

# The Beacon

## October 2021



*“... but Jesus said, ‘Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs.’”*

*Matthew 19:14*

Make no mistake, this is undoubtedly one of the most important verses in the Gospels. And it’s always been one of my favorites. For the 20 years I served as a Minister of Christian Education and Family Life, I had it framed in my office and centered on the bulletin board outside my office – the one with the latest information on all the many offerings for the month which this very large CE program in a large church was able to offer. In its heyday, this program had 150+ children registered in Nursery through 8<sup>th</sup> grade. We had a staff of 32 teachers and assistants. This same church also offered three youth groups, one for kids in the older elementary grades, one for middle school kids and lastly for senior high kids. I was also responsible for a family life event each month, ranging from Jack-O-Lantern carving contests to the Christmas pageant to Mardi Gras, etc. This program was truly the epitome of what every church envisions their programs for children and youth to be. I loved every minute of it. But time moves on and people and situations change. This church changed and this program is now a fraction of the size it once was. I changed, deciding to take my vocation in ministry in a whole new direction putting me on the path which led to my serving here as your pastor. God is good. All the time.

So why I am writing about this today? Because I see our church on the threshold of a new beginning made manifest in our magnificently rejuvenated and repaired Cross Window. As we dedicated it last Sunday, we were all awe-struck by how breath-taking it is, how it plays with the light in the sanctuary illuminating one corner and then another, how it requires us to look out into God’s world as we worship together in the safety of our sanctuary. The simple truth is, dear ones, that life is changing – moving ahead in ways we never imagined before Covid and everything else that has come with it. The world now visible in a whole new way outside our magnificent cross window has changed dramatically in the last 18+ months and it will never be the same again. And neither will we.

So the question for us as God’s Beloved Community gathered here in our church becomes who do we dare imagine God needs us to be in this whole new reality within which our church now finds itself? That is both a terrifying question and an exciting one. God is clearly inviting us to consider doing a new thing, but what and how and when is not yet clear. Just like the Cross Window before it was replaced, our vision has been shuttered and frosted over without us fully realizing it. But now we can see clearly and God’s invitation to us to join in whatever God is doing in these days is slowly being revealed.

Back to this favorite verse of mine. This is not, as some like to think, a simple rebuke of the disciples by Jesus for demeaning children as unimportant. Of course, that is true but this little verse is so much more. It’s a powerful reminder to all of us from Jesus himself that we all need to become as children in responding to God’s love. We must love without fear, even people and situations which frighten us. We must trust that God knows what God is doing and we must recognize anew each day God’s invitation to each of us to be part of God’s evolving plan for the world. How exciting is that!!

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

Service.  
All welcome!!!!



**UCC WESTERLY WILL BE RECEIVING  
NEW MEMBERS FOR THE FIRST TIME  
SINCE COVID BEGAN!**

We were all set to receive new members just when the Pandemic forced us to shut down and now we are finally ready to resume that process. We'll begin with a gathering of everyone who has questions about what it means to join the church after church on Sunday, October 24. And this gathering will be unlike any other we've done before because it will be accessible both in person and virtually, just like worship!

We're doing this because we want to encourage all who have been joining us virtually through our worship broadcasts weekly to consider making your connection to our church more tangible regardless of your geographic location or your ability to participate personally in the life of the church. In other words, our church now operates in a whole new way – in person for some and virtually for others. So, our understanding of what it means to be a member is changing too!

