

The Church Mouse

The Reverend Craig L. Cowing, Pastor

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860-529-4167 Church

April 2017 Newsletter

RHCC e-mail address – <u>office@rhccucc.org</u>
Website: www.rhccucc.org
Office Hours – 9:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m. Monday-Thursday
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Friday
Sunday Worship Services – 10:00 a.m.

Childcare Available/Handicap Accessible

HOLY WEEK



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

April 9 - Palm Sunday

10:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary

April 13 – Maundy Thursday

7:00 p.m. Service of Tenebrae in the Sanctuary

April 15 – Holy Saturday

10:00 - 11:30 a.m. Family Activities and Worship in Chapin Hall

April 16 - Easter Sunday!

6:00 a.m. Sunrise Service at Rose Hill Cemetery Breakfast will follow at the Church in Chapin Hall10:00 a.m. Easter Worship Service in the Sanctuary All are Welcome!



Many may not know that I have a thing for cemeteries. I love cemeteries. When I was growing up in Meriden, which has no shortage of really old gravestones, our family would sometimes stop on the way somewhere and look at an old cemetery. That interest has continued all my life. I find it interesting

to look at the carvings on the stones, and perhaps learn about the people buried there.

Years ago I stopped at a cemetery in Massachusetts. I walked around and looked for the oldest part, as I always do. In a row on the edge of the cemetery there were several vaults built into an embankment. The openings had metal doors, and some were blocked up with brick. One of them was missing the door, and you could see into the vault. I remember walking slowly up to the vault to get a closer look, and very cautiously looked inside. I didn't go in, however. It was dark inside and the vault was in the shade so I couldn't see much of anything.

What I experienced was fear. Fear of what? Bones? An animal living in the vault? Or, fear of something bigger, such as death itself?

A part of Easter involves fear. The disciples experienced fear on Easter. Mark tells us that the disciples went to the tomb but then ends (despite an ending being added later) that they ran away in fear. No Jesus, no angels, just fear.

This, to my mind, is the most human of Easter stories. We experience fear when we face the unknown. It's ok. Jesus experienced fear in the Garden of Gethsemane. Fear is a primal instinct. We experience it in unfamiliar circumstances. Our animal brains know that unfamiliar circumstances could present danger.

Rationally, there was nothing for me to fear looking into the tomb. I was afraid, though, on a visceral level. We all fear what we don't understand.

Despite our fears, we can trust in God to be with us. New life is what Easter offers. It is new life given in grace. Still, we can experience fear in the light of new life. What if I have to change? What if I have to do or see things differently? Will I be able to adapt? All valid questions born out of fear.

God is with us through all of our fears, both great and small. As Easter approaches, let us celebrate the God who is with us through all of our fears.

In Christ,

Pastor Craig



LENT AND HOLY WEEK AT ROCKY HILL CONGREGATIONAL UCC

April 2 – Fifth Sunday in Lent

10:00 a.m. Worship with Communion

11:15 a.m. Second Hour Presentation on the Lutheran and Anabaptist Reformations by Pastor Craig, to take place after worship in Chapin Hall or the Parlor.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the LORD. Psalm 118.26

HOLY WEEK

<u>April 9 – Palm Sunday</u>

10:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary

Easter flower deadline

<u>April 13 – Maundy Thursday</u>

7:00 p.m. Service of Tenebrae in the Sanctuary

Tenebrae is distinctive for its gradual extinguishing of candles while a series of readings and psalms is recited.



April 15 – Holy Saturday

10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Egg Hunt, Family Activities and Worship in Chapin Hall

April 16 Easter Sunday!

Sunrise Service at Rose Hill Cemetery

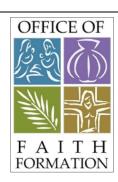
- Arrive just before sunrise (6:00 a.m. sunrise)
- Follow the car path to the right and up to the back corner (close to Gilbert and West St. end)
- Breakfast will follow at the Church in Chapin Hall
- All are Welcome!

10:00 a.m. Easter Music Worship Service in the Sanctuary With full choir and accompaniment Followed by coffee hour in Chapin Hall



S.P.I.R.I.T. Church School News

Thanks to the generosity of many here at RHCC, the High School Youth Group has raised enough funds to go on the summer Mission Trip to Louisiana! We will continue to hold fundraisers however, because next year, our little group of five teens will become fourteen as a large group of 8th graders move into high school. And they are looking forward to a trip in 2018.



