



*"Happy are those who find wisdom, and those who get understanding, for her income is better than silver, and her revenue better than gold."*

*Proverbs 3:13-14*

Proverbs is, in my humble opinion, one of the least appreciated books in the Bible.

Supposedly written by King Solomon himself, it is much more likely to have been written by scribes. There is a strong possibility that a few of the proverbs were composed by Solomon, but certainly not all of them as is claimed in Chapter 1, Verse 1. This claim is undoubtedly due to his position as king – and the one king known for his wisdom.

Much can be said about this odd little book filled with a collection of riddles, pithy sayings and wisdom nuggets. As is still the case today, a proverb is a short verbal observation which contains some truth about life as it's lived each day. As we read through Proverbs, some of it rings authentically across the millennia while others leave us, wondering "huh?" in the aftermath of a certain text. This is the dilemma of Proverbs but also a foundational aspect of its beauty and timelessness.

Proverbs is written, at least in part, to extol the pursuit of wisdom as worthy of time and attention from each person. This is an observation I wholeheartedly support. Every time I read even a few verses from Proverbs, like the one above, I am struck by how these ancient observations are still so very relevant today. Of course, I also love that "wisdom" is personified as female, a common practice throughout the Old Testament and the New. In the verse above, I especially appreciate that the writer here notes that *"her (wisdom's) income is better than silver and her revenue better than gold."* Now how timely is that observation in our own time when there is much emphasis on gold and silver but not so much on wisdom! Wouldn't a little more emphasis on wisdom for its own sake be a delightful change?

Well, dear ones, hope abounds and it grows from simple wisdom – the simple wisdom which teaches us to slow down, take a deep breath and look for truth revealed according to the standards Jesus gave us who follow him. In Matthew 25 we learn that whatever we do for "the least of these" we encounter who are in need, we are doing for Jesus. Similarly, when we have the opportunity to do justice, to love kindness and to walk humbly with God, and do not do so because we choose greed for gold and silver over love, justice and kindness, it is we who are foolish.

You know all this. No new information here for those of you who are members and friends of UCC Westerly. We do try to live the faith we preach and teach. We do the best we can with the resources we have. Dear ones, that is no small accomplishment. We live our faith, our hope and our trust in God in everything we do. We strive after God's wisdom and Jesus' love. We rely on the Holy Spirit for the energy we need to keep going when we are tired and discouraged. In other words, we are always working at being church together. And in that struggle, we find our shared wisdom. We are indeed a blessed church. And I am blessed to be your pastor!

I am heading out for some vacation time in July. The Deacons and I have planned some nice worship experiences for when I am away. We just need you to be here to enjoy them! Also, do remember that if you have any pastoral emergencies while I am away, please reach out to the Deacons and they will know how to reach me if I am needed.

So, summer is here and it's time to slow down, breathe deeply and invest some of yourself in your own personal search for God's wisdom. Do some reading. Do some praying and meditating. Enjoy the silence now and then because wisdom needs room to make herself known. Who knows what she might like you to know? I can't wait to hear what you gain from making space for her "revenue" in your life.

Your sister in faith,  
Rev. Ruth



## JUNE WORSHIP SCHEDULE

**June-7:** Communion & Barbara Murano Scholarship celebration

**June-14:** Music Ministry Celebration

**June -21:** Father's Day Celebration

**June -28:** OnA/Pride Sunday

## JULY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

**July-5:** Communion & Independence Day

**July-12:** Guest Preacher Rev. Mary Horan

**July-19:** Hymn Sing Sunday

**July-26:** Rev. Ruth Back

*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.*



## JUNE DIACONATE SCHEDULE

**June-7:** Allana

**June-14:** Jenny

**June-21:** JoAnn

**June-28:** Allana

## JULY DIACONATE SCHEDULE

**June-5:** Bethany

**June-12:** JoAnn

**June-19:** Christina

**June-26:** Lynn

## NEWS FROM THE DEACONS

At our last meeting, the Deacons discussed plans for Pastor Ruth's summer vacation time. More details will be forthcoming. We have also been discussing changes to the Barbara Murano scholarship. More details to come once decisions have been made. We are

grateful to the Trustees for their approval to purchase a new iPad device for broadcasting. This will make streaming more consistent, as we know there are quite a few folks who are unable to attend in person. We continue to appreciate donations to the Deacons Fund, which are used for need requests as well as communion supplies. The Deacons won't be meeting in June or July, but we can be reached at any time for prayer requests or concerns.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lynn Murray

## TRUSTEES NOTES



Pledges for April were \$4,353, \$1,274 less than the anticipated pledge amount of \$5,627. Total income for April was \$9,121. Total expenses for April were \$9,354.

