

The Beacon

MARCH 2014



GOOD NEWS from

United Congregational Church of Westerly

United Church of Christ, Pawcatuck, CT

Sunday Worship ~ 9:30 am

FROM THE PASTOR ...

“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

Matthew 6:21

Jesus is telling us a simple truth in these few words spoken on an ancient hillside. He is saying that your life makes plain what is important to you, regardless of what you say is important. He is reminding us that how we invest our time, our talent, our resources and ourselves is what makes up our lives each day. It becomes the foundation on which the rest of our lives are built.

Evaluating the foundation of our lives – what we build our lives on each day – is the work of the Season of Lent in the church year. Lent is the time when we make a special effort to consider who we really are in relation to God and each other and how this reality measures up with who we would like to be and who God thinks we can be. Lent is the time to figure out where our hearts really are, and whether we

are chasing after the right treasure in the daily grind of life.

This is soul work. It takes intentional focus and effort and a special sort of courage to face who we are to ourselves, to the other people in our lives, and to God. We do that at our church in a number of ways throughout Lent. We begin on Ash Wednesday, March 5, with a special service that includes the distribution of ashes, a very moving but simple ritual designed to remind us of our fragile humanity. Our Lenten journey continues through worship each Sunday, this year focusing on the central prayer of the Christian faith, “the Lord’s Prayer” which Jesus himself taught to his disciples. We will be exploring this beautiful prayer as the foundation of our faith and its role as just what Jesus always intended it to be – the gateway to a deeper relationship with God. Additional Lenten observances include an “At Home” Lenten Devotional Guide with suggestions for daily bible readings and prayer. A weekly opportunity for intentional prayer and reflection with others will be available with the Sweet Hour of Prayer Group moved to 6 pm on Thursdays during Lent.

Spring is coming, praise God, so as you watch the snow continue to melt and the first green shoots push up through the newly thawed ground, I hope you will see in them an invitation to do a little growing yourself this Lenten season. Invest a little of your time and energy in understanding yourself a little better. How does your life reveal what is truly important to you? If it doesn’t, why doesn’t it? How might God be part of any changes you’d like to make? In other words, where *is* your heart – really – and where would you like it to be? Only you can answer that.

Blessings,

Pastor Ruth

ATTIC TREASURES SALE

Saturday, March 22nd
8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.



Clean Saleable Items are appreciated and *some treasures would be nice too!* They can be brought in starting on Sunday, **March 16th**. Please leave your items on the tables in Fellowship Hall. If you must bring something in before this, there is a room available downstairs. Please no big items, such as couches, mattresses, TV's and no computers. *Women's Fellowship* will be coordinating this event.

Thanks, - *Linda Evans*



Birthdays

- 1 Fred Tarasuk
- 1 Madelyn Stratton

10 Adam Tarasuk

12 Emma Stratton

19 Edward Stratton

30 Brenda Cornell

Happy Anniversary to:

Ed and Nancy Schilke – March 16
Ken & Dorothy Oehrle – 3-31-56

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

Mission Memos

THANK YOU to the *Men's Club* for providing the **WARM Center meal** in February. For **March 9** the *Christian Ed Middle School Youth* will be providing the meal. They will be participating in preparing a meal of American Chop Suey, salad, and cookies during Sunday school on March 9. A **sign-up sheet** will be posted this Sunday, **March 2, for anyone that would like to contribute food items, such as *hamburger, pasta, sauce, lettuce, cucumbers, tomatoes, or easy bake cookies***. If you would like to contribute, please sign up. Thank you for your support.



The Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center (PNC) has requested our assistance in *March* with **BEDDING** items, such as ***gently used (or new) blankets, comforters, sheets and pillowcases, all sizes***. Food items that are needed: **jelly & coffee!** Please bring your items to worship on or before Sunday, **March 9** and we'll get it to the PNC!

A thank you note and a telephone thank you were received from the school nurses at Springbrook Elementary and West Vine Street Schools. They both appreciate your generous contribution of hats, mittens & gloves.

Thanks for all your help! Please speak to any member of the Missions Committee with your ideas and questions. – *Dixie Lufbery, Jenny Brummund, Christina Brummund, Peter Hainsworth, Audrey Steinetz, Sandi Davis, and Melissa Stratton.*

THANK YOU!

What a great bunch you are!!

Thanks for EVERYTHING.

Our 17th Valentine Tea was amazing.

We raised \$1,315 for the church!

– Linda Evans

One Great Hour of Sharing

WE ARE ONE

The core of the United Church of Christ is transforming lives! Why? Because **we are one** in Christ. With our gifts to **One Great Hour of Sharing** the United Church of Christ offers hope and wellbeing to people around the world. Lives are transformed through support that provides shelter, food, water, medical supplies, healthcare, education and disaster relief in the US and internationally.

