



The Beacon November, 2022

"... let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us ..." Hebrews 12:1c

As I write this column for November, we are in the final days leading up to the mid term elections in our country. The past several weeks and months have turned increasingly ugly, far surpassing the political campaign nastiness we have come to expect over the decades. The rhetoric is more than just nasty, it's too often misleading on both sides. Most distressing is that some political types desperately want us to look away when their violent words cause real people to be seriously injured. I'm still wrapping my head around some actually finding humor in the almost lethal attack on Paul Pelosi. How far we have fallen as a nation.

Yet, Jesus tells us we need to hold on to hope no matter how angry and anxious we may feel. Jesus reminds us to trust in the promises of God because, in the end, all things are possible with God. I know many times these days that seems like just so much "Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm" thinking but it is so much more. It is Jesus, who knew he was headed to the cross, telling us to trust that God is in the middle of all that is happening. Our task is to stay true to our faith, true to our calling, true to our commitment to be the people of God in this place. That is the race God has placed before us and it is one that takes a lifetime to run. But, here's the thing, Jesus knows we are more than up to the challenge. Jesus believes in us. All we need to do is believe in him, trusting that the way forward will be revealed to us in God's time.

So, dear ones, however these Midterms turn out, God is still here with us in our wonderful church. Good things and happy days await us, and no doubt challenging moments as well. Just remember, we can deal with anything together as this community of God's faithful people.

Happy Thanksgiving and this year, be sure to count all those blessings twice! They are your building blocks of hope.

Your sister in faith,
Rev. Ruth

FYI! Copies of the excellent magazine, THE CHRISTIAN CENTURY are available for you to borrow on the back pew in the sanctuary. 😊

DON'T FORGET!!!!!!

This Sunday, Nov. 6, Daylight Savings ends! Turn those clocks back at bedtime on Saturday!



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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

Please mask if you are feeling unwell or are unvaccinated.

Learning & Growing Together

Sunday, Nov. 6 – *Worship with Communion*; Sermon: *Loaves & Fishes* based on John 6:1-14

Sunday, Nov. 13 – *Stewardship Sunday!*

Sermon: *What Shall I Return to the Lord*
Based on Psalm 116:5-14

Sunday, Nov. 20 – *Thanksgiving Sunday*

Sermon: *A Single Hour* based on Matthew 6:25-34

Sunday, Nov. 27 – *First Sunday of Advent*

Sermon: *The God of my Ancestors* based on Exodus 3:7-15.

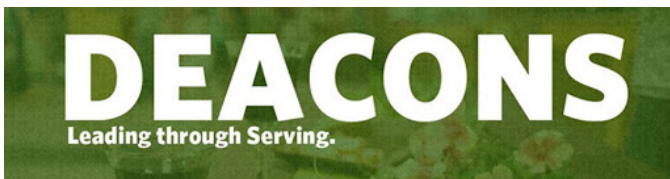
Kindly Note: Copies of sermons will be provided by request only. Speak with Rev. Ruth or Carol to receive one!



Diaconate Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Telephone #</u>
11/6	Joann Spurley	401-714-8948
11/13	Bethany Foster	401-539-4003
11/20	Lynn Murray	401-539-7578
11/27	Christina Brummund	860-599-1719

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 continue to meet virtually, as it is convenient for all. We recently have been debating returning to the pre-COVID way of serving communion. As we were on board with that, we also heard about the chance of a very severe flu season. Our talks will continue, and thoughts would be appreciated. Believe it or not, we are already discussing the Advent season, themes, and participation. As always, thank you for your donations to the Deacon fund. Our last collection went directly for assistance after hurricane Ian in Florida.

Bazaar sign-up sheets are up in fellowship hall. Dates are Nov. 12th & 19th, and Dec. 3rd from 9-1. Even if you always do the same tasks, please sign up so we know what help may still be needed. Areas where lots of help will be needed:

- Bringing tables & baskets upstairs after worship on November 6th.
- Arranging tables in fellowship hall on that day as well.
- Bakers needed each week - this is such a popular area that folks come for. All kinds of baked goods needed. Ask Carolyn & Shirin about prices for your goods so that task can be done ahead of time.
- Artificial wreaths & trees are ready to be decorated. All materials are organized in the last room on the middle level.
- For the December 3rd date, fresh greens arrangements are needed. Containers & supplies are also in that room.
- Also for December 3rd, we will need lots of Christmas cookies for our Christmas cookie plates, which were a huge hit last year. If you bake ahead of time & freeze,

wrap securely. There is room in the freezers in our kitchen.

- We will also need large & small/medium plates to put the cookies on. These can be Christmas-y, glass, or other decorative plates.

- Lots of hands will be needed before and on each of those bazaar dates to assist with set-up, sales, money collection, customer service, delivery to shoppers' cars, & pack up at the end of each day.

- Prayers & crossed fingers for good weather so we can host both inside and out. We know we are flexible & creative and will accommodate whatever comes our way, and all our hard work throughout the year will be appreciated and will benefit our church.

Lynn Murray,
Deacon chairperson



leave at the office. Thanks!

