

The Beacon

AUGUST 2021



*“I bless the Lord who gives me counsel;
in the night also my heart instructs me.”
Psalm 16:7*

I took this photo while we were on vacation and have been thinking about sharing it with you ever since. I took it as we were driving up Equinox Mountain in Manchester, Vermont. You can probably tell it was a very foggy day, threatening rain off and on. But we didn't care about the weather. We were just so happy to be off on vacation as a family, enjoying a much anticipated change of pace and change of scenery! Vacations are always wonderful but Covid has made them especially sweet this summer for sure!

If you look very carefully at the center of the photo you will see a very large white building. This is a Carthusian Monastery which is home to roughly 30-40 monks. You may already know I am deeply interested in Catholic monastic communities of all sorts and so I was immediately fascinated by this one since I was not aware of any Carthusians in the United States. My introduction to these Carthusians began when we entered the parking lot adjacent to the special toll road up the mountain and learned it is a private road owned and operated by the Carthusians! Seems they received the entire mountain as well as the mountain where their monastery is located as a gift from a wealthy benefactor years ago when he decided to close the hotel at the top of the mountain. The Carthusians now maintain the road, the gift shop at the bottom of the road and the spectacular visitors center on

the mountain's summit. I had no idea of its rich spiritual heritage when I asked Peter and Jack if they would be interested in driving to the top of the mountain with me.

Of course, the ride up the mountain was spectacular, as you would expect any mountain excursion in Vermont to be. Even in bad weather, the incredible beauty of the area was breath-taking. Wildflowers were everywhere along the roadside and the smell was delicious, freshened, no doubt by the rain. At the top, we were enthralled by views of mountains in all directions, scarcely any development visible anywhere. Except, that is, for the monastery. I picked up the pamphlet provided on the Carthusians and read it cover to cover. I was captivated because I am always in awe of folks who hear and accept God's call into this demanding type of religious life. I won't go into details, but the Carthusians spend 19 hours a day completely on their own in their individual rooms or "cells." They come out to do work in the monastery and for exercise. They eat very simply, usually only one meal a day. They sleep for only a few hours. And they pray.

They pray the ritual prayers of the Divine Office. They pray intercessory prayers for the world and the mess it is in these days. They pray for specific people known to them from prayer requests coming into the monastery by fax and email. They were inundated with such requests on September 11, 2001 or so the story goes. The longest set of prayers they pray is called "Matins" and it begins at 11:30pm each night. They pray until roughly 3 or 3:30am. Alone in their cells, they pray, with only God for company. Such is their faith. Such is their commitment to the life to which they are certain God has called them. They pray and for them, that is enough. That is more than enough.

May we rediscover together the gift of prayer in our church as we enjoy these last days of summer together and begin to prepare for all that fall will hold for our wonderful church. When we feel overwhelmed or discouraged, may we remember the Carthusian monks of Equinox Mountain, quietly praying alone and in silence for all the world from within a lonely stone building. They are praying, dear ones, for us too. How wonderful is that...

Your friend and sister in Christ,
Rev. Ruth

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

All Sunday morning worship services
are now in-person AND
broadcast on Facebook Live at 9:45am.
Masks strongly recommended for everyone.
Social Distancing recommended
at all in-person services!

Sunday, Aug. 8 *Chasing Rainbows*
➤ Exploring covenant through the story of Noah

Sunday, Aug. 15 *The Last Laugh*
➤ Exploring the impossible through the story of Sarah

Sunday, Aug. 22 *A God Who Listens*
➤ Exploring the ways God listens through the story of Jeremiah

Sunday, Aug. 29 *Unbelievable Promises*
➤ Exploring God's extraordinary promises through the story of Mary, a frightened young girl

Sunday, Sept. 5 *The Foundation of the World*
➤ Exploring God's promises as Jesus explained them

Kindly Note: Copies of sermons will be provided by request only. Speak with Rev. Ruth or Carol to receive one!



CROSS WINDOW UPDATE!

Thanks to the incredible generosity of our members and friends, we are happy to report that almost all of the funds needed to repair the window have been raised!

