

# The Beacon

## JULY/AUGUST 2019



### GOOD NEWS from

United Congregational Church of  
Westerly  
United Church of Christ,  
Pawcatuck, CT  
Sunday Worship ~ 9:30 am

**FROM THE PASTOR ...** *“You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored?” Matthew 5:13a*

This is a lovely and simple text all too easy to hurry through and that’s too bad because it’s message of the importance of self-care is an important one. Let me explain. Imagine you have spent a delightful day at the beach. Perfect weather, perfect spot on the sand, water is just right for jumping in and cooling off and no dangerous undertow to worry about, the seagulls leave your picnic basket alone – a perfect day. Now, remember what it *tastes* like if you lick your lips after a day at the beach. Salty, right? So, you can and actually have been salty! And what does that salty taste remind you of? The wonderful day you have just enjoyed. So, too, when you know what it is to feel alive in a whole different way because you have Jesus in your life, you become “salty” – flavored in a sense with the love of Jesus, with the knowledge of how precious you are to God. Salty can also refer to “sweat salty” like when you’ve been working outside on a hot day, weeding in the pollinator gardens at church, or helping to make the baskets for the bazaar or even baking cookies to

bring to share at Fellowship on Sunday. Salty – a sign that you are and have been and will be ready to work for Jesus to bring the light of God into the world. Important stuff, to be sure. And, what our church works hard at all year.

Now we come to the second part of that verse – “if the salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored?” That is *THE* question, isn’t it, especially as summer days invite us to set aside the long “to-do” lists in favor of a day at the beach, or a cool glass of lemonade and a good book on the deck. I don’t know about you but come this time of year in the busy life of this church, I definitely feel less salty than I know I need to be as I engage in this work of ministry as Jesus hopes I will. I know at least some of you feel the same way. So, how can our saltiness be restored? That at least is simple to answer. Just invest in the three “R’s” – Rest, Relaxation and Renewal. In other words – take a breath, take a break and let go of all it is that makes you crazy and frantic. Not easy to do, but oh so important! Summertime in the church is a lovely time when we quite intentionally slow down our work and just enjoy being a community of faith together. And that, dear friends, is a very good thing.

So, as summer settles in here at our church, I hope you will relax and enjoy some down time, resting in the presence of God wherever you find yourselves, and I hope some of it will be at church on Sunday mornings! In July when I am on vacation – re-salting myself as it were – you will have wonderful opportunities to hear a guest preacher and two lay speakers plus the ever popular hymn sing Sunday. Enjoy! Then, in August when I return, we’ll take a little time reconnecting with the Gospel Lectionary texts as the focal point of worship for a few weeks.

Thus my wish for you this summer is ample time to invest in restoring your own saltiness. I do hope at least some of that will involve you coming to church on Sunday mornings to reconnect with your church family and just be in this special place. We’ll be looking for you...

Your friend in Christ, **Rev. Ruth**



## ***July Birthdays***

- 3 – Kevin Dows
- 4 – Jimmy Stott
- 13 – Mark Comito
- 14 – Joann Spurley
- 19 – Bobbie DelPozo-Waldron
- 21 – Ane Torres
- 27 – Jim Cornell
- 30 – Elvis Torres

## ***August Birthdays***

- 1 – Rosemary Jette
- 10 – Liz Dessaulles
- 13 – Amanda Dessaulles
- 20 – Bethany Foster
- 30 – Shirley Miller

