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860 529-4167 Church Office

## The Church Mouse

## April 2015 Newsletter

Website: [www.rhccucc.org](http://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



## CREATION SUNDAY

April 26, 2015

*Creation-centered worship, as we celebrate the themes of  
**earth-mindfulness and earth-care**  
as acts of faith*



## **Resurrection in April**

*Praise [God] for the budding green,  
April's resurrection scene;  
Praise [God] for the shining hours,  
Starring all the land with flowers.*



Those are the second-stanza words of the hymn "Praise to God, Your Praises Bring," found in the Pilgrim Hymnal's "Changing Seasons" section. There's a stanza for each of the other seasons too. *Praise [God] for the summer rain, feeding, day and night, the grain... Praise [God] for the winter's rest, snow that falls on nature's breast...*

You may not be among those who praise God for snow. It's been a long winter around here, and mostly everybody I know has complained about it. They can't wait for "April's resurrection scene," that finally-spring that finally comes, no matter how long or intense the winter before it, when everything, seemingly overnight, buds out and turns green and starts the next round of visible growing. It's just about here (even though as I write this, the snow banks are still pretty big).

Personally, I can't imagine living someplace where there is no change of seasons. Just as I can't imagine living through a church year with no change of seasons. Imagine if it was always the Pentecost season, and it never turned to Advent. Or Christmas. Or Epiphany. Or Lent. Or Easter. Just one big long Pentecost season, all the time. What would we miss, if we didn't dip in and out of the full spectrum... of moods, of highs and lows, of colors, music, themes, wisdom for all different places in life...? What if we never went into the wilderness of Lent, or into the waiting and watching of Advent... what if we only tried to have the joys but not the laments, the easy but not the hard, of the Jesus story, the Christian story....? You only have to think about it for a minute to realize that without the "wintry" places, spiritually speaking, we wouldn't have the story at all. It would be some fantasy about a trouble-free, trial-resistant life, where it never turns to Lent and there's no wilderness. Of course, in such a fantasy there would be no Easter either, because what is rising if there has not been dying? Some people might like such a tale. But it wouldn't correspond to anybody's actual life.

What corresponds to our actual lives is the unfolding of seasons, all of them. What speaks to the realities we know is the full spectrum of harsh and gentle, up and down, peace and lament, dying and rising. It's not for nothing that we celebrate Easter only after we have kept a solemn Holy Week that takes us through a dying. Unless we let ourselves touch the depths and be touched by them, the rest of it can't speak to us either. It's all of a piece, a sacred rhythm of everything.

So, spring is on its way. Easter will be celebrated. We will be full of the language of hope and rebirth and new life, as we should be. Let's not forget, though, that all that precedes the part we like best, in earth-seasons or spiritual seasons, is helping to prepare us for it. That, we might say, is a spiritual law: a given in the way things work, often quietly and out of our direct awareness, but elementally important and needed. Even some of our hymns help us to name that. Here, by the way, is the full stanza in "Praise to God..." that celebrates winter and its function:

*Praise [God] for the winter's rest,  
Snow that falls on nature's breast;  
Praise for happy dreams of birth,  
Brooding in the quiet earth.*

For whatever has been brooding in quiet... in us, among us, in the church, in the world... for whatever the long weeks of winter have made us ready to see...for whatever new life will now be possible only because it was laying low for a season... alleluia.

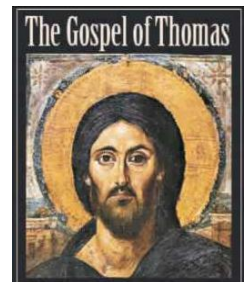
Faithfully,

Rev. Brenda

### **WEDNESDAY SCRIPTURE STUDY**

**Wednesdays, 12:00 – 1:00, Fiorilli Room**

We are currently reading **The Gospel of Thomas**. Discovered in 1945, it is one of the several gospels we now know existed in early Christian times but was not included in the canon of the New Testament. Copies of the text will be made available. No need for any particular background, come and explore what the Gospel of Thomas says that Jesus taught... and see how it compares with what we are familiar with from the gospels we know.



