

# The Beacon

## October 2019



### **GOOD NEWS from**

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

#### **From the Pastor**

*“Honor the Lord with your substance and with the first fruits of all you produce; then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine.” Proverbs 3:9-10*

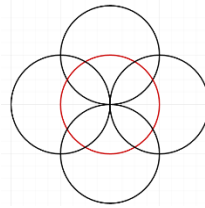
October has to be one of my most favorite months of the year. I love the changing of the leaves, the appearance of pumpkins and hay bales on front porches, the preponderance of wonderful apple pastries and pumpkin desserts. We focus on things like apples and pumpkins, hay bales and corn stalks in October because it has long been the month of the harvest. We forget this, I think, the more and more distant we become from our agrarian roots. Most of us don't grow our own food. Unlike the original settlers of the area, we don't have to worry about getting in the harvest before the snow flies. Instead we celebrate this harvest month with corn mazes and candy apples. I often think that my farmer great-grandfather would not be able to comprehend folks using hay bales and dried corn stalks for decoration. Too him they were cattle feed!

This harvest connection has a lot to do, I think, with the church's tradition of celebrating the season of Stewardship in October. Just as our agrarian ancestors had to take stock of the success of the harvest to prepare for the year ahead, so we too in the church pause every October to think about financial realities in our own lives as we consider our giving to the church for the year ahead. It's not much of a stretch to say that each of you is part of the church's harvest, part of the church's bounty celebrated every time we gather as the people of Christ in this place. The ministries we engage in together here in our church are the reason the church exists.

I think that's what the writer of the beautiful text above from Proverbs was thinking about. He's explaining that it matters how we honor God with our time, our talent and treasure. It matters not only what we give, but even more that we give gladly and with joy, trusting that our support of this church is one way we contribute to making the world a better place. The Proverbs writer also knows that giving away even a piece of our own security can be scary. So, he makes us a promise. If we give gladly and with hearts wide open, trusting that with God all will be well, “our barns will be filled with plenty and [our] vats will be filled with wine.” Now there's a happy thought!!

So, I hope you'll join us for worship during this Stewardship season to be reminded of what we believe, why it matters and how we can make our ministries stronger and better. Specific details on the Stewardship Campaign appear elsewhere in this newsletter along with lots of information on all that's going on in our wonderful, lively and vibrant church. What we do, does make a difference and now is the time to remember, celebrate and plan for the future in our church. We're in this together. Well, us and God.

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



**SABBATH CIRCLES© --  
*UCC Westerly's Home  
 Sunday School  
 Curriculum***

A reminder that the weekly lessons are posted on line on our website [www.uccwesterly.org](http://www.uccwesterly.org) . They are also posted on our Sabbath Circles Facebook Group every Friday. If you are interested, please know this is a closed group so you will need to contact Rev. Ruth or Carol, our secretary in the church office, to gain access to it. Hard copies of the lessons can be requested from the church for a small donation to cover copying and postage costs. For more information on *Sabbath Circles©*, please speak with Rev. Ruth anytime.

**OCTOBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

- Sunday, October 6    **WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY**  
 Rev. Ruth preaching on Numbers 6:22-27  
*PEACE POLE INSTALLATION in the upper gardens immediately following worship!*
- Sunday, October 13    **STEWARDSHIP KICK-OFF SUNDAY**  
 Rev. Ruth preaching on Exodus 35:20-29
- Sunday, October 20    Rev. Ruth preaching on Isaiah 6:1-8  
*"My Way" Moment #1*
- Sunday, October 27    Rev. Ruth preaching on Ezekiel 37:1-14  
*"My Way" Moment #2*

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




**Diaconate Schedule**


<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Telephone #</u>
Oct. 6	Claire Calabretta	860-536-3625
Oct 13	Lynn Murray	401-539-7578
Oct 20	Joann Spurley	401-714-8948
Oct 27	Elvis Torres	860-245-4759


Whether you, like my squirrel friend, enjoy coffee or tea I hope you'll stop by my Community Office Hours at the Savoy some week. I'm there every Thursday and my only purpose is to talk with anyone who is looking for a short chat or a long conversation about whatever is on your mind and heart. What's not to like?? I can testify that both the hot and cold beverages are wonderful and don't even get me started on the cookies. Do know that all conversations with me at any time are always confidential.


# DID YOU KNOW... ???


1.  **Did you know that** UCC Westerly has a library with a pretty extensive collection of books, fiction and non-fiction, on a variety of topics as well as dvd's of some of your favorite movies you can borrow? *We do! Check it out any Sunday, down the hall from the Office. Just leave a note on a yellow sticky telling us your name, what you borrowed and when.*



2.  **Did you know that** there is a basket for donations out on the Fellowship Table every Sunday? This is how we pay for things like coffee cream, milk, coffee, tea and lemonade! It is not necessary for Fellowship hosts to cover the cost themselves. Your cash donation in any amount is greatly appreciated!!! Coffee hosts and help with clean-up always appreciated too! Please speak with Joann Spurley to volunteer.

