

# The Beacon

## NOVEMBER 2018



**GOOD NEWS from**

**United Congregational Church of Westerly**

**United Church of Christ, Pawcatuck, CT**

***Sunday Worship ~ 9:30 am***

***FROM THE PASTOR ...***

*And when you turn to the right or when you turn to the left, your ears shall hear a voice behind you saying, "This is the way, walk in it." Isaiah 30:21*

This verse from the Old Testament will forever have a unique connection to this church after last Saturday's installation of our labyrinth. That's because this verse, written on an index card, was buried at the heart of the labyrinth along with a butterfly rainbow magnet. The Pollinator Garden folks had long been debating what we should bury at the center of the labyrinth since doing so is a part of labyrinth traditions going back to the Middle Ages. A St. Francis of Assisi medal was the only idea to surface at all but that didn't seem quite right. Then, as I was rushing out of my office one day, my eyes fell on the old rainbow butterfly magnet I had on one of the shelves. It was a gift to me decades ago from my mom. Butterflies have always been special to me, and this one especially so as the significance of the rainbow design it bears came to mean so much.

"Of course!" I said to myself when I noticed it once again! Perfect! Then, the morning of the installation, as I was saying my prayers in the pre-

dawn dark, I came across this verse which is part of my daily discipline. And I knew, it had to be with the rainbow butterfly at the heart of our labyrinth. Not only does it describe how one proceeds through the labyrinth, turning right and left as you make your way through, but it also captures so beautifully the essence of the labyrinth experience itself where you practice emptying your mind so that you are better able to hear God's voice in your heart.

I also think this verse has much to say to us as we move into the completion of our annual Stewardship Campaign on November 4. The Trustees will begin their work of creating the church's budget for 2019 in November and December, based in large part on those very same pledges. That's why your pledges matter so much. Without them, this church cannot continue the vital work it does in this community. Work like showing up at the Love Is Love Rally in Westerly on October 21, a community response to an unkind sign which appeared briefly on the lawn of the Immaculate Conception Church earlier in October. Work like our WARM Center meals and activities supporting those in our community most in need of food and shelter. Work like the twelve step groups that meet each week in our building. And the list of what we do as a church, as a community of God's people in this place, goes on and on.

So, as you turn to the right and to the left, making your way through life each day, I hope you will pause to think about this church – what it means to you, what it means to the community, and what wonderful things we are doing and will do in the years ahead. I hope you will bring your pledge card to church on November 4 as we celebrate the end of our Stewardship Season and All Saints Sunday. I even dare to hope that pledge card represents a challenge for you, even if it's a tiny one, so that you have just a bit of trepidation when you put it in the plate. And as you do, imagine God's voice saying to you in that moment – "this is the way, walk in it." We'll be looking for you on Sunday!

Your friend in Christ,

*Rev. Ruth*



## *November*

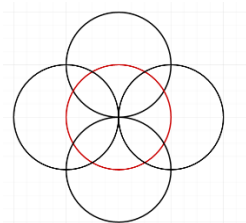
### *Birthdays*

- 5 – Megan Gray
- 6 – Kali Woodhall
- 8 – Amanda Hainsworth
- 21 – John Walker
- 21 – Rev Ruth
- 23 – Vera M. Leming
- 25 – Christina Brummund
- 26 – Alison Schilke
- 26 – Sara Schilke
- 29 – Caleb Stratton

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



Sunday, **November 4** is the **Fall Time Change!** Remember to set your clocks **BACK** one hour the night before. The good news is folks get an extra hour of sleep that first day and there will be more light in the morning. The bad news is it will be getting dark much earlier. So, you can oversleep and still make it to church on Sunday! See you then....



### **SABBATH CIRCLES® NEWS**

We are entering the third 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, [www.uccwesterly.org](http://www.uccwesterly.org). Each lesson has questions to go deeper with the story as well as some suggested activities and even a coloring picture! The lessons on the website even have live links to videos and other on-line resources!

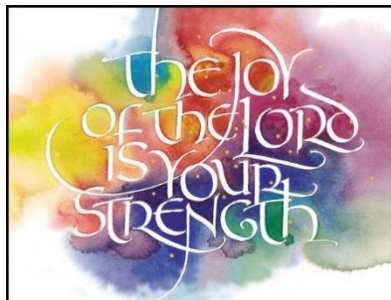
November stories include David & Goliath, Elisha & Naaman, the Fiery Furnace and Daniel in the lion's den. These are the Bible stories your grandparents grew up on in Sunday School decades ago and while we don't look at them in the same way now as we did then, they still offer important insights into the faith we practice every day.

***Make a note!! It's helpful to have 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!!!***

### **CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING**

The next **Church Council meeting** will be held on Sunday, **November 11<sup>th</sup>** at **11 am** in the Parlor. All Council Members please submit your reports for the meeting to Cathy Gray by **November 5<sup>th</sup>**. **Electronic submissions are preferred.** (Cathy's email address is [graygc@mindspring.com](mailto:graygc@mindspring.com)) Susan will send you a form via email on October 29<sup>th</sup> to help you make out your report.

