



*"Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet;
Righteousness and peace will kiss each other."
Psalm 85:10*

I just discovered this delightful verse during my devotions this week. It is part of the Lectionary readings for this coming Sunday and I use those readings as a part of my morning prayers each day. I read one of the usual 4-6 Lectionary texts per week and I have found the practice to be quite helpful and meaningful. It has certainly introduced me to some deeply provocative texts I do not think I would have ever uncovered on my own.

Don't get me wrong, I am always studying and reading the Bible. That has been the case since I first learned to read. Jesus has always been very personal to me and, as I look back on that, it is really quite extraordinary because I just took that as a normal course of events. I never questioned the how or why of Jesus' presence in my life. I just accepted it as a given and built from there. My mother gave me this gift because of her own deep faith, but mine developed quite differently from hers. The gift, however, is still the gift.

Now, back to this powerful, and might I say unusual verse. Obviously it comes from Psalms which is the anchor point of the Wisdom writings literally located in the center of any Christian Bible. Many of us have favorite texts from Psalms including Psalm 23 and perhaps Psalm 121. Then of course there is Psalm 100 with its joyful praise of God that practically rings off the page.

As you can tell, I am no stranger to Psalms. Still, I had never encountered the above verse from Psalm 85 until this morning. Let me pause here to clarify that I am not saying I never read it before. I have read the entire (Protestant) Bible all the way through at least twice, when I was in high school and then in college. But all due respect to this approach to the Bible, it actually demonstrates that reading

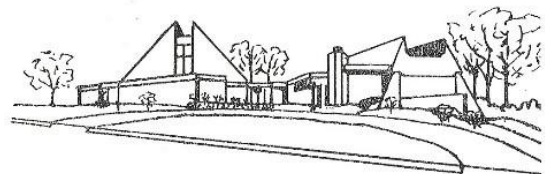
the Bible, as in words on a page, and encountering a particular verse are two very different things. My experience with Psalm 85:10 is most definitely an encounter.

What do I mean by "encounter?" I mean that the words stopped me cold as I read them. Especially in that second clause – *"righteousness and peace will kiss each other."* Holy Cow! What an image! It's a type of anthropomorphizing – inserting human characteristics into a phrase – that is incredibly powerful. Think about it. In this image, righteousness and peace are being incarnated as humans so that they can physically touch each other and thus show their unity in the experience of a kiss. Both are needed in this image – righteousness and peace are two halves of the same whole. This is what the Psalmist wants us to imagine. And their physical contact is the result of steadfast (without end) love and faithfulness. In other words, it is steadfast love and faithfulness which creates the environment in which righteousness and peace are created.

In this beautiful image, the circle of possibility for each human soul is revealed. And, we are invited to enter into that mix. Wow. Now that is an image to sit with for a while. And I hope you do. 😊

As always, there is lots of good information in this edition of *THE BEACON*. I encourage you to find the time to read it so that you can figure out how and where you want to deepen your connection to our vital faith community. And – here's a thought – invite someone to join you as you become more connected with us through one or more of the possibilities described here. And, by all means, enjoy these last days of Summer!!

Your sister in faith,
Rev. Ruth





AUGUST WORSHIP SCHEDULE

August 2: Communion & Rev. Ruth preaching
Unrestricted Compassion; Matthew 14:13-21

August 9: Rev. Ruth preaching
Take Heart; Matthew 14:28-31

August 16: Rev. Ruth preaching
Persistence Needed; Matthew 15:21-28

August 23: Rev. Ruth preaching
Stumbling Blocks; Matthew 16:21-23

August 30: Rev. Ruth preaching
"A Christian Is ..."; Romans 12:9-21

Please speak with Rev. Ruth if you would like a hard copy of any sermon.



AUGUST DIACONATE SCHEDULE

August 2: *Everyone!* Lynn as Deacon of the Week

August 9: JoAnn

August 16: TBD

August 23: TBD

August 30: TBD

NEWS FROM THE DEACONS

The Deacons appreciate those who have attended services on the warm summer days. Our Hymn Sing Sundays seemed quite popular, with many folks requesting their favorite hymns. We also greatly appreciated the service that Rev. Mary Horan led. It was very thoughtful and peaceful, and it's always nice to have a guest on Sunday mornings. As a reminder, if the temperature is above 90 degrees, our Sunday service will be broadcast instead of in person. Let any Deacon know if you'd like a call instead of the email. We have taken a break from our monthly meetings, and will meet for our annual pot luck dinner

meeting at Lynn's house in August. Feel free to be in touch with any Deacon for prayer concerns or any other concerns.

Respectfully submitted,
Lynn Murray

TRUSTEES NOTES



Pledges for June were \$8,084, \$2,457 more than the anticipated pledge amount of \$5,627. Total income for June was \$12,679. Total expenses for June were \$11,457.

