

# Warwick Community Newsletter

## A D M I N I S T R A T I V E D E T A I L S

**VERY IMPORTANT – PLEASE NOTE THESE CHANGES:** All articles, ads and correspondence should be emailed if possible to [warwicknewsletter01378@gmail.com](mailto:warwicknewsletter01378@gmail.com) . If you cannot email, drop off clearly printed articles in the METCALF CHAPEL MAILBOX AT 32 ATHOL ROAD **by the 20th of the month before the article will run.** Please note that we do not accept FULL PAGE inserts at all for commercial ads, and are asking every organization in Town to keep their event flyers to 1/2 page or less. If a full page event flyer is desired, the organization may print the flyer themselves for insertion (call Andrea Woods 544-6844 for the number of copies required) if the information cannot be fit to 1/2 page and a waiver is desired. Business card size ads are \$7/month or \$70/year. All material may be edited for length, ink intensiveness, or content and may not be anonymous. Some logs and minutes provided may only be available on the Warwick Website at [www.warwickma.org](http://www.warwickma.org) due to space limitations.

### Phone Directory

**Emergency 911**  
 Selectboard /Town Coordinator  
 978-729-3224  
 Warwick Broadband  
 413-676-9544  
**978-544-**  
 Selectboard voice mail  
 6315  
 Treasurer/Collector 3845  
 Highway 6349  
 Library 7866  
 Fire Station 3314  
 Animal Control 3402 Animal  
 Contr.Pager 978-217-2681  
 Clerk/Assessors 8304  
 Bd of Health 6315  
 Community School 6310  
 Police Dept Business  
 2244  
 Building Inspector 2236  
 FAX all depts. 6499  
 Burn Permits:  
[www.fcburnpermits.com](http://www.fcburnpermits.com)

### THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING DONORS AND ADVERTISERS

John & Mary Williamson, Petrain Construction, Ed Witherell, Al Morgan & Jan Norris, Mary Ma, Mary Humphries, Nancy & Bruce Kilhart, Kathy & Matt Connelly

**\$500.00**

All Donations and Ad Payments should be sent to

WCN/Metcalf Chapel, 32 Athol Road, Warwick, MA 01378

Thank you for your patience. If an inordinate amount of time passes and your donation is not listed, the check may have been lost. Please email us at [warwicknewsletter01378@gmail.com](mailto:warwicknewsletter01378@gmail.com) if that happens. Please do not send anything to Town Hall from now on.

**WHY DID I GET MY NEWSLETTER IN HARD COPY WHEN I HAVE ALWAYS RECEIVED IT VIA EMAIL?** We have made a lot of progress on the mailing list, but if you are receiving this issue in hard copy and you would like to have it sent electronically to save paper and costs, PLEASE let us know. If you are on the Warwick-L, your newsletter will come that way. Email any questions to [warwicknewsletter01378@gmail.com](mailto:warwicknewsletter01378@gmail.com) to If you received this newsletter and no longer want it, please let us know that as well.

**HELP WANTED:** The Newsletter requires many hands to publish each month. With the passing of Beth Gilgun, we will need a new hand or two or three. The jobs that need filling are described below. If you would like to lend a hand and have time and skills to offer, please reach out to [warwicknewsletter01378@gmail.com](mailto:warwicknewsletter01378@gmail.com) or call Andrea Woods at 544-6844. We can provide a **MORE** detailed job description. All positions are Volunteer/Unpaid.

**We are still looking for:**

**ADVERTISING EDITOR** - maintain list of advertisers, request payment, create new business card ads as needed and forward payments to Treasurer.

**PUBLISHER** - print the newsletter and make sure the Collators get it in a timely fashion. Print the mailing labels and keep the list up to date with assistance of editor.

We currently have an active Assistant/Substitute Editor and an Editor-in-Training who is thinking about it, Treasurer, Proofreader, Volunteer Collating Coordinator, and Mailer. Thank you to them!

