

The Beacon

NOVEMBER 2013



GOOD NEWS from

United Congregational Church of Westerly

United Church of Christ, Pawcatuck, CT

Sunday Worship ~ 9:30 am

FROM THE PASTOR ...

*"I thank my God every time I remember you,
constantly praying with joy in every one of my
prayers for all of you"* *Philippians 1:3*

November has always been one of my favorite months ever since I was a little girl. Perhaps it's because this is the month of my birthday (although that might be a reason NOT to like it as I seem to get older every year). Perhaps it's because November is when we celebrate two of my favorite holidays – All Saints Day and Thanksgiving.

Yes, All Saints Day is a holiday, at least in the church. Celebrated on the First Sunday in November, All Saints Sunday was originally a remembrance of all saints, living and dead. Today All Saints Sunday is when we remember and honor all of our departed loved ones now in God's nearer presence. Such will be the case in our church on **November 3** when everyone is invited to bring a photo or memento of a departed loved one to worship. You will have the opportunity to add your photo or item to the altar during the service as a part of a liturgy to remember those loved ones now gone even as we honor their continuing importance in our lives. I hope you can join us.

Then, of course, there is Thanksgiving. If ever there was a holiday laden with expectations, this is one of them. All those Norman Rockwell images of the perfectly roasted turkey on a platter being plunked down in the middle of an already sumptuous table dance in our heads, no matter how distant from our reality it may be. Norman Rockwell perfection notwithstanding, I have always loved Thanksgiving. My table is set with my best china, silver and glassware arrayed on my grandmother's white damask tablecloth. Like you, on this day we revel in our own family traditions and recipes unique to us, reminding us of who we really are in the midst of a fragmented world.

One of our traditions, and I am guessing you have a similar one, is to take a moment as the meal begins for each to offer a word of thanks for the blessings of God most on our minds and hearts in that moment. These prayers are usually a reflection of the year just passed since those last Thanksgiving blessings were counted – gratitude for a new job, for renewed health, for exciting prospects, for friendships cherished and family rediscovered. I must confess, while I love Thanksgiving Dinner and all the fixings, it is these moments of prayer together as a family which I treasure most. This is what feels most real, most right, most renewing to me.

So as you anticipate your Thanksgiving this year, however and wherever you will celebrate it, I hope you will take a moment to count your blessings and share them out loud with God and each other. I think you'll find it seasons the meal better than anything else you could add. Oh, and by the way, when I'm counting my blessings, each of you and this wonderful church we love together will be front and center. Have a wonderful holiday.

Blessings,

Pastor Ruth

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP MEETING

Tuesday, Nov. 5 @ 6pm.

This is an open invitation to all the women of the church to join us for an evening of food and fellowship. Come by yourself or bring a friend. You'll be glad you did! If you'd like to come but don't have a ride or don't like to drive at night, just let Pastor Ruth know and we'll get you here!! See you then.

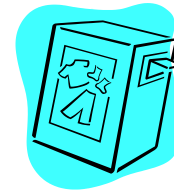
Mission Memos

Your Missions Committee has been hard at work and has come up with some new projects as well as some new twists on old favorites. Read on!

➤ **WARM Center Meals** -- We're sharing the wealth of experiences with everyone instead of just assigning boards and committees to dates so we hope you'll consider how you can support our once a month commitment to provide a WARM Center meal. Here are your options:

- Pull together a group of friends from the church or elsewhere, decide on a month to host and sign up on the sheet in Fellowship Hall. You then either prepare a meal for 50 OR provide the ingredients for a meal for 50 OR provide funding for a meal in the form of a check or cash. Note that if you are providing either an entire prepared meal or the ingredients for a meal, you are responsible for delivery of the meal/ingredients to the WARM Center on Spruce Street on the Sunday it is due. Cash donations need to be provided to WARM by no later than Friday preceding the Sunday so there is sure to be a meal available that day.
- Support our own monthly Deacons Fund Emergency Fund Special Offering on Communion Sundays because the Deacons have agreed to provide funding for any months in which no one signs up to host or sponsor the meal beginning in January 2014.

REMINDER: The **WARM CENTER meal** for Sunday, **November 10th** is going to be the responsibility of the **Christian Ed Board**. For **December 8th** – the **Mission Committee**.



➤ **The Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center (PNC)** has requested our assistance in November with two specific items always in short supply: small boxes of tissues (80 count size) and laundry detergent once again. Please bring your items to worship on or before Sunday, **November 10** and we'll get it to the PNC!

➤ Our booth at the **Christmas Bazaar** will once again feature items from **SERRV**. These beautiful handmade gifts and crafts from around the world are not only unique, they also support local artisans working their way out of poverty around the globe. Check out the info on SERRV on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall. A SERRV catalog is also available in the office!

➤ **The Hat & Mitten Tree** in Fellowship Hall is just waiting for you to add something to its branches, helping children who might not have enough warm clothing to get through the winter.