**Come be part of our Annual Stewardship Celebration on All Saints Sunday, November 4<sup>th</sup>!**



*Bring your **pledge card** to turn in and a **photo** of a loved one now gone that you'd like to remember on this special day.*

### **LATE BREAKING NEWS!!!**

**The Annual Stewardship Brunch will be held the following Sunday, NOVEMBER 11<sup>th</sup>!**

The sign-up sheet for the Brunch is outside Fellowship Hall.

#### **STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY**

will still take place on November 4, so bring those pledge cards on that day and we will celebrate the following Sunday, Nov. 11



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

Come by any Thursday and chat. I'd love to hear what's on your mind and heart. We live in anxiety provoking times, to put it mildly, so if you'd like a sympathetic ear or a shoulder to cry on, come on by! I am confident we'll always have something to talk about. And the Café at the Savoy has *great* hot beverages! *Your friend and chatting partner, Rev. Ruth*



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

### **THANKS TO EVERYONE FOR ALL THEIR ASSISTANCE IN BUILDING OUR INCREDIBLE LABYRINTH!**

A wonderful photo essay appeared in the *Westerly Sun* on October 24, thanks to the efforts of freelance photographer, Jackie Turner. Bricks were donated to us by Jim Nieuwenhuis from Stonington Gardens and mulch was donated by William Spicer of Sparkle Lake Services. We even had a neighbor come up to us the day we were working offering a "pile of cinder blocks" if we were willing to come get them. We were! And of course, huge thanks to our incredible designer, Kathy Tarasuk, and our fearless volunteers who worked hard all day: Gary Davis, Sandi Davis, Shirin Platt, Lynn Murray, Ed Stratton, Kathy Tarasuk, Fred Tarasuk, Adam Tarasuk, Vera Leming, Bill Stirtan, Jenny Brummund, Christina Brummund, Claire Calabretta, and me. Even more volunteers helped us to sort through, stack, transport and then unload the bricks two weeks prior: the above list plus Laura Blake, Erin Blake, Anna Tarasuk, Kevin Dows, Dwayne Spurley, Joann Spurley and Peter Hainsworth.

We can truly attest after this ambitious project that many hands do, in fact, make light work!!! Some additional work remains to finish off the labyrinth including leveling the ground around it, creating a pathway into it and continuing the construction of a retaining wall where the labyrinth abuts the stone wall at the top of the property. We will also be creating some flyers explaining the labyrinth and its purpose to have available for members, friends and visitors.

The first official Labyrinth Event will be on Wednesday, **October 31** with a **Flashlight Labyrinth Walk** on All Hallo's Eve (Halloween)

@ 6:30 pm. Join us for a chance to recapture a more ancient feel for this creepy holiday...

Additional work remains for the Pollinator Garden Committee before winter moves us indoors for planning activities. We were able to complete the partial reseeding of a small corner of the meadow while the labyrinth design was being drawn on the 20<sup>th</sup>.

Remaining outside work to be done includes weeding the Bell Courtyard and Shadow Gardens. Our planning work will focus on re-planting the Rain Garden (decimated by some very happy groundhog and bunny families living on the grounds) and creating the design and installation plan for the Peace Pole Garden to be installed next spring.

Exciting times!! Wonderful, sacred work. Thanks for your support in making this dream come true, one step at a time.

***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!***

## **MISSION MOMENTS**



Every Neighborhood Needs Healthy Food



“... 46 million Americans rely on food pantries and soup kitchens . . . to survive! That's 1 in 7 of our nation's citizens who need assistance to ensure they eat three meals a day.

People who are food insecure often do not have healthy diets. In many low-income areas, grocery stores are not readily accessible and fresh produce is too expensive. So their diets are often made up of readily available convenience store and fast food fare, which can lead to obesity, as well as costly and debilitating diseases.

To make matters worse, most of the food we donate to food drives is GARBAGE. We offload the dusty cans from the back of our kitchen cabinets, items that we have chosen not to eat. The nonperishables we give are often laden with fat, salt, and sugar.

We need not spend more to donate healthy food. A can of tuna in water is the same cost as a can of tuna in oil — but it's much better for us. Whole wheat pasta is much healthier than sodium-packed Top Ramen. Swap sugary cereals for whole grains. Give the food you would feed *your* family.

**THINK BEFORE YOU DONATE is designed to change our habits. And to get YOU inspired to host a healthy food drive . . .”**

<https://www.heavenonearthnow.net/think-before-you-donate>

Our Mission Committee has committed to following the guidelines of the Think Before You Donate movement. In the past we have based our food collections on requests from the PNC. Although the PNC appreciates most non-perishable food donations, we are encouraging our congregation



to donate healthier options. If at all possible, please view the informational sheet in this month's Beacon or go to the following link before you shop.

