



"I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert." - Isaiah 43:19b

June is a busy month, any way you look at it. Proms, graduations, scholarship ceremonies, and the requisite parties and celebrations take center stage for sure. June is also PRIDE month where we pause to recognize and celebrate the uniquely wonderful members of the LGBTQ+ community through events throughout the country and even here in our own Westerly-Pawcatuck area. Be sure to check out the article here in the *Beacon* that details how we will be supporting the local **PRIDE in the Park** event on June 7. I hope you'll stop by to see what PRIDE is all about.

In addition, this month we will be celebrating a truly fun event created to raise financial resources specifically for our Organ Fund. **The Card and Game Party** takes place on Tuesday, June 17 and, among other wonderful fellowship opportunities shared over brownie sundaes (GF options provided), you get to play cards or games with friends! How great is that! It's also an important reminder that even though our organ has been refurbished successfully, it will require ongoing maintenance to maintain its vitality. This is especially exciting now that we know the persistent roof leak over the organ has been fixed completely! Yay! Way to go Trustees!

Here you will also find articles describing summer plans for worship, including while I am off on vacation in July as well as what all of our boards and committees are working on. Honestly, we are quite the vital church, small though we may be. It is truly amazing what our little group of intrepid folks continues to accomplish. I think we forget that sometimes. Please take the time to read this newsletter which summarizes the efforts of so many in our little church. It is really quite amazing!

In these days so filled with unexpected and frequently unwelcome changes in our lives from situations beyond our control, it is wise to remember that we are a community of God's faithful people. We may not always agree on everything, but we can agree on one thing – God is with us, always, showing us the way forward, even when we can't always see it for ourselves. How blessed are we!

Your sister in Christ, *Rev. Ruth*

PLEASE NOTE THAT I WILL BE ON VACATION from Thursday, July 10, through Monday, July 28. Please contact the Deacons for any pastoral concerns or emergencies while I am away. They will be able to reach me at any time if needed.



Rev. Ruth's
Community Office Hours



Come visit me at Martin House Books (in the old Savoy Bookstore space!) from 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM on Thursdays, June 5th & 26th

WORSHIP SUNDAY

9:45AM

Our Sunday morning worship service is held in-person and broadcast live on Facebook.

June 1 – Scholarship Sunday & Communion

June 8 – Celebrating Pentecost

June 15 – Celebrating Special Men in our lives
& a Special Thank you to our choirs!

June 22 – Celebrating Summer

June 29 – PRIDE Summer

July 6 – Celebrating July 4th & Communion

July 13* – Guest preacher Rev. Dr. Ede Steele

July 20* – Celebrating Poetry

July 27* – Celebrating Singing Hymns

Please speak with Rev. Ruth if you would like a hard copy of the weekly sermon.



Diaconate Schedule for June

June 1 – Lynn Murray (401) 450-9249

June 8 – Allana Allik (860) 599-5212

June 15 – Joann Spurley (401) 714-8948

June 22 – Christina Brummund (860) 599-1719

June 29 – Bethany Foster (401) 539-4003

Diaconate Schedule for July

July 6 – Bethany Foster (401) 539-4003

July 13 – Lynn Murray (401) 450-9249

July 20 – Christina Brummund (860) 599-1719

July 27 – Allana Allik (860) 599-5212

Please know you can call any Deacon at any time with your joys, concerns, and prayer requests.



News From the Deacons

At the last Deacons meeting, we discussed plans for the summer, including Sundays during Pastor Ruth's vacation. We have some back up plans and are still finalizing speakers for those weeks. We are grateful to Gary Davis for delivering the message on Memorial Day weekend.

June 1st is Barbara Murano Scholarship Sunday, where we will be hearing from our recipients as they will be reading their application essays and we will be giving scholarships to Hazel and Ivy Allik. Please join us that Sunday, as we reflect on the teaching career of Barbara Murano, who was also a friend and colleague of Becky Morrone. There will be a nice coffee hour afterwards.

We are still researching ideas for an item memorializing Linda Evans. We are exploring sea glass items, as we know how much she loved sea glass.

The Deacons will be taking a break from our meetings for June and July. Our August meeting is our annual pot luck dinner on Lynn's deck (which usually ensures it rains and drought conditions will end). If you'd like to join us that evening, please join the board & have a casual meeting with the rest of us.

I would also like to thank all who worked so hard to make the annual indoor yard sale a success. We made just over \$1000, and Jonnycake Center benefited from our leftovers.

Respectfully submitted,
Lynn Murray



Trustees Notes

Pledges for April were \$5,143, \$839 less than the anticipated pledge amount of \$5,982. Total income for April was \$13,164. Total expenses for April were \$13,920.