### **Lenten Labyrinth**

*Throughout Lent in the Chapel.*

*Open during office hours and on Sundays.*

Come walk the Lenten Labyrinth. Stop by the church and spend some time in prayerful reflection walking a labyrinth. Labyrinths have been used for centuries, in many cultures, to facilitate prayer, meditation, and spiritual transformation. Labyrinths have one way in and one way out, winding back and forth, to the middle and back out, until we reach the center. When we walk the labyrinth, we begin a pilgrimage. Where will yours take you?

# 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 2**

**Maundy Thursday**

Ex. 12:1-4, 11014; Ps. 116:1-2, 12-19; 1 Cor.11:23-26;  
John 13:1-17, 31b-35

7:00pm

Service of Communion and Tenebrae

**April 3**

**Good Friday**

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

5:30 – 7:00pm

Simple supper and worship

**April 4**

**Holy Saturday**

Job 14:1-4 or Lam. 3:1-19; Ps 31:1-4, 15-16; 1 Pet. 4:1-6,  
Mt. 27:57-66 or John 19:38-42

3:00 – 5:00pm

Special family activities, an Easter egg hunt and worship

**April 5**

**Easter Sunday**

Acts 10:34-43 or Isa. 25:6-9; Ps. 118:1-2, 14-2;  
1 Cor. 15:1-11; John 20:1-8 or Mark 16:1-8.

6:00am

Sunrise Service, Rose Hill Cemetery

6:45am

Breakfast following, at the church.

10 a.m.

Easter Sunday worship, with Communion  
*Intergenerational worship, no church school.*

**April 12**

**Second Sunday of Easter**

Acts 4:32-25; Ps. 133; 1 Jn. 1:1-2:2; John 20:19-31

**April 19**

**Third Sunday of Easter**

Acts 3:12-19; Ps. 4; 1 Jn. 3:1-7; Luke 24:36b-48

**April 26**

**Creation Sunday**

Acts 4:5-12; Ps. 23; 1 Jn. 3:16-24; John 10:11-18



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

### ***Church School***

We finished our 5<sup>th</sup> faith formation unit of the year, *Meals of Blessing*. We have learned about Passover, communion, and washing feet. We have learned how communion is a meal of blessing, of love, how it is a sacrament for us, and how it calls us into prayer and into service in the world. We have baked hot cross buns and bread, made Easter cards, walked a labyrinth in prayer, and gotten a behind the scenes tour from the Deacons as they showed us how they prepare communion. And, lastly together we prepared and shared communion.

After Easter we are looking forward to a “Celebrating God’s creation” unit as we explore our call to care for God’s creation.

### ***Youth Group***

We kicked off our first youth group in March with RHCC Lenten Madness. In a bracket style, single elimination tournament, we pitted some of our favorite as well as unusual bible characters against each other. Turns out (not to anyone’s surprise) we’re really competitive, stubborn, and opinionated. So after much arguing about the merits of particular bible characters, several bouts had to be decided with coin tosses. In the end though, Eve beat Micah in the final round to become the winner of RHCC Lenten Madness 2015. We also met on Palm Sunday for a time of prayer, reflection, and preparation for Holy Week.

*All Youth Group events for the year will be open to 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders, and when appropriate 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders and 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> 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. Noah’s Table now meets twice a month on Sunday evenings from 5 PM – 6:30 PM for dinner, fellowship, and faith formation. Schedule is subject to change based on activities determined by the Youth Group.*

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

**Gatherings:** *You do not want to miss this!*

Date	Scripture/Lesson
Saturday, April 4 3 PM – 5 PM Chapin Hall	<b>HOLY SATURDAY GATHERING &amp; EASTER EGG HUNT:</b> Prepare for 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. <b>RSVP appreciated.</b> Please email <a href="mailto:meghan@rhccucc.org">meghan@rhccucc.org</a> , for more information and to sign-up.