**ATTENTION Poultry and Domestic Waterfowl Owners! - by Rosa Fratangelo**

Alert from Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources about Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI)

Commercial poultry, backyard poultry, and domestic waterfowl continue to be at risk of exposure to this virus due to its presence in migratory waterfowl. Infection within the wild bird population may contribute to the introduction and spread of the disease to and among domestic birds.

The MDAR is advising backyard and commercial poultry owners to practice strong biosecurity measures to prevent domestic poultry from having contact with wild birds. Specifically for birds trying to attain or maintain "Organic" certification, this may mean temporarily confining the birds inside a shelter to prevent or minimize contact with wild birds, their feathers and droppings. This option continues to be possible under USDA CFR rule §205.239 Livestock living conditions, which states in part,

(b) The producer of an organic livestock operation may provide temporary confinement or shelter for an animal because of:

(3) Conditions under which the health, safety, or well-being of the animal could be jeopardized;

You may wish to discuss this provision with the appropriate authorities related to your organic status, as there does appear to be a disease risk for HPAI right now in Massachusetts, if poultry come into contact with wild birds.

This recommendation is in place for the next 90 days. This recommendation will be reviewed at the end of that time period to determine if an extension is warranted.

Should you notice unusual signs of sickness in your flock, you should immediately contact your local veterinarian, MDAR at 617-626-1795, or USDA at 508-363-2290.

Protect your flock with excellent biosecurity. Your veterinarian can assist you in developing additional biosecurity protocols for your operation. Other excellent biosecurity resources include: [poultrybiosecurity.org](http://poultrybiosecurity.org) and [www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-disease-information/avian](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-disease-information/avian). You may also contact MDAR for assistance with any questions you may have. The office number is 617-626-1795.



**New Opportunities for Energy Savings!**

If you are a homeowner, landlord, or renter in Franklin County, Community Action of Pioneer Valley (CAPV) can help you determine how best to utilize Mass Save programs, MA Clean Energy Center and NGrid rebates, and discuss clean energy options for your home. These programs are designed to help lower your heating & cooling bills over time, and encourage the use of clean energy.

When you sign up, CAPV staff will work with you to determine which technologies are right for your home and how you can maximize energy savings. Above and beyond the weatherization program that Mass Save offers, these technologies include solar panels and air & ground source heat pumps.

A site visit will result in an evaluation that will include installation costs, energy savings, maintenance costs, and your calculated payback period.

Additional incentives are available for low and moderate income households:

Number of Household Members	Maximum Household Income
1	
2	\$71,400
3	
4	\$105,001
5	
6	\$138,601

Call or e-mail to get started:  
 413-376-1140  
[energyprog@communityaction.us](mailto:energyprog@communityaction.us)

Sponsored by ....  
 FRCOG (Franklin Regional Council of Governments)  
 CAPV (Community Action of Pioneer Valley)  
 DOER (MA Department of Energy Resources)

Approved by...your friendly BEC (Buildings & Energy Committee)

**Metcalf Chapel Mission Notes and Thank You!**

Donations that came in for Souper Bowl Sunday totaled \$942. The TCCW Mission Committee sent \$1,000 and split it evenly between the Western Mass. Food Bank and the Franklin County Meals Program. Thank you for the greater community support! We also have received a few donations for the Afghan Refugee Program based in Brattleboro that Dan speaks of in his letter. If you would like to support the work of the resettling activities for Afghan Refugees in our area, your donations could be sent to TCCW Mission, 32 Athol Rd., Warwick, MA 01378, please make your check out to TCCW and put Afghan Mission in the memo line and we will make sure it gets to those who can use it. . Many thanks.

Upon the threshold of life

Infinity beckons

Stillness lingers. Listen.

Bulbs stir

Silent yearnings

For yet, another Spring.

