

The Beacon

JANUARY 2019



GOOD NEWS from

United Congregational Church of Westerly

United Church of Christ, Pawcatuck, CT

Sunday Worship ~ 9:30 am

FROM THE PASTOR ...

Day by day, as they spent much time together in the Temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the good will of all the people.

Acts 2:46-47

This verse seems like the perfect one for our consideration as the new year begins. It's a description of the earliest gatherings of Jesus' followers and their life together. It was pretty simple, really. They "spent much time in the Temple" – the Jerusalem Temple which was the center of their worship. But, in spite of an earlier verse in this same passage which talks about them having all things in common, this verse tells us they still "broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts." What I love about this is what it tells us about the significance of balance as faithful church members. These were people who had made the decision to commit their lives to God BUT it did not mean that every ounce of their energies went into work at and for the church. They still had families and homes that mattered too.

In other words, they were "both/and" Christians, not "either/or." They put their energies into God and God's plans for their lives AND they still had lives outside the faith community that were important to them. This should be our goal too! The

text also makes clear that it is this "both/and" attitude that was so critical to their continued success and growth as a faith community. Everywhere they went and each thing they did was centered in praising God and giving thanks for all that was good in their lives. It's not that they didn't have problems like we do today. Of course they did! Rather, they put intentional effort into focusing on the positive things. This is the reason they had "the good will of all the people" and this good will revealed that their entire community felt good about how these people of faith were living life each day. They were witnessing to everyone by their approach to life with God at the center of it what it meant to live as a follower of Jesus empowered by the Holy Spirit for good works even as you lived your life. This is the how and why behind their extraordinary growth.

That's why this must be our mission for our church in the year ahead. We need to put our energies into providing a living, witnessing example of what it means to be people of God living in the midst of a frightening world. In this season of Epiphany, we are called to be light to the world, and to each other, as we work together to become the church God needs us to be at this time in our history and the world's. This January there will be several opportunities for supporting the unique life and work of this church and your assistance is needed. First, as we anticipate our annual Congregational Meeting at the end of January, we need to finalize our board membership for the coming year under our new "Sabbath Circles" organizational structure and we need to fill some vacancies. Our Board of Deacons is full – YAY! – but we still need folks on Trustees, Missions and Congregational Life. For more information, please see the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall or speak with me anytime. We're also looking for volunteers of all sorts including Lay Readers, and folks willing to pitch in for all or part of the 12 hour Homeless Awareness vigil coming later this month. More details on these and other volunteer opportunities here at the church appear in this issue of the Beacon. I hope you'll take the time to read through them and consider how you can help.

The new year awaits and so many wonderful things are on the horizon for our beloved church! I'm excited to get going ... and I hope you are too. I'll be looking for you!

Your friend in Christ,
Rev. Ruth



January Birthdays

- 3 – Judy Bartlett
- 5 – Peter Hainsworth
- 9 – Douglas Brummund
- 11 – Carolyn LeRoy
- 15 – Liz Walker
- 18 – Lindsay Walker
- 28 – Jamie Foster
- 31 – Anna Tarasuk

Happy Anniversary to:

Dan & Jan McCrary – 1-7

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



Diaconate Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Telephone #</u>
Jan 6	Jenny Brummund	860-599-1719
Jan 13	Claire Calabretta	860-536-3625
Jan 20	Lynn Murray	401-539-7578
Jan 27	Elvis Torres	860-245-4759



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

Finding your way out of the post-Holiday doldrums? Me too! Come by the Savoy any Thursday between 2 – 4 pm to chat about whatever. I'd love the company and let's not forget that the Savoy Café has great hot beverages and amazing cookies!

Your friend and chatting partner, Rev. Ruth

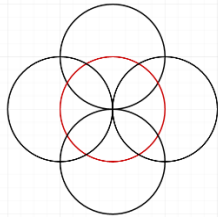


***Here's the latest buzz
on the
Pollinator Garden
Project!***

The Pollinator Garden Committee will be meeting in January to begin planning for the spring! Several exciting projects are planned for 2019 so keep watching this space for latest news! Remember, anyone is welcome to join the Pollinator Garden Committee at any time. Speak with Claire Calabretta, Sandi Davis or Rev. Ruth to add your name to our email list for meeting and project announcements.