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

Date	Lesson
Sunday, April 5	<b>Easter Sunday Rejoicing!</b> Family worship. Communion.
Sunday, April 12	<b>Second Sunday of Easter</b> S.P.I.R.I.T. Church School: "Celebrating God's Creation"
Sunday, April 19	<b>Thirds Sunday of Easter</b> S.P.I.R.I.T. Church School: "Celebrating God's Creation"
Sunday, April 26	<b>Fourth Sunday of Easter</b> S.P.I.R.I.T. Church School: "Celebrating God's Creation"

### Youth Group Calendar: *April*

Date	Fellowship Gatherings
Sunday, April 19	Noah's Table (6 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>h</sup> Grade) → 5 PM – 6:30 PM. <i>Join us for dinner and the always popular Choose Your Own Adventure Night! Chaperones &amp; Drivers needed.</i>

**\*\*Please RSVP with Meghan Young for all youth group events, and to volunteer as a chaperone or driver for any youth group event.**

## **Children & Youth Leadership Programs at RHCC**

The children and youth leadership programs at RHCC have launched. This program is for those between the ages of 2<sup>nd</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade. Get involved, be a leader, and be part of your church. For information and to sign-up, contact Meghan Young at [Meghan@rhccucc.org](mailto:Meghan@rhccucc.org).

**NURSERY VOLUNTEERS:** Nursery Volunteers are always needed. If you are interested in volunteering in the Nursery during Sunday morning worship, please contact a member of the Childcare Committee ([RHCCchildcare@gmail.com](mailto:RHCCchildcare@gmail.com)) for more information. You can also sign-up outside the Nursery.



## **CONFIRMATION**

*Confirmation means affirmation of faith. It is an acknowledgment by both the individual and the faith community of the presence and power of the Holy Spirit. The rite of confirmation is celebrated in worship as a community, both in response to and in anticipation of the work of God in the life of a believer.*

This month we went on an overnight mission trip to New York City through the Youth Service Opportunities Project. It was a great weekend of learning about issues of homelessness, hunger, and poverty. We made a meal for homeless guests, made time for reflection, and helped out at soup kitchens. We also spent time this month learning and preparing for Holy Week. But mostly, this was a great month of putting our faith into action. During April we will talk about what it means to live our faith, and begin preparing for Confirmation Sunday.

### **April Schedule:**

*Here's what we're learning and doing this month...*

<b>Date</b>	<b>Class/Event</b>	<b>Times</b>
Thursday, April 2	WORSHIP: Maundy Thursday <i>*Pick at least one to attend: Maundy Thursday or Good Friday. Attendance at both is very much encouraged.</i>	7 PM
Friday, April 3	WORSHIP: Good Friday	5:30 PM – 7 PM
Tuesday, April 7	MEETING: Board Night Make-up	7 PM
Sunday, April 12	CLASS: Living our Faith <i>*Meeting with Mentors</i>	5 PM – 7 PM
Sunday, April 26	CLASS: Telling Our Story <i>*This class will also be used to cover remaining topics.</i>	5 PM – 7:30 PM

## **SENIOR PASTOR SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE**



Over the past month the Search Committee has conducted several first interviews and also additional second interviews of candidates. We are narrowing our pool to a few top choices and are feeling excited as we grow closer to welcoming a new pastor! The Committee is diligently continuing in this work as we prayerfully discern the best choice for our next Pastor and ask for prayers from all in the congregation as we continue on this journey together.

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 - Chaplain, Hilaire Leavitt - Secretary, Meghan Montana - Communications, Neal Cox, Diana Hellyar, Michele Jokl, Rhody Triplets

### **BAKERS, REFRESHMENTS, AND VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR APRIL 18 EVENT**

On Saturday, April 18 from 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM, our church will host a gathering of 45-50 church delegates and pastors from across Connecticut for General Synod Orientation. As the host church, we are seeking volunteers to help supply breakfast goods and light snacks for this meeting. Suggestions include baked items (no nuts), fruit platters, mini donuts & bagels, and gluten free items (please label).