Thinking ahead to Advent! Rev. Ruth is planning to create a "Creche of the Misfits" on the altar this year. She is looking for donations of individual creche pieces to use as this unique Nativity Scene comes together over the weeks of Advent. If you are willing, please bring in one of your pieces and



Trustee Notes

Pledges through September were \$49,890, \$2969 less than the anticipated amount of \$52,859. Total income through September was \$384,048. (This figure reflects the \$300,551 Sicilian endowment bequest which has been dispersed to the Endowment Fund at Professional Planning). Our actual income was \$83,497, \$1818 less than the anticipated \$85,315. Expenses for September were \$89,200, \$986 more than the anticipated expenses of \$88,214. \$3098.00 was received for the organ fund through donations and the art show. Thanks to everyone for continuing with their pledges during the year!

The outside water faucet by Fellowship Hall has been replaced. The cross memorial plaque is in the final stage of production!

If you are interested in the church property and its financial affairs then the Board of Trustees is the place for you! Please speak to Pastor Ruth or any member of the board (Kathy Tarasuk, Dwayne Spurley, Melissa Stratton, Bill Street, or John Blake).

The next Trustees meeting will be held on November 29th at 6:30 p.m.



MISSION MOMENTS

November

Just a reminder that our Missions objective for the next few months is to piggy-back the efforts of Operation Fresh Start and its donation drives. That means this month we are supporting the pajama drive. Please see the article following this for details. Additionally, we want to step up our efforts to support the food pantry at the PNC as we are well aware that visits to local food pantries are dramatically increasing. So, in November, please bring your donations of jams, tea bags, canned vegetables and canned meats. Two baskets will be under the altar to receive them on Sundays, one for OFS items and the other for PNC food donations.

Thank you! Your Missions Board



Thanks so much to Shannon and the Board of Directors of Operation Fresh Start for their very generous donation to our Organ Repair Fund. They are deeply grateful for our donation of the downstairs room, which saves them thousands of dollars a year in storage costs, and we are very grateful that they deemed us worthy recipients of

some of a recent monetary donation. That's what this organization does: they see a need in the community and act upon it.

November and December

Holiday Donation Drive

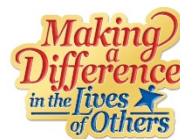


As all of you already know, the Mission Committee has pledged to support Operation Fresh Start with their monthly donation drives. In addition to donating non-perishable food items to the PNC, we are asking that the congregation donate the following items to help local parents with their holiday shopping;

- Adult-sized pajamas for the older kids who need new jammies, too!
- Duplo blocks
- All types of learning toys
- Puzzles
- Diapers sized 2—6, which are always on the parents' wish lists
- Etc. But NO CRAYONS OR COLORING BOOKS, PLEASE!

Items can be placed in the basket on the altar or in the bins at the doors.

Donations should be dropped off by the second week in December, at the **very** latest, so they can be distributed to those families and agencies in need. Thanks so much!



A WORD FROM CONGREGATIONAL LIFE



This year's Christmas bazaar will be held on three Saturdays, Nov. 12, 19 and Dec. 3, from 9am – 1pm. Last year the baked goods area was a leader in funds raised, thanks to a small group of bakers who donated goods each Saturday for the 5 weeks of our bazaar. We hope to have donations this year from more people. Cookies, Cakes, pies, quick breads, biscotti, buck-eye balls, English toffee, fudge, rolls, muffins, lollipops and preserves of relish, pickles, jam and jelly are all welcomed and much appreciated! Please label your items and consider the cost of the ingredients, pricing them accordingly.

The final Saturday of the bazaar, Dec. 3, we will be selling plates of Christmas cookies. If you wish to make your cookies early, wrapping them well and labeling them, you may do that and store them in the church kitchen freezer.

Sending our early thank you for your many donations to help make this year's bazaar a success.
Shirin Platt, Sandi Davis & Carolyn LeRoy



BID-TO-BEAT BASKETS 2022

Thanks so much to everyone who donated gift cards and baskets for our ever-popular bid-to-beat basket raffle. It's sure to be a success!!

A WORD FROM THE POLLINATOR TEAM!



A reminder that the Pollinators need your help as the temps cool! Keep your leaf raking to a minimum so the bees and other pollinator insects have places to nest over the winter. A pile of sticks in a part of the yard is also a huge help. And don't cut those dying flowers back! Their seeds offer winter food to our feathery and furry friends!



The Grief Group

Will not be meeting again until January. This is because of "Bazaar frenzy" using all available space and because folks are busy with family during the Holidays.

However, the Annual Blue Christmas

Service for those struggling with sadness during the Holidays will be on Wednesday, December 21 @ 12 noon in our sanctuary. All welcome.



The Pandemic Response Team wishes to let everyone know they are still monitoring the situation and will continue to advise church leadership as we move forward through this "post pandemic" time. 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.



Our newly redesigned website is live!

Check it out at
www.uccwesterly.org!



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!

Amanda Hainsworth & family
Roslindale, MA 02131

Marc & Courtney Ainsworth & family
9 Cleveland St., Pawcatuck, CT 06379

Judy Stratton

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

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



November Birthdays:

Megan Gray – 5
Kali Woodhall – 6
Amanda Hainsworth – 8
John Walker – 21
Rev. Ruth – 21
Vera M. Leming – 23
Christina Brummund – 25
Caleb Stratton - 29

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

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OUR STAFF

Pastor: The Rev. Ruth Shilling Hainsworth
Organist: David Cranmer
Secretary: Carol Lindsay
Sexton: Ed Curtin

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 & Thursday 9 am-3 pm

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