



The Reverend Dr. Brenda Pelc-Faszczka, Interim Senior Pastor
brenda@rhccucc.org
Meghan D. Young, Acting Associate Pastor
meghan@rhccucc.org
Mary DeLibero, Minister of Music
mary@rhccucc.org
Mitsey Baker, Office Manager
office@rhccucc.org
860 529-4167 Church – 860 257-9637 Fax

The Church Mouse

April 2014 Newsletter

Website: www.rhccucc.org
Office Hours – 8:30 a.m.–2:00 p.m. Monday-Thursday
8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Friday
Sunday Worship Services – 10:00 a.m.

Childcare Available/Handicap Accessible

*Blessings and Congratulations to
Meghan D. Young, Acting Associate Pastor,
who, at her Ecclesiastical Council of March 16,
was approved for ordination, pending call,
by the Harford Association
of the United Church of Christ.*

God is still speaking,
**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**



INTERIM PASTOR'S MESSAGE



The Size of Love: A Holy Week Meditation

They walked together for awhile,
learning life,
learning how to live like natives
in God's realm.

He didn't stay that long,
but long enough to show them
all they needed to know:

*No matter how the world says
you should use power,
no matter what the world says
you should want,
the truth is that everything turns on love.
Love one another as I have loved you.
Love even your enemies.
Do unto others....*

He told them plainly,
showed them clearly,
broke the rules so they would learn
the only one that matters.
It's just that they were living
in the middle of an empire,
which always lives in the middle of fear
and so their vision was small.
Right until the last day,
when he died,
in order to show them the whole size of love,
the whole size of God.
Little did they know,
as they tried to grow bigger hearts
for their sorrow,
that come Sunday morning,
even Friday's love
would be outgrown.

-BPF

APRIL WORSHIP

Listed below are the several lectionary texts for each Sunday. The lectionary is a three-year cycle of Scripture readings shared in common by most major Christian denominations. (The preaching text for any given Sunday may or may not be taken from these.) Reading them and looking for thematic connections is one way to do some Biblical exploration.

April 6 Fifth Sunday in Lent

Intergenerational worship; Communion

Ezek. 37:1-14; Ps. 130; Rom. 8:67-11; John 11:1-45

April 13 Palm Sunday; Beginning of Holy Week

Ps. 118:1-12, 19-29; Matt. 21:1-11 (or: Isa. 50:4-9a;

Ps. 31:9-16; Phil. 2:5-11; Matt. 26:14-27:66 or Matt. 27:11-54)

April 17 Maundy Thursday

7:00 p.m. Service commemorating the Last Supper, with Communion, Tenebrae, special music.

("Tenebrae" means "darkness" and is a traditional service of the reading of the passion narrative from Scripture and the extinguishing of candles so that the sanctuary progresses toward darkness, symbolizing the crucifixion of Jesus and the flight and betrayal of his disciples).

Ex. 12:1-4, (5-10), 11-14; Ps. 116:1-2, 12-19; 1 Cor. 11:23-26; John 13:1-17, 31b-35

April 18 Good Friday

5:30 p.m. A meal and walk through Jesus' last words.

Isa. 52:13-53:12; Ps. 22; Heb. 10:16-25 or Heb. 4:14-16; 5:7-9; John 18:1-19:42

April 20 Easter Day

5:40 a.m. Easter Sunrise Service at Rose Hill Cemetery

6:25 a.m. Breakfast in Chapin Hall

10:00 a.m. **Festival Easter Worship, with special music**

Acts 10:34-43 or Jer. 31:1-6; Ps. 118:1-2, 14-24; Col. 3:1-4; John 20:1-18 or Matt. 28:1-10

April 27 Second Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:14a, 22-32; Ps. 16; 1 Pet. 1:3-9; John 20:19-31



S.P.I.R.I.T. Corner Check-in:

Church School

March focused on, *The Women of the Resurrection*. We explored the gift that the presence of women brought to Easter morning and ultimately Christianity. The resurrection is a pivot point of faith and for Christians all that happened before and since revolves around this experience. Our self-understanding comes from this incredible resurrection event experienced by the disciples and the early church. The four Gospels do not give us a single consistent story line about the resurrection. For some this might be distressing. It may help to understand that for the Gospel writers, the truth of the resurrection was a “sure thing.” They were not trying to prove that it happened. Instead, they were trying to help readers better understand what God was doing through Jesus’ resurrection. They wanted us to see the empty tomb as crucial to faith and life.

