



Westminster Chimes

Volume 2008 #9

April 23, 2008

Editor: Renée Bucklin

SERVICES AT 9:00 AND 11:00 AM
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AT 9:00 AM
Preschool through 8th Grade
Nursery Care Available

APRIL 27

10AM : ONE SERVICE

APRIL MORNINGS

Rev. Barbara Fast

It was April 30, 2006 that you chose me and I chose you and we began our shared journey. This April Morning you will make another important choice. You will vote on the 'home' you want to create for the future of Westminster!

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING 11:15

MAY 4TH

9 & 11 AM

MAY DAY INTERGENERATIONAL SUNDAY

Barbara Fast & Lauren Kalian

A May Day Celebration of the creative joy of Spring. We found the May Pole!

MAY 11TH

Barbara Fast

Mother's Day Sunday

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Dear Members and Friends,

Next Sunday, April 27, 2008 Westminster members will have a unique opportunity - for many of us, a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity - to vote to build a new Parish House. Don't miss out! The meeting will be called to order at 11:15, following one church service. So grab your coffee and a seat! Remember, you must be present; our bylaws do not offer any provision for absentee voting.



Which brings me to membership. Two years ago members exercised their right to vote when we called Reverend Barbara Fast - what a joyful moment for each of you. Between then and now, you have attended countless meetings to discuss and vote on budgets, buildings and related church business. There are many new faces amongst us - people who are exploring Unitarian Universalism as they search for a religious home. We welcome your exploration and offer our assistance in helping you become better acquainted with us. Some of you are not new, and in fact, have enjoyed a long association with Westminster but are not yet members. You come to church, volunteer your time, make and pay an annual pledge. And yet, you are unable to vote because you are not a member. We invite you to consider membership!! For this Sunday, come and watch our democratic principles in action, but please speak to Reverend Barbara about your desire to become a full-fledged member in the future. We have many votes ahead of us. Join your voice to ours during these historic times.

Lastly, Conrad Kulawas and I will be attending a meeting called by the Rhode Island Fire Safety Board to hear the latest iteration of the fire code requirements, which we hope will include an extension for completion of the work. We'll let you know.

Faithfully,
Janet Searles, President
Board of Trustees

Dear Friends,

April 22, 2008

The Seder on Sunday night was beautifully led by Jerry Tisser and Laurie Tyce. That so many of you participated make it an important tradition in our individual lives and in the yearly life cycle of Westminster. I want to thank all who cleaned, cooked, organized and enjoyed the evening.

Jerry began the night with a story that reminded me of our closing in worship; *Carry the flame of peace and love until we meet again*. Jerry did not know to whom to attribute the tale. If you do, please let us know.

This is the story of a man who found himself praying alone each day at the synagogue. After a while he thought to himself: "Why bother making the trip from my shop each day to pray? Surely nobody will miss me." So he left the synagogue feeling very much alone.

But someone did notice. The Rabbi. That evening the Rabbi went to the tailor's shop. He knocked on the door, and entered silently when Joseph let him in, through the shop to his home behind the storefront. With no words having passed between the two, the Rabbi and Joseph pulled up rocking chairs and rocked in silence before a great roaring fire.

After 20 minutes of silent rocking, the Rabbi stood up, and using a pair of tongs, removed a red hot coal from the fire and placed it on the hearth. He returned to his seat, and for several hours the two men watched as the coal changed from red-hot, to orange-hot, to white-hot, and finally to an ashen gray. At length the coal burned out and crumbled to ash.

For the first time since letting the Rabbi in, Joseph spoke: "Now I understand. I will return to the synagogue tomorrow."

You see, regardless of the name by which you call your god, we are all connected, a small part of a much wider universe. We are uniquely dependent on one another. Just as with the coals in the fire we should realize, as Joseph did, that without connectedness we shall all surely perish.

As a richly diverse group, let us not forget that which binds us all together.

This coming Sunday will be the two year anniversary of your vote to call me to be your minister. You and I share the ministry, the responsibility for the spiritual health and welfare of this community. Traditions as varied as the Seder, congregational voting, and shared worship feed our bodies and our spirits and keep our individual flames alive.

Now is time for another vote of the membership. It will immediately follow our single service at 10AM. Your vote matters. I hope I see you.

