

# The Beacon

## November 2019



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



*“For everthing there is a season,  
A time for every matter under heaven.”  
Ecclesiastes 3:1*

Yes, it hardly seems possible but it is indeed time for the Fall time change. Yikes, weren't we just setting the clocks ahead a few weeks ago? Sure seems that way. But the days march on and us right along with them, like it

or not. So, this weekend, the first weekend in November is indeed time change weekend. And, since you are picking up an extra hour of sleep I'm hoping for a good crowd on Sunday!

I confess I love this cartoon for the time change. Wouldn't it be amazing if we could turn time back, traveling back across the years to a favorite age or a favorite moment? Maybe yes, maybe no. Certainly, there are days when I really wish I was 20 again, or even 40, but with all the knowledge and experience I've gained since those days in my life. Of course, that's not possible which is a good thing, I think. God intends us to live each moment fully in the present, fully paying attention to what is happening in our lives right now. God also loves us just as we are right now. Whether we've put on a few pounds or shed a few too many; whether we've slacked off on walking or just run a 10K; whether we're young and waiting for our dreams to come true or old and savoring memories of what has already been; whether we look "fabulous" or just okay – none of that is on God's checklist for us each day. All God asks is that we receive each day, whatever it holds, as a gift from God to us. And as we do, may we always hold on to the beautiful words of the old hymn, "Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the living of these days." What more is there to expect from life than that, no matter what our age?

Lots of great stuff going on in the church this month. Be sure to check out all the news and updates contained in the newsletter.

Also, please be patient as I negotiate creating this newsletter and calendar in Carol's absence this month! Yikes, what a job! Fun, but it can try one's patience at times, more than a little... Thanks to Susan for coming in to lend a hand on Fridays, and especially with getting this newsletter out on time! I could not have done it without her!

Your friend in Christ,  
*Rev. Ruth*



**NOVEMBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <i>Sunday, November 3</i>   | <i>All Saints Sunday<br/>with Communion</i>                                 |
| <i>Sunday, November 10</i>  | <i>Stewardship Sunday<br/>Dedication of Pledges<br/>Stewardship Brunch!</i> |
| <i>Sunday, November 17</i>  | <i>"Reel to Real" Sunday</i>  |
| <i>&gt; Morning message based on the movie<br/>MCFARLAND USA. Please watch the movie<br/>BEFORE coming to worship that Sunday! It is<br/>available through Netflix and probably on DVD at the<br/>library. It's also been running on the Sundance<br/>Channel recently!</i> |   |
| <i>Sunday, November 24</i>  | <i>Thanksgiving<br/>Sunday!</i>   |



**Deacon Ministry**

**Diaconate Schedule**

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Name</u>       | <u>Telephone #</u> |
|-------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Nov. 3      | Claire Calabretta | 860-536-3625       |
| Nov. 10     | Ed Stratton       | 401-596-4740       |
| Nov. 17     | Dwayne Spurley    | 860-705-6152       |
| Nov. 24     | Bethany Foster    | 401-539-4003       |

*Please feel free to call the Diaconate Person of the Week at any time with your joys, concerns and prayer requests. Your church family cares about you all the time, not just when you're in the building!*



The Christmas Bazaar will be here before we know it! Plan now to join us for one or both of these fun workshops as we prepare for our biggest fundraiser of the year!! **Both workshops will take place after worship in Fellowship Hall.** Bring your own supplies and/or use ours!! Most important, have fun!!!

**SUNDAY, NOV. 3**

*Little Christmas Trees Decorating Workshop!*



**SUNDAY, NOV. 24**

*Jewelry Workshop*

Sorting, cleaning, repairing and pricing donated jewelry items



Check out the **People Plan 2020** bulletin board in Fellowship Hall! "No one can do everything but everyone can do something!"



**DID YOU KNOW... ???**

- Did you know that** it's almost Bazaar time! YIKES!!! Sign-up sheets are posted in Fellowship Hall! We need you!!
- 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.*

3. ***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 as are Coffee hosts and help! Please speak with Joann Spurley to volunteer.

4. ***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!

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.

6. ***Did you know that*** UCC Westerly is the only church around that has its own Home Sunday School Curriculum called *Sabbath Circles*? 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. For more information on *Sabbath Circles*®, please speak with Rev. Ruth anytime.



