



The Beacon November 2023

“O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; God’s steadfast love endures forever.” Psalm 107:1

November is here! I confess that it has always been my favorite month. I love that the fickle fall weather finally commits to staying colder. I love the incredible natural light of November days, sunlight dancing off leaves in a dozen gorgeous shades. I love that it’s my birthday month and the month when my daughter was born as well. And, I do love Thanksgiving!

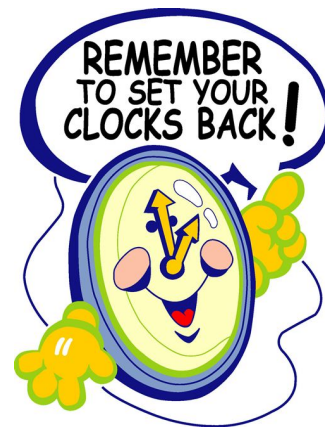
I usually try to remind folks during at least one of our November services that we in the UCC are the modern day iteration of the Puritans of Thanksgiving fame. Of course, these days we know their legacy is not one to admire or emulate since they were ultimately responsible for the demise of Native American tribes throughout colonial New England. And their theology emphasizing “the elect” and predestination was dark and depressing. That’s why I am always so surprised that they are the ones who had the courage to follow God’s promise of hope and new beginnings across an unforgiving ocean to start new lives. In that they are worthy ancestors for us to remember, if nothing else.

This year we are in desperate need of the light and hope and good cheer we find around the Thanksgiving Table. As we gather this year, wars are raging in two different parts of the world, violence is on the increase here in our

own country and we are so weary of all of it. That’s why this year it is so important that we pause to celebrate this time of Thanksgiving. It’s important to stop, take a few deep breaths (10 perhaps 😊) and look for the blessings which still surround us. They are there for sure. We just have to take the time to notice and savor them. After all, that’s what Thanksgiving is all about.

Your sister in faith, Rev. Ruth

IF YOU WANT TO BE ON TIME FOR CHURCH...



THIS SATURDAY, NOV. 4!!!



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.

November 5 – Communion & All Saints Sunday celebration

November 12 – Stewardship Sunday

November 19 – Thanksgiving Sunday

November 26 – Guest Speaker – Shannon DePerry from
Operation Fresh Start

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



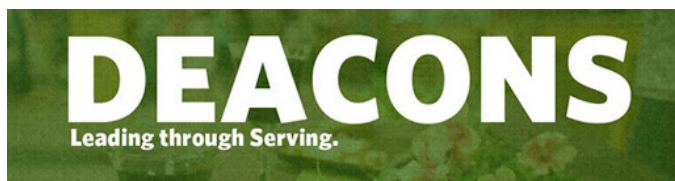
Diaconate Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Telephone #</u>
11/5	Christina Brummund	860-599-1719
11/12	TBD	
11/19	TBD	
11/26	TBD	

Please note we are going to press before the November Deacons meeting so this list has not been updated. Kindly check the Weekly Updates for the Diaconate Person of the Week. Please know you can call any Deacon 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!

As many of you know, we have had an active prayer tree for quite some time. This is a way for prayers to go out quickly when they are requested. We have both phone branches, and an email group. If you would like to be put on the tree, or to withdraw your name, please let any of the Deacons know.



We were grateful to hear the wonderful guest speaker from the Conference, Rev. Isaac Lawson helping out when Pastor Ruth was off due to illness.

While we appreciate the ability to view services from home, especially for those who aren't able to attend in person, please know that we miss seeing you in person. It is good for all of us to

be together, especially as the Holidays approach.

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

The Trustees are pleased to welcome Gary Davis back to the board! Pledges for September were \$5821, \$245 less than the anticipated pledge amount of \$6,066. Total income for September was \$27,841. Total Expenses for September were \$28,088. Thanks to everyone for keeping up with their pledges! The Trustees continue to tackle facilities issues that the building is facing and would like to remind everyone to be mindful of turning off lights, locking doors and putting the heat back. Thank you!



NEWS AND UPDATES FROM THE

MISSIONS BOARD!

Thanks so much to all of you who donated to Grammies Jammies during the month of October. Everyone should be able to warm up during the holidays with new jammies, and you helped to make that possible.



November Toy Drive

Our Mission Board will again be supporting Operation Fresh Start with their November toy drive. Toys for all ages are welcome, but, please, no crayons. Your donations can be placed in and around the basket in front of the altar. The last day for this drive will be Sunday, November 26.

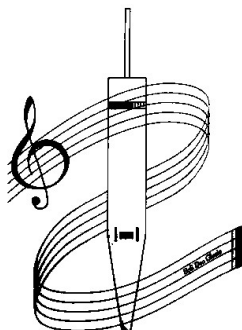


Looking ahead

Adopt-a-Family



This December we will be adopting a family in need in our to help them have a Merry Christmas! Shannon Deperry of OFSNB will explain the process to us during worship on Sunday, November 26. Be sure to join us that day to learn more about this project.



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 to announce that the refurbishment of our organ will be completed on time and on budget! How wonderful to celebrate Advent and Christmas with the organ back to its glory days! Thank you all for your help, support, and generosity!

Jenny Brummund
for the Organ Committee



UPDATES FROM CONGREGATIONAL LIFE!!