3.  **Did you know that** UCC Westerly rents out space for individuals and groups in the community in need of an affordable place to gather for meetings or parties? A brand new flyer explaining what we have available, what it costs and how to rent a space is out in both narthexes. Pick a few up to share with people you know who might be looking for a place to rent!

4.  **Did you know that** it's almost Bazaar time! YIKES!!! The first Bazaar planning meeting is scheduled for Sunday, October 13 @ 11am in the Parlor. Everyone welcome! Let the planning begin!

5.  **Did you know that** we have daily devotional guides available for anyone to take home to guide your daily connections with God? They are called *The Upper Room* and they are available on the shelf in the Bell Courtyard Narthex. Donations to cover the cost are helpful but not required.



## Trustee Notes

We want to thank everyone for keeping up with pledged donations. Pledge donations through August were \$49,553, about \$4,690 more than expected. Our total income through August was \$66,187, about \$9,769 less than anticipated. Areas where the income is significantly down are:

- Gifts to the Church: \$825 versus expected \$3,687
- Loose Offerings: \$576 versus expected \$1,500
- Special Projects: \$4,566 versus expected \$9,333 (normally made up by the Christmas Bazaar)

Our total expenses through July were \$80,060 bringing our deficit to \$13,873. Our utility costs continue to be higher than expected. Through August our total costs for electricity was \$2,072 (\$139 more than expected) and total cost for gas was \$5,442 (\$1,175 more than expected).

The Trustees are still seeking quotes for repaving a section of the upper parking lot.

Quotes for cleaning the sanctuary carpet have been received and the Trustees approved contracting with Servicemaster to have the carpet cleaned for \$885.89. Funds from the Capital Campaign will be used to cover the cost.

Our endowment fund is healthy; approximately \$6,000 of the interest generated by this fund is used as income to our yearly budget. Anyone interested in making donations to the endowment should see any of the Trustees.

The next Trustee meeting will be 29 October at 6 PM.

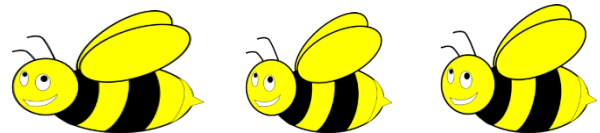


## **MISSION MOMENTS**

Many thanks for all the hands that made our attic/yard sale a success. From set up, organizing, check-out, sign making, and packing up, it truly made light work. We had a neighbor donate items, and our first shoppers were there more than an hour before the start time. (Yes, they all bought things.) We got rid of a large amount of items, and we made \$800 dollars for our efforts. Our neighbors appreciated our participation, and the weather couldn't have cooperated more! At church council, we decided

that next year, we will once again join the Castle Hill neighborhood sale. It's a great way for each of us to downsize our belongings, and the church certainly benefits. We ask that this time, no items be brought and stored at church until the week leading up to the event. Without advance pricing, there is no need to have items on site ahead of time, and it keeps our rooms and hallways clear. There will be advance notice next year of when to start thinking of what you'd like to donate. Thank you all once again.

Thanks to everyone who attended the Hog Wild event to support the Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center. It was a wonderful afternoon of beyond-delicious food, golden sunshine, fun activities for the kids, and easy-going fellowship in the beautiful setting of Stone Acres Farm. What a perfect way to spend a Sunday afternoon!!



### **"FILL THE HIVES"**

Our October Mission event will be "FILL THE HIVES" to benefit Heifer International. When we think of Heifer International, we often think of the donation of goats, chickens, or cows to benefit the poorest members of third world countries. However, the gifts that can be donated through Heifer are as diverse as the needs of these global citizens. Possible donations include ducks, alpacas, fish, sheep, rabbits, water buffalo, llamas, pigs, etc., etc., etc. During the month of October we will be collecting donations for "shares of honeybees." From the Heifer Website:

### **Honeybees Sweeten a Family's Financial Future**

A Heifer honeybee gift donation includes a bee package, hive, box and training in beekeeping techniques. When you buy bees for a family in need, your gift:

- Boosts income through sales of honey, wax and pollen

- Stimulates growth of the family's crops through pollination

Sometimes it's the smallest gifts that make the largest impact. Healthy beehives can double fruit and vegetable yields of small farms. Let your honeybee donation turn a family's struggle into a lifetime of opportunity.

<https://www.heifer.org/gift-catalog/animals-nutrition/honeybees-donation.html>

A share of bees is donated to a family for each \$30 donation. Our aim is to donate as many shares as possible. For every \$5 that you donate to this activity during October, you will earn a happy-faced paper "bee" that you will be able to place on a paper "hive" in Fellowship Hall. Six bees will "Fill the Hive," and we will start another one. Let's see if we can create a whole host of filled Bee Hives on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall!

