



"Holy Father, protect them in your name in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one as we are one."

John 17:11b

Hard as it is to believe, Easter Sunday is here once again. Another year has gone full circle, taking us right along with it. The bulb plants – tulips, hyacinths and daffodils – are pushing their way up through the soft earth. The damage done by snow plows and feet of snow this past winter is now visible, reminding us of what we have all endured in the months past. Spring is here! Easter is coming and we are indeed richly blessed.

That's not to say we don't have our challenges because surely, we do. This Easter morning will find us challenged by sharply rising gas prices caused by a war in Iran most people think is a really bad idea. The memories of the unnecessary violence suffered this past winter by the folks of Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minnesota are still painfully fresh in our minds and hearts. Ever rising grocery store prices are driving too many families to the brink and the housing affordability crisis shows no sign of easing. In other words, we are all desperately in need of the good news of the Empty Tomb on Easter morning!

As I write this on the Wednesday before Easter Sunday, I am looking forward to the many opportunities for worship and reflection which await all who are in need of comfort and hope this week. I hope to see you at these times to connect more deeply with God as we remember the great sacrifice of God's son we anticipate and the miraculous joy to follow. Here's what's happening:

MAUNDY THURSDAY, April 2 @ 6pm

- Service of Tenebrae and Communion

GOOD FRIDAY, 12-3PM

- The Vigil at the labyrinth invites you to meditate and pray during the time Jesus was on the cross

EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE 6am

- At Stonington Point
- We gather together where land and sea meet to greet the Easter dawn!

FESTIVAL EASTER SERVICE 9:45am

- In our beautiful sanctuary with processional, special music and an inspiring message (hopefully) from yours truly.

One last point of reflection for us all today is visible in the scripture verse above. This text from John 17 is part of the many "addresses" Jesus gives to the disciples as he is preparing to leave them. This particular verse contains a few words very important to the United Church of Christ as a denomination and to us as a congregation of the United Church of Christ. "... that they may all be one" is the Bible verse upon which the United Church of Christ rests. The goal of our denomination and our church is precisely this – to create faith communities, in which all are welcome to join in the sacraments, to seek truth and pursue it, to share in the Word and work of Jesus, and to witness to the miracle of the Empty Tomb and all the ways it transforms each of us and all of us. How blessed are we.

Happy Easter! I'll be looking for you!!

Your sister in faith,

Pastor Ruth





APRIL WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Apr-5: Worship

@ 6:00 am - Easter Sunrise @
Stonington Point!

@ 9:45AM -- Festival Easter Service

Apr-12: Worship @ 9:45AM

with Communion & New Members

Apr-19: Worship @ 9:45AM

Earth Day Sunday & grounds clean-up

Apr-26: Worship @ 9:45AM

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.



APRIL DIACONATE SCHEDULE

Apr-5: Allana Allik

Apr-12: Bethany Foster

Apr-19: TBD

Apr-26: Jenny Brummund

NEWS FROM THE DEACONS

The Deacons had a productive virtual meeting recently, including discussing the remainder of the Lenten plans. Sign-ups for readers are on the bulletin board at fellowship hall entry. These are for Palm Sunday Symbols Service & Tenebrae. We are also moving communion to April 12th, which is when we will also welcome new members. We have also discussed forming a weather tree, similar to the prayer tree. This would apply to folks who would like to be notified if we make a decision to cancel in person worship in case of bad weather, which happened a couple of times this winter. If you are someone who would like to be on this list, especially if you don't use email, please let any of the deacons know. We have also received a sweet thank you card from Bev Barone in appreciation of

all the birthday cards that were delivered to her. It will be on the table in Fellowship Hall. We continue to appreciate the deacons fund donations, which are used to assist those in our community. We greatly appreciate folks placing their used communion cups in the trays at the back of the sanctuary. It means we don't have to go in search and possibly leave some behind.

Respectfully submitted,
Lynn Murray

TRUSTEES NOTES



Pledges for February were \$8,352, \$2,725 more than the anticipated pledge amount of \$5,627. Total income for February was \$12,048. Total expenses for February were \$10,983.

The Trustees along with the Pollinator team and the Deacons invite you to participate in our annual Earth Day cleanup of the church grounds! It will take place after worship on April 19, so wear your favorite work clothes to church, grab your favorite tools and gloves and join us! Outside work not your thing? There are plenty of other ways to help out, a list will be available.

FROM THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY



Happy April Everyone!

Here's a basketful of gratitude for you all! Your faithful pledges and donations keep our humble church humming!

This month, you may choose to make a special Easter Offering to celebrate the glory of the Resurrection and the return of spring. As always, feel free to contact me with any questions or comments.

Your Financial Secretary,
Jenny Brummund



MISSION MOMENT



Thanks so very much for your donations to our March mission support drive for One Great Hour of Sharing, one of our Five for Five Projects for the United Church of Christ.

For April there will be a cash donation jar at Attic Treasures and in Fellowship Hall on Sundays with all proceeds for the month going to RICAN, a local nonprofit in which two of our own leaders (Kathy Tarasuk & Bethany Foster) are in leadership roles. Have questions about this organization? I'm sure that Kathy and Bethany would be happy to fill you in!

Coming up..

Babies, Ladies, and Gents will return for the month of May! Stay tuned!



Sandi Davis, Kathy Sugar, Melissa Stratton, Eileen Rawsley, Peter Hainsworth



APRIL'S EXCITING PLANS

Operation Fresh Start is so very grateful to this congregation for your ongoing support! We are preparing to move into our second room, which

is adjacent to our office in the lower level. On



April 24 and 25 the local branch of the Masons on Pequot Trail will be assisting us in prepping that room by cleaning, painting, and assembling shelves. We are so excited to see what the future holds! As an aside, we have determined that we do not need all of the tables that are currently in that room. Your help in moving them to a new location upstairs would be greatly appreciated.

