

The Beacon

APRIL 2018



GOOD NEWS from

United Congregational Church of Westerly

United Church of Christ, Pawcatuck, CT

Sunday Worship ~ 9:30 am

FROM THE PASTOR ...

“On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month, and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.”
Revelation 22:2

What a beautiful image the author of Revelation paints for us in the lyrical words above! The tree of life flourishing next to a river, producing an abundant harvest of different fruits every month and leaves for healing not just of people but of whole nations! Wow. If only, we think. But why, “if only?” Do we think this has to remain just a prophetic vision, a description of a bright new world when this world is over and done? It doesn't have to be and yet too many of us don't think about this one way or the other. We don't think about the damage to Creation – God's Beloved Creation – being done every day in the name of progress or efficiency or just plain ignorance.

Enter the church – our church to be specific. Our church is in the midst of a concrete response to the threats to the environment which are multiplying

all around us. Our Pollinator Garden projects are a true eco-justice ministry being brought to life right here on the grounds of our amazing church. You'll find described in this issue of the *Beacon* some of the upcoming plans for both the Pollinator Gardens and the Earth Day Clean-up events here at the church. I hope you will plan now to come and participate, and not just because it's good to do something concrete to help the church. That's true of course. But, what we really hope is that you will come and participate in these events not just to work, but also to learn! Join us and learn about rain barrels and rain gardens. Work along side us and learn about native planting and why it's so important. Study along with us and learn why too many pesticides so readily available from Home Depot and Lowes are bad for your own health and your pets, not only for bees and butterflies. Be a part of all the initiatives you will hear about that are happening in our church this month and all spring and summer long! Love of Creation is more than just a slogan or Facebook meme. Love of Creation must become a way of life for all of us if this beautiful world which God entrusted to us is to survive long enough and healthy enough for our grandchildren to enjoy it and thrive within it.

Understanding why living gently within God's Creation means living sacramentally is our theme in worship for the Season of Eastertide. I hope you will join us on Sundays as we discuss not only sacramental living but also the role of the Sacraments in the life of faith as well. What is baptism and why does it matter? Is age a factor or not? Is whole body dunking more effective than water drops sprinkled on foreheads? And what about Communion? We know the what of Communion – the elements we consume and the story behind them – but do we really understand the why of Communion? Why does it matter? Join us on Sundays as we ponder these and other questions in our quest to figure out just what it might mean to live each day sacramentally – rooted in God and God's plan for us in a more intentional way each day. I'll be looking for you!

Your friend in Christ,

Rev. Ruth



April Birthdays

6 – Pam DelPozo-Waldron

16 – Barbara Johnson

25 – Dan McCrary

25 – Travis McCrary

26 – George Gray

28 – Emily Sineiro

Happy Anniversary to:

Rev. Ruth & Peter Hainsworth – April 23

Douglas & Jenny Brummund – April 25

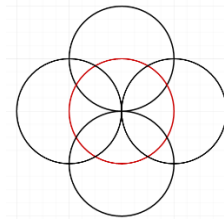
Please add in your special days by calling the church office!



**Rev. Ruth's Community Office Hours
every Thursday from 2 – 4 pm
at The Savoy Bookstore & Café
in downtown Westerly**

Come and chat about whatever is on your mind and heart. *Do remember these are all subject to change without notice if the weather gets bad!*

Your friend and chatting partner, Rev. Ruth



SABBATH CIRCLES NEWS

April Study Materials will be available in hard copy at church on April 1st. As always, the Sabbath Circles materials will have the same focus as worship this month which is "living sacramentally."

Our plans for this month:

- Sun, Apr 1 EASTER SUNDAY!!
6 am Sunrise Service @
Misquamicut Beach
9:30 am Festive Service with
Processional
- Sun, Apr 8 What role do the sacraments
play in the life of faith?
- Sun, Apr 15 The Sacrament of Baptism
- Wed, Apr 18 HARVEST TABLE – Eco-Justice
Ministry
- Sun, Apr 22 Earth Day Sunday! Grounds
clean-up and potluck lunch!

Sun, Apr 29 The Sacrament of Communion

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Diaconate Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Telephone #</u>
Apr 1	Bethany Foster	401-539-4003
Apr 8	Claire Calabretta	860-536-3625
Apr 15	Lynn Murray	401-539-7578
Apr 22	Jenny Brummund	860-599-1719
Apr 29	Elvis Torres	860-245-4759

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MISSION MOMENT

APRIL AND MAY = BABIES AND LADIES MONTH



The months of April and May will be dedicated to our second annual Babies and Ladies Collection. These collections were so appreciated last year by the clients of the PNC that we were requested to do it again! Needed baby items include: *all toiletries, larger sized diapers (sizes 3 and up), baby wipes, and sunblock.* They do **not** need the smaller sized diapers, baby food or formula. Lady needs include all feminine hygiene products. Also requested were the larger sized adult wipes.

SUNDAY, APRIL 22



On Sunday, **April 22**, we will be receiving our donations to ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING. "One Great Hour of Sharing, as part of Our Churches Wider Mission, is the special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that carries God's message of love and hope to people in crisis. The UCC works with international partners to provide sources of clean water, food, education and health care, small business micro-credit, advocacy and resettlement for refugees and displaced persons, and emergency relief and rehabilitation. OGHS also supports domestic and international ministries for disaster preparedness and response. http://www.ucc.org/oghs_resources_frequently-asked-questions

WARM

Thanks to the confirmands for providing the WARM meal for April 8.

EASTER



Sunday, April 1 EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE
@ Misquamicut Beach, **6 am**

9:30 am -- FESTIVE EASTER
PROCESSIONAL & SERVICE

HARVEST TABLE

A unique experience
of community, God and Creation



Wednesday, April 18 at 5:30 pm - ?

