

The Beacon

APRIL 2016



GOOD NEWS from

United Congregational Church of Westerly

United Church of Christ, Pawcatuck, CT

Sunday Worship ~ 9:30 am

FROM THE PASTOR ...

“Jesus said to them, ‘Come and have breakfast.’”

John 21:12a

No question about it, this quote comes from one of my very most favorite Bible stories. I know, I know, I always say I love whichever Bible story I am talking about in the moment, and that’s generally true because I do love the Bible. But this story is truly close to my heart for many reasons. It is one I have written about for publication in the curriculum work I have done. It is one I have taught to children literally for decades. It is one I have witnessed youth and an especially gutsy Associate Pastor colleague bring to life, complete with some of the youth falling into the pond they were attempting to paddle across in order to convince the audience on the shoreline that they were indeed “fishing” with an old volleyball net. Now *that* was miraculous...

This story so close to my heart is about a resurrection appearance of Jesus to some of the disciples back at work as fisherman on the Sea of Tiberius. Seemingly taking place a few weeks after the Resurrection, it’s interesting that even after

encountering the Risen Christ in the upper room that first night, the disciples still ended up going back to their old lives. I’m sure they didn’t know what else to do. So, like any of us in a confusing situation, they went back to what was familiar and comfortable.

They had been out fishing all night with no success. Then just at daybreak, Jesus appears on the shore and calls out to them. When he sees they have yet to catch any fish he tells them to try the net on the other side of the boat. They do and the net is instantly filled with more fish than they can haul in – 153 to be exact, at least according to John’s Gospel counting! As the boat draws closer to shore, the Beloved Disciple recognizes Jesus and tells Peter and the others who it is. When they finally get to shore, they see that Jesus has a charcoal fire going and he asks them to bring some of the fish over to the fire to be cooked. When the fish was cooked, Jesus says to the disciples, “come and have breakfast.” Can you imagine? The Risen Christ cooks breakfast for the tired, weary and confused disciples. Then he took the bread, blessed it and they all ate breakfast together – a whole new take on that Last Supper evening. How cool is that?

Jesus takes the ordinary act of cooking a meal and makes it extraordinary. He invites the disciples and he invites us to come and rest with him, savoring the nourishment he offers. It is this kind and compassionate act of Jesus that we will remember at our Communion celebration this Sunday. It is the Resurrected Jesus who reaches out his hand and his heart to the disciples through the simple act of cooking a meal on an open fire. Nourishment which is both physical and spiritual is central to our life together as members of Jesus’ Beloved Community. So is talking together about how we think Jesus is alive and active in our lives and pondering the ways in which Jesus is inviting us to be his hands and feet in our community.

Much is in the works in our wonderful, Spirit filled church in this regard and I hope you are ready, willing and excited to be involved, whatever that might look like for you. We’re hoping especially for your support this month with two key events—the Earth Day Sunday Clean-up and the Faith Stories Potluck with our Confirmands. Check out the articles on each in this newsletter. God’s Spirit is alive and on the move in UCC Westerly and we hope you’ll be a part of the emerging new reality we are working to create together. Life in our church is

on the move! But, I'm sure a great meal will always be available. I'll be looking for you on Sunday!

Your friend in Christ,

Rev. Ruth

"BOOKS – out on the Town!"



Mark your calendars for Monday, **April 18** to join us for the next Books gathering! **5:30 pm** is the time. Plans now are to go to Pizza Place once again but that could change. Stay tuned on that. The book we have chosen to read is *Fly a Little Higher* by Laura Sobiech. It is available for purchase in hardcover (new and used) and kindle through Amazon.com and at Target and other retailers. Come join us and bring a friend!

SAVE the date for the ATTIC TREASURES SALE

Saturday, May 21st
8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.



Clean Saleable Items are appreciated and *some treasures would be nice too!* They can be brought in *any time!* Please leave them downstairs – 1 flight down, second door on the right! Please no big items, such as couches, and no computers. *Women's Fellowship* will be coordinating this event.



