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SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP **with UCC Westerly**

June 21, 2026 @ 9:45am
In-person & Broadcast live
from our sanctuary
CCLI Streaming License
#21022154

CELEBRATING FATHERS!

If you have brought any photos of your dad, grandfather, great-grandfather or someone else who has been like a father to you, please place them on the altar when you arrive. If you did not bring a photo, you may write the name of your dad, etc. on the paper provided and place on the altar during the first hymn.

GATHERING MUSIC – [WORDS & MUSIC: Doug Brummund, ©2024-25 B.R. Music. All rights reserved. Used with permission.]

PASTOR'S WELCOME

DEACON'S WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP – [adapted from a prayer by Mary Goergen, O.S.F., as found in *Earth Prayers*]

One: Be praised, My God, by butterfly and dragonfly wings exercising for their first flight.

All: Be praised by lightning and thunder causing much needed rain.

One: Be praised by the silent voice of growing grass and budding trees.

All: Be praised by all the colorful flowers of spring and summer.

One: Be praised by the songs of birds, crickets and frogs.

All: Be praised, My God, by all your Creation which tells of new life.

OPENING HYMN *For the Beauty of the Earth*
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W&R#40

UNISON PRAYER OF REFLECTION

[adapted from a prayer by W.E.B. DuBois (as found in *Earth Prayers*)]

Lord of the springtime, Father of flower, field and fruit, smile on us in these earnest days when the work is heavy and the toil wearisome. Lift up our hearts, O God, to the things worthwhile – sunshine and night, the dripping rain, the song of the birds, books and music, and the voices of our friends. Lift up our hearts to these this day and grant us Thy peace. Amen.

THE MORNING MESSAGE

Scripture Reading: Luke 15:11-24

Message – *Generations of Fathers*

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF GIFTS AND OFFERINGS*

Special Music *Faith of our Fathers*

Doug Brummund & Ed Stratton

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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.”

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CLOSING HYMN – *Breathe on Me, Breath of God*

W&R#461

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

A PRAYER OF BENEDICTION – UCC Book of Worship

May God’s Holy Spirit lead you. May God’s strength protect you. May God’s peace be with you. Go now in the name of God, by the grace of Christ, and with the presence of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Sung Response – Let There Be Peace on Earth

W& R#614

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PASSING OF THE PEACE

POSTLUDE *The sounds of God’s joyful people in this place!*

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***Our organist and choir’s director Dav Cranmer is unexpectedly away to deal with a family matter this weekend so our music this morning will reflect his absence. Our prayers are with Dav and his brother.***

**#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 calms your mind and heart.

**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. Please check out our Welcome flyer in the pew and fill out the information section and leave in one of the offering plates. We also hope you will join us for fellowship time if you are so inclined!

**Our Diaconate Person of the Week is Joann Spurley.** Please feel free to be in touch with her with your joys and concerns knowing that we care about you all the time, not just when you are here.

**\*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 OUR JUNE DONATION DRIVE is “Beachy Fun”** and we will be collecting items to support local children in need as they enjoy outdoor summer activities. Specifically we are looking things like sun screen, children’s flip-flops, sunscreen, bug spray, water bottles, non-perishable snacks, ball caps, playground kick balls and beach towels. A large outdoor kiddie pool is on the chancel to receive your donations! 😊

**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 worship. 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 in the front pews to offer comfort to those struggling. For more information on our prayer ministries please speak with any Deacon or Rev. Ruth at any time.

**OUR FLOWER MINISTRY** *You are welcome to bring fresh flowers from your garden any Sunday. Special arrangements in memory or honor of a specific person or celebration may also be shared any Sunday. Just check the flowers sign-up sheet to make sure the date you desire is available.*

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

### **Luke 15:11-24**

<sup>11</sup> Then Jesus<sup>[a]</sup> said, "There was a man who had two sons. <sup>12</sup> The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the wealth that will belong to me.' So he divided his assets between them. <sup>13</sup> A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant region, and there he squandered his wealth in dissolute living. <sup>14</sup> When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that region, and he began to be in need. <sup>15</sup> So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that region, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. <sup>16</sup> He would gladly have filled his stomach<sup>[b]</sup> with the pods that the pigs were eating, and no one gave him anything. <sup>17</sup> But when he came to his senses he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! <sup>18</sup> I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; <sup>19</sup> I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands." ' <sup>20</sup> So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. <sup>21</sup> Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'<sup>[c]</sup> <sup>22</sup> But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. <sup>23</sup> And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate, <sup>24</sup> for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.

THE UNITED CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF WESTERLY, UCC

9 Castle Hill Road, Pawcatuck, CT 06379

860-599-1226 <> email: [uccwesterly@gmail.com](mailto:uccwesterly@gmail.com)

[www.uccwesterly.org](http://www.uccwesterly.org) <> <https://www.facebook.com/UCCWesterly>

OUR STAFF:

The Rev. Ruth Shilling Hainsworth, Pastor

David Cranmer, Organist & Choirs Director

Jerin Peloquin, Church Operations Coordinator