During this unit we read and reflected on the four Gospel accounts of the resurrection, focused on the experiences they describe, explored the gift that the presence of women brought, and opened ourselves anew to the miracle of the resurrection.

After Easter we will begin our final unit of the year, *Following Jesus’ Way*. The book of Acts and many of the New Testament Epistles document Paul’s travels as he went from place to place, sharing the life-changing story of Jesus’ resurrection and instructing others how to live in Jesus’ way. In this unit we will focus on the events of Acts 16 where Paul meets Lydia and survives imprisonment for the sake of the gospel.

Check out the “What We’re Learning Now” box for more information about our next faith formation unit, “Women of the Resurrection”, and learn with us!

Youth Group

Noah’s Table will now meet twice a month on Sunday evenings from 5 PM – 6:30 PM for dinner, fellowship, and faith formation. We will now concentrate primarily on Noah’s Table, with additional meetings for mission projects. We are also looking to go on an overnight mission trip this Summer.

All Youth Group events for the year will be open to 6th-12th graders, and when appropriate 6th-8th graders and 9th-12th graders will break off for separate discussion groups. We will meet several times throughout the year for Youth Group Night Out events and service projects. On Sundays following church, Noah’s Table meets to discuss current events, worship, and eat.

GROW YOUR FAITH & GET INVOLVED WITH S.P.I.R.I.T.

The RHCC S.P.I.R.I.T. Church School is a place that values intergenerational relationships, growing in faith, and learning throughout our lives to be the disciples Christ calls us to be. You are invited to come join the circle and get involved. **We are currently in need of a 6th-8th Grade Shepherd as well as Community Life, Show & Tell and a Hands Learning Center Guides for unit 5 (begins on April 27).** Learning Center guides prepare engaging activities to teach the bible story through community service, drama, games, crafts, and food. Training and lesson plans are always provided. **If you are interested in getting involved in this ministry please contact Meghan Young at meghan@rhccucc.org.**

Here's What's Happening This Month...

SPECIAL EVENT: *You do not want to miss this!*

Date	Scripture/Lesson
Saturday, April 19 3 PM – 5 PM Chapin Hall	HOLY SATURDAY GATHERING & EASTER EGG HUNT: Prepare or the risen Christ with special family activities and worship. Come transform what we put away on Ash Wednesday, participate in an Easter egg hunt for all ages, and worship as we prepare for Easter rejoicing. RSVP appreciated. Please email meghan@rhccucc.org , for more information and to sign-up.

S.P.I.R.I.T Church School Calendar: *What we're learning this month.*

Date	Scripture/Lesson
Sunday, April 6	<i>Communion Sunday, Family Worship</i>
Sunday, April 13	<i>Palm Sunday, Family Worship</i>
Sunday, April 20	<i>Easter Sunday, Family Worship</i>
Sunday, April 27	<i>Week 1: Following Jesus' Way</i>

Youth Group Calendar: *April*

Date	Fellowship Gatherings
Sunday, April 13	Noah's Table (6 th -12 ^h Grade) → 5 PM – 6:30 PM
Sunday, April 27	Noah's Table (6 th -12 ^h Grade) → 5 PM – 6:30 PM

****please RSVP with Diana Hellyar for Noah's Table**

NURSERY VOLUNTEERS: Nursery Volunteers are needed. If you are interested in volunteering in the Nursery during Sunday morning worship, please contact a member of the Childcare Committee or email them at RHCCchildcare@gmail.com for more information. You can also sign-up outside the Nursery.

SENIOR PASTOR SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE



The Search Committee made some great progress last month. We gave a congregational survey, met with several small groups, and will still be meeting with more in the coming weeks. These discussions give us the chance to gather valuable feedback and we appreciate your participation, thank you!

