

The Beacon

OCTOBER 2018



GOOD NEWS from

United Congregational Church of Westerly

United Church of Christ, Pawcatuck, CT

Sunday Worship ~ 9:30 am

FROM THE PASTOR ...

"...he leads me beside still waters, he restores my soul..."
Psalm 23:2-3

The beloved 23rd Psalm speaks so simply and yet so powerfully of God's unfailing and abiding love for each of us. No wonder it is so well known that many folks who haven't been inside a church for years can still repeat it, almost word for word. It's the kind of psalm, a prayer really, that imprints itself on our hearts and there it remains. Such is the power of the word of God when we let go and trust that the words of Scripture always have something of value to say.

I've loved this psalm for as long as I can remember. Especially moving to me is the image of the still waters and their power to restore the soul in turbulent times. I am blessed to live close to the East Bay Bike Path and I walk there every morning, weather permitting. This week I was thrilled to witness an amazing event that happens every day and yet is seldom noticed by folks zipping by on their bikes or jogging past intent on whatever is playing on their ear buds. This event is visible only as you cross over a little bridge at the precise moment the incoming tide reverses direction and becomes the outgoing tide. For a minute or two, as

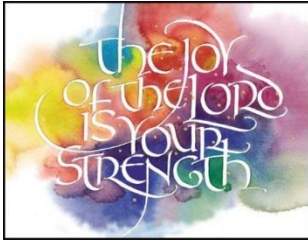
the water prepares to shift, it just eddies in little circles on both sides of the bridge. It's not going in or out. It's just swirling, right where it is, waiting for that mysterious moment when the water's direction shifts. As you can imagine, even though this happens every day, you have to be at the bridge at the exact moment the tide is shifting – a minute or two out of a twelve hour period of time. Even then, you have to be paying attention enough to know what you're seeing. When I saw it on Monday, I couldn't believe I was there at that exact moment. I've seen it before, but not for a long, long time.

As I watched the water swirl and eddy, not quite going forward or backward, I was comforted by the sense that even nature can have difficulty changing directions! No wonder we feel overwhelmed when life seems to change too fast and we're not quite sure how it's all going to turn out. Whether it's here in the church or in our everyday lives, we've experienced those moments when we know we have to change but we'd just as soon find a way to leave things as they are. Here in our wonderful church we're doing all sorts of new things in new ways as well as changing the way we approach traditional things like worship and the church structure. This is new territory at times and that can be daunting and scary. But it's also the perfect moment to claim once more the faith that has brought us this far – trusting that with God, all things are possible.

Lots of exciting stuff happening this month as we kick off our annual Stewardship Campaign, get ready for some exciting work on the Pollinator Gardens and Labyrinth project and, of course, start preparations for the Christmas Bazaar! It will be a busy month, but just like the psalmist reminds us, God is always with us, restoring our souls and leading us forward. Hope to see you soon.

Your friend in Christ,

Rev. Ruth



"The joy of the Lord is your strength"

will be our Stewardship theme for this year. A stewardship letter will be mailed out to everyone mid-month and the committee sincerely hopes you will carefully consider your financial support for 2019. The Blessing Moments in October will have a Stewardship Focus with **Stewardship Sunday** scheduled for **Sunday, November 4**. A sign-up sheet for the Stewardship Brunch will be going up shortly.



October

Birthdays

- 1 – Heather Stratton
- 1 – Judy Stratton
- 7 – Erin Gray
- 10 – Melissa Stratton
- 19 – Bobby Cornell
- 20 – Joan Edmond
- 23 – Barbara Colby
- 24 – Brooke Foster

Happy Anniversary to:

Erwin & Alice Dessauls – 10-26-58

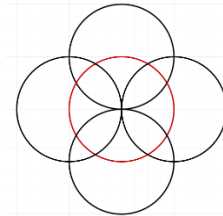
Please add in your special days by calling the church office!



**Rev. Ruth's Community Office Hours
from 2 – 4 pm
at The Savoy Bookstore & Café
in downtown Westerly**

Come by any Thursday and chat, although do know sometimes I need to leave early for another commitment. When you come by I'd love to hear what's on your mind and heart. I'm also happy to chat about the Old Testament Stories sermon series. Lots going on in church and in life, so I am confident we'll always have something to talk about! Come on by and chat a spell...

