



# The Beacon May 2022

*“For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.” Jeremiah 29:11*

This has got to be one of the best Scripture verses in the Bible. It is simple and captures the essence of all our prayers to God in our search for comfort and answers when life feels overwhelming. And during the last two plus years it has certainly felt overwhelming way too much of the time! Jeremiah reminds us that no matter what is happening, somehow God is still in the middle of it, still keeping us in mind, still remembering the hopes and dreams we have had to set aside especially during these recent Covid years.

Our emergence from the Covid pandemic and all its restrictions and craziness is much on my mind these days, as I am sure it is for all of you. It is so wonderful that we have reached the point where, at least most of the time, we do not need to hide our smiles from each other behind protective face masks. We can give and receive hugs. We can share coffee and goodies at table during Fellowship Time. We can meet in person in our lovely parlor for nurture and support through our small group ministries like the Grief Group and Books. Life is slowly returning to normal and what a gift that is!

The calendar at our wonderful church is brimming with activities this month as we live out the future filled with hope that Jeremiah describes so beautifully. I hope you will join us as we gather for prayer and worship as well as for social times and excellent conversation. Remember, no matter who you are or where you are on your journey of life, you will always be welcome – and loved – here in our church.

Your friend in Christ,  
Rev. Ruth

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

*\*Note! Masks are now optional for fully vaccinated (2 shots plus booster) folks. Unvaccinated MUST wear masks at all times.*

- Sunday, May 1 Communion**  
“Welcome to the Jesus Table”
- Sunday, May 8 Mother’s Day**  
“Saving Junia”
- Sunday, May 15**  
“Whose God Anyway?”
- Sunday, May 22**  
“Wasteland ... or Not?”
- Sunday, May 29**  
“The Grapes of Wrath”

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



## **Diaconate Schedule**

<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Telephone #</u></b>
5/1	Joann Spurley	401-714-8948
5/8	Christina Brummund	860-599-1719
5/15	Bethany Foster	401-539-4003
5/22	Ed Stratton	401-218-8548
5/29	Lynn Murray	401-539-7578

***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 Deacons are grateful for the continued donations to the Deacon Fund. As you know, these funds are used to support requests for folks in need in our church, as well as supporting our WARM commitment and other local requests.

After speaking with Angelo from Stonington Pizza Palace, our dine-to-donate Barbara Murano Scholarship event is on hold until he has the staffing to accommodate the business we bring in. However, we will still be giving the scholarships to our members who responded to this year's prompt. We will be using reserved funds, which we hope we can replace in the near future after being able to hold our event.



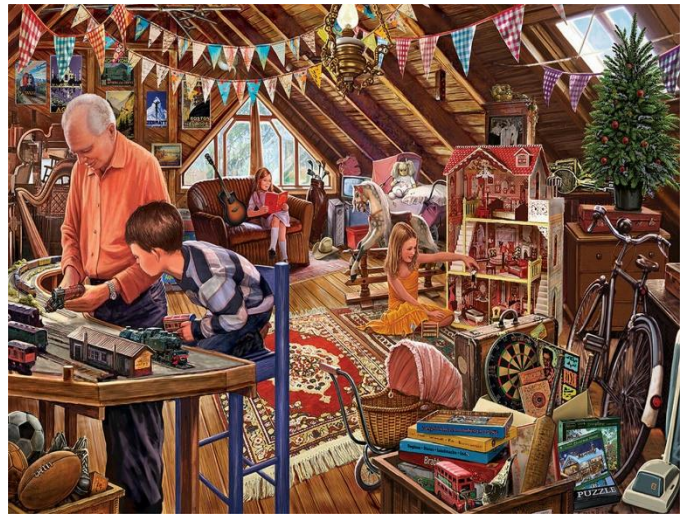
At our most Deacons meeting we had a conversation about Communion and how we might consider changing it as Covid restrictions ease. So, on Sunday, May 1 you

will have the opportunity to let us know what you think by noting your thoughts on a large poster board we will have set up in Fellowship Hall. Options for you to consider and comment on are as follows:

- # Continuing as we are at present with prepackaged juice and crackers available as you enter the sanctuary.
- # Switching back to the glass Communion cups with individually packaged crackers available to you as you enter the sanctuary
- # Returning to glass Communion cups and bread pieces passed in the pews as we did before Covid.

Think of this as a non-binding referendum! We're just curious as to how folks are feeling at this point. Thanks for your assistance!

