



"But they did not understand what Jesus was saying and were afraid to ask him." Mark 9:32

If ever there was a statement we can all relate to, this would be in the Top 10 for sure! We know what it's like not to understand what someone is saying when we are talking to them face to face. That happens to all of us more frequently than we would like to admit. Like when you've asked someone for directions and then they talk so fast or refer to landmarks you aren't familiar with so you end up more confused than before you asked. Or, when you're trying to do something new to you – like make a new recipe or learn how to knit and you know the person explaining it to you is an expert, but still. They might as well be speaking ancient Mayan for all the sense it makes to you.

What's interesting about this verse is that it is the disciples who are totally confused by something Jesus has just tried to explain to them but they can't bring themselves to ask him about it. The text actually says they were afraid to ask him! We don't usually think about the disciples being afraid to talk to Jesus but, clearly, that did happen on occasion. If we look at the entire text in which this verse falls, their confusion and reluctance to have it cleared up makes a little more sense. In Mark's Gospel, this falls after the Transfiguration where Peter, James and John go with Jesus up a high mountain where they witness him interacting with Elijah and Moses. So, already these three at least have been part of an incredibly confusing situation involving Jesus. Then, when they come back down the mountain, they encounter a crowd upset with the disciples who had remained at the foot of the mountain. They had attempted to heal a boy who was possessed by demon (the symptoms described seem to align with epilepsy) but they could not. The father then confronts Jesus about why his disciples could not heal the boy. Jesus gets annoyed and heals the boy himself.

So who was Jesus annoyed with? The father? The disciples who tried and failed to heal him? The crowd for never leaving him alone? We're not sure,

but by verse 28, we know that Jesus is not happy, to put it mildly.

Verse 32 comes from the story as it continued the following day. As Jesus and the disciples were traveling through Galilee, he continued teaching them. He told them, "The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again." This was what he told them that they could not understand. It's hard for us, who already know this is the end of the story, to understand why this was so very confusing, and undoubtedly upsetting to the disciples. We need to remember they did not know the end of the story because they were living through it. They had to be confused and frightened that Jesus was talking about being killed. They had to wonder why he was calling himself the "Son of Man" not to mention this whole rising again thing? What could that possibly mean? They had to be totally confused and yet, they were afraid to ask.

Jesus talking about what would happen was confusing to the disciples when Jesus first talked about it. If we're honest, it's still confusing to us two millennia later! We already know that what Jesus told them would happen is exactly what happened. But it is so fantastic, so beyond anyone's experience, that it is still incredibly confusing today. And, that dear ones, is where the church comes in. The church is where we come to voice our confusion and to share our questions. The church in worship is where we study and reflect on Scripture together as well as where we sing and pray together. The church is where we experience what Jesus meant when he referred to himself as the Son of Man. He was reminding himself, and us, especially after that miraculous encounter of the Transfiguration, that he was human, more human than divine at this point.

Jesus knows what it is to be human, to have questions we want answers to, but the answers aren't coming; to have sorrow and fear creep into our days. But the church is also where we celebrate that Jesus is all about love – love for God and for each other. The church is where we can admit we don't understand much of anything about life as it unfolds – and that's okay. We don't need to be afraid to ask Jesus anything. How wonderful is that. Come join us at church soon, bringing your questions and leaving your fear at the door.

Your sister in faith and sibling in Christ,
Pastor Ruth

Rev. Ruth's Community Office Hours

Come visit me at Martin House Books (in the old Savoy Bookstore space!) from 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

- Thursday, Oct. 10
- Thursday, Oct. 24



Worship Schedule

Our Sunday morning worship service begins at 9:45am in-person and live on Facebook.

Oct. 6 – Rainbow Bridge Sunday with Communion and Rev. Ruth preaching – “Saved by a Donkey”

Oct. 13 – Indigenous Peoples’ Weekend – Rev. Ruth preaching – “Render Account”

Oct. 20 – Rev. Ruth preaching -- “Be Opened”

Oct. 27 – Organ Dedication Sunday – Special Music & Rev. Ruth preaching – “Music Matters!”

Kindly Note: Please speak with Rev. Ruth if you would like a hard copy of the weekly sermon.



Diaconate Schedule for October

Oct. 6 – Lynn Murray 401-450-9249

Oct. 13 – Allana Allik 860-599-5212

Oct. 20 – TBD

Oct. 27 – TBD

Please know you can call any Deacon at any time with your joys, concerns, and prayer requests.