Offering envelopes are available on the table at the entrance to the sanctuary or in the newsletter for your donations. The collection will be received at our church on **March 30th**.
“Sharing Resources – Changing Lives.”



Special Thanks to everyone who helped make **ALMOST IRON CHEF** the huge success it was on February 1st and to Carole Cravinho, Becky Morrone, and Bobbie Del Pozo-Waldron for all their efforts in making it happen! We had 22 competitors and the participant tables were full so that we were able to raise over \$600 for the church. This money will be the seed money for a special donations drive to kick off soon in support of a much needed repair project for the roofs and windows outside the parlor, choir room and library.

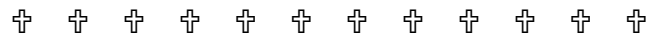
CONGRATULATIONS to our ALMOST IRON CHEF WINNERS:

- Best Appetizer – **Linda Evans**
- Best Entrée – **Peter Hainsworth**
- Best Side Dish – **Barbara Colby**
- Best Dessert – **Rob Morrone**
- **Overall Almost Iron Chef 2014 – ROB MORRONE!!!!**

It's Barbara Murano Scholarship Time

Once Again!

Applications for the Barbara Murano Scholarship will be available here at the church beginning on Ash Wednesday, March 5. Applicants are encouraged to review the application for specifics on the process to be sure they understand what is expected of them in order to receive a scholarship. Applications will be due in to the Church Office by no later than Easter Sunday, April 20. Any questions on the Scholarships should be directed to the Deacons through the Church Office.



Diaconate Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Name & Telephone</u>
Mar 2	Becky Morrone (401) 596-1070
Mar 9	Ane Torres (860) 599-5572
Mar 16	Bethany Foster (401) 539-4003
Mar 23	Carole Kus (860) 822-3787
Mar 30	Jay Macko (860) 705-3512



Prayer Tree

A decision was made at the February Deacons' meeting to welcome **Ane Torres** as the primary contact person for the Prayer Tree. If you have someone you would like to have prayers said for, please call her directly at #860-599-5572 or email her at: ane.g.torres@gmail.com As so many have testified, the power and comfort of prayer is strong. In fact *Blanche Zimmerman* called this morning with a note of thanks: “Thanks to all the congregation for their prayers, concerns, cards, and visits, and especially to Pastor Ruth for her visits and prayers. I am getting better each day!”
- Blanche

WELCOME New Members

UCC Westerly is very pleased to welcome SIX new members into our church family on March 2. They are:

*Linda Atkinson
Shirin Platt
Amanda Hainsworth
Michael Poulin
Laurie Poulin
Rachael Poulin*

We are so glad to have you with us!



Corned Beef & Cabbage DINNER

Saturday, March 15th at 5:30 p.m.

Traditional Corned Beef & Cabbage
Homemade Dessert & Beverage

Admission price: Adults \$10.00;
Children \$5.00

Everyone is welcome to attend. Please wear your green!

Help is needed in the kitchen at 10:00 am on Friday, March 14, to cook the meat and do the vegetables. A sign-up sheet will be posted for desserts and for helpers!

Operation Christmas Child

It is time to think about Operation Christmas Child again. We will once again be collecting specific items each month. These will be assembled in shoeboxes in the fall and sent to needy children. While some of these items may seem very basic to us, they are actually luxuries for some. For the month of March we will be collecting **Band-Aids** and **nail clippers**. Thank you in advance for your help.
– Lynn Murray

UCCW's Summer Mission Trip is moving forward!

Dates are picked – Thursday, **July 31** through Sunday, **August 3** -- and the location is confirmed – The Providence Experience based at Irons Homestead in Gloucester, RI. Now comes the fun part! Planning what we'll be doing with our time. Join us as we choose from several options as we work on the vital issue of food insecurity in Rhode Island as we learn what that means and how it is being addressed in our state. Our next planning meeting is on Sunday, **March 16 @ 11 am** in the Parlor. Come join us for the conversation and check out the bulletin board describing the experience now up in Fellowship Hall. Flyers and registration info will be available soon!



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

Ann Brown	Barbara Simmons
Charlie Wright	Barbara
Madelyn Stratton	Sandi Davis
Fred	Catherine
Jeff	Jim
Millie Silver	Debbie
Shirley Harrington	Lisa
Beverly & Family	Carole Kus
John Dillon	Brian Madill
Vince Amkhamavong, US Marines	
Susan & Devin	Sheryl
David Jones	Doris
Jennifer Clancon	Eugene Ravenelle
Kim Brown	David Stratton
Beverly	Patricia Whipple
Martha Hale	Karen & Bill
Doris Whitehead	Scott & his parents

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

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.