



"Perhaps you have come to royal dignity for just such a time as this." Esther 4:14b

For such a time as this. This famous quote from the Book of Esther (in the Old Testament) comes from a conversation between Queen Esther and her uncle, Mordecai. Biblical scholars generally understand the book of Esther as a beloved mythical story, almost Disneyesque in telling the rags to riches adventures of a beautiful young Jewish girl who, through a circuitous and surprising route, ends up becoming a queen in the court of King Ahasuerus, most likely of Persia. There is an easy to hate villain (Haman) as well as a backstage advisor (Mordecai) and all other sorts of colorful characters. It has actually been the subject of several movies. My favorite is *"One Night with the King"* currently streaming on Prime Video if you're looking for something to watch.

Why am I talking about this most likely mythical queen -- at such a time as this -- if you'll forgive the pun. 😊 Well, I happen to think Mordecai's words of advice to Esther urging her to undertake a potentially dangerous conversation with the king is very pertinent to today, as the midterms in our country loom so large. Dear ones, we are living through an extraordinarily difficult time in this country. I don't need to list all the problems we are facing, problems impacting everyone regardless how you identify in the political realm. The problems are all too real, and getting worse every day. Food recalls, measles running rampant, school shootings, skyrocketing prices, and a war no one wanted hemorrhaging cash and casualties.

All this means is that we, like Mordecai and Queen Esther, are living through our own "such a time as this." And, just like with Esther's need to step up to save her people, we too need to step up and let our voices be heard. And, praise be to God in heaven, we have that right. It's called voting and I need to remind you of that as we head into the Midterms elections this fall.

Never has your vote mattered more. Please be clear I am not telling anyone *how* to vote. That is your choice, and your choice alone. I am telling you, though, that you *must* vote. You also need to buckle up because it's going to be a bumpy ride as certain forces in this country are actively trying to make voting as difficult, even perilous, as it's ever been, at least in my lifetime.

So, dear ones, keep informed, make a plan to vote in the primary next week if you're in RI and for the Midterms on November 3rd and then VOTE. For such a time as this, it's the most important thing you can do.

Your sister in faith,
Rev. Ruth



SEPTEMBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

September 6: Communion & Rev. Ruth
Preaching - *Hallowed Rest*

September 13: Worship at 9:45 AM

September 20: Worship at 9:45 AM

September 27: Special prayer service

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



SEPTEMBER DIACONATE SCHEDULE

Sept 6: Bethany Foster

Sept 13: Jenny Brummund

Sept 20: Christina Brummund

Sept 27: Allana Allik

NEWS FROM THE DEACONS

The Deacons had their annual pot luck meeting at Lynn's house. It was productive, as we discussed services while Pastor Ruth was on vacation. Mary Horan, the guest pastor, was well received, and many folks participated in our hymn sign Sunday. At the meeting, we also discussed worship plans going forward. As always, we would be happy to welcome more deacons on the board.

It's hard to believe that summer is almost over. That means that bazaar season is coming up. Items that are always welcome are canning supplies, especially jars, as well as any baking supplies. Our baked/canned goods and pies made the most money of all the bazaar areas, and our bakers go through a lot of supplies. A wish list will be available soon. Fingers crossed that this will be another successful bazaar year.

Respectfully submitted,
Lynn Murray

TRUSTEES NOTES

Pledges for August were \$4,875, \$752 less than the anticipated pledge amount of \$5,627. Total income for August was \$10,501. Total expenses for August were \$9,783.



A huge THANK YOU to Gary Davis for repairing the steps to the lower parking lot! They look terrific! We are so lucky that he is willing to share his expertise and skills with us!

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!

With love,
Jenny Brummund

Join the UCC Westerly Choirs!



The **Voice Choir** is welcoming new members! You do not need to read music to participate. We rehearse each week on **Wednesdays from 3:30-4:30 PM**, and we sing **two Sundays each month**.

The **Tone Chimes Choir** is also welcoming new members. No music-reading skills are required here, either. Our regular schedule is to play **two Sundays in a row each month**, with rehearsals at **9:00 AM on the Sundays we play**. Additional rehearsals may be scheduled depending on the complexity of the music. Please consider joining one or both of the UCC Westerly choirs. We would love to make music with you!

Dav Cranmer, Organist and Choirs Director



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. We also have delegates attending virtually so we will be well represented at this crucial meeting!

Here is the link to the Home Page for the Annual Meeting on the SNEUCC website:

<https://www.sneucc.org/eventdetail/7th-annual-meeting-of-the-sneucc-19566021>



SEPTEMBER MISSION FUN!!!

BIRTHDAY CAKE KITS! ALL CONGREGATION BIRTHDAY PARTY!



For our September Mission in Motion Project, we hope to create at least 20 birthday cake kits to be divided

between the PNC and the Johnnycake Center. We will assemble the kits on Sunday, September 20 during Fellowship, while we enjoy an **all-church birthday party with cake, ice cream, popcorn, and punch!** What fun!

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, or a \$5 gift card to Aldi or Dairy Queen for ice cream. Feel free to add as many or as few extras as you would like.

Bags with specific instructions are available in Fellowship Hall. The Mission members will provide the aluminum pans, large Ziplock bags, ribbon, and parchment paper to line the cake pans.

We will assemble the kits on Sunday, September 20 during Fellowship, while we enjoy an all-church birthday party with cake, ice cream, popcorn, and punch! What fun!

We are very excited about this project and hope that you will be, too! Look for a sign-up sheet for the birthday party on the bulletin board soon.

COMING UP IN OCTOBER — GRAMMIES PAJAMMIES!!



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.

