

The Beacon

OCTOBER 2017



GOOD NEWS from

United Congregational Church of Westerly

United Church of Christ, Pawcatuck, CT

Sunday Worship ~ 9:30 am

FROM THE PASTOR ...

"I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth. Do you not perceive it?" Isaiah 43:19

This text from Isaiah is probably one of the more well-known verses from the writings of this extraordinary Old Testament prophet. In fact, the book of Isaiah was written by several people, spanning hundreds of years in its descriptions of and reactions to what was happening in the lives of the Israelites in the wake of the destruction of Jerusalem and the Babylonian captivity. Given this context, it is not surprising that the book of Isaiah is an extraordinary repository of hope. Isaiah notes the terrible sufferings of God's people over and over again. He gives voice to their anger toward their enemies and their incredible frustration that life was not at all what they expected or wanted. But, most of all, Isaiah comes back over and over again to hope. God for Isaiah was always the source of unending hope and steadfast love. He reminded the people, and he reminds us, over and over again that God remains always alive, always concerned about the lives of God's people as

they are unfolding in real time. God never leaves us abandoned or forgotten. Rather, God is always calling us forward into the new possibilities always emerging in God's ever-changing world.

And that is just what is happening here in our wonderful, amazing church. We have some pretty exciting things going on in the days and months ahead. Here are just a few of them:

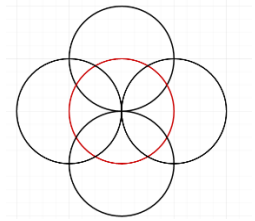
- Sunday, October 1 – Blessing of the Animals Service!
- QPR Training on Thursday, October 12 @ 6:30pm in the Parlor
- Meeting for Confirmands and Parents, Sunday, October 15 @ 11am
- Harvest Table Welcomes Polar Fleece Express! Wednesday, Oct. 18 @ 5:30pm
- Bazaar Planning Meeting – Sunday, October 22 @ 11am
- Women's Fellowship Retreat @ Ender's Island – Saturday, Nov. 4

You can find the details on these and more exciting new initiatives and returning old favorites in this issue of the *Beacon*. Take the time to check them out, see what's happening and what strikes your fancy. Then, show up! And bring a friend with you because that's how our ministries expand and our church grows – one invitation to one person at a time. God is alive and active in our church! But, like Isaiah reminds us, we have to take the time to notice it. Then we have to make the effort to respond including getting over our shyness about talking about God and our church so we can invite someone to join us! If you do, who knows what might happen? In the meantime, keep a sharp lookout for God's "new thing" in your own life and the life of our church. I'll be looking for you on Sunday!

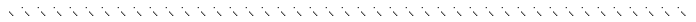
Your friend in Christ,
Rev. Ruth



October Birthdays



SABBATH CIRCLES News!



- 1 – Heather Stratton
- 1 – Judy Stratton
- 7 – Erin Gray
- 10 – Melissa Stratton
- 19 – Bobby Cornell
- 20 – Joan Edmond
- 23 – Barbara Colby
- 24 – Brooke Foster

Sunday, October 1 Blessing of the Animals!
 Bring a prized stuffed animal or any item associated with your pet to receive a blessing! Unfortunately we are not able to welcome your actual pet but we can still bless them in absentia using a photo or some item connected with them. Our storybook for the day is *The Velveteen Rabbit!*

“All in the Family” Potluck Fellowship Hour!
 Bring your favorite late morning snack to share and be ready for a good time of conversation and maybe a game or two. Also, the first Sabbath Circles *Pastor Chat* will happen at the pastor’s table for anyone interested...

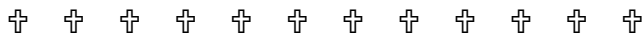
Study materials for the *October Home Sunday School unit* will be available!

- Our children’s stories series continues!**
- Sunday, Oct 8 *Be Who You Are*
 - Sunday, Oct 15 *Miss Rumphius*
 - Sunday, Oct 22 *Scuffy the Tugboat*
 - Sunday, Oct 29 *Llama, Llama, Red Pajama*

Happy Anniversary to:

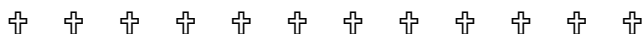
Erwin & Alice Dessaulles – 10-26-58

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



Diaconate Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Telephone #</u>
Oct 1	Bethany Foster	401-539-4003
Oct 8	Lynn Murray	401-539-7578
Oct 15	Ed Stratton	401-596-4740
Oct 22	Jenny Brummund	860-599-1719
Oct 29	Claire Calabretta	860-536-3625



Rev. Ruth’s Community Office Hours!
Thursdays from 2 – 4 pm at
The Savoy Bookstore & Café
in downtown Westerly

Come and chat about whatever is on your mind and heart.