News From the Deacons

It was nice to welcome folks back on Rally Day/Homecoming Sunday. As always, it's nice to see folks in person, as well as to take the

time to send notes to folks who aren't able to attend. October 4th will be Rainbow Bridge Sunday where we remember pets we have lost. Organ dedication Sunday is coming up as well, on October 27th. Kurt Frantzen, president of the New London Association will be joining us to mark the occasion. As always, we are grateful for the ongoing donations to the Deacons fund. They are always used to those in need.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Murray

Trustees Notes



Pledges for August were \$4,089, \$1,421 less than the anticipated pledge amount of \$5,510. Thanks to all those who are able to keep up with their pledges! Total income for August was \$9,448. Total expenses for August were \$10,767.

The trustees hired an exterminator to treat the carpenter ants in the upper hallway. They also approved going forward with the chimney repair and accompanying electrical work, which has been completed. A building inspection has also been completed by Commercial Inspection Pros. The trustees also approved a request from Dav Cranmer and Pastor Ruth to switch our music and broadcast license back to One License.

In addition, Gary Davis has completed the following tasks; the sacristy pipes have been replaced, leaky faucet at kitchen hand sink fixed, light bulbs in Men's room and community rooms were replaced, all outside timers checked and replaced, a new double LED flood light was installed on wall at bell courtyard, and a new gasket was purchased and installed in the upright freezer. **THANK YOU GARY!**

Should you notice something in the building that needs attention, please speak to any trustee.

From the Financial Secretary

In 2024, the Neighbors in Need theme is



“Mental Health Justice for All!” A just world for all is a world where the human rights and well-being of people with

mental health challenges are respected, no matter who you are or where you are in life’s mental health journey.

Please join us in promoting this year’s NIN “Mental Health is a Universal Human Right” campaign. One-third of the offering supports Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds are used by Justice and Witness Ministries to provide grants to UCC churches and organizations as well as supporting a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects.

If you are a visitor (not yet a member) to our church and make regular donations, please attach a note with your check or cash if you would like to receive a quarterly statement for tax and record-keeping purposes. Just include your name and address and we will be sure you get one, beginning with the 4th quarter. In this case, if you donate cash, be sure to place it in an envelope with your name on it.

As always, if you have any questions about your giving to the church, please speak with us at any time.

Thank you.

Jenny Brummund & “crew”



2024 Bazaar Preparation!

2024 UCC Bazaar Dates

- Saturday, November 16th
- Saturday, November 23rd
- Saturday, December 7th

Silent Auction Donations



There is still time to donate items for the Silent Auction! You can also donate gift cards from local businesses. We like to offer a wide variety for folks to bid on in

this popular area of our bazaars. Please leave any items in Room #3 in the middle level of the church, or in the crib room off the sanctuary. Please drop off items by mid-October and label them “Silent Auction”.

Tree & Wreath Decorators Needed

If you’d like to decorate an artificial wreath or small tree for the bazaars, there are plenty of supplies still available in Room #4 in the middle level. You’ll find different sized trees, wreaths (some with lights), colored ornaments, silk poinsettias, light strings, pinecones, and many other supplies to use. We can’t wait to see them all!

Calling all Canning Jars!

Have you purchased canned jams, jellies, relishes, pickles, or other goodies at our bazaars in the past? Or do you have empty canning jars from your mom, grandmother, neighbor, or friend just sitting around your kitchen or basement, taking up space? Now is the perfect time to clear some space in your home and help out the church canners. Please return or recycle those jars by placing them in the basket in Fellowship Hall. We will be eternally grateful! Thank you so much!

Baked Goods

With the Bazaars fast approaching, the bake chair team is asking for your help in supplying items to sell. This is a very popular and profitable part of our bazaar, so we need inventory for each of the three Saturdays. In previous years, we’ve had homemade items such as preserves, pickles, relishes, and various sweets.

Please label your items clearly, especially noting if they contain nuts. We will feature pies on the first two Saturdays in anticipation of Thanksgiving. Plates of Christmas cookies will

be sold on the third Saturday, December 7th, so you can wrap your cookies well and store them in the church freezer.

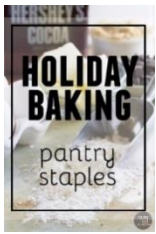
This year, we will also offer a variety of soups, which can be made ahead and frozen in mason jars or plastic containers. Some containers will be available at the church.

Please place a sticker on your baked goods if they have been frozen to prevent them from being re-frozen.

Thank you for helping make our bake room a successful part of our bazaar!

Carolyn, Shirin, and Sandi

Bazaar Pantry Update



Thanks so very much to everyone who has contributed to stocking our bazaar pantry. Whether it was dry goods, packaging supplies, or money, those donations are and will be put to good use.