Clare Green

## LIBRARY NEWS – March 2022

Ivan Ussach, Library Director

**Library hours:** Monday 10-4, Tuesday 1-8, Thursday 5-8, Saturdays 10-12:30. Contact: [warwick@cwmars.org](mailto:warwick@cwmars.org); 544-7866.

**Covid operations update:** Masks are still required to enter the Library; the Library has a supply for those who need one. Curbside assistance will happily be provided for those who choose not to mask up. Thank you and stay healthy!

**Wowbrary e-newsletter:** Contact the Library if you'd like to receive weekly notices of new items available for borrowing, with graphics and full description.

**Museum Passes:** The Library currently offers passes to the Clark Museum, MassMOCA and the Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art.

**Virtual Open Mic. - Thursday, March 10th, 7-8 pm (Zoom):** The Libraries in the Woods' (LITW) third monthly virtual Open Mic will take place via Zoom. Contact the Library for the Zoom link. If you would like to participate as a performer—music or spoken word—please go to <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0d45a9ab22a4fac61-litw1> and sign up for one or two five-minute time slot(s). If you sign up for two, please choose adjacent slots.

**MA Trial Court Judge Claudine Wyner visits Warwick Library - Tuesday, Mar 15th @ 7 pm:** As part of National Judicial Outreach Month, Warwick Library is very pleased to host Hon. Claudine T. Wyner, Justice of the Hampden Probate & Family Court. This program was originally scheduled for March, 2020, and was the Library's first program to be cancelled due to Covid. Judge Wyner will speak about Rule of Law, Opioid Abuse, Immigration and other topics, as well as take questions from the audience.

**Monthly Short Story Hour - Mark Twain: Thursday, March 17th @ 7:30 pm at the Library (Hybrid):** This month's selection will be from the *Complete Short Stories of Mark Twain*. Twain, a virtual unknown until recently, has taken the literary world by storm with his wry depictions of country life in a time and place long forgotten. Be a reader—or come just to listen; at the Library or via Zoom.

**New - Free Library Tote Bags:** We love our Patrons! The Library has a supply of new tote bags that are free to Warwick patrons. The spacious bags are available in red, green, blue or black. Get one while they last!

**AGE FRIENDLY SURVEY:** People aged 50 years and older, and/or their caregivers are asked to complete this survey. Survey responses will guide local actions to make the region a more supportive place for everyone as we age, and takes only 10 to 15 minutes to complete.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/age-friendly-survey>

**WHY IT MATTERS:** The Age- and Dementia-Friendly Movement seeks to create welcoming and accessible communities where all residents of all ages can thrive. This worldwide movement looks at physical and social aspects of living and seeks change to increase everyone's ability to participate in their community. For more information or to become involved, please contact Meg Ryan, RN, Regional Public Health Nurse, Cooperative Public Health Service at FRCOG, ([mryan@frcog.org](mailto:mryan@frcog.org), 413 774-3167 x 158), or Nour Elkhataby Strauch – Age-Friendly Program Manager at LifePath, [nelkhatabystrauch@lifepathma.org](mailto:nelkhatabystrauch@lifepathma.org)

## Warwick School Renewal News – March 2022

Tom Wyatt, Warwick Education Committee

Members of Warwick Education, Elementary Advisory, School Governance Committees plus the Selectboard have been busy planning for WCS programs in 2022 as well as the transition from Pioneer district to Warwick's own public school district in the 2023-24 school year.

### *Some highlights:*

- Meetings with the Pioneer superintendent, school committee chair and district tuition/transition committee, regarding Warwick's withdrawal and current programs.
- Research into the process for setting up an early childhood program at WCS this fall. We still need help identifying 4–6-year-olds in town, especially new families. Contact info is below.
- Completing MA Department of Elem. & Sec. Education (**DESE**) withdrawal steps, including:
- Setting up a special town meeting for late March for Warwick to authorize payment of its remaining share of the 2018 state loan for the Pioneer district.
- Advocating for Warwick's position on Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) via legal channels, legislator support and meetings with DESE.
- Finishing the last steps of Warwick's long-range education plan, for DESE submission.
- Grant- writing and policy development for Warwick's forming its own school district, plus communication with other towns facing similar issues and potential collaborators.