April Birthdays

- 6 – Pam DelPozo-Waldron
- 16 – Barbara Johnson
- 25 – Dan McCrary
- 25 – Travis McCrary
- 26 – George Gray
- 28 – Emily Sineiro

Happy Anniversary to:

Rev. Ruth & Peter Hainsworth – April 23

Douglas & Jenny Brummund – April 25

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



Family Housing

Support

Lenten donation drive for Family Housing Support –

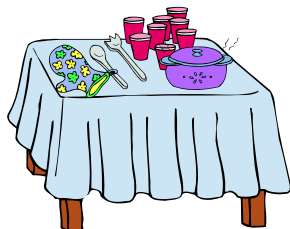
Carolyn LeRoy will be collecting the monies from this drive on April 3. Please give them to her and she will see that they get to those who administer the funds. If you are making out a check, please make it out to the WARM CENTER and put on the memo line – Family Housing Support. Thank you so very much for your generosity and concern for those less fortunate than us. -- *Carolyn*

**ATTENTION VISITATION
VOLUNTEERS, DEACONS,
TRUSTEES AND CE VOLUNTEERS!**

In accordance with provisions in our liability insurance coverage we are hosting a regional **“Safe Conduct Training” workshop** here at our church on **Saturday, April 9** from **9:00 – 11:30 am**. Sign-up sheet on the bulletin board outside Fellowship Hall! Please make every effort to attend this important training which only happens once every few years!

**ANNOUNCING THE
“JUST BECAUSE”**

**Women’s
Fellowship
Gathering &
Potluck**



Thursday, April 14 @ 5:30 pm
Bring your favorite “artistic” food to share
and come ready to enjoy the newest
relaxation craze – COLORING!!!

Women’s Fellowship hasn’t met just to have fun together in a long time so this is why we’re calling this the “Just Because” Women’s Fellowship Gathering and Potluck. I hope you’ll join us for an hour or two of good food, good conversation and a surprisingly enjoyable pastime! Rev. Ruth will provide coloring pages as well as colored pencils, markers and crayons but feel free to bring your own! Sign-up sheet on the bulletin board outside Fellowship Hall.

FYI! The Day Trip Mission Experiences 2016 will be announced soon! Keep watching for details! If you have additional questions or suggestions please speak with Rev. Ruth or any member of the Missions Committee and let’s all enjoy some wonderful “Mission Days” this summer!



**Congratulations to our Nominees
for HONORED LAY PERSONS OF
THE YEAR in the
RHODE ISLAND CONFERENCE,
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

The United Congregational Church of Westerly, United Church of Christ is pleased to nominate three outstanding laypersons for this honor in 2016. By unanimous vote of our Church Council and the enthusiastic endorsement of the congregation we are nominating our three longest serving financial officers of the church: **Robert MacVicar** and **George Gray** who are our Co-Treasurers and **Janet Allen** our Financial Secretary. These three folks have done incredible service to this church, diligently shepherding our financial resources faithfully and well. In addition to the many volunteer hours they invest in this vital ministry of the church, they are also all active in other areas of church life. Without their faithful and devoted service we have no doubt the church would not be in as secure a financial position as we are. Thank you with all our hearts Bob, George and Janet!



CONFIRMATION REMINDERS

- **Confirmation** meets next on Sunday, **April 10 @ 11 am**.
- Confirmands, their families and mentors are expected to attend the **Faith Stories Potluck** on **Saturday, April 30**. See article elsewhere!

Some Capital Campaign Updates:

- The Trustees have received back several bids on the next phase of roof repairs. A subcommittee of the Trustees is overseeing this project and will keep the congregation updated.
- At their most recent meeting, the Trustees gave permission for planning to begin for two exciting new additions to our beautiful grounds. Watch for more information on our Pollinator's Garden and the Labyrinth coming soon!



FAITH STORIES POTLUCK!

Saturday, April 30 @ 5:30 pm
*Join us and come ready to share...
 ...a dish that makes you smile &
 ...a story or two about your faith journey
 with our Confirmands.*

"The Christin Faith is caught, not taught."
William Willimon

MUSIC NEWS



***YOU ARE INVITED TO
 An Open Meeting of the
Music Committee
 Sunday, April 17th
 @ 11 am in the parlor***

Join us as we chat about our Music Program.
Everyone welcome!

