

The Beacon

APRIL 2019



GOOD NEWS from

United Congregational Church of Westerly

United Church of Christ, Pawcatuck, CT

Sunday Worship ~ 9:30 am

FROM THE PASTOR ...

"...for now the winter is past, the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth; the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land." Song of Solomon 2:11-12

Spring is here at last, or at least we hope it is! The winter played hide and seek with us these past few months, with frigid temps intermingled with warm days followed by snow storms rushing through, the aftermath melting quickly. Now the daffodils and crocuses are pushing up through the thawing ground. The morning songs of the birds grow louder each day and soon my favorite spring sign – the singing peepers – will confirm that indeed the winter is past. That means that Easter will soon be here and, for once, it is coming in mid-April instead of late March! How exciting is that!

I must say, it's been a very busy and rewarding winter at church this year. Luck was with us (although I prefer to think of it as the grace of God) so that none of our major events – the Homeless Awareness Vigil in January, the Valentine Tea in February or the 50th Anniversary Celebration in March – were

snowed out. Yay! The Vigil was deeply meaningful, as always. The Tea was fabulous, as always. And the 50th Anniversary celebration exceeded all expectation with a wonderful crowd, tremendous energy and enthusiasm and a very happy and enjoyable weekend all around. Thanks once again to all the folks who made these events the successes they were. I don't dare try to name folks because I know I'll forget somebody and, truth is, I think virtually everyone was involved in one or more of these events in one way or another. We all know this is where our wonderful church shines!

Important to remember, though, is that our church is much more than the exceptional events we sponsor, important as they are. Our church is first, foremost and always, a community of God's faithful who come together each week for prayer, reflection, song and fellowship as we support each other in living as followers of Jesus in these very divisive times. Here is where we remind each other of who we are, who God is and why our relationship with God matters. Here is where we support those in the community in need through our donations to the Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center and other local agencies. Here is where we support each other through words of encouragement during tough times, gentle hugs on sad days and prayers without fail. Here is where we celebrate being church together, through the good days and the tough ones. Here is where we encounter the living God through the hope of the Risen Christ and the energizing power of the Holy Spirit. Here is where we remind each other that with God, all things are possible.

Signs of the new life of spring are everywhere in our delightful and unique church. Come celebrate spring with us! Hope to see you soon!

Your friend in Christ,
Rev. Ruth



April Birthdays

6 – Pam DelPozo-Waldron

25 – Dan McCrary

25 – Travis McCrary

26 – George Gray

28 – Emily Sineiro

Happy Anniversary to:

Rev. Ruth & Peter Hainsworth – April 23

Douglas & Jenny Brummund – April 25

Please add in your special days by calling the church office



Diaconate Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Telephone #</u>
Apr 7	Dwayne Spurley	860-705-6152
Apr 14	Claire Calabretta	860-536-3625
Apr 18	Claire Calabretta	860-536-3625
Apr 21	Lynn Murray	401-539-7578
Apr 28	<i>To Be Decided</i>	



Just a Friendly Reminder:

You can utilize our website for access to weekly Sermons, Sabbath Circles Home School Curriculum and Sanctuary Orders of Service @ www.uccwesterly.org.

It's Scholarship Time



The Deacons invite you to support the **Barbara Murano Scholarship Fund** by **Dining to Donate** at *Stonington Pizza Palace* any time on **Thursday May 16th**. Angelo will generously donate 15% of the day's sales, both eat in and take out, to our cause. We have several great college students applying for the scholarship fund. Please help us support them.

We are looking for folks who would be willing to sit with Gary Davis during worship on Sunday mornings to become familiar and comfortable with the new sound system. If we can set up a rotating team, Gary can take a break and sit with Sandi in church, and it won't be an emergency if he can't be there on Sunday.

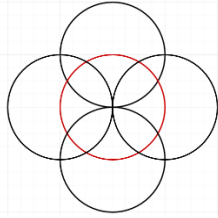
- Lynn



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

So, what plans do you have for Spring? I'd love to hear about them! Come chat with me at the Savoy any Thursday between 2-4 pm. I'd love the company. Did I mention the Savoy Café has great beverages and amazing cookies?

Your friend and chatting partner, Rev. Ruth



SABBATH CIRCLES® NEWS!

Weekly Sabbath Circles® lessons continue with special sessions planned for Holy Week and Easter Sunday. 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!

MISSION MOMENTS

A reminder to everyone that food pantries cannot accept items that are expired. Please check the "sell by" dates on the non-perishable food items that you donate. Apparently foods cannot perish, but they do expire!!

SPRING CLEANING!



Our Lenten collection theme this year is **Spring Cleaning!** Look for the sales, hit Job Lot's Insider Deals, check out Aldi and the coupons in the paper to find all kinds of household cleaning products to donate to the PNC. Or maybe you even have extras in the cabinets under your sinks! Don't forget that paper towels, sponges, and wipes are also needed to clean up those spills! **LAUNDRY DETERGENT IS A MUCH NEEDED ITEM.**

LOOKING AHEAD TEASER

Our Mission themes for the remainder of the year include traditional collections and new endeavors. The Babies and Ladies Collection and In the Middle School Supply Donations will be joined by a gently used shoe collection and an endeavor to collect survival items for the homeless. In addition, we are planning two Mission in Motion field trips. More info coming in future Beacons and Sunday bulletins!



