



Westminster Chimes

Volume 2010 #5

April 7, 2010

Editor: Renée Bucklin

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AT 9 AM & 11 AM Preschool through 8th Grade

Services at 9 AM & 11AM unless otherwise
noted.

APRIL 11: **One Service: 10AM**

PLANTING SEEDS"

Rev. Judith Downing

Planting seeds involves risk and requires
patience. Some germinate, flourish and bear
fruit. Others are lost to the whims of nature. It's
a worthy spiritual practice for us to tend to the
seeds planted in our backyard gardens as well as
those planted within ourselves.

*We are happy to welcome Rev. Judith
Downing back to Westminster*

11:15 AM Volunteer Job Fair

APRIL 18: **One Service: 10AM**

Earth Day Service

Green Sanctuary

11:15 AM Congregational Meeting

APRIL 25: **One Service: 10AM**

"Welcome the Traveler Home"

Reverend Barbara Fast

We leave and we return and we are changed.

11:15 AM Congregational Meeting

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Dear Westminster Family,

By now you have all heard or read
about Reverend Barbara's resignation
and need to search for a church that is
closer to her family. While I know you are all
understandably feeling sad about this turn of events as we
approach a year of transition, I know you join me in wishing
Rev. Barbara well and in thanking her for 4 wonderful years
of ministering to and with us. We have accomplished so
much together that has strengthened our community and
prepared us for moving smoothly into and through this
transition year. We understand who we are, have a solid
vision of where we want to be and can see a clear path
forward. WE CAN DO THIS.



Our Interim Search Committee has already been nominated
and approved by the Board. Jerry Tisser, Cindy Reiser and
Bev Burgess have agreed to serve on this committee and are
well suited for the task. Both Jerry and Cindy served on the
last interim search committee and with the fresh perspective
that Bev brings to the mix, the Board feels we have an
extremely capable committee who will serve us well. To
help us with the online application, the Board and Interim
Search Committee will meet with Reverend Judith Downing
on Wednesday, April 7. Reverend Downing, who is part of
the UUA transitions office, will help us identify the type of
interim ministry we will want/need for this building year and
what skills we should be looking for in an interim minister.
If you have questions for Rev. Judith that you would like us
to share, please call any of the Trustees. Our discussion that
evening will facilitate completion of our application. The
application deadline is April 10; we will be ready to meet it.

The timing for choosing an interim minister is very short –

about 6 weeks from application to hire. Once our application is posted on the UUA website, candidates seeking interim ministry positions will review all the available opportunities and apply. The Interim Search Committee will receive several names of ministers who meet our criteria. Their job will be to exchange packets with those candidates, set up telephone interviews with them, followed by an in-person meeting. The committee will then provide the Board with the candidate whom they feel will best meet our needs during this transitional year. The Board will vote, and complete the contract details. By the end of May we should know who our interim minister will be.

On Sunday, April 18, Judy Campbell, the Ministerial Settlement Representative for the Ballou Channing District, has been invited to come speak with YOU following the one 10 am service. As our Ministerial Settlement Representative, her job is to assist congregations with the transition process and provide congregations with a clear understanding of the search process – including what it takes to be part of the search committee - and what we can expect to happen during that year. **THIS IS AN IMPORTANT MEETING FOR YOU TO ATTEND. PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS.** If you are unable to attend, but have questions, please submit your questions to me or any Board member so we can be sure the question is answered.

The next important step for the Board will be to create an application for choosing the settled minister Search Committee. The committee will be comprised of 7 church members. Those interested in participating will complete the application, 7 of whom will be placed in nomination and voted on by the congregation at the Annual Meeting in May. This will provide the Search Committee with an opportunity to use the summer to prepare our church packet that best reflects Westminster's many accomplishments and exciting future and sets forth the type of minister we are seeking to share that future with us. More information on the specifics of the search process and the commitment required to participate on the committee will be included on the application.

While this year presents some challenges, we are in the best possible position to meet them with confidence. Make no mistake about it - our future remains brighter than ever.

Let me know how you're doing and how the Board can best help you.

With great faith in our future,
Jan Searles, President, Board of Trustees

Dear Friends

April 5, 2010

March ended not like a lion but a torrent...and the streams are still flooding roads. I have been thinking of those of us who have had to bail, and throw away. I hope you are safe and able to enjoy this beautiful sunshine.

