



The Beacon March 2022

*“Jesus said to them, ‘But who do you say that I am?’”
Matthew 16:15*

As I said in my sermon this past Sunday, this question is THE question we will be focusing on this Lenten season and well it should be. This whole idea of who Jesus is to each of us is at the crux of our faith as Christians. How we answer this question as individuals and as a church forms the very foundation of who we are and seek to be as members and friends of this household of God. I can think of no better way for us to invest our time collectively and individually as a church during these six weeks of Lent than giving ourselves the gift of time and space to reflect on this together.

Diana Butler Bass’ book *FREEING JESUS* offers a unique framework for our work. Important to understand at the outset is that what we are seeking is not to repeat back what others have told us about Jesus; not to offer what we have heard in sermons or sung about Jesus in hymns; not to rely on what we learned about Jesus in Sunday School or CCD. Our time this Lent will be invested in reclaiming what Butler Bass names as the Jesus of our own experience, the Jesus is we sense at work in our own lives.

I’m excited and energized at this Lenten season experience of rediscovering Jesus for ourselves. Sermons each week will outline another piece of Butler Bass’ framework and there will be an opportunity to remain after worship to talk more. If there is enough interest, I will also be leading a mid-week book study on Zoom. Remember that if you can’t join us in worship, the sermons are posted on the website or copies can be requested from Carol in the office anytime. Looking forward to



your company on this Lenten journey!

Your friend in Christ, Rev. Ruth

WORSHIP SCHEDULE
Our Sunday morning
worship services
In person & on
Facebook Live
every Sunday at 9:45am.

**Masks & Social Distancing required.
Full vaccinations strongly recommended!*

Lent 1 – Sunday, March 6 *Communion +
Introduction to Freeing Jesus*

Lent 2 – Sunday, March 13 *Jesus:
Friend & Teacher*

Lent 3 – Sunday, March 20
Jesus: Savior & Lord

Lent 4 – Sunday, March 27
Jesus: The Way

Freeing Jesus by Diana Butler Bass will be the basis for a sermon series and study group during Lent! Not sure if it is available through the libraries yet, but you can buy it online and even at your local Target!!

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

Diaconate Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Telephone #</u>
3/6	Bethany Foster	401-539-4003
3/13	Ed Stratton	401-218-8548
3/20	Lynn Murray	401-539-7578
3/27	Claire Calabretta	860-574-5962

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!



**PLAN AHEAD FOR
PALM SUNDAY, HOLY WEEK & EASTER!**

PALM SUNDAY – April 10 *SYMBOLS*
SERVICE

MAUNDY THURSDAY – April 14 @ 7pm
TENNEBRAE Service

GOOD FRIDAY – April 15 *VIGIL at the*
Labyrinth 12-3pm

EASTER SUNDAY – April 17
6:30am COMMUNITY SUNRISE SERVICE
@ Misquamicut

9:45am FESTIVAL EASTER SERVICE
with Processional & Memorial Easter
Flowers

Watch the Weekly Updates for information on ordering Easter Flowers and signing up to read at Holy Week services!



Remember to move your clocks ahead 1 hour on Saturday, March 12 when you go to bed!!



The Deacons are happy that we are back in person. We are attempting to plan our Dine to Donate event for our annual scholarship fund. At this time, Angelo at Stonington Pizza Palace doesn't have the help to accommodate the crowd we bring, but we will be checking back in hopes of scheduling soon. The March Deacon fund will be going to support those assisting Ukrainian refugees. Your ongoing generosity is greatly appreciated. We have discussed updating our prayer tree list. These are the folks who receive a message, either by phone call or email, when we receive a request for prayers. Please let us know if you'd like to be added to the list to receive the prayer requests, or if you'd like to be taken off the list. We still would welcome anyone interested in joining the Board of Deacons. Let us know if you have any questions about the responsibilities.

Lynn Murray, Chairperson

MISSION MOMENTS - MARCH



The ALTAR AVALANCHE food and household items continue through the last Sunday in March!
Non-perishable food items, especially protein and canned fruit, and paper products, laundry items and pet foods needed!

Please place your donations on the Altar anytime up to and during the first hymn. Cash donations marked for Missions/PNC also welcome!

Beginning on April 3 and continuing throughout the months of April & May, we will be collecting cash donations in support of
HOLY JOE'S CAFÉ



Holy Joe's Café began as a ministry of one of our sister church, The First Congregational Church of Wallingford, CT and has now grown into its own 501c3 organization. Quoting from their most recent press release on February 24, 2022:

Holy Joe's Café is seeing an urgent increase in the need for coffee and support for U.S. military chaplains in response to the Russia-Ukraine conflict. [Holy Joe's Café has supported U.S. military chaplains since its origin at a UCC church in Wallingford, CT in 2006.](#) The organization provides coffee to military chaplains to help them make connections with active-duty military personnel. The simple act of providing coffee to soldiers gives chaplains a comforting way to reach out to troops and often initiates conversations that might not have occurred in the regular daily routine, giving these troops a place to talk, share concerns, and get guidance that can help keep them mentally and spiritually healthier in their work.

Our April *Beacon* will go into more detail about how this donation drive will proceed. Stay tuned!

Note: We will be receiving the **One Great Hour of Sharing** offering on Sunday, March 27. This is a national offering of the UCC which supports disaster and refugee ministries of the denomination.



Trustee Notes

Pledges for January were \$3,750, about 2% less than the estimate amount of \$5,085. Total income for January was \$4,766, \$3,533 less than the anticipated income of \$8,299. Expenses for January were \$9,017, \$771 less than anticipated expenses of \$9,768. We ended January with a deficit of \$4,251. We want to remind everyone to try to keep up with their pledges during the year.