Thanks for all your help! Please speak to any member of the Missions Committee with your ideas and questions. –

*Dixie Lufbery, Jenny Brummund,
Christina Brummund, Peter Hainsworth*

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Diaconate Schedule

Date Name & Telephone

Nov 3 Brenda Cornell (860) 599-3580

Nov 10 Melissa Stratton (401) 596-4740

Nov 17 Claire Calabretta (860) 536-3625

Nov 24 Elvis Torres (860) 599-5572

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Birthdays

5 Megan Gray

6 Kali Bogue

21 John Walker

25 Christina Brummund

26 Alison Schilke

26 Sara Schilke

29 Caleb Stratton

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

EVERYONE'S INVITED!

Potluck Supper & Craft Night!!

Friday, November 15, 6-8 pm.

The Family Fun Fellowship group is inviting everyone in the church who likes to do crafts to join us for this event focusing on food, fellowship and fun. Plus, we hope to get an assortment of craft items made which can be sold at the Bazaar to benefit the Sunday School and Youth programs especially. So, please bring your favorite potluck dish, your favorite craft idea and the supplies to do it and join us for an evening with your church family.

Operation Christmas Child

Our recent Operation Christmas Child/Women's Fellowship shoebox packing party was a success, especially because of the items that had already been donated. There are still some wrapped boxes and starter items if anyone would like to pack a box of their own. Supplies are in the first room on the middle level. Our next priority will be to collect the \$7.00 shipping for each one so the boxes can get to a needy child. Some of the boxes have already been sponsored for shipping. The consensus was that collecting an item each

month made the project go smoothly, so we will plan on that again for next year. Since we plan to start earlier, and there are a couple of items that we have surplus of, suggestions of what else we can collect would be appreciated. Thank you to everyone for your time and donations.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BAZAAR & TEA & SILENT AUCTION

Saturday, December 7, 2013

10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Please support our annual event!

Bazaar sign-up sheets are in Fellowship Hall. Please do not hesitate to ask questions about any of the areas. Many hands are needed that week, as well as the week before! Don't forget that all of the following rooms will need help:

The Silent Auction – Enter a bid for a wide selection of goods!

Traditional Tea - Treat yourself or someone special to tea, sandwiches, and sweets!

Gift Baskets – a wide variety of beautifully wrapped baskets filled with wonderful gifts – something for everyone!

SERRV/ Missions – unique gifts hand-crafted by artisans from other countries and Fair Trade food items.

Nostalgia Boutique – vintage linens, small antiques, festive gift baskets, and other pretty things.

Nostalgia Boutique Annex – beautiful pieces of costume and vintage jewelry and other beautiful things.

Greens Room Galore – wreaths, centerpieces, baskets, pinecones, and fresh cut greens.

Bake Room –Breads, cookies, fudge, cakes, pies, quick breads, coffee cakes, biscotti, baked beans, jams, jellies, relishes, candy, and many other delicious homemade food items.

Children's Shopping – kids can shop and wrap gifts for their whole family!

ROAD TRIP IN THE MAKING!!!

We are excited to announce that the Church Council has supported Pastor Ruth's request to appoint a special "ad hoc" group to plan a Congregational Mission Trip. This intergenerational trip, the first this congregation has undertaken in anyone's recent memory, will hopefully take place this summer. Our long range plan is to take a trip out of the country for mission work a few years down the road. But, before we can do something that ambitious, we need to get our feet wet. And that begins this coming summer with a simple trip.

Pastor Ruth is looking for 3 or 4 people to work with her to identify where we would like to go and what kind of experience we would like to have. Most likely we will stay in the Northeast region of the country where several excellent programs exist within a reasonable distance. Once our site and dates are finalized, we will work out the details of transportation and accommodations. Then we will begin signing up participants. Finally, we will coordinate some limited fund-raising events to offset costs for participants.

Do note this trip will be open to individuals and families! It will also include "fun" activities as well as "work" because all work and no play makes for cranky people. Know that we will do our best to keep costs as reasonable as possible.

Sound like fun? Interested in helping to get this exciting new initiative off the ground? Then, please speak with Pastor Ruth anytime. We will all be glad you did!



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

Ann Brown	Barbara Simmons
Charlie Wright	Barbara
Madelyn Stratton	Sandi Davis
Fred	Catherine
Jeff	Jim
Millie Silver	Debbie
Shirley Harrington	Lisa
Beverly & Family	Carole Kus
John Dillon	Brian Madill
Vince Amkhamavong, US Marines	
Susan & Devin	Sheryl
David Jones	Doris
Jennifer Clancon	Eugene Ravenelle
Kim Brown	David Stratton
Captain Andrew McCarthy, Army Infantry	
Beverly	The Shortman family
Patricia Whipple	Martha Hale

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: Darla Rines
Sunday School Contact Persons: Tanya Sylvestre
and Susan Lanphere
Secretary: Susan Perreault
Sexton: Debby 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
from 8:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.