



"Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not let them be afraid." John 14:27b

This was a tall order when Jesus spoke these words to his disciples just days before his crucifixion and they are still a tall order for us during these most unsettling times through which we are living. At the risk of stating the obvious, the very foundations on which we have built our lives here in our beloved country feel like they are cracking and shattering beyond repair. War nobody wanted rages. Gas and prices on everything are skyrocketing with no clear end in sight. Even our legal system which we have taken for granted feels like it is bent back in on itself as Supreme Court decisions seek to undo Civil Rights legislation and voting protections more than half a century old.

And if all this wasn't enough, we are bombarded each day with bad news about increases in extreme weather to be endured as the summer months, and hurricane season, are upon us. And then of course we have to worry about AI intruding more and more into our lives, as if we understand what that even means. And let's not forget all the environmental worries cascading upon us as environmentalists and climate activists are butting up against the newly built brick wall of the federal government. And I could go on, of course, but you get my point.

But wait! There's more! Some of us will remember the old late television commercials – back when we only had 4-5 channels and the super wonderful commercials for the Popeil Fishing Rod which did everything but drive the boat for aspiring fishermen and women. But wait, there's more! And, dear ones, miracle fishing rod or not, that is absolutely true! There is always more awaiting us when we remember that we do not face any of these challenges, worries and scary realities each day. There is more because God promises always to be with us. Jesus promises that with God all things are

possible, even the most outlandish thing you can imagine – like coming back to life after a horrible, gruesome death. Indeed dear ones, all things are possible when we hold on tight to our God and the understanding of new ways to live our lives which Jesus teaches us and the Holy Spirit empowers us to do. So, take heart. Have faith. Join us in worship for your strength to be renewed and refreshed. I think you'll be glad you did.

Your sister in faith,
Pastor Ruth

*PLEASE JOIN ME THIS SUNDAY, MAY 3 IN
CELEBRATING
WORLD LABYRINTH DAY!*

Quoting from their website "World Labyrinth Day is an annual event sponsored by The Labyrinth Society (TLS) and partner organizations, Australian Labyrinth Network, Legacy Labyrinth Project, and Veriditas. Every year on the first Saturday in May thousands of people around the world participate in this moving meditation for world peace."

The intention of WLD is to bring people from all over the planet together in celebration of labyrinths as a symbol, tool, passion, or practice. WLD is an opportunity to inform and educate the public, host walks, build permanent and temporary labyrinths, make labyrinth art, or explore the archetype in other ways. At the suggestion of Lynda Tourloukis, participants are encouraged to "walk as One at 1" in the afternoon to create a wave of peaceful energy around our planet as it turns in space.

While we won't be "walking as One at 1) we can still honor the intention of World Labyrinth Day after worship this Sunday. Since the UCC Westerly Labyrinth was first built as part of the Pollinator Gardens, this is the first opportunity for us to participate in such an international labyrinth event. I surely hope you can join me as we pray for peace through the movement of our bodies around the Labyrinth.



MAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

May-3: Worship with Communion at 9:45 AM - Rev. Ruth preaching - "Troubled Hearts"

May-10: Worship at 9:45 AM - Rev. Ruth preaching - "Jesus' Mom"

May-17: Worship at 9:45 AM - Rev. Ruth preaching - "Beautiful Buildings"

May-24: Worship at 9:45 AM - Rev. Ruth preaching - PENTECOST!! **Wear RED!!**

May-31: Worship at 9:45 AM - Rev. Ruth preaching -- TBD

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.



MAY DIACONATE SCHEDULE

May-3: JoAnn Spurley 401-714-8948

May-10: Lynn Murray 401-450-9249

May-17: Allana Allik 860-599-5212

May-24: Christina Brummund 860-599-1719

May-31: TBD

NEWS FROM THE DEACONS

It was a joy to welcome new members on New Members Sunday, and especially meaningful to see their family members join us for the celebration.

The Deacons are currently working on the next steps for the Barbara Murano Scholarship Fund. A special team will be forming soon to discuss how we might want to revamp how we use the Fund and how we fund-raise for it. Please speak with any Deacon if you are interested in joining this conversation!

We are also continuing our discussion about creating a Weather Tree. If you do not receive

church emails, or if you would prefer a phone call when an in-person service is cancelled due to weather (including snow or extreme heat), please speak with any Deacon so we can add you to the notification list.

Plans are underway to update our digital ministry and broadcasting services as we look ahead. As always, we welcome anyone who feels called to serve as a Deacon.

