

The Beacon

APRIL 2015



GOOD NEWS from

United Congregational Church of Westerly

United Church of Christ, Pawcatuck, CT

Sunday Worship ~ 9:30 am

FROM THE PASTOR ...

“Now to God who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine...” Ephesians 3:20

I love this text from Ephesians. I pray it every morning and have done so for so long that the paper I have it written out on is yellowed and smudged, the ink barely legible in places. But it hardly matters because this verse is imprinted on my heart. This text has carried me through all the challenges of life that have come to me over the years. Family heartaches, work challenges, economic downturns personally and in the world in which we live – this verse has brought me through them all with its simple message that God is always able to empower us to handle whatever comes our way, to meet whatever challenge needs to be met, and to do so in ways more marvelous than anything we can possibly imagine left to our own devices. God’s simple truth for us just waiting for us to claim it and hold on to it with all our might.

Given my long history with this text, I wasn’t entirely surprised when it was chosen from among four other possibilities as the

grounding text for the “Next Fifty Years of Our Church” Campaign. Paul’s words written almost two thousand years ago still speak powerfully to what we have found the courage to do right here and now in our church – claim the future as our own exciting new chapter in the life of our church. We have faced our fears and decided we are more than up to the challenge of pursuing this Capital Campaign. Understandable anxiety notwithstanding, we have decided we are ready, willing and *excited* to begin the work of creating our church’s future together. Our “Next Fifty Years of Our Church” Campaign – or simply The Campaign – begins!

Others will keep you informed as The Campaign unfolds in the weeks and months ahead. For now, know that leadership has been identified and the three working groups of The Campaign have enthusiastically tackled their tasks at our most recent gathering with Consultant Peter Saros this past Monday. I am pleased to tell you who our leadership is and I encourage you to give them your full and enthusiastic support as we move forward in this very exciting time in the life of our church. Here they are!

CAMPAIGN CO-CHAIRS:

Jay Macko & Bethany Foster

WORKING GROUP FACILITATORS:

Hospitality: Darla Rines, Ane Torres, Peter Hainsworth

Special Event: Carolyn LeRoy, Kathy Tarasuk, Shirin Platt

Promotion: Claire Calabretta, Becky Morrone, Carole Cravinho.

This year, as we anticipate the joys and sorrows of Holy Week as April begins, we celebrate a new and exciting chapter in the life of our wonderful church awaiting us on the other side of the Empty Tomb on Easter Morning. New life and fresh beginnings are ours to claim in a whole new way this year. Thanks be to our Amazing God!

Blessings,
Rev. Ruth

BOOKS ON THE ROAD!

**Monday, April 13 @ 6:00 pm
at Carolyn LeRoy's home.**

Our plans to read a new book, Our Lady of the Lost and Found by Diane Schoemperlen, still remain. However, we also hope to spend at least some time this month talking a little more about our March book, An Invisible String. So, we hope you'll join us whether you've read both books or only one of them. We'll be gathering over dinner at Carolyn LeRoy's home at the date and time noted above. Kindly call Carolyn (401-333-8812) to RSVP and get directions! Hope to see you then!

CAMPAIGN MEETINGS SCHEDULED!

- *Working Group meetings* on Sunday, **April 12 @ 11 am**. (The Open Music Committee meeting planned for this time frame will be rescheduled.)
- *Our next Campaign Meeting with Consultant Peter Saros* is scheduled for Monday, **April 20** from **6 – 8 pm**.
- If you are unsure of what Working Group you have been assigned to, just pick one and contact any one of the Facilitators for that group whose names appear in Rev. Ruth's article on the first page.

CHRISTIAN ED NEWS:

Sunday School Schedule in April:

- 5 – No Sunday School
- 12 – Nature's Art with Ms. Jennifer
- 19 – Sunday School (Jay)
- 26 – Jay's Nature Trail

"Faith is caught, not taught." William Willimon

Mission Memos



The Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center (PNC) has requested our assistance in **April** with **canned pineapple and canned mandarin oranges**. Please bring your items to worship on or before Sunday, **April 12th** and we'll get them to the PNC!