Like to find out more or to sign up for the gathering? Just call Rev. Ruth or Carol in the office anytime. Hope to see you on the 24<sup>th</sup>!

~~~~~

ALSO HAPPENING ON OCTOBER 24<sup>TH</sup>  
@ 5PM at Christ Episcopal Church in Westerly,  
Rev. Ruth has been invited to offer the  
message at this year's First Responders'

***WORSHIP SCHEDULE***

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

***Sunday, Oct. 10***      *"When Did We See You?"*  
*"To believe is to care. To care is to do."*

***Sunday, Oct. 17***      *Named as Beloved*  
*Exploring the sacrament of Baptism*  
*Baptism – Piper Ainsworth*

***Sunday, Oct. 24***      *The Cost & Joy of  
Discipleship*  
*Living as disciples is a lifelong challenge with  
incredible benefits*  
*Stewardship Campaign Kick-Off Sunday*

***Sunday, Oct. 31***      *"For All the Saints"*  
*Reformation Sunday*

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

receive one!



A reminder that donations to the Stratton Family Assistance Fund to help out in the aftermath of their recent house fire are gratefully being accepted through the UCC Westerly Deacons' Fund. All donations must be clearly marked as being for the Stratton family. Thanks.



## Deacon Ministry

### Diaconate Schedule

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Name</u>       | <u>Telephone #</u> |
|-------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| 10/3        | Lynn Murray       | 401-539-7578       |
| 10/10       | Elvis Torres      | 860-245-4759       |
| 10/17       | Ed Stratton       | 401-596-4740       |
| 10/24       | Claire Calabretta | 860-574-5962       |
| 10/31       | Joann Spurley     | 401-714-8948       |

***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:***

It's nice to have the new *Worship & Rejoice* hymnals, & Bibles back in the pews. The new hymnals have meaningful dedications inside the cover. If anyone previously donated one of the old blue hymnals and would like to take it home, they are on the shelves in the crib room.

The service of remembrance has been postponed until we can do a traditional reception, as that is something that families would like us to be able to do. A date has not yet been set. Many thanks to those who assisted at the catered collation for the Sicilians, especially Joann, who worked overtime.

Special thanks to those who continue to donate to the Deacons Fund, and especially to those who have donated to the special fund for the Strattons. The generosity is greatly appreciated.

At our last meeting, a discussion was held regarding the placement of the flags in the sanctuary. The conversation will continue.

We discussed the possibility of the choir returning, as schools are once again having chorus & band classes. Possible options about the Bazaar were also discussed. These topics will be considered by the appropriate committees & participants in the near future. Bazaar thoughts and ideas are always welcome.

## MISSION MOMENTS



### LIFTING UP HOPE FOR HAITI

As we have heard in news reports and read in the newspapers, the nation of Haiti has been hit again by both an earthquake and a hurricane. Devastation covers the island. One of the recurring issues for Haiti is that it always gets bumped off the headlines and out of our awareness by the next crisis and this year is no exception with hurricanes and the plight of Afghan refugees to name just a few. This is why during the months of September and October we are conducting a fund-raising drive to help this impoverished country. The Rhode Island Association of the SNEUCC has a long-standing mission on the ground in Haiti which is why we know that any funds we give to this group will go directly to Haiti for direct assistance where it is needed most. The only way to do this is through cash donations so that is what we are doing. A display "Lifting Up Hope for Haiti" is located just outside the sanctuary doors leading to Fellowship Hall where you can pick up a "Hope for Haiti" little gift box to fill with your coins and dollar bills over the next 8 weeks. If 30 people give just \$2/week (\$16 total) between now and the end of October, that will give us \$500 to send to Haiti. It may not

sound like a lot to us, but it can make a world of difference in a country in the midst of chaos and devastation. Please join us in bringing a little hope to people who need it most.

Thanks go out to everyone who has donated to date.

## PNC



We remain concerned about our local neighbors and can reassure you that we are still collecting donations of non-perishable food supplies for the PNC. They have supplied a list of the most needed foods: **canned meats and fish, canned soups (clam chowder, in particular), healthy cereals and oatmeal, canned fruit. Please try to find the easy open cans, if possible. Little cups of fruit are also great for school lunches.**

