

The Beacon

JULY/AUGUST 2015



GOOD NEWS from

United Congregational Church of Westerly

United Church of Christ, Pawcatuck, CT

Sunday Worship ~ 9:30 am

FROM THE PASTOR ...

“O sing to the Lord a new song, for He has done marvelous things.” Psalm 98:1

Summertime is here at last! School is out making a difference for everyone, whether you have school-age children in the house or not. Traffic is lighter and the pace of everything slows down as summer vacation mode settles in. We're all glad, I think, that the summer pace of life is here. Life is calmer as summer time activities replace those that keep us homebound. Long walks taken in the cool of the dawn or evening encourage us to explore once more the countryside or the beach. Cool drinks in hand add to the enjoyment of a quiet moment with a good book. Yes, summertime is here, and we are all so very glad it is.

This only makes sense when you consider how unusually busy spring has been here at our beloved church. No one knows better than I just how nuts it was!! But look at all we accomplished! Many successful events brought crowds of folks into the church including Attic Treasures in April, the Tacos and Sundaes fundraiser for the Barbara Murano Scholarship Fund in May and the Shoreline Ringers and Shortcake event in June. We also

honored our retiring organist and choir director Darla Rines during a special weekend of festivities in May including a wonderful dinner in her honor which filled Fellowship Hall! We also hosted in April a very successful Honored Laypersons Breakfast for our sister churches in the Rhode Island Conference, United Church of Christ. And we can't forget the amazing 50th Anniversary Celebration and Campaign Kick-off Dinner at Stone Ridge in June.

Our boards and committees have also been hard at work, doing everything from revamping the missions work of the church to revitalizing our music program with the guidance of Organist and Choir Director, Dav Cranmer. Our Parlor has received an incredible facelift thanks to the hard work of two Women's Fellowship leaders, Linda Evans and Carolyn LeRoy. Others have been inspired to take on all sorts of projects and tasks around the church as well. Jay Macko designed and led an innovative new program for our children and youth supporting the already excellent efforts of our CE crew. More innovative and exciting programming is underway for this summer including First Sunday Car Washes and the Nature's Art Academy celebrating the first day of summer vacation. Jenny Brummund is working with the Deacons on the creation of two Summer Services of Renewal for care-givers in July and August. A new exterior "Be the Church" banner has been purchased as a gift to the church and will be going up soon. A new color printer for the church office has been donated along with a special television for the Parlor. Folks are hard at work researching options for upgrading the audio-visual system in the sanctuary as well as solar panels for the roof. So much is going on!! All of these exciting initiatives and more besides are being undertaken by our folks energized by the growing sense of singing God's new song bursting out all around the church. We are so very blessed that these folks actually took the radical step of doing something instead of just *talking* about doing something.

That's been happening all over the place in our wonderful church this spring. People have been spurred to action as our church wakes up to the possibilities of what it can be in the years ahead. "The Next Fifty Years of Our Church" has already become so much more than a slogan for our capital campaign. It is fast becoming reality in our midst as people embrace that we can do whatever it is we set our minds to do. We *are* singing a new song to God and every note is

transforming us into the people God is inviting us – calling us – to be in our community and indeed the world.

So as you head out into the lazy days of summer, I hope you will stop to think about not only all that has happened in our beloved church this past spring. I hope you will invest the time to ponder prayerfully what could happen as we work together to make God's future into our reality here at UCC Westerly. We are already singing that new song to God with all of our hearts! Can you hear it? Where is *your* voice in the harmony we are creating together? We're straining to hear it because we need *every* voice for God's new song arising in our midst – especially yours. Have a wonderful summer....

Blessings,
Rev. Ruth

First Sunday Car Washes



Our second Car Wash for this summer will be held from 10:30 am – 12 noon on **July 5**, and the last one on **August 2**. Jay and the kids will be washing cars to raise money for various non-profits doing remarkable and unique work around the world. Funds raised on July 5 will again go to support the work of **Doctors Without Borders** who were on the frontlines of the Ebola outbreaks in West Africa. Suggestions for additional fund recipients welcome. Please speak with Jay!

SPECIAL THANKS

To everyone who helped to make the **Shoreline Ringers Concert and Strawberry Shortcake Feast** such a success! What a wonderful afternoon it was. Amazing music and the best strawberry shortcake any of us have ever enjoyed!!!

Summer Services of Renewal ***Saturday, July 25*** ***and*** ***Saturday, August 22*** ***8 – 10 a.m.***

This summer will feature two unique restorative worship services, led by laypersons and deacons of the church. The services are designed to provide a meditative and spiritually affirming retreat for people who are caregivers; those who work in the helping fields, such as teaching, counseling, and nursing; anyone who needs respite and assurance in their busy life.

The services will have similar elements, including Bible readings, simple hymns and music, a short homily, quiet time alone for journaling or sketching, prayers, Communion by intincture, nurturing rituals, and a blessing. Feel free to attend both services, as each will be different in the specifics.

Please know that there will not be public “sharing” or questions to answer during this worship service; it is simply a peaceful time for you to spend with God in rejuvenation. Light, healthy refreshments will be available during and after the service. Mark your calendar and start two summer Saturdays with us!

- Jenny Brummund and the Deacons

PLAN NOW to join us for our FIRST
ANNUAL HOMECOMING
SUNDAY
on September 13!

This will be a festive worship service celebrating our choir returning from its summer hiatus and the kick-off of our new CE programming for children and youth. A special fellowship hour will follow featuring the **“In The Beginning” pancake breakfast** hosted by the children and youth! We’ll be looking for you as we get our new program year off to a rousing start!