Lynn Murray,  
Deacon chairperson



**ANNOUNCING ATTIC TREASURES!!!!**  
**Saturday, May 14**  
**8am – 12pm**

As you know, our Attic & Plant Sale will be held, rain or shine, on May 14 from 8am to noon. Weather permitting, we will be in the upper parking lot. Once again, we will be doing our fill-a-bag for \$5.00 sale. Larger items & plants will be separately priced. That being said, we will need all the help we can get:

- Donations of items to sell are greatly appreciated.
- On Sunday the 8th following worship, we will need to move tables (especially card tables) upstairs in preparation for the sale. Using card tables makes it possible to put some away as the morning sales progress.
- There are already lots of items on the middle level to be moved upstairs on the 15th as well.
- As many hands as possible will be needed on the 21st to set up, assist shoppers, cash out folks, and pack up afterwards. The Jonnycake Center will be picking up our leftovers on the following Thursday.

This event has proven to be a fairly profitable event. Thank you in advance for all your help.

Lynn Murray, Event Coordinator



## MISSION MOMENTS - MAY



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.

Donations for Holy Joe's Café can be made by cash or check made payable to UCC Westerly with "Holy Joe's Café" noted in the Memo Line. Those donations can be left in the donation box just

outside the sanctuary doors in the Bell Courtyard Narthex.

For any questions on the work of the Missions Board please speak with Peter Hainsworth at any time. Peter's cell is 401-243-3347.



We thank Shannon DePerry for her inspirational words when she spoke to the congregation on Sunday, April 24 as our guest speaker. After expressing her appreciation to the church for inviting her to establish a home base in one of our unused classrooms downstairs, Shannon described the humble beginnings of what became a far-reaching non-profit that serves our area. God led the way for Shannon, and, most importantly, she followed. Shannon's journey reflects the philosophy that it really doesn't matter where you start if you want to make a difference in this world. Just take the first step, and God will show you what is next.

Many of you asked how you can help Shannon with her initiative. The Mission Board will be posting her monthly projects, and although we will be coordinating with her on some of them, others will be separate from our usual Mission initiatives. You can also follow Operation Fresh Start on Facebook. Shannon often has "spontaneous" donation drives or requests that answer an immediate need of someone in the area.

This month's project for Operation Fresh Start is a Plant and Artisan Sale at Shannon's home in Pawcatuck (93 Sunrise Ave.) on Saturday, May 21, from 9—2. She

will have all types of plants and crafts for sale, and there will be a basket raffle. You can help by stopping by to purchase some items or by donating plants or a basket for the raffle. Many of the plants that don't sell at our Plant Sale in early May will be donated to Shannon for her sale. There are also some flyers for the sale that you can put up around the neighborhood. Thank-you, Shannon, for all that you do for our community.



### Trustee Notes

Pledges through March were \$18,192, \$572 more than the anticipated amount of \$17,620. Total income through March was \$22,977, approximately \$5500 less than the anticipated income of \$28,538. Expenses for March were \$30,185, \$780 more than anticipated expenses of \$29,405. We ended March with a deficit of \$7,208. The larger deficit is primarily due to the cost of our gas for heating. Thanks to everyone for keeping up with their pledges during the year!

Trustees are in the process of working to update the job description of the sexton in anticipation of finding someone to do the job within our budget. They are also continuing to finalize a plaque design to commemorate the new cross window.

If anyone would like to join the Board of Trustees, please speak to Pastor Ruth or any member of the board.

The next Trustees meeting will be held on May 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. in person and via Zoom.



The Pandemic Response Team wishes to thank everyone for their patience and support as we have worked to keep pace with ever changing Covid precautions. We are pleased to having been able to make the decision to mask optional for fully vaccinated (2 shots plus booster) individuals. Non-vaccinated persons must still mask. We have also been advised by the Ledge Light Health District folks that we can return to our usual food and beverage operations for fellowship time following worship. Volunteers will be needed to help with this!

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.





## A WORD FROM THE POLLINATOR TEAM!

Just a reminder as you begin working in your gardens this year, be aware of whether you are planting true native plants or cultivars which have been specifically bred to look a certain way. Natives are best for pollinators and are the easiest to care for since they have a built in tolerance for our climate and soil conditions! A complete list of native plants to consider is available on the Pollinator Table in the sanctuary.



In addition to our Attic Sale scheduled for Saturday, May 14, the Pollinator Team will again be sponsoring a Plant Sale. Our inaugural venture into selling our green wares proved to be quite successful last year, so we are hoping to have even more plants to sell this year. The Pollinator Team started planting seeds at the beginning of March, but it isn't too late to plant!