Theme: **Understanding Eco-Justice
Ministries**

Our meal for this Harvest Table will be Pizza from Stonington Pizza Palace which is hosting a fund-raiser for the Pollinator Garden project all day! Kindly bring some cash to chip in for the pizza!



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

Watch for details on a "Rain Barrel Workshop at our church in mid April! Until then, here are some important dates:

Sat, Apr 14 – *Native Plant Seed Starting Workshop* at Coogan Farm. 1 – 4 pm. \$15.30 for members; \$20 non-members. Registration required!

Wednesday, April 18 – All day Fundraiser for the Pollinator Gardens at Stonington Pizza Palace which is donating 15% of its proceeds from all sales that day to our project!

Sun, Apr 22 – *Earth Day Sunday Clean-up* of the church grounds followed by a potluck lunch. Watch for details!

Sat, May 19 – *Tarps pulled from Meadow Site!* Regular hoeing begins!

Sat, Jun 9 – *Meadow planting! Dedication of meadow followed by planting followed by Community Picnic!*



**BIBLE 101!
Not your usual Bible Study!!**

Another lively conversation was enjoyed by our BIBLE 101 folks and the Confirmands able to join in on Palm Sunday. The plan had been for folks to pick two stories from a list of "60 Essential Bible Stories" from the book, *The Unofficial Handbook of the United Church of Christ*, Caldwell & Preston, editors. However, one question led to another and another and another! As a result, the same assignment stands for our next gathering scheduled for **Sunday, April 15 @ 11am** in the Parlor.

If you'd like to join us and would like a copy of the *Handbook* or just the list of Bible stories, please let Rev. Ruth know. Or, just pick any two stories you particularly like – one from the Old Testament and one from the New – and come prepared to talk about them. If you need a Bible to use or would like to order your own copy of the *Handbook*, please speak with Rev. Ruth. She can also provide you with a copy of the 60 Essential Bible Stories list so you can get started!!!



"BOOKS" IS ON THE ROAD AGAIN!

Our next gathering is on Thursday, May 3 @ 6 pm at Liz Walker's home. Speak with Rev. Ruth or Liz for directions!

Lasagna Supper with us providing the extras!

Our book for this gathering is:
My Beloved World by Sonia Sotomayor
*Copies available to borrow through the Wilcox Library in Westerly on the second floor!
Just tell them you're part of the UCC Westerly book group!*



**ATTENTION
CONFIRMANDS!**

***Important dates
coming up for you!***

Sun, Apr 8 Confirmation Class @ 11 am

Sun, Apr 22 – EARTH DAY Clean-up & Potluck Lunch @ UCC Westerly

Sat, May 5 Final Confirmation Session/Mini-Retreat @ 1 – 5 pm

Sat, May 5 FAITH STORIES POTLUCK (mandatory) @ 6 pm

Week of May 7 – 13 HOME VISITS

Sun, May 20 CONFIRMATION SUNDAY!

OUR BRAINSTORMING WORK CONTINUES!



Our conversation on March 4 was again very well attended and the notes from that meeting are available at the church. It was decided to continue the brainstorming conversations through the boards and committees of the church as well as during Fellowship time on Sunday mornings and basically any time folks of the church get together.

I am pleased to report this group has already resolved one question which has been nagging at us around the edges for almost a year now and that has to do with the timing of worship. Once again in the conversation on March 4 there was no clear consensus but a suggestion was made to put up a poll on a sheet of paper in Fellowship Hall the following week. This was done and the results were overwhelming that folks want to keep the 9:30am worship time! Yay! We accomplished something!

Other ideas which are percolating as a result of the ongoing conversations:

- Work on ways of being visibly “family friendly” for families with little ones.
- Consider hosting quarterly all church community events – a potluck with some sort of program like a storyteller or a musical group, etc.
- Welcoming packet and/or gifts for visitors
- Improved community outreach, especially around ONA
- Continued work on improved organizational logistics for the work of the church
- Our folks encouraged to talk to folks from the wider community to get their

ideas of what the church might consider doing/offering

- Provide “conference call” opportunities for ongoing conversation.

Our next open brainstorming session will be on **Sunday, May 6**. Please join us and share your thoughts! We need everyone! If a schedule conflict will keep you away, please email me or any of our moderators with your ideas!! We'll be looking for you!

ATTIC TREASURES IS BACK WITH A NEW LOOK AND A NEW FORMAT!

Based on a conversation at Church Council, it was unanimously agreed to try a new format and approach to Attic Treasures. Here's the plan:

ATTIC TREASURES COMMUNITY YARD SALE!



Saturday, May 26, 9am – 12 noon
Upper Parking Lot of UCC Westerly
Tables for rent! \$10 per card table;
\$15 for long table

The Church will also have its own table with items for sale with all proceeds of those sales staying within the church.

So, donate items to be sold or come and sell your own stuff!

Anyone is welcome to rent a table to sell items!

Call or email the church office for details!

#860-599-1226

uccwesterly@sbcglobal.net

It's Scholarship Time



Applications for the **Barbara Murano Scholarship** will be available on the narthex counter on April 1st. Please note there is one form for first-time applicants and a second form for returning applicants. Guidelines are on the application and the application is due back to the Deacons by **April 29**.

The date of the Barbara Murano Scholarship fundraiser dinner will be on Saturday, June 2 this year and Scholarship Sunday is scheduled for Sunday, June 3. The theme for this year's dinner is still under consideration. Please share your ideas with any Deacon!!

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	Josh
Ben	Rev. Elizabeth King
Jesse B.	Bill Colprit
Bill & Phyllis Horne	Laura
Devyn Moynihan	Susan Moynihan-Freeman
Ruth King Roes	Mauri Hainsworth
Bill Hoffman	

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
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