

The Beacon

June, 2019



GOOD NEWS from

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

FROM THE PASTOR ...

“Come to me all you that are weary and carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart and you will find rest for your souls.” Matthew 11:28-29

These words of Jesus always touch my heart whenever I read them. Jesus spoke them to the disciples, I imagine, as they walked along some long ago dusty road on the way to the next place Jesus would be teaching and healing and helping. How tired he must have been as well as the disciples with him. They had to walk everywhere and were mostly dependent on the generosity of folks they encountered along the way for food and drink and a place to rest. Understanding this context makes his words all the more extraordinary and especially relevant for us in our too busy 21st century lives.

So, what does Jesus mean by these lovely and gentle words. I think he wants us to know that he gets it that some days life is just too difficult, too hard, too sad. Our worries and concerns feel like they could crush us at any moment. We feel like we don't know what to do and where to turn. It is in these moments that his words touch us so deeply. “Give those worries and burdens to me,” he is saying to each of us. “Let me hold them for you while you rest. Dare to get closer to me so you can really understand what it is I am offering. Dare to believe that gentleness, humbleness and kindness still exist in this crazy world and I am offering it to you, right here and right now. Dare to take a deep breath and rest.” Wow, what an offer ...

This brings to mind a little poster I saw somewhere that said, “There is nothing that Jesus and I can't handle together.” I like that thought and I think it gets right at what Jesus was trying to say in this text. If we invest in a relationship with Jesus, and with others in the fellowship of the church, we can find comfort, kindness and rest for our weary, aching bodies and souls. When things are going well in our lives, we have folks to celebrate with and when life is tough, there are folks to walk through those painful days with us, no questions asked. Such is the wonder of Jesus' invitation to each of us to become part of his church.

As summer will soon be upon us, I would like to suggest this is a perfect time to invest in our relationship with Jesus through prayer and allowing ourselves to rest in his presence. It's also a wonderful time, especially this month, to invest in our relationships with other folks in our church with some new Congregational Life events scheduled in June. Inside this edition of the *Beacon* you will find information on several such events along with news from the Trustees, the Deacons and the Missions Boards. Check it out and see just how amazing our church is!

So, this June I hope you will dare to step out in faith as you sense Jesus is inviting you to during this delightful month when spring slides into summer. Join us at worship on Sunday, and for the fun on other occasions and events. Most importantly, make time in your life for yourself, so that you will find rest for your souls within the bosom of this amazing, wonderful church we call UCC Westerly. We'll be looking for you!!

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



June Birthdays

- 5 – Eric Sadowski
- 7 – Tyler McCrary
- 20 – Victoria Tosti
- 23 – June Sicilian
- 28 – Emma Sugar

Happy Anniversary to:

Bobbie & Pam DelPozo-Waldron
June 6, 1992

Ed & Judy Stratton
June 6, 1970

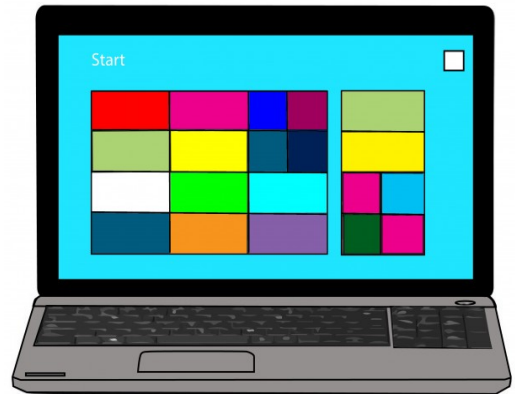
Please add in your special days by calling the church office

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Diaconate Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Telephone #</u>
June 2	Claire Calabretta	860-536-3625
June 9	Lynn Murray	401-539-7578
June 16	Dwayne Spurley	860-705-6152
June 23	Elvis Torres	860-460-0861
June 30	Bethany Foster	401-539-4003

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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.

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

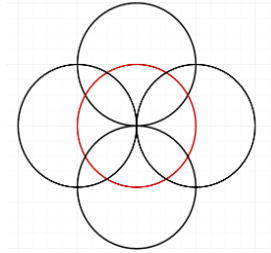


**Rev. Ruth's Community Office Hours
on Thursdays from 2 – 4 pm
at The Savoy Bookstore & Café
in downtown Westerly**

My Community Office Hours at the Savoy will continue this month for most Thursdays, between 2-4pm. To answer the question I am asked most often about Community Office Hours: Yes, people do come and see me, including church folks, community folks, perfect strangers, Savoy employees, colleagues and friends. Sometimes I have a line and other times I have a chance to get some other work done. But, definitely yes, people do come and see me. You are welcome to come any time. The Savoy offers a unique atmosphere of warmth and comfort, just perfect for chatting about whatever is on your mind and heart. And, of course, all conversations with me are always completely confidential. Hope to see you one of these Thursdays! Not on June 27th, though. Have

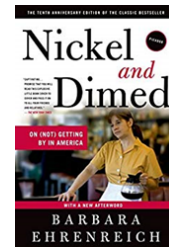
a personal commitment I must attend to in Providence that day...

