

The Beacon

May, 2019



GOOD NEWS from

United Congregational Church of Westerly

United Church of Christ, Pawcatuck, CT

Sunday Worship ~ 9:30 am

FROM THE PASTOR ...

"Where you go, I will go; Where you lodge, I will lodge; Your people shall be my people, And your God, my God."
Ruth 1:16

You will probably not be surprised to learn that the Book of Ruth in the Bible is a special one to me. I love the story of Ruth's steadfast love for her widowed mother-in-law and the courage she showed in creating a new life for herself in a society that saw women only as property. I also love the Book of Ruth because it's what taught me to love my name. I was named for my mother and my grandmother and I was quite literally the only Ruth in my entire school district from kindergarten through high school. But, family ties notwithstanding, I did not like my name very much at all. I felt like Ruth was a decidedly uncool name, an "old lady" name. But Ruth I was.

Gradually, as I grew older I started to mellow about my name. Then, a few years into my ministry, I was gifted with a whole new perspective by a 7 year old. He was heading out after Sunday School ended, saw me in the hall and ran right up to me. "Mrs. H! Mrs. H! I just figured out how important you are to God!" he squealed. "Why's that?" I asked him. Looking at me like I was the densest person he had ever met, he answered,

"Duh – you have your own book in the Bible!" Then, he ran off leaving me standing there with my mouth open.

I'm sharing this story because in this Eastertide season, we will be focusing in worship on what I'm calling, "family ties." The first Sunday of Eastertide we will be celebrating the entire human family's connections to God's Creation as we celebrate, a little late, Earth Day. The next week on May 5 we'll explore through a wonderful Jesus story the family of faith which gathers at the Communion table for a shared meal. Following this service, we will gather together for our first ever Congregational Potluck Luncheon and Boards Meetings, one of the innovations we are trying out to accomplish the work of the church. On Mother's Day, my hope is that we will hear from several of you who will be willing to participate in a "Letters to Mom" morning message. The following Sunday we will be pondering the gifts each of us brings to our family of faith here in the church and how God might be inviting us to use them in new ways. On Memorial Day weekend we will remember and honor those who have passed on who served in the military while alive. A special morning message will be offered by my husband Peter who has been engaged in a wonderful journey of rediscovering his father's story as one of the most decorated combat physicians of WWII. Our family ties series will end on Scholarship Sunday, June 9, as we present scholarships to and hear from our youth raised up by this church, celebrating the hope for the future they are.

So, the month of May will be a busy one, as always here in our vital and thriving church. Details on what's happening are included here in *The Beacon* and we hope you'll take note and share all the news with your family and friends who are not (yet!) part of our family of faith here at UCC Westerly! As our Deacons say every Sunday, remember that your church family cares about you all the time, not just when you're here. Hope to see you soon!

Your friend in Christ,
Rev. Ruth



May Birthdays

- 1 – Kenton Michael
- 4 – Charlotte Korean
- 5 – Gregory Sugar
- 7 – Gene LeRoy
- 20– Daniel Stratton
- 27- Susan Moynihan

Happy Anniversary to:

Mark & Elizabeth Dessauls – May 6th

Please add in your special days by calling the church office

† † † † † † † † † † † †

Diaconate Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Telephone #</u>
May 5	Lynn Murray	401-539-7578
May 12	Claire Calabretta	860-536-3625
May 19	Joann Spurley	401-714-8948
May 26	Ed Stratton	401-596-4740

† † † † † † † † † † † †

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.

NEWS FROM THE DEACONS

It's Scholarship Time



The **Barbara Murano Scholarship Dine to Donate** event will take place on **Thursday, May 16th**. Angelo will generously donate 15% of the day's sales, all day, eat in or take out. We have some deserving college kids. Please spread the word and bring your friends and family.

Help Needed on Sundays!

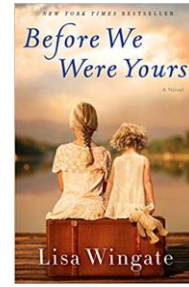
We are looking for folks who would be willing to sit with Gary Davis during worship on Sunday mornings to become familiar and comfortable with the new sound system. If we can set up a rotating team, Gary can take a break and sit with Sandi in church, and it won't be an emergency if he can't be there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

Call for Goodies!