In the past some of you lamented that you are no longer able or do not have the time to bake 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 the PNC in January. When you are shopping just grab anything on the list that may be on sale and put it in the kitchen labeled for the bazaar pantry; then, we will store it in the plastic tubs in the kitchen closet for our bakers to access when they fire up their ovens or stoves. If your item is perishable, place it in the kitchen refrigerator and label what you have placed there 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! 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
Peanut butter
Chocolate chips (also white chips and cinnamon chips)
Cocoa
Cider vinegar
Flour (King Arther preferred)
GF Flour - (Bob's Red Mill 1 to 1 Baking Flour or King Arthur Measure for Measure GF Flour)
Pecans and Walnuts



Refrigerated items

Butter (unsalted and salted)
Eggs
Plant butter of any kind (NOT margarine, though)

Packaging

Plastic clamshells
Cardboard pie boxes
Plastic quart and pint-sized soup containers
Glass Mason jars—quart, pint, half pint, and jelly jars

Sincerely and gratefully,
Your bazaar bakers and cooks



Missions News Updates

Our School Lunches donation drive for the food pantry at the PNC was very successful! Thanks to all who donated, participated in the Blessing Ritual on September 29 and to Eileen Rawnsley for taking all those bags over to the PNC!!

Well done folks!!!

Our October MISSIONS Project is to support the Neighbors In Need offering of the United Church of Christ. Please see the article from

the Financial Secretaries which explains this offering so well.

Remember! What we do does make a difference in the lives of real people!

Operation Fresh Start New Beginnings



October Project – “Grammie’s Pajammies”

October’s donation drive is focused on pajamas! We are asking for pajamas in sizes for the entire family to be distributed before the holidays. They do not have to be holiday-themed, but wouldn’t that be fun to shop for?! You can place your flannel findings in the OFSNB baskets in the upper narthex. Let’s fill those bins with warmth for our local needy families!



Looking to the future

In November we will be collecting toys of all kinds, except crayons.



From mid-November until mid-December we will be sponsoring our very popular Christmas Adopt-a-family event. Much more info on that coming.

Have fun shopping!!!

An Update from our Music Ministries

Battery donations of AA batteries still appreciated! Duracell or other major brand preferred.



PLEASE JOIN US!

ORGAN DEDICATION WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, October 29

9:45am service

WE’LL BE LOOKING FOR YOU!

Special Fellowship time to follow.

UCCW Books



is an on-going discussion group ministry of UCCW. We are a group of folks who love to read, talk about what we read, or just talk. Everyone is

welcome!

Our next gathering...

Wednesday, October 30 @ 12:00PM

This gathering will take place in the church parlor. Please RSVP with Rev. Ruth or the office, via email or phone.

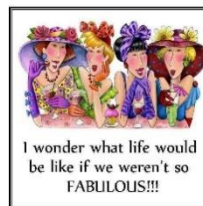
We have two book selections for this gathering; you may choose to read either or both books.

What we’re reading...

- *The Keeper of Hidden Books*, by Madeline Martin (copy of this available to borrow at church!)
- *The Only Woman in the Room*, by Marie Benedict

These books are available to borrow through your local library or for purchase through your favorite local bookstore.

UCCW Ladies Who Lunch



This is a 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.

Sometimes we will eat out in restaurants (each person orders off the menu and pays their own bill) and other times we may gather in someone’s home for a potluck lunch.

Our next gathering...

When: Wednesday, October 23 at 12PM

Where: *Vetrano’s Restaurant*



130 Granite St., Westerly, RI 02891

A Sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board outside Fellowship Hall. Hope to see you there! Advance registration a must!



Our Staff

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

Address: 9 Castle Hill Road
Pawcatuck, CT 06379

Telephone: (860) 599-1226

E-mail: uccwesterly@gmail.com

Website: www.uccwesterly.org

Office Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, & Thursday;
9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Please be aware that the format and spacing for the Beacon may appear differently on your computer or device. Thank you for your understanding!

Prayer Tree Our church has a very active and vital prayer ministry which involves 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.



Brighten Someone's Day...

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

Alice Dessaules
203 Indigo Street
Mystic, CT 06355

Michelle MacDonald
114 Granite Street #308
Westerly, RI 02891

Joan Edmond
65 Cross Street
Westerly, RI 02891

Sally Panciera
115 Winnapaug Road
Westerly, RI 02891



October Birthdays

- Joan Edmond
- Julie Grillo

October 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 folks. Hope you understand.