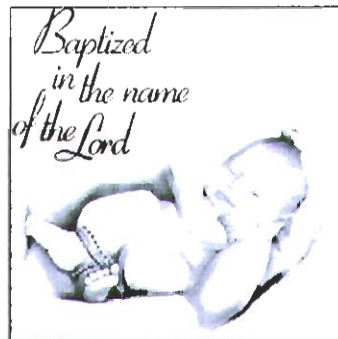
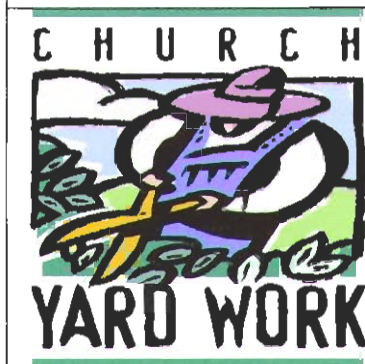


## Warren Congregational Church

4 Sackett Hill Rd. Warren, CT 06754

Editor, Jackie Lover



Rory Lago, Son of Kelley and Mike Lago and grandson of Mary and Ron Miller will be baptized during Sunday Worship on April 13th!

Welcome to our church!

The Parish Hall Committee and the Missions Board are sponsoring a Spring clean-up on Saturday, April 26th from 9:30am until finished! We invite everyone to come and help clean up the grounds after our LONG winter!

The Missions Board will be providing refreshments.

Please bring your own your own yard tools! Many hands make light work!



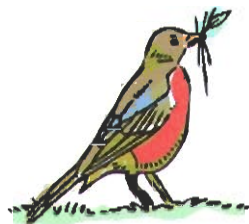
Everyone is talking about it.....

It's the Turkey Dinner

April 12th 4:30-7:00pm

\$12 ~ adults \$5 ~ kids

Bring your family & friends!!!



- |                    |            |                         |
|--------------------|------------|-------------------------|
| ♥ Choir rehearsals |            | 9:15am Sundays          |
| ♥ Sunday School    |            | 10:15am Sundays         |
| ♥ Worship          |            | 10:30am Sundays         |
| ♥ Turkey Dinner    | April 12th | 4:30-7:00pm             |
| ♥ Baptism          | April 13th | 10:30am                 |
| ♥ Quarterly Mtg.   | April 22nd | 7:30pm                  |
| ♥ Clean-up Party   | April 26th | 9:30am Bring rakes ect. |

## From Pastor Bill



A few weeks ago, the Board of Deacons began discussing our Sunday worship service with a desire to make the service more joyful. Out of that discussion came some changes that many of you have noticed and commented on. One of those changes involved moving the pastoral prayer or prayers for the people. We now begin by asking the congregation to share blessings for which they wish to thank God and then we move to asking people for concerns for which they would like to have the pastor pray. This small change seems to help us remember how richly God has blessed us.

Our goal in planning our worship life is to have what is called "blended worship." This means that it is a combination of traditional worship and praise worship. Our Easter Sunday service was a good example of blended worship. It was a very joyful and uplifting service with some traditional elements like the call to worship, some traditional Easter hymns, and wonderful praise music sung by our choirs.

Reformed worship for Christians is a balance of ardor and order. It is not just responding emotionally to the leading of the Holy Spirit. It is being grounded in the scriptures and the faith practices of the Christian faith throughout history. I believe our Board of Deacons is working creatively to order our Sunday worship in ways which are in keeping with our reformed tradition. As the Board of Deacons continues to work on this balance of ardor and order, I would ask you to pray that God will guide us, so that our worship life may feed all of the generations with his Word and Spirit.

Another of the changes that has come out of the deacon's discussion of worship is the addition of a new element in the liturgy called "Giving Glory to God." This, to me, has been a wonderful addition to our worship life. It is a two or three minute time for people in the congregation to share with the whole congregation how prayers have been answered, how God has blessed them or how they have witnessed God at work in the world. These personal stories are then lifted up in prayer during the pastoral prayer. The reason the "Giving Glory to God" time in worship is so special has to do with living our faith. Our faith is not just something which happens on Sunday morning. Living the Christian faith involves every aspect of our lives. This time in worship is one way in which we are reminded of the difference which faith makes.