In an effort to keep the lines of communication open between the congregation and the Search Committee, we have taken over the bulletin board outside of the parlor.

There are copies of the surveys and other information, as well as folders where you can put questions, feedback, and thoughts for us to read and consider. We welcome any items you may want to share with us. There is also a Search Committee mailbox in the office where you can leave messages.

SURVEY SAYS...

The Search Committee would like to share important issues or themes that have surfaced as a result of our congregational conversations. We will be doing this through our "Survey Says" section! This month these are a couple of the feedback results that we have seen from many of you...

- As a congregation, we do not want to wait for a new pastor before starting to implement change in our church.
- Our children have expressed a deep love of worship and a desire to be more a part of the regular service than they currently are today.

More to come in next month's Mouse!

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact any of the committee members.

Senior Pastor Search Committee: Liz Reed-Swale - Co-Chair, Gregson Curtin - Co-Chair, Stephanie Heneghan - Chaplin, Hilaire Leavitt - Secretary, Meghan Montana - Communications, Neal Cox, Diana Hellyar, Michele Jokl, Rhody Triblets

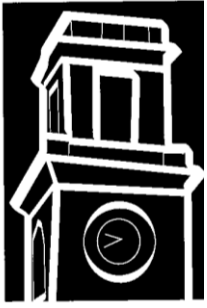
1	Dick Webster		Jake D'Addario
	Donna Gagnon		George Day
	Lynn Macri	18	Sarah DeGiovanni
	Michelle Day		Dawn McLean
2	Thomas Alferi		Kevin Griswold
	Rebecca Scribano		Victoria Bower
	Gregson Curtin		Grace Triblets
4	Bobbie Hawkins	19	Lois Griswold
	Marsha Hoffman		Sue Monaghan
	Sherry Silkowski		Wendy Ware
7	Judy Frascarelli		Mya Corvo
	Grace Hoffman	20	John Goff IV
8	Gary Lexa	21	Sue Starr
	Meghan Montana		Linda Gilbert
	Leah Scully		Elaine Malespini
	Isabel Donahue		Jason McGowan
9	Kathy Kunzelman	23	Jean Sudell
	Sam DeGiovanni		John McNeil Jr.
11	Bea Crandall	24	Alexander Lataille
	Brian Donahue		Jocelyn Fritzer
	Kaedryn Pulling	25	Jane Yorgensen
12	Steve Ware		Ann Krischus
	Skyler Dean-Lee		Amy Snow
13	Alan Wind	26	Linda Rupaka
	David Hawkins	27	Julie Dostie
	Ruth Fitzgerald		Christopher Robbins
	Sara Lataille	28	Nadine Bell
14	Kevin Hall	29	Douglas Scheirey
	Carolyn Furman		Liz Reed-Swale
15	John Shen	30	Polly Pagnucco
16	Ruby Bennett		Jennifer Ryan
	Joan Diaz		Victoria Connor



