



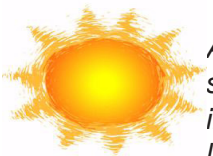
NEWSLETTER

Of The United Church of Rowayton

June - August 2011

Vol. 42, No. 3

From the Pastor



A perfect summer day is when the sun is shining, the breeze is blowing, the birds are singing and the lawn mower is broken.

James Dent

Rest is not idleness, and to lie sometimes on the grass on a summer day listening to the murmur of water or watching the clouds float across the sky, is hardly a waste of time.

John Lubbock

I hope and pray you will have a good summer and be with us for worship when you are not elsewhere enjoying your family and friends.



*Take time for yourself
as a matter of fact. . .*

*Take time to work,
it is the price of success.*

*Take time to think,
it is the source of power.*

*Take time to play,
it is the secret of perpetual youth.*

*Take time to read,
it is the foundation of wisdom.*

*Take time to be friendly,
it is the road to happiness.*

*Take time to dream,
it is hitching your wagon to a star.*

*Take time to love and be loved,
it is the nourishment of the soul.*

*Take time to look around and share,
it is too short a day to be selfish.*

*Take time to laugh,
it is the music of the soul.*

Old English Prayer
Author Unknown

With Love,

Worship Schedule

- June 5th Spirit of Witness** Communion
Acts 1:6-14
- June 12th Pentecost Sunday**
Acts 2:1-21
- June 19th This Is Good**
Genesis 1:1-2:4a
- June 26th Holy Welcome**
Matthew 10:40-42
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Summer Worship

The worship experience of our Family of Faith remains to be an important and vital part of our overall program. During the months of July and August we will be offering outdoor worship in Pinkney Park at 9:15am beginning July 3rd.

This outdoor service, which has become very meaningful to many of our people, is casual, as people bring their own lawn chairs or blankets and enjoy the beauty of the Five Mile River and the peaceful setting by the gazebo. If it is raining, the service will be held in the Meeting House. The final outdoor worship service will be on September 4th (Labor Day Weekend). Worship leadership will be shared by our Pastor John Livingston and Associate Pastor Carla Dietz.



Summer Worship Schedule

- July 3rd The Rev. John Livingston**
Chosen Journeys Communion
Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67
- July 10th A House Divided**
Genesis 25:19-34
- July 17th Place of Blessing**
Genesis 28:10-19a
- July 24th Weaving the Future**
Genesis 29:15-28
- July 31st Face to Face**
Genesis 32:22-31
- The Rev. Carla Dietz**
- Aug. 7th When All Seems Lost** Communion
Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28
- Aug. 14th Bold Moves**
Genesis 45:1-15
- Aug. 21st Be Transformed**
Romans 12:1-8
- Aug. 28th Spirit-Led Living**
Romans 12:9-21
- Sept. 4th First Sunday** Communion
Acts 17:22-28
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Congratulations to the Confirmation Class of 2011!

*Andrew Alan Eddie
Rex Cooper Gedney
Dominic Guy Hansford
Curtis (Curry) Mayberry Marlow
Gillian Catherine Minnerly
Mark Renton Pfister
Eliot Randolph Henson
Lila Reid Sullivan*

High School Senior Recognition

On Sunday, June 12th during worship, we will recognize our graduating seniors. Please join us as we affirm our commitment to supporting our own high school seniors and walk with them as they continue their life's journey into the future.



Memorial Day

Memorial Sunday May 29th

On Sunday, May 29th we will remember all those members and friends of our Family of Faith who have passed away in the last year. Join us for this special service of remembrance.

Summer Office Hours July and August Thursdays 9am - 12pm



September Newsletter Deadline August 11, 2011

Associate Pastor's Study

One of the great things about The United Church of Rowayton is that we are always growing, rejoicing and looking at new ways of doing things and thinking about things. It is so alive in that regard, I just love it. That is what a church ought to be...alive. During the warm summer months all kinds of plants and animals are growing and kids are swimming, running, camping and growing out of their clothes from the previous year. Their baby teeth are coming out, their hair is growing, their arms and legs are stretching and their brains are bursting with ideas and energy – they are so alive! As we go into the summer months of June, July and August, though we may come to formal worship service less often, let us keep our faith alive. Refresh your closeness to God by praying in the morning when you get up, say grace at dinner (or any meal for that matter) and say a prayer of thanks for all that you have done and all that you have as you lie down at night. . .or like the author below, compose a summer poem! You certainly do not need to go to a worship service to pray or compose a poem and all you need to do to remind yourself what our fabulous creator is look around you at the grass, flowers, sea and sky. Summer around these parts is a bit of heaven on earth, we are so blessed!



