

The Beacon

NOVEMBER 2014



GOOD NEWS from

United Congregational Church of Westerly

United Church of Christ, Pawcatuck, CT

Sunday Worship ~ 9:30 am

FROM THE PASTOR ...

“Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.” Isaiah 58:12

These words from Isaiah hold a special place in my heart. I have prayed them every morning for longer than I can recall. I have preached on them, more than once. I have used them as grounding for ministry workshops I have led. These words written by a prophet millennia ago for a people on the cusp of a daunting task are foundational to my life as a pastor and as a person because they speak so simply and so beautifully to what we are called to do and to be in the church. Isaiah’s words acknowledge the challenges of the present even as they call us forward into a future filled with possibilities. We know there are ruins and breaches, holes in the very fabric of the society in which we live each day. We know there are streets broken as well, all those pathways folks used to be able to follow to find a better job, a better place to live, a secure retirement, a place to heal, a place to hope. Much is broken in the world around us which is why Isaiah’s

words speak as powerfully to us today as they did to the people they were written for thousands of years ago.

So, what does Isaiah say? He says quite clearly that our ruins will be rebuilt, that our breaches will be repaired and our streets restored as places we will want to live. And he says that this will happen because *we* will make it happen. He also says right up front, “You shall raise up the foundations of many generations...” That’s hope, pure and simple, and it is this hope that makes everything else possible. It is impossible to raise up future generations without hope. We have to believe those generations Isaiah promises will come and that they will be here, in this place, in this church we so love.

Hope that a vibrant future awaits our church is the foundation of the Church Growth initiative we are in the midst of with consultant Peter Saros. He is teaching us to see our church with new eyes, to believe that new ways of doing things are possible and that *we can do them*, bringing our church into a whole new reality for the future. An important step on this exciting journey into our future will happen during the Stewardship Weekend planned for November 21-23 right here at the church. The details of this weekend will be finalized at our third Church Growth Gathering on Monday, November 10. Small group experiences will be the centerpiece of the Stewardship Weekend, designed to bring together folks of different ages and interests to discuss what they need from and hope for the church. Then we will step out in faith together during our Stewardship Sunday celebration on November 23, trusting that God will inspire us enough to enable all these possibilities for our church to become real. More details will follow on all this as the time draws closer. In the meantime, I hope you will try praying the words of Isaiah each day, imagining what it might look like for us to raise up the foundations of many generations right here in our own beloved church. Isaiah thinks we can do it. Peter Saros thinks we can do it. I think we can do it. Do you?

Blessings,
Rev. Ruth

Operation Christmas Child



Women's Fellowship began filling shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child. The Sunday School children will complete the project soon. Still needed are **toothbrushes, small tubes of toothpaste, and boxes of band aids**. We have received some donations for shipping the boxes. We will be requesting \$7 per box to be sure they reach their destination. Thank you all for your generous shoebox donations. Feel free to stop in and fill a box on the middle level if you want to see what it is all about!

THANK YOU....



...Linda Evans & Carolyn LeRoy thank you for your very generous donations to support our walk for the **Family Housing Support Group**. The group provides emergency housing (for 3 months) for families in "crisis" to help them get back on their feet and hopefully on their own.

...to the Men's Club for fixing the lighting and railroad ties at the upper sanctuary entrance.

...to Ed Stratton for fixing the front door bell, the intercom, a "problem" wall socket in the Parlor hallway, and for taking the sanctuary clock to be fixed!

BOOKS IN THE PARLOR!

Watch the Sunday Bulletins and Weekly Emails for the next book selection and date of meeting!

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BAZAAR & TEA & SILENT AUCTION

Saturday, December 6, 2014

10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Please support our annual event!

