

Warwick Community Newsletter

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

All articles, ads and correspondence may be emailed to warwicknewsletter01378@gmail.com (or call Beth Gilgun at 544-3464) or dropped off in the black box in front of Town Hall **by the 20th of the month before the article will run.** Please note that we are no longer accepting 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 Beth 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 due to space limitations. **ELECTRONIC SUBSCRIBERS WILL GET FULL SELECTBOARD MINUTES. ANOTHER REASON TO SUBSCRIBE ELECTRONICALLY AND HELP US SAVE MONEY!!**

PHONE DIRECTORY

Emergency	911
	9 7 8 - 5 4 4 -
Selectboard	6315
Treasurer/Collector	3845
Highway	6349
Library	7866
Fire Station	3314
Animal Control	3402
Animal Contr.Pager	217-2681
Clerk/Assessors	8304
Bd of Health	6315
Community School	6310
Fire Dept Business	2277
Police Dept Business	2244
Building Inspector	2236
FAX all depts.	6499
Burn Permits	413-625-8200
Warwick Broadband Trouble	
413-676-9544	

THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING DONORS AND ADVERTISERS!

Jay & Jennifer Field, Arline Lincoln, Joe & Kristy Delfausse,
Bill & Lynne Hatch, Keith Ross & Louise Dowd
\$320

Thank You!

Please consider donating to the Newsletter.

It is an outreach from the
Trinitarian Congregational Church
serving the greater community.

SEND THIS FORM TO;

Subscription Mailed To:

Warwick Community Newsletter

c/o Beth Gilgun

29 Athol Road

Warwick, MA 01378

I prefer to save paper and postage by having an E-subscription

Email Address

You may request an email only subscription by sending a note to

warwicknewsletter01378@gmail.com

www.warwickma.org is the Town's website. Along with things like *Permit Applications, Police Logs, Meeting Agendas, Town Hall Office Hours, News from the Library*, you can find this newsletter and lots of other very useful information! If you would like post something to the webpage, contact Ed Lemon, Webmaster at elemon@tiac.net.

W o m e n ' s G u i l d

***** ALL EVENTS ARE PENDING BASED ON THE CORONAVIRUS GUIDELINES*****

- May 5, 2020 Monthly Meeting cancelled. Looking into rescheduling event.
- June 2, 2020 1:15 PM, Women's Guild monthly meeting will be held in the Kitchen of the Town Hall proceeded by a presentation from Claire Michaels and Jean Haskell who will discuss their personal winery in Connecticut.

*** Everyone be safe and healthy ***

LifePath Walk-a-Thon May 2, 2020

Lifepath is a wonderful organization helping seniors stay in their homes. In Warwick we have a senior mealsite (Tuesday) as well as Meals on Wheels for seniors unable to get out, a monthly foot clinic, exercise classes, helping hands and assistance in so many other ways.

Our little Warwick group is asking all of you to sponsor us with this effort by giving \$5, 10, 20 or 50 to the Warwick Walkers at LifePath Walk-a-Thon either by check 101 Munson St., Greenfield, MA 01301, or call LifePath (413-773-5555) or go on-line at <https://lifepath.z2systems.com/campaignTeam.jsp?campaignId=31&teamId=47&>;

Carol Foote, Nancy Kilhart, Ginny Fellows and Betsy Lochhead will be walking 5 miles the week of April 27th.

PLEASE GIVE!

B o a r d o f H e a l t h

The Board has gone back to one meeting a month again because of this virus. The next meeting will be May 13th at 7:00 pm.

If anyone has any questions, please call Don Matthews at 978-544-3595 or Nancy Lyman at 978-544-8229.

Our meetings will be online and residents can patch in at 978-248-8033.

Foot Clinic

- | | | |
|---------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| May 8, 2020 | August 14, 2020 | November 13, 2020 |
| June 12, 2020 | September 11, 2020 | December 11, 2020 |
| July 10, 2020 | October 9, 2020 | |



**At the Metcalf Chapel at 8 a.m.
Subject to the current situation**

News from the Town Clerk

The Annual Town Election will be held as scheduled on Monday, May 18 with reduced hours. Polls will be open from 3-7 p.m. only.

