



"Then Boaz said to Ruth, 'Now listen, my daughter, do not go to glean in another field or leave this one, but keep close to my young women.... If you get thirsty, go to the vessels and drink from what the young men have drawn.'" Ruth 2:8-9

I stumbled across this text from the very familiar story of Ruth in the Hebrew Scriptures when I was looking for a text about harvests, it being October. As I read this text, though, my stomach flipped. I had always known that gleaning was very dangerous for young women in Ruth's time, at least a thousand years before Jesus was born. That's why Boaz gives her such specific instructions about how she was to glean in the fields, so she would remain safe. Well, that's to be expected, isn't it? I mean, those were lawless times compared to our own in this post-modern world, weren't they?

Initially, I thought so too. But then one particular sentence in this passage which I have probably read a thousand times really jumped out at me. "If you get thirsty, go to the vessels and drink from what the young men have drawn." And these would have been the young men Boaz had already told to leave her alone, and to look out for her safety. They would not dare to do otherwise because Boaz's wrath would be fearsome indeed. What stuck out to me was this specific admonition not to drink from anything other than what his crew would provide. Why? Because drinking from a wineskin from a fellow gleaner could be dangerous – tainted with something to make her sick ... or incapacitated.

Visions of the Cornell 7 and their assault of Jane Doe jumped into the forefront of my thoughts unbidden. She too was incapacitated at what she assumed would be a safe place to attend a party. A frat house party, true. But a party. I'm sure she was told by her family and friends who loved her not to take any chances with what she drank or even ate at such a party because it might not be safe. And I'm sure she reacted the way every other girl who is on the receiving end of that speech does – she rolled her eyes and insisted she would be fine. She

wasn't. Far from it. She was walking into a nightmare in the making. And Ruth's story reminds us that this particular story is an ancient one – so ancient that we even find it in the pages of the Bible.

Both of these stories raise the same question for me – Why should it be solely the responsibility of a young girl to stay safe from men with nefarious thoughts? Why should Ruth have to worry about her safety while she was working in a field to stave off the hunger her and her adoptive mother Naomi faced? Why should Jane Doe have to worry about her safety just because she decided to go to a party at a fraternity at an Ivy League school with an excellent reputation? Why does no one expect the young men in these situations to behave in a way that is not dangerous to young women? Why did not one of the 57 young men who received the text message about a vulnerable young girl think to call the police to protect her?

These are indeed troubling questions and this text from the Old Testament remind us of just how long this question has been an open one. We must ask ourselves, what needs to happen in our society that all young girls can remain safe especially when the young men around them are unsupervised? The answer is complex, I'm sure some would argue. I, on the other hand, would argue it's simple. Just respect women as people. Treat every person – male, female, queer – with love, dignity and respect. Easier said than done, apparently. And that, dear ones, is not just a problem. It is sin, pure and simple.

Your sister in faith,
Rev. Ruth



Rev. Ruth's
Community Office Hours



Thursday, October 15, 1-3pm
MARTIN HOUSE BOOKS
Canal Street, Westerly

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



OCTOBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Oct. 4: Communion & Rev. Ruth Preaching -
Rainbow Bridge Sunday

Oct. 11: Worship at 9:45 AM - First Peoples Day

Oct. 18: Worship at 9:45 AM

Oct. 25: Worship at 9:45 AM

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



OCTOBER DIACONATE SCHEDULE

Oct. 4: Lynn Murray

Oct. 11: TBD

Oct. 18: TBD

Oct. 25: TBD

NEWS FROM THE DEACONS

The Deacons are back to our monthly virtual meetings. We are now recruiting lay readers. Please speak to any Deacon if interested. We would also welcome anyone interested in joining the board, as we are down one person as of now. It mainly involves monthly virtual meetings and Sunday duties. We appreciate all the visitations that Rev. Ruth does with our shut-ins and those we do not see often. Thank you to the Missions committee for organizing the birthday cake drive and the fellowship hour birthday celebration. It was a good turnout of supplies and treats. The new worship resource that Jerin does seems to be a good idea, as it saves paper. Any thoughts? As you know, bazaar planning is underway. Sign-up sheets are on a table in fellowship hall.

Respectfully submitted,
Lynn Murray

TRUSTEES NOTES



Pledges for August were \$4,483 \$1,144 less than the anticipated pledge amount of \$5,627. Total income for August was \$5,474. Total expenses for August were \$8,344.