The past two weeks have been so moving for me. Since I told you that I would be leaving Westminster this summer in order to work more closely to NYC because of my husband's work obligations, you have shown me and Jonathan care and support and we are so appreciative.

I want to remind you, in case you doubt it, that this difficult decision rests solely on my personal commitment to my husband and my marriage. You have given me everything I could ask of a congregation and more. Time and time again your spirit has inspired me.

I am glad that Westminster is in a very good place. I am truly blessed to be a part of this movement in Westminster's lifespan. We have done some heavy lifting and some heavenly work together to get here and I have faith that it will continue. The momentum is there. Yes, there are transitions to be navigated, and challenges ahead, but I know your strengths and the caliber of your leadership. If my ministry has had any kind of success, it is because we share the ministry. Believe me when I tell you that you are strong, loving, caring, committed, creative and kind. I will miss you.

I will be candidating in Danbury, CT from April 9th to April 18th, when the congregation will vote whether or not to call me. During that time I am still your minister and available by email or phone in case of emergency. I am back in the pulpit April 25th and I will continue to be available for pastoral care and if you need to come in and talk.

I have been hearing that song from musical "Wicked" playing in my mind, *Because I Knew You*.

*I've heard it said that people come into our lives for a reason,
Bringing something we must learn and we are led
to those who help us most to grow,
if we let them and we help them in return...
Well, I don't know if I believe that is true,
but I know I'm who I am today because of you...
Because I knew you, I have been changed for good.*

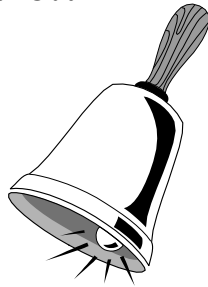
In the weeks to come I will continue my ministry here, thanking you and reminding you to let your lights shine, shine, shine. The work we do here together is our shared ministry.

Because I knew you, I have been changed for good.

Rev. Barbara

Religious Education Program

Renee Pierre
Director of Religious Education
401-487-8618



Office Hours: Tuesdays and
Thursdays 10-4 and by appointment

UPCOMING RE CALENDAR:

April 11:

10 am: Children begin in their Classes; Term 4
Begins. Theme: Continents and Cultures

April 18:

10 am: Children begin in their Classes; Term 4
Begins. Theme: Continents and Cultures

CHECK OUT FUN STUFF AT: <http://wuc-re.blogspot.com>

UU PARENTING BOOKTALK/WORKSHOP:

A wonderful new book has arrived at the UUA Bookstore called Tending the Flame: The Art of Unitarian Universalist Parenting. I am looking forward to reading this and sharing this with other parents in a small group ministry format. If you would like to order this book for only \$8.40 (40% off the \$14 cover price) and participate in the booktalk, please contact Renee. A start date and meeting time will be based upon the availability of those who sign up. If you'd like to read more about the book, check it out at the UUA Bookstore at: <http://www.uuabookstore.org/productdetails.cfm?PC=1211>

SUNDAY April 25TH: We need three! substitute teachers for this date. Please contact Renee ASAP if you can lend a hand.

SATURDAY April 17TH: Can you lend a hand packing up RE Supplies and preparing for our move? We will gather from 9 am to 12 noon for a cleaning/organizing party. Bring the kids too, they can wash the tables and the chalkboards!

YARD SALE REMINDER

As a reminder, a section in the cellar has been set aside for Westminster committee contributions to the Green Sanctuary yard sale scheduled for Friday, May 7, and Saturday, May 8. We ask that as you're sorting through your committee's or group's church possessions, you set aside articles suitable for the yard sale. Things for the yard sale should be in good condition. Anything requiring repair is not appropriate because these things generally don't sell. This should be completed before Thursday, May 6.



Beginning the week of the yard sale, Westminster members will be invited to donate goods to the yard sale. Please contribute only things in good shape. That means nothing that needs repair or is missing parts. Also, no TVs as they don't sell (particularly with the all digital broadcasting); TVs can be recycled at RIRRC or, in many towns, at the local transfer station.

The proceeds from this yard sale will go 50% to the Westminster general fund and the other 50% to the Green Sanctuary pass-through account. For information about the yard sale, please contact **Natalie Aubin** or **Celia Humphreys**.

AMONG US

“My thanks to Rev.Barbara and all of you who sent me such beautiful cards with the most comforting words.

I am busy with a lot of paperwork and Senior's activities. I am very grateful for the eight years that Bob and I had together, to which the CESSNA 170 greatly contributed (It's sold – I could fly but not land!). I am staying on Maui, have a view of the sunsets, a time when Bob left his Body.