The list of candidates whose names are on the ballot follows. There are no contested races. The safest way to vote is by absentee ballot. Please allow time for the ballot to reach you by mail and be returned by mail or placed in the black mailbox outside the town hall.

To vote absentee (staying home for Covid-19 caution is a valid reason now) I need a written request with your name and address where to send the ballot. The written request can be on paper sent to town hall, dropped in black mailbox, emailed to me, or on a state Absentee Ballot Application which can be obtained on ma.gov website.

IF you plan to come vote at the Town Hall polling place on May 18 wearing masks is mandatory.

Wearing gloves is also strongly encouraged for your safety and the safety of the poll workers.

Thank you for working with us to make the Annual Town Election happen and keep everyone safe.

Annual Town Election: Monday, May 18, 2020 Polls Open: 3 – 7 p.m.

Office

SELECTMAN	3 years	Brian Snell
ASSESSOR	3 years	Ann Kendall
BOARD of HEALTH	3 years	Helen Whipple
LIBRARY TRUSTEE	3 years	Nadia Woodson Marti
LIBRARY TRUSTEE	3 years	Elaine Reardon
LIBRARY TRUSTEE	1 year to fill vacancy	Cheri Robartes
TOWN CLERK	3 years	John Paganetti

Restaurant Review

Hope everyone is practicing social distancing and remaining safe and healthy during this pandemic. Now we know what happens when our country is shut down and what we take for granted.

Will we be ready to “go out to eat” or have we grown accustomed to our own cooking again?

In case you want to go out again as the summer season draws near, and our state can open back up, I thought I’d provide some of my favorite summer jaunts.

First of all, Old Home Days, which usually falls at the end of August, has some great food featured. One of my personal favorites is to have a hotdog, or hamburger, or cheeseburger with French Fries at the Warwick Firemen’s tent. They make the best French Fries cut themselves and fried at the fair. My mouth is watering already!

Next stop, Northfield Creemee where you can get various hard ice creams (Bart’s, Gilford’s, etc.), in a dish, waffle cone, plain cone or sugared cone. Or you can choose soft serve where they have traditional vanilla and chocolate and usually a special flavor. They also offer frozen yogurt; vanilla and one special flavor and you can get them twisted if you so desire. Only a short ride to Northfield you can enjoy the best ice creams, frappes, and sundaes . My mouth is watering again.

Just a couple places to add to your summer activities, providing you stay healthy and safe from coronavirus.

Bon Appetite.

Gloria Varno

Library

I hope this finds everyone well! I am repeating some basic info on current Library operations and available online resources here so people can make the best use possible of the Library's resources (it's on the Library web page). At the end is a short historical excerpt on early book materials--think bone, think stone, think elephant intestines.

Please let me know what you need. Best - Ivan

Your suggestions wanted for new library acquisitions: books (paper, audio, digital), DVDs, CDs, loanable equipment and other useful items. Contact the Library by May 30th.

Responding to the Pandemic - Emergency Operations

The Library is closed to the general public. Front door is locked - no walk-ins.

Staff available during regular hours (Mon 10-4, Tues 1-8, Thurs 5-8, Sat 10-12:30).

All items now due May 1.

Inter-library loans temporarily suspended.

Trash bags: available during regular hours.

All circulating collection items are being quarantined/sanitized.

Books, DVDs and CDs can be obtained as follows:

SEARCH the Warwick Library's collection online at CWMARS.org. You will need your member/card # and password - contact the Library if you need that info or other help. Refine your search using "Keyword/ Title/Author" and "Format" dropdown menus; to search by genre, use a keyword such as Western, Mystery. **Note:** When you locate an item, the record will indicate whether it is "available" or not (someone else has it out.)

ORDER available items by emailing the Library at warwick@cwmares.org or calling 544-7866 during regular hours.

PICK-UP: I will notify you when your order is ready for pickup during regular Library hours. Items will be brought out to you at the curb.

HOME DELIVERY: Volunteers may be available if you cannot arrange a pickup yourself.