Christ appeared to his disciples following his Resurrection as two or three gathered together. Christ also comes to us as we gather in worship. Luke's gospel tells us that the Risen Christ was made known to the disciples on the road to Emmaus. The disciples invited Jesus to stay with them and share a meal with them. They did not recognize him on the road, yet he was revealed to them when he took bread and broke it in their presence.

We thank and praise God for the joy of the Resurrection and for the ways in which his presence is revealed to us in worship through scripture, hymns-traditional and praise, prayers, and the sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion. I pray that our Sunday worship may be filled with the Spirit's presence and that it may feed and nurture us in ways that will build up our faith, so that this congregation may be faithful in loving and serving Christ.

Blessings,  
Pastor Bill

## Little Lambs of God Junior Choir ~ sing April 20th

What an a wonderful sight to behold when our children from the Sunday school made their way into church on Palm Sunday waving their palms and singing the praises of our Lord with their chanting of Hosanna! Glory to God in the highest! It was an absolute spiritual uplift. The Junior & Senior choirs set the tone for the Easter celebration when they sang "When You Prayed Beneath the Trees". It pertains to the night that Jesus prayed in Gethsemane, and the following day when he suffered & died on the cross for all of mankind. Easter Sunday was one of rejoicing & uplifting one's spiritual self when the choirs began the service with "Now let us Sing"! They continued that joyous feeling with "God of Wonders" and "Soon and Very Soon". What a phenomenal celebration we had on Easter Sunday! It was awesome to see so many faces attending worship services on those Sundays. The children, as well as the senior choir, worked hard to prepare those special songs for the congregation. Thank you to all those who continuously support our children in this special music ministry. The choir season for the junior choir is quickly coming to an end. The children will once more be singing with the Senior choir tentatively on April 20th, then alone on Mother's Day - May 11<sup>th</sup>. Please make every effort to attend worship these days in support of these very talented and gifted children.

Marie Elena Pecha - Director, Little Lambs of God Junior choir

### News from the Christian Education Committee

During the past few months, the Committee has been very involved in the Sunday school and the start of the new Confirmation class which started in January. The confirmation class meets every other Sunday from 10:15am until 12 noon. We would like to thank David Swift and Laura Swett for teaching this session to the class and Heather Meeker and Pastor Bill as the "Overseer's".

Meanwhile, the Committee has been busy getting ready for the end of the year festivities—Children's Sunday. Can you believe we only have six more classes before Children's Sunday! Where has the time gone? In March, the next session of the curriculum was started. On Palm Sunday, we had group worship with the children and explored the resurrection by making different crafts and reading the story of Easter. **We have started planning the service and practicing our songs for Children's Sunday. Mark your calendars for May 18<sup>th</sup> for the big day.** Children will receive their yearly pins, bibles for the Third graders and an extra special something for those with perfect attendance.

I would like to thank all those who teach a class and those who help handle all the little extras that come up on Sunday mornings.

**Calling all volunteers!** We are looking for teachers for next year. Volunteers do not have to commit for the entire year, just for a few weeks at a time. If you would like more information or would like to volunteer to teach Sunday school, The "Tween" Class (6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> graders) or the Confirmation Class for the upcoming year (Sept 2008), please let the Committee or Pastor Bill know.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Christian Ed Committee,

Colleen Frisbie

## ALPHA COURSE starts April 3rd—all are welcome!!

I am inviting all of Church family and friends to take advantage of this wonderful course on Christianity. If you have never taken the class you will certainly find it interesting ~ if you have take it and would like a refresher, please feel free to do so.

Alpha is an excellent course. It offers much to both new Christians and those who are already well versed in the scriptures. Although it is billed as an "introduction to the Christian faith", it offers plenty of food for thought for people at all stages of Christian development. Each class session consists of a video presentation followed by an informal group discussion where people are encouraged to ask questions and share ideas.