**Two free after-school programs** will begin at the Warwick Community School (**WCS**) the first week in March, both for children grades K-6. A **Wednesday afternoon art program** will begin on March 2<sup>nd</sup> and run through June 8<sup>th</sup>. Funding was provided a grant from the Warwick Cultural Council (a local chapter of the MA Cultural Council) and the Warwick Arts Council. The afternoon program will include one hour of art, plus time for exercise, play, socializing, and time in the library to read, do homework. Janice Starmer (an accomplished artist) will coordinate the program and teach the classes. Students enrolled at Northfield Elem. School will arrive at WCS by bus at approx. 3:30 pm; parent pick-up is 5-5:30 p.m. Community artists from the community are encouraged to participate collaborators/teachers.

A **Friday afternoon nature/hiking program** funded by the Warwick Recreation Committee and the Town of Warwick will begin Friday March 4<sup>th</sup> and run through June 10<sup>th</sup>. Tracy Kirley, a member of the Recreation Committee and leader of the Warwick Garden/Nature Club will be running the program assisted by Janice Starmer and Clare Green. We will be hiking the local trails surrounding the Warwick Community School, exploring the Eco-systems, and have use of the Gymnasium for sports. Students enrolled at Northfield Elem. School will arrive by bus at WCS at approx. 2:15pm on Fridays and should bring sturdy shoes or boots as weather indicates. There will free time to visit the library. Pick up is 4:30 pm.

**For both programs**, children should bring a snack. Home school and virtual school children can participate. Junior & High school student volunteers interested in helping are welcome. Parents can register with Janice by email: [hoothill@valinet.com](mailto:hoothill@valinet.com) or calling 978-544-8968.

School advocates are planning for the 2022 construction of the **Pavilion/Amphitheater and Outdoor Classroom**. This project wouldn't be possible without our many supporters. **Thank you! Donations** are still welcome: make checks payable to: *Town of Warwick – Pavilion* and mail to: Town of Warwick, Pavilion Project 41 Winchester Rd, Warwick, MA 01378.

**Want to be updated** on Warwick's School Renewal? Visit our website: <https://www.school-redesign.com/> or **facebook page**. Or **Contact** Adam Holloway: 978-501-0609 or Tom Wyatt 413-768-8641 or email: [school-redesign@town.warwick.ma.us](mailto:school-redesign@town.warwick.ma.us).

*Warwick: committed to educating Warwick youth in town since 1768.*



## **Coordinator for the March Community Newsletter – David Young**

We welcome our new treasurer. The Selectboard chose Ryan Mailloux to be town Treasurer. He begins immediately. Ryan is already serving Shutesbury and Leverett in this capacity and that gives him experience with operations of a small school district. He served as Selectboard member in Orange and was chair for most of his five years. Ryan lives in Orange.

Last week Warwick Broadband began making configuration changes to increase speed. This is as opposed to installation work. We began implementing a new frequency use plan with wider channels and radio spectrum reuse. This is to increase data carrying capacity and provide speed increases. So far this has affected about forty of our three hundred customers and the work is ongoing. An unnamed member of the community recently got a new “device,” an up-to-date tablet and planned to use it on ATT but found when connected to Warwick Broadband it was giving much better results than ever seen. Moral? A new device might help. Library still has plenty of Chromebooks to lend residents. This would be a way to assess that idea.

