



## The Beacon April 2024

*"Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road?" Luke 24:32*

This familiar text from Luke's Gospel is an excellent summary of the significance of Jesus' resurrection appearances as recounted in the Bible. The Risen Christ had somehow escaped the tomb and his message of new life possible in God was amplified a hundred-fold. That's why it is so fitting that Easter happens in spring, when new life is literally bursting forth all around us. Such a gift!

These resurrection appearances of Jesus will be our focus during this liturgical season of "Eastertide," the brief span of time between Easter and Pentecost. Our topics for each week appear here for your consideration and a gentle reminder that participating in worship is an essential piece of Christian faith and practice.

One spring tradition is returning this year – Earth Day Sunday and the Blessing of the Gardening Tools followed by a clean-up of our grounds. Rumor has it a pizza or two might also appear. I hope you can plan now to join us for this wonderful spring event. Be sure to check out the other events and happenings included here and reach out to Jerin in the office with any questions.

So many exciting things are happening in our wonderful, vital church! We are richly blessed as a congregation and as God's people in our little corner of the world. Always remember to count those blessings every day as that little mathematical exercise is sure to bring a smile to your face and gratitude to your heart! Yours in faith,

Rev. Ruth



### WORSHIP SCHEDULE Eastertide

*Our Sunday morning worship services  
At 9:45am. In person & on Facebook Live*

*Revisiting the Resurrection Appearances  
of Jesus – What do they mean for us?*

*Sunday, April 7 – Hope Reclaimed  
Luke 24:13-32*

*Sunday, April 14 -- Disbelieving Joy  
Luke 24:33-43*

*Sunday, April 21 - Proof or Faith  
John 20:19-29*

*Sunday, April 28 - EARTH DAY SUNDAY!  
Blessing of the Garden Tools  
Jesus Barbecues  
John 21:1-14*

*Sunday, May 5 - Making Disciples  
Matthew 28:6-20*

Kindly Note: Copies of sermons will be provided by request only. Speak with Rev. Ruth to receive one!



### Diaconate Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Telephone #</u>
April 7	Bethany Foster	401-539-4003
April 14	Christina Brummund	860-599-1719
April 21	Allana Allik	860-334-9312
April 28	Lynn Murray	401-450-9249

*Please know you can call any Deacon at any time with your joys, concerns, and prayer requests. Your church family cares about you all the time, not just when you're in the building!*

## Prayer Requests Always Welcome!

As many of you know, we have had an active prayer tree for quite some time. This is a way for prayers to go out quickly when they are requested. We have both phone branches, and an email group. If you would like to be put on the tree, or to withdraw your name, please let any of the Deacons know.



### NEWS FROM THE DEACONS

The Deacons would like to thank everyone for their support of the Lent, Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter services. Easter was very early this year but still our services were well attended. Special thanks to Doug Brummund, our choirs, and Dav Cranmer, our organist and choirs director, for the exceptional musical offerings during this sacred season.

We would like to remind everyone that we are heading into scholarship season so anyone interested in applying for a Barbara Murano Scholarship should speak with any Deacon or Rev. Ruth to secure an application.

Lynn Murray  
Deacon chair



### Trustee Notes

Pledges for February were \$5668, \$158 more than the anticipated pledge amount of \$5510. Total income for February was \$8727. Total expenses for February were \$10,302.

The wooden cross piece from the previous window over the altar was dedicated on Easter Sunday.

Thank you, Gary Davis, for your craftsmanship! A replacement cross window plaque was reinstalled.

The Trustees would also like to announce a church grounds clean-up as a part of our Earth Day Sunday observance. Please wear your gardening clothes to church and bring your favorite gardening tools to worship for a blessing as gardening season begins here at church and at our homes!

Finally, a special reminder from our Trustees that if you are someone who is at the stage of life when you are taking distributions from your IRA account, you might be eligible to make tax-free gifts from that account to the church. Please speak with your IRA trustee for more details!



### MISSIONS NEWS UPDATE!

Here's where the calendar of Missions Projects for the church stands for 2024. What we do does make a difference!

**April** - *LADIES & BABIES* donations of feminine hygiene supplies and baby/toddler diapers in all sizes PLUS continuing food donations for the PNC

**May** - *STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH*  
(A UCC Five for Five offering)

**June** - *GENTS* donations of men's grooming products like razors, beard care, etc.

**July & August** - *SCHOOL SUPPLIES* drive

**September** - *TBD (suggestions?)*

**October** - *NEIGHBORS IN NEED*  
(A UCC Five for Five offering)

## MISSION MOMENT



### OPERATION FRESH START—NEW BEGINNINGS

#### APRIL

April is Underwear Month! New underwear is the #1 item rarely donated to help those in need. How about giving our foster children, homeless young adults, and families in crisis a helping hand? Underwear and tee-shirts needed in all sizes, especially:

Toddler boys and girls 2T—5T

Boys and girls 6—14

Women's small to 3XL

Men's small to 3XL

Bras for young girls and all sizes for women

Socks in all sizes

#### MAY



Our annual plant sale will take place on **Saturday, May 18**, so start those seedlings soon!!! Flowers and veggies, indoor plants and outdoor ones, seedlings and transplants—we need them all! We are also in need of themed baskets for the basket raffle. More info next month on drop-offs.



### From the Financial Secretary

Thank you, as always, for your faithful donations to UCC Westerly!

For those pledgers who do not use envelopes, I am including a monthly reminder of donations to supplement your basic pledge. These are, of course, voluntary. Please choose what is meaningful to you- or create your own special donations.