This spring the course will be presented on Thursday evenings from 7-8:30pm beginning on April 3<sup>rd</sup> and ending on June 5<sup>th</sup>. In addition, there will be one Saturday sessions what will include lunch. Class members will decide the exact time and date of the Saturday session. Steve Barbee, Carl Hetzel and David Swift will lead the course.

Some churches require that all members take Alpha or some similar course. We have never required that here, and I recognize that work and family obligations will make it difficult for some of you to attend. Still, if you have never taken the Alpha course, please make every possible effort to do so. Christian education is an unending process and Alpha is an excellent way to answer faith questions and to progress in your Christian walk.

Brochures describing the course are available in the back of the church and in the church office. Steve, Carl and David will be happy to answer any questions you have, and information is also available on the church web site. By the way, the course is open to all regardless of church affiliation. If you have a friend who might be interested, by all means bring them along!

Please feel free to call me with any questions

Blessings,

Pastor Bill

### CHURCH WEBSITE

We are most grateful to Carl Hetzel and Laura Swett for working on our web site to get it up and running> They spent MANY hours working on this project so that our family and friends can see the latest news about our church and its programs.

The website is: [www.Warrencongregationalchurch.org](http://www.Warrencongregationalchurch.org) Please take a look at it when you get a chance—it has all the important dates and information! Again, thank you Carl, for keeping the information available to all of us!

2008

# Church Photo Directory



Believe it or not, the Church Directory is finally available to all who would like a copy. It is as up-to-date as possible—there are several people who didn't get their photo in the directory because they weren't available or didn't know they could do so. To all who would like their family photo in the directory you may either email me a favorite family photo to:

wcongregational@gmail.com, or you can call the office at 868-7106 to set up an appointment to have your picture taken.

One of the nice things about doing the directory "in house" is that we can update it frequently, so please make sure you notify the office if your address or phone # changes.

The directories are available in the back of the church, in the church office or if you would like one mailed to you, please call me at the office number and I will send it out to you. I hope you enjoy it!

Thanks,

## Learning to Trust

Charles Swindoll, in one of his many poignant meditations, shares a humorous list of requirements for trusting or mistrusting a dentist. It begins with the heading, "Never Trust a Dentist Who..."

- 1 Who wears dentures
- 2 Whose drill is driven by a system of pulleys connected to 3 mice on a treadmill.
- 3 Who sends you a Christmas card and changes you for it.
- 4 Who sprays his equipment with Lysol to sterilize it.

We laugh at the list, but the image of going to a new dentist for the first time is a helpful measure of our ability to trust. We live in an age of suspicion and caution when it comes to placing our confidence in anyone who promises to solve our daily problems.

And it has infected our faith, at least the part of our faith which has to do with trusting in the promises of God.

God gives us all we have, and we can trust Him to provide for our needs.

Deciding to participate fully in sacrificial giving—giving a really significant portion of our income—requires deep faith; trusting that what is left for our own use will be enough for our needs and the needs of our loved ones as well.

Those who make the decision to put God first in their budgets and find their faith deepened, and far from being impoverished, they find themselves enriched both spiritually and materially.

Pray about it! What is God really calling you to do??

## Silver Lake Summer camp sign-ups

There are applications in the church office for Silver lake summer camp. The camp has 8 week long sessions for children ranging in age from 4th grade through 10th grade. There is some scholarship money available—if you are interested please contact Silver lake at [www.silverlake.ctucc.org](http://www.silverlake.ctucc.org). or you may call them at 860-364-5526.

If anyone is interested in becoming a camp counselor and will be 18 by June 2008, you may call the above number for more information.

