



The Beacon **March 2023**

*“All scripture is inspired by God and is useful ... so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.”
2 Timothy 3:16-17*

Welcome to March and its promise of spring! Welcome to Lent and its promise of time to invest in yourself and your own relationship with God. Lent is one of the most ancient traditions in the church, dating back to at least the 4th century, if not earlier. It has always been understood as a time of study and prayer, a time for personal reflection and even a time of self-denial as a means of understanding what is really important in life.

This year, our Lenten theme is “Resurrection Promises.” I chose this theme because Lent is and has always been an intentional time of reflection for followers of Jesus as they prepare to celebrate the miracle of the Resurrection on Easter Sunday. You have many possibilities for your Lenten observance through our church this year. A Lenten Devotional Guide provides suggestions for each of the 40 days of Lent. Sunday morning worship each week offers a form of group Bible study and reflections on the texts each week. Special Mission projects offer the chance to move beyond our own narrow perspectives on life as we live it each day. In fact, this month’s *BEACON* offers multiple ways to explore your faith more deeply through prayer, reflection, study, conversation and action. Come join us as we

all ponder how we may work toward becoming the people God needs us to be in this time and place. I’ll be looking for you!

Your sister in faith,
Rev. Ruth



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.

Our theme for Lent: Resurrection Promise

March 5 – Communion; 1 Cor. 11:23-26
“Sacred Words, Holy Bread”

March 12 – John 8:2-11 – *“Throwing Stones”*

March 19 – Matt. 6:9-15 – *“2-Way Forgiveness”*

March 26 – Eph. 2:1-10 – *“Gifted Grace”*

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>
3/5	Allana Allik	860-599-5212
3/12	Christina Brummund	860-599-1719
3/19	Bethany Foster	401-539-4003
3/26	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!



Many thanks from the Deacons for your generous donations for earthquake relief in Turkey & Syria. In 2 weeks, nearly \$600 was collected.

We will be finalizing plans for our Barbara Murano scholarship soon. Stay tuned for details for our college students.

We are happy to welcome Allana Allik to the board of Deacons. Thank you for joining us.

Lynn Murray,
Deacon chairperson



Trustee Notes

Pledges for January were \$10,694, \$4628 more than the anticipated amount of \$6066. Total income for January was \$17,061, \$7371 more than the anticipated \$9690. Expenses for January were \$9459, \$1200 less than the anticipated expenses of \$10,659. Thanks again to everyone who has pledged for the upcoming year!

Many thanks to Nate Miceli for removing a tree on the side of the building!
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. The next trustees meeting is March 28, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.

DON'T FORGET THE INSIDE SPRING CLEAN-UP HERE AT CHURCH THIS SATURDAY, MARCH 4, 9-12 PM!!!



MISSION MOMENTS

Your Missions Board wishes to offer our sincere appreciation and gratitude for your generous support of the January and February Mission Project soliciting cash donations in support of the weekly meals provided to those in need in our community by the WARM Center. Thanks as well to so many of you who came out to support the Homeless Awareness Prayer Vigil in mid-February. It was an amazing experience for all!

Our ongoing collections of non-perishable foods, pet supplies and food as well as household paper products for the Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center continue. Last month we donated almost 30 pounds worth of food and supplies which is awesome! Well done everyone!

Our Missions Project for the months of March and April has a more global reach as we will be asking folks to "purchase" Church World Service blankets through a blanket drive. Church World Service is an international relief organization and given the recent earthquakes, etc. around the world, I think it is safe to assume their supplies of blankets is low! Blankets cost \$10 each. A display with more information about the blankets and Church World Service will be available in Fellowship Hall for this coming Sunday. Until then, please speak with any member of the Missions Board for more information. Thanks!!!



OPERATION FRESH START-NEW BEGINNING

A great big thank-you going out to everyone who donated larger sized diapers and unscented wipes for the February collection. These items are ALWAYS needed, so feel free to pick some up whenever you see them on sale!

March Donation Drive



Welcome Basket Items

Welcome baskets are given to families when they move into their first ever apartments. Confused about what to donate? Make a list of the items in your house that you needed to survive the first couple of weeks in your new home. Suggestions:

- Cleaning supplies
- Kitchen utensils
- Pot holders
- Dish towels
- Trash cans
- Shower curtains
- Bath mats
- Bath towels
- Buckets
- Mops and brooms
- Laundry baskets
- Etc., etc., etc.

Please be sure, though, that all items are new and have never been used.