I'll be seeing you in RI this summer.

Aloha, Ellen Belconis (Breen)”

**WHERE DO YOU FIT IN?
A WUC VOLUNTEER JOB FAIR -
APRIL 11TH**

Are you puzzled by what different committees or groups actually 'do' at WUC?

Are you looking for a place to fit in to the WUC Community?

On April 11, after the single services, there will be a Volunteer Job Fair where various committees and groups will have representatives available to help you put the pieces together. They will answer your questions and let you know how you can help.

Questions? Want your committee or group to take part? Contact **Mary Haney**

<p>Sharing Locker</p> <p>Item for April</p> <p>Animal Food</p>
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PARISH HALL HISTORY PROJECT

We are looking forward to getting your written Parish Hall memories by April 15th

Below are some thoughts to help stimulate your creative juices:

Within these walls

What lessons did we learn?

What events occurred?

How were our UU principles exhibited?

What were the rough spots and how were they handled?

What projects did we embrace?.....and then let fall by the wayside?

How did the Parish Hall handle its age (and ours with it)?

Thank you,
History Committee



**Interfaith Film Series at the East
Greenwich United Methodist Church
Sunday, April 18, 4:00 p.m.**

Sponsored by First Baptist Church, First Evangelical Lutheran Church, St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Temple Torat Yisrael, and Westminster Unitarian Church

The Power of Forgiveness

From Northern Ireland to Beirut to Ground Zero, featuring Elie Wiesel, Thich Nhat Hanh, Thomas Moore, Marianne Williamson, James Forbes and others, **The POWER of FORGIVENESS** explores the challenges and reveals how forgiveness can transform your life.

The POWER of FORGIVENESS explores recent research into the psychological and physical effects of forgiveness on individuals and within relationships under a wide variety of conditions and translates it into a popular, accessible documentary film for national public television. This includes feature stories on the Amish, the 9/11 tragedy and peace-building in Northern Ireland, along with interviews with renowned Buddhist teacher Thich Nhat Hanh, Nobel Laureate Elie Wiesel, best-selling authors Thomas Moore and Marianne Williamson and others. The film also explores the role forgiveness holds in various faiths traditions. It provides an honest look at the intensity of anger and grief that human nature is heir to. We see in the film that there are transgressions people find themselves unwilling or unable to forgive. Through character-driven stories the film shows the role forgiveness can play in alleviating anger and grief and the physical, mental and spiritual benefits that come with it.

BOOK SALE UPDATE



We had a good crowd for the book sale this year and we made \$624.50. I will be taking the left over books to Coventry Library as quickly as I can. As you know Mother Nature was very uncooperative this week. Thanks to everyone who brought in books and to those who purchased some.

Pam Bazar

WOMEN OF WESTMINSTER ALL WOMEN WELCOME

We meet every Thursday evening.

Setup/Meeting: 7:00 to 7:15 PM
Announcements: 7:15 to 7:30PM
Program: 7:30 to 8:45 PM
Place: Fellowship Hall

Our Mission/Statement of Purpose is to enhance and encourage:

- * Spirituality
- * Support of each other

April 15 – *Voluntary Simplicity*, Chapter 3

April 22 – *Voluntary Simplicity*, Chapter 4

April 29 – May Day Ritual

HANDS

Like a newborn wrapped in swaddling clothes, the spirit of Westminster needs to be carried.

There are many hands to carry and comfort, none more delicate than Reverend Barbara's.

But hands, like babies, need to be shared, they need to grow.

Our spirit, her spirit, wherever they go.
Praise be the many hands.

Tony Dibella
In honor of Reverend Barbara

CLOTHING SALE NEWS



It's time to clean out your closets and bring in your unwanted clothes. The clothing sale is set for April 9th and 10th. If you would like to help with set up on Thursday or with the sale on Thursday and Friday, call Pam Bazar.

APRIL'S CHARITY OF THE MONTH – AUDUBON SOCIETY OF RHODE ISLAND CAMP SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Westminster shares unrestricted cash placed in our collection basket 50/50 with a different charity each month. With approval from our minister and Board of Trustees, the Share the Plate Committee selected *Audubon Society of Rhode Island Camp Scholarship Fund* for the month of April.

