THE BEACON
NOVEMBER 2026

Send out your bread upon the waters for after many days you will get it back. Ecclesiastes 11:1

Welcome to Standard Time after this past Sunday's extra hour's sleep as Daylight Savings Time came to an end. Welcome to November, a very busy month here at our church as the first Bazaar happens on the 14th with set-up under way now. We'll also be kicking off our Stewardship Campaign and getting ready for the seasons of Advent, Christmastide and Epiphany! Yikes! That's a lot!

Also, as I write this on the long awaited day of the midterm elections, I am keenly aware that the Bible verse noted above – which is our theme verse for Stewardship this year – is also very appropriate for this Election Day. Every vote is an act of "sending out your bread upon the waters" trusting it will come back to you. That is surely what we are all hoping and praying for as the day begins. If you've already voted early – good for you! If you've decided to vote in person today – good for you! All of us will be a part of history, no matter the outcomes locally and nationally. Remember that whomever you vote for is not the point of this Election Day. Rather, the point of this Election Day and every Election Day is the preservation of democracy in its unique iteration here in the United States.

If we're honest, we are also aware that this is an Election Day fraught with anxiety in so many ways. We are all tired of the horrible division which has threatened to rip the fabric of our society apart. We are anxious to reclaim hope and healing when all the voting is behind us with the votes counted and certified. Different this year is the fear of violence in some areas of our country if this vote does not turn out the way some people want it to. There is an almost tangible fear of post-election violence I personally do not recall being a factor in any previous election in my lifetime. I pray that does not happen. And I invite you to join with me in praying about this too. Let's all make an effort to remember, whatever the outcome of the elections, God is always in the middle of life with us. Knowing that makes all things possible, especially when we do not all agree.

Your sister in faith,
Rev. Ruth



Rev. Ruth's
Community Office Hours



Thursday, December 10, 1-3pm

MARTIN HOUSE BOOKS

Canal Street, Westerly

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



NOVEMBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Nov. 1: All Saint Sunday along with Communion and a special message
Nov. 8: STEWARDSHIP MOMENT as the message - "Plus One!"
Nov. 15: STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY
Nov. 22: THANKSGIVING SUNDAY
Nov. 29: FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT & The Hanging of the Greens

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



NOVEMBER DIACONATE SCHEDULE

Nov. 1: Bethany Foster
Nov. 8: Christina Brummund
Nov. 15: JoAnn Spurley
Nov. 22: Lynn Murray
Nov. 29: Bethany Foster

NEWS FROM THE DEACONS

The Deacons continue to meet virtually one evening a month, and we discussed at our last meeting the possibility of meeting in person following worship one Sunday. We are down one Deacon, so we would welcome anyone who wants to join us. For those who watched the streaming of the SNEUCC, we hope you found it as inspirational as we did. We have discussed a central board format, and there will be a gathering after the first of the year. We are hoping to have a card Sunday before Christmas, where we write/sign cards for folks who are unable to attend. We would appreciate any Christmas card donations if you have any.

Respectfully submitted,
Lynn Murray

TRUSTEES NOTES



Pledge income for September totaled $4,481, which is $1,146 below the anticipated amount of $5,627. Total income for the month was $12,583, while total expenses were $15,625.

The Trustees kindly remind everyone to let us know if you notice anything in the building or on the grounds that needs attention. Your eyes and care help us stay ahead of maintenance needs and keep our campus welcoming and safe.

THIS YEAR'S STEWARDSHIP MATERIALS will be available to pick up after worship on Sunday, November 8. Any envelopes not picked will be mailed immediately after worship.

FROM THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY



Hello friends,

Keep in mind that your Bazaar shopping is a direct donation to our church! Can't beat that...what fun!

Also, five percent of Bazaar proceeds will be donated to RI and CT food banks, so your purchases also support an important local mission of UCC Westerly!

If the organ music is dear to your heart, consider a donation "Anytime" to the church's Organ Fund. This is a separate account that is used for organ maintenance and tuning. Did you know that we only get the organ tuned twice a year, and it costs over $600 each time?!

The Trustees recently approved the use of General Funds to further repair deep inside the upper regions of the organ. That is why you do not hear the high-pitch "cipher" that would randomly haunt the sanctuary anymore. This damage was discovered when the major repairs were done several years ago, when things were taken apart.

Our guest organist Michael McCarthy was telling me that pipe organs from the 1400s still work today because of good maintenance. A new electronic organ only has a lifespan of about 30 to 40 years, at a cost of $80,000 to $100,000. So, all the love and care we give our 1956 Wick's pipe organ will continue its life for hopefully another century!

Please support Janet Allen's Bazaar sales of aprons and ornaments, which benefit the Organ Fund, exclusively.

As always, thank you all for faithfully keeping up with your pledges. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about your pledge/statement.

Have a blessed holiday (and Bazaar) season,
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 is so very grateful to all of you who so generously donated pajamas of all shapes and sizes to our October pajama drive.



What an addition all of those jammies made to the Operation Fresh Start's Grammie's pajamas program. It is amazing how special a new pair of pajamas can make you feel, no matter what your age!