Phil and Bette Swain
were married on
April 5, 1948

Dale and Donna Rowland
were married on
April 29, 1972

Bill and Dot Bartley
were married on
April 19, 1974



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday Morning Worship

Communion 1st Sunday

10:00 a.m. with childcare



**CHILD
care**
Provided

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
		1 7:00 Boards & Committees	2 9:30am Quilters 12:00pm Bible Study 7:30pm Adult Choir
6 Communion Sunday 10:00am Worship 11:30am Children/youth music 12:00pm Living the Resurrection 1:30pm Ladies Brunch & Fashion Show	7 10:30am Apple Rehab Svc 7:00pm Women's AA 7:00pm RHCC Bowling 7:30pm Bell Choir	8 8:30am Breakfast Club 7:00pm Council	9 9:30am Quilters 12:00pm Bible Study 7:30pm Adult Choir
13 PALM SUNDAY 10:00am Worship 11:30am Tenebrae Rehearsal 12:00pm Living the Resurrection 5:00pm Noah's Table	14 <u>Scholarship Deadline</u> 7:00pm Women's AA 7:00pm RHCC Bowling 7:30pm Bell Choir	15 <u>Newsletter Deadline</u> 11:00am Retired Clergy group 4:00pm The Lodge Svc	16 9:30am Quilters 12:00pm Bible Study 6:00pm Community Event 7:30pm Adult Choir
20 EASTER 5:40am Sunrise Svc Rose Hill 6:30am Breakfast at RHCC 10:00am Worship	21 <u>OFFICE CLOSED</u> 7:00pm Women's AA 7:00pm RHCC Bowling 7:30pm Bell Choir	22	23 9:00am Quilters 12:00pm Bible Study 7:30pm Adult Choir
27 10:00am Worship 5:00pm Noah's Table	28 <u>Newsletter Mailing</u> 7:00pm Women's AA 7:00pm RHCC Bowling 7:30pm Bell Choir	29	30 9:00am Quilters 12:00pm Bible Study 7:30pm Adult Choir

Bible Study



Bible Study

Wednesday 12:00 to 1:00 PM in the Fiorilli Room

Each week, we gather to read and explore the Scriptures to be used in an upcoming worship service. All are welcome. No experience necessary. Bring your favorite translation or pick one up from the shelf. Brown bag lunch is optional



2014

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
3 5:30pm TOPS 7:00pm Art & Faith 8:00pm Men's AA Music Committee	4	5
10 5:30pm TOPS 8:00pm Men's AA	11 5:30pm RHCCNS Family Fun Night	12
17 MAUNDY THURSDAY 7:00pm Tenebrae Service	18 GOOD FRIDAY 5:30pm meal/walk through Jesus' last words	19 HOLY SATURDAY 3:00am All Church Gathering
24 5:30pm TOPS 8:00pm Men's AA	25	26



**Ladies, you are invited to InReach's
LADIES BRUNCH & FASHION SHOW**

Chapin Hall,

Sunday, April 6, 2014, at 1:30 pm.

Our models will feature fashions by Dress Barn.

Dine on green salad, fruit, sweet & savory muffins and breads, light desserts, and assorted beverages.

Please **call 860-529-8789 to reserve tickets.**

Tickets: \$10.00

Global and Local Mission News

"The beautiful spring came; and when Nature resumes her loveliness, the human soul is apt to revive also..." – Harriet Ann Jacobs

This winter has taken its toll on me, and I am a lover of winter. The snow and cold have seemed to go on for longer than usual and instead of feeling a calm happiness, on recent snow days, I have been agitated...hoping for some sign that this will end. Thankfully, with April, comes that spark of warmth in the air and the smell of thawing earth. I've begun work to start the seedlings for our garden this year and those small signs of life give me hope! The same is true in our church family. As we shake off the cold of winter and come out of our homes more willingly and through the doors of our sanctuary, let us be revived by not only the warm air and bright sun, but also by the words and deeds that tie us to this community of Christ.

In Faith,
Meghan Montana
Chair – Board for Missions

Since last month, your generosity has helped the following:

Bread for the World	\$500
Church World Services	\$500
Rocky Hill Human Services	\$1,000

Covenant to Care Easter Baskets

We will again be helping our covenant to care families this Easter by making about 20 Easter baskets for our social worker's families. If you would like to help by donating candy, small toys, or funds, please contact Kari McCaw Blaise.

31st Annual Walk Against Hunger

Sunday, May 4 at 2:00 PM

The Walk Against Hunger provides much needed support for all of Foodshare's participating partner agencies. The largest Walk in CT, this event draws thousands of supporters from all over greater Hartford. Join us for a day of fun for this 2.5-mile walk around Bushnell Park in Hartford with entertainment, prizes and fun. Signup sheets will be posted in Chapin Hall in the coming weeks. All ages are welcome! Contact Thomas Kainamura (thomascm@gmail.com) to learn more!

Prayers for Hong Kong

Prayers this month for our Global Ministry partners in Hong Kong who are working to continue the fight for gender justice in this region – Prayer written by Global Missionaries Judy Chan.