The trustees wish to thank everyone for keeping up with their pledges over the summer! As always, if you should see something in the building that needs attention speak to any trustee or leave a message with Jerin in the office!

## FROM THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY



Thank You to everyone who faithfully supports UCC Westerly with your pledges and donations! If you are financially able, donating to the

church is one of the easiest ways to put your faith into action.

Always appreciated are the many people who donate their time and talents to our church! We have a congregation of selfless givers! Bless You!

With love,  
Jenny Brummund



## MISSION MOMENT

### June - Beachy Fun



Something new and different for us this year! We have decided to

support Stonington Human Services and local children in its summer rec program. We will be collecting much needed “summer fun” items to add to our altar area during the month of June! Here is a list provided by Kristen King of Stonington Human Services:

- Sunscreen
- Water Bottles
- Snacks (Nonperishable)
- Ball Caps
- Bug Spray
- Balls Like Bouncy Playground Kick Balls
- Beach Towels

Let’s have some fun with this!

### July - Summer Food Drive

Our Mission Board has planned two major non-perishable food drives during the upcoming year, one for the Pawcatuck Community Center and another for Johnnycake. The first will be during the month of July and will go to the PNC; the second will be in January and will go to the Johnnycake Center. Here is a list of suggested items. In all cases, let’s try to focus on healthy options, please.

- Canned Proteins
- Canned Fruits and Vegetables
- Canned Meals
- Breakfast Items
- Soups
- Juices
- Snacks
- Condiments

(Because we have opted to have a food drive in July, we will have only the first three weeks

of August for our traditional In the Middle School Supplies Drive. If you would like to start shopping the back-to-school sales that will inevitably start in July, here is a list of items we will be requesting in August:

- Sharpened Pencils
- Handheld Pencil Sharpeners
- Eraser Caps
- Pens
- Highlighters
- Sticky Notes
- Index Cards
- Folders with Pockets
- Backpacks
- Kleenex/Tissues
- Hand Sanitizer
- 3 Ring Binders
- Dividers with Tabs (for Binders)
- Clipboards
- Basic Calculators

Note: This list is different than the list the Operation Fresh Start will be supplying in its article.)



### Operation Fresh Start

Thank-you so very much for your support of our Annual Plant and Artisan Craft Sale and Basket Raffle that was held during the month of May. Whether you donated, potted, or bought plants, delivered flyers and posters, donated baskets, worked the event, or scrubbed the church’s popcorn popper, your help was invaluable. We were blessed with beautiful weather, for once, and made a nice sum of money!

#### **JUNE AND JULY DONATION DRIVE SCHOOL SUPPLIES!!**

Operation Fresh Start will be collecting school supplies during June and July to give us plenty of time to organize all of the backpacks, pencil boxes, etc. that go out to school children of all ages in the early part of August.



**THIS LIST IS DIFFERENT THAN OUR MISSION "IN THE MIDDLE SCHOOL SUPPLIES DRIVE"**

**\*\*\*OPERATION FRESH START SCHOOL SUMMER SCHOOL SUPPLIES DRIVE\*\*\***

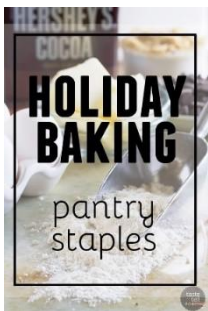
- Backpacks
- Lunch Boxes
- Water Bottles
- Pencil Cases and Boxes
- #2 Sharpened Pencils
- Hand Sanitizers
- Pens of All Colors
- Highlighters
- Erasers of All Sizes
- Index Cards
- Binders
- NOT Spiral Notebooks
- NOT Pocket Folders
- Washable Markers
- Loose Leaf Lined Paper
- Composition Books
- Post-it Notes
- Scissors
- Rulers
- Glue Sticks

Donations for Operation Fresh Start should be placed in the baskets in the bell courtyard narthex before the end of July, please. Thanks so much for all of your help!!