**October PNC collection will be cleaning supplies and paper towels.**

### LOOKING AHEAD

November and December: Our holiday theme will be **SURVIVAL MODE**. Let's help out the homeless in the area through the WARM Center by donating sleeping bags, large-sized tarps, heavy blankets, ski pants, long underwear, and hand warmers. Keep an eye out for sales and coupons now. We'll try to alert you to weekly sales on these items. Even better: this is a good time to clean out those closets and donate some of your surplus belongings.

\*\*If anyone has items in mind for the Silent Auction for the bazaar, they can be brought in now and placed in the third room on the middle level. That way, they can be organized and inventoried in advance of bazaar week.



An Invitation to Join us at  
**BOOKS**

*A group of folks who love to read,  
talk about what we read  
or just talk & everyone is welcome!*

### OUR NEXT GATHERING:

*Wednesday, October 30 @ 6pm  
Pizza Supper at the church with  
beverages provided.*

### WHAT WE'RE READING:

**BECOMING**

By Michelle Obama





JOIN US FOR OUR NEXT  
UCC NIGHT-OUT!!!

Tuesday, October 22, 2019

5pm - ??????

Stonington Pizza Palace

RT. 1, Stonington, CT

The only agenda is to have fun!!

Come around 5:00 and stay as long as you'd like. Bring a significant other, a friend or come alone. Advance sign-up is helpful but not required.

We'll be looking for you!!!!

*Hosted by the Congregational Life Board of UCC Westerly.*



*ANNOUNCING SACRED THREADS!*

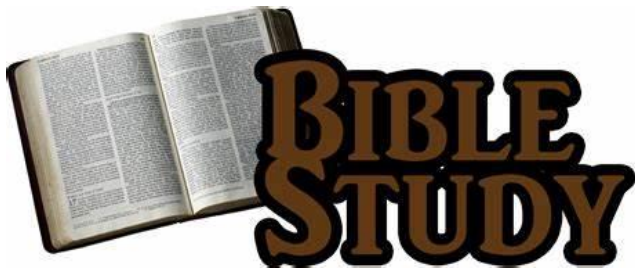
*Please join us at a special "retreat"  
at our church as we work together  
to create new altar paraments & worship  
banners.*

*CONFIRMED Date & Time: Saturday,  
October 12, 10am - 2pm*

*For more information please speak with Lynn Murray  
or Rev. Ruth.*



**We will be receiving the annual "Neighbors In Need" offering of the United Church of Christ on Sunday, October 20.** This is one of four such special offerings the United Church of Christ receives each year. The Neighbors In Need offering was created by an act of the General Synod in 1997. Since that time, the offering has been split between funding the work of the Justice and Witness Ministries of the UCC (two-thirds) and the Council for American Indian Ministries (one-third). Donations of cash or checks made payable to the church should be placed in the NIN envelope in the bulletin on October 20 and placed in the collection plate. If you won't be here that Sunday, just send your gift to the office anytime up to that date. Kindly note "NIN" on the memo line of your check. Thanks!



Plans for a new Bible Study here at church this fall have morphed once again! The proposed *Exploring the Bible* study course from the Massachusetts Bible Society proved too big a commitment so we were unable to secure enough “students” to make the course fly. But, not to worry! In its place, Rev. Ruth will be leading the much more relaxed and informal Sabbath Circles© Bible Study, based on our own Sabbath Circles© curriculum here in the church. This Bible Study group will meet only once a month on the last Sunday of the month and the topic will be any and/or all of the texts on which Sunday sermons have been based for that month. So, this will be an ideal time to engage with Rev. Ruth and each other on recent sermons! Our first gathering will be on Sunday, October 27 @ 11am in the Parlor! Remember, weekly Sabbath Circles© lessons containing background information and questions for reflection on the text for the week are available every Sunday as well as on the church website and the Sabbath Circles© Facebook Group!



**The Stewardship Committee** is pleased to announce this year’s annual Stewardship campaign will begin on Sunday, October 13 with a special sermon by Rev. Ruth. Our theme for this year’s pledge drive is “I am the Way...”, a Jesus quote from the Gospel of John. This year we will feature three individuals offering “My Way Moments” during Sunday morning worship on October 20, 27 and November 3. Additionally, letters will be sent out, with pledge cards, in late October. These cards can be returned to the church at any time in the envelope provided. All the pledges will be blessed on Stewardship Sunday, November 10 which will also be the date of our Stewardship Brunch. Remember, every pledge counts! What each person does and gives really makes a real difference in how our wonderful church is able to move forward into the future! For any questions on our Stewardship campaign for this year, please speak with any member of the Committee, Joann Spurley, Shirin Platt, Sally Panciera or Jack Hainsworth.