Should you notice something in the building that needs attention, please speak to any trustee.

New Trash Collection

As most of you are probably aware there is a new trash pickup service in Stonington. In January, the Town's contracted trash hauler, Mr. Frank Crandall of F.E. Crandall Disposal, notified the Town he had retired and CWPM, LLC had taken over his contracts, equipment and personnel.

The traditional collection method that was utilized by F.E. Crandall Disposal has become obsolete. CWPM utilizes carts for effective trash collection. Carts were distributed to residents in early April and we noted that the church did not receive carts. We contacted the Stonington Solid Waste Department and were informed that since we are not a residential property, we are not eligible for the new collection service. Therefore, we had to contract for commercial trash collection.

The Trustees contracted with Casella for our trash disposal. They supplied us with two carts;

the black one is for trash and the blue one is for recyclables. The carts are located outside the kitchen door. Casella will collect our trash once per month at the cost of \$16.85 per month (\$10.28 for trash and \$6.57 for recyclables). Our pick-up day is the second Tuesday of the month.

Please note that we do not have to use the yellow Stonington bags anymore. Regular trash bags can be used. The list of recyclable material has not changed. All trash and recyclables should be placed in the carts and not kept in the kitchen area.

From the Financial Secretary



If you would like to make a special donation this summer, consider a Pentecost offering to our church, or a UCC

Missions offering to “Strengthen the Church,” which will be collected throughout the summer. Thank you all for your faithful pledges, as always!

Jenny Brummund



Update from our Music Ministries

Choir Rehearsal -- Our last day or rehearsal for the season is Wednesday, June 11th. See you in the fall!

AA Battery Donations are always appreciated! Duracell, Energizer, and other major brands are preferred.



Pollinator Team Updates

There is still a generous pile of wood chips available in the middle of the meadow—free for the

taking! Feel free to help yourself, and thank you for any support in reducing the pile so we can begin restoring the meadow’s flowers and grasses in that area.

The wood chip pile is now easily visible, thanks to Gary Davis' hard work in clearing the meadow. We know this was a labor-intensive task, so thank you, Gary!

We also extend our gratitude to Gary, Kathy, and Fred Tarasuk for their dedicated efforts in removing the piles of wood and brush left behind after last fall’s tree limb removal. Your work over the past few weeks has helped clear this delicate woodland space, ensuring that understory plants, shrubs, trees, and grasses can thrive this spring.

Members of the Pollinator Team have worked out an informal weeding schedule for the summer! Please feel free to join us anytime!

The Pollinator Team

Claire Calabretta, Christina Brummund, Sandi Davis, Heidi Grillo, Rev. Ruth



Missions for June/July

“In the Middle” School Supplies Drive

Our annual "In the Middle" School Supplies Drive is back! Running throughout June, July, and the first half of August, this initiative continues to support middle school students on both sides of the Pawcatuck River.

To ensure students receive exactly what they need, we've consulted local middle school guidance counselors to update our supply list.



They will oversee distribution with the utmost discretion, ensuring assistance reaches those who need it most. Many of these items

may go on sale in the coming months, making it a great time to stock up and contribute.

- Quality pencils (like Ticonderoga) that sharpen well or are already sharpened
- Handheld pencil sharpeners
- Thin markers
- Highlighters
- 3-ring binders (1 1/2")
- 3-ring binder paper
- Binder dividers with tabs
- Pencil cases that go in 3-ring binders and small change purses
- One-subject notebooks
- Cap erasers for pencils and regular erasers
- Glue sticks
- Sticky notes
- Double-pocket folders
- Index cards
- Mini hand sanitizers
- Rulers
- Clipboards
- Basic calculators
- Plastic sheet protectors
- **And—especially needed—boxes of tissues**

**Note: NB Backpacks are no longer a priority.*

The school supplies drive will run officially from the beginning of June until **August 24**, when we will bless them in church, split the goods in half, and then deliver them to the schools. Please place all donations in the basket at the altar.

Let's not forget the PNC during the summer months ahead. This is such a slow



time of the year for donations to local food pantries, at a time when the need is greater than ever. Why not make it a goal to bring at least one or two non-perishable

items to church every week and place them in the PNC basket at the upper parking lot side of the sanctuary! Think of how our donation will increase if we all make that commitment!



Operation Fresh Start



Wow!!! Our Annual Plant and Artisan Craft Sale and Raffle was a HUGE success!!

We had so many plants donated that we extended the sale to the following day, and people kept coming and coming, even during the next week. Whew! It was a record-breaker, for sure. Thanks go out to all of those individuals and businesses who donated plants and raffle prizes, bought the plants and raffle tickets, set up for the event, and volunteered their time to work. A big thanks also to Jersey Mike's Subs in Westerly for donating three trays of their yummy subs to feed the hungry workers.