Please consider baking some coffee hour goodies for Sunday mornings, or to have some on reserve in the freezer for when there is a need. It spreads out the work, and gives us something to have with coffee and conversation.



- Lynn



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

People always ask me, do people really come to see me on Thursdays. The answer is a resounding YES! I chat with people from the church, people from the community who have questions, colleagues out for a stroll. I chat with anyone and everyone and one of them could be YOU! 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?

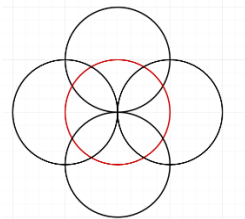
Your friend and chatting partner, Rev. Ruth

Join us for BOOKS!

Thursday, May 9 @ 6 pm
Potluck supper @ church

Our book this time:
Before We Were Yours by
Lisa Wingate

Everyone Welcome!! It helps to have read the book, but definitely not a MUST!!!
Watch for details on getting the book through the library in the Weekly Email Updates...



SABBATH CIRCLES® NEWS!

.....
Weekly Sabbath Circles® lessons continue with each directly linked to the Scripture which is the focus of worship. 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.

This marks the debut of a new article in our monthly Beacon! Its purpose is to allow us to share our personal good news with our entire church family. Everyone is welcome to submit their good news to Carol in the office and we will take it from there. Here are our church family news updates for May!!

- Congratulations to Alex Doerwaldt whose mom Jennifer reports won the 13/14 boys 100 breast stroke at a national swim meet recently held in Tampa, FL. He won with a time of 59.88 and finished first in the state of CT. Way to go Alex!!
- Congratulations to George Gray, Track Coach extraordinaire! George shares that for the first time in his coaching career, his girls track team took first in all 18 events at a meet they participated

in last week! George is excited to have such an accomplishment to “check off his bucket list”!

- Congratulations to Brooke Foster, who was inducted into Florida State University’s Garnet and Gold Scholar Society in recognition of her leadership, international experience and internship. Brooke will be graduating this weekend and is heading to the New England School of Law in Boston next fall.

So, what’s YOUR news??

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

BABIES AND LADIES MONTHS

MAY AND JUNE



Our traditional Babies and Ladies Collection for the PNC and WARM will take place again during the months of May and June. Needed baby items include: *all toiletries, larger sized diapers (sizes 3 and up), baby foods, and sunblock.* They do **not** need the smaller sized diapers or formula. Lady needs include *all feminine hygiene products.* Also requested were the *larger sized adult wipes.* These items are greatly needed and are appreciated beyond words by the people receiving them.

COMING ATTRACTIONS!!

Our annual “In the Middle” School Supplies Drive will again take place during July and August. The Pawcatuck Middle School students will be moving to Mystic Middle School, but the need will still exist. The drive also benefits students in the Westerly Middle School. In the next *Beacon* you will find a list of needed school supply items requested by the middle schools’ teachers and staff. In the past, we have dropped these donations off at the schools where the guidance counselors have quietly distributed the items to needy students in September and throughout the school year.

Trustee Notes

Gary and Sandi are across the Pond touring France, but we still have a need for our light bulb replacements.

The Trustees wish to thank the church mouse who paid our last electric bill! They 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.



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

Spring has sprung and the Pollinator Committee is already hard at work, trying to get a head start on the growing season. A huge thank you to all who participated in the church-wide clean up on April 7. Dedicated teams cleared out along the stone wall that runs

parallel to Castle Hill Road as well as in the stone planters and shadow garden.

Sandi Davis and Shirin Platt have sent out a plea for the donation of bulbs after the Easter worship service. Donated tulip and daffodil bulbs will be planted in the garden along the Castle Hill Road church sign (in front of the bell courtyard). The bulbs planted last year are looking lovely!

In late winter the Committee gave Jim of Stonington Gardens the green light to prepare a design plan and cost estimates for “Becky’s FROG (Fully Rely on God) Bog”. With Bill Morrone’s blessing, we are moving forward with this garden installation in memory of our beloved Becky Morrone, who passed away last year. Becky was a founding member of the Pollinator Committee. Funding for Jim’s preliminary work was underwritten by the committee’s earlier fundraising efforts, notably a Dine-to-Donate event at Stonington Pizza, gifts in memory of Blanche Zimmerman, and Sandi Davis’s basket silent auction last summer. Jim’s resulting design was beautiful, and his cost estimates were realistic for our church budget. We unanimously voted to move ahead with implementing these garden elements this spring. Last week Jim and his crew from Stonington Gardens installed what is called an “ombrotrophic” (rain-fed) bog bordered by stone, a stone pathway that meanders from the labyrinth to the bog, as well as a sumac grove and plantings of winterberry and holly. Jim also scraped the turf for another garden installation in memory of Blanche Zimmerman, which will also be planted this spring.