The **Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center** helps to feed Westerly residents too! Please know that our monthly dedicated offering is so appreciated. To encourage donations anytime, one Red Bucket will remain in the Bell Courtyard area of the narthex. *Feel free to contribute canned goods any Sunday*. The need is so great!

The **PNC** is also accepting donations of **used children's books**. The books help keep children busy while parents are filling out forms. Children are also able to take the books home with them. Dixie Lufbery faithfully delivers the UCC donations to the PNC every week. Thank you, Dixie!

Thanks for all your help! Please speak to any member of the Missions Committee with your ideas and questions –*Melissa Stratton, Dixie Lufbery, Sandi Davis, Peter Hainsworth, Claire Calabretta, or Darla Rines*.

Next Generation BAZAAR BINDER

If you had a major role in any part of the bazaar, inside or out, please fill out the **"bazaar area important information"** sheet found on the narthex counter. We are trying to compile a binder of all our tricks of the trade so future volunteers will feel comfortable stepping in. These can be *returned to Lynn Murray*.



April Birthdays

- 1 – Pam Del Pozo-Waldron
- 16 – Barbara Johnson
- 25 – Dan McCrary
- 25 – Travis McCrary
- 28 – Emily Dessaulles

Happy Anniversary to:

Douglas & Jenny Brummund – April 25

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

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Diaconate Schedule

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Name & Telephone</u> | |
|-------------|-----------------------------|----------------|
| Apr 5 | Lynn Murray | (401) 539-7578 |
| Apr 12 | Bethany Foster | (401) 539-4003 |
| Apr 19 | Becky Morrone | (401) 596-1070 |
| Apr 26 | Gary Davis | (860) 599-4279 |

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A Note from the Financial Secretary and Assistant Financial Secretary:

*Please know that you are welcome to turn in your pledge with whatever **frequency** is best. You can make your offering once a week, once a month, once a quarter, even once a year – whatever is most convenient for your budget and busy life.*

As a reminder, we encourage you to combine multiple pledge weeks (if you cannot attend church for a week or two, etc.), and other donations into one check, if that is possible. Just note how the check is to be designated.

*With thanks for your faithful stewardship, Janet Allen, Financial Secretary
Jenny Brummund, Assistant*

ATTIC TREASURES SALE

**Saturday, April 25th
8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**



Clean Saleable Items are appreciated and *some treasures would be nice too!* They can be brought *any time!* Please leave them downstairs – 1 flight down, second door on the right! Please no big items, such as couches, and no computers. *Women’s Fellowship* will be coordinating this event.

CONGREGATIONAL MISSION TRIP

*The Providence Experience at Irons Homestead in Gloucester, RI
August 6- 9, 2015*

Relax at beautiful Irons Homestead in the woods of northern RI after a day of service work at one of two sites:

*Franklin Farm in Cumberland, RI or
Matthewson Street Church in Providence.*

Cost: \$125 per person includes everything

SPACE IS LIMITED AND FILLING FAST!

Brochures with registration forms available at church or by calling the church office.

Our schedule for
HOLY WEEK
for April



Maundy Thursday – April 2nd
6:00 pm in Fellowship Hall

Simple Soup Supper and an Upper Room experience including Holy Communion

Good Friday – April 3rd
10:00 am

Way of the Cross Community Service in Wilcox Park, Westerly

Easter Sunday Services – April 5th
6:30 am – Easter Sunrise Service
at Misquamicut State Beach, Westerly



9:30 am – Festival Easter Service of Worship with Holy Communion in our Sanctuary

It's Scholarship Time



Scholarship

The Barbara Murano Scholarship Applications are available on the narthex counter. Please note that there are two different forms: one for first time applicants and one for repeat applicants. Completed applications should be left in the Deacons mailbox or in the church office by no later than **April 19th**. Since the Barbara Murano Scholarship Dinner supports this fund, we request that recipients assist at this dinner on Saturday, **May 9th**.

“Make Your Own”

Tacos & Sundaes Supper
Saturday, May 9th, 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.