*Under the warmth of the summer sun
the world awakes and blossoms
into every imaginable color.*

*You created a garden for us to enjoy and within it
planted the most magical of flowers and trees.*

*You needed no horticultural training
to plan your color scheme, no gardening expert
to recommend variety or design.*

*Your garden is perfect, its colors harmonious, its
scale immense, spoilt only by
the clumsiness of those who tend it.*

Creator God

*who breathed this world into being,
who is discernible within the harmony of nature:
the perfection of a butterfly's wing,
the grandeur of a mountain range,
the soaring eagle and humming bird;
thank you for this world which you have created.*

*Thank you for summer sun
which reminds us that your creative breath
is still alive and active.*

*Thank you for the warmth of your love
sustaining this world, your garden.*

John Birch, a Methodist lay preacher
and worship leader living in Wales

I hope you will consider answering the call to become a teacher in our Church School in the fall. The Board of Christian Education will have teacher sign ups in Fellowship Hall starting May 22nd ongoing till the end of June. Teacher Orientation is set for September 7th at 7:00pm. There is no better way of learning our faith than by teaching it to children!

If teaching is not your thing, I hope you hear the call to work with our Board of Christian Outreach on a project that benefits others in our community or in a distant land. There is no better way to express thanks to God than by giving of ourselves to others.

I look forward to seeing you in August at the Park to worship and then again in September for Rally Day, the Sunday after Labor Day. Many warm summer blessings to you and your family.

Keep the faith alive,

Carla

Board of Christian Outreach BACK-TO-SCHOOL BACKPACK DRIVE

From June through the summer we will be collecting school backpacks and school supplies. Please choose either: Elementary Student Backpack or Middle/High School Student Backpack - Please refer to the list below for requested items. (You only need to include a few items from the list.)

The backpacks can be dropped off in the Meeting House lobby Monday through Friday.

For further information, please contact Bob Green at 203-855-1310 or via email at rgreen@optonline.net.

Please consider helping a child to be successful in his/her new school year.

PLEASE NO USED ITEMS/ SUGGESTED ITEMS:

tissues, colored pencils, pens, spiral notebooks, crayons, geometric stencils, colored pencils, compass, drawing pad, erasers, file folders, glue sticks, scissors, notebooks, notebook paper, journal, pencils, pencil sharpener, markers, ruler, white out, red pencils, tape, stapler, staples, calculator



20th Annual Tag Sale - June 4th



Plans are underway for our 20th Annual Giant Tag Sale. Over the years this event has attracted people from Greenwich to Bridgeport to New Haven. As much as this is a fundraiser for our Church, it also is a local outreach effort of great importance during this harsh economic climate. This sale has raised over \$250,000 for our Church operating budget, which also feeds our outreach efforts, over the years.

This is a fun event and it's a great way to get acquainted with other members and friends of our Family of Faith. If you are new to our Church you will meet so many new people. You can help in many ways - from donating merchandise, or providing storage space to picking up merchandise, receiving, sorting, pricing, selling or baking.

Donate Merchandise:

Items to donate include: china, glassware, small working appliances, books, sporting and garden equipment, jewelry and furniture. New merchandise is also very welcome.

Our ever popular "Ladies Loft" will be accepting donations of high-quality clothing in excellent shape, washed and folded or hung, as appropriate. They also accept handbags, wallets, belts, hats, scarves and shoes in excellent condition.

We can't handle:

Computers and peripherals, upholstered furniture, sofas, mattresses, box springs, towels, sheets, records, textbooks/encyclopedias, Reader's Digest Condensed Books, magazines, skis or building materials (including screens).

Letters for acknowledging donations for tax purposes will be available.