The Selectboard just penned an agreement with MA DOT for a state run pavement job on Orange Rd / Rt 78. We are responsible for culvert replacement which the Highway Commission is planning on undertaking at first opportunity. This represents a big input into our roads and while 78 is a state numbered highway, it is entirely ours and this helps. It could be worth \$1M. Thanks once again to the Building and Energy Committee we have another energy saving grant which you will see in the news sometime in the future. It will replace the freezer, domestic hot water provisioning with a hybrid electric heat pump and add electric mini splits in the east wing including the library. This is part of a plan to transition off fuel oil to renewable energy, and it allows us to take advantage of 25% discounted net meter credits we have under contract.

**March 28 at 7 pm at the school we are having a Special town meeting.** We anticipate two action articles. First has to do with our independence from Pioneer Valley Regional District. We are responsible for settling (paying for and retiring) our share of PV debt and it must be done in the year before we leave. We missed that and it is keeping us in the District an extra year. One article will authorize paying our share of Pioneer Valley School’s state loan and identify the revenue source. That will be under \$30k and we could skip this vote as the town has voted to leave the District and the Selectboard has ARPA funds it could use; but we need to meet to authorize the Town acquiring a new piece of forest property, the Littlewood property on Beech Hill. The Town is getting this title as part of a larger Landscape Partnership Grant from MA applied for by Mount Grace Land Trust and Audubon Society. We have a 5% quorum requirement which means that we need about 28 people. I hope to see you there.

The biggest policy matter on my mind lately involves spending one time money on regular budgets and baking the increased costs in. In a relative sense the town is awash in money. As a town we did not exploit the first federal Covid funds much. We met only what were clearly costs related to the pandemic. These included that we helped the school-based food distribution system keep going over the summer. We met legitimate public safety costs. We paid a consultant to help WBS broadband tune up and manage the new demands brought by all the folks working from home. Then the ARPA funds were released, and we have met some one-time new school startup costs, provided match for the Mass Cultural Council facilities grant for the pavilion at the school, covered some expenses that could have been CARES had it not expired. We have until 2026 to spend this \$200k. There is time to be thoughtful.

## Safe Disposal of Wall Mounted Thermostats and Fluorescent Light Bulbs

**Have you upgraded to a new programmable thermostat or LED lightbulbs for your home or business?** Great! But be careful - never put old wall-mounted thermostats or fluorescent lightbulbs in the trash or recycling, as they contain mercury. Mercury is hazardous to human health, wildlife, and the environment. Handle these items carefully to avoid breakage and bring to one of many local free or low-cost collection sites.

### Thermostats and other mercury items

Old wall-mounted thermostats contain a significant amount of liquid mercury. These thermostats are safe to use on the wall, but once removed, careful disposal is important. Free disposal is available at many local sites.

Handle items carefully, place in a sealed plastic bag, and hand to a staff member at one of the following sites. Keep thermostats intact; do not remove ampoules.

17 municipal transfer stations in Franklin County accept mercury-bearing items such as old wall-mounted thermostats, thermometers, switches, gauges, blood pressure monitors. Hand to attendant. The 17 transfer stations that accept thermostats and other mercury items are in Bernardston, Buckland, Charlemont, Colrain, Conway, Deerfield, Heath, Leverett, Montague, New Salem, Northfield, Orange, Rowe, Shelburne, Warwick, Wendell, and Whately. Resident permits may be required.

District residents of towns that do not have access to a municipal transfer station may utilize the "Super Sites" in Bernardston and Colrain. Any District resident may bring mercury-containing devices (thermostats, thermometers) free of charge. District residents may also pay small fees to dispose of common household hazardous waste (fluorescent light bulbs, used motor oil, antifreeze, oil-based paint). Locations, hours, and acceptable items: [www.franklincountywastedistrict.org/supersites.html](http://www.franklincountywastedistrict.org/supersites.html)

Additional drop-off locations for mercury thermostats, such as plumbing/HVAC contractors and plumbing supply stores, are listed at: [www.thermostat-recycle.org](http://www.thermostat-recycle.org). All locations accept mercury thermostats for free.

