

From the Pastor...

“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.” – Matthew 11:28-30

Summer is here at last! As I write this in my office, a crystal clear blue sky proclaims the glory of God’s Creation in the midst of a beautiful June afternoon. A gentle breeze ruffles the leaves of the lilac bush just outside my window, undoubtedly planted by one of you in just the right spot for the pastor to enjoy on a day such as this. I treasure that lilac bush for many reasons, not the least of which is that it reminds me every time I look at it of how much you love your church, how much you have done for your church over the years.

Growing a church – *being* a church – is hard work. It is a task that is never done. A church, after all, is God’s house and we know there is always something more needing to be done around the house! But we also need to remember the importance of holy rest, Sabbath time. Rest is so integral to our faith that it is part of God’s earliest instructions to the Hebrews gathered at the foot of Mt. Sinai who were told in no uncertain terms that the Sabbath was to be honored always.

Jesus understood this need for holy rest and how damaging it is for us when we get stuck in “one more thing” mode for too long. As he addressed the crowds following him, he spoke the words quoted above revealing in them that he understands just how tired people can get. So much of life is hard work, in Jesus’ time and in our own. That’s why Jesus invites us to come to him in our tiredness, in our weariness and share our burdens with him. That’s what yoking is! A yoke shares the load being carried so that the effort required is less for each. That’s what Jesus wants us to remember every time we come into the church, Christ’s own gathered community. We come here to share and support each other in all the work to be done. That way it’s not too much for any of us.

So as we enter summer time when life slows down a little even as the beach and the golf course and the fishing rods beckon, I hope you’ll find time to join us for worship on at least some of our Sunday mornings. But I also encourage you to make the time for your own holy rest. Take a walk. Sit down in the sun with a good book. Find that perfect bench in Wilcox Park to watch the world walk by. It is in those sacred, unhurried moments when it is easiest to hear God whispering in our ear. It is in those quiet times that we find the renewal we need to be about God’s work in the world.

Have a blessed and renewing summer – and get ready for a rocking good time this fall!

Blessings,
Pastor Ruth

Watch for these exciting new programs this fall:

- **Family Fun Fridays** program for Sunday School age children and their families being coordinated by the CE Board.
- A new **Bible Study Series** on the “Bad Girls” and “Bad Boys” of the Bible led by Pastor Ruth. Day and time to be determined.
- A **Women’s Fellowship Retreat!** Pastor Ruth is researching locales and topics over the summer!
- A **Confirmation experience** for 8th, 9th and 10th graders in which we will explore the “ABC’s” of UCC in all sorts of surprising and non-boring ways.

Diaconate Schedule

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

Elizabeth Ball	Pat Donovan	Jimmy
Ann Brown	Barbara	Barbara Simmons
Charlie Wright	Madelyn Stratton	Sandi Davis
Doris Gouvin	Fred	Jeff
Catherine	Debbie	Jim
Millie Silver	Carole Lennon	Jonathan Salovitz
Vince Amkhamavong, U.S. Marines		Shirley Harrington
Alice	John Dillon	Sheryl
David Jones	Ron Madill	Lisa
The Pendleton Family	Beverly and Family	Janice
The Bill Stetson Family	Ian Bietch	

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.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Telephone</u>
Jul 1	Claire Calabretta	(860) 536-3625
Jul 8	Pam DelPozo-Waldron	(860) 495-5389
Jul 15	Lynn Murray	(401) 539-7578
Jul 22	Gary Davis	(860) 599-4279
Jul 29	Ed Stratton	(401) 596-4740
Aug 5	Chris Fuller	(401) 315-2282
Aug 12	Brenda Cornell	(860) 599-3580
Aug 19	Melissa Stratton	(401) 596-4740
Aug 26	Jenny Brummund	(860) 599-1719

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Barbara Murano Scholarship Winners

CONGRATULATIONS to the following recipients:

Robert C. Cornell
Erin Gray
Karen Meara
Alison Schilke
Sara Schilke
Emma Sugar

A NEW CHURCH DIRECTORY IS IN THE WORKS!

Watch for more details throughout the summer as photography dates are set for late September. You will be receiving an "automated" phone call from Pastor Ruth sometime this summer inviting you to participate in the directory so please don't be surprised when you hear her recorded voice coming over your phone. This may seem a little odd, but this automated calling procedure saves church members the work of calling everyone! However, we still need an *on-site coordinator* and *help with publicity, sign-ups* and *hosting on photography days*. If you have a few hours to volunteer on this very important project, please speak with Pastor Ruth or Susan in the office anytime.

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JULY & AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Birthdays in July:

Ann Brown – 13
Mark Comito – 13
Bobbie DelPozo-Waldron – 19
Ane Torres – 21
Ed Schilke – 22
Angela Ferrara – 23
Angelo Ferrara – 23
Jim Cornell – 27
Elvis Torres – 31

Birthdays in August:

Rosemary Jette – 1
Liz Dessaulles - 10
Amanda Dessaulles - 13
Raymond Allen – 19
Randi Allen – 25
Shirley Miller – 30

Happy Anniversary to:

Elvis & Ane Torres – July 20
Eugene & Carolyn LeRoy – 8-4-62
Andy & Heidi Schilke – August 4

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

Free Summer Breakfast & Lunch for Kids!

Hamburger, grinders, pizza, brunch for lunch!

In partnership with the Stonington Board of Education, Stonington Human Services will again be sponsoring the **USDA Summer Food Grant Program**, which provides FREE breakfast and lunch to youth 18 and younger. The site is open to all children, regardless of income. NO paperwork is required in order to be served. Simply walk in!