## NIN

As many of you know, our church takes pride in our involvement in the “Five for Five” donations collected yearly nationally through the UCC. It is that time of the year for the Neighbors In Need collection, which we will be accepting through Sunday, October 31. **Neighbors In Need** supports the UCC ministries of justice and compassion with the current focus being on racial justice and refugee concerns. You may donate with the special envelopes provided in the church or on-line. Please make checks payable to the church but put NIN in the memo line.

## MISSIONS LOOKING AHEAD



## November and December

During this holiday season we will be participating in a **disaster relief mission** sponsored by Church World Service called **Blanket the World with Love**. We will have the opportunity to purchase blankets, either lightweight or heavy weight, that will be sent through-out the United States and overseas. The blankets cost \$10 each, but feel free to donate whatever you can afford. For every blanket purchased we will be placing a heart on the Mission Christmas Tree in the sanctuary. Donations will be accepted in envelopes that will be supplied in church, through the mail, or on-line. You will be able to view the blankets on a display in Fellowship Hall as we get closer to the holidays. For more information on the ways in which these blankets have been used, please visit: <https://cwsglobal.org/?s=blankets>.



## Trustee Notes

The church facilities are now open for visitors and group activities. We respectfully request that any person not fully vaccinated to please wear a mask when in the building. Please continue to sign in and out on the forms at each entrance and to use the hand sanitizer and sanitizing wipes.

Pledges continue to come in at a higher rate than expected. As of August, we have received \$45,732 in pledges. This is \$4,974 (7%) more than the \$40,758 that was budgeted. We wish to thank everyone for keeping up with their pledges during the first 8 months. Our total income through August was \$88,411. Total expenses through August were \$102,984. This leaves us with a deficit of \$14,572. This is primarily due to some badly needed repairs to the church building including the new roofs over the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall and replacement of the Cross window.

The Trustees will be sponsoring a Fall cleanup on Saturday, October 23, from 9:00 to 12:00. Coffee, water and donuts will be provided. We are going to concentrate on cleaning the inside of the church this year. Please bring your mops, buckets, rags, paper towels, and cleaning supplies so the we can attack the following chores:

- Sweep, vacuum, and mop all hallway floors
- Remove cobwebs in all hallways and rooms
- Wash windows at the end of the hallways
- Wash windows and dust window sills in middle and lower-level rooms
- Vacuum middle and lower-level rooms
- Clean stairwell storage area
- Wash windows in crib room
- Mop Fellowship Hall floor



This Photo by  
Unknown  
Author is  
licensed under  
[CC BY](#)

The next Trustee meeting will be on October 19.

### Update on the Cross Widow

We have a new Cross Window and the sanctuary is bright with God's light. Clinton Glass installed a new dark bronze anodized aluminum frame and 1" clear tempered insulated glass September 22. A big thanks to Alan Hill (Asael's son) and his crew for removing the old wooden cross, repairing water leaks, and preparing the opening with new wood.

Total cost for replacing the window was \$11,578. The final cost for the glass was \$4,250 and the aluminum framing was \$7,328. We have received approximately

\$8,546 in donations to help pay for the project. We will gladly receive additional donations to help cover this unexpected expense.

The bottom 4 feet of the wooden cross was rotted out as well as some of the arms and top. It is in the back parking and we will try and save as much as possible and clean it up to hang again.



## OUR STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

### 2021 ~~ Planning for 2022

Stewardship season is rolling around again, as it does every year. What is "stewardship" in the church? It refers to how the congregation and its lay leadership manage the financial and property resources of the church. Everyone in the church is called to be a "steward" of their own time, talent and treasure as each person decides how to share those personal resources with the church.

This year's Stewardship Season will begin on Sunday, October 24 and continue through Sunday, November 14 which will be our Stewardship Sunday, the day when everyone's pledges are turned in explaining what you hope to be able to give to the church in the year ahead. This information is vitally important to our Trustees who are tasked with formulating a budget based on how successful our Stewardship campaign.