- *All proceeds benefit the Murano Scholarship Fund.*
- *Those interested in applying for the Barbara Murano scholarship are encouraged to help out before, during, or after the dinner if possible.*



Adults: \$10.00
Children under 10: \$5.00
Family of 4 (2 kids under 10): \$25

*To help defray the cost of the meal, there is an **ingredients sign-up sheet** on the bulletin board at the entrance to Fellowship Hall. Thank you for all your help and participation.*

*Scholarships will be presented on **Scholarship Sunday, May 31st**.*



The Many Faceted PRAYER MINISTRIES of UCC Westerly!

- During Sunday morning worship each week, prayer intentions prayed specifically in the Prayers of the People PLUS the opportunity to light prayer candles during hymns.
- Monthly Prayer List here in the BEACON for which we are all encouraged to pray throughout the month until the next Prayer List is published.
- Specific prayer requests for immediate prayers in significant situations may be referred to our Prayer Tree by speaking with our Prayer Tree Coordinator, Ane Torres (860-460-7807) at any time. If you are unable to reach Ane directly, please feel free to contact the Diaconate Person of the Week.
- If you would like to become a member of the Prayer Tree as someone to be contacted to pray for members and friends of our church, you can also speak with Ane at any time.

The VISITATION MINISTRIES of UCC Westerly

Thanks to the efforts of Barbara Colby and others, our church has had a thriving visitation ministry for years. The Visitation Team is a group of lay folks who go out and visit with members and friends of our church who would like a visit – it's that simple! These folks either live in nursing homes or are in rehab for a short stay. Or, it might be that they just don't get out as much as they used to. Whatever the reason, they have asked for visits from our lay visitation team and we are happy to oblige. So, if you would like to be part of our Visitation Team or would like to be on the list to be

visited for the short term or the long run, kindly be in touch with Rev. Ruth at any time.



DO YOU ENJOY COFFEE TIME HERE ON SUNDAY? DOES IT BOTHER YOU TO THINK THERE ARE HOMELESS, HUNGRY PEOPLE RIGHT HERE IN OUR AREA?

Then do we have good news for you! You can make a difference, right here and right now through two important ministries of this church that need people power to happen. That's you! Please consider helping out with one or both of these vital ministries of our church. *No one can do everything but everyone can do something!*

#1 – **Coffee hour hosts.** You can just do the coffee. You can also provide goodies, or not. You can just clean up. But we need everyone to help in some way! Sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall.

#2 – **WARM CENTER Meal** – 2nd Sunday of every month. We have promised WARM we will provide one meal a month on the 2nd Sunday so volunteers are needed to prepare a meal for 60 people and get it over to WARM by early afternoon on that Sunday OR provide a cash donation of \$20, \$40 or \$80 to help cover the cost of one of the 12 meals we promise to provide each year. We need someone for April so please speak with Rev. Ruth asap!



*Honored Lay Persons Breakfast
at our church on
Saturday, April 18 @ 9:00 am*

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

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|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Ann Brown | Barbara |
| Madelyn Stratton | Sandi Davis |
| Fred | Catherine |
| Jeff | Jim |
| Millie Silver | Debbie |
| Shirley Harrington | Lisa |
| Beverly & Family | Carole Kus |
| John Dillon | Brian Madill |
| Sheryl | David Jones |
| Doris | Jennifer Clancon |
| Eugene Ravenelle | Kim Brown |
| David Stratton | Beverly |
| Karen & Bill | Shirley M. |
| Scott & his parents | Gerry |
| David Hall | Family of Nina Poeta |
| William Underhill III | Martha |
| David Keith | Linda Dessauls |
| Timothy Nugent | Family of Gary Dobson |

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
Interim Organist: David Cranmer
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.

The Women of the Rhode Island Conference are pleased to announce this year's Breakfast. Each church is invited to honor a lay woman and a lay man who have found creative and enduring ways to lift her or his faith as a faithful servant of God through either the local church, the Conference, or the national setting.

This year the breakfast will be here at 9 am with registration beginning at 8:30 am. The guest speaker will be Ruth Tureckova, Executive Director of the Literacy Volunteers of Washington County. Cost: \$15.00 each