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SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP

with UCC Westerly

July 5, 2026 @ 9:45am

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**July 4th Weekend &
Communion**

**CELEBRATING OUR COUNTRY'S
250TH BIRTHDAY!**

GATHERING MUSIC — A selection from the many songs written, performed and recorded by Doug Brummund.
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PASTOR'S WELCOME

PRELUDE

DEACON'S GREETING

CALL TO WORSHIP — *Rev. Ruth Shilling Hainsworth ©2026*

One: 250 years ago a great experiment began that imagined equality and justice for all.

All: **250 years ago tyrants from across the sea tried to destroy that powerful dream.**

One: They failed but so did we as our freedom came at the expense of the native peoples to whom God had gifted these same lands.

All: **We struggle still to honor and respect those native peoples as they deserve. May God forgive our arrogance and cruelty.**

One: Today destruction of this same dream of equality and justice is threatened once again, this time from within our country by homegrown tyrants.

All: **Once again they will fail because the bright light of hope and courage still burns strong within us.**

One: We know new life and new beginnings are always possible with God. We have lived this truth so many times before in our history.

All: **May God grant us courage and strength for the living of these days.**

OPENING HYMN

God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand

W&R#728

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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.

An Affirmation of Faith – [excerpted from *Touch Holiness*, Duck & Tirabassi, Eds.]

In faith, we acknowledge that God has acted in the past, in a holy history.

In faith we confess that God seeks to direct and guide our lives today.

In faith we affirm that God continues to send prophets and speak through willing vessels to guide the course of all history toward its end.

In faith we imagine that end to be characterized by the traits we find in Jesus Christ: compassion, justice, and love.

In faith, we long to be part of that purpose. Amen.

Song of Preparation – *Let Us Break Bread Together*

W&R#699, v. 1

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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: Galatians 5:13-15

Message – *Considering the First Amendment*

Rev. Ruth

Music Meditation – [©Public Domain]

#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 – *My Country 'Tis of Thee*

Erin Blake, Soloist

[©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."*

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CLOSING SONG – *America, the Beautiful*

W&R#727

[©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

W&R#614

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PASSING OF THE PEACE

POSTLUDE –

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**A REMINDER THAT REV. RUTH IS ON VACATION** beginning this afternoon through Tuesday, July 21. Please be in touch with the Deacons for any pastoral concerns or emergencies which may arise during her absence. They will be in touch with Rev. Ruth as they deem necessary. Thank you!

**#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! **Also, the DEACONS FUND OFFERING is received on Communion Sundays in the special marked baskets.** This offering funds the emergency response efforts to our congregation and our community from our church as well as providing the funds for worship expenses.

**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.

*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.*

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GALATIANS 5:13-15

¹³ For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters, only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence,^[a] but through love become enslaved to one another. ¹⁴ For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁵ If, however, you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another.

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

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OUR STAFF:

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

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