



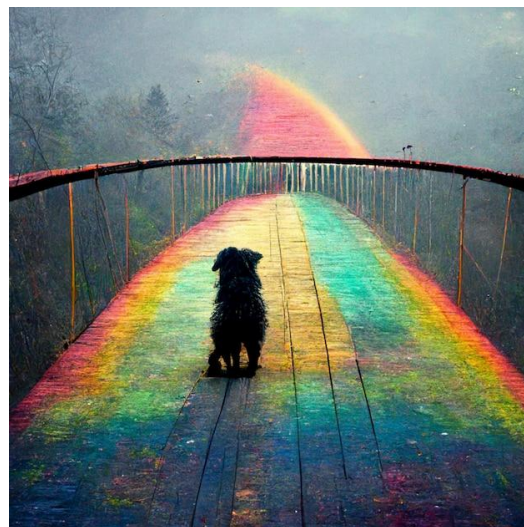
"For there is still a vision for the appointed time; it speaks of the end and does not lie. If it seems to tarry, wait for it [for] it will surely come. Habakkuk 2:3

This beautiful text from Habakkuk is actually one of the lectionary readings for this week, and it is amazingly timely. As we go to press on this, much is uncertain in the face of a government shutdown making our already anxious lives feel even more fretful and worrisome. In these verses, Habakkuk - a prophet - is reminding us that there is still a vision, a plan, for the time we are living through. Even if we can't see it and perhaps don't even quite trust it, we can be sure it is still there, still unfolding and will continue to do so. Why can we know this? Because the plan is God's. God's plan is still working itself out, right here in our midst as a church and in our individual persons and families. I realize those words are not necessarily much comfort, but they are still true. Our work in the church in this moment is to remind one another of God's presence and God's truth always revealing itself in surprising ways. We may not always be able to see it, Habakkuk tells us. But it's still there, waiting for God's time to reveal itself. Habakkuk knows how difficult this is for us because he tells us quite directly, "if it seems to tarry, wait for it" because it will surely come.

Well, we sure hope so. But it still doesn't make these anxious days any less anxious, does it. Still, we are here and part of this faith community where we can turn for comfort and support and, most importantly, hope. That dear friends is truly gift and blessing that never goes away.

This reminder of the church's role in our lives and in the community is what is at the root of this Sunday's ALL BOARDS meeting in Fellowship Hall following worship. We will meet at 11:15am for a very specific and targeted conversation about how it is we, as this church we love, will be organizing ourselves to continue to do God's work in our community. Kindly note that I will be sending out a mailing shortly with an agenda and a plan for our time together. My original hope was that this would be a longer meeting, perhaps with a meal, but it became obvious that just would not work with folks' schedules at this time. But that does not change how very important this meeting, this conversation, is as we reflect together on our church in the future. Everyone serving on a board, plus all committees and teams are invited and strongly encouraged to come. Everyone not currently serving in one of those capacities is also encouraged to come. I am confident you will find it to be an hour and 15 minutes well invested. Thank you in advance for coming.

Your sister in Christ,
Rev. Ruth



RAINBOW BRIDGE SUNDAY!
October 5, 2025
9:45am

Please join us and bring a photo or some memento of your beloved pet now in God's nearer presence for a blessing.
ALL WELCOME!



Rev. Ruth's Community Office Hours

Come visit me at Martin House Books (in the old Savoy Bookstore space!) on Thursdays, October 2nd and 16th, from 1:00 PM -3:00 PM.



OCTOBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Oct. 5 - Worship at 9:45AM with Communion
Rev. Ruth preaching on Mary, Jesus' Mother

Oct. 12 - Worship at 9:45AM with Rev. Ruth
preaching on Anna the prophet

Oct. 19 - Worship at 9:45AM with Rev. Ruth
preaching on Mary Magdalene

Oct. 26 - Worship at 9:45AM with Rev. Ruth
preaching on Rhoda

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.



OCTOBER DIACONATE SCHEDULE

Oct. 5 - Bethany Foster

Oct. 12 - Lynn Murray

Oct. 19 - Joann Spurley

Oct. 26 - Christina Brummund

NEWS FROM THE DEACONS

Many thanks to those who donated in the Middle school supplies. They were greatly appreciated by the staff and students at Western Hills Middle School. We received more than a dozen hand written thank you notes.

It was so nice to see new faces on Welcome Back Sunday, as well as members we haven't

seen in a while. Mission Sunday on September 28th saw us blessing the many pairs of socks that have been donated. Thank you all!

Rainbow Bridge Sunday will be October 5th, where we will remember the pets that we have lost. Feel free to bring a photo to place on the altar. An option we have discussed is the return of our visitation team, where folks can visit our shut ins who are unable to attend church in person, or possibly even on line. If you haven't seen the sea glass item in the parlor, in memory of Linda Evans, please have a look. We will be having a formal dedication of it on All Saints Sunday, November 2nd. A consideration the board has discussed is having a token gift to present to any guest speaker, such as a mug with our logo on it. We are also considering acquiring tote bags with our logo or a message from us for guest speakers, or even bazaar shoppers.

