

December 15, 2012

Dear members and friends,

“We never know what each new day will bring. We hope for joy and peace or at least the comfort of predictable routine. We’re never prepared for the intrusion of evil, acted out through harm and mayhem. When death rips life from our grasp, when horror blurs our sight, have mercy on us, God. Hold our aching souls, guide us through dizzying grief, listen to our wailing “why?” Be the comfort we may not even know we need as we live through this brand new mourning. Amen. “

These words were prayed last evening by a sanctuary full of people from this community, the town, and surrounding towns. We gathered for a prayer vigil to remember and honor the victims, families, and community of Newtown, Connecticut.

As the days unfold, there will be stories – stories of precious children whose lives were cut too short, stories of heroic acts, even stories of evil and destruction. These are the times for us to be together – in prayer, in community, in supporting one another. As your pastors, we are available for you and your families – to pray, to listen to your questions, to share your grief and tears, to discuss how we respond, and to discover together the presence of our God. Some of you have asked how to talk about these events with young children. There is posted on the web site a resource on talking about violence with children. While it is written primarily for teachers and parents, it is also appropriate for anyone who interacts with young people, be it in their families or in their homes. Here at RHCC, UCC, we are one community, caring for each other across all ages and experiences.

A previously scheduled service of remembrance and healing will be held this evening at 5:00 PM in our chapel. While it is not a prayer vigil in remembrance of those who lost their lives yesterday, please do join us if you desire some solace and solitude in the blessed assurance of our God’s love and in the community of God’s people.

With peace,

Donna and Meghan