Your friend and chatting partner, Rev. Ruth



SABBATH CIRCLES® NEWS

We are now in the second month of our weekly **Sabbath Circles®** lessons, our at home Sunday School curriculum!

A simple Sabbath Circle lesson, based on the Old Testament story for the week, appears as an insert in the order of worship each Sunday as well as in a weekly post on the website and the church's Facebook page.

October stories include the Tower of Babel, Abraham and Sarah, Jacob wrestling with God, Joseph and his brothers, and, of course, Moses.

Make a note!! You really need a Bible of your own to get the most out of Sabbath Circles and Sunday worship!

Speak with Rev. Ruth for help in ordering one!!!



***Here's the latest buzz
on the
Pollinator Garden
Project!***

IT'S LABYRINTH TIME!

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED

as we get ready for the installation of the Labyrinth on our upper lawn on **October 20**. Multiple opportunities to lend a hand in more ways than one!

Here's the schedule of work days and help needed.



- Sunday, October 7 – After worship and a volunteers' lunch, we will head over to *Stonington Gardens* to begin the work of sorting the over 700 bricks being donated to the labyrinth project by Jim Nieuwenhuis.
- Saturday, October 13 – meeting at the church @ 10:30 am to unload the bricks from the trucks. Only the trucks will be meeting at Stonington Gardens where they will be loaded with bricks by forklift. PLEASE NOTE: We need four pick-up trucks to move all 700 bricks! Lunch provided to all workers!
- Saturday, October 20 – meeting at the church @ 10 am to install the labyrinth! We anticipate working 4 – 6 hours! We will be placing landscape fabric on to which the labyrinth will be drawn. Once this is complete, we will place the bricks on the pattern to provide the outline of the labyrinth. The last step is to mulch the entire labyrinth with several inches of mulch. An opportunity to assist with a small corner of the meadow project will also be

available as we rototill, rake and re-seed a small test portion of the meadow.

The Pollinator Gardens committee has been working hard on this project for several years now and we are really excited to see it coming to fruition and hope you are too! We have cultivated a number of community partners and are hopeful of having support from many of them for the labyrinth installation, especially students from Stonington High School and other local schools. **BUT WE STILL NEED YOUR HELP!** We need three more pick-up trucks to move the bricks! We need many, many hands to do all the work on all three work days. We need help providing lunch to our workers on all three work days. What are you willing to do? Please speak with *Sandi Davis* or *Claire Calabretta* anytime to let us know!

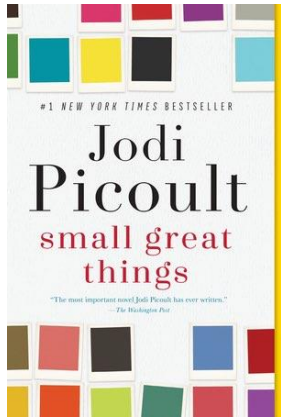
***An invitation to you to attend a new
midweek worship, reflection & study
opportunity...***



***Every Wednesday evening from
6-6:30 pm in our sanctuary***

***A weekly guided experience of quiet
reflection and prayer for those seeking
comfort, hope, healing and sanctuary from
all that weighs heavy on the heart.***

***Everyone welcome!
Come and bring a friend!***



“BOOKS” is settling in at church for the Fall. Join us for a potluck supper and great conversation!

***Thursday, October 25
@ 6 pm in the church
Parlor.
Our book: *Small Great Things* by Judi Picoult***

Bring a favorite dish to share and get ready for a delightful gathering where we enjoy delicious food and great conversation about a good book, and anything else that comes up in the moment. Everyone welcome!



If you don't want to just keep cleaning, come to this event to learn about some fantastic cleaning supplies that are environmentally friendly too!

