



The Beacon August and September 2023

Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself.

Matthew 14:13

Jesus leaving the constant fray of the disciples chattering and the crowds following him everywhere is a constant theme throughout the Gospels. This tells us one very important thing – a life lesson for all of us. Sometimes you just need a little quiet time to think things through, to reflect on what's been happening and imagine what might be possible in the future. Jesus also recognized that time apart to reconnect with the God he called "Father" was critical to turning down the noise around him in order to focus on what God needed him to be present to.

So, as we plan for our first Congregational Retreat, approved by the Church Council at their June meeting, this whole notion of time away and time apart is coming into clearer focus for us. We will begin to prepare for this day long retreat at a preliminary event – called a Pre-Retreat – that has been scheduled for Sunday, September 24 following worship. More details will follow as the date draws closer but for right now, please mark your calendar and plan to join us after worship right in our own Fellowship Hall as we celebrate all that we have accomplished in recent years.

THRESHOLDS will be our theme for these upcoming gatherings as we celebrate our recognition of being a "threshold congregation" of the United Church of Christ. To make our theme come to life, I am asking each of you to take a photo or make a drawing or sketch of your own front door to your home. Then, send it in to me and I will use it to create a visual to serve as a backdrop for our conversations on the 24th. Our first task at the pre-retreat will be to brainstorm together a list of all we have accomplished since 2012, the year I was called as your pastor. The list is a long one! We're doing

this to remind ourselves that despite our current challenges, we have already accomplished so much together. These conversations will provide the foundation for the conversations and work to follow at the retreat in early 2024. You will also be asked to work together to identify a Saturday when the majority of us are available for what we hope will be a delightful and rewarding day at a retreat center not too far away.

Plans for lunch on the 24th are still pending. What's your preference? Brown bag, brunch potluck or some type of catered event? The choice is yours.

Dear ones, these are exciting times for our little church. Scary times too in some ways. That's why coming together to remind each other that with God all things are possible is so important! Please plan now to join us for our first step across the threshold into the future God has in mind for us. A sign-up sheet will be going up on the board outside Fellowship Hall on Labor Day Weekend.

Your sister in faith,
Rev. Ruth



**ANNOUNCING
THRESHOLD SUNDAY!
September 24, 2023
9:45am worship**

We are asking **ALL OF YOU** to please make every possible effort to be with us in person to remind us all that we do have more members and friends than it sometimes looks! **SHOW US BY YOUR PRESENCE THAT OUR CHURCH MATTERS TO YOU!!!**

**11am Special Fellowship time
& Thresholds Pre-Retreat**

(See previous article.)



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.

“Why Church?” Sermon series

- August 20 Rev. Ruth preaching
August 27 Blessing of School Supplies
Sept. 3 Communion & Labor Day Weekend – Rev.
Ruth preaching
Sept. 10, 17 & 24 – Rev. Ruth preaching

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



Diaconate Schedule

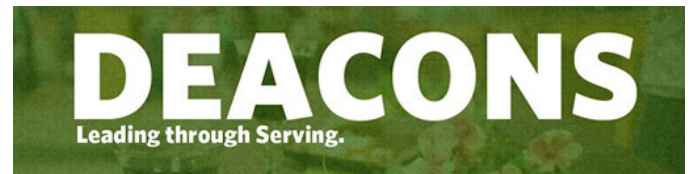
<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Telephone #</u>
8/20	Claire Calabretta	860-574-5962
8/27	Joann Spurley	401-714-8948
9/3	Lynn Murray	401-539-7578
9/10	Bethany Foster	401-539-4003

The remaining September Diaconate Schedule will be announced weekly in the Worship Resource.



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!

Prayer Requests
Always
Welcome!



The Deacons had their annual pot luck meeting at Lynn Murray's house on August 8th. Lots of good conversations took place, including themes for upcoming worship services and revised plans for retreat. Instead of the September retreat, we will hold a pre-retreat in September, in order to make plans to hold the retreat in winter or early spring. More details will follow.

The Deacons reflected on services during Pastor Ruth's vacation, and we learned that recipients of cards were very grateful for our Caring and Sharing Sunday. Cards, addresses, & names are still in fellowship hall for anyone wishing to contact the folks who can't be with us in person. Pastor Ruth is also trying to find a new location for her community office hours now that The Savoy has, sadly, closed.

Our communion offering continues to help those in need & donations are gratefully accepted.

Respectfully submitted,
Lynn Murray, Deacon chair



Trustee Notes

The Board of Trustees needs another person (or two!) to join their ranks to help with the very important work of overseeing the property and making financial decisions. Please speak with any board member or Pastor Ruth if you are interested or have any questions.

Pledges for June were \$4,144, \$1,922 less than the anticipated pledge amount of \$6,066. Total income for June was \$10,152, which included \$1,934 that went to the organ fund and \$2,750 designated for the housing fund allowance. Expenses for June were \$11,153, \$473 more than the anticipated expenses of \$10,680.

The trustees
Cleaners to
and are in the
soliciting quotes



have hired JT
clean the building
process of
for the chimney.

The next trustees meeting
is August 22, 2023 via Zoom 6:30 p.m.

Kindly note that the last Sunday of the month will always be Missions Sunday. It will be a time for us to bless donations received and learn about the different Missions initiatives our church is supporting.



Photo credit: Paula Ramon, *The Atlantic*, August 11, 2023

Our September Missions Project will be receiving cash donations in \$5 and \$10 increments for Maui Fire Disaster Relief for the UCC churches destroyed in the devastating fires.