**Annual Conference Member “Dues”** (which is actually one of our Five for Five Offerings!): \$20. The one this month is **ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING**. See Missions article for details.

**Beacon** (to support printing, paper, and mailing costs) \$12 or other amount

**A special reminder about Deacon's Fund offerings:** If you would like to receive documentation on cash gifts to the Deacon's Fund, kindly use one of the Communion envelopes and be sure your name and pledge envelope # are noted on it.

Jenny Brummund, Financial Secretary,  
Michele Mitchell, Edward Stratton, and  
William Street, Assistant Financial Secretaries



### Organ Fund Update

Watch this space for details on the Dedication of the refurbished organ in the fall! Lots of fun ideas in the mix. Do you have any to share??

*The Organ Committee*



## UPDATES FROM CONGREGATIONAL LIFE!!

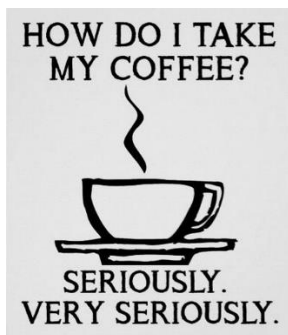
Here is a calendar of some of the upcoming planned events as created by the Board of Congregational Life: Please note these dates are subject to change without notice depending on weather and other factors so keep paying attention!

**APRIL 13** ATTIC TREASURES INDOOR YARD SALE, 8AM-12PM

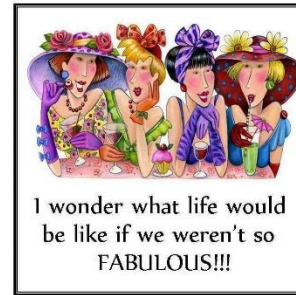
*Please see attached flyer!*

**MAY 13** UCC WESTERLY NIGHT OUT  
Trivia Night at the Breachway Grill in Charlestown

**JUNE 1** VENDORS CRAFT SALE (tentative - we need vendors!)



**Rev. Ruth's Community Office Hours returning this month!**  
**Thursdays, April 4 & 18**  
**1-3pm @ Starbucks on Granite Street**  
**In Westerly, RI**

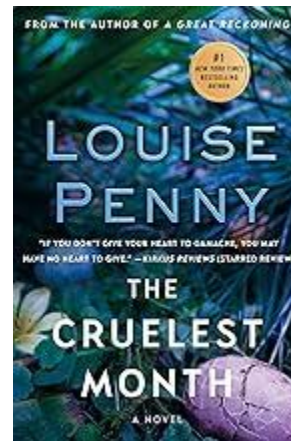


### UCCW LADIES WHO LUNCH

This is a fellowship group for the ladies of our church: members and friends, old, young and in-between, single and spoken for. You are invited to meet once a month for lunch, conversation and general frivolity. NO AGENDA FOR THIS GROUP OTHER THAN FUN!

**NEXT GATHERING** is planned for **Wednesday, April 24 @ 12 Noon**  
**PIZZA PLACE** in downtown Westerly across from the library.

Sign-up sheet outside Fellowship Hall.



An Invitation to join us at **BOOKS**

*A group of folks who love to read, talk about what we read or just talk...*

### OUR NEXT GATHERING:

*Wednesday, May 1, 2024 @ 12:30pm*  
*Join us for a BYO Lunch & Beverage*  
**DESSERT PROVIDED!!**

### WHAT WE'RE READING:

*THE CRUELEST MONTH*  
*By Louise Penny*

**EVERYONE WELCOME!**

This book is available to borrow through your local library or for purchase through your favorite local bookstore.

## **BEACON PRAYER LIST**



*Our church has a very active and vital prayer ministry which involves our Prayer Tree, requests for prayers during Sunday morning worship and this invitation in the Beacon each month to pray for specific folks who are requesting prayers here. Below is this month's list for the Beacon Prayer List.*

Shirley M  
Donald  
Scott

Jennifer Woodhall  
Emma  
Evan

*If you would like anyone added or removed from this list for the next newsletter, please call the office. Thank you.*

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### ***Brighten Someone's Day...***

A few suggestions of folks who might enjoy a card or note.

Martha Evans  
7 Scot Circle, Charlestown, RI 02813

Charlotte Korean  
11 North Drive, Ashaway, RI 02804

Asael Hill  
64 School Street, Apt. 2, Westerly, RI 02891



### ***April Birthdays:***

Pam DelPozo-Waldron  
George Gray  
Reese O'Donnell Hainsworth

### ***April Anniversaries:***

Sandi & Gary Davis  
Jenny & Doug Brummund  
Rev. Ruth & Peter Hainsworth

*\*We are no longer providing specific birthday dates as an added measure of confidentiality for folks. Hope you understand.*

*Please add in your special days by calling the church office at 860-599-1226!!*



### **OUR STAFF**

*Pastor:* The Rev. Ruth Shilling Hainsworth  
*Organist & Choirs Director:* David Cranmer  
*Office Assistant:* Jerin Peloquin

### **CHURCH OFFICE SPECIFICS**

*Mailing Address:* 9 Castle Hill Road  
Pawcatuck, CT 06379

*Telephone:* 860-599-1226

*E-mail:* [uccwesterly@gmail.com](mailto:uccwesterly@gmail.com)

*Website:* [www.uccwesterly.org](http://www.uccwesterly.org)

*Office Hours:* Tuesday, Wednesday, and  
Thursday 9am – 1pm

**Please be aware that the format and spacing for the BEACON may appear differently on your computer or device depending upon which WORD version you have. Thank you for your understanding!**