

“Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking with us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?” Luke 24:32

When was the last time something had you so excited, so worked up, that you felt like you were on fire with energy and enthusiasm? I’m betting it was a long time ago, if you can even remember such an experience in your life. Yet, it is exactly this kind of energizing, heart burning, kind of response to Jesus that compelled his earliest followers to carry on his ministry after his death and resurrection. Jesus was no longer with them as he had been before to be sure, but something incredible was still happening in their midst – something the above text is attempting to capture in words.

Two followers of Jesus – not two of the disciples, just two regular folks – were walking to Emmaus from Jerusalem later on in the same day as Jesus’ miraculous resurrection. A stranger comes and falls into step beside them, asking them what they are discussing so intently. They quickly tell him everything that has happened and how confusing it is to them. The stranger responds by explaining to them, point by point, how all that has happened was in accordance with the Hebrew scriptures. As they come to town, the stranger moves to continue on but they urge him to come with them to rest and enjoy a meal. He accepts and it was then, as he blessed the bread, that they realized they had been walking and talking with the Risen Christ. “Were not our hearts burning within us,” they say to each other.

This hearts afire energy is smoldering in churches everywhere as glowing embers. The potential for burning hearts is still there, waiting for the right kindling to erupt into flames once more. The question for us – indeed for all churches that want to find ways to move forward into God’s future – then becomes, how do we set our hearts aflame once more with the passion of those first followers of the Risen Christ? What kindling do we need? How do we fan the flames of the Spirit in our midst? What is the

call to us as followers of Jesus 2000 years distant from that long ago conversation? Who does Jesus need us to become? How do we get there?

As the long awaited hot summer days are upon us, I hope you’ll take some time as the heat shimmers around you to think about those long ago burning hearts and imagine what it might be like to rekindle them here at our church. What might God be hoping we’ll do? How is God inviting us to consider doing new things in new ways? What is God asking us to hold on to even as God is asking us to let go of some things? All these are pondering questions, dear friends. And summer is a wonderful time to ponder. I’ll be anxious to hear the results of your ponderings as they begin to take shape! In the meantime, have a wonderful, relaxing and renewing summer. Don’t be a stranger in worship, though. God’s not going anywhere so it’s a good idea to keep in touch...

Blessings,
Pastor Ruth



Vacation Time

Pastor Ruth will be on vacation from Monday, **July 29th** through and including Sunday, **August 11th**. While she is away Rev. Sharon Key will be preaching on Communion Sunday, August 4th and our Deacons will lead the service in a Hymn Sing on Sunday, August 11th.

Susan will be out of the office on her vacation on Monday, August 5th, and Thursday & Friday, August 8th & 9th. Volunteers have offered to be in the office from approximately 9:00 am to 12 noon. Please call ahead.

JULY & AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday in JULY to:

Ann Brown – 13
Mark Comito – 13
Bobbie DelPozo-Waldron -
Ane Torres – 21
Ed Schilke – 22
Jim Cornell – 27
Dale D. Brummund – 28
Elvis Torres – 30



Happy Birthday in AUGUST to:

Rosemary Jette – 1
Liz Dessaulles - 10
Amanda Dessaulles - 13
Shirley Miller – 30

Happy Anniversary to:

Elvis & Ane Torres – July 20, 2002
Eugene & Carolyn LeRoy – August 4, 1962
Andy & Heidi Schilke – August 4

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

Save the date! A Women's Fellowship Lunch will be held at Sally Panciera's home on Thursday, **July 25**, at **12:30 pm**. All the women of the church are warmly invited. A sign-up sheet will be posted.

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

The next **Church Council meeting** will be held on Sunday, **July 14th** at **11:00 am** in the Parlor. All Council Members please submit your reports for the meeting to Cathy Gray by **April 1st**.

Electronic submissions are preferred. (Cathy's email address is graygc@mindspring.com) Thank you.

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 the foyer, Fellowship Hall and in the upper parking lot sanctuary foyer.

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. You may help yourself or ask a Mission Committee member for assistance. The price list & collection tin are on the cart.



REMINDER: The **WARM CENTER** meal for Sunday, **July 14th** is going to be the responsibility of the **Congregation**. There is a sign-up sheet on the hallway bulletin board with suggested items for donation. Please bring your donations to church on (or before) July 14th, with a clear label for the WARM Center. The Mission Committee will transport the food to the Center. We especially ask members who are not currently serving on a board or committee (or just feel able at this time) to contribute to July's meal. *Thank you so much!* The Mission Committee appreciates everyone's efforts in making meals for this important outreach mission every month.



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

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

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.

News from Christian Education **Baseball Game & All-Church Picnic**

Would you like to go to a **CT Tigers Baseball Game** with **Fireworks** on Saturday, **July 5th**? Check out the sign-up sheet on the Christian Ed bulletin board in Fellowship Hall! The tickets cost \$7.00 each. Just sign up on the sign-up sheet posted there by **June 26th**. Please give your check or cash to Susan Lanphere. Thanks!