So, watch your mail for your Stewardship letter and return your pledge to the church by no later than November 14. You can also help us out by filling out a "I'm thankful to UCC Westerly for ..." form and placing in the mailbox in the Bell Courtyard Narthex.

Thank you in advance for your generosity.  
We would not be here without you.

In faith,

Your Stewardship Team



### UCCW Pandemic Response Team

The Pandemic Response Team is pleased to report that in-person worship services continue to go well. The team met September 23 and confirmed the decision to continue wearing masks while in the church building. Fellowship will continue following worship each Sunday with the permission and input of the Ledge Light Health District folks. The team also approved the return of the choir with the stipulation that all choir members need to be fully vaccinated.

Also, with deep respect, we strongly urge everyone to be fully vaccinated. 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. The Team continues to meet monthly to monitor and revise our worship protocols as changing circumstances warrant. Any questions regarding the Pandemic Response Team should be directed to Bethany Foster at 401-539-4003.



**Yikes!!!! The Bazaar Is Coming!!!!**  
Here's what you need to know!!

This year's Bazaar will again be pop-up style over 5 Saturdays (every Saturday in November PLUS December 4 – weather permitting of course), from 9am-1pm. BUT some items will be outside and some will be inside! So, it will be more like the traditional Bazaar than last year, but still pretty different.

Here's what we need help with!!!



**BAKED GOODS OF ALL KINDS!**

Christmas cookies of all kinds!  
Traditional cookies of all kinds!



**BID-TO-BEAT BASKETS** will be returning to the bazaar! The objective of these baskets is to raise money for the church and help local businesses at the same time. You can participate in many ways: buy a gift card from a local business and have some fun by creating a themed basket to accompany the card (just don't include the card in the wrapped basket-an envelope or picture of the card in the basket would be helpful); or, buy a card or cards from local merchants and give it/them to Shirin Platt or Sandi Davis for them to create a basket (which wouldn't be as great as what YOU would do!); or, bid on the baskets weekly during the bazaar season. The highest bidder at the conclusion of the bazaar will take the basket home! Questions? See Shirin or Sandi.



**SILENT AUCTION** (speak with Linda)



MINI-CHRISTMAS TREES ETC. Put your own decorating skills to work by creating a mini-Christmas Tree or an artificial wreath or centerpiece and we have supplies to give you!

WORKERS for each of the five Saturdays!!!!

Questions? Speak with Lynn Murray, Carol in the office or Rev. Ruth.

**The Mindfulness Group**  
*A new small group ministry  
of UCC Westerly*



***Remember to breathe!***

*How can the way I breathe make a difference in my life?*

*Mindfulness might just offer you some of the answers to these and other questions.*

*Why not join us and find out?*

*Bring a friend! Everyone welcome.*

*Next gathering is:*

***Saturday, October 30***

***9:30-11:30am***

*We gather in the Parlor,  
at least to begin.*

*Any questions? Speak with Rev. Ruth anytime.*



**DID YOU KNOW UCC WESTERLY  
HAS A LENDING LIBRARY???**

We do and you will find in the Bell Courtyard Narthex some samples of the kinds of books for all ages and interests that we have for you to borrow! Check them over and if you find one you like, just fill out an index card with your name, the date and the title of the book and it is yours to read and return!

Check out the Library at the end of the office corridor to see what else we have!



**NEWS FROM OUR POLLINATOR TEAM!**

*Good News!*

Taking care of pollinators means no raking!!!!  
Leave those leaves and don't deadhead those plants and you'll be saving pollinators!

Who says pollinator gardening requires  
**MORE** work...



*A Reminder...  
The Grief Group  
Meets every other Thursday @ 4pm  
in the Parlor at church.  
Only one gathering this month on  
Oct. 28.*

*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!

**Joy Liborio**  
375 Main Street, #1  
Danielson, CT 06239

**Bob MacVicar**  
4 Holmes Street  
Westerly, RI 02891

**Bill & Christa Colprit**  
3 Elizabeth Drive  
Pawcatuck, CT 06379

**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 | Ruth King Roes    |
| Shirley M        | Jennifer Woodhall |
| Bill Hoffman     | Donald            |
| Emma             | Paula             |
| Scott            | Evan              |

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



***October Birthdays:***

**Heather Stratton – 1**  
**Judy Stratton – 1**  
**Erin Gray – 7**  
**Melissa Stratton – 10**  
**Bobby Cornell – 19**  
**Brooke Foster – 24**

***October Anniversaries:***

**Dwayne Spurley & Kevin Dows – 10-26-13**

*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

**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!**