Bouquets and Reusable Totes



Our friends at the Pawcatuck Stop and Shop are sponsoring

a fundraiser for Operation Fresh Start during the month of June by selling special flower bouquets and reusable tote bags, the profits from which will be donated to OFS. Look for special bouquets in the florist department and totes near the self-check section. What a great time to treat someone special in your life to some beautiful flowers and also to replenish your old reusable totes.

School Supplies



Operation Fresh Start will be collecting school supplies during June and July to give us plenty of time to organize all of the backpacks, pencil boxes, etc. that go out to school

children of all ages in the early part of August.

OPERATION FRESH START SCHOOL SUMMER SCHOOL SUPPLIES DRIVE

THIS IS DIFFERENT THAN OUR MISSION "IN THE MIDDLE SCHOOL SUPPLIES DRIVE".

- Backpacks
- Water bottles
- Pencil cases and boxes
- #2 Sharpened pencils
- Hand sanitizers
- Pens of all colors
- Highlighters
- Erasers of all sizes
- Index cards
- Binders
- NOT spiral notebooks
- NOT pocket folders
- Washable markers
- Loose-leaf lined paper
- Post-its
- Scissors
- Rulers
- Small packs of tissues



**Make a
difference**

Donations for Operation Fresh Start should be placed in the baskets in the Bell Courtyard Narthex. Thanks so much for all of your help!



UCCW Books is an on-going discussion group ministry of UCC Westerly. We are a group of folks who love to read, talk about what we read, or just talk. Everyone is welcome!

Our next gathering...

Wednesday, June 25 @ 12:00PM

A special luncheon is being planned for us by one of our members for this date so you must RSVP to Rev. Ruth or the office!

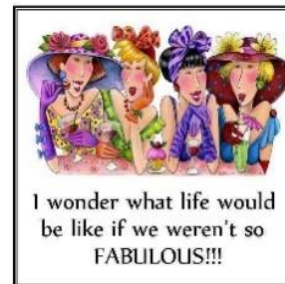
What we're reading...



The House We Grew Up In by Lisa Jewell

Books are available to borrow through your local library or for purchase through your favorite local bookstore.

UCCW Ladies Who Lunch



This is a fellowship group for the ladies of our church with no agenda other than fun! We meet approximately once a month for lunch, conversation and general frivolity.

Our next gathering...

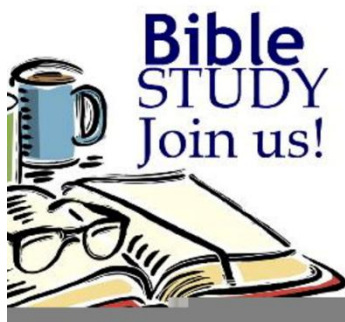


When: Wednesday, August 20
@ 12 noon

Where: Breakwater – 66 Water St., Stonington

A Sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board outside Fellowship Hall. Hope to see you there!

Advance registration is a must as we will be making reservations a week before! Our count has to be accurate so if you want to attend, please sign up or call Jerin in the office (860-599-1226) to add you to the list. Thanks!



Our Wednesday morning Bible Study group is taking a break for the summer but we will return on **September 24 @ 10am** to continue with Unit 2 of “Dickinson Bible Study” Series produced by the Massachusetts Bible Society. All with a curiosity about the Bible and how to read and understand it are welcome to attend! Come and bring a friend. This is not only for church members but for the whole community! This Bible Study is designed to deepen your understanding of the Bible – what it is and how use it to empower YOU to decide for yourself what it means.



Pride in the Park

June 7th – Noon until 2:00 PM

The ONA Team of UCC Westerly will be representing our church at Westerly PRIDE in Wilcox Park on Saturday, June 7 from 12 noon to 2pm! This is a really fun event and an excellent way for you to show your support of the LGBTQ+ community in our area. Unfortunately, not everyone is kind and respectful to these particular friends of ours so our full throated supported is more important than ever! Please stop to greet folks at the UCC Westerly table and just to experience the uniqueness that this event brings to our community. **RAIN OR SHINE! Inside the library if it's raining!**



Card & Game Party **Tuesday, June 17 @ 1pm**

Last chance to purchase tickets
Sunday, June 15th

UCC Westerly proudly presents an afternoon of fun and games! Form a table of four and bring your own cards or games to play. Enjoy brownie sundaes with coffee or tea. Dairy free and gluten free options will be available. Tickets are \$10 per person and proceeds benefit the Organ Fund. Arrival time is set for 1:00PM on Tuesday, June 17th. Please contact Jenny Brummund for tickets.