O God, we live in a world full of temptations for easy solutions to hard problems. Like Jesus, we are tempted to satisfy our physical needs in ways that are detrimental to our spiritual health. We are tempted to test you when it is we ourselves who need to be proven trustworthy. We are tempted to take shortcuts to glory, even for your kingdom, by avoiding the pain of the Cross. Teach us to follow your Son who refused easy solutions to hard problems of human sin. Just as Jesus fought temptation through prayer, fasting and reliance on your holy word, may we also be faithful to the spiritual discipline of these 40 days and 40 nights.

Let us also pray that during Lent our eyes might be opened to the hidden suffering of many, especially the suffering of women. Guide the Church in Hong Kong and give us courage to listen to their stories, to confront the powers that would hide the truth, and to seek justice and healing for all. In our journey through the wilderness, 'teach us with you to mourn our sins and close by you to stay.' In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

www.globalministries.org

Your Board For Missions Members: Meghan Montana – Chair, Kari McCaw-Blaise – Secretary, David Bell - Treasurer, Lisa Eleck, Cindy Hunt, Thomas Kainamura, Sarah Mosure, Wendy Ware.

Greetings from the Stewardship Committee!



At one of our recent meetings we were asked why we run the pledge campaign in the Spring. This led to a thoughtful conversation and a recollection that about 15 years ago the pledge campaign was in the Autumn. The Stewardship committee, working with Council and the Treasurer, have agreed to again make Autumn the time when we reflect on our giving. We are looking into new ways of talking about money and how it fits into our relationship with God. We desire to put some space between preparing the budget and making our pledges. We pray that the congregation will be open to this new idea. In the meantime, please continue to make your offering as you are doing now. We will be sending individual letters to everyone who currently pledge, and we will speak about the plan at the annual meeting.

Christian Activities Council

Black History Month: Residents of Shepard Park Elderly Housing and Horace Bushnell Congregate Homes were honored. It was a wonderful program held at Shepard Park complex in Hartford. There were speakers, musicians and food. The Christian Activities Council, led by Pat Johnson, was instrumental in planning and participation in the program.

Search Committee: The Search Committee has been working diligently to hire a new Executive Director. They have narrowed the number of excellent candidates to four. To my delight they are ordained ministers. It is very possible the Board of Directors will vote to accept a new director by the end of May.

Staff: We welcome Deysha Colon, our receptionist and USA housing support services and the Rev. Gary Witte as Health Care Church organizer.

We are forever grateful to our staff, Michelle Roberts, Charmaine Simpson, Pat Johnson, Edgar Dreyer, and the Rev. Ayala for their dedication and work ethic to carry out our mission to empower the poor and needy. Also thank you to Flora Foster, our former receptionist who recently retired after many years at the Christian Activities Council.

Adventures in the City: We thank our Board of Missions for their continued support for this most important summer educational program for children and youth of North Hartford. Individual donations are always welcomed.

Housing: Like the song "At Last," we have sold four condo units on Edgewood St. after many years of extreme financial difficulties and other major problems. A sincere thanks to Executive Director Rev. Ed Ayala, Board of Directors and others who have put in a lot of effort to sell these condos. The sale of these units and other financial efforts have put us on a more stable financial foundation.

Finally, the April meeting of the Council and Board will be the last for Rev. Ed Ayala as Executive Director. I will never be able to express my most heartfelt gratitude for his outstanding leadership and friendship over these last seventeen years.

God Bless
Rich Pawlich-Pagliccio
Delegate – Member Board of Directors

My earliest Easter memories are attending Adaburg Baptist Church (KY) hearing *My Old Rugged Cross* sung and having an Egg Hunt. The Baptist Churches changed but I cannot remember an Easter that my family did not attend both Sunday School and Church Service together or not hearing *The Old Rugged Cross*. Fast forward to 29 days after I moved to CT. I awoke to an Easter morning snowstorm and no church service. Six years later the temperature on Easter was 96 degrees. And I treasure the memories of Sunrise Services at RHCC. Easter these past 10 years has been in Philadelphia. Each year I quickly scan the church bulletin to see if the song of my childhood will be sung.