In addition to working on the new room, we have been working on plans for our annual Plant and Artisan Craft Sale and Basket Raffle



to be held on May 16 and 17. We would be especially grateful for any help you could provide in the way of supplying plants of all kinds, annuals, perennials, veggies, flowers, bulbs, bushes, trees, etc. If you

plan to start your own gardening soon, it would be great if you would think of setting aside some plants for this sale. More information will be in the April Beacon. Thanks for all of your help!

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE UPCOMING EVENTS

ATTIC TREASURES INDOOR YARD SALE

Donations & Volunteers Needed

Our annual Attic Treasures Indoor Yard Sale will take place on Saturday, April 25, from 8:00 AM to 12:00 noon. This fun community event raises money for organ maintenance, and we're counting on everyone's help to make it another great success.

☀️ What to Expect

We will once again offer fill a bag for \$5, with some items priced individually. Coffee, tea, and baked goods will also be available for our shoppers—many folks generously contributed to the donation basket last year to show their appreciation.

👏 Volunteers Needed

It's truly an "all hands on deck" event. We need help to:

- Set up Fellowship Hall (likely earlier that week)
- Assist during sale hours
- Pack up leftover items afterward



We are waiting to confirm when boxes can be brought upstairs in advance. The Jonnycake Center is scheduled to pick up remaining items between 2:00 and 3:00 PM, though they have occasionally arrived early.

🎁 What to Donate

Donations in clean, good condition are welcome. Popular items include:

- Toys and games
- Clean, gently worn clothing
- Tools and household goods
- Kitchenware and glassware
- Holiday décor
- Books and puzzles
- Linens and towels



Please ensure all items are complete and not broken.

🚫 Items We Cannot Accept

- Furniture
- Electronics
- Mattresses
- Broken or damaged items

📍 Where to Drop Off Donations

Items may be placed on the middle level of the church, in or near Room #3, any time before the sale.

COFFEE HOUSE RETURNS!

Save the Date: Saturday, May 30, at 6:30 PM

To be held in Fellowship Hall... Donations collected will benefit the Organ Fund.

Please contact Jenny Brummund as soon as possible if you are interested in performing.

There will be time for approximately six acts. We welcome musical acts, poetry reading, clean comedy, juggling...anything that can be performed in a small area. Spread the word to your talented friends! Sound system will be provided. Please consider baking a dessert to share. and to assist with set up and clean-up. Event organizers are: Allana Allik, Erin Blake, Doug and Jenny Brummund.

We are excited to gather again for a fun church and community evening!



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! Bring a bag lunch and dessert is provided!

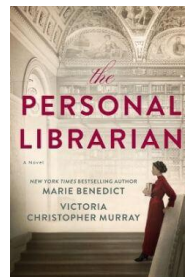
OUR NEXT GATHERING...

Wednesday, April 29 at 12:30PM noon in the church Parlor.

Kindly note time change!

WHAT WE'RE READING...

"*The Personal Librarian*" by Marie Benedict & Victoria Christopher Murray

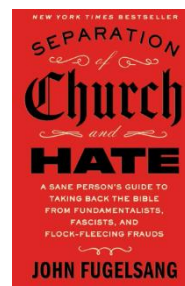


Books are available to borrow through your local library or for purchase through your favorite local bookstore.

LENTEN BOOK & BIBLE STUDY

WEDNESDAYS

In Person @ 11am in the Parlor
April 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29



This study will use the book *Separation of Church and Hate* (pictured here) by John Fugelsang. Fugelsang, a comedian by profession, is also a person with a unique perspective on the Christian faith. He is the son of a former nun and a former priest who left Holy Orders to marry and bring up their son as a practicing Catholic with an open and inquiring mind.

Fugelsang's writing is very accessible, funny at times, even though he tackles head-on current "hot button" social issues through the biblical reference points leveraged by the Christian Right including, but not limited to, *Jesus and Paul ~ Scriptural literalism ~ LGBTQ+ concerns ~ "Illegal" Immigrants ~ Gun Control*

We've been meeting for several weeks and each class has been so much fun. And it's not too late to join us!! All are welcome.

BRIGHTEN SOMEONE'S DAY



These are our folks currently unable to make it to church. Please reach out and say hello with a card or note!

Sandy Hoffman

23 Horne Drive, Westerly, RI 02891

Julie Grillo

38 Shawondassee Dr., Stonington, CT 06378

Ede Steele

11 Butternut Drive, Norwich, CT 06360

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.

APRIL SPECIAL DAYS

Birthdays

- Pam Del Pozo-Waldron
- Reese Hainsworth
- George Gray
- Emily Dessales

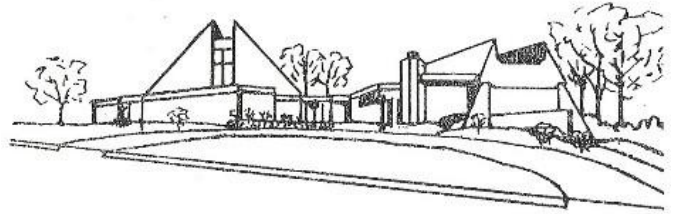
CELEBRATE!

Anniversaries

- Peter & Ruth Hainsworth
- Douglas & Jenny Brummund

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 Coordinator: Jerin Peloquin

CONTACT US

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OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday 9:00AM - 12:00PM
Wednesday & Thursday
9:00AM - 1:00PM

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