

*Please pray for the following members
and friends of our church:*

Evelyn Roberts	Elizabeth Ball	Arlene Pendleton
Pat Donovan	Jimmy	Ann Brown
Barbara	Barbara Simmons	Charlie Wright
Madelyn Stratton	Sandi Davis	Doris Gouvin
Fred	Jeff	Catherine
Debbie	Jim	Millie Silver
Vince Amkhamavong, U.S. Marines		Charlie
Gretchen Dessauls	Carole Lennon	Glenn
Jonathan Salovitz	Susan & Devin Moynihan	
Rick & Shirley Harrington		Harvey Fugere
David Jones	John Dillon	Sheryl
Laurie		

*If you would like anyone added or taken off this list for the
next newsletter, please call the office or let one of our deacons
know. Thank you.*

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Diaconate Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Telephone</u>
Mar 4	Brenda Cornell	(860) 599-3580
Mar 11	Bobbie DelPozo-Waldron	(860) 495-5389
Mar 18	Pam DelPozo-Waldron	(860) 495-5389
Mar 25	Claire Calabretta	(860) 536-3625

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ATTIC TREASURES SALE

Saturday, March 24th

8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Attic Sale Fever is about to begin!

Clean those closets, rid the cellars, weed out accessories (jewelry, bags, belts, etc.), and poke through attics and kitchen cabinets! Get your Spring cleaning done early!

Clean Saleable Items can be brought in starting on Sunday, **March 18th**. Because the items will need sorted and priced, *no more items will be accepted after Thursday, March 22nd*. Please leave your items on the tables in Fellowship Hall. Thanks.
- Linda Evans

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday to:

Edward Stratton – 19
Brenda Cornell – 30

Happy Anniversary to:

Ed and Nancy Schilke – 3-16
Ken & Dorothy Oehrle – 3-31-56

Please add in your special days by calling the church office!

Mission Committee News

The **WARM Center meal** for Sunday, **March 11th**, is going to be the responsibility of the *Lay Life & Work Committee*. The Mission Committee appreciates everyone's efforts in making meals for this important outreach mission every month.

Fair Trade items are available in Fellowship Hall. We have *coffee* (regular, decaf, flavored toffee caramel, hazelnut, and whole bean), *tea* (breakfast, green, and decaf), *baking cocoa*, and 6 kinds of *chocolate bars*. Please **stop by the Mission Cart to purchase these items** or to place any special order. You are welcome to serve yourself. A price list and collection tin are on the cart...or you may ask a Mission Committee member for assistance.

Please remember our **red Buckets** located at the entrance to the church. Please bring in your non-perishable food for the **Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center (PNC)**. Their "Food Locker" needs *coffee, tea, juice, cereal, jam and jelly, & canned fruit*. Their "Baby Warm & Well Program" needs *baby powder, diapers, and wipes*. The **Living Supplies Closet** at the PNC needs *shampoo, deodorant, disposable razors, and paper products*. The **Lions Club** makes good use of used eyeglasses.
- Mission Committee

Pancakes at Overlook Farm in Rutland, Massachusetts **March 10** and **March 11** from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (Reservations for pancakes are required.) During Heifer Internationals' Pancakes at the Farm, enjoy a hearty pancake breakfast with maple syrup and pork sausage & tour the farm to view the sugaring operation. **Admission:** Adults: \$12.00 and Children (3-10): \$6.00. Children age 2 & under are free. For more details please go to www.overlook.farm@heifer.org.

One Great Hour of Sharing

*SHARING BRINGS JOY
To us. To others. To God.*

It's truly remarkable what your gifts will do! With our gifts to **One Great Hour of Sharing** the United Church of Christ offers hope and well being to people around the world. Your gift brings shelter, food, water, and medical supplies to disaster survivors. You help refugees find safe shelter and begin to build new lives. You aid impoverished communities in securing dependable sources of food and clean water. And you help provide medical care and education that strengthen bodies and minds and create brighter futures. By the time a crisis becomes news, your offerings are already at work.

"In church, we talk about God providing us with blessings in abundance, yet every day we see people who live with far less. Ever think God wants you to be the channel through whom God satisfies the hungry, comforts the distressed, and brings hope to the hurting?"

Offering envelopes are available in the newsletter for your donations. The collection will be received at our church on **March 18th**. "Create more joy in the world with your generous gift to One Great Hour of Sharing."