Your friend and chatting partner, Rev. Ruth



SABBATH CIRCLES® NEWS!

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Weekly Sabbath Circles® lessons have ended for the summer but will return in September. In the meantime, copies of the lessons for this past year are available on the website and a small number of hard copies are available at the church. Please feel free to contact Rev. Ruth, at any time, with your Sabbath Circle questions!!!



**Join us for BOOKS!**

Thursday, June 20 @ 6pm  
The Pavilion at Misquamicut Beach  
(Weather permitting! Otherwise we're at the church!)

Our book this time:  
*Nickel and Dimed* 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 June!!!

☺ Congratulations to our high school graduates this year!!

- Erin Blake graduates this month from Grasso Technical High School in Groton, CT and will be attending Eastern CT State University this fall.
- Anna Tarasuk graduates this month from Chariho Regional High School and will be attending the Rochester Institute of Technology this fall.
- *Remember to join us on Scholarship Sunday, June 9 as we present scholarships to Erin and Anna, along with Lindsay and JB Walker. There is a rumor of cake afterwards...*

☺ Congratulations to Sydney Walker who was recently inducted into the National Honor Society at Westerly High School.

☺ Welcome back to our snowbirds who have migrated north once again for the summer! Vera Leming, Kenton Michael and Anna Olszewski. We are SO glad you're back!!!

☺ Welcome home to our world travelers! Gary & Sandi Davis traveled to France in April; Grace Cipriano traveled to France in May; Christa and Bill Colprit traveled to Germany in April; Carolyn & Gene LeRoy traveled to Tahiti in April; Bethany, Brooke and Jamie Foster traveled to the Mediterranean for a cruise in May. Phew!!!! Hope you all had a fabulous time! We want to see pictures!!!!

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.



***COME JOIN YOUR UCC WESTERLY
FRIENDS
AT THE BASEBALL GAME!!!***

CT TIGERS vs. LOWELL SPINNERS

Friday, June 21st

Game time: 7:05pm

Fireworks after the game!!!

***Tickets: Reserved seats on First
Base line, \$9 each***

***Sign up at church to reserve your
tickets!***

***Pick them up and pay at Will Call at Dodd
Stadium before the game.***

***NOTE: YOU MUST PAY FOR TICKETS
RESERVED BUT NOT USED. If you find you
cannot make the game, find someone else to
claim your tickets or you will be responsible
for paying for them. Thanks!***

Questions? Talk to Rev. Ruth anytime!!!

MISSION MOMENTS

BABIES AND LADIES MONTHS

MAY AND JUNE



Our traditional Babies and Ladies Collection for the PNC and WARM continues during the month of June. Needed baby items include: *all toiletries, larger sized diapers (sizes 5 and 6), and sunblock*. They do **not** need the smaller sized diapers or formula, or wipes. Lady needs include **all feminine hygiene products**. Also requested were the *larger-sized adult wipes*. These items, which are generally not donated, are greatly needed and are appreciated beyond words by the people receiving them.

There is an on-going need for paper towels, toilet tissue, laundry and dish detergents, and pet food, especially the dry dog food.

An important note when purchasing any items to donate to the PNC: By law the staff is not permitted to open and subdivide any donated packages. Therefore, the larger packages of toilet tissue and paper towels must be given in entirety to just one family, while another might receive just a roll or two. Purchasing smaller packages of toilet tissue or a roll or two of paper towels is much more practical. This also applies to donated foods. A 5 pound bag of rice can be given to just one family and cannot be subdivided.



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 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
- 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.)



Family Housing Support

The **Family Housing Support** would like to thank everyone who donated during the Lenten season. Your contributions totaled \$ 365.00!!



Barbara Murano Scholarship Fund News

Many thanks to all who supported the Dine-to-Donate at Angelo's Pizza Palace on May 16th! The early estimate is that we raised approximately \$1100 for our fund. Please join us on June 9th when we present the scholarships to our 4 recipients and hear their stories. We hope you will continue to support Angelo's Pizza Palace as a thank you for the generosity he shows us.