We are very excited to announce that our own Erin Blake will be performing in this year's Christmas offering at the Granite Theater in Westerly! She writes, "Erin Blake will be performing at the Granite Theatre once again in Miracle on 34th Street which will be showing December 1-17 on Thursdays-Saturdays at 7:30pm and on Sundays at 2:00 pm. She will be playing the role of Finley and Sharon's Parent. Provided below is a link to learn more about the show and to purchase tickets. It would be a pleasure to have you all there to see it. 😊

Link for Show Tickets and Description: <https://www.granitetheatre.org/miracle-on-34th-street>

PS from Rev. Ruth: I would love to see us take a group to support Erin and have a fun Christmas outing as well. If you are interested, please add

your name to the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board heading into the Hall under the date you prefer. Ticket costs are \$35/adults, \$32 for senior citizens (65+) and \$30 for youth under age 12. There is a \$1.50 processing fee on each ticket and a \$2 transaction fee on each purchase.

THE BAZAAR IS HERE!!!!



BASICS

Dates: Saturday, November 11th & 18, and December 2nd.

Time: 9am – 2pm each day

Volunteers needed! Sign-ups in Fellowship Hall.

- Baked goods, candies, & fudge will be needed each week. This is a very popular area of the bazaar.
- Cookies especially needed for our popular Christmas cookie gift plates on December 2nd.
- Fresh greens & arrangements will be for sale on Dec. 2. 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.
- On Sunday Nov. 5, we will be finalizing set-up. Help will be needed moving tables and chairs, 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 SILENT AUCTION UPDATE!

Under the leadership of our one and only Linda Evans, the collection and organization of your beautiful contributions to this year's Silent Auction are nearly completed. There will be a few changes this year:

1. We will be taking bids on all three bazaar days, as we used to.
2. Bidding closes at 1pm on Saturday, Dec. 2nd.
3. Winners will be tabulated and announced shortly thereafter.

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



BAZAAR GOODIES UPDATE!

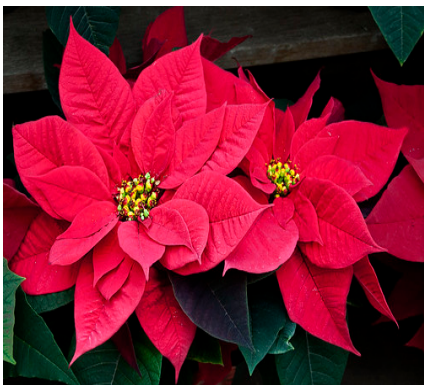
The first Bazaar is almost here and some serious baking is underway! We could still use more pies, especially for Nov. 11 & 18. A reminder to bakers that we do have some items in stock in our Bazaar Baking Pantry. Check with Shirin to see if we have what you might need. Special thanks to everyone who has donated so generously to the pantry with items and cash! This has been a huge help to our baking efforts!! If you have been baking and have some of your items frozen, we are asking that you put a sticker on them indicating this so that they don't get refrozen.

Don't forget that other food items are also very popular at the Bazaar! Among homemade items we've had in previous years are preserves, pickles, relish and sweets of all kinds. If you have some to donate, please label your items clearly, noting if nuts are included in the ingredients.

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.

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

Carolyn LeRoy, Shirin Platt and Sandi Davis



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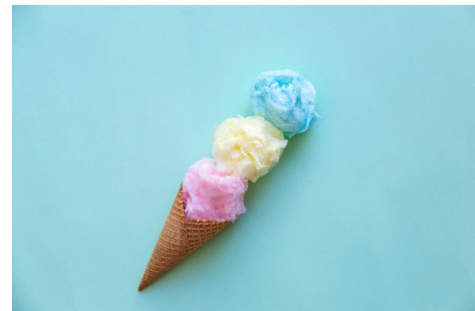
Yes, it's that time of the year again! We will soon be taking Poinsettia orders for adornment of our Christmas Eve Service in our lovely sanctuary. McQuade's is checking on prices and will get back to us in the very near future. Just a heads up so you can be thinking about your orders. Please contact Carol with any questions.



The Grief Group – Please note new meeting time!!

November dates:
Wednesday, 11/15 & 29
11:00am

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, November 8 & 22 from
1-3pm

Mel's Downtown Creamery!!

Come chat and enjoy
the best ice cream in town!

Special thanks to Mel for extending her hospitality to us for this vital ministry!!



BOOKS is meeting for lunch!

Due to Rev. Ruth's recent illness, we've had to cancel this group several times. We decided to celebrate by meeting for lunch hosted at one of our members' homes. If you'd like to join us you are certainly welcome! Call Rev. Ruth for details.

Our book: WHISPER NETWORK
by Chandler Baker

Our next gathering: (Please note date change!)

Wednesday, November 15 @ 12:30pm

If you are on the Books email list, you will find details there. If you are not on the list but would like to join us, please call Rev. Ruth.

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.



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!

Robert "Bobby" Cornell
168 Liberty Street, Pawcatuck, CT 06379

Joan Edmond
65 Cross Street, Westerly, RI 02891

Asael Hill
64 School Street, #2, Westerly, RI 02891



November Birthdays:

Megan Gray – 5
Kali Woodhall – 6
Amanda Hainsworth – 8
John Walker – 21
Rev. Ruth – 21

Vera Leming – 23
Christina Brummund – 25
Caleb Stratton - 29

*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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