

# The Beacon

## JULY/AUGUST 2018



**GOOD NEWS from**

**United Congregational Church of Westerly**

**United Church of Christ, Pawcatuck, CT**

**Sunday Worship ~ 9:30 am**

**FROM THE PASTOR ...**

*"Come to me all you who are weary and carrying heavy burdens and I will give you rest."*

Matthew 11:28

These words of Jesus from the Gospel of Matthew really ring true these days when there is so much to be anxious about in our lives each day. The news is filled with overwhelming stories of every sort. Anger, fear and incivility simmer just below the surface of too many situations since we appear to have forgotten how to talk to one another as people instead of opponents in a debate. God's heart must surely be aching, Jesus' tears falling, as our inability to love each other as we love ourselves is everywhere evident. Indeed, we are weary and tired of the anxieties and worries which dog our everyday lives. And yet, our faith reminds us we do have so very much to be thankful for, so many blessings to reclaim and celebrate as our own reminders that God's future is always inviting us forward in hope and in joy.

But how do we get from where we are now – anxious, tired, weary – to that new hope and renewal we know God is offering us? Once again, Jesus gives us the answer. "Come to me all you who are weary and carrying heavy burdens and I

will give you rest." Weary – does that describe you some days? I'm betting it does. I know it sure describes me! How about the carrying heavy burdens part. Sound familiar? Sure does to me. And to that Jesus says simply, "I will give you rest." Rest. As if it were that simple.

But, maybe it is. After all, it's summertime – a time of more relaxed schedules and extra daylight for those long walks or just sitting on the deck to watch the sunset. Summer! The time of warm days at the beach, hikes in the mountains, kayaking in the river or just curling up in your favorite spot with a great book. Or maybe, you're the type who's in to what I think of as "active" rest. You know – painting the bathroom, cleaning the garage, re-landscaping the back yard – doing all those things you never have time to do and yet doing them gives you a deep sense of satisfaction renewing your sense of your place in this world. That's still rest, my friend. Whatever allows you to step away from, move back from, take a break from everything in your life that stresses you out qualifies as rest. Think of rest not as the act of doing nothing, although for some of us doing nothing is pretty appealing. Instead, think of rest as doing something you love to do but never give yourself permission to do. This is rest for your soul, the most important kind. Rest for your soul allows healing from all the bruising you absorb as life bumps along with all its challenges, expected and unexpected. Rest for your soul comes when you recognize that your body, your mind and your heart are indeed weary from carrying too much in the way of burdens of all kinds.

That's why, as summer unfolds for you, I urge you to accept Jesus' invitation to rest, to set aside those wearying heavy burdens for a time and just be. Do something nice for yourself, just because. Pause long enough to remember and savor the people and relationships that enrich and bless your life. Rest. Renewal. Sabbath – even God needed the seventh day to rest! So, relax, enjoy and just be for a bit this summer. I know I hope to and I hope you will too. But, we'll still be looking for you on Sundays!!

Your friend in Christ,  
*Rev. Ruth*



## July Birthdays

- 4 – Jimmy Stott
- 13 – Mark Comito
- 14 – Joann Spurley
- 19 – Bobbie DelPozo-Waldron
- 21 – Ane Torres
- 27 – Jim Cornell
- 30 – Elvis Torres

## August Birthdays

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

## Happy Anniversary to:

- Elvis & Ane Torres – July 20, 2002
- Eugene & Carolyn LeRoy – August 4, 1962
- Andy & Heidi Schilke – August 4
- George & Cathy Gray – August 23

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

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

*In July Rev. Ruth will be on vacation so no office hours will take place at that time! In August Rev. Ruth's office hours will resume on August 2 and continue every Thursday thereafter. Come by and we can talk about whatever is on your mind and heart – maybe a question on a sermon or about the church; maybe a personal situation that is confusing or hurtful; or maybe life in general or maybe even none of the above! The conversation topic is up to you and the listening is up to me. Your friend and chatting partner, Rev. Ruth*

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## Diaconate Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Telephone #</u>
Jul 1	Jenny Brummund	860-599-1719
Jul 8	Bethany Foster	401-539-4003
Jul 15	Ed Stratton	401-596-4740
Jul 22	Lynn Murray	401-539-7578
Jul 29	<i>to be decided</i>	
Aug 5	<i>Service at <u>10 am</u> at WEEKAPAUG CHAPEL with Rev. Ruth preaching and officiating at Communion</i>	
Aug 12	<i>Remaining dates to be determined at meeting on July 31st!</i>	

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

Check out our beautiful Rain Garden, installed through the assistance of the Eastern CT Water Conservation District! It is located on the Upper Lawn but closer in to the building almost back to the property border. Most of the plants were grown from seedlings by our own Pollinator Garden team members. Others were given to us by ECWCD as was the mulch. This is a demonstration garden so be sure to show it off to your friends and family, explaining that the purpose of the Rain Garden is to assist with the filtration and decontamination of rain water runoff from our parking lot.