Delegates at this orientation will be attending General Synod in Cleveland, Ohio in June. Every two years, General Synod gathers thousands of faithful members of our United Church of Christ for worship, fellowship, and meetings.

**Volunteers for baking, refreshments, setup, and “welcoming” should contact Bob Inderbitzen, tel 860-418-9171 or email [bobmike@cox.net](mailto:bobmike@cox.net).** Items can be dropped off during church office hours on Friday, April 17 until noon, or on Saturday, April 18 by 8:30 AM.





## BIRTHDAYS

1 *Dick Webster*  
 Donna Gagnon  
 Lynn Macri  
 2 Gregson Curtin  
 4 Bobbie Hawkins  
 Marsha Hoffman  
 Sherry Silkowski  
 7 Judy Frascarelli  
 Grace Hoffman  
 8 Meghan Montana  
 Isabel Donahue  
 9 Sam DeGiovanni  
 11 Brian Donahue  
 Kaedryn Pulling  
 12 Steve Ware  
 Skyler Dean-Lee  
 13 Alan Wind  
 David Hawkins  
 Ruth Fitzgerald  
 Sara Lataille  
 Maya Donahue  
 14 Carolyn Furman  
 Nicholas Benson  
 16 Ruby Bennett  
 Joan Diaz

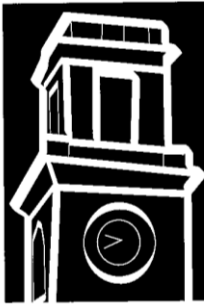


17 *Jake D'Addario*  
 18 Sarah DeGiovanni  
 Dawn McLean  
 Victoria Bower  
 Grace Triplets  
 19 Lois Griswold  
 Sue Monaghan  
 Wendy Ware  
 Mya Corvo  
 20 John Goff IV  
 21 Sue Starr  
 Linda Gilbert  
 Elaine Malespini  
 Jason McGowan  
 23 Jean Sudell  
 John McNeil Jr.  
 24 Jocelyn Fritzer  
 25 Jane Yorgensen  
 26 Linda Rupaka  
 27 Julie Dostie  
 28 Nadine Bell  
 29 Liz Reed-Swale  
 30 Polly Pagnucco



**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 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday** **10:00 a.m. with childcare**



**CHILD  
care**  
Provided

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
			<b>1</b> 9:30am <b>Quilters</b> 12:00pm <b>Bible Study</b> 7:30pm <b>Adult Choir</b>
<b>5</b> <b>EASTER</b> 6:00am <b>Sunrise Svc</b> Rose Hill 6:45am Breakfast at RHCC 10:00am <b>Worship</b> 4:00pm Tamil Sangam	<b>6</b> 10:30am <b>Apple Rehab Svc</b> 7:00pm Women's AA 7:00pm <b>RHCC Bowling</b> 7:30pm <b>Bell Choir</b>	<b>7</b> 11:00pm <b>The Lodge Svc</b>  7:00pm <b>Boards / Committees</b>	<b>8</b> 9:30am <b>Quilters</b> 12:00pm <b>Bible Study</b> 7:30pm <b>Adult Choir</b>
<b>12</b> 10:00am <b>Worship</b> 11:30am <b>Second Hour</b> 4:00pm Tamil Sangam 5:00pm <b>Confirmation</b>	<b>13</b>  7:00pm Women's AA 7:00pm <b>RHCC Bowling</b> 7:30pm <b>Bell Choir</b>	<b>14</b>  8:30am <b>Breakfast Club</b>	<b>15</b> <b>Scholarship Deadline</b> <b>Newsletter Deadline</b> 9:30am <b>Quilters</b> 12:00pm <b>Bible Study</b> 7:30pm <b>Adult Choir</b>
<b>19</b> 10:00am <b>Worship</b> 12:00pm <b>Missions Lunch</b> 4:00pm Tamil Sangam 5:00pm <b>Noah's Table</b>	<b>20</b> 7:00pm Women's AA 7:00pm <b>RHCC Bowling</b> 7:30pm <b>Bell Choir</b>	<b>21</b> <b>Newsletter Mailing</b> 11:00am Retired Clergy group 7:00pm <b>Council</b>	<b>22</b> 9:00am <b>Quilters</b> 12:00pm <b>Bible Study</b> 7:30pm <b>Adult Choir</b>
<b>26</b> 10:00am <b>Creation Service</b> 4:00pm Tamil Sangam 5:00pm <b>Confirmation</b>	<b>27</b> 7:00pm Women's AA 7:00pm <b>RHCC Bowling</b> 7:30pm <b>Bell Choir</b>	<b>28</b>  6:00pm Community Event	<b>29</b> 9:00am <b>Quilters</b> 12:00pm <b>Bible Study</b> 7:30pm <b>Adult Choir</b>