JULY ***Birthdays***

- 13** – Ann Brown
- 13** – Mark Comito
- 19** – Bobbie DelPozo-Waldron
- 21** – Ane Torres
- 22** – Ed Schilke
- 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!



Vacation Time

Rev. Ruth's Summer Schedule

Monday, June 29 through Saturday, July 18
On vacation!

Sunday, July 19
Working as usual ☺

Thursday, August 6 – Sunday, August 9
Congregational Mission Trip!!

Monday, August 10
Working as usual ☺

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 (#401-539-7578).

Susan will be out of the office on her vacation on Monday, July 20th, and Thursday & Friday, July 23rd & 24th. *Bobbie del Pozo-Waldron* will be at the office on Thursday and *Ed Stratton* will be in on Friday from 9 am – 12 noon to answer the telephone. Pastor Ruth will be back in the office on Monday, July 20th!

BOOKS ON THE BEACH



Monday, July 20th
@ 5:30 pm

We will be meeting at the Pavilion at Misquamicut at the picnic tables to the right facing the ocean. It's BYOG (Bring your own grinder) as we gather to discuss Khaled Hosseini's *And The Mountains Echoed*. Come and join us! Good conversation if you've read the book, or just thought about reading it.

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

The next **Church Council meeting** will be held on Sunday, **July 26 at 11:00 am** in the Parlor. All Council Members please submit your reports for the meeting to Cathy Gray by **July 2nd**. **Electronic submissions are preferred.** (Cathy's email address is graygc@mindspring.com) Susan will send you a form via email on July 9th to help you make out your report.

Mission Memos



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

For **August** we will be collecting **school supplies** to help children in need at the **Pawcatuck Middle School**. This collection will be happening *all month long*. We are calling this the "**In the Middle**" **school supplies collection drive**. All of the supplies listed below would be appropriate and the supplies will be blessed during worship on Sunday, **August 30**, with the **Blessing of the Backpacks**. Our thanks to Jenny Brummund and PMS 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 (1 ½ 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
- And to help the teachers, boxes of tissues for the classroom!

*Since those back-to-school sales will be starting soon, there will be boxes at both entrances of the church beginning in July in which to place donations before **August 30th**!*

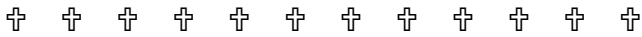
The **Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center** helps to feed Westerly residents too! Please know that our monthly dedicated offering is so appreciated. To encourage donations anytime, one Red Bucket will remain in the Bell Courtyard area of the narthex. *Feel free to contribute canned goods any Sunday.* The need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

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, Darla Rines or Kathy Sugar.*



Interested in becoming a member of our church community?

Plans are forming for folks who are interested in joining our church formally. If you think this might include you, you are invited to join us for an "Inquirers" gathering after church on Sunday, **August 23rd** at 11 am. Come with your questions and to find out more about this church and the United Church of Christ, our denomination. Various leaders of the church will join us to talk about their experiences here and why this is their church home. Kindly be in touch with Rev. Ruth if you would like to attend.



Diaconate Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Name & Telephone</u>
Jul 5	Jay Macko (860) 705-3512
Jul 12	Becky Morrone (401) 596-1070
Jul 19	Gary Davis (860) 599-4279
Jul 26	Lynn Murray (401) 539-7578
Aug 2	Bethany Foster (401) 539-4003
Aug 9	Ane Torres (860) 599-5572
Aug 16	Elvis Torres (860) 599-5572
Aug 23	Carole Kus (860) 822-3787
Aug 30	Jay Macko (860) 705-3512



CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE!

The "Next 50 Years of our Church" Capital Campaign is off and running and doing quite well. We have received 16 pledges in just these first few weeks totaling \$54,000 with pledges ranging from \$500 to just under \$10,000. Our Campaign bulletin board in Fellowship Hall is being updated regularly to report on pledges received as well as estimates in process for the projects we hope to use the funds to address. Brochures explaining the Campaign and pledge forms are available at church and letters will be going out shortly to invite your support, if you have not already pledged. Do note that completed pledge forms can be dropped in the offering plate any Sunday or sent to the church office to the attention of Janet Allen. Pledge payments begin in July. For any questions or concerns about the Campaign, please speak with Campaign Co-Chairs Jay Macko and Bethany Foster or with Rev. Ruth. Let's keep the momentum going!!!



Worship Services this Summer

We continue to meet at 9:30 am throughout the summer. Don't be a stranger!

Sunday, July 5 *Worship with Communion; Jay Macko and Lynn Murray will offer the message.*

Sunday, July 12 *Hymn Sing Sunday with some of your old time favorite hymns!*

Sunday, July 19 *Worship with our own Jenny Brummund as Lay Preacher.*

Sunday, July 26 *Worship with Rev. Ruth!*

Sunday, August 2 *Worship with Communion; Rev. Ruth preaching and presiding.*

Sunday, August 9 *Worship with Gary Davis as Lay Preacher while Rev. Ruth is away with our Mission Trip group.*

Sundays, August 16 & 23 *Worship with Rev. Ruth*

Sunday, August 30 *Worship with Rev. Ruth featuring Blessing of the Backpacks and school supplies collected.*

Sunday, September 6 *Worship with Communion with Rev. Ruth*

Sunday, September 13 *Homecoming Sunday and Opening Day of Sunday School and "In the Beginning" Pancake Breakfast*



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	Shirley M.
Scott & his parents	Gerry
David Hall	Timothy Nugent
William Underhill III	
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.