Until then, *carry your flame of peace and love,*

Barbara

APRIL'S CHARITY OF THE MONTH NATURE CONSERVANCY OF RI

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 Directors, the Share the Plate Committee selected *The Nature Conservancy of RI* for the month of April, in celebration of Earth Day.



Girl Scouts Beyond Bars – May's Charity of the Month



With approval from our minister and Board of Directors, the Share the Plate Committee selected *Girl Scouts Beyond Bars* for the month of May.

Instituted in 1992 through a partnership with the National Institute of Justice, *Girl Scouts Beyond Bars* provides girls an opportunity to visit their incarcerated mothers weekly to monthly and take part in mother/daughter Girl Scout troop meetings. Through *GSBB*, mothers lead troop meetings and develop skills in leadership, conflict resolution and parenting, all of which are critical to their success in family life and employment after their release. In addition, girls and their mothers often have facilitated discussions about family life, violence and drug abuse prevention.

Guidelines for Donations

- Checks and Cash Envelopes written out to WESTMINSTER will go 100% to Westminster.
- If you wish to contribute directly to the charity, please write a SEPARATE check to the charity. Your contribution is tax deductible.
- 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, or Wendy Schwartz.

To make a charitable organization suggestion, please fill out a Nomination Form located in Fellowship Hall.

SHARE THE PLATE – MARCH RESULTS

Westminster will be sending a check to *Crossroads of RI* for \$802. We collected \$612 from the 50/50 share of the Open Plate contributions, and \$190 in checks. Thank you for your generosity!

CLOTHING SALE

Clean out those closets and bring in your bags. The spring clothing sale dates are April 25 and 26. Set-up will be Thurs., April 24th at about 12 noon. Please come and help! Any questions? Call Pam Bazaar. See your printed Chimes.



BOOK SALE NEWS!

The book sale was a great success. We made \$822.50! Many thanks to the helpers; Judy Abbott, Julie Archer, Carolin Goldman, Grazina Kulawas, Cele Mark & Bill Sweet.

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY COMMITTEE RETREAT

will be on Sunday 4/27 from 2-5 pm. We will be discussing our vision and forging ways to include the many types of social responsibility actions we engage in from marches to food pantries. Anyone interested in social responsibility at Westminster is welcome. Please call/e-mail Dee Lovecky or Carolyn Mark and let us know you are coming so we can prepare.

SUMMER SERVICES

Yes, Summer Services.

Please contact me if you would like to lead a worship service this coming summer. Summer session begins June 22 and runs for 10 weeks until August 24.

Also, if you want to be involved in putting together the summer services, let me know. Thanks, Bo Pickard (See your printed Chimes.)

THE PICTURE BOOK PROJECT CHILD VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

As part of my volunteer work with the International Institute of RI, I have developed a screening device to detect potential problems, as well as social strengths, in refugee children. We are trying it out on 10 refugee families this spring.

We also need control groups, that is, children who are not refugees. We need two groups – children with known social, emotional or behavioral problems and children with no such problems.

We would like to ask if you would consider volunteering your children to be part of our control groups. Children should want to volunteer as well. Children need to be between ages 5 and 12, and native English speakers.

The screening takes about an hour. It consists of three parts: A questionnaire for the parent/parents to fill out, a set of drawings and The Picture Book (a story with questions).

All information obtained will be confidential and will be converted to number form. Parents will give written permission in which this is spelled out further.

Children will be compensated for their participation by selecting a small toy from a choice of several possibilities.

If you would be willing to volunteer, please call me, Dee Lovecky, (See your printed Chimes.) and we can arrange time and place.

NAME TAGS

Members are encouraged to wear their name tags or to make out a temporary nametag found on the kiosk in the Sanctuary. The Membership Committee requests that you please take a moment and write on you name tag the committees for which you volunteer. New nametags will be printed with this information as it becomes available.

JOIN THE CLUB...PART 2

Your Coffee Club Order Form has arrived. Please review the insert inside your Chimes, make your selections, and return the form to Westminster by May 15th (details on the form).

Not a coffee drinker? How about some Fairly-Traded and Organic Tea, Cocoa, or delicious Chocolate Bars? There are many varieties to choose from. Do you have a friend or relative who enjoys coffee or tea? Make a copy of the order form and pass it on, or, purchase as a gift.