* **Returns:** Place all items (gently) in the book drop. ***Please return Warwick Library items in a timely manner so they are available to others.***

Electronic resources:

To access OverDrive's extensive collection of **ebooks and audio books** via C/W MARS, simply visit <https://cwmares.overdrive.com/> and login with your C/W MARS library card. Contact me at the Library if you have questions about Overdrive, or are interested in using it. All you need to get started is a library card - or at least your account # (on file).

To access the statewide database of millions of full text articles from **magazines and newspapers**, visit https://www.galepages.com/mlin_w_warwick. There are great resources for school research and for hobbies and leisure. No login should be required as long as you are in Massachusetts.

Library for the Commonwealth: Through Boston Public Library's (bpl.org) *Library for the Commonwealth program* you can register online for an eCard - <https://www.bpl.org/ecard>: enjoy instant access to online services, including a broad selection of online resources, e-books, downloadable audio books and music, streaming services with audiobooks, music, television shows,

and movies. An eCard provides access to over 100 databases and electronic resources. There are also Skill Building and Workplace Development resources for test prep, languages, resume creation, and "everything from web development to marketing." Contact BPL's Research Services team at 617-536-5400 or ask@bpl.org.

The Library: Catalog of Wonders: On the lighter side, I've finally been able to crack *The Library: A Catalogue of Wonders*, by Stuart Kells--a book I've been wanting to check out since I first started working here in 2018. Here's an excerpt from chapter two on, you might say, what makes a book a book:

"Around 1200 B.C., Rameses II assembled a great library of books that included all the principal book materials available in the Nile Valley. More than ten types of books were represented, among them volumes made from papyrus, palm leaves, bone, bark, ivory, linen, and stone. A single snapshot in 5,000 years of bookish experimentation, Rameses's collection could only ever tell part of the story. In other lands and other time, books would also be made from silk, gems, plastic, silicon, bamboo, hemp, rags, glass, grass, wool, wax, rubber, enamel, iron, copper, silver, gold, turtle shell, antlers, hair, rawhide, and the intestines of elephants." (pp. 18-19)

Late-breaking - 1st detective story: "In 1841, on this day, the first detective story was published. In his story *The Murders in the Rue Morgue*, published in *Graham's Magazine*, Edgar Allan Poe created mystery's first fictional detective, C. Auguste Dupin. The story introduced many of the elements of mysteries that are still popular today: the genius detective, the not-so-smart sidekick, the plodding policeman, and the use of the red herring to lead readers off the track." (Writer's Almanac 4-20-20)

Six Town School Regionalization Planning Board Report

On behalf of the eighteen-member Planning Board representing the towns of Bernardston, Gill, Leyden, Montague, Northfield, and Warwick, please accept our first report as an informational update. Your representatives serving on this Board are Alan Genovese, chair; Dawn Magi, and David Young.

This Planning Board was formed under the provisions of Chapter 71, Section 14 A and 14 B whereby, two or more towns may join together to form a Regional School District Planning Board. Its purpose is to study the fiscal and educational advisability of establishing a new Regional School District. Once the Planning Board finishes its comprehensive study, which will likely be a two to three-year process, it will make recommendations for all six towns to consider.

The underlying theme of this study is to explore potential opportunities to expand present learning activities and project learning designs, by offering a robust curriculum for all High School and Middle School students attending the Pioneer Valley Regional School District (PVRSD) and the Gill-Montague Regional School District (GMRSD) in a manner that is both affordable and sustainable.

To this end, the GMRSD was awarded a grant to retain the services of a consultant (The Abrahams Group) to assist the Planning Board in its work. Additionally, the grant will support an analysis of student transportation. In an effort to better manage its work, the PB organized itself into four subcommittees: Education, Finance/Transportation, Facilities (FTF), Public Relations, and Planning/Organization/Logistics/Administration/Governance.

The Board has met 4 times to date. Meetings are held in the Montague Senior Center at 62 Fifth Street in Turners Falls, usually beginning at 6:30 pm. Meetings are presently posted in the respective Town Halls and are open to the public. The Planning Board is working on designing a website in an effort to keep everyone informed. It is our intent to not only post agendas, meeting minutes and other informational items as it becomes available, but also a place for the public to ask questions and offer suggestions.

