



SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP

with UCC Westerly

April 12, 2026 @ 9:45am

CCLI Streaming License #21022154

NEW MEMBER SUNDAY!

Microsoft stock image

GATHERING MUSIC — A selection from the many songs written, performed and recorded by Doug Brummund.
[WORDS & MUSIC: Doug Brummund, ©2022, 23,24,25 B.R. Music. All rights reserved. Used with permission.]

PASTOR'S WELCOME

PRELUDE *Memories*
[Walter R. Clarke, ©1952 by Lorenz Publishing Company. CCLI#4114406]

DEACON'S GREETING

CALL TO WORSHIP — *from Psalm 16*

One: The Lord is my chosen portion and my cup.

All: **The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places.**

One: I keep the Lord always before me; because the Lord is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.

All: **Therefore, my heart is glad and my soul rejoices; my body also rests secure.**

OPENING HYMN — *In the Garden* W&R#300
[©Public Domain]

ORDER FOR THE RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS (*Insert*)

MUTUAL PRAYERS OF REFLECTION, CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

[from *The Iona Community*]

Pastor: Before God, with the people of God, I confess to turning away from God, in the ways I wound my life, the lives of others and the life of the world.

Deacon & Congregation: **May God forgive you, Christ renew you and the Spirit enable you to grow in love.**

Deacon & Congregation: **Before God, with the people of God, we confess to turning away from God, in the ways we wound our lives, the lives of others and the life of the world.**

Pastor: May God forgive you, Christ renew you and the Spirit enable you to grow in love. Amen.

A CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Note: Ours is an Open Table meaning that anyone who finds meaning in the sacrament is welcome to partake. Do note that our elements are gluten and alcohol free. The Deacons would appreciate everyone's assistance with clean-up after Communion by placing your used Communion cups into one of the cup trays placed at the rear of the sanctuary. Thanks!

An Affirmation of Faith — [The Statement of Faith of the United Church of Christ]

*We believe in you, O God, Eternal Spirit, God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God, and to your deeds we testify:
You call the worlds into being, create persons in your own image, and set before each one the ways of life and death.
You seek in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin. You judge people and nations by your righteous will declared through prophets and apostles.
In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Savior, you have come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to yourself. You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.
You call us into your church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be your servants in the service of others, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory.
You promise to all who trust your forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, your presence in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in your realm which has no end. Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you. Amen.*

Song of Preparation – *Let Us Break Bread Together*

W&R#699, v. 1

[© Public Domain]

Words of Invitation, Explanation and Consecration

Partaking in the bread and cup together

Prayer of Thanksgiving [from *The New Century Hymnal*, p. 11]

Bountiful God, we give you thanks that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, newly nourished and rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

THE MORNING MESSAGE

Scripture Reading: John 13:3-17

Music Meditation – *Hallelujah! What a Savior!*

Message – *Welcome to the Work*

Rev. Ruth

#A MOMENT TO BREATHE

A TIME OF PRAYER

Pastoral Prayer & Silent Prayers

The Lord's Prayer in whatever words are most comfortable for you.

Musical response

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD

Acknowledgement of Gifts & Offerings*

Anthem – *Thine Is the Glory*

Tone Chimes Choir

[©Public Domain]

Doxology “*Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ all creatures here below; Praise Holy Spirit, Comforter; One God, Triune, whom we adore. Amen.*”

[©Public Domain]

CLOSING SONG – *Blest Be the Tie that Binds*

W&R#393

[©Public Domain]

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A PRAYER OF BENEDICTION from Numbers 6:24-26

May God bless you and keep you. May God's face shine upon you and be gracious to you. May God's divine presence be lifted up upon you and give you peace, this day and forever more. Amen.

Sung Response – Let There Be Peace on Earth

[WORDS & MUSIC: Sy Miller & Jill Jackson, © 1955, Ren.1983 Jen-Lee Music. Used by Permission. CCLI # 21022161]

*Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me;
let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.
With God our creator, children all are we.
Let us walk with each other, in perfect harmony.
Let peace begin with me, let this be the moment now.
With every step I take, let this be my solemn vow:
To take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally.
Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.*