## **Bible Study**



## **Men's Bible Study** **First and Third Saturday**

For the next several months we will be addressing the subject of "forgiveness". Come join your Christian brothers as we pursue and try to understand God's words. For more details please contact Jim Stevens . 860-632-5810.



THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>2</b> <b>MAUNDY THURSDAY</b> 7:00pm Tenebrae Service	<b>3</b> <b>GOOD FRIDAY</b> 5:30pm meal/walk through Jesus' last words	<b>4</b> <b>HOLY SATURDAY</b> 8:30am Men's Bible Study 9:00am Yoga w/Lynn 3:00am All Church Gathering
<b>9</b> 7:30pm Men's AA	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 9:00am Yoga w/Lynn
<b>16</b> 7:00pm Fair Committee 7:30pm Men's AA	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 8:30am Men's Bible Study 9:00am Yoga w/Lynn 9:30am Synod Orientation 1:30pm Community Event
<b>23</b> 7:30pm Men's AA	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 9:00am Yoga w/Lynn 9:00am CT Conference Historian Workshop
<b>30</b> 7:30pm Men's AA		



### APRIL 12

11:30am – 12:30pm Chapin Hall

### Anoinette Brown Blackwell

Join us for our second hour as we gather for a sacred conversation. Facilitated by Kari McCaw Blaise for Women's History Month, we will learn about "Antoinette Brown Blackwell" who was the first woman to be ordained by a mainstream Protestant church (1853, by the Congregational Church in South Butler, NY.)

## **FROM THE MODERATOR**



### **VISION**

In December, nearly 50 people participated in a church-wide Visioning Dinner sponsored by a sub-committee appointed by the Council to lead our re-visiting and update of the church's vision. Attendees participated in small groups and activities to help answer the question **"Who are we, and who do we want to be?"** There was a tremendous amount of energy and Spirit shared throughout the evening. Please expect that this work is ongoing, and there will be additional opportunities to be a part of the visioning process.

For many congregations who engage in a church visioning (or some call it strategic planning), it's an opportunity to deeply discuss what we love about our church...but it's also a time to talk about the real mission of church, and specifically, our church. It's one thing to say, "no matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here," but it's another thing to name our goals and measures of faith-in-action. And, even more importantly, can we articulate a vision and goals for RHCC UCC that we can share with the world...in a 30 second elevator trip (if you attended the Visioning Dinner, you know what I'm talking about).

So what does a good vision with goals look like? Think in terms of 1, 3, and maybe (at the most) 5 years. That's right...we want our vision and goals to reflect "Who we are, and who we want to be" in the short-term. Dream, yes. But, the time to wake-up and commit to those dreams is NOW.

