



*"Gather to me my faithful ones,
who made a covenant with me."
Psalm 50:5*

August is here and the end of summer is in sight! I'm back from vacation and it's time to begin wrapping our heads and hearts around what God might have in mind for our beloved church in the weeks ahead. Our church calendar is already filling up and important conversations await us in our board and committee meetings, and in Church Council as we come face to face with the Bazaar happening faster than we might want to think!

Some things are already on the schedule and others are in the talking phase and will be added as conversations continue and details become clearer. In the meantime, I ask you to go back and read that Scripture verse at the top of this article again. Notice that it is an invitation to gather together as God's faithful ones as we are always doing every time we come together for worship, for meetings and study groups. This is the work of the church. This is the life of the church – gathering together in community on a regular basis. Sometimes it feels as though our broadcast ministry of Sunday morning worship works against us in this regard as we know it is so much easier to sleep in a little bit longer, have the leisurely cup of coffee and watch the service from home. Actually, it's quite flattering to know this is a regular thing for many of you because you find meaning and a way to meet your own needs for rest as well as spiritual support provided through the Sunday service. Unfortunately, what works well for individuals, is not always a good thing for the church where face to face community is central to who the church is and how it functions.

The church is the place where the people of God come together to deepen our understanding of the Bible, of faith, of how God is acting in our lives. Some of that can happen

through our digital ministries, but not all of it. So, a primary task for each of us, for all of us, in the days and weeks ahead is to make the effort, in so far as you are able, to come and join us in person for worship at least once or twice a month. Make the extra effort to allow the sacredness of our beautiful sanctuary seep into your soul in a way only possible when you are here. Experience the richness of our music ministry live. Savor the sweetness of the Communion elements on your tongue as your soul finds nourishment in this, your family of faith here at UCC Westerly.

Please look for details on one such event coming up in September – our ***Homecoming Sunday scheduled for September 21.*** Everyone is enthusiastically invited to join us for a joyous worship service with prayers, Scripture, song and a message from yours truly. Stay for a special fellowship time. Bring yourself! Bring your friends and family members! Just come and help us remember what it looks like when the pews are fuller, the singing more robust, the prayers touching so many lives.

Come join us, dear ones. Some of you have been away far too long and you are missed. Others of our faithful folks, thank you for being here all the time and doing the work of faith, no matter the cost. The thing is, God loves us all, all the time. God hears our prayers all the time, wherever we are. Being here, even now and then, is the least we can do to let God know that God's presence in our lives is known and celebrated. I'll be looking for you!!!

Your sister in Christ,

Rev. Ruth



Rev. Ruth's
Community Office Hours



Come visit me at Martin House Books (in the old Savoy Bookstore space!) on Thursdays, August 7th & 21st, from 1:00-3:00 PM.



AUGUST WORSHIP SCHEDULE

- **Aug 3rd** - Worship at 9:45AM, Communion Sunday
- **Aug 10th** - Worship at 9:45AM, Church Council Meeting at 11:00AM
- **Aug 17th** - Worship at 9:45AM
- **Aug 24th** - Worship at 9:45AM, Blessing of the School Supplies
- **Aug 31st** - Worship at 9:45AM, Missions Sunday

Sermon topics and scripture texts for each week appear in the Weekly Email. Also, please speak with Rev. Ruth if you would like a hard copy of any sermon.



AUGUST DIACONATE SCHEDULE

- Aug 3rd** - Joann Spurley (401) 714-8948
Aug 10th - Allana Allik (860) 599-5212
Aug 17th - Joann Spurley (401) 714-8948
Aug 24th - Lynn Murray (401) 450-9249
Aug 31st - TBA

NEWS FROM THE DEACONS

The Deacons were honored to once again present the Barbara Murano scholarship this year. Congratulations to our recipients, Hazel Allik and Ivy Allik. We are grateful for Rev. Ede Steele preaching during one of Pastor Ruth's vacation weeks. Also, once again, Poetry Sunday and Hymn Sing Sunday seem to have been well received. Thank you to those who attended those services and participated. As you know, there have been glitches with our streaming system, which has prevented us from having virtual services for the last few weeks. It will be a topic of discussion at our

next meeting following Pastor Ruth's return. We appreciated your patience as well as in person attendance for those who are able.
Lynn Murray, Chairperson

TRUSTEES NOTES



Pledges for May were \$4,556, \$1,426 less than the anticipated pledge amount of \$5,982. Total income for May was

\$13,712. Total expenses for May were \$10,188.