***BELIEVE IT OR NOT - BAZAAR PREP ALREADY UNDERWAY!!***

**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? Last year, the Trustees generously agreed to donate some money to help our cause, and JoAnn used it to shop for some of our ingredients. That was very helpful, and we were so grateful, but we could still use help.

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 a food pantry 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!

Not up for shopping, either? Monetary donations are also gratefully accepted!

**BAZAAR PANTRY SHOPPING LIST**

**Dry Goods**

- \*\*\*Granulated Sugar
- Light Brown Sugar
- Dark Brown Sugar
- Confectioners' Sugar
- Molasses
- Vegetable Oil

- Solid Crisco, Including the Butter Flavored Sticks
- Peanut Butter
- Chocolate Chips (Also White, Butterscotch, Peanut Butter, and Cinnamon Chips)
- Cocoa—Regular and Dark
- Cider Vinegar
- Flour (King Arther Preferred)
- GF Flour - (Bob's Red Mill 1 to 1 Baking Flour, Available at Job Lot)
- Pecans and Walnuts

### Refrigerated Items

- Butter (Unsalted and Salted)—Please Wrap Lightly and Place in the Freezer
- Plant Butter (Earth Balance or Country Avocado Sticks)—Same as Above
- Eggs—Closer to the Bazaar

### Packaging

- Plastic Clamshells
- Plastic Quart and Pint-Sized Soup Containers
- Glass Mason Jars—Quart, Pint, Half Pint, and Jelly Jars (With Lids if Possible)

**(\*\*\*Needed Now)**

Sincerely and gratefully,  
Your Bazaar Bakers, Soup Makers, and Cannery

## 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 round 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!!



## A Heartfelt Thank-You from the Organ Committee



We extend our sincere thanks to all our members and friends who helped make this year's Coffee House a joyful evening filled with talent, laughter, and delicious homemade sweets. Your presence and generosity created a truly special night of community.

All donations from the event will support the ongoing maintenance and refurbishment of our 1955/56 Wicks pipe organ, preserving the music ministry that enriches our worship each week.



## 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.

**Ladies Who Lunch will be going on hiatus until September. See you in the fall!**

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



**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...

We're taking a bit of a summer break so our next gathering is on **Wednesday, September 23 @ 12pm!** We're hoping to meet for lunch at a member's home but we'll confirm that in

the *August Beacon*. However, given the longer time frame to read, we have chosen two books to consider! Read both of just one. Your choice!

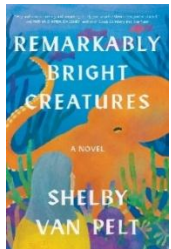


**WHAT WE'RE READING...**

*A Fountain Filled with Blood*  
by Julia Spencer-Fleming

*and/or*

*Remarkably Bright Creatures*  
by Shelby Van Pelt



(*Remarkable Bright Creatures* is also a new film out this summer starring Sally Field.)

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

**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 & Christa Colprit**

3 Elizabeth Drive, Pawcatuck, CT 06379

**Margaret Fiddes**, Eileen Rawnsley's sister

2 Wilford Court, Pawcatuck, CT 06379

**Heather Stratton**

71 School 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.

**JUNE SPECIAL DAYS**



**Birthdays**

- Eric Sadowski
- Emma Sugar

**Anniversaries**

- Douglas D. & Yana Brummund

**JULY SPECIAL DAYS**

**Birthdays**

- Kevin Dows
- Mark Comito
- Cody Lanphere
- R. Joann Spurley
- Douglas Brummund
- Ane Torres
- Piper Ainsworth
- Michelle MacDonald
- Elvis Torres

**Anniversaries**

- Gary & Sandi Davis
- Elvis & Ane Torres

*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

*Please be aware that the format and spacing for the Beacon may appear differently on your computer or device. Thank you for your understanding!*