As an FYI. Shannon will be holding a Confidence Building Workshop here at the church on March 20 and 21 for young people trying to enter the workforce. Participants will be mentored by community members on resume writing, planning, interviewing skills, etc. They will also benefit from the skills of local hairdressers and cosmetologists and will receive 2 new outfits to wear to their interviews! Snacks and lunch will also be provided. Wow!

PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR FIRST FUNDRAISER EVENT OF 2023 FOR THE ORGAN FUND!!!



JOIN US!

SOUP SUPPER POTLUCK

Friday, March 10 @ 5pm

*Bring your favorite soup to share OR
Homemade Breads, Salad or Desserts
too!*

\$10 donation at the door

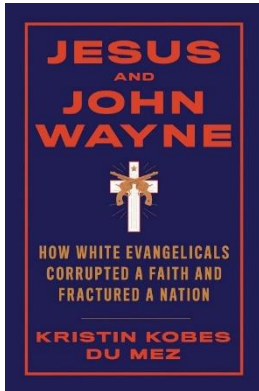
Reservations helpful but not required.

Walk-ins welcome!

*Make a reservation on the sign-up sheet
at church or by calling the church office
at 860-599-1226.*

Also, be sure to check out the Organ Fundraising Display in Fellowship Hall for more information about our plans and additional fundraisers in the works! Any questions? Please speak with any member of our committee. We are: Jenny Brummund (me), Janet Allen, David Cranmer, Caroline Leroy, and Melissa Stratton...and Anyone is always welcome to join the group!

Rev. Ruth hopes you will join her and others for a Lenten Discussion Group
Based on the book



SUNDAYS in person @ 11AM in the Parlor
March 5, 12, & 19

According to the site "GoodReads.com," Jesus and John Wayne is a sweeping account of the last seventy-five years of white evangelicalism, showing how American evangelicals have worked for decades to replace the Jesus of the Gospels with an idol of rugged masculinity and Christian nationalism. As Du Mez explains, the key to understanding this transformation is to recognize the role of culture in modern American evangelicalism.

Rev. Ruth notes: "I think this is one of the most important and comprehensive books I have read which outlines in easy to understand terms conservative evangelical theology and history, thus making clear why our country is in the intellectual and emotional space it is. I can't think of a more important book to guide us through this year's Lenten season."

Please note you do not have to have read the book to participate in this group!!!

For more details, speak with Rev. Ruth any time. Cell: 401-663-7934 or email: revruth1121@aol.com

An Invitation to Join us at BOOKS
A group of folks who love to read, talk about what we read or just talk...



OUR NEXT GATHERING:

Wednesday, March 15, 2023 @ 12:30pm
Join us for a BYO Lunch & Beverage
DESSERT PROVIDED!!
IN PERSON AT CHURCH!!!!

WHAT WE'RE READING:

ONCE UPON A RIVER
By Diane Setterfield

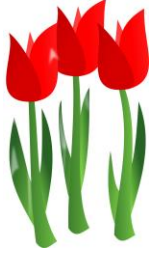
EVERYONE WELCOME! This book is available to borrow through your local library or for purchase through your favorite bookstore. BOOKS is an on-going discussion group ministry of UCC Westerly. Please speak with Rev. Ruth for any questions.



A WORD FROM THE POLLINATOR TEAM!

A reminder that your gardens and yard are "sleeping" right now but they still provide valuable food for the many critters in your area! Look for the beauty of nature all year long, especially in your own back yard! Also, now is the perfect time to plan for your gardens this year!!!

It's Easter Flower time again!!
**Time to order your Easter Lilies,
Daffodils and Tulips**



Please send or call your orders in to the office no later than Monday, April 3rd so that our Sanctuary can be adorned by their loveliness on Easter Sunday. All checks (payable to the church) need to be in the office by Thursday, April 6th.

[McQuade's is still working out a price, so order forms will be available next week. Just giving you a head's up for your planning]



The Grief Group

Will be meeting twice in March:

Wednesdays

March 8 @ 1pm in the Parlor.

March 22 @ 1pm in the Parlor

This group is for anyone struggling with life in the midst of loss of a loved one, a job, a change of life status never imagined. Please speak with Rev. Ruth for more details.



*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!

Julie Grillo

38 Shawondassee Drive, Pawcatuck, CT 06378

Pam DelPozo-Waldron

200 Laurel Street, Manchester, NH 03103

John & Laura Blake

9 Pine Street, Pawcatuck, CT 06379



The Sunshine Cards Ministry is Updating their Birthday and Anniversary lists. If you are unsure if we have your birthday/anniversary on record please contact Carol in the office.



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
Finn Fox	

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
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

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!



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