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

The next **Church Council meeting** will be held on Sunday, **January 13th at 11:00 am** in the Parlor. All Council Members please submit your reports for the meeting to Cathy Gray by **January 4th**. **Electronic submissions are preferred.** (Cathy's email address is graygc@mindspring.com) Susan will send you a form via email on December 21 to help you make out your report.



SABBATH CIRCLES® NEWS

Weekly *Sabbath Circles*® lessons return on Sunday, January 13 as we turn our attention to some of the biblical stories of Epiphany – the season of the church year between Christmastide and the beginning of Lent. We'll be looking at two stories of Jesus as a child before turning our focus to the early days of Jesus' ministry.

If you'd like to have the weekly *Sabbath Circles*® session emailed to you directly, simply email Rev. Ruth at revruth1121@aol.com to request to be put on the *Sabbath Circles*® subscription list.

Take a moment to breathe and rest in our uniquely beautiful sanctuary for 30 minutes of quiet reflection and prayer each week.



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

A guided experience of quiet reflection, chant and prayer. Everyone welcome! Come and bring a friend!



WELCOME New Members

UCC Westerly is very pleased to have welcomed nine **new** members into our church family in December. **They are:**

- Grace Cipriano**
- Hartmut Doerwaldt**
- Jennifer Doerwaldt**
- Alexander Doerwaldt**
- Hartmut Doerwaldt, Jr.**
- Robert Johnson**
- Steve Johnson**
- Michele Mitchell**
- Julie Richards**

We are so glad to have you with us!



TIME TO CELEBRATE UCC WESTERLY!

Come to a planning meeting after worship on **Sunday, January 20th** to find out how you can help plan a 50th anniversary celebration of our church's consecration on **March 16, 2019.**

We will be planning a commemorative service using the original order of worship for that day in 1969 followed by a special luncheon at which our long time members will be honored! Help Rev. Ruth, the Trustees and the Deacons plan this long overdue party for our wonderful church!

CALL FOR THE 55th ANNUAL MEETING

UNITED CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF WESTERLY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

The Annual Meeting shall be held on
Sunday, January 27, 2019
immediately following worship

The purpose of the meeting shall be to receive the yearly reports of Officers, Boards, Committees, Organizations and Departments; to elect officers; adopt the annual budget; set up plans for the new year; and vote on any other business that may come before the congregation.

The Treasurer's Report, duly audited, shall be presented.

Respectfully submitted, *Cathy Gray*, Clerk



ANNUAL REPORTS ARE DUE

on Monday, January 7th, 2019

and can be submitted (to Susan) as early as possible!

The reports will be ready for distribution on
Sunday, January 20, 2019.

All groups, Boards, and organizations should submit an annual report as well as all Treasurers. Please *email* your report to Susan at uccwesterly@sbcglobal.net. Hard copies can be left on Susan's desk if email is not available to you.

If you need more time to complete your report, please contact the church office and let us know. *Thank you.*



There are no words that are adequate in expressing thanks to all the folks who put in countless hours leading up to and including the day of the bazaar. It was an amazing event! The weather, the crowd, the beautiful rooms, the warm welcome to our guests...there is nothing like it. To those who baked, cooked, parked, decorated, worked as runners, organizers, counted money, set up tables, pitched in to lighten someone else's load, created, set up and took down, THANKS to you all from us all. Hopefully all have recovered and will have the energy to enjoy our holidays.



If you are out and about after Christmas, please keep in mind that the artificial trees and wreath were a big hit this year, and now is the time to take advantage of sales to replenish our supplies. The craft shops are currently having sales on trees, wreaths, ornaments, wired ribbon, and lights, especially clear, and I'm sure the sales will continue through January while supplies last. Donations can be brought to and stored at church. *Many thanks!*

Do you have small fabric scraps to share?

Jenny is planning a **quilt project** for next year's Christmas Bazaar Silent Auction. She would like to make a quilt which incorporates **small-print and solid-color fabric scraps** donated by our "crafty and creative church members." *It would be best if the fabrics were: cotton, cotton/polyester blends, or any man-made fabrics of a similar weight and are no smaller than about a 3-inch diameter.* Bags of scraps may be given to Jenny Brummund any time!