Why order from the Coffee Club? This is an easy way to put our UU Principles into practice. Are you one of the members who said you wanted more Social Justice and environmental opportunities in our 5-year plan? Fair Trade helps build pride, independence, and community empowerment for small farmers and their families in Latin America, Africa, and Asia. And because of the discount Equal Exchange offers churches, our Fairly-Traded, Organic products are competitively priced.

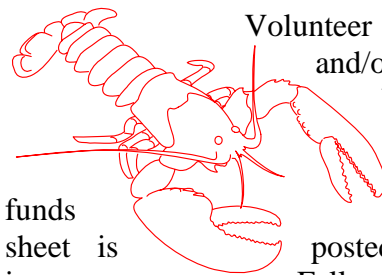
In summary, if you want to start each day knowing you are supporting economic and environmental sustainability – JOIN THE CLUB. Order forms will be made available every other month and posted on the website.

Your Coffee Club representatives are Isabelle Conrad, Kristen Morelli and Caitlyn Young

LOBSTER ROLL DAY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Friday, May 16, 6am – 1pm

Volunteer to help make, pack and/or deliver lobster rolls. You'll make the purchasers' day, while helping raise funds for WUC!! Sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall. Volunteer for a two hour shift or how ever much time you can spend. Contact Mary-Ann Connor if you have questions. See your printed Chimes.



HOMELESS TV

27" Sony TV needs a good home. Excellent condition, with owner's manual. Take it away (it's heavy). Call Conrad . See your printed Chimes.

DISTRICT ANNUAL MEETING, APRIL 27, 2008

The Annual Meeting of the Ballou Channing District will be held on April 27, 2008 at 2:30 PM at the Channing Memorial Church in Newport, RI. The business of the meeting will include election of District Officers and Board of Directors, adoption of the District Budget for 2009 and reports from BCD Board, UUA Trustee and the district staff.

There will be a luncheon served at 1 PM, including Visioning Conversations about District activities, followed by the meeting at 2:30. The Channing Memorial Church will sponsor a Walking Tour of Historic Newport at 4 PM, following the meeting.

We have voting credentials for four members, as well as a ministerial delegate credential and one for the religious education director. Please see Carolyn Marshall for your signed credentials prior to going to the meeting. Material about the meeting is posted on the BCD bulletin board in Fellowship Hall.

CLEAN REFRIGERATORS

On Wednesday, April 16, Crystal Bradshaw and I cleaned out our Energy Star refrigerators. We had to throw out a few items that were beyond prime or undated and unidentified.

In the future, it would be helpful if folks would label their leftovers with their name and the date so we know whom to contact. If you're leaving food for anyone to use, please indicate that, along with the date.

If you see Crystal, please thank her for fixing the door on the left-hand refrigerator so it opens to the left rather than to the right. Now it will be easier to transfer things from one refrigerator to the other.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact me. [See your printed Chimes.](#)

Celia Humphreys

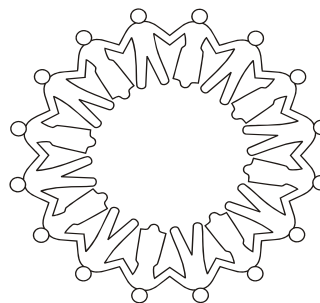
MAY SECOND SATURDAY SAMPLING

Our next Second Saturday Sampling will be May 10, at 6:30 PM in Fellowship Hall. This fall Westminster will celebrate 50 years of being in our current home. Did you know we had two homes previous to this one? As we begin our celebration, we will look at some famous Unitarian Universalists – both from Westminster and across the denomination. At the May 10th Second Saturday Potluck we will play a game – not quite Jeopardy or Deal or No Deal – but we hope to have some fun talking about famous UUs and UU events. The questions will be kid friendly too.

Childcare will be provided. Please sign up for the May Second Saturday Sampling on the sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall, and indicate if you need childcare. If you have any questions, please see Celia Humphreys or Carolyn Marshall.

THE MEMORIAL SOCIETY OF RHODE ISLAND,

an affiliate of the Funeral Consumers Alliance, invites you to attend the Annual Meeting on May 4, 2008, 3-5PM at Westminster Unitarian Church in Fellowship Hall. Lisa Carlson, President of the Funeral Ethics Organization will be speaking on "Funeral Shopping: How to Get The Most For Your Funeral Dollar." She is an entertaining and up-beat speaker on what might otherwise be a down-beat topic.



