

The Beacon

MAY 2015



GOOD NEWS from

United Congregational Church of Westerly

United Church of Christ, Pawcatuck, CT

Sunday Worship ~ 9:30 am

FROM THE PASTOR ...

“For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so, we who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.”

Romans 12:4-5

The challenges of being church together are as old as the church itself. That’s why the Apostle Paul spent so much time writing letters to all the churches he founded, scattered around the Mediterranean. Such is the case with the verses above. Paul was trying to explain how it is that the church can be both a collection of individuals and a community of the faithful. That is the church’s reality after all. Every church, including our own, is made up of individual people each with their own strengths and weaknesses, their own gifts and abilities, their own biases and pet peeves. But if the church is to be the church – God’s living and active presence here on earth – then we must move beyond being a collection of individuals to being a single body of believers committed to responding to the world as God would have us do. This doesn’t mean we surrender our

individuality. In fact, it’s just the opposite. We celebrate our individuality and the gifts each one brings as we come together to do the work and ministry of the church as a whole. Paul says that’s what makes the church unique. That’s what makes the church the core building block on which rest God’s plans for the future.

This sense of it taking everyone to be the church now and as it moves forward into the future is the focus of the upcoming Annual Meeting of the Rhode Island Conference, United Church of Christ this coming Saturday, May 2. But it’s really what happens in every church all the time. Every church is, at its core, a collection of individuals, each of them uniquely created by God, uniquely loved by God, uniquely gifted by God to be just what God needs in their own individual lives and families, and in the church. It’s actually quite amazing when you think about it. Like one of those jigsaw puzzles with a thousand little pieces. If you don’t know what the puzzle is supposed to look like, you can’t possibly figure it out by looking at individual pieces. You can only see the whole picture as all those individual pieces fit together.

So it is with our church as we move forward into our future together. The “Campaign for the Next 50 Years of Our Church” is taking shape as all those little pieces being worked on by our dedicated working groups fall into place. As we move forward, we need to remember Paul’s advice to that long ago church in Rome – “so we who are many are one body in Christ and individually we are members one of another.” Paul is reminding us that we are more than a collection of people who show up to worship and to meetings and to work on special events here. We are part of each other in a unique and wonderful way with God as our glue. How amazing is that.

Blessings,
Rev. Ruth

REMINDER:

Just a reminder that advance reservations for the dinner in Darla's honor on May 16 MUST be made by May 9. We will NOT be able to accommodate walk-ins the day of the dinner.



SPECIAL MOTHER'S DAY CELEBRATION

Sunday, May 10 @ 9:30 am service

Bring a photo of Mom and your favorite story about her as we celebrate those special women in our lives!

CHRISTIAN ED NEWS:



Sunday School Schedule:

- May 3** – Nature's Art with Jay
- May 10** – Nature's Art with Jay
- May 17** – Sunday School with Ms. Susan
- May 24** – Family Worship Sunday
- May 31** – Sunday School getting ready for Children's Day
- June 7** – Children's Sunday

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

- Friday, June 19 – ARTS ACADEMY, 9am-4pm
- Friday, June 19 – FFF CT Tigers Baseball Game Outing!

"Faith is caught, not taught." William Willimon

Mission Memos



The Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center (PNC) *has* requested our assistance in **May** with **dog food and cat food**. Please bring your items to worship on or before Sunday, **May 10th** 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 **PNC** is also accepting donations of **used children's books**. The books help keep children busy while parents are filling out forms. Children are also able to take the books home with them. Dixie Lufbery faithfully delivers the UCC donations to the PNC every week. Thank you, Dixie!

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.*

Next Generation BAZAAR BINDER

If you had a major role in any part of the bazaar, inside or out, please fill out the **"bazaar area important information"** sheet found on the narthex counter. We are trying to compile a binder of all our tricks of the trade so future volunteers will feel comfortable stepping in. These can be *returned to Lynn Murray*.



MAY Birthdays

- 3 – Brian Johnson
4 – Charlotte Korean
5 – Gregory Sugar
7 – Gene LeRoy
9 – Nicholas Schilke
20 – Daniel Stratton
27 – Susan Moynihan

Happy Anniversary to:

Mark & Elizabeth Dessaulles – May 6, 1989

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



Diaconate Schedule

Table with 3 columns: Date, Name & Telephone, and phone number. Rows include Lynn Murray, Carole Kus, Jay Macko, Elvis Torres, and Lynn Murray.