Drop Off Merchandise:

Tag Sale workers will be in the Meeting House to receive goods on:

Mon. May 30	10 AM - 3 PM
Tues. May 31	10 AM - 4 PM and 7 to 9 PM
Wed. June 1	10 AM - 4 PM and 7 to 9 PM
Thurs. June 2	9 AM - Noon

Bake for the Bake Sale:

This is a delicious way to help out! If you like to bake pies, cakes, breads, muffins, cookies, bar cookies or any other non-heat-sensitive goodies, please sign up during Fellowship Hour.



Volunteer:

Our ranks have thinned out due to moves, vacation plans and other obligations. We really need some new blood to step forward to help get this sale together and help in any way possible. Workers are needed for the week of May 30th through June 4th. Sign-up sheets in the Meeting House list all the ways you can help for each day. You can be a sorter, a tagger, a pricer, a receiver, a cashier, a seller, a baker or a security guard. Sign up for an hour or a day. It will be fun and rewarding.

Distribute Flyers:

We have "Hi Neighbor" letters that you can distribute on your block advising neighbors when they can donate merchandise to the Church. Pick up a handful at Church on Sunday or in the Church Office.

Come to the Tag Sale and remember to tell your friends and neighbors about it.

Early Bird Shopping:

8:30 to 9:00am

\$10 Admittance Fee.

Spread the Word!

Lifeline Screening – June 15th

Lifeline Screening is America's leading provider of quality health screenings will be here in our Meeting House on June 15th. Using Doppler ultrasound technology these tests are noninvasive and completely painless. Health screenings will be offered for: Stroke/Carotid Artery, Heart Rhythm (Atrial Fibrillation), Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm, Peripheral Arterial Disease, Osteoporosis, Lipid Panels and Glucose Testing. Preregistration is required. Please call 1-800-449-2350 or go online at lifelinescreenings.com to set up an appointment.

Executive Council Report

Executive Council, our Church's governing body, has been busy since February's Annual Meeting. I wanted to take this opportunity to share two decisions that it made.



I am sure no one missed the many announcements that The United Church of Rowayton was going green and would switch over to an electronic transmission of the Newsletter. This issue marks our first e-newsletter. Not only are we saving paper and energy by sending our Newsletter electronically and weekly Church bulletins via Constant Contact, but we also save money. We calculated that the Church will save over \$5,000 per year by moving to this electronic format. We continue to send about forty hard copies of the Newsletter through the mail to those Church members who, for whatever reason, do not use computers for communication purposes.

On March 15, I attended a Disaster Recovery meeting that was sponsored by Norwalk's Office of Emergency Management. It was run by Fire Chief Denis McCarthy and Michele DeLuca, and it was attended by representatives of such organizations as the Red Cross, Human Services, Christian Community Action and several Norwalk churches. A disaster was defined as any emergency that puts families out on the street or endangers their well-being, regardless of whether it might be a Katrina-type hurricane or an apartment building fire. At one point participants were asked, "What role can churches play in a city emergency?" Council decided that The United Church of Rowayton can best help in two ways. First, should the power go out in the Rowayton area but remain on in the Church, people could come to the Meeting House when the Church is open to recharge cell phone batteries, as well as themselves. Second, our best role would be to collect material, e.g., food, and funnel it to such primary distributors as Christian Community Action.



William H. Peltz
Moderator

"For Everything there is a Season. . ."

Ecclesiastes 3.1

Deaths

--Marge Robinson
--Christine Welton
--Jack Ritchey



Saturday Supper

Saturday Supper - June 11th - save the date! Following a wonderful evening for about 25 of us at three houses in March, we are scheduling a second supper for Saturday, June 11th. Same deal as in March - let us know if you want to join us, and we will assign you to a group of about eight people at a Church member's home, where you will share a delicious dinner and terrific company. Guests will be assigned to bring some part of the meal to share (visit Stew Leonard's or Whole Foods if you can't or don't want to cook) and hosts will be in charge of setting a welcoming table and providing soft drinks. Let us know if you'd like to host. This will be a great way to get to know people who sit on the opposite side of the Church from you - to strengthen our Family of Faith - and to have fun. RSVP by June 1st to SaturdaySuppers@gmail.com (or call the Church Office) and let us know how many are in your party. Adults only, please.

Rally Day!

September 11, 2011

10:15 AM Worship