*Bazaar sign-ups are on the far wall in Fellowship Hall. Please **put your name** where you can. If you have any questions, please ask any church member for details.*

Bake Room – We are requesting your donations for the Bake Room. Cookies, cakes, pies, muffins, breads, baked beans, preserves, relishes, candy, biscotti and any family recipe you wish to make. We appreciate all you do. Thank you. - Carolyn LeRoy, Carole Cravinho

CHOIR NEWS



"Sing to the Lord a New Song!" All are invited to the next open meeting of the Music Committee on Sunday, November 2 @ 11 am in the parlor

Exciting changes are already underway in our Music Program for the year ahead and we want you to be a part of it! Join us at this special meeting where we will be planning for Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas music. We'd love to hear your thoughts! Let's see what happens when we dare to "sing to the Lord a new song!" Please speak with Doug Brummund or Brenda Cornell with any questions.

Some of the changes already in place:

- *Choir rehearsal on Sunday mornings from 8:30 am – 9:15 am!*
- *An optional "Extra Sing" on some Thursdays at 7 pm (confirm with Darla first)*
- *"Drop-in" chair in the choir loft so you can jump in and sing a favorite anthem*
- *No Choir Robes!*
- *Working together to identify guest musicians and vocalists to join us in worship*



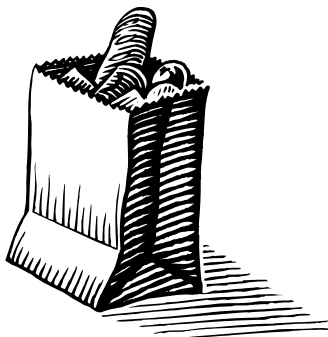
November Birthdays

- 5 Megan Gray
- 6 Kali Bogue
- 21 John Walker
- 25 Christina Brummund
- 26 Alison Schilke
- 26 Sara Schilke
- 29 Caleb Stratton

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

Mission Memos

THANK YOU to *the Kitchen Committee & Women's Fellowship* for providing the **WARM Center meal in October**. For **November 9** we will be relying on your generous monthly donations to the Deacons Emergency Fund in order to provide the meal. We appreciate your generosity.



The Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center (PNC) has requested our assistance in **November** with **boxes of instant mashed potatoes and cans of baked beans**. Please bring your items to worship on or before Sunday, **November 9** and we'll get them to the PNC!



Knitters, Crocheters, and Shoppers....

The Mission Committee will once again be collecting children's hats, mittens, scarves, and boots for Westerly and Pawcatuck elementary school nurses to distribute as needed. A paper tree with gift boxes will be set up near the main entrance to the sanctuary during the Advent Season. Please leave your donations in the boxes. Last year, our church provided fifty articles of warmth each to two local schools. We hope to meet this ever-present need again this winter.

The **Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center** is now helping to feed Westerly residents as well! 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!

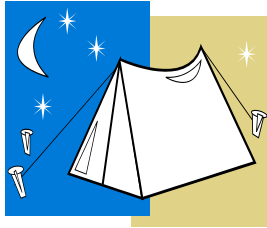
The **PNC** is also accepting donations of **used children's books**. The books help keep children busy while parents are filling out forms. Children are also able to take the books home with them. Dixie Lufbery faithfully delivers the UCC donations to the PNC every week. Thank you, Dixie!

The Mission Committee is planning for a **guest speaker, Barbara Libby**, to come and share information about how the RI Conference supports mission-work in Haiti. We hope she will be able to visit us in November.

Thank you to everyone who supported the **Neighbors In Need** UCC offering collected in October. In total, we donated \$251.

Coming Soon! Look for an insert in the Order of Worship which *will detail our church's current mission work and will provide opportunity for you to share your input and ideas for the future.*

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



Please support RI UCC OUTDOOR MINISTRY & Summer Camp for our Children, Youth and Families at Irons Homestead by participating in the **6-Hour Fundraiser** being held on **Sunday, November 9**

You are invited to participate by sponsoring Jennifer Geary, our Director at Irons Homestead, who will walk/run in the *RI 6-Hour Ultra Marathon* being held in Warwick, RI. **Our goal is to raise a minimum of \$12,000 to insure modest stipends for our counselors and nurses.** We plan to start the camping season able to assure parents and campers that we have the appropriate staff in place for the entire summer.