AMONG OURSELVES

Sympathies are extended to the family of **Renée Bucklin's** husband, Richard Marzilli, on the death of his brother-in-law, Dennis Neri, on April 15th.

Religious Education News



Lauren Kalian

Religious Education Coordinator
401-884-5933 (W)

Religious Education News

The warm weather has finally come and I hope that everyone is able to enjoy it! One day last week Gabrielle and I were blowing bubbles outside (one of my favorite activities). One bubble started floating to our neighbor's yard and beyond. As it continued to fly away, Gabrielle said, "Look Mommy! That bubble wants to see the world!" For her there was magic in that bubble, in the wind that was "playing" with her, and in the flowers finally blooming in our yard. My wish for you is that you can find the magic that is waiting for you outside your door every day!

I would like to thank the Green Sanctuary for a beautiful service and for inviting the children to the beginning of worship. The story was wonderful!

I also would like to thank Mort White for getting the soil, sand, planters, and seeds, as well as for teaching the children how to properly plant and take care of their plants. The children enjoyed it very much, and I look forward to hearing about how well their plants are doing!

Thank you to the teachers, babysitters, adult volunteers, and students in grades 6, 7, and 8 for assisting the children while they planted. You can never have enough hands when you are working with soil, seeds, and children!

Please note the following schedule:

April 27: There is one service at 10:00. There will be Sunday School as usual, and all students will be in Fellowship Hall.

There will be a meeting for 6th grade parents, after the Congregational Vote, in the Hedge Room. We will be discussing the "Neighboring Faiths" curriculum for next year, and answer any questions you may have.

May 4: Intergenerational Service at 9:00 and 11:00. There will be NO Sunday School.

May 11: Students will go to Fellowship Hall for Sunday School.

Enjoy the rest of April! Go blow some bubbles!

Blessed Be!

Lauren

WOMEN OF WESTMINSTER & FRIENDS

ALL WOMEN WELCOME

We meet every Thursday evening.

Setup/Meeting: 7:00 to 7:15 PM
Announcements: 7:15 to 7:30 PM
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
- * Social Justice
- * Personal Empowerment

April 24 – **Cakes for the Queen of Heaven** – Session 2 (Mary McMahon)

May 1 – Movie: **USA Versus John Lennon** (Charlann)

May 2-4 – WOW Retreat at Senexet House

May 8 – **Cakes for the Queen of Heaven** – Session 3 (Charlann & Rosie)

ADULT EDUCATION AND ENRICHMENT COMMITTEE

The Committee is making plans for next fall's programs. While certain programs are planned, ideas and opinions from members are being sought.

We are looking for suggestions, ideas, and thoughts for programs and workshops.

Can you offer a skill?

Do you have a talent to share?

Do you have a suggestion for a discussion series?

Any and all ideas and offers are welcome!

During Sunday, May 4, a sheet seeking these ideas for the programs will be in the Order of Service. Also, you can call or talk with a member of the Committee to give us your input to this program planning. The members are Essjay Foulkrod, Conrad Kulawas, and Carolin Goldman.

We want to hear from you!

COME JOIN MY 70TH BIRTH MONTH

celebration lunch on Sunday, May 4th at Fellowship Hall at Westminster UU for a party of good company and conversation. I have been celebrating a full month for such a long time. We have too many conflicts with Mother's Day, so May 4th works for most. No presents please! I have enough stuff. Who needs four toasters anyway? The fun starts at 1PM. We have the hall for two hours. Coffee and tea will be provided. Charlene Kneath is baking a cake. It is potluck.

If your last name begins with A through F, bring enough beverage (soft drinks or otherwise) for six. If your last name starts with G through M, bring enough salad for six. N through R brings the main dish for six. S through Z can bring another desert for six. Be there or be square.

Mort White

UU CONGREGATION OF SOUTH COUNTY'S 14TH ANNUAL AUCTION

"Spring Treasures"

Saturday, April 26th from 6-9 pm.

Sunset Farm; 505 Pt. Judith Rd., Narragansett

Silent & Live Auction – Music, Food & Fun

Admission: Adults \$20; Students 12 & over, \$12;

Children \$5 (cash and checks only)

Auction items include an African safari, several pieces by local artists, many gift baskets with special themes, and much more.