Trustee Notes

We would like to explain why our budget information is two months behind. We review the previous month's financial statements at each meeting. So, at our May meeting we will review financial statements through the end of April, which we will summarize in next month's Beacon.

We'd like to thank everyone for keeping up with pledged donations. Our total income through April was \$37,360, which is about \$600 less than our anticipated income. The real good news is that pledge donations through April were \$28,000, almost \$5,570 (8.3%) more than expected. Thank you again for keeping up with pledges and we ask that you continue to do so over the summer months.

Total expenses through April were \$43,060, bringing our deficit to \$5,700. The high deficit is mainly due to our quarterly insurance payment of \$4,300. Our utility costs continue to be higher than expected due to rate increases and the colder spring weather. Our April electric bill was \$274 and gas was \$915.

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 recessed 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. The following types are needed:

- 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!

We'll be meeting on Sunday, June 2nd to finalize some plans and to begin various tasks in the gardens. You can lend a hand on the first and third Wednesdays of each month this summer as we will be sponsoring Pollinator Gardens Work Days on June 5 & 19th. We will be working in the gardens from 6-8pm every evening. Willing hands always welcome!

Be sure to check out the article on our summer fund-raiser efforts!!!! The baskets et al look amazing!!!

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

The Pollinator Committee



SECOND ANNUAL SUMMER SILENT AUCTION AND PLANT SALE

WHAT? BASKETS, SOME WITH GIFT CARDS TO LOCAL BUSINESSES, AND CRAFTS FROM OUR CREATIVE MEMBERS

WHEN? JUNE 9—30

WHERE? FELLOWSHIP HALL

WHY? TO RAISE MONEY FOR OUR POLLINATOR GARDENS PROJECT

HOW? PLACE YOUR BID ON THE ITEM(S) OF YOUR CHOICE IN THE BOX. THE NEXT SUNDAY THE HIGHEST BID WILL BE POSTED (BUT NOT THE BIDDER'S NAME). REALLY WANT THE ITEM? PLACE A HIGHER BID IN THE BOX! THE PROCESS WILL BE REPEATED UNTIL JUNE 30 WHEN THE WINNERS WILL BE ANNOUNCED.

WHAT ELSE? SUNFLOWERS AND VARIOUS PLANTS GROWN BY OUR CHURCH GARDENERS WILL BE FOR SALE DURING THIS TIME.

**ALL DONATIONS WILL BE GRATEFULLY
ACCEPTED!!**

In less than a week we have received donations from The Tapped Apple, Grey Sail Brewing, McQuade's Marketplace, Sticky Situations, Herbwise, Westerly Packing, Stop and Shop, Savoy Bookstore and Café, and The Jealous Monk, in addition to numerous members of our congregation. Many more should be coming in soon! This should be a **great** event!!



**UCC MONTHLY NIGHT-OUT
INAUGURAL EVENT!!
Grey Sail Brewing
63 Canal Street, Westerly
Wednesday, June 26
5:00--??**

The Congregational Life Committee is happy to announce a new “group” to which all of you belong!! Our promise to you: no business to be discussed, no budget to consider, and no work days to schedule! Once a month we are proposing to visit one of our local restaurants or watering holes, just to hang out together and enjoy each other’s company and some tasty food. Our only missions are to name our group and decide where and when to dine next!

For our inaugural event we chose Grey Sail to support their business as they have supported our congregation. When asked for a donation for the Pollinator Garden Summer Silent Auction, they responded eagerly and generously, as did many of our other local businesses. Hopefully, we will be able to visit the others later in the year.

Grey Sail Brewing is a beautiful, local brewery that has a lovely outside garden and a beautiful refurbished indoor taproom. They serve their own brews, Jonathan Edwards wines, locally made sodas, Del’s Lemonade, and Granny Squibb’s Iced Tea. In addition, there is a wood-fired pizza oven on site. Not a pizza lover? Feel free to bring your own food or snacks. They do ask that you not bring any alcoholic beverages with you, though. They are proud to maintain a family-friendly atmosphere and have lawn and board games available to play.

There will be a sign-up sheet for this event, but signing it or not does not commit you to attend or decline. We just need a loose number to

give Grey Sail, so they can reserve space for us.

Come early (they open at 3), come late, stay as long as you’d like (but they close at 8). Bring a significant other or friend or come alone. This is planned to be a very casual event.

Hope to see you there!!

PRAYER LIST



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

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|------------------|---------------------|
| 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.

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
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Website: www.uccwesterly.org
Office Hours: Monday, Thursday & Friday 9-1 pm