Finally, as the discovery process unfolds, informational meetings and forums will be arranged to give and receive information in a variety of settings, both within the schools and the respective communities. This is an exciting endeavor on behalf of our towns as we explore potential options and opportunities for our students in looking toward the future.

Coordinator for May Newsletter—David Young

According to town by-law we are to have annual Town Meeting and our municipal election in May on the first and third Monday. Acting Town Clerk Jeannette Fellows made several innovative suggestions to the Massachusetts Secretary of State's office who are the authority on election about how to conduct our election for local office. We asked for permission to hold drive-up voting or drive-by voting and that was determined to be unfair to disabled individuals so not allowed. We asked about mailing ballots to all registered voters as is the practice in Oregon and the answer was no, you may not.

The Selectboard voted to establish 4 hours of voting on the third Monday in May, the 18th, from 3 pm to 7 pm when the polls will be open.

You are urged to obtain an absentee ballot from the town clerk and vote that way instead of risking your health or that of election workers. To do so you must make written application for an absentee ballot, but you don't need a special form. I want to stay home to vote is now an acceptable reason. Send an email to townclerk@town.warwick.ma.us saying Dear Town Clerk: I request an absentee ballot, Please mail it to my home address which I provide as follows.

The ballots will be available soon, please call for one now. You may send a letter to the Town Clerk at 12 Athol Rd with a postage stamp with the same message. Or just place your written request in the black box outside the town hall which is the Town's mail receptacle.

Due to the viral pandemic the Selectboard are postponing the annual town meeting until a date to be determined. We have several options including operating in the next fiscal year which starts July 1 with the prior year budget on a 1/12th per month basis. We may decide to have an outdoor TM sometime. Moderator Koester is not favorable to a phone meeting feeling it would be unwieldy. You will receive a postcard in the mail informing you of Town Meeting time once it is set.

As a result of the pandemic our town owned broadband system is getting a workout and providing much needed method of communication. Folks can pick up free Wi-Fi access in the vicinity of the Town Hall, Historical Society, Library and town park / common. In addition, Warwick broadband with Selectboard's support are establishing an outdoor hot spot at Warwick Community School. WBS already has a presence in the building and now we're working to extend it outdoors. We are working on that while we wait to have the additional Internet connectivity provisioned by the network operator, Axia. We are grateful to Axia and to our ISP, Access Plus, for their donating this public access Wi-Fi hotspot. We are contemplating creating other sites at broadband masts as well.

If you experience problems with your broadband subscription, I want to emphasize the importance of calling the phone line, 413-676-9544 to report trouble or make an order. That is how we initiate repairs and service. You are calling a Google Voice number and it notifies the broadband staff, not only me. You may be assured that our broadband techs are maintaining social distance. To help avoid nonpayment shutoffs a donation project which has become two efforts to help keep people's broadband on despite payment difficulties are happening. The Trinitarian Congregational Church has agreed to accept donations from community members who want to help support broadband connectivity for low income or otherwise challenged residents. And families enrolled at WCS may be supported by the school's parent teacher organization. If you find yourself like me, in good fortune and employed, please make a contribution to your neighbor's in need via TCC or Warwick PTO.

There is a piece in this newsletter about the 6 Town Planning Board, an effort that looks at combining Pioneer and Gill Montague Districts and maybe even beyond. The group got a grant from the state and is having an impossible time getting info from Pioneer.

I am one member of the Six Town Regionalization Planning Board. It was our intent to have frequent on-going meetings with parents, staff, students, residents and community leaders. However, when the pandemic hit plans changed dramatically. The towns of Bernardston, Gill, Leyden, Montague, Northfield, and Warwick, each appointed 3 members (18 total) to serve on this Planning Board because state financial projections indicate that with declining enrollment the PVRSD on its own is simply not affordable or sustainable for our towns. We are undertaking a comprehensive study, which will likely be a two to three-year process, and it will make recommendations for all six towns to consider. The study is to explore opportunities to expand present learning activities and learning designs. Our goal is a robust curriculum for all secondary students in a manner that is both affordable and sustainable.

