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SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP with UCC Westerly

July 12, 2026 @ 9:45am
In-person & Broadcast live from
our sanctuary
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#21022154

SUMMERTIME!

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

DEACON'S WELCOME

JoAnn Spurley

PRELUDE

Aria (in the Style of Handel)

[by Robert Lau, c2006 by Lorenz Publishing Company, used by permission]

CALL TO WORSHIP (adapted from Psalm 119:105-112)

JoAnn Spurley

One: Your word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path.

All: I have promised that I will keep Your Law. And I will add strength to this promise.

One: Our world is in the midst of much suffering, O Lord.

All: Give us life again by Your Word. Take our willing gift of thanks, O Lord, and teach us Your Law.

One: Our lives are always in our hands yet let us not forget Your Law.

All: Let us not be swayed by sinful traps or turned from Your Law.

One: We have been given Your Law forever. It is the joy of our heart.

All: We have set our hearts on obeying Your Law forever, even to the end.

One: Then let our Sabbath Day of celebration begin!

OPENING HYMN

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

W&R#48

UNISON PRAYER OF REFLECTION

JoAnn Spurley

O Gracious One, through You we are invited into abundant life. As the rain and the snow come down from heaven to nourish the earth, may Your Word nourish our hearts and minds. As the words of the prophets went out in purpose, may our words and praise return in joy and fulness. As Your Son Jesus taught us extravagant love, may we follow in the path you have set before us. For all are Your people, and Love is the everlasting sign that shall endure. Amen.

THE MORNING MESSAGE

Scripture Reading: Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

Message – *Getting Lost in the Weeds*

Meditation Music - *St. Columba*

[Public Domain]

JoAnn Spurley

Rev. Mary Horan

**#A MOMENT TO BREATHE
A TIME OF PRAYER**

JoAnn Spurley

Rev. Mary Horan

Pastoral Prayer & Silent Prayers
The Lord's Prayer in whatever words are most comfortable for you.
Musical response

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF GIFTS AND OFFERINGS*

JoAnn Spurley

Special Music *The Holy Love of God*

[James Southbridge, c2006 by Lorenz Publishing Company, used by permission]

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

They'll Know We Are Christians

W&R#595

[words and music by Peter Scholtes, c1966 F.E.L. Publications, Assigned 1991 to Lorenz Publishing Company, CCLI# 26997]

ANNOUNCEMENTS

JoAnn Spurley

A PRAYER OF BENEDICTION –

Rev. Mary Horan

Sung Response – Let There Be Peace on Earth

W& R#614

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PASSING OF THE PEACE

Rev. Mary Horan

POSTLUDE - United in Faith

[Franklin Ritter, c2006 by Lorenz Publishing Company, used by permission]

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***We are excited to welcome the Rev. Mary Horan as our Guest Preacher this morning!***

Rev. Mary Horan is an ordained minister and chaplain in the United Church of Christ. She has spent her entire career in healthcare, first as a cognitive and language therapist and most recently as the Regional Director for Spiritual Care and Integrative Medicine for Hartford HealthCare. Mary loves to travel whenever she can and enjoys cycling, hiking, and reading.

**#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 JULY DONATION DRIVE** is for non-perishable food items for the food pantry at the PNC. A list of suggested items to donate appears in the June/July *Beacon*. Also please recall that our annual "In the Middle" School Supplies Drive will take place in August and you

free to begin purchasing those items which will go on sale in July. Donation baskets for both drives will be on the chancel beginning July 5. 😊

**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).*

### **MATTHEW 13:1-9, 18-23**

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. <sup>2</sup> Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. <sup>3</sup> And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. <sup>4</sup> And as he sowed, some seeds fell on a path, and the birds came and ate them up. <sup>5</sup> Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. <sup>6</sup> But when the sun rose, they were scorched, and since they had no root, they withered away. <sup>7</sup> Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. <sup>8</sup> Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. <sup>9</sup> If you have ears,<sup>[a]</sup> hear!"

<sup>18</sup> "Hear, then, the parable of the sower. <sup>19</sup> When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. <sup>20</sup> As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, <sup>21</sup> yet such a person has no root but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away.<sup>[a]</sup> <sup>22</sup> As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of this<sup>[b]</sup> age and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. <sup>23</sup> But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."



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OUR STAFF:

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