### Light bulbs

**Fluorescent light bulbs** contain mercury and should never be put in the recycling or trash. This includes the screw-in spiral compact fluorescent lights (CFLs), as well as straight "tube" lightbulbs and "green-tipped" low mercury tubes. Examine the printing on the base of the bulb; it is a mercury bulb if it says "Hg" or "Contains Mercury."

Home Depot stores offer free recycling for CFLs, or "light bulb sized" fluorescents. Lowe's Stores accept all sizes and shapes of fluorescents free of charge, including CFL, circular, and straight lamps.

Every transfer station in Franklin County accepts fluorescent light bulbs of all sizes; some may charge small fees (example: \$0.50 - \$1.00 each). Handle fluorescent bulbs carefully and hand to attendant. Access permits might be required. Also accepted at "Super Sites" - see info on "Super Sites" above.

**LED, or "light emitting diode" bulbs** do not contain mercury and can be put in the trash (wrap up to avoid accidental injuries) or recycled at one of the places listed above (if accepted there).

**Incandescent or halogen light bulbs** must go in the trash; no recycling is available. To avoid breakage and accidental injuries, wrap incandescent, halogen or LED light bulbs in used paper or plastic before placing them in the trash.

### What to do if a mercury-containing item breaks

Fluorescent bulbs contain mercury vapor. If a fluorescent bulb breaks, the vapor can be harmful to human health and the environment. If you break a fluorescent bulb, get people and pets out of the area for 15 minutes. Ventilate: open doors or windows. After 15 minutes, put on gloves and scoop up the pieces with 2 pieces of cardboard. Use moist paper towels to clean up small pieces. Do not use a broom or vacuum. Put all pieces and paper towels in a plastic bag or closeable container, seal it, and bring to one of the collection sites above.

If a mercury ampoule breaks or liquid mercury is spilled, ventilate the area for 15 minutes. Evacuate people and pets. Do not use a vacuum cleaner or broom to clean up. Put on old clothes that can be discarded if contaminated with mercury. Wearing disposable gloves, collect droplets of mercury using two stiff pieces of paper or cardboard. Small drops can be picked up on tape. Place these items and the broken thermostat in a doubled plastic bag and seal tightly. Remove any contaminated clothing and bag and dispose. Remove and dispose of gloves. Contact the Franklin County Solid Waste District for disposal information.



\*For more information on any of these programs, or to learn more about recycling, composting, and hazardous waste disposal, contact the District office at [info@franklincountywastedistrict.org](mailto:info@franklincountywastedistrict.org), (413) 772-2438 or visit: [www.franklincountywastedistrict.org](http://www.franklincountywastedistrict.org). MA Relay for the hearing impaired: 711 or 1-800-439-2370 (TTY/TDD). The District is an equal opportunity provider.

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The 15th annual edition of the **Reduce, Reuse, Recycle Guide** will be inside local newspapers in honor of Earth Day. Look for this newspaper insert in the **April 20, 2022** Greenfield Recorder, Hampshire Gazette, and Athol Daily News.

In the meantime, the 2021 Reduce, Reuse, Recycle Guide contains information that is valid until April 20, 2022. On pages 3-8, learn which industries are buying our local recyclables, how the pandemic helped recycling, and what happens to your recycled pizza boxes, pet food cans, juice cartons, milk jugs, laundry detergent jugs, wine bottles, and more!

Recyclables from Franklin County are processed at the Springfield Materials Recycling Facility (MRF). To view recycling guides and more information, please visit: [springfieldmrf.org](http://springfieldmrf.org)



### **As Mud Season Approaches, Locals Asked to Help Make Unpaved Roads Needs Known**

The Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) is working with Rep. Natalie Blais to better understand the conditions of our communities’ dirt/gravel roads, as well as the work and cost that goes into their maintenance and repair each year. Rep Blais and other members of the western MA delegation have filed legislation to look at the issue of dirt road maintenance and identify the funding gaps and needs to support unpaved road maintenance and improvement.