Once the PB is able to conduct regular business and as the discovery process unfolds, informational meetings and forums will be arranged to give and receive information in a variety of settings, both within the schools and the respective communities. In the meantime, the effort is relying on the Gill-Montague and Pioneer Superintendent to provide critical information to the consultants, The supporting grant ends on June 30. Unfortunately, it has been difficult to get information from PVRSD. The PB had requested to be on its April agenda and was not. We have now requested to be on the May 14th Pioneer School Committee agenda. This is an exciting endeavor on behalf of our towns as we explore potential options and opportunities for our students in looking toward the future

Our education committee, once known as the task force, has been working on a future budget for our elementary school, WCS, that we are submitting to the Commissioner of Education. Our budget treatment involves distance learning and blended approaches and all of a sudden the questions and doubt about remote and distance learning have been mooted and everybody is having to implement the kind of thing we've been studying for Warwick.

Warwick Highway department still has vacancy, there may be a necessary change in our approach to develop local capacity. We've tried to hire somebody with all the licenses and certifications we require. That is not working. We will advertise again. If you previously applied, make another contact and update Larry with the progress you have made on necessary licensure.

We're still producing a town report. While the deadline is soft, please submit your copy soon. If you're the chair of a board or commission or committee, please write your prior fiscal year report and submit it to townreport@town.warwick.ma.us

The traditional May 9, 2020, 19th annual **Ned Green Scholarship Hike** up Mt. Grace is cancelled. Sorry, but I feel this is the wise thing to do, during this pandemic crisis. Thank you for your support! Clare Green

Contributions payable to the Ned Green Fund are still welcomed and may be mailed to:

PVRSD

Treasurer

97 F Sumner Rd.

Northfield, Ma. 01360

R E C R E A T I O N C O M M I T T E E

Recreation Committee will resume yoga, zumba, basketball and a rockin dance jam as soon as we are able

YOGA with Kalliope Kalombratsos, Wednesdays 5:00 pm Saturdays 9:15am Town Hall

ZUMBA with Susan Krieger, Tuesday 6 pm Town Hall

ZUMBA with Christine Rouleau, Sunday 8am Boiler Room Tully

BASKETBALL at the school gymnasium on Friday nights from 7-9

Green Corner - Municipal Aggregation Coming to Warwick (soon!)

Municipal aggregation is a group-buying program for electricity authorized by Massachusetts state law that allows cities and towns to choose the electricity supplier for their electricity customers rather than having the local electric utility be the supplier.

Currently, around half of cities and towns in Massachusetts have municipal aggregation programs, including Worcester and Boston. Warwick, through the guidance of the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG), has joined with 12 neighboring towns to procure a competitive supplier, using Colonial Power as the broker.

Customer participation is voluntary. In June, a letter will be sent to all electrical account-holders in town that are currently using National Grids' "Basic Service", meaning they have not chosen another supplier in the past. The letter will provide customers an opportunity to opt-out of participating in this aggregation program. Customers who do not opt out within 30 days of the letter will be automatically enrolled in the program, probably starting in August. **National Grid (NGrid) will continue to provide and bill for electric transmission and distribution service** to participating customers - just the "supply" portion of the NGrid bill will change.

Anyone in Town can **opt-in or opt-out at any time without a fee or charge.** Colonial Power will provide instructions for folks who would like to join the municipal aggregation program but have already signed up with another supplier if other than NGrid (Constellation, Viridian, etc). **Folks should check with their current supplier** to see if there's a fee or penalty for leaving that contract early. We don't want anyone to enroll in the Town's program and then get hit with a sizable fee by their third party supplier.

This program allows for important energy decisions to be made at the local level rather than by an investor-owned utility or by a for-profit competitive electricity supplier. It will stabilize electricity supply costs and protect consumers from price fluctuations. The contract could be as long as 36 months, at a fixed rate that is likely to be well below the last few years of NGrid summer/winter average price, which was about 12 cents/kWh. The municipal aggregation rate is estimated to be about 9.26 cents/kWh, with several options for "Green and Local" electricity. One option is 100% Green & Local for about 12.8 cents.

