



The Beacon October 2023

"The Kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened." Matthew 13:33

Something quite unexpected and lovely turned up in my mail at home today. It was a beautiful get well card signed by so many of you this past Sunday. I cannot begin to tell you how much that simple card meant to me. It lifted my spirits and reminded me of the love and support so readily apparent in our little church all the time! It was just what I needed in that moment.

As I write this, we find ourselves partway through the "Threshold" preliminary conversations which had to be put on hold when Covid knocked me out of the pulpit and much of my life for over 2 weeks! I didn't see that coming! But God did and these events have transpired as God intended them to, an important reminder to me and to all of us. It is not up to me or any one of us to drive this Threshold process. God is in control making our job to discern what it is God is inviting us to consider as we make plans for our future, short and long term. More details on how we will be continuing this process will be provided as our plans solidify.

In the meantime, Stewardship Season is upon us! Our theme this year is *"From Bread and Cup to Faith and Giving."* Our foundational bible verse for this season is found above. It is an unusual one for stewardship to be sure, and yet, given our current focus on baking for the Bazaar, it seemed very appropriate for this year! We're actually looking for three of our bakers who might be willing to talk about the function of leaven in baking to speak at one of our upcoming services. If you'd be interested, please let me know! In the meantime, thanks for being you and for being part of this amazing little church. God has yet more wonderful plans in mind for us!

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.

"The church is ..." sermon series

October 1 – Communion & Guest Preacher, the Rev. Isaac Lawson, SNEUCC

October 8 – Caring & Sharing Sunday, Rev. Ruth preaching

October 15 – The church is a place of possibilities

October 22 – The church is worth our time

October 29 – The church needs resources to do God's work

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



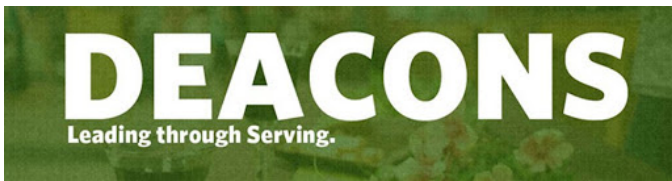
Diaconate Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Telephone #</u>
10/01	Joann Spurley	401-714-8948
10/08	Lynn Murray	401-539-7578
10/15	Allana Allik	860-599-5212
10/22	Joann Spurley	401-714-8948
10/29	Bethany Foster	401-539-4003

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 are very appreciative of the generous donations for the September and October Deacon Fund offerings. As you know, we frequently have requests for funds for those in need, including some of our community organizations as well as members of the church. We continue to meet virtually each month, and invite anyone interested in joining the board in coming months to speak to any of the Deacons.

MAKE A NOTE! Our worship plans for Advent and Christmastide are taking shape and we are excited!! Christmas Eve and New Years Eve are both Sundays this year so we are trying something different! We will be offering **one service at 4pm for both of these very special Sundays**. There will be NO Sunday morning worship service on either of these days. We hope you will make your holiday plans accordingly so you can join us!! Specifics to follow.

Respectfully submitted,
Lynn Murray, Deacon chair



Trustee Notes

Pledges for August were \$6787, \$721 more than the anticipated pledge amount of \$6,066. Total income for August was

\$34,283, which included organ donations, housing allowance, missions and endowment monies to pay organ bills. Expenses for August were \$35,909, which included organ bill payments and donations deposited to WCCU.



MISSION MOMENT and OPERATION FRESH START NEW BEGINNINGS



OCTOBER PROJECT



GRAMMIES' PAJAMIES

Our Mission Board has decided to help Operation Fresh Start New Beginnings with their projects for October, November, and December. October's donation drive is focused on pajamas! We are asking for pajamas in sizes for the entire family. They do not have to be holiday themed but

wouldn't that be fun to shop for?! You can place your flannel findings in either the OFSNB bins or the Mission bins. Let's fill those bins with warmth for our local needy families!

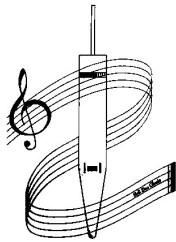


Looking to the future

In November we will be collecting toys of all kinds, except crayons.

December will feature a project we used to do years ago. We will be adopting a family for holiday presents. Much more info on that coming.

Have fun shopping!!!



Organ Fund Update

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.

We are pleased that we have use of the organ during worship as work continues.

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

Jenny Brummund
for the Organ Committee



UPDATES FROM CONGREGATIONAL LIFE!!

UCC Westerly NIGHT OUT



What? *A casual dinner with your church friends*

When? *Thursday, October 12 at 5:30pm*

Where? *The Pizza Place, 43 Broad St., Westerly. Right across the street from the Westerly Library*

Why? *Because we need a relaxing night out before the hectic bazaar and holiday season ahead. No discussion of church business allowed!*

Who? *All of you!! Bring a friend or a significant other, too!*

Please sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board before Tuesday, October 11 so we can make a reservation. Not at church? Please call the church office: 860-599-1226.