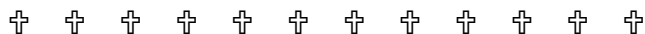
## **Happy Anniversary to:**

**Elvis & Ane Torres**  
*July 20*

**Eugene & Carolyn LeRoy**  
*August 4*

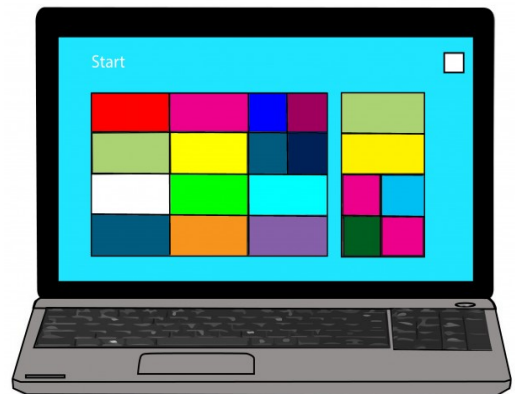
**George & Cathy Gray**  
*August 23*

*Please add in your special days by  
calling the church office at 860-599-1226!!*



## **Diaconate Schedule**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Telephone #</u>
July 7	Claire Calabretta	860-536-3625
July 14	Joann Spurley	401-714-8948
July 21	Ed Stratton	401-596-4740
July 28	Bethany Foster	401-539-4003
Aug 4	Lynn Murray	401-539-7578



## **Just a Friendly Reminder:**

You can utilize our website,  
[www.uccwesterly.org](http://www.uccwesterly.org) for access to weekly  
Sermons, Sabbath Circles Home School  
Curriculum as well as updates on events and  
projects at any time.



### **SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

**June 30** – Rev. Ruth’s last Sunday before vacation! Blessing of the Babies & Ladies Donation drive items. Fourth of July worship celebration.

**July 7** – Guest Preacher Rev. Jennifer Geary preaching and presiding at Communion.

**July 14** -- Lay Preacher Bethany Foster presenting a sermon from *A Chorus of Witnesses*, Rev. Ruth’s preaching anthology text from Harvard

**July 21** -- Lay Preacher Jenny Brummund offering one of her always thoughtful messages

**July 28** -- Hymn Sing Sunday facilitated by Lynn Murray with Dav Cranmer

**August 4** -- Rev. Ruth returns and August sermon series “Reconnecting with the Lectionary” begins! Communion Sunday.

**August 25** – Blessing of the School Supplies and the new School Year; Work project after worship to create the long awaited Peace Pole meditation garden.

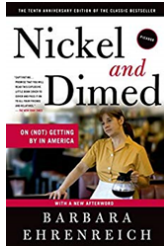
**A reminder that pastoral concerns which come up while Rev. Ruth is on vacation should be directed to the Diaconate Person of the Week or to Lynn Murray, Chair of Deacons @ 401-539-7578.**

Our Hymn Sing Sunday will be July 28<sup>th</sup>. If you have a hymn request, please let Lynn Murray know by emailing her at [mmurray552@verizon.net](mailto:mmurray552@verizon.net) or placing them in the deacon mailbox in the upper hallway by July 14th. That way, Dav can be informed of what he will be playing, and it allows time for some background research on the hymns. If your request has special meaning or connections, please include that as well.



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

My Community Office Hours at the Savoy will be on hiatus the month of July since I will be on vacation! They will resume on Thursday, August 8 – same place – the Savoy Bookshop and Café and the same time – 2-4pm. Come join me for a short chat or a long conversation and, of course, a delicious cold beverage and perhaps even a cookie... Remember, all conversations are confidential. See you in August!



### **Join us for BOOKS!**

*Rescheduled for Thursday, August 8 @ 6pm*  
The Pavilion at Misquamicut Beach  
(Weather permitting! Otherwise we're at church!)

Our book this time:  
*Nickel and Dime* by Barbara Ehrenbach

Bring a bag supper and a drink for yourself!  
Remember, you do not have to pay to park at the Beach after 4pm!!!!

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Some church family news updates for July!!!

- Congratulations to Liz and Mark Dessaulles on the birth of their first grandson, Carson Markus Apodaca on June 14. Mom Emily, and Dad Raul are doing just fine too! Congratulations to Auntie Amanda too as well as Great-Grandparents, Erwin and Alice Dessaulles.
- Peter Hainsworth, Rev. Ruth's husband, is recovering very well from surgery and is most appreciative of the support you all have provided during his recent health concerns. He writes: "I would

like to thank the congregation for the prayers, cards, flowers and other expressions of support. I have felt your presence and that of God through this challenging time so I thank you for making a real difference in my life."