G.S. THANKS AND RAFFLE RESULTS

The Green Sanctuary Task Force wishes to acknowledge those who made our Earth Day Sunday services and raffle possible. Thanks to Crystal Bradshaw, Kristen Morelli and Sue Ross for their readings during the services; to Carolyn Marshall for doing the announcements at the 9 AM service; to Bruce Cousineau for his help with the sound system; to Laura Evans for her suggestion of *Blueberries for Sal* as the children's story at the 9 AM service; to Mort White for his expert help in teaching and leading



the children in planting tomato and marigold seeds after the children left the Sanctuary; to Mort for donating the planting containers; to the Hart Seed Company of Wethersfield, CT, for providing Mort with the seeds; to Dan Aubin for photographing the children's activities; to Lauren Kalian and all of the RE teachers for participating in the plantings; and to Nonetta Shatakhtsian, the music committee, and the choir for their wonderful chorale at the 11 AM service.

Thanks to a donation of items from The Nature Conservancy of Rhode Island, Green Sanctuary was able to raffle off two each of: T-shirts, hat and scarf set, tote bags and toy Karner blue butterflies. We thank Doris Duarte for donating the raffle tickets; and special thanks to all those who bought raffle tickets. We took in over \$100, which will be added to the donation portion of April's Share The Plate charity, The Nature Conservancy of Rhode Island's project to study the effect of sea level rise on the southern Rhode Island coast.

Those who won raffle items are: T-shirts, Kelly Lee and Doug Jones; hat and scarf sets, Doris Duarte and Arthur Mark; tote bags, Laura French and Catherine Norris; and Karner blue butterfly toys, Kelly Lee and Arthur Mark. In addition, Green Sanctuary is giving the third Karner blue butterfly toy to the children's RE program. If you won an item in the raffle but haven't picked it up yet, please contact Celia Humphreys or Natalie Aubin. See your printed Chimes.

Natalie Aubin & Celia Humphreys
Co-chairpersons, Green Sanctuary
Task Force

WESTMINSTER CALENDAR

| | | |
|------|-----------|-----------------------------------|
| 4/24 | 11:30 AM | Clothing Sale Set up (FH) |
| 4/24 | 5:00 PM | Worship Committee |
| 4/24 | 6-7 PM | Meditation (CH) |
| 4/24 | 6:30 PM | Green Sanctuary TF (RR) |
| 4/24 | 7:00 PM | Men's Group (W) |
| 4/24 | 7:00 PM | Women of Westminster (H) |
| 4/25 | 9-3 PM | Clothing Sale (FH) |
| 4/25 | 9-12 PM | Clothing Sale (FH) |
| 4/27 | 10:00 AM | Worship |
| 4/27 | 10:00 AM | RE |
| 4/27 | 11:15 AM | Congregational Meeting (FH) |
| 4/27 | 12:30 PM | 6 th Grade Parents (W) |
| 4/27 | 2-5 PM | Social Responsibility (FH) |
| 4/29 | 7:00 PM | Canvass Committee (H) |
| 4/29 | 7:00 PM | RE Committee (FH) |
| 4/30 | 7:00 PM | Choir Rehearsal (CH) |
| 5/1 | 6:00 PM | RIUUSJ (H) |
| 5/1 | 6-7:00 PM | Meditation (CH) |
| 5/1 | 7:00 PM | Women of Westminster (FH) |
| 5/3 | 8-9:30 AM | May Breakfast Rainbow |
| 5/4 | 9/11 AM | Worship |
| 5/4 | 9:00 AM | RE |
| 5/4 | 1-2:30 PM | Mort (W) |
| 5/7 | 6:00 PM | Buddhist Meditation (FH) |
| 5/7 | 7:00 PM | Choir Rehearsal (CH) |

WESTMINSTER WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

April 27

| | | |
|----------|----------|-------------------------|
| Ushers: | 10:00 AM | Volunteer needed |
| Flowers: | | Abigail Addington-May |
| Coffee: | 9:00 AM | Volunteer needed |

May 4

| | | |
|----------|----------|-------------------------|
| Ushers: | 9:00 AM | Celia Humphreys |
| | 11:00 AM | Volunteer needed |
| Flowers: | | Judith Abbott |
| Coffee: | 9:00 AM | Isabelle Conrad |
| | 11:00 AM | Self Service |

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

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](#). See your printed Chimes.