Here is the schedule:

Stonington High School – June 14 – August 17
(Site closed July 4th)

Monday – Friday from 8 – 9 AM and 11:30 AM – Noon
Call Stonington Human Services at 860-535-5015 for more information.

News from Christian Education

Baseball Game & All-Church Picnic

Would you like to go to a **CT Tigers Baseball Game**? Check out the Christian Ed bulletin board in Fellowship Hall (under the WELCOME sign)! Game time is 7:05 p.m. on Saturday, **July 14th**, and the tickets cost \$7.00 each. Just sign up on the LARGE sign-up sheet posted there!

The Christian Ed board is sponsoring an **All-Church Picnic** at the Stonington High School Pavilion. Plan to come at Noon on Sunday, **August 26th**! *Please bring a dish to share*. Hotdogs and hamburgers will be provided by Christian Ed. Don't forget to sign up! Thanks.

Vacation Time

Pastor Ruth will be on vacation from Monday, **August 6th** through and including Sunday, **August 19th**. While she is away Rev. Dr. Beverly Edwards, our Acting Conference Minister, will be preaching on Sunday, August 12th and our Deacons will lead the service on Sunday, August 19th.

Susan will be out of the office on her vacation on Monday, July 30th, and Thursday & Friday, August 2nd & 3rd.

Mission News

The **UCC Coffee Project** is another name for one of our ongoing missions. You may also know it as **Equal Exchange, Fairly Traded**. This is the little table where you can purchase coffee, tea, chocolate and other items in Fellowship Hall. Just to let you know, our church and the UCC do not make any profit from these sales; the money from our sales is sent directly to the growers and owners of small farms in Latin America, Africa, Asia, and the U.S. to help them build a better future for themselves and their families. The farmers earn a fair price for their products, have access to affordable credit, and gain a long-term trading partner they can trust.

We have some new products to offer: Organic Camomile Tea, Organic Peppermint Tea, Organic Darjeeling Tea, Organic Espresso Bean Chocolate, and Organic "Mind, Body, and Soul" coffee (medium/Vienna roast). There is a **price-list** at the table. We sell "at cost" with no mark-up.

Every second Sunday is "**Mission Sunday**." This is always the Sunday that our church sponsors the Westerly WARM Center meal. The boards and committees are assigned a month in the year for this local mission. The WARM Center meal for Sunday, **July 8th**, is going to be the responsibility of the *Congregation!* *We will be asking for VOLUNTEERS to give the committee members a break.* The meal for Sunday, **August 12th**, is going to be the responsibility of the *Kitchen and Nominating Committees*.

The Mission Committee has decided to add a food/living supplies offering on each Mission Sunday to better benefit the **Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center (PNC)**, our other local mission. Please bring a few items to place in the wicker basket on the floor near the altar. It is our hope that with this monthly ritual, we will remember to generously feed our neighbors. Please note expiration dates on food. Items of particular need are *coffee, fruit juice, canned milk, and mashed potatoes*. Glass jars are acceptable. The Red Buckets are located in Fellowship Hall under the Mission bulletin board.

-Jenny Brummund for Missions

Healing & Peace Services

Services for Healing and Peace will continue on **July 25th** and **August 22nd** at **7:00 p.m.** in our sanctuary, our contribution to the *Summer of Peace-Westerly 2012*. Plan now to join us for these brief meditative services offering prayers and anointing for healing along with our ponderings of *shalom*, God's vision of peace for the world which fills the pages of our Bible.

**IS A WORLD WITHOUT COMPUTERS IMPOSSIBLE
FOR YOU TO IMAGINE?**

***IS TEXTING YOUR PREFERRED MEANS OF
COMMUNICATION?***

DO YOU "GET" FACEBOOK?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, then please take 10 seconds to finish reading this notice. If you didn't answer yes but know someone who would if only they read the Beacon, then please show them this notice! UCC Westerly needs a little bit of your time as a participant in a technology committee. We will be getting together to discuss everything from what kind of computer we need in the office to upgrading the website to establishing a UCCW Facebook page. Youth and college age kids home for the summer are especially needed! If you are interested, please email Pastor Ruth at mrsh1121@verizon.net right away!!

WELCOME
to the following New Members:

***Joan Bauer
Jack Hainsworth
Peter Hainsworth
Ruth Hainsworth
Karen Meara***

ICE CARD

*Would you be interested in a **UCC Westerly ICE card**?*

Perhaps if you knew what it is, you would be! An ICE card is a wallet size "In Case of Emergency" card which you would keep in your wallet with your medical cards. It provides official written permission, with your signature, for the hospital to call Pastor Ruth if you are admitted to the hospital when you may be unable to give permission yourself. This is very important because the new federal HIPPA regulations forbid the hospital from contacting anyone about you without your permission. These cards would not replace your other emergency contact arrangements with family members. It just gives the hospital permission to notify Pastor Ruth you have been admitted. Blank ICE cards are available on the table outside the sanctuary door which leads to Fellowship Hall. Please speak with Pastor Ruth with any questions you may have about the ICE card.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

"Blessing of the Backpacks"

Our first annual "*Blessing of the Backpacks*" will take place during morning worship on Sunday, **August 26**. We will be blessing and celebrating everyone returning to school, students as well as teachers and staff along with those who love them. People desiring to participate can bring a backpack, lunch kit, brief case, pencil kit, canvas bag -- you get the picture -- whatever they will carry with them as they return to begin a new school year so that it can be blessed along with themselves. Then, plan to join us for the old fashioned all church picnic! Details on the picnic appear elsewhere. See you then!