- Dong something fun on your vacation this year?? Take some photos and send us the highlights! We'd love to hear all about your adventures!

What's your news?? We don't know if you don't tell us!! Send your Good News items to Carol in the office via email at [uccwesterly@sbcglobal.net](mailto:uccwesterly@sbcglobal.net).

### **Trustee Notes**

We want to thank everyone for keeping up with pledged donations. Our total income through May was \$45,208 which is about \$2,265 less than our anticipated income. The real good news is that pledge donations through May were \$33,257 which is almost \$5,218 (7%) more than expected. We want to thank everyone for keeping up with pledges and ask that you continue to do so over the summer months.

Our total expenses through May were \$47,473 bringing our deficit to \$6,840. This high deficit is mainly due to quarterly insurance payment of \$1,983. Our utility costs continue to be higher than expected due to rate increases and the colder weather in this spring. Our May electric bill was \$235 and gas was \$491.

The Trustees will be seeking quotes this Fall for repaving a section of the upper parking lot. Funds from the Capital Campaign will be used to cover the cost.

The Trustees are also looking for volunteers to help with maintenance of the grounds. The pollinator garden group has been doing an excellent job of beautifying the grounds with

flowers. But the following areas can use some work:

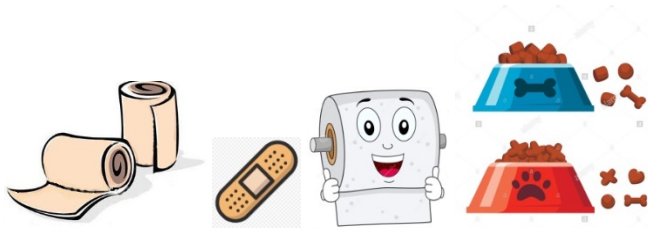
- Removal of grass in parking lot cracks
- Weed area around granite sign along Pequot Trail
- Removal of weed is area between lower walkway and retaining wall
- Remove weeds around shed in lower parking lot
- Remove/cut weeds along stone wall and our neighbor's property

The next Trustee meeting will be August 27th at 6 PM.

## MISSION MOMENTS

Thanks to everyone who gave to our Babies and Ladies Collection for the PNC. These items are so desperately needed on a daily basis.

### July and August PNC Collection



During the summer months we will be collecting First Aid Items, Toilet Tissue, and Dry Pet Food. A strange combination, for sure, but these are some of the most needed items at the PNC. First Aid items should be limited to band-aids, bandages, gauze, and adhesive tape; in other words, no medicinal products, please. A reminder that toilet tissue should be donated in no more than four or six-roll packs. Also, dry pet food is a much healthier option than moist foods.

We will no longer be holding onto PNC items until the end of the donation period, as there is always an immediate need for the requested items. We are hoping to deliver the donations soon after they are brought to the church.

## ANNUAL SUMMER "IN THE MIDDLE" SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE



Pawcatuck Middle School students will be moving to Mystic Middle School in the fall, but the need there will still exist. This annual drive also benefits students in the Westerly Middle School. Traditionally, we have dropped these donations off at the schools where the guidance counselors have quietly distributed the items to needy students in September and through-out the school year. These items will be blessed during our annual Back Pack Blessing Sunday at the end of August. Keep an eye out for all of the Back-to-school sales that will start up way before anyone is ready to head back to school!