- \$45 Per Person
- Includes small bites, one drink ticket & one raffle ticket
- Ticket info and event information are available at: [Operation Fresh Start - Sip N' sign | Facebook](#)

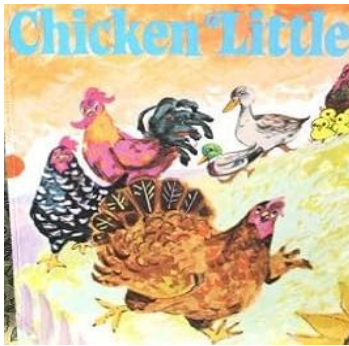
You can also see or contact Sandi Davis for more information.

Hope to see you there!

OCTOBER DONATION DRIVE GRAMMIES PAJAMMIES!



**THE BAZAARS ARE COMING!!!
THE BAZAARS ARE COMING!!!**



SILENT AUCTION DONATIONS NEEDED!

You may not be ready to think about our two bazaars coming in November and December, but chances are you may be cleaning out your closets, cabinets, attic, or basement and wondering what to do with some of the valuable treasures you no longer need. No, we aren't referring to the odds and ends you've collected through the years—those are perfect for a yard or attic sale. We are looking for nice or unique items that others would enjoy bidding on in our Annual Bazaar Silent Auction. Or perhaps you have a few cute items that could be combined to create a themed basket.

We have already started our search and have pledged a themed basket or two. What



themes can you imagine that would attract our shoppers?

Popular baskets in past years have included themes based on sports teams, nature, foods, books, and more. Gift cards to local shops and restaurants also make wonderful additions. If you feel comfortable, you might ask local merchants or

restauranters to donate gift cards or products. Need ideas for businesses to approach? We have suggestions and are happy to share. Please let us know what your plan might be so we don't duplicate requests to local businesses.

A table in Fellowship Hall will be ready to accept your donations.

It's never too early to start prepping for the bazaar!

Thank you for all of your past, present, and future support.

Shirin, Cathy, Deb, and Sandi

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 as we prepare 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 many of their own ingredients—and that is even before the baking and soup-making begins! Boggles the mind, doesn't it? Last year, the Trustees generously agreed to donate funds to help our cause, and JoAnn used them 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 donated to the pantry were deeply 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, can, or make soups for the bazaars—and we all know that our customers expect homemade goods, not store-bought. How can you still help? 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 than we may use this year; 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 place it in the designated basket in Fellowship Hall or in the kitchen, labeled for the bazaar pantry. 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. Thank you so much for whatever help you can give us. You have no idea how much we appreciate your donation.

Here is a shopping list to help! Not up for shopping? 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 butter-flavored sticks (Walmart brand is fine)
- Peanut butter—smooth and/or chunky
- Chocolate chips (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 Crock Avocado sticks)—same instructions as above
- Eggs—closer to the bazaar

Packaging

- Plastic 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 around your kitchen or basement, taking up space? This is the perfect time to make some room in your home and help the canners in the church.

Please return or recycle those jars to the kitchen counter. We will be eternally grateful! Thank you so much!!

Rev Ruth's Community Office Hours Resume!

Wednesday, September 16

1pm to 3pm

MARTIN HOUSE BOOKS on Canal Street in
Westerly!

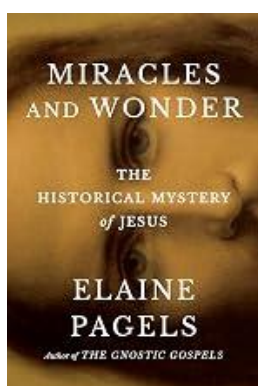
News got you down? Feel like the world is
clear nuts? Let's chat about it. Who knows?
Maybe you'll feel better.

BOOK & BIBLE STUDY RESUMES!

Wednesday

September 16

11am in the Parlor



Join us as we begin
another year of Bible Study
in a unique format. We
choose a book based in the
scriptures and then use
that as a study resource
for the specific scriptures
it references. Our
conversations on a wide
range of topics are
amazing and we'd love to

have you join us. We meet most Wednesdays
at 11am in the church parlor. Just come once
or twice to see what you think and then, if
you want to stick around with us, you can
consider buying/borrowing the book. Hope to
see you there!



LADIES WHO LUNCH

We're back!!

Next gathering is scheduled for

WEDNESDAY, Sept. 30 @ 12:30pm

THE BREAKWATER- Stonington Boro

Carpooling from church leaving at 12:15!!

Please join us for this delightful 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. 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 - 12:30 PM at
Liz's House!

✓ *RSVP on the bulletin board outside
Fellowship Hall.*

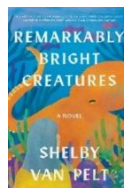
We have chosen two books to consider! Read
both or just one. Your choice!

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



Everyone loves to get mail these
days, especially when our mailboxes
are usually filled with junk! Please
pick up a new directory in the office (if you
don't already have one) and find one or two
folks to send a card or note too. What you do,
does make a difference in the lives of people
more than you realize.

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.

SEPTEMBER SPECIAL DAYS

Birthdays

- No Birthdays!

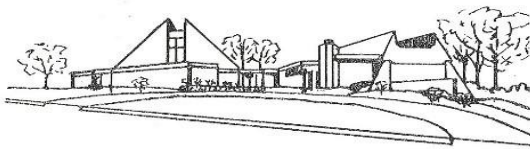


Anniversaries

- Fred & Claire Calabretta
- Amanda Hainsworth & Jennifer O'Donnell
- Mark & Kathy Sugar

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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Website: www.uccwesterly.org

Facebook/UCCWesterly

uccwesterly.org



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!