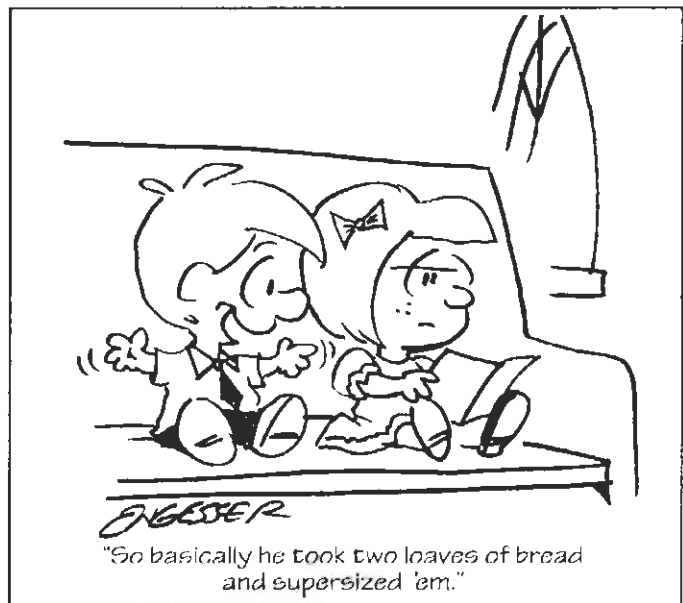
## Stepping stones

It is just a step to the Father's love --  
No farther than the heart,  
No farther than a faith that knows  
God sets each life apart.

It is just a step to the Father's work --  
No farther than a door,  
No farther than the lonely soul  
So easy to ignore.

It is just a step to eternity --  
No farther than the spring,  
No farther than the laws of life  
That govern everything.

—Peggy Ferrell



## QUOTES FOR TODAY

Life is like an onion: You peel it off one layer at a time, and sometimes you weep."

—Carl Sandburg

- "There is nothing harder than the softness of indifference."

—Juan Montalvo

- "The strength of a country is the strength of its religious convictions."

—Calvin Coolidge

- "To have grown wise and kind is real success."

—Anonymous

- "It is important that people know what you stand for. It's equally important that they know what you won't stand for."

—Mary Waldrop

## MISSIONS NEWS

The Missions Board has been hard at work this winter, helping to feed the hungry at the **Loaves and Fishes** soup kitchen! That is a mission which we do on the 5th Tuesday of the months in which that occurs! It is a good experience for us and we would welcome anyone who would like to help out to do so ~ just call the church office and we will give you the details. The next time we serve is on April 29th.

We also had a special offering for **One Great Hour of Sharing on February 24th** ~ through your generosity we were able to send \$609 to One Great Hour of Sharing ~ a mission which helps people around the world.

On **April 26th** we are planning a Church property cleanup, along with the Parish Hall Committee ~ we hope that as many church member and friends will join in to return our grounds to their usual beauty, after the difficult winter we had. The Missions Board will be serving refreshments ~ so please grab your gardening gloves, a shovel and a rake and come on over at 9:30am! We will be finished by noon if we have lots of help!

Jackie Lover, for the Missions Board

## The Tools and Blanket Program

The Tools and Blanket program is a special mission opportunity through Church World Service. They help people in some 80 nations, including the United States.

They hand out Family Shelter Kits, warm blankets, and much more to people in disasters like the Tsunami of 2004 and Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

Church World Service also provides long-term hope for people who are less fortunate with tools, seeds, and sewing machines, and well drilling training so they can provide for their families. This program is called "Rainbow of Caring".

On May 4th and May 11th there will be an opportunity for you to make a difference with your gifts. We will have offering envelopes and Mother's Day cards if you would like to let someone know you donated in their name.

What a wonderful Mother's Day gift ~ we hope you will share in this great mission.

Jill Thorland, for the Missions Board

## One Great Hour of Sharing

We thank all of you who gave so generously to this year's One Great Hour of Sharing collection. The total for giving of our congregation and friends was \$609 - that is a wonderful amount for a small church—but we all know that our small church has BIG HEARTS! Thank you

## DEACON'S CORNER

### Bible quiz

An Old Testament book reveals some lessons that King Lemuel learned from his mother. One was the following: "Speak out for those who cannot speak, for the rights of all the destitute. Speak out, judge righteously, defend the rights of the poor and needy."