Here are some examples of where our journey might lead us:

We have made a bold declaration, defining ourselves as an **Open and Affirming Christian community**. This sets us apart as a uniquely inclusive church—different from other churches even in this town. Our doors: busted open; our Communion table: welcoming ALL; our organization: with opportunities for each of us to be ministers. **What expressions do we make to each other, and to those outside of RHCC UCC, to actively live into this message that welcomes ALL?**

In 2012, we received the designation of **Global Mission Church** from the United Church of Christ. With the help of our Board for Missions and many members throughout our congregation, we are invited to pray regularly for our sisters and brothers doing mission work in the world. We are invited to study and learn about God's children in God's world. And, we are challenged to think not only in terms of mission in

our backyard. No, serving only those within our arms reach is a reflection of scarcity. Rather, we think in Global terms: **here, near, and everywhere.**

But let's not be boastful. Our sisters and brothers in the progressive (yes...we CAN call ourselves progressive), wider church are calling us into even deeper relationship with one another. Can we imagine ourselves becoming **a church that advocates for justice and peace?** I am not talking about politics. Churches that advocate for justice and peace challenge each other to use the lens of our faith to inform our personal decisions. How do we manage God's worldwide household? We ask our children "What would Jesus do?" Is that a sentiment adults grow out of, or a seed that blossoms and re-blossoms again and again along our lifelong journey to be followers of Christ?

As our re-commitment to a vision begins to develop and grow the ministries and mission of RHCC UCC, **new people will come to this community**—to share our love of worship, music, faith formation among children and adults, mission & generosity, deep friendships, and our beloved Meeting House. With a vision and God's help, it's all possible.

I give thanks to God for each one of you.

Peace,



Bob Inderbitzen, Moderator  
[rinderbitzen@cox.net](mailto:rinderbitzen@cox.net)  
tel 860-418-9171

### **2014/2015 Church Council**

Diaconate, Don Pagnucco

Board of Trustees, Lynne Lataille

Board for Missions, Meghan Montana

Board for Faith Formation (Christian Education), Caryn Doten

At Large Member, Bob Carberry

At Large Member, Ed Bacon

At Large Member, Rich Pawlich-Pagliccio

Acting Associate Pastor for Faith Formation, Rev. Meghan Young

Interim Senior Pastor, Rev. Dr. Brenda Pelc-Faszczka

Clerk, Marsha Hoffman

Treasurer, Dave Hall

Moderator, Bob Inderbitzen

# 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*

## **Covenant to Care Easter Baskets**

We will again be helping our covenant to care families this Easter by making 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 3 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 and is a pretty 2.5-mile walk around Bushnell Park in Hartford. All ages are welcome!

RHCC will not be hosting our own team this year, but Thomas Kainamura ([thomascm@gmail.com](mailto:thomascm@gmail.com)) will be walking with his own team and is able to take donations if you would like to make them! Please see Thomas for any additional information.

## **HOLA! Taco Luncheon & Sunglasses Drive**

Sunday, April 19th

12:00 pm – 2:00 pm

Since her mission trip last year, Sarah Mosure has started an organization called HOLA – Hearts Over Latin America and is in the midst of a campaign to raise \$5,000 that will be used for starting up a new school in the Dominican Republic. To help HOLA reach its goal, RHCC will be hosting a taco luncheon and sunglasses drive in Chapin Hall. Please come to support this wonderful cause by one of our own members and bring those old sunglasses (prescription or non-prescription) that you have hanging around the house! Tickets are on sale in Chapin Hall after service and are \$10 for adults, \$5 for kids 12 and under (5 yrs old and under are free).

Please RSVP to Meghan Montana by Sunday March 16<sup>th</sup> so we can plan for food.

Hope to see you there!

[meghan.montana1105@gmail.com](mailto:meghan.montana1105@gmail.com) or 203-640-2386

## **Since our last update, your generosity has helped the following:**

Adelbrook	\$500
Mercy Housing	\$500
Interval House	\$500
Bread for the World	\$1,000
Back Bay Mission	\$1,000
Operation Fuel	\$1,250



## **Global Prayer This Month**

### Prayers for Ghana

*Brought to us by Global Missionary Gary Luallin who is working in Ghana as a University Professor.*

Loving God, who taught us what it means to love the entire World, today we focus on your work in Ghana, West Africa. It is our prayer that you bless our partners there as they function as church to encourage each other to keep our eyes and hearts on Jesus. Please bless them as they reach out and minister to the children who live in the market place and provide them with shelter and food. Please bless them as they minister to the ageing. Please bless them as they strive to train both their ordained and licensed ministers at their seminary. Please bless their work in training young mothers in careers to earn their living and raise their children. Please bless their efforts in starting a new college to reach out with the gospel of Jesus. We pray these things in the name of Jesus, who they serve as their Lord. Amen.