## **Trustee Notes**

We want to thank everyone for keeping up with pledged donations. Pledge donations through September were \$55,510, about \$5,039 more than expected. Our total income through September was \$72,683, about \$12,768 less than anticipated. Areas where the income is significantly down are:

- Gifts to the Church: \$950 versus expected \$4,125
- Loose Offerings: \$685 versus expected \$1,688
- Special Projects: \$4,566 versus expected \$10,500 (normally made up by the Christmas Bazaar)

Our total expenses through September were \$92,028 bringing our deficit to \$19,345. Our utility electric costs are starting to show signs of being on closer to our budgeted amount.

We would also like to thank whoever cleaned up the branches and twig they fell after the storm in October, especially by the lower entrance. The Trustees always appreciate the work of the church mice who anonymously come in and clean and fix things around the church.

Capital Campaign Expenditures:

- \$885.89 to have the Sanctuary carpet cleaned by Service Master.
- \$7500 to have a section of the upper parking lot, adjacent to the door, repaved by Beausoleil.
- \$250 approved purchase one 48-inch round table

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 19 November at 6 PM.

## MISSION MOMENTS

Bee a believer!! Thanks so much to everyone who bought a paper bee or bees to Fill our "bee hives" in Fellowship Hall. We filled **10 HIVES!** But, wait, there's more!!! Thanks to an anonymous donor at Heifer International, we were able to **DOUBLE** our donation!!! That's right, we actually donated **twenty hives!!!!** **We truly do make a difference when we work together!**

### **Operation Survival: Fill the Mission Christmas Tree**



Buying "shares" in our hive project worked so well that we are going to continue with that process for our Holiday Mission Project. In the past we have sponsored three projects during November and December. We realize that that is asking way too much of our congregation and that we are spreading all of us way too thin. This year, we are limiting our project to just **ONE** drive that will benefit the area homeless, the people who need our help the most. Homelessness is not something that we, as a congregation, can solve. We can educate, contribute, and do our best to help our local homeless population survive the cold winter months ahead. This year we are pairing with WARM and creating Operation Survival that will serve to fill up our Mission Christmas Tree. According to the officials at WARM, the three most needed

items for our local homeless population are tents and large tarps to provide shelter from the elements, and bike locks to prevent theft of their personal much needed transportation. We realize that these items can be pricey, so we will be selling "shares" of these items in November and December. A \$10.00 donation will earn you a colored ornament that you can place on the Mission Tree, which is always in the front narthex.

Each \$10.00 donation will buy:

An entire bike lock!

$\frac{1}{4}$  share of a tarp

$\frac{1}{5}$  share of a tent

Want to buy an entire tent? You will be able to place 5 ornaments on our tree! You may specify what you'd like your donation to support, or just put it wherever the need is the greatest. **AND, YOU** don't have to do any shopping!!!

### **PNC for the holidays**



Although our bins for the Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center will remain out to receive any donations of non-perishable items (especially individual rolls of paper towels and large-sized diapers), we will **NOT** be collecting specific items during November and December. Instead, we are responding to a request to us from the PNC to help with the packing of the two holiday food baskets that they provide for their clients. There are two dates, one in November for Thanksgiving and the other in December for Christmas. There will be sign-up sheets out for both of these community events. The November date is the morning of **Saturday, November 23**. The December date has yet to be determined. Come join the fun and experience how satisfying

donating a few hours of your time with your neighbors can make you feel!

## EQUAL EXCHANGE

Don't forget that the cute red cabinet just inside the door of Fellowship Hall holds a treasure trove of Equal Exchange items that you can purchase each week. Buy some excellent organic chocolate bars, cocoa, coffee, tea, etc. and realize that you are helping the world's needy population in the process.



### ***An Update from our friends at Family Housing Support in Westerly***

*"The Lord replied, 'Whatever you did for one of the least among you, you did for Me.'" -- Matthew 25:40*

Seeing the great need in our community and knowing the command of our lord recorded in the Gospel of Matthew, Family Housing Support of Southwest Rhode Island, Inc. is uniting we, the Faith Community to provide local affordable housing by acquiring property (either donated or secured at reasonable cost), which will be converted to affordable apartments for working families as well as for emergency housing for homeless families. In order to move this ministry forward, volunteers are needed to serve on subcommittees such as real estate contacts,

capital campaigns, and fundraising and networking through advertisement and education.

