

# The Beacon

## JUNE 2014



**GOOD NEWS from**

**United Congregational Church of Westerly**

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

**Sunday Worship ~ 9:30 am**

**FROM THE PASTOR ...**

*“As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease.”* Genesis 8:22

The above words from Genesis come almost at the end of the Noah story. The flood is over and Noah, his family and the animals are back on dry land once more. Noah has just offered sacrifices to God in thanksgiving and the words above are God’s response to Noah in that moment. They come after God has expressed regret over having destroyed the world through the flood in great anger over the evil of humankind.

God has realized that humans are just flawed and always will be. God now understands that destroying humans every time the “inclination of the human heart for evil” wreaks havoc in the world will only destroy His own plans and hopes and dreams for Creation.

As I read these words in the world we live in each day, where hatred and violence seem to be the norm and some are willing to destroy the environment just to line their own pockets, God’s words to Noah take on new

significance. God is saying God will not again destroy the world but it is entirely possible humans may do it themselves. “As long as the earth endures” is a qualifier here. Having just acknowledged that humankind is inherently flawed and tends to evil, God seems to realize that the earth’s future is in the hands of humans who may or may not make the right decisions to preserve it. But, God is promising to do God’s part always. God will see to it that the rhythms of nature continue without interference. “Seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night shall not cease,” God promises. The rest is up to us.

I found this verse when I was looking for texts about summer for this article. What I discovered was surprising. All those references, and there are about a dozen or so, either just name it as a season OR connect it with predictions about the “end of days.” That was not what I had expected. I was hoping for descriptions of pleasant summer breezes or taking time to rest during hot summer days. Instead, I realized the Gospel references to summer directly link it to “the end of days.” Those first believers were convinced this would happen before the generation who witnessed Jesus’ ministry on earth had died. But it didn’t. They got that part wrong. They forgot God’s promise not to destroy the world again. We may do it ourselves, but God won’t. Not exactly an uplifting thought to head out into summer vacation time, is it?

Enter Jesus and his constant reminders that with God all things are possible. Enter Jesus with his continuing invitations to everyone to be a part of God’s kingdom becoming real on earth. Enter Jesus who walked on the waters and calmed the storm, who healed the diseased and raised the dead. Enter Jesus into our lives – if we let him, if we accept our responsibility to respond to the challenges placed in our paths by our fellow humans, believing that we can make a difference in the future for ourselves and our world. Enter Jesus into our lives – summer and winter – always.

So as you head out into the slower pace of summer with more family time, more beach

time and more “you” time, I hope you will revel in God’s promises to love and cherish us and our hurting world. And I hope you will find renewal and new energy for cherishing God’s Creation and everyone and everything in it as God would have us do.

Blessings,

*Rev. Ruth*



### *Birthdays*

- 5 Eric Sadowski
- 7 Tyler McCrary
- 20 Victoria Tosti
- 23 June Sicilian
- 28 Emma Sugar

### *Happy Anniversary to:*

Bobbie & Pam DelPozo-Waldron –  
June 6, 1992  
Ed & Judy Stratton – June 6, 1970

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

## Mission Memos

THANK YOU to *the Deacons* for providing the **WARM Center meal** in May. For **June 8** *the Deacons* will be writing a check from the Deacons Emergency Fund. THANK YOU for your special monthly donations to this fund.



**The Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center (PNC)** has requested our assistance in **June** with **soups – clam chowder and any kind of soup with beef in it!** Please bring your items to worship on or before Sunday, **June 8** and we’ll get it to the PNC!

The Mission Committee met on *May 12*. We discussed Jesus' parable of the sheep and goats (Matthew 25:31-46), our inspiration and decree for helping others from all stations of life. We would like to extend a few invitations to the congregation. Perhaps you may be interested in one of the following ways to be a conduit to help mission causes reach more ears...

**Be a phone contact person for "Neighbors Helping Neighbors, RI":** This newly formed organization works to identify needs, such as house painting, for people who can no longer afford or do this work themselves. The network of participating churches and other groups will organize work crews to gather and complete the jobs in one day. Our phone contact person would simply receive the call for assistance from our church and pass along the information to Pastor Ruth and perhaps the congregation if he/she is comfortable with that role. This work was done by Saint Andrew's Church in Dunn's Corners; the group of helping hands is now expanding and working under a larger umbrella.

