

From the Pastor...

May 2013

*“Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.”
When he had said this, Jesus breathed on them
and said to them ‘Receive the Holy Spirit.’”* John 20:21-22

The scene described above in the verses from John is one of several versions of the coming of the Holy Spirit to the disciples after Jesus’ death, also known as Pentecost. When we think of Pentecost, we usually recall the famous story in Acts 2 when the disciples are all together in one room. Suddenly a roar of great wind filled the space and little tongues of fire appeared over each of the disciples’ heads. At this moment, the Holy Spirit enters them quite dramatically and they suddenly begin speaking in other languages showing that they are now able to share the Good News of Jesus with anyone and everyone. This is indeed a great story in so many ways but I confess that I like John’s gentler version of the Holy Spirit’s arrival among the disciples better because it is Jesus himself imparting the Spirit to them. No fanfare. No great rush of wind. No dancing flames. No throngs gathering outside to see what the ruckus is all about. Just Jesus and the disciples and an intimate moment when he gifts them directly with all they need to continue the work he had begun – the Holy Spirit transmitted in a breath.

Whichever version of the Pentecost story we recall, our church’s celebration of Pentecost this year will be on Sunday, May 19. Considered the birthday of the Christian Church, Pentecost is traditionally the day when Confirmands join the church and this year we have the joy and privilege of confirming four young people into the adult life of this church. Having gotten to know these four exceptional young people through our Confirmation experience, I *know* they, like all of their generation, already speak and move with ease in the new 21st century world of technology and computerized social networking which leaves speechless those of us who are older. This is why I *know* they will bring a breath of new life and emerging possibilities with them as they enter into full membership with the church through confirmation. This is why I *know* God needs them and we need them and the amazing gifts they bring with them into their church.

Ours has definitely been a nontraditional Confirmation experience since I was determined it not be a class in the traditional sense. We have attempted to talk together about God and the Bible and prayer and worship and all those things Confirmation is supposed to talk about. But we have also tried to experience what life in the church is really like

because it is in our shared life together as the people of God that we discover what it is God expects of us even as God nurtures and loves us. Worshipping together, working together, caring for each other – this is the heart and soul of the church and this is what I hoped they would be able to discover in some small way for themselves. Only time will tell.

So on this Confirmation Sunday I hope you will support these four wonderful young people – Brooke Foster, Eric Sadowski, Lindsay Walker, John Walker – with your enthusiastic presence at their Confirmation and a special reception to follow hosted by the Deacons. They are becoming part of you in a whole new way on that day and you really should be there if for no other reason than to renew your own encounter with the breath of the Holy Spirit I’m sure will be blowing through our church on that wonderful day. Remember to wear red and watch out for unexpected breezes and dancing flames because you just never know what the Holy Spirit will do.... And that’s a good thing!

Blessings,

Pastor Ruth

Don’t Forget Mission 4/1 Earth!

We’ll be counting and tallying hours through May 19 so don’t forget to let us count all those hours you are working in the yard at home!!! And let us know if you plant any trees too because it all counts toward the national goal. Be sure to check the Tally Board display in Fellowship Hall to see where we and the UCC stand in reaching our goals!

TAKE UCCW & THE BEACON ON VACATION!

Let’s see how far and wide we can spread the news about our church this summer! How? It’s simple! Just take this copy of the *Beacon* with you on your travels near and far this summer and take a photo of yourself holding it in whatever places you visit. Then print the photo and bring it in to add to our “UCCW On The Road” display in Fellowship Hall! Plus, send us a postcard and we’ll add it to the display!

MAY BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday to:

Brian Johnson – 3
 Charlotte Korean – 4
 Gregory Sugar – 5
 Gene LeRoy – 7
 Nicholas Schilke – 9
 Rev. Kathleen Crockford -10
 Daniel Stratton – 20
 Susan Moynihan - 27



Happy Anniversary to:

Mark & Elizabeth Dessaulles – May 6

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

Operation Christmas Child

In order to prepare for OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD in the fall, we will be requesting a different item each month that will be included in our shoeboxes. For May, it's **wash cloths –singles or packs**. There will be a collection box in the foyer. Empty shoeboxes are also appreciated.

Come Join Us and Be BAD!

The Spring calendar for Sundays is jam-packed this year so it's taken awhile but the last three sessions of this year's BAD Bible Study are planned as follows:

Sunday, May 26 "Herodias" Chapter 10 in *Bad Girls of the Bible*
 Sunday, June 16 "The Adulterous Woman" Chapter 11
 Sunday, June 30 "Sapphira" Chapter 12



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

Elizabeth Ball	Ann Brown	Jimmy
Charlie Wright	Barbara	Barbara Simmons
Madelyn Stratton	Sandi Davis	Fred
Catherine	Jeff	Jim
Millie Silver	Debbie	Shirley Harrington
Beverly and Family	Carole Lennon	Lisa
Vince Amkhamavong, U.S. Marines		John Dillon
Susan & Devin	Sheryl	David Jones
Doris	Jennifer Clancon	Christine Knox
Eugene Ravenelle	Brian Madill	Charlene
Captain Andrew McCarthy, Army Infantry		Pamela & family
Perry family		

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.

Strengthen the Church Offering May 19th

This offering of the United Church of Christ supports our commitment as a denomination to grow the UCC's future by funding "The Stillspeaking Ministry" and lay and pastoral leadership formation—especially among women and people of color. It helps to strengthen and renew existing congregations, and fund leadership for new ones. It provides for leadership development experiences for all ages—youth and adults alike. Your generous gifts are administered by your Conference in Rhode Island, by Local Church Ministries, and The Stillspeaking Ministry. For your convenience an envelope is enclosed in the newsletter.