### **NEW HYMNALS IN THE WORKS!**

Conversations have been taking place in the Deacons and the Trustees about the possibility of purchasing some *New Century Hymnals* for the sanctuary. These would be in addition to the current blue hymnals and the *Renew!* songbooks. The cheapest price we have been quoted is \$19 each and we would like to purchase 80-100. This number is based on the number of pew racks in the sanctuary.

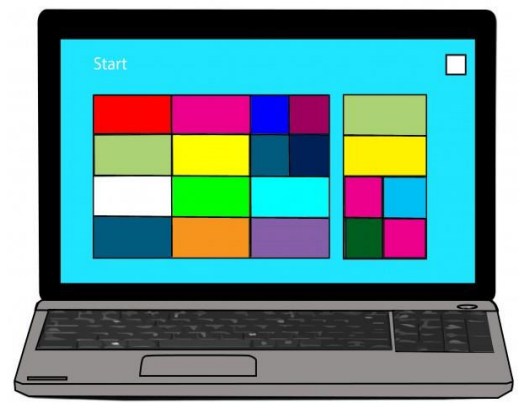
You may be interested to know that the blue hymnals, which are Methodist and not United Church of Christ, were ordered in 1993 at a cost of \$18 each. So, a price increase of \$1 in 26 years is pretty remarkable!! The *New Century Hymnal* is the full-size version of the small black paperback sampler hymnal we currently have in the pews. These would be removed when the hymnal purchase is completed but the blue hymnals and the *Renew!* songbooks will remain in the pews!! We would like to have the *New Century Hymnals* because it has more and different hymns, not to mention many wonderful resources for worship. We are excited about the possibilities this new hymnal will bring to our Sunday morning worship experiences.

As you may recall, both the *Renew!* songbooks and the original blue hymnals were all purchased as gifts in honor/memory of people special to the church. The same will be the case with these hymnals so we are trying to gauge what the interest is within the congregation for purchasing new hymnals in honor and/or celebration of loved ones.

Please note that this time it is not a requirement that the person being so honored/remembered be a member of our church. So, you can celebrate the memories and lives of anyone special to you with the purchase of one or more hymnals! Dedication placards will appear in the front of each hymnal,

So, if you are interested in supporting this purchase of new hymnals by committing to purchasing one or more yourself, kindly add your name to the sign-up sheet posted outside Fellowship Hall. And, if you are interested but won't be in the church building for a while, just call or email the office and request to be added to the sign-up sheet.

Thanks so much!!



### **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.





The Deacons are proposing that we provide a meals-on-wheels (or meals-in-the-fridge) program for Pastor Ruth & Peter during their challenging times of Peter's treatments. To keep things convenient, a meal can be brought on Sunday morning for them to take home to use to make life a bit easier for them. A sign-up sheet is on the narthex bulletin board. Please include any cooking/heating instructions. We are told there are no dietary restrictions. Thank you from all of us.



***Here's the latest buzz on the Pollinator Gardens!***

Stay tuned to the Weekly Email Updates and the Sunday News & Notes for details on several upcoming programs our Pollinator Team will be offering this fall! The Team will next be gathering on Tuesday, October 1 for a conversation and some weeding in the gardens. Anyone welcome to join our gatherings!!

Also, do note that Memorial Gift cards and envelopes have been placed on the Pollinator Garden table in the sanctuary. Memorial gifts to the Pollinator Gardens in any amount are always welcome.

**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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**October Birthdays**

- 1 – Heather Stratton
- 1– Judy Stratton
- 7 – Erin Gray
- 10 – Melissa Stratton
- 19 – Bobby Cornell
- 20 – Joan Edmond
- 23 – Barbara Colby
- 24 – Brooke Foster

**Anniversaries**

- Erwin & Alice Dessauls – 10-26-58
- Dwayne Spurley-Dows & Kevin Dows – 10-26-13

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

Please be aware that the Format and spacing for the BEACON may appear differently on your computer or device depending upon which WORD version you have. Thank you for your understanding!



Please Note: For those who would like to pick up their Hardcopies of the BEACON at church, please contact Carol either by emailing her at [uccwesterly@sbcglobal.net](mailto:uccwesterly@sbcglobal.net) or by calling her at 860-599-1226. Otherwise we'll be mailing your copy to you. 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  
Pawcatuck, CT 06379  
*Telephone:* **860-599-1226**  
*E-mail:* **[uccwesterly@sbcglobal.net](mailto:uccwesterly@sbcglobal.net)**  
*Website:* **[www.uccwesterly.org](http://www.uccwesterly.org)**  
*Office Hours:* Monday, Thursday & Friday 9-1 pm