The supplies needed to complete the repairs have been ordered and we are hopeful that repairs will be completed by the end of August. Once again, we thank you for your support, financially and spiritually, as we were able to come together to restore this iconic feature of our beloved church. Watch for details on its dedication sometime this fall.

Gratefully, The Trustees



Deacon Ministry Diaconate Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Telephone #</u>
8/1	Bethany Foster	401-539-4003
8/8	Ed Stratton	401-596-4740
8/15	To be determined	
8/22	"	
8/29	"	

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!



An Update from the Deacons:

The Deacons will not be meeting until later in August so our Diaconate Schedule for August is not fully finalized. Kindly note the Deacon for each Sunday is referenced in the weekly Worship Resource along with his/her contact information.

Please make a note that we will be having a Service of Remembrance for all those we lost during the time of Covid without being able to say goodbye as we are accustomed. It will be followed by a Collation. Details to follow. Kindly speak with any Deacon if you would like to be involved in the planning of the service and collation.

The Deacons continue to be greatly appreciative of your financial support of the Deacons Fund/Communion offering. We continue to receive and review requests for financial assistance.

As a church community, we will be joining in on the Castle Hill annual neighborhood yard sale on August 7th. It always draws a good crowd. Even though we did our outdoor Attic Sale in May, it has still been a good time to clean house & downsize. All items: books, clothing, housewares, pretty much you-name-it will be welcome donations. Using our card tables & our fill-a-bag for \$5 routine, it should be a fairly stress-free fundraiser. August 7th, 8am to noon. Items & helpers greatly appreciated.



MISSION MOMENT



Our annual “In the Middle” School Supplies Drive will be finishing up during the first half of August. The drive benefits students in both the Stonington and Westerly Middle Schools.

Here is the list that we compiled by consulting with local middle school guidance counselors and teachers back in May. This list is different than lists that we have posted in previous years, but the same list that we published in the June/July issue of the Beacon!

- pencils of good quality (like Ticonderoga) that sharpen well
- thin markers
- highlighters
- 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
- sticky notes
- double pocket folders
- mini hand sanitizers
- rulers
- ear buds specific to Chrome Books
- **and, especially needed, boxes of tissues for the classrooms!!!**

Backpacks are no longer a priority.

The school supplies drive will run officially from the beginning of July until **August 22**.

In the past we have dropped these donations off at the schools where the guidance counselors have quietly distributed the items to needy students at the beginning and through-out the school year. The teachers, counselors, and staff are so very appreciative of our donations.

LOOKING AHEAD

The Mission theme for September and October will be our annual **Mission in Motion**. This year we will combine two efforts to support the UCC eco-justice ministry. We will be “Blanketing the World in Love” by selling blankets to donate to the UCC’s Church World Service and planning a hike through one or some of our beautiful local preserves to learn how we can help our environment. Stay tuned for more complete plans in coming *Beacons*.



Remember: YOU are making a difference in this world!



Trustee Notes

The Trustees join Pastor Ruth in thanking Bill Street in his efforts to repaint her office while she was off on vacation. The offices have not been painted in more than 25 years so this retouch was definitely much needed and looks amazing! Pastor Ruth invites everyone to stop by anytime to see the fantastic end results of Bill’s work!



An invitation to the women of our church from the Southern New England Conference, UCC

*SNE Women’s Connection Outdoor Fall Gathering
Saturday, September 18 @ 8:45am
Canterbury, CT*

Please speak with Rev. Ruth if interested!



UCCW Pandemic Response Team

The Pandemic Response Team is pleased to report that our return to in-person worship services continues going very well. As was

announced in church this past Sunday, we have returned to strongly urging everyone to wear masks given the recent significant uptick in the Delta Variant Covid cases locally. Unvaccinated folks must wear masks. Thanks so much to everyone who is cooperating fully with masking and social distancing. Your support on these matters makes everything easier for us all. Please know the Team continues meeting regularly to monitor and revise our worship protocols as changing circumstances warrant. They are meeting via Zoom later this month. Any questions regarding the Pandemic Response Team should be directed to Bethany Foster at 401-539-4003.



HAPPY GARDENING!!

The Pollinator Gardens Team is ALWAYS looking for more folks who are interested in sustainable gardening practices. The best way to learn is by working alongside us! For more information on how you can be involved with this vitally important eco-justice ministry, please speak with Claire Calabretta or Sandi Davis anytime.