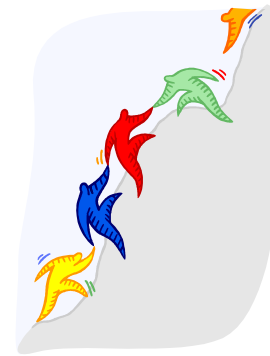
**Make phone contact with *Habitat for***

**Humanity in both South County, RI and New London County, CT:** to gather information and impressions about which, if either, organization might potentially benefit from involvement by our church. This person would not be making commitments of our assistance, just embarking on a fact-finding mission to share with the Mission Committee and others in the congregation.

**SERRV Coordinator:** Currently our church orders items from the SERRV consignment catalog to sell at our Christmas Bazaar. The money raised is a mission that helps artists and craftspeople in developing countries to support themselves and their families. In past years, a Mission person also offered opportunities for our church members to place catalog orders at other times in the year. Potentially, this person could assume responsibility for the coordinating/ordering for the Bazaar table (with instructions from an experienced Mission Committee member) and/OR simply coordinate extra catalog sales during the year. This is a nice opportunity for someone who likes catalog (or on-line) shopping, has attention to detail, and has time to work from home!

**Invitation to share YOUR Mission Passion in a Mission Moment during Worship:** The Second Sunday of the Month is "Mission Sunday". Traditionally, someone from the Missions Committee has delivered a brief update or inspiration on a UCC mission project. We would like to invite YOU to share your own personal or family mission with the congregation, with the idea that you may inspire others to lend support to your mission, whether in deed or in dollars, or in prayer! We also learn more about each other and form further connections! Examples: Are you involved in a Community Garden, Garden Club, Support a Native American Reservation, volunteer your professional services, etc. We'd love for you to share your mission with us!

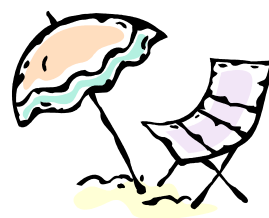
If you are called to answer one of these Mission "Want Ads", please speak to any of the Mission Committee members: *Sandi Davis, Melissa Stratton, Audrey Steinetz, Dixie Lufbery, Peter Hainsworth, Jenny Brummund, or Christina Brummund.* Thank you!



## **INVEST in the VISION** **Strengthen the Church Offering** **June 8<sup>th</sup>**

This offering of the United Church of Christ supports our commitment as a denomination to grow the UCC's future by funding "The Stillspeaking Ministry" and lay and pastoral leadership formation. It helps to strengthen and renew existing congregations, and fund leadership for new ones. Your gift awakens new ideas in existing churches and develops spiritual life in our youth and young adults. Your generous gifts are administered by your Conference in Rhode Island, by Local Church Ministries, and The Stillspeaking Ministry. For your convenience an envelope is enclosed in the newsletter.

## **BOOKS ON THE BEACH** **First Meeting!**



**Thursday, June 19**  
**@ 5:30 pm**

**Where:** Misquamicut Beach (we'll be visible from the Pavilion)

**What:** *Traveling Mercies: Some Thoughts on Faith* by Anne LaMott

Bring a chair to sit on, some goodies to share and your thoughts on this book. Note that we will be deciding future dates and books on the 19<sup>th</sup>. Please speak with Rev. Ruth with any questions or concerns.

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## Diaconate Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Name &amp; Telephone</u>
Jun 1	Carole Kus (860) 822-3787
Jun 8	Jay Macko (860) 705-3512
Jun 15	Lynn Murray (401) 539-7578
Jun 22	<i>to be determined</i>
Jun 29	<i>to be determined</i>

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### **DEACONS' NOTES:**

The following Sundays are the dates Pastor Ruth will be on vacation this summer: **June 29<sup>th</sup>, August 10<sup>th</sup>, and August 17<sup>th</sup>**. We will plan a "Singspiration Sunday" for one of those weeks. We would like to offer to anyone who is interested *the opportunity to preach* on one of the other Sundays. We know you all have inspirational stories, and we would all love to hear them! The Deacons will assist with the other parts and flow of the service. *Please see Pastor Ruth or any deacon to volunteer or ask questions.*

The Deacons are also inviting lay folk to take part in other ways during Sunday services, such as reading the unison prayer of invocation, words of assurance, the offering, and especially the children's message. We welcome anyone interested to speak up!