Bazaar time is coming up quickly! Sign-up sheets are in fellowship hall, as well as flyers to be put in public wherever you can. So many hands are needed in all areas of the bazaar to make it the success it always is. As a reminder, our dates are November 15th and December 6th. Set up times for various areas will be planned soon. Please share information about our wonderful bazaar with friends and family.

Lynn Murray
Deacon Chairperson

TRUSTEES NOTES



Pledges for August \$5,868, \$114 less than the anticipated pledge amount of \$5,982. Total income for August was \$11,330. Total expenses for August were \$7,416.

Several noteworthy items the Trustees discussed included the following:

- Receiving with great regret the resignation of Jerin Peloquin, our Church Operations Coordinator. The Trustees are currently

reviewing options for how to proceed with hiring for our staffing needs.

- The Trustees approved an expenditure of \$300 to support the efforts of our Bazaar bakers!
- Ongoing property issues reviewed as always, short and long term.
- Approved the Stewardship season plan for this year.

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!

Here is a quick reminder that there are many ways to fulfill your financial pledge to our church. Select from one or

more of the following methods:

- Place your pledge in the collection plate any Sunday.
- Mail it into UCC Westerly, 9 Castle Hill Rd. Pawcatuck, CT 06379
- Use the electronic Donation platform found on our website: www.uccwesterly.org
(You may choose to have your donation come from a credit, debit, checking, or savings account)
- Set up your own automatic donation system through your financial planner/institution.

Timing? Folks donate in any way that works for them: weekly, monthly, quarterly, twice a year, annually, whenever you can swing it! The wonderful thing is that we support our church financially, which "pays the bills and the salaries". You can review our financial statement in January's Annual Report.

Many of us have special collections that are dear to our hearts, such as Missions, UCC-specific themed Donations, which pop up several times a year, holidays, the Deacons' Fund to support those near and dear to us in need, Music and Organ Funds, Bazaar Baking donations, The Pollinator Garden, Endowment Fund, Memorial Donations, etc. We have

diverse interests and we support them how and when we are able.

Thank you, faithful UCC Members and Friends!
Jenny Brummund,

Financial Secretary

UPDATE FROM OUR MUSIC MINISTRIES



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

Voice Choir and Tone Chimes News

If you want to give the Tone Chimes a try, come to one of our practices after the worship service! We usually practice after worship on the Sundays prior to our "performance," as well as before church on the Sundays of the performance.

2025-26 will follow roughly the same practice/performance schedule as last year,



with the Voice Choir featured in two consecutive Sunday services, alternating with the Tone Chimes for two weeks. It's easy to be in both choirs!

We are small but dedicated groups, and we have some laughs while we learn. Music is a way to express faith, praise, and biblical verse. We hope you will join us this year!

Jenny Brummund, reporting for David Cranmer 😊

"My heart is steadfast, O God; I will sing and make music with all my soul. Awake, harp and lyre! I will awaken the dawn." —Psalm 108:1



MISSIONS NEWS FOR OCTOBER

The nights are getting cooler and it's time to get out our jammies! Can you imagine not having a nice pair of pajamas to snuggle up in

at bedtime? Well, there are plenty of children and adults that don't have that luxury.

In October our mission collection will be supporting Operation Fresh Start's Annual Grammie's Jammies drive again. What fun we



had with this the last time we participated! As we have found, there are many very

cool pjs out there, and they are just waiting for us to scarf them up! The greatest need is for the large sizes for kids, women, and men.

The official flyer for the OFS drive is below, and we have the honor of being one of the collection points. All you have to do is make your purchase and bring it to church. Our collection bins will be at the altar.

Operation Fresh Start
Annual Grammie's Jammies Pajama Drive with Operation Fresh Start
Help us provide warm hearts and sweet dreams to area residents in need
Drop Off Dates: October 1-31
New pajamas sizes 12 months to adult XXL male and female

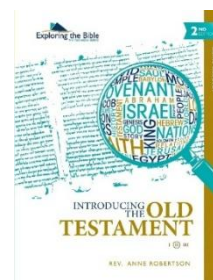
- The Fun Co - Westerly
- Polar Play - Westerly
- Martin House Books - Westerly
- Stonington Free Library - Stonington
- Stonington Town Hall - Stonington
- Dog Watch Cafe - Stonington
- Rum Tropics in Velvet Mill - Stonington
- Stonington Como - Stonington
- Mel's Downtown Creamery - Pawcatuck
- Select Physical Therapy - Pawcatuck
- United Congregational Church - Pawcatuck
- Dime Bank - Ledyard
- McQuade's - Mystic
- Kiddy & Co Daycare - North Stonington
- Wheeler Library - North Stonington

For donations via mail:
Attn: Shannon DePerry
93 Sunrise Ave, Pawcatuck CT 06379
www.operationfreshstartinc.com

scan for our Walmart Wishlist

Down the Road

In November and December, we will be participating again in Operation Fresh Start's Adopt-a-family program for the Christmas season. What a great success this was last year! As soon as we have our assigned family, we will put the information out there.



Wednesday Morning Bible Study!