EASTER PLANS AND POSSIBILITIES

Sun, Apr 7 *Fifth Sunday of Lent-
"Forgiveness is...Humbling"*

Sun, Apr 14 **PALM SUNDAY SYMBOLS
SERVICE**

Thu, Apr 18 **MAUNDY THURSDAY
TENEBRAE SERVICE @ 6pm**

Fri, Apr 19 *Good Friday Vigil, 12-3pm,
including Labyrinth Walk*

Sun, Apr 21 **EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE
@ 6am – Misquamicut Beach
FESTIVAL EASTER SERVICE
@ 9:30 am here**

Sun, Apr 28 *An Easter Earth Day Service*

**NOTE: Sign-up sheets for Readers for the
Palm Sunday Symbols Service & the
Tenebrae Service will be up this coming
Sunday!**

Trustee Notes

Carol Lindsay is our new secretary/office Administrator. She started on March 18th and is working with Susan through the end of the month. Feel free to stop by to say hello, introduce yourself, and welcome her into our church family.

We want to thank everyone for keeping up with pledged donations. Our total income through February was \$19,491 which is almost \$600 (.5%) more than our anticipated income. The real good news is that pledge donations through February were \$14,878 which is almost \$3,700 (5%) more than expected.

Our total expenses through February were \$22,261 bringing our deficit to \$2,330. Our utility costs continue to be higher than expected due to rate increases and the cold weather in February. Our January electric bill of \$303 was covered by several generous donations. Our February electric bill was \$334 and gas was \$1,171.

The Trustees are looking to reduce our electric bill and you can help. One of our energy saving initiatives is to replace all the light compact fluorescent, flood, and standard light bulbs throughout the building with LED bulbs. We have already replaced the flood lights and some of the recess lights in the sanctuary as well as two hallways with LED bulbs. We still have approximately 150 more to replace. You can help by donating LED light bulbs. We need the following types:

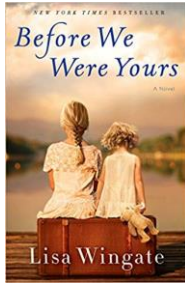
- 62 – 40W A19 general purpose bulb (Sanctuary)
- 30 – 60W A19 general purpose bulb (needed throughout)
- 30 – 40W G25 small globe bulb (Hallways)
- 26 – 65W BR30 indoor flood bulbs (Fellowship Hall and Sanctuary)

Yes there are that many lights in the church, not counting the 4-foot fluorescent ceiling fixtures in the classrooms and kitchen. Look for LED bulbs that have a color rating of 'Soft White' or 'Warm White'. These give off light similar to a regular incandescent bulb as opposed to the white light from "Bright White" or "Day Light" LED bulbs.

EASTER FLOWER ORDER



Flower order inserts will be in the Bulletin on March 31st and April 7th. Please return them to the office no later than Wednesday April 10th. Easter Lily's cost \$9.00, Daffodils and Tulips cost \$8.00.



Join us for BOOKS!

Thursday, May 9 @ 6pm
Potluck supper @ church

Our book this time:

Before We Were Yours by Lisa Wingate

Watch for details on getting the book through the library in the Weekly Email Updates...



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

We are working with the Trustees as we did last year on the SPRING CLEAN-UP of the church grounds as a part of our annual Earth Day Celebrations:

After church on Sunday, April 7 from 10:45 am to 12:30pm (on April 14 too if needed)

Bring a bag lunch to share and your gardening tools!

OUR BIG NEWS will become quickly visible as April begins when our landscape architect, Jim from Stonington Gardens and his crew begin work on the installation of the next phase of the pollinator gardens on the Upper Lawn!! Here's what's planned:

- Installation of a bog garden to be called *Becky's Frog Bog* as a memorial to our dear Becky Morrone.
- Installation of planting beds around the bog garden
- Installation of a sumac planting bed

- Installation of a bluestone stepping stone path connecting the labyrinth to the parking lot.

Additional plans for the Gardens this year include replanting the Rain Garden in the areas which were consumed by our local bunny population, establishing bird habitats in several areas throughout the property and, hopefully, the installation of a Peace Pole garden in the glen on the far side of the lower driveway by this fall.

For details on any of these projects, please speak with Sandi Davis or Claire Calabretta anytime. Please know that memorial gifts for Becky's Frog Bog or any other component of the gardens are now being accepted. Checks should be made payable to UCC Westerly with "Pollinator Gardens" or "Becky's Frog Bog" on the memo line.

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*Dear UCC Church Family,  
THANK YOU very much for the wonderful celebration you had for your 50 year members and for including my retirement as part of it. I was thoroughly surprised when my daughter, son-in-law, and Drew and Ella slid into the pew next to us! The service was special, the food great, and my surprises wonderful. Thank you for your incredible generosity. I love the Christian necklace, the handmade bag, my "lifetime tea tickets"!!, the gift card for New England Inns and Resorts, and actually my favorite gift is the album with all your handwritten words of thanks and well wishes, and of course my old chair!!! You are all so very special to me.*

*Peace and Love,  
Susan*

## **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 |
| Laura            | Ruth King Roes      |
| Mauri Hainsworth | Bill Hoffman        |
| Emma             | Crystal             |
| Bea              |                     |

*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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### **OUR STAFF**

*Pastor:* The Rev. Ruth Shilling Hainsworth  
*Organist:* David Cranmer  
*Secretary:* Carol Lindsay  
*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  
9:00 – 1:00 pm