Last year Worcester seized the opportunity to "Green" up their electricity supply, while at the same time realizing substantial savings for their citizens. Through the program, participating customers received an additional 20% renewable electricity from renewable energy projects in New England, over and above the minimum amount required by state law, for a total of 36% renewable electricity in 2020, 38% renewable electricity in 2021, and 40% renewable electricity in 2022, all for a price of 11.442 cents/kWh. - cheaper than the NGrid average price. Participants could also choose Worcester 100% Green to receive 100% renewable electricity, all from renewable energy projects in New England.

So here are the questions that need answers right away:

Do you want the Cheapest, the Greenest, or both if it is below the current NGrid price?

Are you willing to go 100% local Green for a penny more (adds \$6/mo. to the avg. bill)?

How important to you is Green & Local (MA) vs. any Green (Texas wind farm, e.g.)?

The select board will be choosing options by May 13th. Your feedback is needed!

Take this short on-line survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FJMPNZZ>

Janice Kurkoski

TRINITARIAN CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
of WARWICK

Dear Friends,

MAY 2020

Benedictine monk, Bro David Stendale Rast, says; *“joy is steady, happiness comes and goes...It is through joy that we resist.”* Resist what? The dehumanization of others? The destruction of our earthly environment for immediate profit? What is it that we resist?

Maybe we resist becoming cynical, callous, indifferent and inactive. Skepticism is not the same as cynicism, but if it doesn't make us look at the object of our skepticism more closely, it could easily decay into cynicism.

One of the recent scripture readings recommended for this Easter Season tells the story of Thomas; *“So the other disciples told Thomas, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe.”* - John 20:25 (NIV) There are those who decry this reaction as “O ye of little faith”, but not Jesus. Jesus comes back when Thomas is with the others and offers physical, hands-on proof. He doesn't condemn Thomas, but he does say, *Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe.”*

Is this that joy that Rast talks of? Is it like a water table that you can drill into? Some seem to be able to let that joy simply well-up in their lives, others, like Thomas (and to be honest, like me) need to dig down deep for that river of joy. Thomas could have just said “BS” and left the deluded disciples behind with a snide, cynical comment, but he didn't, he dug deeper and found the joy.

We live in a nation drowning in cynicism. Right versus Left, Conservative versus Progressive, Republican versus Democrat. The “other” is the problem. And yet, the COVID-19 pandemic has brought a lot of people together to help even those they don't know. C-19 is tragic, but maybe it could lift us out of cynical indifference to a renewed sense of striving for the “common good”.

Wouldn't you rather live in a world where cooperation was more widespread than competition? I don't mean there should be no competition, competition can make us reach higher, but we live with a sense of competition that strives to denigrate, dehumanize and destroy the “other”. Where is the life-giving joy in this? Instead we get groups of angry people who see each other as enemies. We're reduced to “bumper sticker” sentiments that are often self-contradictory. We're drowning in cynicism.

Those who grew up during the Great Depression and WWII have been called the “Greatest Generation”. Why? Is it because they were able to amass great wealth out of tragedy, or because they were able to forge a broad social sense of cooperation that helped bring comfort to great numbers of people, even former enemies? Out of those turbulent times came social programs like the rural electrification project and social security, infrastructure projects like the interstate highway system in the US. Internationally, the US developed the Marshall Plan for Europe and helped rebuild the Japanese economy and society.

Could we come out of this pandemic and Make America Truly Great Again? Great Again in compassion and care, Great Again in work that produces benefits for the greater good, not just the privileged few. Maybe a dose of Thomas-like skepticism, that is open to persuasion and doesn't take the short, simplistic and divisive my-way-or-the-highway approach, could lead us into a period of renewed, mindful regeneration. But that would require being able to look at overall health of the planet, so that the whole earth, people, other animals, plants, entire ecosystems are more resilient and resistant to future pandemics, climate disruptions and massive population displacement; in other words, living mindfully with the earth and each other.