CHIMES DEADLINES



DEADLINE: May 1st
MAILING: May 7th

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 | Lauren Kalian |

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Music Director: | Nonetta Shatakhtsian |
| Office Administrator: | Judy Brown |

E-mail: westminsteruu@verizon.net

Website: www.westminsteruu.org

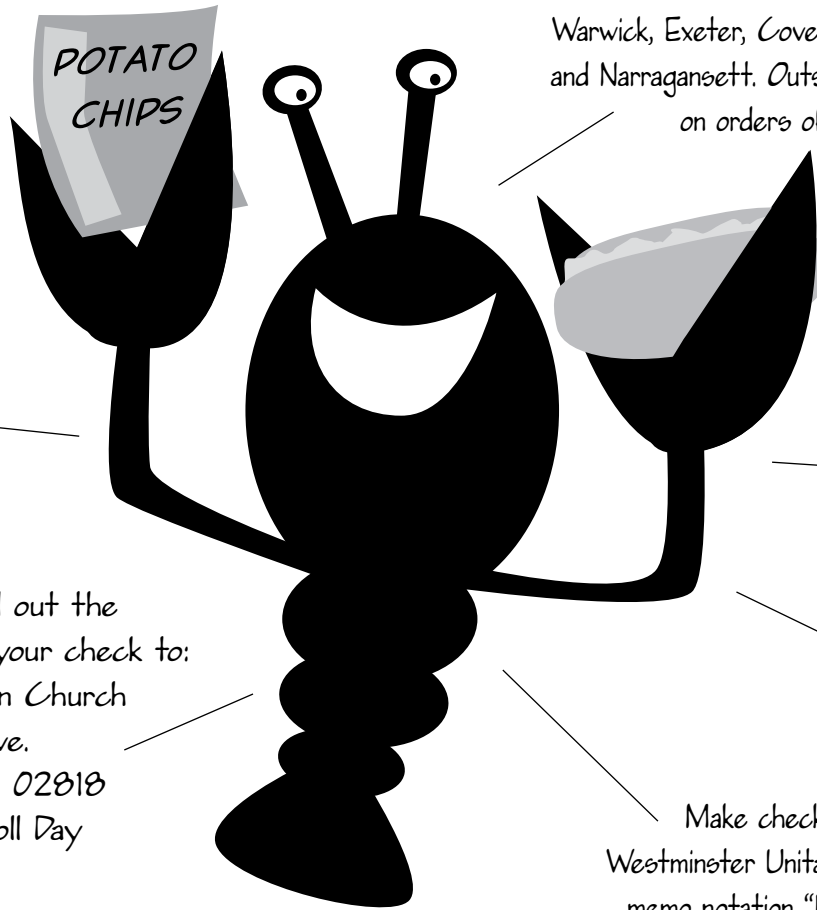
Office Hours 9-1 Monday - Friday

WESTMINSTER UNITARIAN CHURCH 17TH ANNUAL LOBSTER ROLL DAY! FRIDAY MAY 16, 2008

For just \$9.00,
you get an all meat lobster roll
(no fillers) with mayonnaise
and potato chips.

*Free Delivery on orders of 8 or more
in East & West Greenwich, North & South Kingstown,
Warwick, Exeter, Coventry, West Warwick, Cranston,
and Narragansett. Outside these areas or for delivery
on orders of 6 or 7 rolls, a small delivery
charge of \$5.00 will be
added to the order. Orders
of 5 or less may be picked
up at Westminster Unitarian
Church before 12:30 pm.

All orders must be
prepaid and received
by May 9th.



A limited number of rolls
may be available on a walk-in
basis on Lobster Roll Day.

Questions?
Please call 884-5933.

To place an order, fill out the
order form and mail with your check to:
Westminster Unitarian Church
119 Kenyon Ave.
East Greenwich, RI 02818
Attn: Lobster Roll Day

Make checks payable to
Westminster Unitarian Church with a
memo notation "Lobster Roll Day".

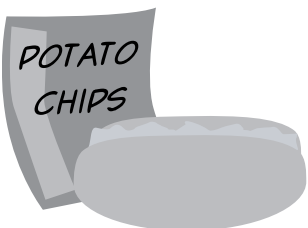
Name/Company Name _____ Contact Person _____

Address _____

City/Town _____ Zip _____ Tel: _____

Please Deliver (6 or more) at _____ a.m. I will pick up at _____ a.m.

Special directions and requests: _____



_____ no. of rolls @ \$9.00 each \$ _____

delivery charge* + \$ 5.00

Total amount enclosed \$ _____