I believe youth mission trips are the best way for today's busy teens to engage their faith – to pull the pieces together as they encounter new and demanding situations every day for a week – to experience and identify the grace of God in their lives – to discover their gifts, their likes and dislikes – to feel a sense of call – to become confident bearers of God's love. Though we go with a purpose to help others, inevitably we return feeling that we have been the ones who were helped, that our lives have been changed, in a good way, forever.

I want to share with you how one young person was changed because of a mission trip. In 2007, I took a group from Westport to San Francisco, where we were immersed in urban and environmental projects. We met with a friend of mine, one of the first women ordained in the Presbyterian Church, who had spent a lifetime ministering to folks in San Francisco's notorious Tenderloin district. She talked to the youth about her new project: rescuing women and girls from human trafficking. One of the youth was so impressed by this talk that she began learning more on her own about human trafficking and developed a major art work in response. As an Advanced Placement Studio Art student, she submitted her work to the College Board, as did 37,000 other students from around the world. Her work was chosen from among all these by the College Board to represent 3-D Art on its 2011 poster. Especially poignant was her use of trash to create the work – a statement of how victims of human trafficking are used and discarded like trash.

Because of a youth mission trip, human trafficking in America was exposed in a powerful way to thousands of people. Other youth I know have also been similarly inspired to change or better the lives of hundreds they have met. RHCC's support of youth mission trips will have long lasting effects, not just for the attendees but for those in their spheres of influence. Each of your gifts, whether prayers or finances, helps to make all this possible.



"Human Trafficking Victims" by Samantha Leigh

S.P.I.R.I.T. Church School News

Here is our upcoming schedule:

On April 9, Pre-K to 5th graders will learn about Holy Week, and from April 23 to May 14 they will study "Road to Emmaus."

They will have an opportunity to

- explore the story of the walk to Emmaus;
- think about ways that we "meet" Jesus today;
- consider how we can share the joy of Jesus' resurrection with others.

Grades 6-8 will study the following:

- April 2 "Suffering"
- April 9 "Death (Jesus' Death)"
- April 23 "Trust"
- April 30 "The Holy Spirit"

On Holy Saturday we will host an egg hunt, family activities and a simple worship service. There will be no church school on Easter Sunday, April 16.

If you are able and willing to teach Grades 6-8, let Georgette or Kathy Morgan know.

High School Youth Group

On March 5, we enjoyed dinner at the Gobi Mongolian Grill in Southington, and on March 19, we attempted the Test Quest escape room challenge (and succeeded!). On April 2, we will hold the Taco-in-a-Bag fundraiser.

Middle School Youth Group

On February 26, we finally got to see the movie Hidden Figures. On March 26, we will try the Test Quest escape room challenge. From April 7-8, we will have an overnight at the church.

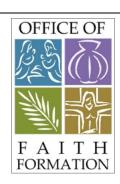
Save the date and your stomachs for the

Taco-in-a-bag Fundraiser!

to benefit the High School Youth Group mission trip to Louisiana and future trips.

Sunday, April 2 after worship





Scrip-Sure: April Schedule Alert



When the Hall's go on vacation, there are usually several others who are already trained and available to step in to sell scrip. But this month, all vacations seem to be colliding. So, it is likely that scrip will not be sold on the two Sundays after Easter – April 23 and April 30. Consequently, you may want to consider stocking up by Easter Sunday.

Scrip sales will resume on Sunday, May 7. As previously announced, that will also be the weekend that we place the "end of April" order for cards that are not kept in inventory.

AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT

As a member of the RHCC audit committee, I've had the opportunity to spend the last few weeks reviewing our Board for Missions work for the past two years.

Since I'm new to this endeavor, I solicited the help of Charlie Kuchenbrod, Executive Associate Conference Minister of the Connecticut Conference United Church of Christ. Here's what I discovered - I'm learning a lot and I'm finding the use of our Board for Missions funds impressive.

The majority of our Missions outlays goes directly to UCC Agencies at the national and state level. I find this comforting in that UCC Central (Our Church's Wider Mission - OCWM) and the UCC Connecticut Conference have the resources and expertise to ultimately direct member church funds where they get the most "bang for the buck", ie: ("do the most good"; help the most/neediest people/organizations).