In faithful hope,
Dan

UP COMING EVENTS

ALL OUR FACE-TO-FACE EVENTS ARE BEING SUSPENDED

ON-LINE WORSHIP

SUNDAY 10 AM

WE ARE OPEN AND AFFIRMING ALL ARE WELCOME

We hold worship on ZOOM and it IS open to all. The platform is capable of video and audio and those without internet will be able to connect by telephone. We send out a ZOOM invitation on line for those who wish to join us. See our facebook page

www.facebook.com/trinitariancongregationalchurchofwarwickma

The **Deacons' Loan Fund** is a fund set aside for Warwick residents who are in financial need. This is a no-interest loan to help bridge the gaps in times of economic distress. Contact a Deacon (Diane Ellis, Michael Humphries, Clara Shepardson, Tom Ziniti, Dan Dibble) or call the Chapel and leave a message (978) 544-2630

EARTH DAY RELATED POSTPONED PROGRAMS

"The Need to Grow" is a film that documents the struggles of three individuals as they try to address the intertwined issues of feeding the poor while feeding the soil, creating ways that mitigate or reduce the human impact of food and energy production on the atmosphere and holding large social organizations to high standards of ethical behavior.

We will be rescheduling this as soon as it is safe to do so.

"The Time of the Sixth Sun" is an "inspiring and uplifting documentary film about the shift in the global consciousness and the emerging movement to find a new way to walk more lightly on this earth."

This was scheduled for EARTH DAY, WED, APRIL 22 6:30 PM in the Metcalf Chapel. This will also need to be rescheduled for a later date.

ON-GOING ACTIVITIES

We are still collecting food and household items (diapers, cleaners, paper products, etc) for the Orange Food Pantry. Drop off items in the designated box in the front hall of the Chapel.

THE POOR PEOPLES' VIRTUAL MARCH ON WASHINGTON, DC
SAT JUNE 20 Keep watching for further details.



WARWICK

*Western Massachusetts Community
Mutual Aid*

COVID-19 Crisis Help in Warwick - Connecting Community Members

friendly phone call • groceries • general errands • pet care • urgent supplies

To request assistance or to volunteer...

Visit: www.wmacma.com **Email:** warwickmutualaid@gmail.com

Call/Text: (978) 633-5323 (monitored in Warwick day/evening)

24-hour state hotline: dial 211

A small group of us have formed the Warwick Community Mutual Aid Network, which is part of a larger group (WMA Community Mutual Aid) now organizing across Western Massachusetts. The goal is to connect community members in need during the coronavirus pandemic with others able to assist them in grocery shopping, pharmacy pickups, or even just a friendly phone call.

This is really just a formalization of what we do in Warwick on a regular basis. When one of us is sick or hospitalized, when a family member dies, or when some other calamity strikes, members of our community pitch in with meals, rides to the doctor, and firewood parties. For those of us who've been on the receiving end, it's extremely helpful and incredibly moving. We don't expect to replace our natural systems of helping each other out, but to supplement them. If the pandemic hits us hard, our usual approaches to helping each other out may be overwhelmed. And they may miss some people who need help. The mutual aid network will act as a backup and a supplement to what we're already doing.

Warwick Community Mutual Aid Network

Claudia Lewis Ana Bennett Elaine Reardon Louise Doud
(coordinator) Brad Compton Kaila Woodson Nadia Marti

April 2020 News From WCS

Hello Warwick Community!

It is with great sadness that I report that Gov. Baker has extended school closures in Massachusetts through the end of this school year. The WCS staff will come together over the next couple of weeks to discuss next steps, provide additional guidelines and resources for remote learning, and MOST importantly, begin to brainstorm ideas for end of the year closure for all of our students, especially our 6th graders. This is not the ending we would hope for, but is what will keep our children and families safe.

We will continue to provide remote learning opportunities through June 18. The staff of WCS has already been hard at work implementing the PVRSD Remote Learning Plan for the students and families of our school. Teachers have set-up Google Classrooms for their class in addition to providing families with a plethora of learning games, activities, books, and worksheets that can be done both on and off-line. I am proud to report that 100% of our "learning packets" were delivered to our families so that all of our students can continue their learning from home. Teachers are reaching out to families through email, phone, and text messaging to check on students weekly as well as holding daily "office hours" to address concerns, technology troubleshoot, and assist students with their work. I am so impressed with the level of dedication and commitment that our staff have shown to continuing student learning outside the walls of our school building. They are truly going above and beyond to keep learning happening and provide routine and structure for students and families during this unprecedented time.