NOVEMBER

Although in recent years our holiday drive has focused on the Adopt-a-Family program of Operation Fresh Start, this year we will be supporting this program in a different way. Instead of adopting a rather large family again, we will be contributing in a more open-ended way.



With the bazaar season upon us, we are thinking that this would be easier for all of us who are so very busy baking, creating baskets, organizing rooms, etc.

OFS has always had a Shannon's Red Sleigh event to collect toys for the Stonington Police Department's Fill-a-Cruiser event and individual gifts for girls, boys, men, and women to supplement the Adopt-a-family program and to fill Shannon's Boutique that she opens to families who have missed the date to sign-up for the Adopt-a-Family program. Our sleigh at the altar may not be big and red, but it will symbolize our hearts of gold that contribute to this drive in a variety of ways. Donated toys will be collected the day before the SPD Cruiser event and delivered the day of the event. All toys received after that date will be added to the boutique to supplement the gifts for family members of all ages.

In addition, we must not forget that donating shelf-stable goods to go to the local food pantries should always be on our minds when we are out shopping. We will be collecting these items at our bazaars and also in the sanctuary.

Thanks so very much for all that you do for those in need.

(If you would still like to participate in their Adopt-a-family program, you may go to their Facebook page to search for a family in need.)

Operation Fresh Start

NOVEMBER

Thanks so very much to those of you who supported our Cones for a Cause last month. The weather was not very conducive to enjoying ice cream, that's for sure, but we did earn a bit of money to help with our expenses. Thanks so much to Tom and Yvonne for sponsoring our event at Tootsie's. If you have a chance, stop in to enjoy some of their delicious ice cream and treats. They offer so many flavors, with some that are dairy-free and sugar-free. Please tell them that we sent you!

We are deep in the midst of our busiest holiday season ever, with so many families signing up for our Holiday Adopt-a-Family program. If you are interested in making a needy family's holiday a very joyous one, please visit our website to search for a family by clicking on the link.

Please see the Missions article here for more information on all the ways you can support OFS's Christmas programs through our church.

We are wish all of you a wonderful Thanksgiving.



Bazaar season is upon us! As always, we are looking for help: bakers, set-up, workers either/both days of the bazaar. Sign-ups are in Fellowship Hall & baking ingredients are on the kitchen counter & in the refrigerator.

With regard to the Silent Auction: Set-up for the Auction is complete so donations are no longer being received. Please save them for Attic Treasures or next year's bazaars!

With regard to Baked Goods: On the first date, November 15th, we welcome fresh pies that can be frozen for Thanksgiving. This was a big hit last year. On the second date, we will be selling large and smaller cookies plates, each with an assortment of Christmas cookies. I think we made and sold nearly 50 last year. Lots of cookies will be needed, as well as our usual wide variety of other baked goods, including pre-packaged cookies, among other things.

With regard to home-made soups: These have actually become quite popular and we can always use more! Please be sure they are labeled and placed in one of the freezers in the kitchen.

With regard to packaging for food items: Please note the following packaging for baked goods, candies, and soups is available at the church. You can pick up what you need this Sunday!

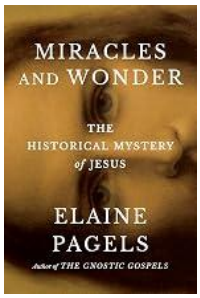
- Plastic clamshells
- Plastic pint-sized soup containers—we have plenty of quarts
- Glass Mason jars—quart, pint, half pint, and jelly jars*** (with bands if possible)

With regard to fresh Greens: A day or two before the December 5th date, we will be creating fresh greens arrangements, which are always popular. We will need fresh greens of all kinds, and folks willing to create the arrangements. Previous experience not necessary. We look forward to another successful year.

Thanks for all you do to make our Bazaar the best one around! We could not do it without you!

Your Bazaar Team

BOOK & BIBLE STUDY



Wednesday, November 11 @ 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!



LADIES WHO LUNCH

Next gathering is scheduled for:

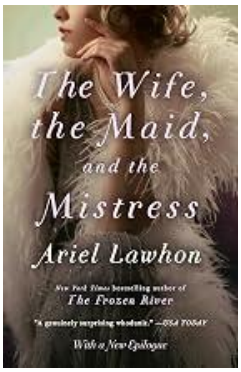


12:30 PM on Wednesday, November 4 at PIZZA PLACE in Westerly *(across from the Wilcox Library)*

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, January 13, 2027
12:30 PM in the Parlor

WHAT WE'RE READING...

The Wife, the Maid and the Mistress
by Ariel Lawhon

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 to. 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 or someone else, 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.

NOVEMBER SPECIAL DAYS

Birthdays



- David Cranmer
- Megan Gray
- Kali Woodhall
- Amanda Hainsworth
- Jenny Brummund
- Rev. Ruth Hainsworth
- Vera Leming
- Christina Brummund
- Marc Ainsworth

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

9 Castle Hill Road, Pawcatuck, CT 06379
Telephone: 860-599-1226
E-mail: uccwesterly@gmail.com
Website: www.uccwesterly.org

Facebook/UCCWesterly

uccwesterly.org

OFFICE HOURS

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

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