

# The Beacon

## JUNE 2015



**GOOD NEWS from**

**United Congregational Church of Westerly**

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

**Sunday Worship ~ 9:30 am**

**FROM THE PASTOR ...**

*“...for just such a time as this.”*

Esther 4:14

I've always had a fascination with time – how quickly or slowly it seems to pass, how it's measured, how people respond to a sudden awareness of it. Perhaps this is because I grew up in a house filled with antique clocks of almost every conceivable kind. My dad loved antique clocks evidenced by his own personal collection as well as the ones on display for sale in my parents' antique shop. I grew up thinking everyone's house was filled with an odd array of ticking time pieces, many of which struck the hour with everything from Westminster chimes to a gentle tinkling bell like wind chimes. I smile when I remember the time my dad was interviewed by the local TV news just before the fall time change one year. Apparently somebody suggested a story on my dad's needing to change the time manually on over 100 clocks (and that was just in the shop) might be interesting. The reporter and her crew came to the shop and all was going well

until the reporter made the mistake of asking my dad to change the time early on one of the clocks so they could film him making that delicate adjustment. Dad said he was sorry but he couldn't do that. It was hard on old clocks to make those adjustments, he advised, and he wasn't going to do it on a whim. So, they settled on a compromise of waiting until all the clocks struck at noon instead. Needless to say, she was overwhelmed by the cacophony and that part of the story was what faded into commercial the night the story aired.

Churches can be like those beloved old clocks of my Dad's. They don't adjust to change easily or so it can seem. I think that's because church holds such a special and unique place in our lives, one close to our hearts and all we hold dear. In the fast paced, digitally driven world we live in today it can seem to us who love the church that the world is passing us by. Crowds no longer fill our sanctuaries to capacity except on special occasions making us worry about what the future holds. That's why these beautiful words from the book of Esther in the Old Testament are so important to us in the church today. They are a reminder that all time is God's time and that we are on God's timetable, not just our own. Esther shows us that there are times when God needs us to act solely on faith, trusting God to make a way forward into God's future.

Thankfully, our church is one which is not afraid of change the way some others are. Our beautiful, modern sanctuary is proof of this and of the wisdom of our forebears who knew that a design for a new reality just beginning to be visible in the 1960's was called for in this new church they would build together. We have a chance to remember and celebrate their wisdom and our future when we gather at a special event on Tuesday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> at Stone Ridge. We will enjoy dinner and table fellowship together as we recall who we have been and dare to dream who God is calling us to become. As we go to press on the newsletter more than 50 of you have agreed to join us for this very special event and I am so

grateful for your enthusiastic participation as we begin together the next 50 years of our church! Folks able to join us that evening will enjoy wonderful food and fellowship along with displays of our history. They will hear the details of the Capital Campaign soon to begin and the amazing response of the Leader Pledge night already held. If you will be with us that evening, thanks so much for joining us. If you can't be with us, know that you will still be on our minds and hearts and we trust we will be in yours.

As we get ready to embark on our Next 50 Years as a church in this community, I *know* God has something very special in mind for us to be and to do. I *know* that God will be with us every step of the way, making confident our hesitant footsteps into the future when so much is changing so fast. All we need remember is the lesson Esther learned so well thousands of years ago. God will see to it that we have just what we need, just when we need it for "just such a time as this." What more could we ask?

Blessings,  
*Rev. Ruth*

**The Lasted News from our**  
**CHRISTIAN ED TEAM!**



Join us for Sunday School on **May 31** as we prepare for **Children's Day** on **June 7<sup>th</sup>**. As last year, the children will have the opportunity to assist in leading worship on Children's Day so we hope they will be with us on May 31 as parts are assigned.

## **NATURE/ART ACADEMY**

This is planned for Friday, **June 19**, from 9 am – 4 pm. \$25 fee covers lunch, all art supplies and a wonderful day filled with art projects, explorations and much more! Advance registration is required and registration forms are available on the cabinet at the main entrance to the church. Speak with Jay Macko #860-705-3512 for more information.

*"Faith is caught, not taught."* William Willimon

### ***Join us for the Annual FFF Outing to the CT Tigers Baseball game***

at Dodge Stadium in Norwich, CT @ 7:05 pm on Friday, **June 19**. Tickets \$7 each. Sign-up sheet outside Fellowship Hall.

## **First Sunday Car Washes**



A unique and fun addition to the summer calendar this year will be coming to a Car Wash! From 10:30 am – 12 noon on **June 7, July 5, and 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 June 7 will 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!

***Spring Handbell Concert and  
Strawberry Shortcake***

Sunday, June 14<sup>th</sup> 3:00 pm



Come to the church for this special concert followed by delicious native strawberry shortcake! Come join the **Shoreline Ringers**, a community handbell choir from Southeastern Connecticut ringing on five octaves of handbells and seven octaves of handchimes. See Carolyn LeRoy for tickets (\$10.00 each) or call the church at #860-599-1226.



***JUNE***

***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!*



**BOOKS ON THE ROAD!**

***Monday, June 8 @ 6:00 pm  
at Liz Walker's home.***

Our current book is Our Lady of the Lost and Found by Diane Schoemperlin. We'll be gathering over dinner at Liz Walker's home at the date and time noted above. Kindly call Liz at 401-596-2141 to RSVP and get directions! Hope to see you then!

**Address Change**

***Dorothy Oehrle*** has asked that her new address and phone be listed here. Please call or send a card and let her know that you are thinking of her.

Brookdale Farmington  
20 Devonwood Drive, Apt #162  
Farmington, CT 06032

***A THANK YOU NOTE from DARLA***



*To my church family and friends,  
Thank you for sharing my retirement  
celebration. You all are one of many of God's  
blessings who have inspired me to express my  
devotion to Him through music. Your  
dedication of the Renew Song Book will be  
one of my most cherished occasions.*

*Faithfully yours, Darla*

## Mission Memos



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The Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center (PNC) has requested our assistance in June with **canned pineapple, canned mandarin oranges, and clam chowder**. Please bring your items to worship on or before Sunday, **June 14<sup>th</sup>** 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 Missions Committee is also looking for your assistance in sponsoring one of the monthly **WARM Center meals** we have agreed to provide. Watch for details on a special **WARM Center Sunday** coming in June and be ready to do your part to support this vital ministry of the church in our community.

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.*

### Conference Dues

A gentle reminder from the Trustees that Per Capita dues of \$18.00 per individual member paid to the UCC are due now. Your assistance with this is greatly appreciated by your church and the United Church of Christ.

## **FINAL DEADLINE COMING UP for the 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*  
**DEADLINE TO REGISTER: June 15, 2015**

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

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## **Diaconate Schedule**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Name &amp; Telephone</u>
Jun 7	Becky Morrone (401) 596-1070
Jun 14	Ane Torres (860) 599-5572
Jun 21	Elvis Torres (860) 599-5572
Jun 28	Carole Kus (860) 822-3787

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## **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*



*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	David Keith
William Underhill III	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.*

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### **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.