Thank you for participating!

MISSION MOMENTS

YOUR GREATNESS
IS NOT WHAT YOU HAVE,
IT'S WHAT YOU GIVE.

Heartfelt thanks go out to each and every one of you for your total support of all of our Mission projects this year. From paper products, school supplies, and canned goods to healthy breakfasts and lunches, socks and children's underwear, and our Five for Five special collections the generosity of this congregation has been just amazing. So many needy people in our community and beyond are grateful to you.



During January and February, in support of January's Homeless Awareness Vigil, we will again be collecting "All Things Paper." Paper towels, toilet tissue, "Kleenex," etc. are always needed.

DINE – TO DONATE!

Thursday, January 17

See flyer attached to newsletter!

HOMELESS AWARENESS VIGIL



A **Homeless Awareness Vigil** will happen Saturday, **January 19** from *noon to midnight* in the upper parking lot at the church. It will be followed by a **YOUTH LOCK-IN!!**

See flyer attached to newsletter!

Storm Closing Information



If we have a cancellation at the church due to severe weather, the cancellation will appear on **Channel 8 in Connecticut** and **Channels 6, 10, and 12 in Rhode Island**. You will also receive an emergency email from Pastor Ruth. You can also call the church office (860-599-1226) to hear a special recorded message announcing any cancellation plans.

2019 SUNDAY WORSHIP BULLETINS

This special ministry of the church includes the regular Sunday bulletins and also bulletins that are purchased for special times during the church year (Christmas, Easter, Thanksgiving, etc.) as well as funeral bulletins. Of course we also have the cost of paper for the regular bulletins and the ink and "wear & tear" on the copier machine to consider. For \$30.00 you can provide bulletins for an **entire month** for your church family. *Please sign up* on the **sign-up sheet** that has been posted near the Flower Chart in Fellowship Hall. Make a check out to the church for the bulletins please. Thank you.

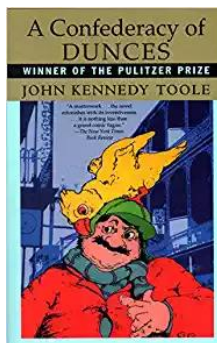


Recruiting Lay Readers for Sundays in Epiphany!

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

BOOKS" has another great book in the works! Join us for a potluck supper and great conversation!

Thursday, January 10, 2019 @ 6 pm
in the church parlor.



Our book:
A Confederacy of Dunces
by John Kennedy Toole

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!

Notes from the Trustees

The Board of Trustees is making a New Year's Resolution to keep you informed of our budget, activities and decisions throughout the year with notes in the monthly newsletter.

One of the main responsibilities of the Trustees is to monitor the yearly budget to make sure that our operating expenses are met. This has been a challenging year and we respectfully request that those who have pledged to the church try to fulfill their commitment as best they can. The following is a summary of our budget status as of the end of November:

- Pledges received are \$61,875. This is \$4,065 less than the \$65,840 that was pledged through the end of November
- Total income is \$96,057. This is \$14,241 less than the budgeted amount of \$110,298 (this does not include income from the Christmas Bazaar).
- Our total expenses are \$116,411. This is \$6,295 more than the budgeted amount of \$110,116.

Details will be presented at the annual meeting on January 27.

We also request that anyone who has not pledged for 2019, do so as soon as possible. Next year's budget is going to be a challenge. As of the end of November, our pledged total was \$63,934 (\$8,001 less than the \$71,935 pledged in 2018).



Dearest Members & Friends of UCC Westerly,

Thank you so much, everyone, for the very generous Christmas gift of gift certificates and a new journal. I deeply appreciate your ongoing love and support more than you can know. Peter and I also love all the cards and notes sent to us to bring Christmas greetings to our home, and to support Peter in his recent medical adventures. May 2019 be a wonderful year for us all!

Love, Rev. Ruth

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.	Laura
Ruth King Roes	Mauri Hainsworth
Bill Hoffman	Emma
Crystal	

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