### "IN THE MIDDLE" SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE SHOPPING LIST

- pencils of good quality (like Ticonderoga) that sharpen well
- red and other colored pens and pencils for students to correct their work
- thin markers
- **highlighters**
- zippered "folio" type binders, 3-ring binders (1 ½ inch)
- 3-ring binder paper
- pencil cases that go in the 3-ring binders and small change purses
- one-subject notebooks
- cap erasers for pencils and regular erasers
- glue sticks
- **backpacks**
- **sticky notes**
- **"click-style" pencils**
- and, to help the teachers, boxes of tissues for the classroom

(The items in bold are especially needed.)

## UCC NIGHT OUT

Thanks to everyone who made it to our inaugural UCC Night Out at the Grey Sail Brewery. It was great that we could have such a wonderful time together on a beautiful summer evening and give back a bit to thank Grey Sail for their generosity to the Pollinator Garden Silent Auction.



Our next Night Out will be on Wednesday, August 28 at the **Jealous Monk** in Olde Mistick Village (the old Newport Creamery building across from the Steak Loft). This restaurant, like our previous site, has been very generous the past two years by donating gift cards to the Pollinator Garden Silent Auction. The Jealous Monk has a full menu, so outside food is not allowed. Want to check out their menu? Here is their website: <https://jealous-monk.com/>. They have soft drinks as well as beer, wine, and cocktails.

Let's hope for another beautiful evening, so we can enjoy their beautiful patio area. The sign-up sheet and information regarding time will go up in August.



Announcing a unique summertime concert!

## *The Ukulelians*

*This performing group of ukulele players will share their musical talents playing a wide variety of music including everyone's favorite Hawaiian songs.*

*Saturday, August 3 @ 7pm*

*Cold drinks and dessert buffet!*

*Ticket cost: FREE!!!*

*All ages welcome!*

*Fellowship Hall of UCC Westerly*

*9 Castle Hill Road, Pawcatuck, CT*

*Hosted by the Congregational Life Board*

*of UCC Westerly.*



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

Some exciting news on the Pollinator Gardens!!

- We are now officially on the map for our commitment to creating sustainable pollinator habitats! Our registration requests to the *Pollinator-Pathways* project and the *Million Pollinator Garden Map Challenge* have been approved!!
- Pollinator Garden workdays will continue in July on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> from 5-7pm in the evenings. Come and join in with the pollinator garden crew and learn while you weed why pollinator habitats are a vital part of everyone's lives!!
- Rev. Ruth has created a new video update of the Pollinator Gardens which you can view on the website, [www.uccwesterly.org](http://www.uccwesterly.org), or our Facebook page @ UCC Westerly. Check it out!
- The Eastern Connecticut Conservation District has agreed to provide all the plants for our Rain Garden most of which did not winter over. The original garden was planted as an in-kind grant from ECCD and we are so pleased they are willing to continue their support in such a tangible way.
- We are participating in a special Pollinator Event at Stonington Gardens on Saturday, July 29. Jim from Stonington Gardens has been an important partner in this project providing design and installation services.

- Special thanks to all who have so generously supported our Summer Basket Silent Auction fundraiser!!! It's been an even bigger success than last year! Winning bids will be announced around 11am on Sunday, June 30.

## ***The Pollinator Committee***



Just a quick note to announce that the revised Visitation Ministries of the church will kick off in September. Watch for specifics in the September *Beacon* which will be published in late August. In the meantime, if you would like to participate in the Visitation Ministries through either in-person visits, phone calls or sending cards, please speak with Rev. Ruth when she returns from vacation. Do note a special meeting and orientation session for volunteers will take place after church on Sunday, September 15 in the Parlor at 11am.

## **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 9-1 pm





## COMING ATTRACTIONS!!

(The items in bold are especially needed.)

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 in the fall, but the need will still exist. The drive also benefits students in the Westerly Middle School. 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. These items will be blessed during our annual Back Pack Blessing Sunday at the end of August, but the list of needed supplies is included for your convenience now, as these items always seem to be on sale somewhere! In addition, those Back-to-School Sales start way before we are ready to back to school!

### IN THE MIDDLE”

#### SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE

- pencils of good quality (like Ticonderoga) that sharpen well
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