Men's Club – The Men's Club will hold their dinner meeting on **May 8th at 6:00 pm** at Dunn's Corners Pizza in Westerly. If you have any questions, please contact Phil Panciera.

Mission Memos

Thank you for your faithful donations to the **Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center**. Remember to mark the **second Sunday** of the month for an extra generous offering, which can be placed in the basket on the chancel (near the altar) before worship or during the first hymn. The following food items are currently running low: *coffee, jam or jelly, and canned pineapple*. Of course, any and all donations are so needed. There are red buckets in Fellowship Hall and in the upper parking lot sanctuary foyer. The “Living Supplies Closet” always needs #5 and #6 diapers, liquid dish detergent and laundry detergent.

Equal Exchange, Fairly Traded items are available on the cart in Fellowship Hall. We have *coffee, tea, baking cocoa, and chocolate bars*. Please **stop at the Mission Cart to purchase these items** and to check out these products—*Organic Chamomile Tea, Organic Peppermint Tea, Organic Darjeeling Tea, Organic Espresso Bean Chocolate, & Organic “Mind, Body, & Soul” coffee (medium Vienna roast)*. You may help yourself or ask a Mission Committee member for assistance. The price list & collection tin are on the cart. We sell “at cost” with no mark-up.



REMINDER: The **WARM CENTER meal** for Sunday, May 12th, is going to be the responsibility of the *Board of Deacons*. The Mission Committee appreciates everyone’s efforts in making meals for this important outreach mission every month.

Annual Barbara Murano Scholarship Ham & Bean Dinner

Saturday, May 11th, 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.

- *Sponsored by the Deacons to raise money to grant yearly scholarships to our church members of any age who are pursuing higher education!*
- *Those interested in applying for the scholarship are encouraged to help out before, during, or after the dinner if possible.*

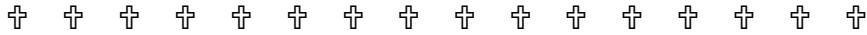


MENU: Baked Ham, Homemade Baked Beans, Brown Bread, Cole Slaw, a variety of freshly baked Desserts, and Beverages

**Cost: \$10.00 – single ticket
\$25.00 – for a Family
*Take-out is available.***

Donations of baked beans, brown bread, and gingerbread or other desserts would be greatly appreciated. Deacons are also seeking help with set up and clean up. Please sign up on the sign-up sheet that is posted on the bulletin board to the right of the doors into Fellowship Hall.

Barbara Murano was a member and Deacon of our church. After her death on September 9, 1990, the Diaconate Board established a scholarship in her memory. Scholarships are awarded to members of the church who are continuing their formal education in some manner. To help support this fund and keep it growing, the Diaconate Board has a Ham & Bean Dinner each year. Please support this worthy cause and enjoy a great dinner and fellowship.



Diaconate Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Telephone</u>
May 5	Brenda Cornell	(860) 599-3580
May 12	Melissa Stratton	(401) 596-4740
May 19	Claire Calabretta	(860) 536-3625
May 26	Elvis Torres	(860) 599-5572



Spring Concert

Calling all amateur musicians and vocalists of all ages and levels of skill! We are putting together a **SPRING CONCERT** for one Sunday in June and we would love to have you be a part of it. Please speak with Darla, Pastor Ruth, or any member of the Music Committee (*Janet Allen, Pam Del Pozo-Waldron, Brenda Cornell, Peter Hainsworth, Alona Comito*) for more information.

SO, WHAT ARE YOU READING?

As summer approaches at last, many of us are in the mood for a really good book and who better to ask for suggestions than our UCCW church family? So, if you've found a really good book you'd like to recommend to us here at the church, please be in touch with Susan in the office or Pastor Ruth with your suggestions. Kindly include the title and author's name and give us an idea of how you'd rate it using our own internal rating symbol – the Lighthouse! 5 lighthouses mean you couldn't put it down and 1 lighthouse means it was worth reading but just barely. (Anything less than that would mean you wouldn't recommend it in the first place!) Our UCCW Summer Reading List will be published in the June edition of the *Beacon*.

Sunday School Juice Box Collection



The youth of the church are collecting **juice boxes and bottled water** for the Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center's food pantry. These items are especially needed as we head towards the hot weather of summer. Please place your donations in the special box in Fellowship Hall between **May 19 & June 9**. (No soda, please.) Thank you very much for helping with this community service project!

HERE ARE SOME ADDITIONAL EVENTS YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS!

Wednesday, May 1 @ 5:30pm Fellowship Hall

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP POTLUCK – Come and join us for food, fellowship and crafting some special gifts for our Confirmants! All the women of the church are welcome!

Friday, May 31 @ 6pm

FAMILY FUN FRIDAY SPRING COOK-OUT AND GAME NIGHT -- All our Sunday School families and friends are invited to this special event celebrating our first year as the Family Fun Friday group. Watch for details by email!

Saturday, June 1 from 9am - 1pm in the Fellowship Hall

CONGREGATIONAL PLANNING RETREAT – All members of the church's boards, committees and groups are encouraged to participate in this important event where we will engage in bible study, prayer and conversation as we plan the calendar of events and activities for our church family for the next program year which begins in September.