After UCC funding, our next biggest Missions beneficiary is The Christian Activities Council (CAC). Specifically through their "Adventures in the City Freedom School" summer program. From what I've read online, this 6 week summer program for economically disadvantaged Greater Hartford youths is a highly commendable endeavor that is certain to yield high "societal dividends".

The main three RHCC Missions beneficiaries; OCWM, CT Conference & Christian Activities Council's "Adventures in the City" account for $\sim 2/3$ of the RHCC Missions disbursements.

After "The Big 3" there's a potpourri of a couple dozen beneficiaries ranging from the local food pantry to the Sioux Indian Reservation (Hawkwing). These beneficiaries are hand-picked by the RHCC Missions Board and reflect our own unique contributions to Christian service.

Great job Missions! RHCC audit committee

SATURDAY, APRIL 22 RE-MAKER'S FAIR AND EARTH DAY FESTIVAL

"Remake, Reuse, Rejoice!"10am-3pm in Chapin Hall



The Re-Maker's Fair will feature creatively hand-crafted items made from re-used or up-cycled materials, saved from the waste stream to become beautiful or useful objects.

Information on local recycling and other environmental efforts will also be available. Join us in celebration of our stewardship of the earth!

For more information or to sign up for a table to sell items, please contact Anita Hawkins at church or leave a message with the church office 860-529-4167 OR office@rhccucc.org

Save the Date! CELEBRATE SPRING AT OUR MAY BREAKFAST & PLANT SALE Saturday, May 13, 8am-10:30am





Adults \$7.00, Kids (4-12yrs) \$5.00, under 4yrs – free Egg Strata ≈ Pancakes ≈ French ≈ Toast Cereal ≈ Bacon ≈ Sausage ≈ Juice ≈ Milk ≈ Coffee

The Music Committee would like to thank all who contributed to the success of the Chili Supper and Movie Night by making chili, cornbread, or dessert or just by attending. We had a great evening! Thanks to everyone's generosity, we were able to donate \$300 to the Youth Group for their upcoming Mission Trip to New Orleans in July!



RHCC Mission News



In April, the Board for Missions will be preparing Emergency Cleanup Buckets for CWS (Church World Service). UCC Disaster Ministries has offered matching grants to UCC congregations that assemble Emergency Cleanup Buckets. These buckets equip people after a flood, tornado or other disaster. They include practical household materials like clothesline, work gloves, dust masks and insect repellant.





"For families that have lost everything, CWS Emergency Cleanup Buckets and other CWS Kits are more than just relief supplies, they are an expression of love and a symbol of hope for the future," said Zach Wolgemuth, UCC Disaster Ministries executive. Please see Kari, email kariblaise@hotmail.com or call at 860-803-4852 if you have any questions. Stay tuned for the date in April when buckets will be assembled.

Since its formation in 1957, the United Church of Christ has worked with Church World Service (founded in 1946) to accomplish more together than it could alone, joining hearts and resources to create a tradition of help and a legacy of hope. When disaster strikes, Church World Service is the primary agency through which the UCC gives support for relief and recovery efforts.

FOODSHARE Walk against hunger

The Foodshare Walk Against Hunger is the largest anti-hunger event of its kind in the State. The Walk itself is less than 2 miles long, making it fun for people of all ages.

It begins and ends with music, children's activities, popsicles, informational booths, and so much more. It takes place on Sunday, May 7th at 2pm at Liam E. McGee Park in Hartford.

Thomas Kainamura is our team chair again this year. To register, go to http://site.foodshare.org/goto/RHCC or use the registration form in this Church Mouse, and return to the church office. Contact Bob Inderbitzen or Kari McCaw with questions.

We are once again offering FREE RHCC t-shirts for all walkers!

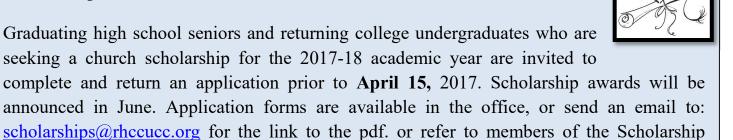


EASTER OFFERING LETTER

Please be on the lookout for our Easter Offering letter mailed to all members recently.

