

# The Beacon

## JANUARY 2015



**GOOD NEWS from**

**United Congregational Church of Westerly**

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

**Sunday Worship ~ 9:30 am**

**FROM THE PASTOR ...**

*"...so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which God has called you..."*  
Ephesians 1:18a

This magnificent notion from Paul's letter to the church in Ephesus is the perfect framework to begin a new year in our lives as individuals and in our common life together in our church. These words are a reminder that we have received a great gift of God in Jesus – wisdom and understanding that changes forever how we see ourselves and everyone else. The eyes of our hearts have been opened by our Amazing God and everything is new and different as a result. As we look around us with the eyes of our hearts, we see possibility and promise everywhere. The eyes of our hearts see everything colored by God's love for us and for everyone and everything. The eyes of our hearts reveal that there is much God needs us to do to continue to be that beacon of hope to our community and the world we have seen as our calling for 50 years.

So, the question has to become for us, what's next? What is God calling us to do? What does God *need* us to do? How do we go about doing it? What needs to happen here in our church for us to respond to God as God is inviting us to do? Exciting questions for exciting times to be sure! And, let's be honest, they're a little daunting too. So many possibilities are out there, how will we know what we should do? How will we know what is reasonable to reach for? What needs to change in our church and in our lives and what needs to stay the same as a foundation for the changes to come? So much to think about, to ponder, to research, to discuss. So much to pray about together and on our own. What a wonderful New Year's gift from our Amazing God!

What will 2015 hold for us as individuals and as a church? Honestly, no one knows. But, we do know there is much to be excited about as we reflect back on our work with Church Growth Consultant Peter Saros this fall. We do know our church is alive again, reclaiming traditions enlivened for a new time even as we are doing new things and exploring new possibilities. We do know there is a lot we can do because we have already accomplished so much. We do know God is with us, every step of the way as we follow in the footsteps of Jesus. We do know that if we work at responding to all the possibilities the eyes of our hearts reveal, our future is bright indeed. May the light of the Epiphany Star guide us forward into God's future together.

Blessings,  
*Pastor Ruth*

**BOOKS IN THE PARLOR!**

*is meeting next on*  
**Monday, January 12 @ 6:00 pm**  
**at Becky Morrone's home.**

We are reading DEAR DEB by *Margaret Terry*. RSVP is needed for this since Becky is inviting us for a soup supper! Please RSVP to the church office by phone (#860-599-1226) or email (uccwesterly@sbcglobal.net). Thanks!

**ALMOST IRON CHEF II**  
***Saturday, January 24th***  
***@ 6:00 pm***



***The secret ingredient has been revealed  
and it is...GARLIC!!!***

*Here's the info you need to know:*

***Competitors Registration Opens & Ticket***

***Sales Begin: January 4, 2015***

***Competitors Registration Closes:***

*January 18, 2015*

***Please Note: COMPETITION LIMITED TO 25  
COMPETITORS THIS YEAR!***

- REGISTER EARLY!
- SEATING IS LIMITED TOO, SO BUY YOUR TICKETS EARLY!
- COMPETITORS – BRING YOUR FANS! EACH TICKET IS A VOTE FOR YOU! (you hope)

† † † † † † † † † † † †

**Diaconate Schedule**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Name &amp; Telephone</u>
Jan 4	Bethany Foster (401) 539-4003
Jan 11	Carole Kus (860) 822-3787
Jan 18	Lynn Murray (401) 539-7578
Jan 25	Becky Morrone (401) 596-1070

† † † † † † † † † † † †

**CALL TO ANNUAL MEETING**

**UNITED CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**  
**UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
**Sunday, January 25, 2015**  
*following the worship service.*

**ANNUAL REPORTS ARE DUE**

***on Monday, January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2015***  
***and can be submitted (to Susan) as early as possible!***

**The reports will be ready for distribution on  
Sunday, January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2015.**

All groups, Boards, and organizations should submit an annual report as well as all Treasurers. Please *email* your report to Susan at [uccwesterly@sbcglobal.net](mailto:uccwesterly@sbcglobal.net). Hard copies can be left on Susan's desk if email is not available to you.

If you need more time to complete your report, please contact the church office and let us know. *Thank you.*

**Storm Closing Information**



If we have a cancellation at the church due to severe weather, the cancellation will appear on **Channel 8 in Connecticut** and **Channels 6, 10, and 12 in Rhode Island**. You will also receive an emergency email from Pastor Ruth.

Please tune to one of these stations for more information about the cancellation of worship or other church events.