MISSION MOMENTS



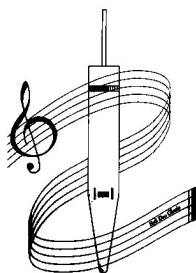
OPERATION FRESH START—NEW BEGINNINGS

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER UPDATE

The Blessing of the School Supplies will take place during worship on Sunday, August 27. School supplies will be gladly received up to and including that Sunday! Then, they will be separated into two piles with one pile going to the Stonington Middle School and the other to the Middle School where Lynn Murray teaches in Cranston.

Shannon and her crew filled 200 backpacks filled with items donated from the community for the back-to-school drive. The recipients of the backpacks range from elementary school to high school students. Well done, everyone!

Look for information regarding the Sip-and-Sign event scheduled for late September/early October. Such a fun event that you won't want to miss!



Organ Fund Update

Our next fundraising event is the
***End of Summer Community
 Potluck Supper!***
Friday, August 25 @ 6pm
Fellowship Hall
weather permitting!

Remember, you are welcome to contribute to the Repair Fund anytime in 2023, ***"The Year of the Organ!"*** Donations can be made "In Memory" of a special person, and/or "In Celebration" of a special event or person. A list of donations will be published when the organ work is completed.

As for the work itself, the organ is temporarily back in service for a few weeks and it was a joy to hear it during worship this past Sunday. The second phase of repairs to the console will begin in a few weeks meaning Dav will once again be practicing his piano scales....

Thank you all for your help, support, and generosity!

Jenny Brummund
 for the Organ Committee



UPDATES FROM CONGREGATIONAL LIFE!!

The Bazaar Pantry continues being developed as we plan ahead for the Bazaar!



BAZAAR PANTRY UPDATE

Yes, believe it or not, Bazaar season is quickly approaching! But, never fear, some of your bakers are also canners, picklers, jelly makers, etc. and have been very busy all summer long preparing for our three holiday bazaars. To date, they have filled dozens and dozens of canning jars, used more pounds of sugar and bottles of vinegar than they can count, and cut up pounds and pounds of fresh fruits and vegetables, some even grown in their own gardens. They have also filled their freezers with fruits and vegetables to be used in baking later. Although Cathy Gray, Sally Panciera, and Jenny Brummund (thank so much, ladies!) generously donated rhubarb and blueberries to our cause, the same members who have given so much

of their time and energy this summer have also purchased or grown their own ingredients. And, that is even before the baking begins! Boggles the mind, doesn't it?

Last year some of you lamented that you are no longer able or do not have the time to bake for the bazaars, and we all know that our customers expect homemade goods, not store bought. How can you still help? Well, contributing to our bazaar pantry would be ever so helpful. A list of our baking needs is included at the end of this article. Don't stress if we receive more of an item that we may use this year, as we can store it for next year (if it has an extended expiration date) or donate it to the PNC in January. When you are shopping just grab anything on the list that may be on sale and put it in the kitchen labeled for the bazaar pantry; then, we will store it in the plastic tubs in the kitchen closet for our bakers to access when they fire up their ovens. If your item is perishable, place it in the kitchen refrigerator and note on the list on the outside of the fridge what you have placed there for the bazaar. Easy peasy! No sign-ups or stress involved. Thanks so much for whatever help you can give us. You have no idea how much we will appreciate your donation. Here is a shopping list to help!

Dry Goods

Granulated sugar
Light Brown sugar
Dark Brown sugar
Confectioners' sugar
Molasses
Vegetable oil
Solid Crisco
Peanut butter
Chocolate chips (also white chips and cinnamon chips)
Cocoa
Cider vinegar
Jelly jars
Pint-sized Mason Jars
Flour (King Arthur preferred)
GF Flour - (Bob's Red Mill 1 to 1 Baking Flour or King Arthur Measure for Measure GF Flour)
Pecans and Walnuts

Refrigerated items

Butter (unsalted and salted)
Eggs

Plant butter (Earth Balance sticks)

Sincerely and gratefully,

Your bazaar bakers



SADLY

REV. RUTH'S COMMUNITY OFFICE HOURS SAVOY BOOKSTORE & CAFÉ

Are no more since the Savoy closed the end of July.
Once Rev. Ruth has identified a suitable new location,
community Office Hours will resume.
Until then, anyone is welcome to contact her by text or email
to arrange an appointment to talk.



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 book: BRITT-MARIE WAS HERE
By Frederik Backman

Our next gathering:

Wednesday, September 13 @ 12:30pm

Join us for a BYO Lunch & Beverage

DESSERT PROVIDED!!

EVERYONE WELCOME! These books are 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.



The Grief Group

Meetings for September :

Wednesdays, September 6 & 20

@ 2:30pm

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.



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!

Dan Stratton

71 School Street, Westerly, RI 02891

Pam DelPozo-Waldron

200 Laurel Street, Manchester, NH 03103

Julie Grillo

38 Shawondasse Drive, Stonington, CT 06378



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.



August Birthdays:

Rosemary Jette – 1

Sandi Davis – 3

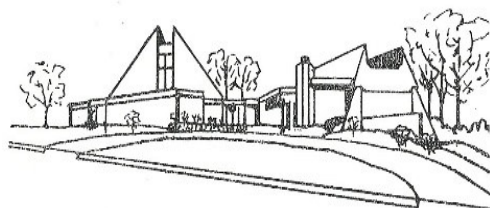
Liz Dessaulles – 10
Amanda Dessaulles – 13
Bethany Foster – 20
Shirley Miller - 30

August Anniversaries:

George & Cathy Gray – August 23, 1986

September Birthdays:

Aidan Stratton - 16



*Please
add in
your
special
days
by
calling
the*

church office at 860-599-1226!!

†††



OUR STAFF

Pastor: The Rev. Ruth Shilling Hainsworth
Organist & Choirs Director: David Cranmer
Secretary: Carol Lindsay

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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