If you are interested in the financial aspects of the church, please consider becoming a trustee! Speak to Pastor Ruth or any trustee. Should you notice something in the building that needs attention, please speak to any trustee.

FROM THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY



Hello Church Friends,

I hope you are having a wonderful summer! I'm sending out a special thank you to those of you

who so faithfully mail in your pledge each month. Although you may not be able to attend church as often as you would like, or at all, you are mindful and generous to continue your financial support of UCC Westerly. You are always in our prayers and we think of you with love!

As always, please contact me with any questions or concerns regarding your financial statement, pledge or donations.

Jenny Brummund



UPDATE FROM OUR MUSIC MINISTRIES

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



MISSIONS FOR AUGUST

“In the Middle” School Supplies Drive

Our annual "In the Middle" School Supplies Drive continues through the first half of August, this initiative supports middle school students on both sides of the Pawcatuck River.

These items are already on sale. We have consulted with local middle school guidance counselors to update this list. They, in fact, will be the ones to distribute items to those students in need, so that the utmost discretion will be taken.

- Pencils of good quality (like Ticonderoga) that sharpen well or that 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 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 these hot summer months!



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!



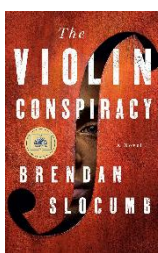
BOOKS

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, September 17th at 12PM Noon In the church parlor

WHAT WE'RE READING...



'The Violin Conspiracy'
by *Brendan Slocumb*

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

I wonder
what life
would be
like...



If we weren't so
fabulous!

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 20th at 12:00 PM Noon

Where: Breakwater in Stonington Boro

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

Advanced Registration is a MUST! We will be making reservations a week prior so please sign-up by Wednesday, August 13th. If you would like to be added to the list please call or email Jerin in the office at (860) 599-1226 or uccwesterly@gmail.com Thank you!



BAZAAR PANTRY!

UCC bakers and canners are already at it, making or prepping to make jams, jellies, pickles, relishes, butters, etc.! It is already a busy summer preparing for our two bazaars this fall. We are filling dozens and dozens of canning jars, using more pounds of sugar and bottles of vinegar than we can count, and cutting up pounds and pounds of fresh fruits and vegetables, some even grown in our own gardens. We are also filling our freezers with fruits and vegetables to be used in baking and soup making later. The same members who will give so much of their time and energy this summer need to purchase or grow much of our own ingredients. And, that is even before the baking begins! Boggles the mind, doesn't it?

In years past some of you lamented that you are no longer able or do not have the time to bake or can 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 designated basket in Fellowship Hall or in the kitchen and label it for the bazaar pantry; then, we will store it in the plastic tubs in the kitchen closet for our

bakers, soup makers, and canners to access 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 freezer in the kitchen and label them 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!

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

Not up for shopping, either? 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 around 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.

Charlotte Korean & Rosemary Jette

c/o Westerly Healthcare Center

280 High Street, Westerly, RI 02891

Karen Wright (Dorothy Oehrle's daughter)

128 Anvil Drive, Avon, CT 06001

Sandra Hoffman

22 Horne Drive, Westerly, RI 02891



AUGUST SPECIAL DAYS

Birthdays

- Rosemary Jette
- Sandi Davis
- Liz Dessaulles
- Amanda Dessaulles
- Bethany Foster
- Eli Ainsworth

Anniversaries

- George & Cathy Gray

Please add in 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 our folks.



OUR STAFF

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

CONTACT US

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OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday 9 AM - 1 PM
Wednesday 9 AM - 12 PM
Thursday 9 AM - 1 PM

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