PS – If you have a **picnic table** in good condition that you're not using, we'd love to have it at the church!! Our old one finally rotted away....

*Announcing a*  
**SUMMER BASKET  
SILENT AUCTION**



While we eagerly anticipate the sprouting of the seeds in the meadow, the *Pollinator Garden Committee* is sponsoring a **summer fundraiser** to help fund the next phase of our project – the *labyrinth* that will provide a place for peaceful meditation in this busy and confusing world. Our **Summer Basket Silent Auction** includes some beautiful summer-themed baskets, some with gift certificates and tickets donated by our local merchants. Look for a *Pamper Yourself* basket with a gift certificate from Head-to-Toe Salon, a very special *Double Date* basket with 4 tickets to Stonington Vineyards Movie Night in August., a *nautical* basket with tickets to Mystic

Seaport, an *Ice Cream Social* basket with a certificate for two pints of Linda Evans' yummy ice cream, an *Octoberfest* basket with a gift card to the Jealous Monk, and many more. Place your bid on the display table in Fellowship Hall and win yourself some unique summertime fun and/or goodies!

Winners will be announced on **July 29**.

**SINGSPIRATION SUNDAY**

***July 22, 2018***

Think about your favorite hymns...the lyrics...the melodies...

Consider writing the title (and/or number) of a special hymn on a slip of paper and place it in the offering plate, or hand it to *Jenny Brummund* or *Dav Cranmer*. Please list any favorite verses of the hymn as well. Sunday, **JULY 8<sup>TH</sup>** will be *the last opportunity to submit titles*. The deacons and Dav will incorporate as many hymns as possible for Singspiration Sunday. Thank you for your help!



**ATTENTION  
CONFIRMATION  
ALUMNI OF  
2016 & 2018**  
*And your friends  
and relatives!*

Announcing an **END OF SUMMER LOCK-IN**  
**Saturday, August 25 @ 5 pm – Sunday,  
August 26 @ 11 am**

Games, Movie, Food, Hide & Seek Rematch!!  
Watch for a flyer in the mail in early August.

**HARVEST TABLE**

*is officially on hiatus until fall as we focus on the gardening season and the pollinator gardens projects! Late afternoon and evening work time in the gardens are open to all!*

## MISSION MOMENTS



Summer is here and we now have our fourth annual **IN THE MIDDLE school supplies drive** for local middle schools!!

We will be collecting school supplies to help children in need during June, July, and August. Thanks to local middle school teachers for their help in compiling this list of needed supplies:

- Pencils of good quality (like Ticonderoga) that sharpen well
- red and other colored pens and pencils for students to correct their work
- thin markers
- **highlighters**
- zippered "folio" type binders, 3-ring binders (1½ inch)
- 3-ring binder paper
- pencil cases that go in the 3-ring binders and small change purses
- one-subject notebooks
- cap erasers for pencils and regular erasers
- glue sticks
- **backpacks**
- **sticky notes**
- **"Click-style" pencils**
- And to help the teachers, boxes of tissues for the classroom

(The items in **bold** are especially needed.)

We will be blessing these items on **Sunday, August 26** during our annual Blessing of the Backpacks and sending them out to the Pawcatuck and Westerly Middle Schools the next day.

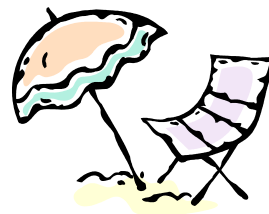


Our summer collection for the PAWCATUCK NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER will be pasta and jarred sauces.

### **WARM**

Thanks to the Kitchen and Lay, Life, and Work Committees for the July 8 WARM meal. The Deacons fund will handle the meal for August 12. Please note that *WARM Center Sunday* is scheduled for **September 30<sup>th</sup>**.

### **BOOKS IS BACK AT THE BEACH!**



**Thursday, August 16<sup>th</sup>  
@ 6:00 pm**

The Pavilion at  
Misquamicut State Beach

Our book: *Lilac Girls* by Martha Hall Kelly

Bring a brown bag supper and a cold drink to this delightful gathering where we enjoy the ocean and talk about a good book, and anything else that comes up in the moment.

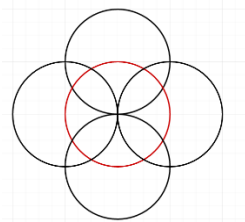
Everyone welcome!

Do note that unlike past selections, this one is not on reserve at the Wilcox Library because it is too recent of a book to be available through inter-library loan in quantities. So, you're on your own to find a copy. ☺



## **REV. RUTH'S SERMON SERIES ON CHILDREN'S BOOKS RETURNING**

Yes, last year's fall sermon series on favorite children's books was so well received that Rev. Ruth has decided to do it again but she needs your help! Kindly make a note of your favorite children's book title and author and leave it in the basket on the pew in front of the balcony to the right of the organ. Or send Rev. Ruth an email with your suggestion. If you have a copy of the book she can borrow, that would be great too!