The Easter Season at RHCC began with two Ash Wednesday services. The midday service was a short but prayerful beginning to the very busy Easter Season. I hope you were able to attend one or more of the programs developed by our ministers to help us prepare for Easter Sunday. I found the discussion at the Versions of Easter to be insightful and so interesting that time was forgotten!

Easter is not one day and definitely not about the bunny. It is the celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ and the promise of eternal life. Please consult our church calendar for the remaining Lent activities especially the time of the Maundy Thursday Service.

Gail Tine, Co Senior Deacon

RHCC FOOD PANTRY BASKET

Melissa Gerace-Hicks, Director of Rocky Hill Human Services with responsibility for the Food Pantry, informs us that the client list is increasing while donations are decreasing. In March, monetary donations normally designated for fresh food were used to purchase crackers, rice, and juice. Other staples are also in short supply. The following food items are needed:

Spaghetti sauce and linguini pasta
Rice
Soups
Tuna & canned chicken
Peanut butter & jelly

Crackers
Juice, coffee, tea
Cereals
Applesauce

Jars can be plastic or glass.

Additionally all paper goods (towels, toilet paper, etc.) and detergents are in short supply and **always** needed. Toothpaste, shampoo and conditioners are needed. The pantry also accepts hotel size containers. All donations are welcome.

MAY BREAKFAST

Egg Strata ~ Pancakes ~ French Toast
Cereal ~ Bacon ~ Sausage ~ Juice ~ Milk ~ Coffee



Adults \$7.00

Kids (4-12) \$5.00 under 4 – free

PLANT SALE

Flowers & Vegetables

Saturday, May 10th

8:00 A.M. – 10:00 A.M.

Rocky Hill Congregational Church

805 Old Main Street

Rocky Hill, CT

(860) 529-4167



REMEMBER OR HONOR LOVED ONES WITH EASTER FLOWERS

The flowers will adorn the sanctuary for worship on
Easter Sunday, April 20.

The three choices this year will be:
Easter Lily in 6 1/2 inch pots with 6+ buds (\$11.95)

Hyacinth 6 inch with 3 bulbs (\$7.95)

Tulip 6 inch full pots with limited color options (\$10.95)



The deadline for ordering is Friday, April 4, 2014.

Please fill out the information below and give to Kathy Mosure or the Church Office.

Given by: _____

Daytime Telephone Number: _____

Dedication ("in loving memory of...", "in honor of...", etc.):

Number ordered

Dollar Amount

Lily @ \$11.95 each _____ x 11.95 = _____

Hyacinth @ \$7.95 each _____ x 7.95 = _____

Tulip @ \$10.95 each _____ x 10.95 = _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

Please select:

[] I will pick up my plant after worship on Sunday, April 20.

[] The Deacons may give my plant to a shut-in or homebound member.

Make checks payable to RHCC and give them directly to

Kathy Mosure or mail to the Church Office

805 Old Main Street, Rocky Hill CT 06067, Attn: Flower Committee

You may call Kathy with questions at 860 632-9763.



ROCKY HILL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
805 Old Main Street, Rocky Hill CT 06067
Telephone # 860 529-4167

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Mailed March 24, 2014

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
HARTFORD, CT 06101

PERMIT NO 7

No matter who you are,
Or where you are on life's journey...
You're welcome here.



HOLY WEEK

APRIL 13

PALM SUNDAY

10:00 p.m. Worship

APRIL 17

MAUNDY THURSDAY

7:00 p.m. Service commemorating the Last Supper,
with Communion, Tenebrae, special music.

APRIL 18

GOOD FRIDAY

5:30 p.m. A meal and walk through Jesus' last words.

APRIL 18

HOLY SATURDAY

3:00 p.m. All Church gathering.

APRIL 20

EASTER DAY

5:40 a.m. Easter Sunrise Service at Rose Hill Cemetery

6:25 a.m. Breakfast in Chapin Hall

10:00 a.m. **Festival Easter Worship, with special music**