BAZAAR BASICS

The bazaar will be here before we know it! Dates are November 11th & 18, and December 2nd. Sign-ups are on the portable bulletin board in fellowship hall. Baked goods, candies, & fudge will be needed each week. This is a very popular area of the bazaar. We will once again be selling our popular cookie plates on December 2nd, so many different kinds of cookies will be needed. Also that day, fresh greens arrangements will be for sale. If you have any greens in your yard - pine, holly, winterberry, boxwood....please bring them in early on that day. We could also use more packs of wet foam. There are artificial wreaths & trees, as well as lights and ornaments in the last room on the middle level. If you'd like to do some creating at home ahead of time, please take supplies or see Lynn about where the stock is. On the Sunday before our first event following worship, we will be doing some set up. Help will be needed moving tables to various areas, as well as bringing baskets up to the narthex entrance once tables & shelves are set up. All hands on deck for our popular annual event!

Bazaar sign-ups are in fellowship hall on the back of the Threshold bulletin board. Please put your name wherever you can help. There are also bazaar flyers on the narthex shelf. Please help to get the word out by posting wherever you can.

BAZAAR SILENT AUCTION

Under the leadership of our one and only Linda Evans, we have already started the collection and

organization of your beautiful contributions to this year's Silent Auction.

There will be a few changes this year:

1. We will be taking bids all three bazaar days, as we used to.
2. Donations can include gift cards and gift card themed baskets, as the Bid to beat Baskets will not be a separate table this year. Gift cards do not have to be in a basket, though.
3. There are two wine racks that would look much more complete if they contained some bottles of wine!
4. We are asking that all of your donations be at the church by **Sunday, October 15**. If you are working on a project that will not be completed until after that date, please let us know.
5. If there is a minimum bid that should be assigned to your treasure, please attach a note to it.
6. Also, please include a brief note if there is anything that makes your donation particularly "special."

As all of us on the Silent Auction committee are also working on other parts of the bazaar, we are asking that your items be in excellent condition and cleaned and/or polished if need be.

Questions? Check with Shirin Platt, Sandi Davis, Deb Miceli, or Cathy Gray.



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, Jenny Brummond, and a church neighbor (thank so much, ladies!) generously donated rhubarb, blueberries, and apples 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



Bazaar time is fast approaching so the Bazaar Baker Chair People are asking all of you to help supply us with items to sell. It is a very popular and profitable part of our bazaar so inventory is needed for each of the three Saturdays. Among homemade items we've had in previous years are preserves, pickles, relish and sweets of all kinds.

Please label your items clearly, noting if nuts are included in the ingredients. We will be featuring pies in the first two Saturdays because they are so close to Thanksgiving. Plates of Christmas cookies will be sold on the third Saturday (December 2nd) so your cookies should be well wrapped and placed in the freezers at church.

A new item this year will be a variety of soups, which can be made ahead, and frozen, using mason jars or plastic containers. Some containers will be available at church.

We are asking that you put a sticker on your baked goods if they have been frozen so that they don't get refrozen.

Thank you for helping make our bake room a successful part of the bazaar.

Carolyn LeRoy, Shirin Platt and Sandi Davi



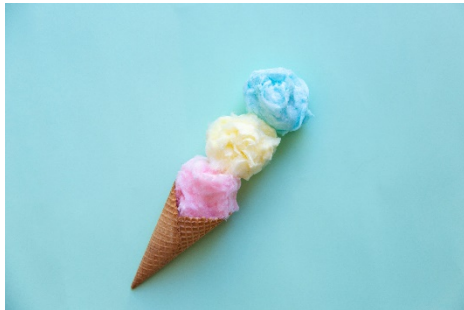
The Grief Group

Meeting next on

Wednesday, October 11

@ 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.



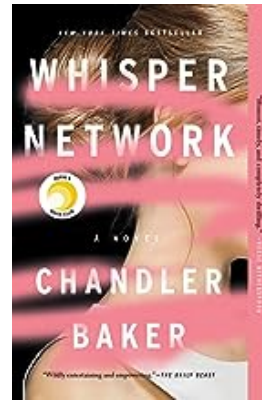
REV. RUTH'S COMMUNITY OFFICE HOURS ARE BACK!!!

Wednesday, October 18 from 1-3pm

Mel's Downtown Creamery!!

Chat and chew on the best ice cream in town!

Special
for
hospitality
us for this



thanks to Mel
extending her
to me and to
vital ministry!!

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: WHISPER NETWORK by Chandler Baker

Our next gathering: (Please note date change!)

Wednesday, October 25 @ 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 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.*



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!

Beverly Barone
44 Governor Avenue, Westerly, RI 02891

Bill & Carol Budnik
332 Burdickville Rd., Charlestown, RI 02813

Bill & Christa Colprit
3 Elizabeth Drive, Pawcatuck, CT 06379



October Birthdays:

Heather Stratton – 1
Judy Stratton – 1
Erin Gray – 7
Melissa Stratton – 10
Julie Grillo - 22
Brooke Foster – 24

October Anniversaries:

Dwayne Spurley & Kevin Dows – 10-26-2013

*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
Office Administrator: 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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