## January Birthdays

- 3 Judy Bartlett
- 9 Douglas Brummund
- 11 Carolyn LeRoy
- 18 Lindsay Walker
- 23 Nancy Schilke
- 26 Sonya Johnson
- 28 Jamie Foster
- 31 Ben Macko
- 31 Anna Tarasuk

### Happy Anniversary to:

Dan & Jan McCrary – 1-7

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



**Very special thanks to everyone who made our Christmas Bazaar so successful again this year!** *I am always blown away by how our church is transformed into the Bazaar and then back into the church all within the scope of one week. It is literally miraculous and is only possible because of all the many, many hands which pitch in to make this miracle happen. Too many folks to name for sure, but I hope you know who you are and how much you are appreciated!* -- Pastor Ruth

## Mission Memos

THANK YOU to *everyone* for providing donations to the Deacons Emergency Fund for the **WARM Center meal**. We appreciate your generous monthly donations to the Fund in order to provide the meal. The next meal is scheduled for **January 11**.



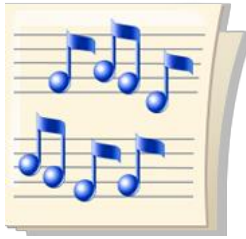
**The Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center (PNC)** has requested our assistance in **December** with **packages of jello and pudding**. Please bring your items to worship on or before Sunday, **January 11** and we'll get them to the PNC!

The **Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center** is now helping to feed Westerly residents as well! 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 – *Sandi Davis, Melissa Stratton, Audrey Steinetz, Dixie Lufbery, Peter Hainsworth, Jenny Brummund, or Christina Brummund.*

## CHOIR NEWS



***Open Meeting of the  
Music Committee  
Sunday, January 4  
@ 11 am in the parlor***

Come and meet interim organist and choir director *David Cranmer* who will be with us through January and possibly beyond. We hope you will join the on-going conversation about our music program. Don't forget to add your favorite hymn to the ever growing list on the Music bulletin board in Fellowship Hall!



## ***SWEET HOUR OF PRAYER***

***Thursday's Sweet Hour of Prayer will be scattered rather than gathered this winter!***

With busy calendars and wintry weather in mind, we are continuing a "scattered" format for Sweet Hour of Prayer this winter, resuming our gatherings once more as Lent begins in late February. What this means is that you are invited, whether you have participated in Sweet Hour of Prayer or not, to participate in our prayer discipline. Wherever you are on Thursdays between 5:30 – 6:30 pm, take a few minutes for prayer and as you do, we will form together our Sweet Hour of Prayer group in scattered form. It's pretty simple, really. Just stop wherever you are sometime during that hour for a few minutes and say the Lord's Prayer, read a Psalm, and hold folks that come to mind in prayer. As you do, realize that we do not have to be physically with each other to be connected powerfully in prayer. When we gather once more during that first Thursday of Lent, we will talk with each other about our scattered prayer experiences. I think you'll be surprised at just how powerful they can be.

To request prayers from the Sweet Hour of Prayer Group, please contact Rev. Ruth either through the church office or on her cell at #401-663-7934.

To request the Prayer Tree be activated for more urgent prayer needs, please be in touch with Deacon Ane Torres at #860-599-5572. Ane asks that you call her rather than email for the time being as she is experiencing computer issues.

## **CHRISTIAN ED NEWS:**



- ❖ Sunday School during the month of January on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>!
- ❖ Mark your calendars now for the **Sunday School/Youth Lock-In** at church on Friday, **January 30!!!** Details to be finalized in early January and you will receive them by email.

## **2015 SUNDAY WORSHIP BULLETINS**

This special ministry of the church includes the regular Sunday bulletins and also bulletins that are purchased for special times during the church year (Christmas, Easter, Thanksgiving, etc.) as well as funeral bulletins. Of course we also have the cost of paper for the regular bulletins and the toner and "wear & tear" on the copier machine to consider. For \$30.00 you can provide bulletins for an **entire month** for your church family. Please sign up on the sign-up sheet that has been posted near the Flower Chart in Fellowship Hall. Make a check out to the church for the bulletins. Thank you.



Women's  
Fellowship  
Epiphany  
Luncheon!

Sunday, January 4 @ 12:15 pm  
*Location to be announced.*

**CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING**

All boards and committees of the church must please send a representative to the next **Church Council meeting** scheduled for Sunday, **January 11 at 11:00 am** in the Parlor. All Council Members please submit your reports for the meeting to Cathy Gray by January 5<sup>th</sup>. **Electronic submissions are preferred.** (Cathy's email address is graygc@mindspring.com) *We are trying something new this year.* Susan will send you a form via email on December 29<sup>th</sup> to help you make out your report.

***Community Forum***  
***Tuesday, January 20 at 7 pm***  
***at Central Baptist Church***

The Westerly Pawcatuck Clergy Association is sponsoring this forum. The topic will be a discussion of the ethical dilemmas posed by infectious diseases such as those the recent ebola outbreak have brought into our awareness. Watch for more details as the date comes closer!



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

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	Doris Whitehead
Scott & his parents	Vivian Roode
David Hall	Paul Whitehead
Marcia Holly	Family of Nina Poeta
Ron Carlson	Shirley M.
William Underhill III	Gerry
Martha	

*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](mailto:uccwesterly@sbcglobal.net)  
*Website:* [www.uccwesterly.org](http://www.uccwesterly.org)  
*Office Hours:* Monday, Thursday, & Friday  
from 8:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.