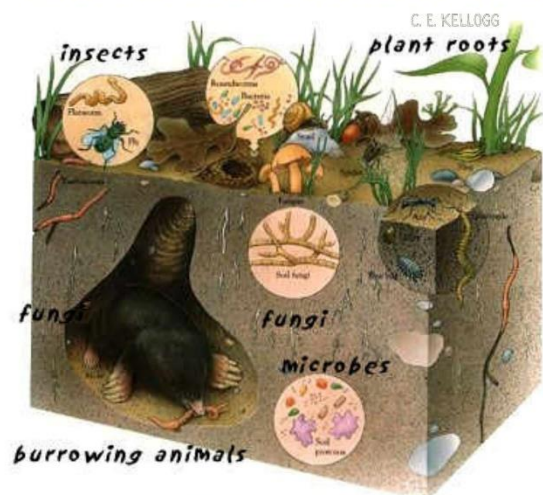
ANNOUNCING...

The Mindfulness Group

A new small group ministry of UCC Westerly

*What is mindfulness?
How is it different from meditation?
From prayer? From Yoga?
How can I live more joyfully and calmly?
Join us and find out
at our first gathering
Saturday, August 28
9:30 – 11:30am at the church.
Everyone welcome! Bring a friend!*

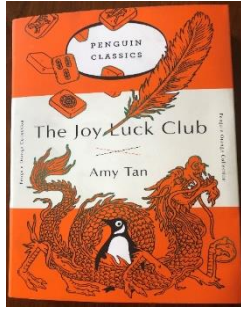
THERE CAN BE
NO LIFE WITHOUT SOIL
AND NO SOIL WITHOUT LIFE



THE SOIL IS ALIVE!
BUT CONVENTIONAL FERTILIZERS AND
PESTICIDES, HERBICIDES, FUNGICIDES ETC
KILL IT

pollinator friendly yards on facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=10221051703186248&set=gm.4200667423354834>



We'd love to have you join us at
BOOKS

A group of folks who love books and talking
about books!

Join us for our next gathering
Thursday, August 12 @ 4pm
At the church



A Reminder...

The Grief Group

*Meets every other Thursday @ 4pm in the
Parlor at church.*

August meeting dates: 5 & 19

*Rev. Ruth will also be leading a
seminar entitled*

GRIEF: Making Meaning in the

Aftermath of Loss

September 23rd @ 11am

Westerly Senior Center

*Please speak with Rev. Ruth for more
information on either group.*



Brighten Someone's Day...

We don't see each other as often as we would like
to these days. Here are a few suggestions of folks
who might like to receive a card or note from you!
Check out the newest Church Directory for more!

Joan Bauer – 186 Jerry Browne Rd., #1314,
Mystic, CT 06355

Kay Drake – 186 Jerry Browne Rd., #6412,
Mystic, CT 06355

Asael Hill – 64 School Street, #2,
Westerly, RI 02891

Bill & Sandy Hoffman – 22 Horne Drive.,
Westerly, RI 02891

BEACON PRAYER LIST



*Our church has a very active
and vital prayer ministry which
involves our Prayer Tree,
requests for prayers during
Sunday morning worship and*

*this invitation in the Beacon each month to
pray for specific folks who are requesting
prayers here. So, that means we have multiple
active prayer lists at any given time! How
wonderful is that! Below is this month's list for
the Beacon Prayer List.*

Madelyn Stratton
Shirley M
Bill Hoffman
Emma

Ruth King Roes
Jennifer Woodhall
Donald
Paula

*If you would like anyone added or removed
from this list for the next newsletter, please call
the office. Thank you.*



August Birthdays:

Rosemary Jette – 1
Sandi Davis – 3
Liz Dessaulles – 10
Amanda Dessaulles – 13
Bethany Foster – 20
Shirley Miller - 30

Anniversaries:

Eugene & Carolyn LeRoy – 8-4-62
George & Cathy Gray – 8-23-86

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

†††



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@gmail.com**

Website: **www.uccwesterly.org**

Office Hours: Monday 9 am-1 pm and
Thursday 9 am–3 pm

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