[www.globalministries.org](http://www.globalministries.org)

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



### **Scrip-Sure: Upcoming Schedule**

The next deadline for placing scrip orders is Sunday, March 29. Order forms may be turned in at the scrip table in Chain Hall on Sunday morning, or emailed to [treasurer@rhccucc.org](mailto:treasurer@rhccucc.org) by the end of that day. These orders will be available for pickup on Easter morning, April 5.

As we head into our sixth year of the Scrip-Sure program, we've now booked more than \$70,000 in total profits, including more than \$15,000 in the current fiscal year to date. For more details on this vital program, visit the RHCC web site at [rhccucc.org/scrip](http://rhccucc.org/scrip).

Orders are typically placed on the last Sunday of each month, but cards from more than 35 different retailers are typically kept in inventory and available for purchase almost every Sunday morning following the worship service.

Adventures in the City has been serving Hartford's most vulnerable youth for over 30 years and serves a critical need for urban youth by addressing summer learning loss.

Summer learning loss among our low income children is a primary cause of the achievement gap in the United States and certainly in Connecticut. More than half of the achievement gap between lower and higher income youth can be explained by unequal access to summer learning opportunities. As a result, low-income youth are less likely to graduate from high school and enter college.

The theme for this year's program is "Adventures in the City." We have designed a high quality, fun, engaging, and creative summer curriculum that revolves around a new *adventure in the city* each week. Whether it's a trip to a museum, a park, the Science Center...whatever the trip may be, the academic lessons for that week will revolve around the trip so that the learning is fun and feels like summer, not school. Additionally, we will have an athlete, musician, and artist in residence so our youth will benefit from five weeks of in-depth enrichment opportunities with highly trained specialists. There will also be a weekly trip to Auer Farm in Bloomfield where students will engage in science and environmental studies in a hands-on environment.

The five week, full day program will serve 75 youth in grades K-3. It will take place at Milner School on Vine Street in Hartford and is open to any low-income child in Hartford. The program costs \$60 per student for the full five weeks, but no student will be turned away for financial reasons.

We would appreciate your support if you can make a contribution. Please send checks payable to CAC, 47 Vine Street, Hartford, CT 06112 or visit our website to give online at [www.christianactivities.org](http://www.christianactivities.org). We also need volunteers to help our staff with this most worthy program. Once again, our church through the Board of Missions has contributed \$3,500 to the Adventures in the City program. Thank you!

We are seeking donations of children's books for K – 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. Please contact our Executive Director, Cori Mackey at 860-527-9860.

Lastly, it is with a heavy heart that I have decided not to seek another term as a Director on the CAC Board after 10 years of service. I have enjoyed being on the Board, to serve the people of North Hartford, and to represent the Rocky Hill Congregational Church, UCC.

Thank you to the past and present staff of the CAC and our church for their dedication. I will continue to be a delegate as in the last 19 years.

Sincerely,  
Rich Pawlich-Pagliccio  
Delegate and Member Board of Directors



## HISTORIAN NOTES - FEBRUARY 2015



Profit from the Scrip-Sure Fundraising Program was over \$1,300 for February 2015.

Church worship services were canceled two Sundays in a row, February 15 and 22, due to the very snowy weather. Since we depend so much on on-street parking and the town issued a parking ban, RHCC was a good citizen and canceled services at the Police Department's request.

Sunday, February 1: Guest Karen Caffrey, President of Access CT, led a second-hour presentation and discussion, "A Civil Right for Adoptees." This is to learn more about the issue of expanding a current state law. Church member Brian Donahue is part of Access CT, a grassroots organization which works on issues of legal rights for adoptees. He hopes that RHCC will want to learn about and then sponsor a resolution to come before the CT Conference Annual Meeting in October 2015.