In Mission and Faith,
Kari McCaw, Chair – Board for Missions

Rocky Hill Congregational Church Scholarship Information for the 2017-2018 Academic Year



Committee: Hilaire Leavitt or Randy Pulling.

Frank Roswell Fuller Scholarship

This scholarship requires that you be a member of the UCC/Congregational Church. Applications are available in the church office. Frank Roswell Fuller was born in Hartford in 1873 and attended local public schools. He later formed his own company at 40 Wall Street known as Fuller & Company, which operated from 1904 to 1920. When he retired he came to live in West Hartford. He died in 1957. His will established a substantial scholarship fund. Mr. Fuller was always interested in helping "needy, deserving" students obtain the education that he had not been able to enjoy himself. The deadline for submitting your application and other documents is **May 15th**.



The RHCC men's Christian fellowship (bible) study group meets the second and fourth Saturdays each month at 8:30-9:30am in the Fiorilli room. This month we will meet on April 8th and 22nd. If you enjoy fellowship and want to learn more about scripture and other faith topics, please join us. If you would like further information, please see Jim

Stevens at church or call 860-632-5810. Thanks be to God.

REMEMBER OR HONOR LOVED ONES WITH EASTER FLOWERS



The flowers will adorn the sanctuary for worship on Easter Sunday, April 16

The three choices this year will be: Easter Lily in 61/2 inch pots with 6+ buds (\$11.00) Hyacinth 6 inch with 3 bulbs (\$8.50) Tulip 6 inch full pots with limited color options (\$8.50)

The Deadline for orders is Palm Sunday, April 9

Please fill out the information below					
Given by:					
Daytime Telephone Numbe	r:				
Dedication ("in loving mem	ory of", "in honor of	.", etc.):			
	Number ordered	<u>Dollar Amount</u>			
Lily @ \$11.00 each	x\$11.00 =				
Hyacinth @ \$8.50 each	x \$8.50 =				
Tulip @ \$8.50 each	x \$8.50	0 =			
TOTA	AL ENCLOSED \$				
	Please select:				
	, ,	on Easter Sunday, April 16. to decorate the sanctuary			
, 5 5	Make your checks pay al Church with "Easter to off, 204 Gray Fox Lane,	flowers" in memo line and mail to:			

You may call Kim with questions at 860 563-3287.

Help Wanted June 16-17

Greeters, Ushers, and "Smilers"

Bob Inderbitzen is seeking volunteers from churches throughout the region to help welcome delegates and visitors to Hartford for the historic joint Annual Meeting of the Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island Conferences of the United Church of Christ. The Annual Meeting will be held June 16-17, 2017 at the Connecticut Convention Center. Bob has agreed to help chair the Hospitality Team, and is eager to find volunteers to help welcome over 1,000 people to Hartford!

Why would I want to volunteer? This is a very special and historic gathering of our wider church family to Hartford. We want to welcome our sisters and brothers of the United Church of Christ, delegates and visitors, to our "backyard." Please help!

What will volunteers do? Volunteers will be assigned a short 3-hour shift on Friday and/or Saturday, to help greet convention attendees throughout the beautiful Connecticut Convention Center and the adjoining Marriott Hotel. Some volunteers will help direct people to activities. Others will serve as ushers during the huge worship services. Most importantly, you'll be a smiling face of WELCOME to all who attend this historic meeting. Volunteers will receive training (easy) and information to help you.

What do I have to do to volunteer? (1) Contact Bob Inderbitzen, telephone 860-418-9171 or email rinderbitzen@cox.net with your interest to volunteer on Friday and/or Saturday. (2) All volunteers must complete an online registration to attend the Annual Meeting: www.ctucc.org/TriConAm. The registration fee is \$85 and includes entry to the event on both days, and access to all of the exhibits, worship events, presentations and keynote speaker, and

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

April Report of the Trustees

As part of a plan to improve security and surveillance at the church, we are installing surveillance cameras in the

main and upstairs hallways. The cameras are motion activated, and we will have file storage for 7 days surveillance video. We expect to be taking additional steps, but we are still gathering information on new locks and other security measures. If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact Dave Sageman.

Monday Morning Mailers!