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



The **ANNUAL MEETING** of the Southern New England Conference, UCC is scheduled for **Friday, September 25 to Sunday, September 27**. Keynoter and worship preacher is Senator Rev. Raphael Warnock. Also, several important issues will be coming up for a vote during the business sessions. I am attending as Pastor and

Peter is attending as a delegate. **KINDLY NOTE WE ARE ENTITLED TO TWO MORE DELEGATES.** If you would like to serve in this capacity, kindly speak with me asap. The church will cover your registration fee of \$130 and this gives you full access to the online Annual Meeting. If you wish to attend in person, you would be expected to pay your own expenses for meals and travel plus a hotel if you are staying over. **IF YOU WOULD LIKE MORE INFORMATION ON BEING A DELEGATE TO THIS MEETING, PLEASE SPEAK WITH ME AS SOON AS POSSIBLE SO WE CAN GET YOU REGISTERED.**



August - Annual "In the Middle" School Supply Drive



Our annual "In the Middle" School Supplies Drive is now taking place. As always, the drive benefits students in the middle schools on both sides of

the Pawcatuck River. These donations will be delivered to the schools and directed to the guidance offices where they will be distributed discreetly to students and teachers who may be lacking necessary supplies.

Good news! There are many great sales going on right now! We will be dedicating the supplies on Sunday, August 30 and distributing them to the schools the following week.

- 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

UPCOMING MISSION FUN! SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAY CAKE KITS! ALL CONGREGATION BIRTHDAY PARTY!



(We are posting the September mission plans now due to shortened prep time to prepare for this event. HOWEVER,

please remember that our August school supplies drive will be collected until August 30. More details of the Birthday Cake Project will be available in Fellowship Hall by August 16 and posted in the September Beacon.)

For our September Mission in Motion Project, we hope to create about 20 birthday cake kits to be divided between the PNC and Johnnycake Center. We will assemble the kits on Sunday, September 20 during Fellowship, while we enjoy an all-church birthday party of cake, ice cream, popcorn and punch! YAY!

What can you do? We are asking each member to donate a box of cake mix, a can of frosting that coordinates with the flavor of the cake mix, birthday candles, and a can of soda or seltzer. If you wish, you may add any embellishments of your choosing, such as sprinkles, balloons, napkins, paper plates, a birthday card, a \$5 gift card to Aldi or the Dairy Queen for ice cream, etc. Feel free to add as many or as few as you would like. Bags with specific instructions will be available in Fellowship Hall by August 16. The Mission members will provide the aluminum pans, large Ziplock bags, ribbon, and parchment paper to line the cake pans.

We are very excited about this project and hope that you will be, too!

COMING UP IN OCTOBER—GRAMMIES PAJAMMIES!



AUGUST -- BACKPACK AND SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE

The OFS school supply drive is winding down, as we are hoping to distribute the filled backpacks by the middle of August. If you would still like to contribute, it would be best to refer to the OFS Facebook page, where the most-needed items are frequently posted.

SEPTEMBER -- SIP AND SIGN EVENT



Shannon is chairing the annual Sip and Sign event, but we are all excited to be participating in any way that we can assist her. What can you do? We are still in need of volunteers for that evening, so contacting Shannon to speak to her directly would be a great help. Of course, an easy way to help would be to purchase a ticket to the event and enjoy a lovely evening with some great local authors! Information for the tickets will be available soon.

See or contact Sandi Davis for more information.



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 their 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. The ingredients that members of the congregation so generously donated to the pantry were appreciated by all of the bakers and canners.

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 or on the bazaar prep table 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!

And, by the way, please return your empty jars from last year!!

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 or could even be Walmart brand
- Peanut butter—smooth and/or chunky
- Chocolate chips (also white, butterscotch, peanut butter, and cinnamon chips)
- Cocoa—regular and dark
- ***Cider vinegar
- Flour (King Arthur 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 containers called “Clamshells”
- Plastic pint-sized soup containers—we have plenty of quarts
- *****Glass Mason jars—quart, pint, half pint, and jelly jars*** (with bands if possible)**

*****Needed now**

Sincerely and gratefully,

Your bazaar bakers, soup makers, and canners

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 the canners in the church. Please return or recycle those jars to the kitchen counter. We will be eternally grateful! Thanks so much!!



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. An email has gone out from Pastor Ruth to check on a date to resume! Please respond, or if you didn't receive this email, call the office so we can fill you in!

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...

Wednesday, September 23 @ 12pm! Location TBA! However, given the longer time frame to read, we have chosen two books to consider! Read both or 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

(*Remarkably 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!

Janet Allen

2 Weathervane Way, Bradford, RI 02808

Charlotte Korean

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

Ede Steele

11 Butternut Drive, Norwich, CT 06360

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.

AUGUST SPECIAL DAYS

Birthdays

- Rosemary Jette
- Sandi Davis
- Liz Dessaulles
- Amanda Dessaulles
- Bethany Foster
- Eli Ainsworth

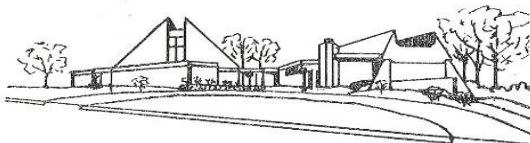


Anniversaries

- George & Cathy Gray

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 Pelouquin

CONTACT US

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OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday 9:00AM - 12:00PM

Wednesday & Thursday

9:00AM - 1:00PM

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