Wednesday, February 18: Shrove Tuesday/Ash Wednesday Gathering with pancake supper followed by special music by our Dixieland Jazz Band and pancake games, transitioning to the spirit of Lent with a time of worship.

A Lenten Labyrinth in the Chapel is available for walking, throughout Lent during Church office hours and on Sundays.

Saturday, February 28: Chili Supper and Talent Show sponsored by the Music Committee. Several kinds of chili and very entertaining talents from Church members and friends offered.

## SPRING GATHERING OF CT WOMEN

Faith Congregational Church, Hartford, 9am—3pm  
Saturday, April 25, 2015

***"Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness"***

***Encountering the Spirit through the Arts***

Valerie Tutson will be our Worship Leader and Storyteller of the Day  
Recognized Woman Awards!

Choice of four workshops for the afternoon

Pre-register by April 15 – fee \$15.00. After, fee is \$20.00. Detailed flyer and registration forms can be found on the table across from the office.

Should you have any questions, please contact Pam DiDio at the Connecticut Women's office at the Conference Center, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm, (860) 761-7101 — This is a direct line to her voice mail.



## CARING MINISTRIES at RHCC

*We are a church of ministers. We are disciples who seek to love God, and love our neighbor. Caring Ministries provides opportunities for us as a congregation to share God's love with one another, and provide care for our community.*

***Prayerfully consider how you can be part of this important ministry.***

**Pastoral Visitors.** Visit church members and friends who are homebound, hospitalized, or who have recently experienced a loss. Offer prayer, bring communion with the pastors, and share in fellowship. Your visitation extends the welcoming hand of the church and brings joy to our members and friends. *No experience necessary. On-going training and support around issues of pastoral care provided.*

**Heavenly Hosts.** Heavenly hosts provide food, support, and reception set-up for families of RHCC members, who want to host a reception at RHCC for their loved ones following memorial and funeral services.

**Funeral Ushers.** Provide care to families in their times of grief. Funeral Ushers assist with seating, distributing bulletins, and welcoming at memorial and funeral services.

**Wedding Coordinators.** Lend a helping hand to couples as they celebrate their wedding. Wedding coordinators assist pastors with wedding rehearsals and ceremonies, as well as answer couples questions about weddings at RHCC.

**Prayer Shawl Ministry.** Do you love knitting or do you want to learn? The prayer shawl ministry knits prayer shawls that are given to church members and friends in times of grief or illness. We also donate prayer shawls to local hospitals. *No knitting experience required, just ask and we'll teach you.*

**Ride Care.** Several of our church members and friends have mobility issues, do not drive, or do not have a car. Get to know folks as you give them rides to and from worship services and church events. *Must have car, with valid registration, license, and car insurance.*

**Agape Feast.** Sometimes we are unexpectedly faced with illness or the loss of a loved one. Members of Agape Feast cook and deliver fresh meals for church members and friends as needed, to ease the burden of families when they face the unexpected. *This is an especially great way for families with children to be part Caring Ministries and cook a meal together. Recipes provided.*

Please contact Meghan Young at [meghan@rhccucc.org](mailto:meghan@rhccucc.org) or Stephanie Heneghan at [stephanie\\_heneghan@yahoo.com](mailto:stephanie_heneghan@yahoo.com) for more information and sign-up. Look for additional information and opportunities in the coming months.

# 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

Saturday, May 9th

8:00 A.M. – 10:00 A.M.

**Rocky Hill Congregational Church, UCC**

805 Old Main Street

Rocky Hill, CT

(860) 529-4167



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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Mailed March 24, 2015

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.



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## HOLY WEEK

**MARCH 29**

**PALM SUNDAY**

10:00 p.m. Worship

**APRIL 2**

**MAUNDY THURSDAY**

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

**APRIL 3**

**GOOD FRIDAY**

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

**APRIL 4**

**HOLY SATURDAY**

3:00 p.m. All Church gathering.

**APRIL 5**

**EASTER DAY**

6:00 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**