According to FRCOG’s Megan Rhodes, a Senior Transportation and Land User Planner, Franklin County has 420 miles of unpaved roads, and in the context of more frequent, intense storms like we saw this this past summer, the costs to town of maintaining these roads becomes more of a challenge. The first step to examining how we plan for unpaved road improvement is to gain a better sense of the immediate needs in rural areas with a significant amount of unpaved roads.

To help with this effort, the FRCOG has created an interactive online map in which all Franklin County community members can add points to show the location of known issue spots on unpaved roads in their communities. Community members can add “pins” to roads on the map that have recurring maintenance needs or are in need of repair, and can also add pictures and further details. This information will help western MA lawmakers make the case for larger state investment in unpaved road maintenance. Community members can access the interactive map online at <https://tinyurl.com/3ydv2d6>.

*For more information on this project, or to discuss other issues related to dirt/gravel roads, please contact Megan Rhodes, Senior Transportation & Land Use Planner at [mrhodes@frcog.org](mailto:mrhodes@frcog.org) or (413)774-3167 ext. 132.*

# **TRINITARIAN CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**

## **of WARWICK**

March 2022

Dear Friends,

*How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help? Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. 1 John 3: 17 - 18*

Building walls does not make us safe, it imprisons us. It doesn't matter whether those walls are physical, legalistic or prejudicial, they are meant to separate and differentiate. They also infuriate those walled out and cause fear to grow among those walled in. Ultimately, they break down and result in more chaos and catastrophe than they were supposed to prevent.

Sea walls are built in front of multi-million dollar high-rise condominiums and hotels to preserve invested assets at great cost. Eventually those walls are breached by ever more powerful storms and rising sea levels, or the land and beaches around them are eroded and the walls are rendered useless. Perhaps a more lasting solution would be to invest in technologies that no longer cause the atmosphere to heat up in the first place.

Border walls are erected at great cost, ecologically and monetarily, to keep out the flood of migrants fleeing gang violence, oppressive governments, poverty and loss of land due to greed, "gentrification", climate change enhanced disasters and pandemics,. As the flood of desperate migrants increases over time and repressive measures are increased, border walls will be breached and angry people, looking for revenge as much as a safe haven will enter. A better investment of time and money would be to find ways to reduce the crime, the corruption and the climate disruption that is causing so much of the displacement.

Laws intended to preserve the privilege of certain populations, like walls, breed greater resentment and more violence as they become more and more repressive. Laws that grant favors to one group may eventually be turned against that group to oppress them. Time, money and energy would be better spent constructing systems that promote the general welfare of all, not a select few.

Climate change, political, social and economic stratification, racial and religious discrimination will never be successfully addressed through indifference, violence and oppression; only a sense of common purpose and the will to care about and for the welfare of others will be able to reverse the slide toward total chaos.

There are some who will think, "Total Chaos", what a crock! There are some who will think, bring it on! Denial and indifference, in this nation and around the world, are leading us toward full scale and wide spread conflict. Applying the brakes of compassionate action and equitable sharing of resources are absolutely necessary if we care about giving future generations any hope of peace and stability.

Compassionate action needs to happen at the personal level and at the global level at the same time. Nations need to shake off the mantle of egotistical authoritarian rule. Corporations need to shift their focus from the stock market to the sustainability of their business practices on the earth over the long haul, not just next quarter's financial figures. And we as individuals need to maintain our pressure on both government and corporations while reducing our personal consumption of energy and natural resources.

If the fear is that the "others" will take control of the system and oppress "us", why not change the system so that whoever is in charge is working within a fair and equitable system that unites rather than divides.

We can do this, it isn't that difficult. Yes there will be some discomfort, but there will be worse than discomfort if we can't find a way to care about and for each other and the earth. Think globally, act locally. Live simply so that others may simply live.