Which book contains that quote?

- A. Psalms
- B. Jeremiah
- C. 2 Kings
- D. Proverbs

for answer see back page

### A Good Shepherd!

**Stephanie Weaver**, our good deacon and friend, has offered to change the church sign on the front lawn for us. We thank Paula Massey, Claudia Rahm and David Swift for their care of the sign for the past few years, but it is time for a new volunteer and **Stephanie**, we thank you for being that person! If anyone has any ideas for signage please email her at [SWEAVER@sweaverlaw.com](mailto:SWEAVER@sweaverlaw.com).

Thank you!





When someone is in need of prayer, you can activate the prayer chain by calling a number below. All requests are confidential unless



### Prayer Concerns

#### Prayer Concerns

- Mavis Scholl Jo & Willard Vail
- Marilyn Schmidt
- Linda Schiel

#### Assisted & Independent Living

- Marge Amerman at Ilam Park, Cheshire CT

Should you have a prayer request, please activate the prayer chain by calling any one of the following:

**Claudia Rahm:** 868-7041      **Kathy Newton:** 868-1845  
**Elaine Layman:** 868-2761      **Mary Miller:** 868-2144  
**Ruth Schnell:** 868-7865      **Jackie Lover:** 868-2751

All requests will be confidential unless otherwise noted.

### SIGNS OF OUR FAITHFULNESS

February income	\$ 9,308
February expenses	\$14,510
YTD income	\$25,965
YTD expenses	\$29,020

**TOTAL minus \$ 3,055**

If there is anyone who could help the church deficit by perhaps a special gift or paying their pledge ahead it would be greatly appreciated. Thank you!



Pastor Bill and Jackie Lover both thank you for all of your cards and congratulations on the birth of our newest grandchildren ~ Kira and Kevin Bryant. Kira and Kevin are joining their brother Robert, and sister Caitlin, and parents Debbie and Rob Bryant who live in Stratford, CT.



# April 2008

<b>Sun</b>	<b>Mon</b>	<b>Tue</b>	<b>Wed</b>	<b>Thu</b>	<b>Fri</b>	<b>Sat</b>
		1 Prudential Board 7:30pm	2 Bible Study 7-8:30pm	3 Alpha Class 7-8:30pm	4	5
6 Worship Communion Claudia & Carl	7 Christian Ed Board 7:30pm	8	9 Bible Study 7-8:30pm	10 Alpha Class 7-8:30pm	11	12 Turkey Dinner 4:30-7pm
13 Worship No Sunday School	14	15 Pastor Advisory 11am Deacons 7:30pm	16 No Bible Study	17 Alpha Class 7-8:30pm	18	19
20 Worship Sunday School Little Lambs sing	21	22 Quarterly Meeting 7:30pm	23 Newsletter Deadline	24	25	26 Property Clean up party 9:30am food served
27 Worship	28	29	30			

# FOR KIDS OF ALL AGES

## PREACH ★ snack ★

No matter our age, we all have opportunities to "preach" by how we live. And everyone can tell about God and his love. Use this activity to raise money for your church's mission efforts.

### What you need:

- Large bowl
  - Quart- or snack-size zippered baggies
  - Snacks that spell PREACH
- Suggestions include:
- P = Pretzels
  - R = Raisins
  - E = Extra (add extra of your favorite snack)
  - A = Almonds
  - C = Chex cereal
  - H = Honey Nut Cheerios
- 8.5" x 5.5" paper (one sheet for each bag made)
  - Crayons or markers
  - Stapler
  - Stickers

### What you do:

1. Mix all your "PREACH" ingredients in a bowl.
2. Fill baggies with the snacks.
3. Fold your paper in half. On one side, write the ingredient acrostic and a Bible verse. For example: "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation" (Mark 16:15, NIV).
4. On the other side, write a thank you to the snack's purchaser and mention which activity it's supporting.
5. Staple the paper to the baggie.
6. Decorate baggies with stickers.
7. With adult help, price the baggies and decide when and how to sell them. Afterward, deliver earnings to the appropriate people.