The Audubon Society of Rhode Island, originally founded in 1897 to halt the slaughter of birds used in the day's fashions, has been offering nature day camps for over 30 years. They aim to provide campers with opportunities to develop and understand the relationship between themselves and the natural world. Year after year, children connect with nature and build a sense of respect and responsibility towards the environment through hands-on learning experiences.

Audubon Summer Camps are conveniently located at three of their wildlife refuges. These sites offer campers the opportunity to explore a variety of protected and carefully maintained wildlife habitats. These include woodland trails, fields, meadows, ponds, streams, salt marshes, and the rocky shore of Narragansett Bay. It's the perfect environment for adventure, exploration, learning, and loads of fun!

The Audubon Society of Rhode Island may provide financial assistance to parents/guardians, with special circumstances, to help send their child to camp. Camp Scholarships are available based on need, and on a first come/first served basis. Three scholarship categories are available based on the **Federal Income Eligibility Guidelines**. The categories are *25% scholarship, 50% scholarship, and 75% scholarship*. Every applicant must contribute at least 25%. More than one scholarship may be awarded to a family, but only one scholarship will be awarded per child.

Guidelines for Donations:

Checks and Cash Envelopes written out to WESTMINSTER will go 100% to Westminster.

If you wish to make a tax deductible contribution directly to the charity, please write a SEPARATE check to ASRI with Camp Scholarship Fund in the memo line.

Unrestricted Cash will be split 50/50 between Westminster and the Charity.

For questions about sharing the plate, please contact a member of the Share the Plate Committee, Kristen Morelli, Bill Stone, Celia Humphreys, or Nathan DeSisto. To make a charitable organization suggestion, please fill out a Nomination Form located in our mailbox.

WESTMINSTER CALENDAR

4/8 7:00 PM WOW (W)
 4/8 7:00 PM Building Committee (H)
 4/9 9AM-4PM Clothing sale (FH)
 4/10 9AM - Noon Clothing sale (FH)
 4/10 10AM-3PM Womensphere (W)
 4/11 10:00 AM Worship
 4/11 10:00 AM RE
 4/11 11:15 AM Job Fair (FH)
 4/12 7:00 PM Small Group Ministry (W)
 4/13 6:30 PM Yoga (FH)
 4/13 7:00 PM Board of Trustees (H)
 4/14 5:30 PM Worship Committee (W)
 4/14 6:00 PM Buddhist Meditation (FH)
 4/14 6:15 PM Jr. Choir (CH)
 4/14 7:15 PM Choir (CH)
 4/15 7:00 PM Building Committee (H)
 4/15 7:00 PM Men's Group (W)
 4/15 7:00 PM WOW (FH)
 4/16 6:30 PM COA (CH)
 4/17 8AM-4PM Sharing Locker (FH)
 4/17 10-2 Locker actual hours
 4/17 5:00 PM Just Plain Folk (CH)
 4/17 7:00 PM Young Adult Movie Night (FH)
 4/18 10:00 AM Worship (CH)
 4/18 10:00 AM RE
 4/18 11:15 AM Congregational Meeting (FH)
 4/18 6:30 PM Sr. Youth Group (W)(FH)(K)

The Caring Circle is Here to Help You

If you have experienced a setback that has left you or a family member ill, or in need of meals, visits, rides or other help, please contact Nancy Rieser or Rev. Barbara Fast (phone 401-884-3561).

CHIMES DEADLINESDEADLINE: April 15th**WESTMINSTER CONTACT INFORMATION**

Westminster Unitarian Church welcomes all individuals without regard to race, color, physical challenge, sexual orientation, age, or national origin.

Church Office: 401-884-5933
 Fax Number: 401-885-2710
 Minister: Barbara Fast
 minister's study: 401-884-3561
 Religious Ed Coordinator: Renee Pierre
 Music Director: Nonetta Shatakhtsian
 Office Administrator: Judy Brown
 E-mail: westminsteruu@verizon.net
 Website: www.westminsteruu.org

Office Hours: 9AM to 1 PM Monday - Friday

WESTMINSTER WORSHIP VOLUNTEERSApril 11

Ushers: 10:00 AM Carolyn Brown
 Nancy Rieser

Flowers: Nancy Rieser

April 18

Ushers: 10:00 AM Cecile & Arthur Mark

Flowers: **Need Volunteer**

To volunteer, write your name on the schedule in Fellowship Hall, or contact Judy Brown, the Office Administrator.

If you prefer to have the Chimes e-mailed to you, please contact Judy Brown in the Church office weekdays between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m.