

The Beacon

MAY 2014



GOOD NEWS from

United Congregational Church of Westerly

United Church of Christ, Pawcatuck, CT

Sunday Worship ~ 9:30 am

FROM THE PASTOR ...

“Do not consider the former things, or consider the things of old.

I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?” Isaiah 43:18-19

Isaiah’s words ring true for us as Easter recedes into memory and God’s bright future for our church stretches out before us. Committees and boards are busy planning so many wonderful things in the months ahead. Attendance at our Holy Week and Easter services was excellent, and even this past Sunday – historically one of the lowest attendance Sundays in the church year – saw our pews surprisingly full with old friends and new. Things are happening in our midst and it is so exciting!

I am pleased to share with you that shortly before Easter I received a letter from our Interim Conference Minister, Rev. Beverley Edwards, that our church has been identified as one poised to enjoy strong growth in the years ahead. To that end, I and two of our lay leaders have been invited to attend a special meeting in early May to be introduced to a

church growth expert and capital campaign strategist. I am so excited to know that others in the UCC see the potential in our wonderful church that I see. I look forward to that meeting and the information we will glean about ways to move forward to bolster our financial security even as we imagine new ways to reach out to the community in which God has called us to live and minister. I have also been invited by the Conference to be the “point person” on the local version of a new national initiative very much a part of church growth strategies. While being trained to use this new Mission InSite on-line demographics service retained by the UCC to support church growth planning and strategizing, I learned that the Westerly-Pawcatuck area is one of the areas in the New England region projected to enjoy noticeable growth in almost all demographic areas within the next five years. More good news for us!

Dear friends, we have much to be excited about and look forward to in the days, and weeks and months ahead. But, make no mistake, it will take *all* of us working together to make God’s dreams, God’s hopes for our church real in our midst. That’s why all the wonderful things we are already doing matter so much! Like the upcoming Barbara Murano Scholarship Fundraiser Supper on May 10, this year experiencing a make-over into a trendy new “Tacos and Sundaes” event. We’re counting on your support to make this an even bigger success than it has been in the past. Some exciting things are coming up in worship too. On Mother’s Day we will hear “testimonies” from some of our folks about their own moms. Then on Memorial Day Sunday we will once again honor loved ones now in God’s nearer presence who served in the military and/or as fire-fighters or police.

So, there can be no mistaking that God is doing a new thing in our midst. The only question then becomes – what will each of us do to support the Holy Spirit’s movement here in our church? Remember, no one can do everything but everyone can do something. Even you. Even now. Even here.

Blessings,

Rev. Ruth



Birthdays

- 3 Brian Johnson
- 4 Charlotte Korean
- 5 Gregory Sugar
- 7 Gene LeRoy
- 9 Nicholas Schilke
- 10 Rev. Kathleen Crockford
- 20 Daniel Stratton
- 27 Susan Moynihan

Happy Anniversary to:

Mark & Elizabeth Dessaulles – May 6, 1989
Congratulations on 25 years!

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



Thank you to all who participated in the support of the **family housing project** during Lent. Because of your generosity, we were able to send \$353.12 to help a family with children find emergency housing until they are able to get back on their feet. "In as much as you have done it to the least of these my brothers and sisters, you have done it unto me."

- Carolyn LeRoy

Mission Memos

THANK YOU to Jay & Martha & JJ Macko for providing the **WARM Center meal** in April. For **May 11** the Deacons will be providing the meal.



The Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center (PNC) has requested our assistance in **May** with **canned fruit of any kind!** Please bring your items to worship on or before Sunday, **May 11** and we'll get it to the PNC!

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.*

INVEST in the VISION **Strengthen the Church Offering** **June 8th**

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.

**“Make Your Own”
Tacos & Sundaes Supper**

Saturday, May 10th, 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.

- *Sponsored by the Deacons to raise money to grant yearly scholarships to our church members of any age who are pursuing higher education!*
- *Those interested in applying for the Barbara Murano scholarship are encouraged to help out before, during, or after the dinner if possible.*



**Adults: \$10.00
Children under 10: \$5.00
Family of 4 (2 kids under 10): \$25**

*A list of **needed ingredients** is on the bulletin board at the entrance to Fellowship Hall. We would appreciate the donation of any of the ingredients to help offset the cost of the dinner.*

Barbara Murano was a member and Deacon of our church. After her death on September 9, 1990, the Diaconate Board established a scholarship in her memory. Scholarships are awarded to members of the church who are continuing their formal education in some manner. To help support this fund and keep it growing, the Diaconate Board has a fundraiser event each year.

Please support this worthy cause and enjoy the food and fellowship.

PLEASE NOTE:

We are no longer collecting donations of eyeglasses at the church. The best place to leave your donations of eyeglasses is at the **Westerly Public Library**. That’s where all the eyeglasses which had accumulated at the church were taken. Thank you!



Diaconate Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Name & Telephone</u>
May 4	Becky Morrone (401) 596-1070
May 11	Lynn Murray (401) 539-7578
May 18	Bethany Foster (401) 539-4003
May 25	Elvis Torres (860) 599-5572



**Now’s The Time to Register for this
Summer’s**

Congregational Mission Trip!!!

Thursday, July 31 – Sunday, August 3

**“The Providence Experience” addressing
Food Insecurity Issues in RI based at
beautiful Irons Homestead, Glocester, RI**

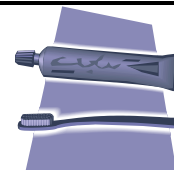
Cost: \$125 per person

Registration deadline is May 25.

Space limited!!!

Registration form and instructions are part of the trip brochures that are available at the sanctuary entrances. If you would like to receive the brochure electronically, please email Rev. Ruth or the church office. Thanks!

Operation Christmas Child



The May donation to Operation Christmas Child will be **toothbrushes** and **toothpaste**. Many thanks for the April donations of *combs, brushes, and hair accessories*. In the fall we will be filling shoeboxes with a collection of items for children in underserved areas. Thank you in advance for your help.

– Lynn Murray

ANNOUNCING...

Pastor Ruth's Books on the Beach this summer!!



Once a week this summer, I will be hosting a book discussion group at Misquamicut Beach.

Most likely, later in the day on Thursdays. I am currently looking for suggestions for books you would like to read and any other thoughts you might have on this summertime endeavor. A sign-up sheet to let me know if folks are interested is on the board outside Fellowship Hall. Hope to see your name there!

Relay for Life

For many years our church was represented at the American Cancer Society Relay for Life. We took last year off, and are wondering if there is an interest in forming a team again this year. The event will be held at Stonington High School this year on June 20 – 21st. Please **sign up on the bulletin board** if you are interested in participating this year.

– Lynn Murray

EVERYONE'S INVITED!

Communion Education Event with Pot-Luck Friday, May 30th, 6-8 pm.



The Family Fun Fellowship group is inviting everyone in the church to come and enjoy a Pot-luck supper followed by learning about communion. The children will also be baking bread that evening for Communion Sunday on June 1st, which is Children's Day. So, please bring your favorite potluck dish and join us for an evening with your church family.



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
David Stratton	Beverly
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.