No pledge amount is too small or too big. You can sponsor Jennifer for an amount per mile or per kilometer! You can name a maximum amount that you are willing to contribute or offer a set donation.

More information is available at the RICUCC website: RICUCC.org – click on “Camp and Retreat”.

UCC WESTERLY needs an Outdoor Ministry liaison. Could that be you? Talk to Rev. Ruth for more information.

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Diaconate Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Name & Telephone</u>
Nov 2	Jay Macko (860) 705-3512
Nov 9	Ane Torres (860) 599-5572
Nov 16	Lynn Murray (401) 539-7578
Nov 23	Becky Morrone (401) 596-1070
Nov 30	Bethany Foster (401) 539-4003

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Deacons' Notes:

The Deacons are in the process of updating the **prayer tree**. This ministry involves receiving a phone call when there is a prayer, joy, or concern connected to the church, so that we may pray for that person. Please speak to any deacon if you'd like to be on the list of folks who respond to prayer requests.

Advent begins early this year – November 30th! We will be **hanging greens** in and around the sanctuary following worship on November 23rd, if you'd like to help!

The Deacons received several suggestions as to how to memorialize Rev. Ray Bradley's time with us. What was decided was that we would like to create, or have created, an artistic rendition of his beloved benediction: *“May you love God enough that you love nothing else too much. May you fear God enough that you fear nothing else at all.”* We are seeking suggestions/artists who could make this happen. Calling all calligraphers, water color masters, artists, cross-stitchers or other needle workers who might like to put their heads together on this. Please speak to any deacon with a brainstorm.

CHRISTIAN ED NEWS:



- ❖ Sunday School during the month of November on the 2nd, 9th, 16th, & 23rd!
- ❖ Family Worship on November 30 – Thanksgiving Weekend & First Sunday of Advent
- ❖ **Crafts Night and Potluck at 6 pm** on Friday, **November 14** to get ready for the youth group booth at the Bazaar. *All welcome and we do need everyone!!!*
- ❖ *RICUCC Youth Event* at Irons Homestead on Sunday, November 30, 1:30 – 4 pm. Watch for details by email!
- ❖ *Lock-in at the church in the planning phases for January!*

Check out all the new information on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall! Here is some of what you will learn:

What do the children do during Sunday School? Our Sunday School program is designed to offer the children a variety of learning experiences in which they explore with other children and faithful, caring adults what it means to follow Jesus. Some Sundays the children engage in Bible study and prayer. Other Sundays the children participate in special programs including music through song and dance as well as an exciting new “Learning about God in Nature” program once a month.

Who are the teachers? The regular leaders of the program are Tanya Sylvestre and Susan Lanphere with assistance from Christian Education Board members Kathy Tarasuk and Laura Blake. Our special program leaders are Brenda Cornell for Music and Jay Macko for Nature Explorations. All of our regular staff have had a background check.



2nd Annual ALMOST IRON CHEF COMPETITION *Saturday, January 24th, 2015*

First Day to submit Key Ingredient

Suggestions: November 2, 2014

Last Day to submit Key Ingredient

Suggestions: November 30, 2014

Key Ingredient Pulled from the Box: at the Bazaar on December 6, 2014

Competitors Registration Opens & Ticket

Sales Begin: January 4, 2015

Competitors Registration Closes:

January 18, 2015

***Please Note: COMPETITION LIMITED TO 25
COMPETITORS THIS YEAR!***

REGISTER EARLY!



***Everyone is always welcome at
SWEET HOUR OF PRAYER
on Thursdays at 6:00 pm***

The Sweet Hour of Prayer group gathers every Thursday, preceded by a “**Mini Bible Study**” at **5:30 pm**. Folks are invited to come to either or both. Prayer requests for the Prayer Group are always welcome too if you can't be with us. Hope to see you then!



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	Doris Whitehead
Scott & his parents	Vivian Roode
David Hall	Paul Whitehead
Marcia Holly	Family of Nina Poeta

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
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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.