PASSING OF THE PEACE

POSTLUDE – Thaxted

[©Public Domain]

~~~~~

**#A MOMENT TO BREATHE** is an experience of Thich Nhat Hanh's breath of 10 exercise. It is very simple, inviting you to breathe as you normally would but counting each breath in and each breath out until you reach 10. If you lose track of your count at any point, start over. This is a remarkably simple but highly effective breathing exercise that can reset your mind and heart. Enjoy!

**TO ANY VISITORS WITH US THIS MORNING, WELCOME!** We are so glad you decided to join us! We would love to be able to connect with you after your visit today so we respectfully request that you fill out one of our visitor cards with a little information about yourself. And please join us for fellowship time if you are so inclined!

**Our Diaconate Person of the Week is Bethany Foster.** Please feel free to be in touch with her with your joys and concerns knowing that we care about you every day.

**\*ABOUT THE OFFERING.** *We offer our deepest gratitude to our members and friends who are so generous with their pledges and financial gifts to the church, both those here in person and those joining online. Online participants are invited to give online via our "Donate" button @ [www.uccwesterly.org](http://www.uccwesterly.org) or mail your checks, made payable to UCC Westerly, to us at 9 Castle Hill Road, Pawcatuck, CT 06379. A REMINDER that offering plates are located at each entrance to the sanctuary. Thank you!*

**A REMINDER! The Missions Project this month is to encourage your support of RICAN,** a local human services nonprofit. *Donation jars in Fellowship Hall and at Attic Treasures.*

**THE PRAYER MINISTRIES** of this church are many and varied and you are welcome to participate in any or all of them. In the sanctuary, you will find prayer notebooks by either door within which to write specific prayer requests for Sunday. You will also find prayer candle tables at which you may light a candle for your own prayer concerns. You will also find prayer shawls and prayer bears to offer comfort to those struggling. For more information on our prayer ministries please speak with any Deacon or Rev. Ruth at any time.

*Thank you to Jenny Brummund who donated the chancel flowers for this morning's service. She has dedicated the flowers in celebration of new life!*

*You are welcome to donate flowers for the chancel any week. Our sign-up sheet is located on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall, or speak with Rev. Ruth for more information.*

~~~~~

*To request a copy of today's message be sent to you, kindly contact the office @
(860) 599-1226 or uccwesterly@gmail.com*

THE UNITED CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF WESTERLY, UCC
9 Castle Hill Road, Pawcatuck, CT 06379
860-599-1226 <> email: uccwesterly@gmail.com
www.uccwesterly.org <> <https://www.facebook.com/UCCWesterly>

OUR STAFF:

The Rev. Ruth Shilling Hainsworth, Pastor
David Cranmer, Organist & Choirs Director
Jerin Peloquin, Office Operations Coordinator

~~~~~

***We are pleased to welcome these new members into our church this morning!***

Louis Allyn

Charles "Skip" Griffin

Rita Griffin

Joan McCarthy

*Please join us in welcoming them at a special Fellowship time following worship.*

**The Order for Welcoming New Members**  
**United Congregational Church of Westerly, UCC**  
**April 12, 2026**

**Deacon:** We invite to come forward those wishing to unite with this faith community as members of our church. We also invite forward all current and former Deacons who would like to participate in this order for new members.

**Pastor:** Friends in Christ, we are all received into the church through the sacrament of baptism. Our new members today are joining through the rite of reaffirming their baptisms.

*Skip, Rita, Joan and Lou*, we acknowledge that you have already found nurture and support in the midst of the family of Jesus Christ. We trust that through thoughtful reflection you have been led by the Holy Spirit to affirm your faith and baptism and to claim in our presence your covenantal relationship with Jesus and the members of our church. We ask now that you please respond to these questions.

I ask you now, do you desire to affirm your baptism into the faith and family of Jesus Christ?      *Response: I do.*

Do you affirm Jesus the Christ as Lord and Savior? *Response: I do.*

Do you promise, by the grace of God, to be Christ's disciple, to follow in the way of our Savior, to resist oppression and evil, to show love and justice, and to witness to the work and word of Jesus Christ as best you are able?      *Response: I promise, with the help of God.*

**Pastor:** Today we rejoice in your pilgrimage of faith which has brought you to this moment in your lives and in ours. We give thanks for every community of faith that has been your spiritual home, and we celebrate your presence in this household of faith. As you join our community, we ask: Do you promise to participate in the life and mission of this family of God's people, sharing regularly in the worship of God and supporting the work of this local church as it serves this community and the world?  
*Response: I promise, with the help of God.*

**Deacon:** Know you are no longer a stranger or sojourner, but you are now a member of the household of God as made manifest in this place.  
Please join with me in our prayer of welcome for *Skip, Rita, Joan and Lou*.

**Congregational Affirmation: Eternal God, we praise you for calling us to be your servant people and for gathering us into the body of Christ which UCC Westerly represents. We thank you for bringing Lou, Joan, Skip and Rita to us that we may work together in serving the needs of others. Together may we live in the Spirit, building one another up in love, sharing in the life and worship of the church, and serving the world for the sake of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Deacons present up front move down the line of new members to shake their hands while the Pastor gives out the certificates to the new members.