Bazaar Pantry Already? Yup!



Yes, believe it or not, even though summer has barely begun, UCC bakers and canners are already hard at work—making and prepping jams, jellies, pickles, relishes, butters, and more! It's shaping up to be a busy summer as we prepare for our two bazaars this fall.

We'll be filling dozens upon dozens of canning jars, using more pounds of sugar and bottles of



vinegar than we can count, and chopping up heaps of fresh fruits and vegetables —

some even grown in our own gardens. We're also stocking our freezers with fruits and vegetables to use in baking and soup making later. And all of this happens before the baking even begins! Boggles the mind, doesn't it?

In past years, some of you have mentioned that you're unable to bake for the bazaars or don't have the time. We all know our customers expect homemade goods—not store-bought—so how can you still help? Contributing to our bazaar pantry would be a huge support! A list of our baking needs is included at the end of this article.

Don't worry if we receive more of an item than we can use this year. If it has an extended expiration date, we'll save it for next year or donate it to the PNC in January. While you're out shopping, grab any sale items from our list and drop them in the designated basket in Fellowship Hall or the kitchen, labeled for the bazaar pantry. We'll store them in plastic tubs in the kitchen closet so our bakers, soup makers, and canners can access them when they fire up their canners, soup pots, or ovens.

Have extra frozen fruits or vegetables to share? No problem! Just place them in the kitchen freezer and label them for the bazaar. It's that easy—no sign-ups, no stress.

Thank you so much for any help you can provide—you have no idea how much we appreciate it!

And, by the way, please return your empty jars from last year!

Not up for shopping? Monetary donations are also gratefully accepted!

Bazaar Pantry Shopping List

(*** = Needed now)

Dry Goods

- ***Granulated sugar
- Light Brown sugar
- Dark Brown sugar
- Confectioners' sugar
- Molasses

- Vegetable oil
- Solid Crisco
- Peanut butter
- Chocolate chips (also white, butterscotch, peanut butter, and cinnamon chips)
- Cocoa—regular and dark
- ***Cider vinegar
- 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)—please wrap lightly and place in the freezer
- Plant butter (Earth Balance sticks)—same as above
- Eggs—closer to the bazaar

Packaging

- Plastic clamshells
- Cardboard pie boxes
- Plastic quart and pint-sized soup containers
- ***Glass Mason jars—quart, pint, half pint, and jelly jars*** (with lids if possible)

Sincerely and gratefully,

Your bazaar bakers, soup makers, and canners

Calling All Canning Jars



Have you purchased canned jams, jellies, relishes, pickles, etc. at the bazaars in the past? Or, do you have empty canning jars from your mom, grandmother, neighbor, or friend just sitting round your kitchen or basement, taking up

space? Well, this is the time to make some space in your house and help out the canners in the church. Please return or recycle those jars to the basket in Fellowship Hall to help us out. We will be eternally grateful! Thanks so much!

Prayer Tree



Our church has a very active and vital prayer ministry which includes, among other

things, our Prayer Tree. If you would like to be a member of our prayer team or if you would like the team to pray for you, please speak with any Deacon.

Brighten Someone's Day...



Suggestions for folks who might enjoy a card or note.

George & Cathy Gray

11 Bluebird Lane, Ashaway, RI 02804

Judy Stratton

71 School Street, Westerly, RI 02891

Martha Evans

7 Scot Circle, Charlestown, RI 02813



June Birthdays

Eric Sadowski

Emma Sugar

June Anniversaries

Edward & Judy Stratton

Douglas D. & Yana Brummund

July Birthdays

Kevin Dows

Cody Lanphere

R. Joann Spurley

Douglas Brummund

Ane Torres

Piper Ainsworth

Michelle MacDonald

Elvis Torres

July Anniversaries

Gary & Sandi Davis

Elvis & Ane Torres

Please add your special days by calling the church office at (860) 599-1226.

We are no longer providing specific birthday dates as an added measure of confidentiality for folks.

Call for Fabric

Jerin is searching for fabric to refresh the bulletin boards. If you have any materials that might work, please feel free to drop them off at the office. Thank you!



Our Staff

Pastor: The Rev. Ruth Shilling Hainsworth
Organist & Choirs Director: David Cranmer
Church Operations Coord.: Jerin Peloquin

Contact Us

Address: 9 Castle Hill Road, Pawcatuck, CT 06379

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Website: www.uccwesterly.org

Office Hours

Tuesday 9 AM - 1 PM

Wednesday 9 AM - 12 PM

Thursday 9 AM - 1 PM

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