THANK YOU....to those of you who participated in our Lenten Family Housing Support donation drive. Together we raised \$868, a little more than 2% of the \$40,000 needed per year to help 8 families with children get emergency housing and back on their feet. 'Well done, good and faithful servant!' (Matthew 25:23) - Carolyn LeRoy

'Make Your Own' Tacos & Sundaes Dinner Saturday, May 9th, 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.

- All proceeds benefit the Murano Scholarship Fund.
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

To help defray the cost of the meal, there is an ingredients sign-up sheet on the bulletin board at the entrance to Fellowship Hall. Thank you for all your help and participation.

Scholarships will be presented on Scholarship Sunday, May 31st.

Deacons' Notes:

When the Diaconate Person of the Week says, 'Feel free to contact us with your joys and concerns,' we really mean it. We can activate the prayer tree, and with just a few phone calls, many people will be praying. We would love to celebrate good news with you as well.

If you'd like to give feedback on any part of the service but don't know the appropriate path for that, that path is through the Deacon of the Week, or any Deacon. By definition, the Deacons are a part of the spiritual life of the church, so if it concerns you, it concerns us. We'd love to hear from you. Our names and numbers are always in the bulletin and in the Beacon.

CAMPAIGN MEETINGS SCHEDULED!

- *Working Group meetings* are on-going. If you are not sure when your Group is meeting, please contact the Group Facilitators:
Hospitality: Darla Rines, Ane Torres, Peter Hainsworth
Special Event: Carolyn LeRoy, Kathy Tarasuk, Shirin Platt
Promotion: Claire Calabretta, Becky Morrone, Carole Cravinho
- Our next Campaign Meeting with Consultant Peter Saros is scheduled for Monday, **May 18** from **6 - 8 pm**.
- Watch for details on our big Campaign Celebration Dinner planned for *June 2nd*!

Announcing our Annual Memorial Day Weekend Sunday Service of Remembrance



Sunday, May 24 @ 9:30 am

Join us as we honor the memories of military veterans as well as first responders who are now in God's nearer presence. Watch for details in the Weekly Email Update or call Rev. Ruth at any time.

BOOKS ON THE ROAD!
Monday, June 8 @ 6:00 pm
at Liz Walker's home.

Please note this is a change of date from what we discussed when we met. We're finally ready to move on with our new book, Our Lady of the Lost and Found by Diane Schoemperlen. 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!

ONLY TWO SPOTS REMAIN 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.*

INVEST in the VISION **Strengthen the Church Offering** **May 24th**

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 or you will find one at the entrances to the sanctuary.

SAVE THE DATE for the
Bell Choir Concert and
Strawberry Shortcake Sunday,
June 14th 3:00 pm



See insert for details.



**LOOKING FOR SIMPLE WAYS
TO LEND A HAND HERE AT CHURCH
& IN THE COMMUNITY?**

Then do we have good news for you! You can make a difference, right here and right now through two important ministries of this church that need people power to happen. That's you! Please consider helping out with one or both of these vital ministries of our church. *No one can do everything but everyone can do something!*

#1 – **Coffee hour hosts.** You can just do the coffee. You can also provide goodies, or not. You can just clean up. But we need everyone to help in some way! Sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall.

#2 – **WARM CENTER Meal** – 2nd Sunday of every month. We have promised WARM we will provide one meal a month on the 2nd Sunday so volunteers are needed to prepare a meal for 60 people and get it over to WARM by early afternoon on that Sunday OR provide a cash donation of \$20, \$40 or \$80 to help cover the cost of one of the 12 meals we promise to provide each year. Please contact the office for more details.

**The VISITATION MINISTRIES
of UCC Westerly**

Thanks to the efforts of Barbara Colby and others, our church has had a thriving visitation ministry for years. The Visitation Team is a group of lay folks who go out and visit with members and friends of our church who would like a visit – it's that simple! These folks either live in nursing homes or are in rehab for a short stay. Or, it might be that they just don't get out as much as they used to. Whatever the reason, they have asked for visits from our lay visitation team and we are happy to oblige. So, if you would like to be part of our Visitation Team or would like to be on the list to be visited for the short term or the long run, kindly be in touch with Rev. Ruth at any time.



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	Family of Nina Poeta
William Underhill III	Martha
David Keith	Linda Dessauls
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.

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.