The Pollinator Committee is seeking donations in Becky’s memory to complete fundraising for the project. Please see Pastor Ruth if you are interested in donating!

Next up for us will be efforts to refresh the stone planters, develop a plant list for the FROG Bog, and then actually plant them!

Stay tuned throughout the spring and summer for ways in which you can help make this vision for a peace-filled nature sanctuary a reality!
The Pollinator Committee

Generosity
changes everything

Learn About How Church Donations are Processed...

This little article is to introduce you to the Financial Secretary and the Assistant Financial Secretaries, who are all new to their positions as of the 2019 Annual Meeting. You will also learn about what we do. Jenny Brummund (author of this article) is now the Financial Secretary, after training with Janet Allen for two years as Assistant. Edward Stratton and William Street are the Assistant Financial Secretaries who alternate Sundays “on the job.” Both have had prior experience with these positions in the past.

Simply put, we “take in money” and record what it is to be used for. The Financial Secretary also records each member’s pledges in a computer program called “Church Windows.” This program keeps track of everyone’s donations and creates the quarterly statements, which were just distributed. Each pledge is numbered and names and amounts are kept strictly confidential.

The Assistant Secretaries are the “tellers” who count the cash and checks received each Sunday. I designate where the monies are to be credited, for example: Pledges, Loose Offering, Fair Trade, Mission Offerings, Coffee Collection, and Pollinator Garden. Our tallies should “balance,” meaning we both come up with the same figure. Funds are promptly deposited in the bank. I record the money “destinations” on a spread sheet that is forwarded to George Gray and Kevin Dows, our Treasurers, at the end of each month.

They, in turn, share it at the Trustee Meeting so Trustees can monitor how much money is coming in. This record also guides the Trustees in creating a budget for the next year.

If you pledge, or donate into the collection plate with a check or labeled envelope, you will receive a statement every three months (quarterly), to help you keep track of your donations. The year-end statement can also be used to document charitable donations for tax purposes, if you itemize and meet the minimum IRS requirement! Please note that donations to the Deacons’ Fund are not recorded by the Financial Secretaries in Church Windows, but go directly to the Diaconate Board, of which Lynn Murray is currently the Treasurer. If you ever have questions about your statement, etc., feel free to ask Jenny, Ed, or Bill. We will get back to you as soon as we can!

When you make a donation to more than one “thing,” such as Pledge, Conference Dues, Beacon, One Great Hour of Sharing, etc., you are more than welcome to combine these ALL in *one check*, just be sure to clearly designate how you wish the money to be apportioned. This could be in the check memo, on the envelope, or on a slip of paper clipped to your check. This will help you conserve your checks. We record each check number that is received; we also make photocopies of all checks before depositing them (as of March 2019).

The Financial Secretaries cannot “pay out” or withdraw from the checking account we deposit into. If you ever need change for a fund-raiser, let Mr. Gray or Mr. Dows know a couple of weeks prior and they can help you arrange this.

As you can see, there are several ways in which we all work together to keep the church accounts safe: by dividing the responsibility of the “In and Out” of monies to different officers, by balancing the monies received to the recording of the areas to which they have been allocated, by two people agreeing on the deposit amount each Sunday, by the Treasurers monitoring the monthly deposits, by two Financial Secretaries collecting the donations on the altar after

worship, by any money-counting being done strictly in the church office by two people, by insuring that those who handle the funds have prior experience and are members of good standing. If you ever have a concern about the ways our moneys are handled, you can always ask a Trustee, a Treasurer, or a Financial Secretary. We want you to know that we try to be conscientious about the safety of your donations to our church and are open to questions or suggestions.

I hope this information was helpful. If any questions arise, you can call me at home anytime (860-599-1719). You can also leave a message for me to call you back. Of course, you can speak with me any Sunday!

Respectfully, Jenny Brummund

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

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	David Stratton

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.