***EVERYONE is invited to a
NORWEX Cleaning Party in
Fellowship Hall on Thursday,
OCTOBER 4 @ 6:30 pm!***

Linda Evans will be hosting a demonstration party of a line of amazing cleaning products from Norway! She uses these at her home and knows they are environmentally friendly. Great products for your windows, floors, dishwasher, and even removing make-up from your face! *Linda will donate all of her hostess gifts to benefit the church kitchen!* Please come and bring a friend! Light refreshments will be served following the demonstration.

MISSION MOMENTS

PNC



SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER

COLLECTION

“ALMOST” EVERYTHING LUNCH!

CANNED SOUPS WITH MEAT/FISH

CANNED MEATS AND FISH

JAMS AND JELLIES

***** NO PEANUT BUTTER!!! *****

Check out the flyer on “Best Foods to Donate” as we try to make healthy food options easier for PNC clients to access.

MONTHLY WARM MEALS

Our Yearly September WARM meal is a “Mission in Motion” project held on Mission Sunday, the last Sunday of the month. Thanks to the entire congregation for your support in preparing, delivering, and serving this special meal!

Thanks to the Deacons for providing the October 14th WARM meal.

NEIGHBORS IN NEED (NIN) OFFERING

The annual Neighbors in Need Donation can be placed in the offering plate on *any Sunday in October*. Please use the NIN envelopes in the pews or on the tables at the entrances to the sanctuary. "Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that support ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States...This year, special consideration will be given to projects focusing on serving our immigrant neighbors and communities." (<http://www.ucc.org/nin>)

LOOKING AHEAD!

- Our PNC collection for the holidays will focus on healthy breakfast foods
- Socks for all ages and children's underwear will adorn our **annual Giving Tree**
- Advent will see a repeat of last year's popular **Reverse Advent Baskets!**
- **SERRV items** will be offered at the bazaar and on-line this year!!!

Stay tuned for more information of our holiday projects in next month's Beacon!

***A new way of celebrating
the wonderful and amazing folks
of UCC Westerly in worship!***



The Deacons and Rev. Ruth would like to encourage as many folks as would like to *participate in worship this year* in a variety of different ways. Check out the possibilities below and see where you might find a spot you like!

➤ **Blessing Moment/Life Stories** The Blessing Moment *on the second Sunday of every month* will be an opportunity for folks to share their personal stories of a time God and/or this church touched their lives in tangible ways. 2-3 minutes is all we're looking for!

➤ **Blessing Moment/Background Stories** The Blessing Moment *on the third Sunday of every month* will be an opportunity to share any knowledge you have of our church or either of her parent churches, Broad Street Christian and Pawcatuck Congregational.

➤ **Ushers** – The ranks of our ushers are getting thin and they can use some help. No big commitment! Just one Sunday every now and then when you can greet people as they arrive, hand out bulletins, take the offering and maybe even manage the candles if you're up for it. Women and youth especially encouraged to volunteer!

Sound interesting? *Speak with any Deacon or Rev. Ruth any time.* Sign-up sheets for Life Stories and Trivia Stories are on the sign-up sheet outside Fellowship Hall.

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Diaconate Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Telephone #</u>
Oct 7	Elvis Torres	860-245-4759
Oct 14	Bethany Foster	401-539-4003
Oct 21	Ed Stratton	401-596-4740
Oct 28	Jenny Brummund	860-599-1719

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AND, a huge shout-out of gratitude to the very special “church mouse” who disposed of the tree that fell down over the summer. What a surprise to arrive at church to see that tree removed!

PRAYER LIST



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

Madelyn Stratton	Beverly & Family
Brian Madill	Scott & his parents
Shirley M.	Gerry
Connie	Nicci & Jeff
Allie	Josh
Ben	Rev. Elizabeth King
Jesse B.	Bill Colprit
Laura	Ruth King Roes
Mauri Hainsworth	Bill Hoffman

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: David Cranmer
Secretary: Susan Perreault
Sexton: JoAnn Spurley
Web Master: Heather Stratton

CHURCH OFFICE SPECIFICS

Mailing Address: 9 Castle Hill Road
Pawcatuck, CT 06379
Telephone: **860-599-1226**
E-mail: **uccwesterly@sbcglobal.net**
Website: **www.uccwesterly.org**
Office Hours: Monday, Thursday & Friday from
8:30 – 1:30 pm