### **SABBATH CIRCLES NEWS**

The Sabbath Circles © Home Sunday School curriculum and program will resume in September. Materials from this past year are still available at the Sabbath Circles © display table in Fellowship Hall.



### **A SPECIAL WORD OF THANKS FROM PETER HAINSWORTH**

I would like to thank the congregation for the lovely cards and notes and prayers of support during my recent adventures with my hip replacement in early June. I want you to know how much of a difference this support meant to me on a daily basis as I faced these challenges. Thank you for being the loving community that you are.

*Peter*

## **Vacation Time**



### **Rev. Ruth's Summer Schedule**

Rev. Ruth will be on vacation from Tuesday, July 3<sup>rd</sup> through and including Monday, July 30<sup>th</sup>.

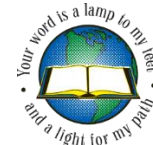
For pastoral care issues when Rev. Ruth is on vacation, please contact the Diaconate Person of the Week or the Chair of the Deacons, Lynn Murray at #401-539-7578.

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



### **SUMMER OFFICE HOURS**

Susan will be in the office on Mondays and Fridays from 8:30 am – 12:30 pm, and on Thursdays from 8:30 am – 1:30 pm. These hours will begin on Monday, July 2<sup>nd</sup>, and end on Friday, August 24<sup>th</sup>. Then I will return to working all 3 days until 1:30 pm. *Enjoy your summer!*



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

*is taking a break for the summer  
but will return this fall!*

## OUR BRAINSTORMING WORK IS MOVING BEYOND TALK AND INTO SPECIFICS!



**Sunday, September 2 @  
11 am – 1 pm  
Lunch included!!**

Everyone's concerns and ideas needed as we develop concrete plans for the next year in the life of our wonderful church! Questions in the meantime can be directed to any of our three Co-Moderators – Gary Davis, Lynn Murray & Kathy Tarasuk – or to Rev. Ruth.

### **CAPITAL CAMPAIGN REPORT**

Now that our three-year capital campaign project is officially over, the Trustees would like to thank the members and friends of the church for a successful campaign that raised over \$85,000. This money has been used to fund the following projects to improve the church facility:

- A new macadam walkway and railing was installed from the circular drive to the lower entrance (\$2,000). Project was funded by anonymous donations designated for the walkway.
- A new flat roof has been installed over the kitchen, office, Bell Courtyard entrance, and Sanctuary (\$34,200).
- The Circular Drive was repaved (\$9,900).
- New Bell Courtyard windows were installed (\$7,400). Project was supplemented with funds from the Laura Dawley Memorial.

- A new Sound System has been installed in the sanctuary. (Estimated final cost to be \$3,500). Project was supplemented with funds from the Darla Rines Memorial.
- Design plans for the Pollinator Garden (\$625).
- Purchase of an exterior event A-frame sign (\$180).
- Purchase of an AED installed in Fellowship Hall (\$900).
- Purchase of a Baby Changing Table installed in the handicapped bathroom (\$224).

The Trustees will be considering ways to use the remaining funds.



**ROAD TRIP for  
Sunday morning  
Worship on**

**August 5<sup>th</sup>!**

After much prayer and thoughtful discussion at both Deacons and Church Council, we have decided that we will not hold worship in our sanctuary on Sunday, August 5 because Rev. Ruth has been invited to preach, lead worship and officiate at Communion at WEEKAPAUG CHAPEL @ 10am.

If you would like a ride from our church to the Chapel, kindly be at our parking lot no later than 9:30 am.

**ALSO, PLEASE REMEMBER THAT YOU  
NEED TO GET YOUR AUGUST 5 OFFERING  
PLEDGES AND GIFTS TO OUR CHURCH  
EITHER THE SUNDAY BEFORE OR THE  
SUNDAY AFTER, OR BY MAIL. ANY  
OFFERING PUT INTO THE PLATE AT THE  
CHAPEL REMAINS WITH THE CHAPEL.**

Also, please note that Communion will be offered in our regular morning worship on the following Sunday, August 12. *Thank you!!!*



## ***Congratulations to our Barbara Murano Scholarship Recipients for 2018!***

*Brooke Foster*, will be a Senior this fall at Florida State University in Tallahassee, FL. She is studying criminal justice and plans on attending law school upon graduation.

*John "J.B." Walker* graduated from Westerly High School this year having received numbers awards both academic and for his exceptional athletic ability. He will be attending Eastern Connecticut College in the fall where he will be participating in Cross Country as well as Indoor and Outdoor Track. J.B. plans on studying computer science.

*Lindsay Walker* graduated in May from the Community College of Rhode Island with an Associate's Degree in Criminal Justice. Lindsay will be continuing her studies in this field at the University of Rhode Island in the fall.

*Your church family is very proud of you  
and your many accomplishments!*

## **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
Laura	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.*

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## **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](mailto:uccwesterly@sbcglobal.net)  
*Website:* [www.uccwesterly.org](http://www.uccwesterly.org)  
*Office Hours for July & August:* Monday & Friday  
from 8:30 am – 1:00 pm; Thursday 8:30 – 1:30 pm