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SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP **with UCC Westerly**

August 30, 2026 @ 9:45am

*In-person & Broadcast live
from our sanctuary
CCLI Streaming License #21022154*

BLESSING OF THE SCHOOL SUPPLIES

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

PASTOR'S WELCOME

PRELUDE *Balm in Gilead*

[MUSIC: Roger C. Wilson, c1954 by the Lorenz Publishing Company, use by permission]

DEACON'S WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP — from Psalm 71

One: In you, O Lord, I take refuge; let me never be put to shame.

All: In your righteousness deliver me and rescue me.

One: Be to me a rock of refuge, a strong fortress to save me.

All: For you, O Lord, are my hope, my trust.

OPENING HYMN *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*

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W&R#501

UNISON PRAYER OF REFLECTION

[Banksen & Sokolove, Eds. *Calling on God*, ©2014 Skylight Paths Publishing, p. 221-2]

How lovely is your dwelling place, most Holy One. Our souls long for your presence; our hearts and bodies sing our joy to the living God. In our prayers and in our singing, in our words and in our silence, bring us ever closer to your heart and will. Enable us to know that our strength is in you alone. Clothe us in your loving power, so that we may live in you and become your people in every aspect of our lives. Amen.

MOMENT FOR MISSION — *The Blessing of the School Supplies*

One: Merciful God, as this new school year begins, we are grateful for students, teachers, school staff, parents, caregivers and administrators. The challenges our schools face are considerable and yet they keep plugging away at the work of teaching and learning together.

All: We ask for your blessing on teachers and staff at every level, often struggling with expectations impossible to meet and yet they still keep smiling. They still keep putting their students first. Fill them with your strength and resilience every day.

One: We pray for our students and the adults who love and care for them outside of school. May their homes be filled with kindness and with patience and strength for dealing with all the things that are not as they should be. Surround them with your abiding love and be with them in all the moments the new school year will hold, the good and the bad, the unfortunate and the amazing, the everyday and the extraordinary.

All: We pray for a better year; for a safe return to classrooms; for the health of students, teachers and school staff; for school boards and administrators under pressure to make difficult decisions; and for parents exhausted by the rigors of life each day.

One: This morning, Holy One, we especially ask your blessing on these school supplies we have collected together to be shared at middle schools. May these items carry with them our tangible love and strength for students and teachers for the year just beginning. May they be used to fill empty spaces in lives as well as on shelves.

All: All this we ask in the name of Jesus whose love of teaching was the foundation of his ministry among us. Amen.

Musical Response – This Little Light of Mine

[©Public Domain]

*This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine (3 x)
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine!*

THE MORNING MESSAGE

Scripture Reading: Romans 12:9-21

Message – “Honor Thy Mother” An Introduction

Rev. Ruth

Meditation Music Take Time to be Holy

[©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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF GIFTS AND OFFERINGS*

Special Music *Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart* Melissa Stratton and Ed Stratton

[© 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 HYMN – Shall We Gather at the River

W&R #522

[©Public Domain]

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A PRAYER OF BENEDICTION

The 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

[WORDS & MUSIC: Sy Miller & Jill Jackson © 1955, Ren.1983 Jen-Lee Music. CCLI Copyright License 93690]

PASSING OF THE PEACE

POSTLUDE

Trumpet Tune

[MUSIC: Michael A. Johnson, c2005 by Lorenz Publishing Company, CCLI# 7116276]



#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. 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 take one of our Welcome brochures in the pew. We'd love to stay in touch with you so if you could fill out the information part of the flyer and leave it in one of the offering plates, we promise to honor your privacy and not be too pushy! We also hope you will join us for fellowship time if you are so inclined!

Our Diaconate Person of the Week for this 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 encouraged to give via the "Donate" button at 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!

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 take with you as a source of comfort to those struggling. For more information on our prayer ministries please speak with any Deacon or Rev. Ruth at any time.

We need a little help after worship to sort and pack up the school supplies for delivery to the schools this week. Thanks!

You are welcome to donate flowers for the chancel any week. Contact Rev. Ruth or Jerin for information.

ROMANS 12:9-21

⁹ Let love be genuine; hate what is evil; hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰ love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹ Do not lag in zeal; be ardent in spirit; serve the Lord. ¹² Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; persevere in prayer. ¹³ Contribute to the needs of the saints; pursue hospitality to strangers.

¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another; do not be arrogant, but associate with the lowly; ^[a] do not claim to be wiser than you are. ¹⁷ Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what

is noble in the sight of all. ¹⁸ If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹ Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God,^[b] for it is written, “Vengeance is mine; I will repay, says the Lord.” ²⁰ Instead, “if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink, for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads.” ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

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

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OUR STAFF:

The Rev. Ruth Shilling Hainsworth, Pastor
David Cranmer, Organist & Choirs Director
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