Our Wednesday Morning Bible study has resumed and is meeting every Wednesday at 10am in the Church Parlor. We will be continuing our study with the next book in the Dickinson Bible Study Series which is *Introducing the Old Testament*. Books can be ordered online and this time Rev. Ruth is recommending you purchase the student's book. A New Revised Standard Bible is also recommended and can be borrowed from the church for the duration of the course.

Newcomers to the group are always welcome, and do not need to be members of the church. Just come to a gathering to see if you like it and we'll go from there...

If you have any questions or comments, please don't hesitate to speak with Rev. Ruth at any time.

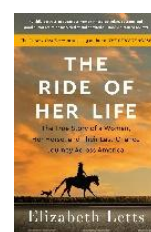


UCCW BOOKS is an on-going discussion group ministry of UCC Westerly. We are a group of folks who love to read, talk about what we read, or just talk. Everyone is welcome!

OUR NEXT GATHERING...

Wednesday, October 15th at 12PM Noon In the church Parlor.

WHAT WE'RE READING...



'The Ride of Her Life'
by Elizabeth Letts

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, October 29th at 12:00 PM
Noon

THE HAVERSHAM

Where: The Haversham Tavern, 336 Post Rd, Westerly, RI 02891

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, October 22nd. If you would like to be added to the list speak with Rev. Ruth. Thank you!

UCC Westerly Night Out!



Where?

Pooch's Pour House
42 High Street, Westerly

When?

5:00 pm
Wednesday, October 8, 2025

Why?

Because we need to relax a bit before bazaar season is upon us!

What else?

Pooch's is sponsoring a Dine-to-donate for Operation Fresh Start that day, all day, so we can relax with a delicious meal knowing that

10% of our check will be donated to a great cause! Can't beat that!

Please sign-up ahead of time, as we'll be making reservations.



The Bazaars are just around the corner!

Our two bazaars are coming on November 15 and December 6! Yikes! Are you cleaning out your closets, cabinets, attic, or basement,

and wondering what you could do with all of your valuable treasures that you no longer need or use? No, we aren't referring to the odds and ends you've collected through the years; they would go to a yard or attic sale. We are searching for nice items that others would like to bid on for our Annual Bazaar Silent Auction.

Or do you have some cute items that you could put together to create a themed basket? Over the years, our themed baskets have received great bids. Some of the most popular baskets were based on All Things Rhode Island, Books Galore, Pollinators, Birding, Crafts, French Inspiration, Red Sox, Patriots, Barbie, and Baby Sweetness. These are the baskets that quickly come to mind, but there have been other great ones that we have been able to add to our treasure tables. What themes can you think of? We know how creative all of you are!

We also have a gift card or two to add to our list, but we need more! Maybe you could ask some local merchants to donate gift cards and/or products? Need some ideas of stores to approach? We have some thoughts in that area, as well.

Thanks for your past, present, and future help.

 FROM OUR BAKERS

Baked goods are one of the most popular—and profitable—parts of our Bazaar, so we're calling on all our talented bakers to contribute. Past favorites include:

- ### Important Dates:

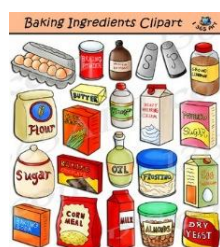
🍪 Saturday, December 7 - Christmas Cookie Plates

Please remember:

- Clearly label all items
- Note if your item contains nuts

- With gratitude, Sandi Davis, Shirin Platt & Carolyn LeRoy

BAZAAR PANTRY!



And, 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—All items are needed now!!

Dry Goods

- Granulated sugar
- Light Brown sugar
- Dark Brown sugar
- Confectioners' sugar
- Molasses
- Vegetable oil
- Solid Crisco, regular and butter flavored, in the can or sticks
- Peanut butter
- Chocolate chips (also white, butterscotch, peanut butter, and cinnamon chips)
- Cocoa—regular and dark
- Flour (King Arther preferred)
- GF Flour - (Bob's Red Mill GF 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 refrigerator
- Plant butter (Earth Balance sticks)—same as above
- Eggs, eggs, eggs!!!!

Packaging

- Plastic clamshells

Sincerely and gratefully,

Your Bazaar Bakers, Soup Makers, and Canners

Bazaar Info Page



For more information visit our
2025 Christmas Bazaars Info Page!

uccwchristmas2025.my.canva.site



BRIGHTEN SOMEONE'S DAY



Here are some folks we haven't seen in worship for a time. Please reach out and say hello with a card or note!

Marc & Courtney Ainsworth & Family
9 Cleveland St., Pawcatuck, CT 06379

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

Lisa Ornberg
5 Wayland Street, Bradford, RI 02008

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.

CELEBRATE!

OCTOBER SPECIAL DAYS

Birthdays

- Judy Stratton
- Heather Stratton
- Erin Gray
- Melissa Stratton
- Robert Cornell
- Joan Edmond
- Julie Grillo
- Brooke Foster

Anniversaries

- Dwayne Spurley & Kevin Dows

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

CONTACT US

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Website: www.uccwesterly.org

Facebook/[UCCWesterly](https://www.facebook.com/UCCWesterly)

uccwesterly.org



OFFICE HOURS

By Appointment Only

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