In hopeful faith, *Dan*

**TRINITARIAN CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**  
**of WARWICK**  
**UP COMING EVENTS**

**ASH WEDNESDAY MARCH 2** There will be a short service of Ashes at the Chapel starting at 1 PM.

**WEDNESDAY EVENING MOVIES** We will once again begin what we hope will be a monthly movie night at the Chapel. Our last attempt was squashed by the Covid outbreak, hopefully we will be moving beyond the pandemic as we move into warmer weather. We showed “*I Know a Man: Ashley Bryan*” on Wed, Feb 23 at 7pm. We will continue with the film “*Philomena*” on Mar 23 and, on Wed, Apr 20, the documentary “*Youth Vs Gov*” about the lawsuit brought by 21 young people against the US govt. regarding non-action on Climate Change.

**AFGHAN REFUGEES** – We are actively working with an organization in Brattleboro to help support recent Afghan refugees who are settling in the area. Right now the big need is for people who can provide transportation in the Brattleboro area. If this is something you can and want to do, contact the ECDC Multicultural Center at <[ecdcus.org/mccvt](http://ecdcus.org/mccvt)>

**ON-GOING ACTIVITIES AT THE METCALF CHAPEL**

**FREE FOOD AT THE CHAPEL starts at 11 AM Fridays.**

The food that comes on Friday, thanks to Cliff Fournier and others, usually includes frozen meats as well as bakery goods and produce. Zac Marti is still bringing fresh vegetables, mainly root crops at this point, so come check it out.

**FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS** *Nonperishable food, personal hygiene items and household cleaning supplies are collected in the front hall of the Chapel. Disposable diapers, personal & household cleaning items are especially needed as they cannot be purchased with “food stamps”.*

**MEDICAL SUPPLY LIBRARY** *We have crutches, wheelchairs, walkers and many other medical supplies for free loan at the Chapel. Check us out before buying new.*

**SHEETS, PILLOW CASES AND OTHER LINENS** *There is a box in the front hall of the Chapel for these items for the Franklin Emergency Shelter in Greenfield. Warm, outdoor clothing is also appreciated.*

# March 2022

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
		1 Library 1-8pm  Women's Guild 1pm	2  Ash Wednesday Service 1pm at Metcalf Chapel	3  Library 5-8pm	4  Free Food Fri- day 11am	5  <i>Transfer Station 8-3</i>  <i>Library 10- 12:30</i>  <i>Climate Vigil 11:30-12:30</i>
6  Worship Ser- vice 10am	7  Library 10-4	8  Library 1-8pm	9  Book Club at Library 10am	10  Library 5-8pm  Library Virtual Open Mic 7- 8pm	11  Free Food Fri- day 11am	12  <i>Transfer Station 8-3</i>  <i>Library 10- 12:30</i>  <i>Climate Vigil 11:30-12:30</i>
13  Worship Ser- vice 10am	14  Library 10-4	15  Library 1-8pm  Library—Judge Visit 7pm	16	17  Library 5-8pm  Short Story Hour 7:30pm	18  Free Food Fri- day 11am	19  <i>Transfer Station 8-3</i>  <i>Library 10- 12:30</i>  <i>Climate Vigil 11:30-12:30</i>
20  Worship Ser- vice 10am	21  Library 10-4	22  Library 1-8pm	23  Movie night at Metcalf Chapel 7pm	24  Library 5-8pm	25  Free Food Fri- day 11am	26  <i>Transfer Station 8-3</i>  <i>Library 10- 12:30</i>  <i>Climate Vigil 11:30-12:30</i>
27  Worship Ser- vice 10am	28 Library 10-4  Special Town Meeting—at the School 7pm	29  Library 1-8pm	30	31  Library 5-8pm  Dog Licenses Expire—contact		

WOULD YOU LIKE TO PLACE AN AD HERE NEXT MONTH?

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**CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED**

**Don't Miss the following March Event:**

**Special Town Meeting—March 28 7pm at Warwick Community School**