my fuzziness, thank you. Amen.



"Pastor, this man is a church growth consultant. Behind him is an organizational adviser, and behind him is a fellow who wants to recommen a new bathroom bowl cleaner."



"The Pastor keeps referring to 'this morning's text' ... but which one?"

Act 2: 42-47

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

- FELLOWSHIP
- TEACHING
- BREAD
- SIGNS
- WONDERS
- NUMBER
- PRAYERS
- APOSTLES
- GENEROUS
- SAVED
- GOODWILL
- DEVOTED
- HEARTS
- DISTRIBUTE
- TEMPLE
- SELL



"Remind me never to ask the Youth Group to help fold the church bulletins again."

Play this puzzle online at : <https://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/9625999/>

Wanna Hear Something Funny?

- ~ Why was Samson the best comedian? He brought the house down.
- ~ What do you call a sleepwalking nun? A roamin' Catholic.
- ~ How do you make holy water? You boil the devil out of it.
- ~ Why did the church choir bring a ladder? To reach the high notes

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