Pawcatuck River Duck Race

Spring can't be far behind if the DUCKS are arriving! The Mission Committee is selling duck chances for the **Pawcatuck River Duck Race**, sponsored by the Westerly-Pawcatuck Chamber of Commerce. When you "sponsor a duck" for \$5.00, you have a chance to win many great prizes, including a trip to Disney World! Our church receives \$2.85 for each duck sold, so this is an easy and FUN fundraiser! The Mission Committee has traditionally donated the funds to our general account, in appreciation for all you do for others throughout the year! The race will be held by the bridge in downtown Westerly on Saturday, **April 28th**, however, you do not need to be present to win! Maybe YOU will be lucky if you sponsor a duckie!

THANK YOU ...

...The votes have been counted and the tally was very close.

Asael Hill has been chosen as UCC's Lay Man of the Year! Asael will be invited to attend a breakfast hosted by the RI Conference. *Congratulations, Asael.* Your church family appreciates all you do!

... **THANK YOU!!!!** ☺ for the "Heart" Tea - *Judy & Linda*

Darla Rines wrote the following note:

"Dear Church Family,

Thank you for your generous gift of certificates from the Westerly-Pawcatuck Chamber of Commerce. I appreciate your thoughtfulness.

Being able to provide music for our church has given me immeasurable pleasure and you all make me feel so blessed.

Faithfully yours, Darla"

Corned Beef & Cabbage DINNER

Saturday, March 17th

5:30 p.m.

**Traditional Corned Beef & Cabbage
Homemade Dessert & Beverage**

TICKETS: Adults \$10.00; Children \$4.00

Take-out is available. Walk-ins are welcome.

Everyone is welcome to attend.

Please wear your green!

The Art of Giving

Although we already give generously to the church and other causes, tax season presents the unique opportunity to save money by giving more. Here's just a few examples:

- If your income is just over \$80,000, you could donate to the church and qualify for college tax credit with a qualified student in college.
- If you're paying for help with your taxes, call volunteers at 1-800-906-9887 and get assistance for free and donate to the church and get a tax deduction.
- Likewise if you are a member of AARP, free on-line assistance is available.

By everybody finding a way to give a little bit more to the church, we can further spread the gifts God has already given us.

- *The Stewardship Committee*

Conference Dues

As a member church of the Rhode Island Conference, we pay per capita dues of \$17.00 for each person who is a member of our church. If you are able to help defray this cost with all or any amount of the \$17.00, it would be greatly appreciated. There is an envelope included in your box of pledge envelopes for that purpose. For those members who do not get envelopes, you can just put it in with your regular weekly donation. Thank you. - *Board of Trustees*

From the Pastor...

*“Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and all that is within me bless God’s holy name.
Psalm 103:1*

A Taize chant based on the above verse is a foundational part of my daily prayer discipline each morning so to say it is a part of my soul would not be an exaggeration. Even so, it feels especially appropriate to me since my official first day on February 1 as your pastor. I am so very blessed to be here and serving in your midst. I feel as if I have been here for months instead of weeks and that’s a good thing! You have embraced me and affirmed my ministry in your midst in incredible and marvelous ways which have touched me deeply. I just know God has something wonderful in store for us all in the years ahead!

Those of you able to be a part of our Ash Wednesday service may also recognize the above verse from our Call to Worship at that service. It is no accident that this Psalm is one of those specifically identified by Christian liturgists over the centuries as one whose message is especially appropriate for our pondering as Lent begins. This Psalm provides a gentle recounting of both the ways we fall short of God’s expectations of us and the ways in which God’s great love for us never waivers in spite of all our failures.

I am so excited that we are beginning our ministry together in this sacred season of Lent. This season of the church year is one in which we are invited to go deeper in our relationships with God, whatever that might mean to each of us. I have chosen for our Lenten theme this year the following: *To know God as I am known by God*. I hope that you will take this invitation to heart during this, our first Lent together. Through our weekly worship each Sunday, through the opportunity offered in the Personal Devotional Guide for Lent I have prepared for your use at home and perhaps even through the opportunity for study in our “Brown Bag Lenten Study” we will get to know one another better even as we learn together what our relationships with God really mean in our lives.

So as we prepare to begin our first season of Lent together, I hope you will invest some of your time considering more deeply what it means to be known by God even as we seek to know more of God. This is what Jesus was doing in the wilderness for those forty days the Gospels tell us about, the same forty days that form the basis for our observation of Lent each year. I ended my sermon this past Sunday with these words – “So, are you ready to get started? I sure hope so...” I do hope so, because I am and I know God will be with us every step of the way as we begin this journey through Lent together.

Blessings,
Pastor Ruth

LIFE’S JOURNEYS

Congratulations to Brett & Anna Pepler
on the birth of twin sons, Andrew and Jackson; and
to the grandparents, Bob & Lynn Murray!

Prayers of sympathy are extended to the family of:
Dale Brummund, Sr.