The Trustees have prepared a 2022 budget. Estimated income for 2022 is \$114,153. Estimated expenses are \$117,854. This is a deficit of \$3,701 for 2022. The proposed 2022 budget will be presented to the congregation for approval at the next Annual Meeting. If you have not submitted your 2022 pledge, please do so as soon as possible.

Our sexton, Joann Spurley, retired on February 15. We want to thank her for her years of dedicated service to the church. We are currently seeking to hire a replacement. If anyone knows of anybody who may be interested in the part time sexton position to contact the church office.

The trustees have been notified that our organ will require extensive repairs this coming year. A report on the status of the organ and estimate for repairs will be presented at the annual meeting. We will be requesting that an Ad hoc committee be formed to investigate ways to pay for the repairs.

The next Trustees meeting will be on March 22 at 6:30.

Very special thanks to outgoing Trustees Chair Gary Davis for an amazing job over the past several years!! Your efforts are very much appreciated, Gary!



The Pandemic Response Team wishes to thank everyone for their patience and support as we continue to require masking for worship on Sundays. Please know this and other Covid precaution items will be discussed at our next meeting which should be happening within the next few weeks. For any comments, questions or concerns with regard to the Pandemic, kindly speak with PRT Chairperson Bethany Foster at any time. You may reach her at 401-539-4003.



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Dear Quilters, Sewing Folk, and Craftspeople,

I am going to strive to complete another quilt for the Christmas Bazaar Silent Auction. Although I do sew, I was "out of action" for my "working years" and do not have many fabric scraps. I would appreciate donations of closely-woven cotton and/or cotton-polyester blend fabric of any size and shape larger than about 5-inches square.

If anyone has length(s) of one fabric that could be used to back the quilt, or a cotton or poly-cotton queen-size or larger sheet that has served its years of use, I could use that instead.

I can purchase quilt batting; however, if anyone has batting that they no longer need, that would also be a welcome donation.

I've never tried hand-quilting the layers together, only tying, which doesn't always stand the test of time. If anyone is retiring from quilting and is interested in selling a quilting frame or quilting hoop, please speak with me; I may be interested!

I'll set the deadline for fabric donations as the end of March. You can give them to me at church, I could pick them up at your house (wearing my mask), or you could drop them off at the church office at your convenience. In the meantime, I will look for a pattern suitable for a "Crazy Quilt." Thank you for any contributions!

Jenny Brummund

THE MINDFULNESS GROUP

*A small group ministry
of UCC Westerly*



March classes:

Saturday, March 12 @ 10 am on Zoom

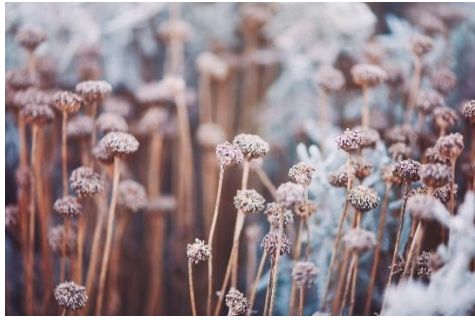
Exploring Chant as a
Mindfulness Practice

Contact Rev. Ruth for Zoom link.

Saturday, March 26 @ 10 am

Practicing Chant in person together!

Questions? Suggestions? Speak with Rev. Ruth anytime.



A reminder from the Pollinator Team to help your gardens have a good rest and still take care of pollinator insects who may be over-wintering in the stalks of your garden. Let sleeping critters rest!



A Reminder...

The Grief Group

Of UCC Westerly is open to anyone in the church or community who is struggling to live with the loss of a loved one. Our purpose is just to offer a place to talk with others going through the same thing. You are free to talk or just listen. Often resources to share are available.

***Our next gatherings:
THURSDAYS, March 10 & 24
@ 2pm in the Parlor
NEW MEMBERS ALWAYS WELCOME!
Please speak with Rev. Ruth for
more information.***



An Invitation to Join us at BOOKS

OUR NEXT GATHERING:

THURSDAY, MARCH 17 @ 12:30pm
Bring your own lunch and drink but
Dessert provided!!!!
IN PERSON AT CHURCH!!!!

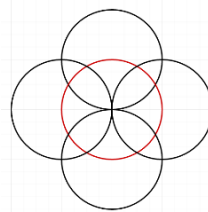
WHAT WE'RE READING:

*Your choice of anything by
AGATHA CHRISTIE*

EVERYONE WELCOME!

There's a new copy of
The Murder of Rodger Ackroyd
Available to borrow at church!

It's available at the small collection of books to borrow from the church library located on the shelf in the Bell Courtyard Narthex. Just be sure to leave a card with the title, your name and the date you borrowed in the basket on the shelf. While you're there check out some of the other books available to borrow from there or the church library at the end of the office/parlor corridor.



**SABBATH CIRCLES
AT HOME SUNDAY
SCHOOL materials are
posted @ UCC Westerly on
Facebook every week!**



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!

Robert MacVicar
4 Holmes Street, Westerly, RI 02891

Dorothy Oehrle
20 Devonwood Drive, Apt. 162
Farmington, CT 06032

Elvis & Ane Torres
63 Nantucket Drive, Mystic, CT 06355



March Birthdays:

Fred Tarasuk – 1
Madelyn Stratton – 1
Cathy Gray – 5
Shirin Platt – 7
Adam Tarasuk – 10
Emma Stratton – 12
Dwayne Spurley-Dows – 18
Edward Stratton – 19

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



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
Anna Michael	

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



OUR STAFF

Pastor: The Rev. Ruth Shilling Hainsworth
Organist: David Cranmer
Secretary: Carol Lindsay
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!