Many thanks for all the help the Deacons received for the Barbara Murano Scholarship dinner. Because of all the food donations, it was a full-profit event! Special thanks go out to *Rob Morrone*, our resident

chef, who kept us all on track and the event running smoothly. We also appreciate the kitchen and clean-up help, as well as those of you who attended the dinner. Over \$600 was raised for the scholarship fund. It was wonderful to see Barbara Murano's sister, son, and grandson at the event. We'd love your feedback about the new menu.

## ***Annual CHOWDER and Strawberry Shortcake SUPPER***

Sunday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>  
5:00 pm - 6:30 pm



Mark your calendars and save the date *for another great meal!* Enjoy a bowl of homemade quahog chowder made with fresh local clams, or a bowl of corn chowder. For dessert: a dish of strawberry shortcake made with fresh locally grown strawberries.

Cost:                      *Adults: \$10.00*  
*Children 10 and under: \$5.00*

When the sign-up sheet is available, please sign up to help out in the kitchen or to set up or clean up.

### **REMINDER!**

*PLEASE sign up to help out at Coffee Hour every Sunday. The sign-up sheet is next to the Flower Chart. Thank you.*

## Congregational Mission Trip

*Thursday, July 31 - Sunday, August 3*

**THE MISSION TRIP IS ON!** We have gotten enough registrations to make our planned Mission trip a go! Even better, there is still room for those of you who haven't been sure yet whether or not you can join us. Please note that there is a planning meeting scheduled for the trip on Sunday, **June 8** at **11:00 am**. We will be working together to confirm specifics and begin to confirm details. Hope to see you then!

## Operation Christmas Child



The June collection for Operation Christmas Child will be **flip flops!** In **July** and **August** we will be collecting **school supplies**. Many thanks for the May donations of *toothbrushes and toothpaste*.

– Lynn Murray

## **SWEET HOUR OF PRAYER**

*Resumes for brief time before summer hiatus*

The Sweet Hour of Prayer group will meet three more times before taking a break for the summer. Anyone and everyone interested in gathering for prayer is encouraged to come to one or all of these gatherings which will take place at **6:00 pm** in the Parlor on the following Thursdays: **May 29, June 5, and June 12**. Sweet Hour of Prayer will resume in September. Watch for details on day, time and location in the September Beacon!

## Yard Clean-Up Day

*at the church on Saturday, JUNE 14,  
9:00 am – 12 noon*



*Please join us at the church to spruce things up. Hope to see you there!*

*Save these dates for some Summer Fun!*

## WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON

The Women's Fellowship will be holding their annual Summer Luncheon at Sally Panciera's home on Tuesday, **July 15**. All the women of the church are warmly invited. A sign-up sheet will be posted.

## News from Christian Education

### **Baseball Game & All-Church Picnic**

Would you like to go to a **CT Tigers Baseball Game** on Friday, **July 11<sup>th</sup>**? The game starts at 7:05 pm. Check out the sign-up sheet on the Christian Ed bulletin board in Fellowship Hall! The tickets cost \$7.00 each. Just sign up on the sign-up sheet posted there and please give your check or cash to Susan Lanphere. Thanks!

The Christian Ed board is sponsoring an **All-Church Picnic** in North Stonington this year at the Rocky Hollow Recreational Area. Plan to come at **12 noon** on Sunday, **August 24<sup>th</sup>**! Don't forget to sign up in Fellowship Hall. Thanks.

# Congratulations

to our GRADUATES:



**-Douglas Brummund**, Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Rhode Island in Electrical Engineering

**-Erin Gray** Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the University of Rhode Island in Theatre with a concentration in Stage Management

**-Benjamin Macko**, Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Connecticut School of Engineering in Computer Science

David Stratton      Beverly  
Karen & Bill      Doris Whitehead  
Scott & his parents      Vivian Roode

*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:* Darla Rines

*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.



*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
Vince Amkhamavong, US Marines	
Doris	Jennifer Clancon
Eugene Ravenelle	Kim Brown