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5b7df9592714e5e9c3ae2882/t/5bb2ee447817f7c423796963/1538453060857/Best+Foods+to+Donate+9252018.pdf>

## NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER PNC COLLECTION

### A Healthy Breakfast to Start the Day

- Unflavored oatmeal, Cream of Wheat, Rolled Oats
- Whole-grain cereal with fiber and low in sugar and fat, such as Cheerios, Total, Special K, All Bran, etc.
- Whole grain, low sugar, low fat granola, granola bars, or cereal bars
- Shelf-stable and low fat, vitamin D-fortified regular, soy, almond, or rice milk
- Boxed, unflavored, low fat regular dehydrated milk
- Unsweetened applesauce and canned fruit in 100% juice or shelf-stable unsweetened fruit cups
- Dried, unsweetened fruits

## LOOKING AHEAD

### CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE



This year the theme of our Christmas Giving Tree will be Socks for All Ages and Children's Underwear. Although we are accepting ALL sizes of children's undies, there is a more urgent need of girls sizes 8—10 and boys size

6—10. The tree will be in place right after Thanksgiving.

### Reverse Advent Baskets



Also, in December we will be distributing **Reverse Advent Baskets**. It's up to YOU to choose your theme, although you don't need a theme at all! Think daily necessities, articles of clothing, non-perishable healthy foods, etc. The idea is to place an item in the basket every day during the Advent Season. Saying a prayer to accompany each donation is a great way to enrich this activity. The baskets will be blessed on Epiphany Sunday, which, of course, is after Christmas. The donated items will be sorted and distributed to local agencies after the first of the year.

### SERRV

Good news!! SERRV items will be available again at the Christmas Bazaar, but, for the first time this year, also on-line!!

### ALL-CHURCH CHRISTMAS CARD

Instead of sending out Christmas cards to all of your church friends, think about posting just ONE card on the All-Church Christmas Card Board and saving some money in the process! The bulletin board is our way of saying THANKS to all of you who donate so generously through-out the year and will appear after the bazaar; so, don't get over-eager to send out all of those cards early!

### NOVEMBER WARM MEALS

Thanks to the Pollinator Garden/Labyrinth Team for sponsoring the November 11<sup>th</sup> WARM meal.



## ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BAZAAR & TEA & SILENT AUCTION

**Saturday, December 1, 2018**

10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Please support our annual event!

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**Bazaar Helpers** are needed! **Sign-ups** are ready for your names and are posted on the portable board near the far closet in Fellowship Hall.

The Bazaar is coming quickly! We need **Kitchen Workers**, sandwich filling makers or cash donations for kitchen ingredients. We also need **Tea bakers**, waiters, waitresses, and volunteers to help set up and clean up. Help is needed for the **Greens Room, Silent Auction, Decorative Trees, Children's Shopping**, and we need **Bake room bakers**. The **Nostalgia Boutique** and **Jewelry Room** need helpers as well as the **Hospitality Room** and **Mission/Fair Trade/SERRV**. **Outside Workers** are also needed as parking lot attendants and to shuttle workers to and from the shopping center....so you see there are many volunteer opportunities available!!

Everyone's help is needed to have another successful bazaar!

Please note: **A JEWELRY Workshop** will take place on Sunday, **November 18** after worship. Help our Jewelry Room folks get a LOT of donated jewelry ready to sell! It needs to be cleaned and priced.

### **Donations needed!**

- ***Donated live wreaths & loose greens for centerpieces and bundles.***

We are NOT making our own wreaths this year! They did not sell as well last year

and are just too much work. So we are asking for donations of plain wreaths (they will be going on sale just before Thanksgiving at grocery stores, etc.) which we will decorate. We did a few of these last year and they were very popular.

- ***Gift Card Donations*** from your favorite restaurants and entertainment venues for the Silent Auction!
- ***Donations of cakes, pies, breads, and other pastries as well as homemade fudge, jams, jellies and relishes for the Bake Room.***
- ***Donations of homemade Christmas cookies and breads for the Christmas Tea!!!***

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## **Diaconate Schedule**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Telephone #</u>
Nov 4	Claire Calabretta	860-536-3625
Nov 11	Lynn Murray	401-539-7578
Nov 18	Jenny Brummund	860-599-1719
Nov 25	Bethany Foster	401-539-4003

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## Lay Readers

***Recruiting Lay Readers for Sundays in November and December!***

Lend your voice and your enthusiasm to this important piece of every Sunday's worship experience! Sign-up sheet outside Fellowship Hall!

**Rev. Ruth is looking for volunteers  
to help with a  
50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration  
of our church's consecration  
on March 16, 2019  
Speak with her for details!!**

## **PRAYER LIST**

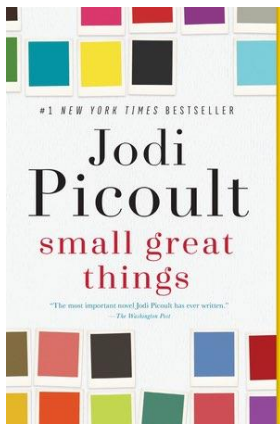


*Please pray for the following members and friends of our church:*

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.*

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

**Thursday, NOVEMBER 8<sup>th</sup> @ 6 pm**  
in the church parlor.

We will be discussing  
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!

## **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](mailto:uccwesterly@sbcglobal.net)**  
*Website:* **[www.uccwesterly.org](http://www.uccwesterly.org)**  
*Office Hours:* Monday, Thursday & Friday from  
8:30 – 1:30 pm