The Christian Ed board is sponsoring an **All-Church Picnic** at the Stonington High School Pavilion. Plan to come at Noon on Sunday, **August 25th**! Don't forget to sign up in Fellowship Hall. Thanks.

Congratulations

to our Barbara Murano **Scholarship Recipients:**

-Robert Cornell is transferring from Mitchell College to Fayetteville State University in North Carolina studying communications.

-Jamie Foster will be a Freshman at Bryant University in Smithfield, RI studying accounting.

-Megan Gray will be a Freshman at University of Rhode Island focusing on a degree in environmental studies.

-Erin Gray will be a Senior at University of Rhode Island – Bachelor of Fine Arts in Theater with a concentration in stage management.

† † † † † † † † † † † † † † † †

Diaconate Schedule

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Name</u> | <u>Telephone</u> |
|-------------|---------------------|------------------|
| Jul 7 | Ane Torres | (860) 599-5572 |
| Jul 14 | Bethany Foster | (401) 539-4003 |
| Jul 21 | Pam DelPozo-Waldron | (860) 495-5389 |
| Jul 28 | Elvis Torres | (860) 599-5572 |
| Aug 4 | Brenda Cornell | (860) 599-3580 |
| Aug 11 | Melissa Stratton | (401) 596-4740 |
| Aug 18 | Claire Calabretta | (860) 536-3625 |
| Aug 25 | Elvis Torres | (860) 599-5572 |

† † † † † † † † † † † † † † † †

Operation Christmas Child

Thank you for the wonderful response to the Operation Christmas Child specific monthly requests. When these items are combined with other items that have been purchased or donated, we should be able to ship many boxes in the fall. For those of you unfamiliar with the project, it is *sponsored by Samaritan's Purse*. We collect items and ship them in shoeboxes to boys and girls around the world of specific ages: 2-4, 5-9, and 10-14. The boxes are filled with items we would take for granted but are luxuries for children living in poverty or in disaster areas. We will plan a packing party in the fall to fill the shoeboxes, and we will be requesting \$7.00 for each box for shipping.

In July & August we will be collecting ***school supplies***. September heads up: *toothpaste & toothbrushes!* Items specifically for the 2-4 age range are always needed. It is possible to squeeze in a fleece blanket and include many other small items around it! Something warm AND soft can be a real treat.
- Lynn Murray



A Few Suggestions for your Summer Reading!

Here are some suggestions members of our UCCW church family are recommending for your reading pleasure this summer:

Proof of Heaven by Dr. E. Alexander

Mary Queen of Scots by Margaret George

Christianity After Religion by Diana Butler Bass

Inferno by Dan Brown

The 19th Wife by David Ebershoff

Reading teacher Lynn Murray has also shared with us the Summer Reading List she prepares each summer for her teacher colleagues. It is posted on the bulletin board outside Fellowship Hall. You'll want to check it out! Thanks for sharing, Lynn!

Stewardship News:

Hosts for this fall's "Getting Connected" Meetings

The Stewardship Committee would like to know if you are interested in hosting one of this fall's "Getting Connected" meetings. Last fall we had six meetings with between 10 and 20 members of our church family at each one and a good time was had by all! This fall we would like to have 5 volunteers to host our meetings in their homes once a weekend (Thursday – Sunday) from **September 15** through **October 27**. A Stewardship Committee member will be at each meeting to facilitate the program. If you are interested in hosting a meeting, contact either Susan in the church office (860-599-1226) or Jay Macko directly for choices of when and where you would like to host your meeting. Thank you for your consideration.
-
The Stewardship Committee

Share Your Summer Fun with Us!

Bring us a photo of your summer experiences and we'll add them to the bulletin boards in Fellowship Hall! Watch for our "Summer Fun" board to take shape!

Visitation Team

The Visitation Team has a selection of medical equipment downstairs in the 3rd room on the right. Included are crutches, canes, walkers, & commodes. Anyone may borrow an item as needed by signing out to Susan in the office or speaking with me. When you are finished with the item, please remember to let us know it has been returned.

At present there is a wheelchair in the entry foyer from the upper parking lot. This remains for use in any emergency in the building, but not to be removed from the church.

Thank you for any comments or suggestions or donations for this room.
- *Barbara Colby, V-Team*

Pastor Ruth is usually in the church office on Monday and Thursday mornings or you can reach her anytime by cell #401-663-7934 or email: mrsh1121@verizon.net

OUR STAFF

Pastor: The Rev. Ruth Shilling Hainsworth
Organist: Darla Rines
Sunday School Contact Persons: Tanya Sylvestre & Susan Lanphere
Secretary: Susan Perreault *Sexton:* Sonya Johnson

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: 8:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