WCS students are participating in virtual class meetings that are held in the style of our classroom morning meetings. Every student is greeted and has a chance to share during this time. I have dropped into meetings for every class and have been thrilled to see the level of participation from our students and families. Nearly every student in every classroom is participating despite the challenges of Internet and cell service in our rural community. Most students are also participating in small group break-out sessions offered by our classroom teachers as well. This is where lessons, tutoring, and coaching are happening. I cannot express enough how grateful I am to the parents and grandparents that are helping get their children to "class" and complete assignments.

1st and 2nd Grade Students are continuing to work on their literacy skills through games, worksheets, Epic, and books. Many are filling up reading logs for our Read for the Rainforest Project. They are also planting seeds for science to explore the plant life cycle and begin to think about gardening season. I participated in a morning meeting a few days ago where they shared maps that they made of their houses for an art and social studies project as well.

3rd and 4th grade students are expanding their understanding of area and perimeter through the use Prodigy and IXL after small group tutoring sessions. They have also been hard at work on several projects including a biography book report and an informational essay on an animal of their choice. They are enjoying science and social studies lessons that have been put together with the use of short video lessons from BrainPop and EdPuzzle and always include an experiment. If you see a WCS student out in their yard with the makings for smores and a cardboard box next week, you now know that they are creating solar ovens for science!

5th and 6th grade students are studying poetry. They have been learning about cinquains, haikus, and more and are sharing their poetry virtually. The students are also studying Asia as part of their social studies unit on world geography. Each student has signed up for a country to study, create a project, and report out to the class. It promises to be a creative educational endeavor! The fifth and sixth graders are also studying the phases of the moon through the use of BrainPop science videos.

Specials are continuing to happen remotely as well. Ms. Ferro and Mrs. Manion have created Google Classrooms for music and art where they are providing students with activities to complete weekly. Ms. Ferro has a Mystery Draw assignment that has been a huge hit with students! If your child has not yet joined the Google Classrooms for their specials, please add them. The codes were emailed out to you last week. Mrs. Scott is providing neat activities to try to keep students moving as well. She puts her activities inside of each of the classroom teacher's "classrooms" each week. This week she is encouraging children to make their own fishing poles and find a local watering hole to test it out!

Remember that at this time, we are asking that students try to complete 2-3 hours of "school work" during a day which should include classwork as well as specials, outside activities, and projects. There are several ways that families can structure this work. Please contact your child's teacher if you are struggling to figure out a routine that works for you and your child. We are eager to work with you and adapt our expectations to fit your circumstances.

Our Warwick Community School website and Facebook pages are being updated with learning challenges, videos, read alouds and more on a daily basis. Many members of our school community have been involved in live and pre-recorded read alouds for students as well as continuing after school clubs virtually. The Education Committee is also hoping to extend these "Live" events to include some of the important places in our town. Stay tuned!

In times of crisis we realize that it truly does take a village to support our staff and students. I would like to say a huge thank you to the members of our village that helped to provide us with the technology needed to effectively implement remote learning. Hats off to the PVRSD technology department, Warwick Broadband, David Young, and the WCS PTO for helping to extend our internet capabilities for the families in Warwick and for providing Chrome Books for students to use from home. You all helped to make "school" accessible to all of our students.

Please continue to look for updates regarding the status of the PVRSD school closure on our website. Links to our Remote Learning Guidelines as well as our Covid-19 FAQ document are located on the website and are being updated and adapted as this situation unfolds. Stay healthy and be safe everyone!

Respectfully,

Christine Mullen

WCS Principal

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10 Worship Service 10:00	11 Library 10-4	12 Library 1- 8pm	13	14 Library 5-8pm	15 "Bend it Like Beckham" 7:00	16 Transfer Station 8-3 Library 10-12:30
17 Worship Service 10:00	18 Library 10-4 Town Election 3-7	19 Library 1- 8pm	20	21 Library 5-8pm	22	23 Transfer Station 8-3 Library 10-12:30
24 Worship Service 10:00	25 Library 10-4	26 Library 1- 8pm	27	28	29	30

MAY, 2020

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