If you know of available properties or if you wish to volunteer to serve on a committee or if you wish more information, please email [familyhousingrisw@gmail.com](mailto:familyhousingrisw@gmail.com). This is a great opportunity for someone who wants to donate a property and see it used for the Lord's work.

Above all else, please pray for the ministry and those whom it will touch.

For more information please contact Lorraine Boucher, President of Family Housing Support at [familyhousingrisw@gmail.com](mailto:familyhousingrisw@gmail.com).

†††



We'd love to have you 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:**

*Thursday, Nov. 7 @ 6pm  
(Postponed from earlier date)  
Pizza Supper at the church  
with beverages provided.*

### **WHAT WE'RE READING:**

**BECOMING**  
*By Michelle Obama*



### **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.

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,

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!!

†††

**The Stewardship Committee** would like to remind you that Stewardship Sunday is November 10.

Our theme for this year's pledge drive is "I am the Way...", a Jesus quote from the Gospel of John. The Stewardship letters have been sent out, with pledge cards, so now it's all up to you! Completed pledge 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. If you haven't signed up to bring your favorite breakfast to this annual delightful event, please do so this coming Sunday!

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.

†††

*Many thanks for the generous support of the October Deacons Fund. We raised \$250 for Hurricane Dorian Relief.*



### *Celebrate Nature's Glory Throughout the Year*

If you are wondering why the Pollinator Committee has not "tidied up" around our pollinator meadow and garden beds, it's because we are letting "nature have her perfect work."

In traditional gardening we've been taught to tidy up our gardens and lawns at the end of the growing season. Some of us are obsessed with orderliness - perhaps in this crazy world in which we live it helps to have at least our home grounds feel more "under our control." Many of us who are property owners or caretakers spend a huge amount of time and energy "deadheading" (trimming off spent flowers) and raking up leaves and throwing them away, or blowing them out of our sight or at least off our curb. Consider this: the flora and fauna of our region have co-evolved through the centuries. Spent flowers - especially those of native flowers and shrubs - are a critical winter food source for the many species of birds who overwinter here in New England. Seed heads left standing are like tiny neon restaurant signs announcing good eats for our beloved cardinals, chickadees, nuthatches, finches, even bluebirds. While it is beneficial to set up feeders for these birds, it is even better to let nature do the feeding for us!

Leaves left on the ground, or leaf litter, is winter habitat for butterflies, moths, and other beneficial insects in early developmental stages. When you rake up your leaves you are literally raking up next summer's pollinators! Over time leaves that are left in place become "black gold" - a natural lawn fertilizer and high quality compost. That's

right, the same compost and fertilizer we will pay exorbitant prices for in the store next spring!

So next time you pull out the rake or the pruning shears let nature be your guide! And this winter, we challenge you to stop for a moment on your way to church or in between errands. Look for the beauty of the winter garden: notice how the frost or snow settles on the remaining seed heads and stems of grasses. Take a moment to study nature in all her intricate beauty, even (especially) in the dead of winter!

*The Pollinator Committee*

Please remember memorial gifts to the Pollinator Gardens in any amount are always welcome. Donation forms can be found on the Pollinator Table in the sanctuary.



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



Don't forget my Community Office Hours at the Savoy every Thursday! 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. I can testify that both the hot and cold beverages are wonderful and don't even get me started on the cookies. All conversations with me at any time are always confidential.



## 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.*



## **November Birthdays**

Dav Cranmer-2  
 Sandra Hoffman-5  
 Meghan Gray-5  
 Kali Woodhall-6  
 Amanda Hainsworth-8  
 John Walker-21  
 Rev. Ruth-21  
 Vera Leming-23  
 Christina Brummund-25  
 Caleb Stratton-29

## **November Anniversaries**

Sally&Phil-25

*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)  
*Temporary Office Hours:* Friday 8:30am-1:30pm

*Rev. Ruth is generally in the office on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays but the times vary. If you want to catch up with her in the office, she suggests you call first to be sure she is here. Thank you!!!*