Many thanks for all the help for the indoor yard sale: organizing, setting up, working the day, and packing up. A special word of appreciation goes to Deb Miceli for her tremendous work organizing the items. Your efforts made a real difference. Thanks also for all the donations of items as well as baked goods. We made just over \$1000, and over \$70 on our coffee/baked goods table. Folks really appreciated the offerings. Those funds will be set aside for kitchen supplies for our coffee hour.

Respectfully submitted,
Lynn Murray

TRUSTEES NOTES



Pledges for March were \$7,265, \$1,638 more than the anticipated pledge amount of \$5,627. Total income for March was \$9,225. Total expenses for March were \$17,979.

The trustees have contracted with Zanella Plumbing to repair the sanctuary boiler. They have also authorized the purchase of a new iPod for use in the sanctuary for worship.

The Trustees along with the Pollinator team and the Deacons held a successful Earth Day cleanup of the church grounds Sunday April 19 after the worship service. There are plenty of ongoing opportunities to work on the church grounds. If you are interested, speak to any trustee or pollinator team member.



**Operation
Fresh Start**
OFS ANNUAL PLANT SALE



**Artisan Craft Sale
Basket Raffle**

**Saturday, May 16 and Sunday, May 17
9 AM - 2 PM
93 Sunrise Ave., Pawcatuck, CT**

This is one of our major fundraisers of the year, earning some of the funds we need to help so many in our community with essential items to make a fresh start. We will have annuals, perennials, veggies, flowers, shrubs, trees, and indoor plants, not to mention amazing baskets in our raffle, yummy cookies, popcorn, jams. and an interesting array of artisans selling their crafts.

We are accepting donations of plants now. It's a great way to thin out some of the beautiful plants that are crowding out others in your garden. Be sure they are potted and tagged. Contact Sandi Davis for further information.

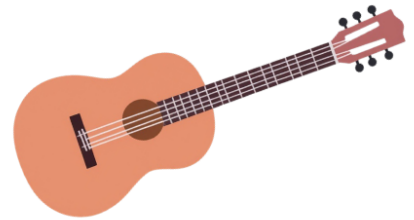
Want to volunteer for any of our many opportunities? Go to our web site and fill out the volunteer form. We'll be in touch!!

<https://www.operationfreshstartinc.com/how-to-help.html>



If you are reading this in print, scan the QR code with your phone's camera!

Coffee House!



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!



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! Bring a bag lunch and dessert is provided!

OUR NEXT GATHERING...

Wednesday, May 27 at 12:30PM.

We have been invited to lunch at one of our members' homes so an RSVP IS required!! See sign-up sheet on bulletin board!



WHAT WE'RE READING...

In the Bleak Midwinter by Julia Spencer-Fleming.

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



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 is:



Wednesday, May 20 @
12:30 PM
Guytanno's - 62 Franklin
St, Westerly

Please add your name to the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board at church so we know how many to expect. Thanks!

Any questions on this group should be directed to Rev. Ruth.

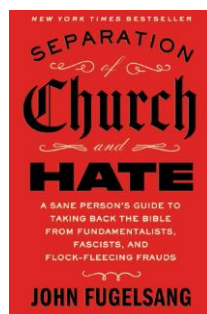
View Guytanno's menu here:

<https://guytannosri.com/menu/>

BOOK & BIBLE STUDY

WEDNESDAYS

In Person @ 11am in the Parlor
May 6, 13, 20, 27



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 in need of an extra smile or two! . Please reach out with a card or note!

Bill & Carol Budnik
332 Burdickville Rd., Charlestown, RI 02813

Joan Edmund
65 Cross Street, Westerly, RI 02891

Rosemary Jette
c/o Westerly Health Center
280 High Street, Westerly, RI 02891

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.

MAY SPECIAL DAYS

Birthdays

- Kenton Michael
- Charlotte Korean
- Gregory Sugar
- Jackson Edmond
- Eileen Rawnsley
- Felix Ainsworth
- Daniel Stratton
- Kathy Sugar
- Susan Moynihan
- Mark Sugar

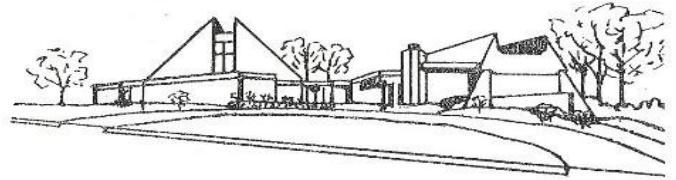


Anniversaries

- Fred & Katharine Tarasuk
- Mark & Elizabeth Dessaulles

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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Facebook/UCCWesterly



uccwesterly.org



OFFICE HOURS

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

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