## ★ EXTRA! EXTRA! ★ READ ALL ABOUT IT!

Many people read their local newspapers, but Jesus says we should read and share God's Word daily! Below, hidden among the words READ YOUR BIBLE, is a message from Jesus recorded in Mark 1:15, NIV. Circle those words and write them on the lines below. (For extra fun, count how many times the word "Bible" appears in the article!)

LOCAL EDITION BIBLE TIMES TODAY

### GOOD NEWS!

READ YOUR BIBLE THE READ YOUR BIBLE READ YOUR BIBLE TIME HAS READ YOUR BIBLE READ YOUR BIBLE READ YOUR BIBLE READ YOUR BIBLE COME READ YOUR BIBLE READ YOUR BIBLE READ YOUR BIBLE READ YOUR BIBLE READ YOUR BIBLE READ YOUR BIBLE THE READ YOUR BIBLE READ YOUR BIBLE READ YOUR BIBLE READ YOUR BIBLE KINGDOM READ YOUR BIBLE READ YOUR BIBLE READ YOUR BIBLE OF READ YOUR BIBLE READ YOUR BIBLE GOD READ YOUR BIBLE READ YOUR BIBLE IS READ YOUR BIBLE NEAR READ YOUR BIBLE READ YOUR BIBLE READ YOUR BIBLE READ YOUR BIBLE REPENT READ YOUR BIBLE READ YOUR BIBLE AND READ YOUR BIBLE READ YOUR BIBLE BELIEVE READ YOUR BIBLE READ YOUR BIBLE READ YOUR BIBLE READ YOUR BIBLE THE READ YOUR BIBLE READ YOUR BIBLE READ YOUR BIBLE READ YOUR BIBLE GOOD READ YOUR BIBLE READ YOUR BIBLE READ YOUR BIBLE READ YOUR BIBLE NEWS READ YOUR BIBLE READ YOUR BIBLE READ YOUR BIBLE



“ \_\_\_\_\_ ”

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

MARK 1:15, NIV

Answers:  
"The time has come ... The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!"  
Bible: 48 times

Worship Sundays 10:30 am

Sunday School 10:15 am

wcongregational@gmail.com

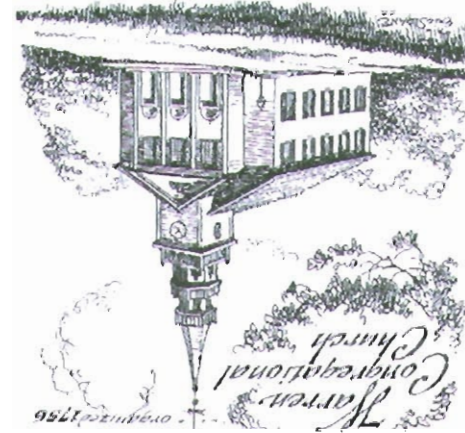
Email:

Phone: 860-868-7106

Warren, CT 06754

4 Sackett Hill Road

NON PROFIT ORG  
U S Postage  
PAID  
Permit No. 17  
Cornwall Bridge, CT



#### Deacon Responsibilities for April

DATE	LECTOR	READER
April 6th	David	Steve
April 13th	John PC	John PC
April 20th	Claudia	Carl
April 27th	Carl	John

May Newsletter Deadline is  
April 23rd

Please email your articles to  
Jackie @

Wcongregational@gmail.com

The Christian Ed  
Board will be hosting  
Coffee Hour in  
April  
Bob Newton will be  
Deacon of the  
month for  
April

FIND THE ANSWER

D. see chapter 31 vs. 8-9

Check out our website: [www.Warrencongregationalchurch.org](http://www.Warrencongregationalchurch.org)