Your friend and chatting partner, Rev. Ruth

UCCW WESTERLY'S RESPONSE TO THE HURRICANES!

Many thanks for your extraordinary response to the Deacons Fund Offering on September 3 for UCC Disaster Relief ministries. We sent a check for \$654 which is not too shabby! Of course, relief needs are ongoing and donations are always being accepted. You are urged to do so directly through the Disaster Ministries of the UCC. Response teams from Disaster Ministries are already on the ground in Texas, Florida, and Puerto Rico working alongside other faith partners. For the most current information on what support is needed and to make direct cash donations, please check out this link: www.ucc.org/disaster.

Also, please note that several of the churches of the Westerly-Pawcatuck Clergy Association are looking into the possibility of organizing a joint mission trip to work on hurricane relief in Texas sometime this spring. If this is something you would be interested in, kindly let Rev. Ruth know.

HARVEST TABLE



is combining with
POLAR FLEECE EXPRESS!



shutterstock · 85075216

to create a "harvest" of polar fleece blankets for pets and people! Join us on Wednesday, October 18 at 5:30 pm in Fellowship Hall for a simple supper of soup, salads and breads, including GF!

We will share in the meal, and a brief time of prayer and reflection. Then we will combine our talents to create a "harvest" of polar fleece creativity as we work together to create warm and snuggly blankets for people and pets. The plan is to sell them at the Bazaar then donating unsold items to local agencies. Hope you can join us! Sewing ability not needed! Please speak with Rev. Ruth for any questions.



Here's the latest buzz on the Pollinator Garden Project!

☺ **Check out** our "meadow in the making" as well as our cultivated gardens all around the church building! You can also check out the display and bulletin board in Fellowship Hall for all sorts of amazing information on pollinator friendly gardening and eco-friendly events and information. What we do to care for God's Creation matters!

☺ **Sunday, October 15 – Bulb Planting** in the lawn of the circular driveway immediately following worship. *Your help needed!!!*

☺ **Check out our new "God's Pollinator Work Zone" sign!!!** Special thanks to our very own "Renoir," Gary Davis for this wonderful and important sign!

☺ **Consider joining some of our Pollinator Garden folks at a local event:**

Cranberry Meadow Farm Open House
Saturday, October 14, 11 am – 1 pm
Potluck Lunch and Tour of this fully functional Sustainable Farm. Check out the flyer on the bulletin board outside Fellowship Hall. If you'd like to go, speak with Claire Calabretta asap!

A NOTE from the OFFICE:



Our new **Church Directory** of members & friends of the church is available for you to pick up in the office. Please stop by on Sunday mornings or on Mondays, Thursdays, and Fridays between 8:30 am – 1:30 pm to pick up your copy.

Some updates are already needed for our new directory! You are invited to contact the office for specifics.

"BOOKS" IS (back) IN THE BUILDING!



Next gathering is Tue, **October 10 @ 6 pm**
Potluck Supper at the church!

Our book for this gathering is:

Sally Hemings: A Novel

by Barbara Chase-Riboud

Bring your favorite autumn dish to share and join us for a fascinating glimpse into the life of Sally Hemings, the slave who was, for all intents and purposes, the wife of Thomas Jefferson. The book offers rare insights about the truth of what it was like to be a slave in the US. Should be a wonderful conversation, and a timely one! Books available at the Wilcox Library in Westerly on the second floor. Just say you're looking for the book for the UCC Westerly Book Group!



***Informational Meeting
for potential
Confirmands and their
parents!***

***Sunday, October 15
@ 11 am in the Parlor!***

Our topic of discussion will be
*Confirmation: What is it? When is it? What is
required? Why does it matter?*

Hope to see you there!

STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN



Dear friends of UCC,

The Stewardship Campaign for 2018 will kick-off on **October 15** and will continue through November 5 culminating with pledges received and dedicated on Sunday, **November 12** when the **annual brunch** will take place.

We, your Stewardship Committee, hope you will prayerfully consider how you can be involved in our ministry here at UCC with your commitment to pledge. With God's guidance your gift, be it time, talent or pledge of money will be used wisely and will be shared generously.

We hope to see you in Worship during this stewardship season. Four of your friends will share their thoughts of what our church means to them. See you in church.