The yellow jacket nest in Fellowship Hall has been treated by Griggs and Browne.

Please let any of the trustees know if you should see something in the building or on the grounds that needs attention.

FROM THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY



October features a UCC Offering opportunity, one of the "Five for Five" collections to which our church strives to contribute.

This month's offering is called Neighbors in Need (NIN); it supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States, including the Council for American Indian Ministries. NIN provides grants for justice initiatives, advocacy, and supports direct service projects.

Feel free to use one of the NIN envelopes near the offering plates, and/or specify NIN on your check memo line. We will be sure your donations reach their destination. The collection time runs through the month of October.

As always, thank you all for the many ways you support UCC Westerly "in Pawcatuck," as well as those who are supported by UCC ministries throughout the country!

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 on the **first, third and fourth Wednesdays of the month 4-5 PM**, and on the **second Wednesday of the month 3:30-4:30PM**. 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



MISSION MOMENT



The Mission Board would like to thank each and every one of you who participated in the Birthday Cake Kit Project in September! What fun we had! We were hoping to

gather enough supplies for 20 kits, but you went above and beyond by donating enough for 33 kits!!! Half of those kits were gratefully accepted at the PNC and the other at Johnnycake. Would you like to do this again next year? Tell anyone on the Mission Board if you would like to have a repeat performance, along with the all-church party, of course.

OCTOBER 2026

The nights are getting cooler and it's time to get out our jammies!!! Can you imagine not having a nice pair of pajamas to snuggle up in



at bedtime? Well, there are plenty of children and adults who don't have that luxury.

In October our mission collection will be supporting Operation Fresh Start's Annual Grammie's Jammies drive again. What fun we had with this the last time we participated! As we have found, there are many very cool pjs out there, and they are just waiting for us to

scarf them up! The greatest need is for the large sizes for kids, women, and men.

As in other years, the collection bins will be at the altar, waiting to be blessed on October 25, Mission Sunday.

Respectfully submitted,

Eileen, Ede, Kathy S. Melissa, Rev. Ruth, Peter, and Sandi



OCTOBER 2026

The month of October is going to be crazy busy for OFS!

First off, we will have a **Cones for a Cause Fundraiser at Tootsie's Ice Cream on Sunday, October 11, from 5 pm to 8 pm**. Tom and



Yvonne have graciously agreed to donate 20% of their profits during that time to OFS. If you have never been to Tootsie's, now is the time! They

have SO many yummy flavors and even wonderful sugar-free, dairy-free, and gluten-free ice cream!!! They are located at Mill Pond Plaza, 105 Franklin St., Westerly. We are also encouraging customers to bring a toiletry, if you can, to supplement our supply at OFS. Hope to see you there!



The next **Sunday, October 18th**, will feature our **Annual Sip and Sign** that needed to be rescheduled due to our latest storm. The details of the event remain the same

(minus one author), so your enjoyment is guaranteed! Great authors sharing and selling their books, a fabulous silent auction, delicious lite bites, and interesting drinks, both with alcohol and without will fill the evening. Stonington Free Library is so generous to be hosting this event that will occur from 5 pm to 9 pm. Tickets are \$45 and

can be purchased in advance or at the door. Check with Sandi D. for more details.

AND, the ever-popular **Grammie's Pajamas** will be on tap for the **entire month of October!** We will be collecting all sizes of



pajamas (except the tiniest sizes) to be shared with our clients, local agencies, and as Christmas gifts for our Adopt-a-families. There will be several collection boxes around town, but why not donate them directly to the October Mission project on Sundays at UCC Westerly?



We are pleased to announce that The Giving Closet has found a temporary home in our office space downstairs. Sarah would like to thank everyone at UCC Westerly and OFS for providing this opportunity for her to continue her mission of helping those in need. Please see Sandi D. if you would like more information.

LOOKING AHEAD



Oh, my! Christmas projects are in our future! The Toy Drive, Adopt-a-family, and the Big Red Sleigh will be filling our days and our workspace!

Respectfully submitted,
Sandi Davis
Vice President, Operation Fresh Start



The bazaars are coming!!! The bazaars are coming!!!