Earth Day Sunday – April 24th

Church Clean-Up & Cookout!



Wear your gardening clothes to church that day, and bring along your rakes, gardening gloves, and maybe even your wheelbarrows because there will be plenty of work to do after the service!! Just like your homes, your church needs some TLC in the spring. The lawns and the gardens need to be cleaned out and raked, bushes need to be trimmed, flowers need to be planted, etc., etc., etc. Is there an outside project you've been itching to tackle?? Talk to a trustee and it will be added to the list.

After all of our hard work, we will enjoy a good old-fashioned cook-out and each other's company! What could be better than hot dogs, hamburgers, salads, desserts, and fellowship on a beautiful spring day? Sign-up sheets will be on the bulletin board soon!

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Diaconate Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Name & Telephone</u>
Apr 3	Elvis Torres 860-599-5572
Apr 10	Claire Calabretta 860-536-3625
Apr 17	Becky Morrone 401-596-1070
Apr 24	Gary Davis 860-599-4279

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It's Scholarship Time



Applications for the **Barbara Murano Scholarship** are available for new and returning college students. Please note there is a different form for each category. The deadline to apply is **May 1st**. The Board of Deacons also requests assistance at the Barbara Murano Scholarship **Make Your Own Tacos and Sundaes Dinner** (see below). **PLEASE SIGN UP** on the **sign-up sheet** posted at the entrance to Fellowship Hall. Assistance in making this a full profit event is most welcome.

"Make Your Own"

Tacos & Sundaes Dinner

Saturday, May 14th, 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.

- All proceeds benefit the Murano Scholarship Fund.
- Those interested in applying for the Barbara Murano scholarship are encouraged to help out before, during, or after the dinner if possible.



Adults: \$10.00
Children under 10: \$5.00
Family of 4 (2 kids under 10): \$25

Thank you for all your help and participation.

Mission Moments

Our THANKS for everyone's support for our **first Annual Fill the Pews Competition!** The final tallies will be reported by the first Sunday in April with a special Fellowship Time to be announced. Reminder: We receive food donations for the PNC every Sunday, all 12 months of the year. The Missions Committee will make sure that your donations are delivered to them in a timely manner.

Our THANKS to the Christian Ed Board for supplying the **April WARM meal.**

Thanks for all your help! Please speak to any member of the Missions Committee with your ideas and questions – *Sandi Davis, Melissa Stratton, Claire Calabretta, Darla Rines, Kathy Sugar, or Peter Hainsworth.*



YES!

PROGRAM

SCHEDULE

Sunday, Apr 3 – **Story Engagement** – 'Jesus BBQ's'

Sunday, Apr 10 – **Service Engagement** – Christian Ed Board and YES Children supporting the WARM meal

Sunday, Apr 17 – **Art Engagement** – Details to be announced

Sunday, Apr 24 – **Earth Day Sunday!**
Service & Nature Engagement – gardening



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

Barbara	Madelyn Stratton
Sandi Davis	Fred
Jeff	Catherine
Debbie	Jim
Millie Silver	Carole Kus
Shirley Harrington	Lisa
Beverly & Family	Beverly
John Dillon	Brian Madill
Sheryl	David Jones
Doris	Jennifer Clancon
Eugene Ravenelle	Kim Brown
Karen & Bill	Hope
Shirley M.	Timothy Nugent
Scott & his parents	Gerry
William Underhill III	
Family of Gary Dobson	
Connie	Nicci & Jeff
Bob & Ann	Sharon Brooks
Allie	Family of Doris Whitehead

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

OUR STAFF

Pastor: The Rev. Ruth Shilling Hainsworth
Organist: David Cranmer
YES Program contact: Kathy Tarasuk
Secretary: Susan Perreault
Sexton: Debby Johnson
Web Master: Heather Stratton

CHURCH OFFICE SPECIFICS

Mailing Address: 9 Castle Hill Road
Pawcatuck, CT 06379

Telephone # & FAX: **860-599-1226**

E-mail: **uccwesterly@sbcglobal.net**

Website: **www.uccwesterly.org**

Office Hours: Monday, Thursday, & Friday
from 8:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.