Your Stewardship Committee,
Shirin Platt, Joann Spurley, & Sally Panciera

MUSIC NEWS



***YOU ARE INVITED TO
An Open Meeting of the
Music Committee
Sunday, October 8th
@ 11 am in the parlor***

Join us as we discuss the music ministry at our church. Everyone welcome!

MISSION MOMENT

A huge thank-you to everyone who helped to make our September Mission in Motion WARM meal a huge success. Whether you cut onions, browned ground beef, cut veggies or watermelon, mixed marshmallows with whipped cream, or helped to serve, you infused the noon WARM meal with love and compassion. YOU made a difference in the lives of the many clients at WARM.

Many thanks in advance to the Kitchen Committee members who will be providing the October WARM meal.

OCTOBER COLLECTION FOR PNC



In October we continue to collect canned fish and meats for the PNC. Please help fill our Mission buckets with these important staples for the needy families in our area.

LOOKING AHEAD

November and December will be dedicated to our two new holiday collections.



You can start shopping the sales right now for warm winter socks for all ages to decorate our **Christmas Sock Tree**. Area shelters have indicated that heavy socks are the most needed items during the cold winter months.



In December we will be distributing **Reverse Advent Baskets**, complete with lists of items needed the most by the area's homeless and needy population. The idea is to place an item from the list into the basket every day during the Advent Season. Saying a prayer to accompany each donation is a great way to enrich this activity.

SAVE THE DATE! Saturday, DECEMBER 2

With the weather still being summer-like, it's hard to believe it's time to begin thinking about the bazaar. Here are just a couple of things to keep in mind. The **small artificial trees** will be ready to decorate soon. Please consider taking one - or two - along with ornaments and lights to decorate. **Children's shopping** will be back this year. If you have a small gift idea or craft that kids would like to purchase for their family members, especially dads, please consider donating to that room. Multiples are great, but if you have a variety of small items to donate, that would help fill the room too. If you have *gift bags* or *other wrap* that would suit your donations, please send it along as well. We will be looking for workers in both areas for the week and day of the bazaar. More updates will follow as the time gets closer.

A "Bazaar Planning Meeting" is happening on Sunday, **October 22nd** @ **11 am** in the Parlor. Everyone involved with the Bazaar strongly urged to attend.

The Board of Deacons of UCC Westerly is pleased to announce...

QPR Mental Health Awareness Training
Thursday, October 12 from 6:30 – 8:30 pm
The Parlor

We are pleased to offer this basic mental health first aid training to any interested members of the congregation and their friends and colleagues. It will be especially valuable for parents, grandparents, teachers, coaches, scout leaders and anyone who cares about mental health in general and youth mental health in particular. Learn what the danger signs are when someone is in crisis and how to respond in a way that buys time long enough for expert assistance to be secured. We are very fortunate to be able to offer this workshop at NO COST due to community grant funding being provided. Advance registration is required and the workshop is limited to 25. Interested? Email or call the church office to register.

TWO SPECIAL INVITATIONS TO THE WOMEN OF UCC WESTERLY!

We are very excited to have not one but two opportunities for the women of UCC Westerly!

THE SECOND COMMUNITY WOMEN'S LUNCHEON hosted by the ladies of Central Baptist on Saturday, **October 21 @ 12 noon**

Note: This is the second luncheon, the first one having been held last spring at Pleasant Street Baptist Church which several of us attended and thoroughly enjoyed. Our turn is coming! Sign-up sheet outside Fellowship Hall.

A WOMEN'S RETREAT @ ENDERS ISLAND

"...come to me all you who are weary and heavy laden and I will give you rest"

Saturday, November 4

9 am – 4 pm

Cost: \$25 includes lunch and all materials

Sign-up sheet outside Fellowship Hall.

Payment due at time of sign-up!

Registration limited to 15!

PRAYER LIST



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

Madelyn Stratton	Shirley Harrington
Beverly & Family	Brian Madill
Shirley M.	Gerry
Scott & his parents	The Underhill Family
Connie	Nicci & Jeff
Allie	David Hall
Josh	Ben
Rev. Elizabeth King	Jesse B.
Bill Colprit	Bill & Phyllis Horne
Devyn Moynihan	Susan Moynihan-Freeman
Ruth King Roes	Laura
Bill Hoffman	Mauri Hainsworth

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: JoAnn Spurley

Web Master: Heather Stratton

CHURCH OFFICE SPECIFICS

Mailing Address: 9 Castle Hill Road
Pawcatuck, CT 06379

Telephone: **860-599-1226**

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

Website: **www.uccwesterly.org**

Office Hours: Monday, Thursday & Friday from
8:30 am – 1:30 pm