You may not be ready to think about our two bazaars coming in November and December, but odds are that you may be cleaning out your closets, cabinets, attic, or basement, and wondering what you could do with all of your valuable treasures that you no longer need. No, we aren't referring to the odds and ends you've collected through the years; they would go to a yard or attic sale. We are searching for nice or unique items that others would like to bid on for our Annual Bazaar Silent Auction. Or maybe you have some cute items that you could put together to create a themed basket.

We have already started our search and have pledged a themed-basket or two. What themes can you think of that would attract our shoppers? Baskets that have been popular before include those based on sports teams, nature, foods, books, etc.

Gift cards to local shops and restaurants are also lovely additions. Maybe you could ask some local merchants or restaurateurs to donate gift cards and/or products? Need some ideas of stores to approach? We have some thoughts in that area, as well. Let us know what your plan might be, so we don't double up on our requests to local businesses.

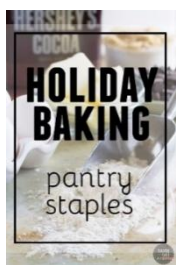
There is a table in Fellowship Hall ready to accept your donations.

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

Thanks for all of your past, present, and future help.

Shirin, Cathy, Deb, and Sandi

BAZAAR PANTRY!



UCC bakers, soup makers, and canners have already been at it, making or prepping to make, jams, jellies, pickles, relishes, butters, soups, etc. 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, soup makers 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? 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 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 Crock Avocado sticks)—same as above
- Eggs—closer to the bazaar (please check the expiration dates)

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)

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!!

Bazaar Volunteers Needed!

Whether you've helped before or are thinking about trying it for the first time, we warmly encourage you to consider lending a hand on **either—or both—bazaar dates**, even if only for an hour or two. There are roles for every comfort level and schedule:

- Greeting shoppers
- Helping at tables
- Restocking baked goods and canned items
- Assisting with Silent Auction displays
- Offering general support wherever needed

Every bit of help truly makes a difference. These bazaars are one of our biggest community-building events of the year, and they succeed because many hands come together in generosity and joy.

If you know you'll be available—or even if you might be—please reach out to the church office or speak with any of the Bazaar team

members. We'll gladly match you with a time and task that works for you.

Thank you for supporting this beloved tradition with your time, your energy, and your spirit. We can't wait to share another wonderful bazaar season with you!



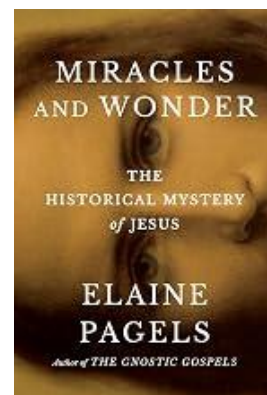
Recording Available

The recording of Rev. Dr. Raphael G. Warnock's Keynote Address to the Annual Meeting on Sept. 26 is now available online.

www.sneucc.org/2026AM

BOOK & BIBLE STUDY

Join us on the following
Wednesdays in October:
7th, 14th, 21st, 28th
11 AM in the Parlor



We are currently reading this amazing book which is guiding us through encountering the Jesus of the New Testament we never knew was there. We meet most Wednesdays at 11AM in the church parlor. You are welcome to join us 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!

I wonder
what life
would be
like...



If we weren't so
fabulous!

LADIES WHO LUNCH

Next gathering is scheduled for:



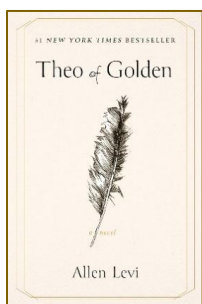
12:30 PM on Wednesday,
November 4 at PIZZA PLACE
in Westerly (across from the
Wilcox Library)

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, October 28
12:30 PM in the Parlor

WHAT WE'RE READING...

Theo of Golden by Allen Levi

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.



We have a **special prayer request**
this month for Connor, a 13 year old
boy diagnosed with an untreatable
brain tumor.

OCTOBER SPECIAL DAYS

Birthdays

- Heather Stratton
- Erin Gray
- Melissa Stratton
- Robert Cornell
- Joan Edmond
- Julie Grillo
- Brooke Foster



Anniversaries

- Dwayne Spurley & Kevin Dows

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

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OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday 9:00AM - 12:00PM
Wednesday & Thursday
9:00AM - 1:00PM

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you for your understanding!