As you clean out your gardens, please think of us! Do you have an abundance of herbs, perennials, thinned out bulbs or rhizomes? Pot them up in any pot you have available and drop them off at the church the week before the sale or even the morning of. Feel like starting some fast-growing seeds now? Go for it! You'd be surprised at what people are looking for. Last year we sold almost

every green item that was in our area! Perennials, veggies, flowers, bulbs, you name it, it sold!

We also would appreciate any donations of pots that you may have hiding in your garage or basement. You can drop those off at the church any Sunday between now and the sale. There will be a box at the door in the upper parking lot narthex to receive them. If you need pots, there are already some available in the box.

Questions? Feel free to contact any of the members of the Pollinator Team: Christina Brummond, Claire Calabretta, Shirin Platt, or Sandi Davis.

Thanks so much! Now, get those hands dirty!!!



## *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 May gatherings:*

*WEDNESDAY, MAY 4 & 18*

*@ 2pm in the Parlor*

*NEW MEMBERS ALWAYS WELCOME!*

*Please speak with Rev. Ruth for more information.*





taken over their catering and will have a number of yummy options to accompany your drinks.)  
Can't wait to everyone again!



An Invitation to Join us at BOOKS

## UCC MONTHLY NIGHTS-OUT ARE BACK!!!



130 Granite Street  
Westerly, RI 02891

**Wednesday, May 18 5:00--??**

What a great turn-out we had last month at Stonington Pizza Palace!! 20 of us gathered together to chat, laugh, and enjoy Angelo's and Agathi's delicious food. As promised, there was no church business to discuss, just friendly conversation.

This month's yummy destination will be on the Westerly side of the river, at Vetrano's Restaurant. If you have never been to Vetrano's, you are in for a treat, as they have everything from pizzas and sandwiches to full dinners accompanied by side salads and rolls. We will be able to make reservations this time around, so we can all sit together to enjoy each other's company. For that reason, we are encouraging you to sign up ahead of time, so we can give the restaurant a head count. They know that the number will be flexible, so there is no need to stress if something comes up ahead of time to spoil your fun or that allows you to come when you thought you couldn't. We will be calling in the approximate number the day before, Tuesday, May 17, so please, if you can, sign up by then. There is a sign-up sheet in the hallway. If you can't make it to church in the next couple of weeks, have someone else put your name and number of guests on the list. Bring a significant other or friend or come alone. The only requirement is that you come to have fun!  
Hope to see you there!!

(For those of you who like to plan ahead, We will be heading to Grey Sail Brewing on June 15. They no longer allow outside food to be brought in, but Vetrano's has



### OUR NEXT GATHERING:

WEDNESDAY,

MAY 25 @ 12:30pm

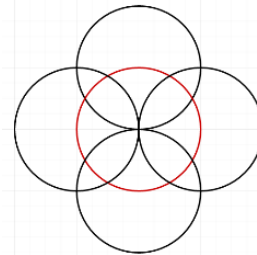
Bring your own lunch and drink  
but Dessert provided!!!

IN PERSON AT CHURCH!!!!

### WHAT WE'RE READING:

Eleanor & Hick by Susan  
Quinn

EVERYONE WELCOME!



### SABBATH CIRCLES

AT HOME SUNDAY SCHOOL materials are posted @ UCC Westerly on Facebook every Saturday evening! These materials were written by Rev. Ruth uniquely for this church and are based on the "parents as first teachers of the faith" model developed originally by William Willimon.  
The materials focus on the Scripture lesson for worship on the Sunday following.  
For any questions on Sabbath Circles, please speak with Rev. Ruth anytime.



### ***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!

Rosemary Jette  
c/o Pendleton Rehab  
44 Maritime Dr., Mystic, CT 06355

George & Cathy Gray  
11 Bluebird Lane, Ashaway, RI 02804

Charlotte Korean  
11 North Drive, Ashaway, RI 02804



### ***May Birthdays:***

Kenton Michael – 1  
Charlotte Korean – 4  
Gregory Sugar – 5  
Daniel Stratton – 20  
Susan Moynihan - 27

### ***May Anniversaries:***

Mark & Elizabeth Dessaulles – May 6, 1989

*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  
Donald                 Emma  
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  
*Website Coordinator:* Heather Stratton

### **CHURCH OFFICE SPECIFICS**

*Mailing Address:* 9 Castle Hill Road  
Pawcatuck, CT 06379  
*Telephone:* 860-599-1226  
*E-mail:* [uccwesterly@gmail.com](mailto:uccwesterly@gmail.com)  
*Website:* [www.uccwesterly.org](http://www.uccwesterly.org)  
*Office Hours:* Monday 9 am-1 pm & Thursday 9 am-3 pm

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