Join us on Monday, April 24 to fold and prep the May newsletter. Articles are due on April 17^{th} to the church office. Your help is much appreciated!







	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
2	Communion Sunday 10:00am Worship 11:00am 2 nd Hour 9:30a-Noon Taco in a Bag fundraiser 4:00pm Tamil School	7:00pm Women's AA 7:30pm Bell Choir	7:00pm Board and Committee Mtgs 7:00pm Hearing Voices	5 6:00pm Pilates 7:30pm Adult Choir
9	PALM SUNDAY	10	11	12
]	10:00am Worship Easter Flower Orders Due	Rocky Hill Schools, Little Closed this week →	Scholars Preschool	9:00am Breakfast Club at Bob's Café
	4:00pm Tamil School	12:30pm, Bonsai Workshop 7pm Bonsai Mtg 7:00pm Women's AA 7:30pm Bell Choir	No Council Meeting 7:00 pm Hearing Voices	6:00pm Pilates 7:30pm Adult Choir
16	EASTER SUNDAY	17 OFFICE CLOSED	18	19
	at Rose Hill Cemetery eakfast will follow in Chapin Hall	Newsletter deadline	10:30am Retired Clergy	
	10:00 a.m. Easter Worship 4:00pm Siragu Tamil	7:00pm Women's AA 7:30pm Bell Choir	7:00pm LSP Board 7:00pm Hearing Voices	6:00pm Pilates 7:30pm Adult Choir
23	10:00am Worship	24 Newsletter Mailing	25	26
	Georgette vacation ->	Newsletter Newsletter		
	4:00pm Siragu Tamil	7:00pm Women's AA 7:30pm Bell Choir	6:00pm Cedar Hollow 7:00pm Hearing Voices	6:00pm Pilates 7:30pm Adult Choir
30	10:00am Worship 3:30 p.m. CT UCC Youth Revival 4:00pm Siragu Tamil			

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday Morning Worship Communion 1st Sunday 10:00 a.m. with childcare





THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1
6 9:30am Music Together	7	8 8:30am Men's Bible Study
7:30pm Men's AA	Middle School Youth Group	Middle School Youth Group
13 9:30am Music Together	14	15
Maundy Thursday 7pm Service of Tenebrae	GOOD FRIDAY	Holy Saturday 10-11:30am Family Activities, Egg Hunt and Worship
7:30pm Men's AA		
9:30am Music Together	21 Set up Chapin Hall for Arts Fair	8:30am Men's Bible Study
7:30pm Men's AA	7:00pm Tibetan Bowls	Earth Day Re-Maker's Arts Fair 10am-3pm
27 9:30am Music Together	28	29
7:30pm Men's AA		







April 16 Easter Sunday! Our Sunrise Service at Rose Hill Cemetery starts at 6:10 a.m. A hot breakfast will follow at Church in Chapin Hall. All are Welcome!

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Dick Webster
- 1 Maurice Wyman
- 1 Donna Gagnon
- 1 Lynn Macri
- 2 Gregson Curtin
- 4 Bobbie Hawkins
- 4 Marsha Hoffman
- 4 Sherry Silkowski
- 7 Judy Frascarelli
- 7 Grace Hoffman
- 8 Meghan Montana
- 8 Isabel Donahue
- 9 Sam DeGiovanni
- 11 Brian Donahue
- 11 Kaedryn Pulling
- 12 Steve Ware
- 12 Skyler Dean-Lee
- 13 Alan Wind
- 13 David Hawkins
- 13 Ruth Fitzgerald
- 13 Sara Lataille
- 13 Maya Donahue
- 14 Carolyn Furman
- 14 Nicholas Benson
- 16 *Ruby Bennett 101yrs!*
- 16 Joan Diaz



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

Spencer and Linda Rupaka, April 20th, 15yrs

Jay and Jeannie Alessi, April 20th, 5yrs

Mark and Pat Walworth, April 21st, 16yrs

Todd and Gayle McGowan, April 21st, 15yrs

Louis and Candace Smith, April 27th, 32yrs

Dale and Donna Rowlan, April 29th, 44yrs





Walk Against Hunger: Sunday May 7, 2017 Team: Rocky Hill Congregational Church

Our Board for Missions invites you to **Join our team!** Battling hunger in any community requires a team effort. Here in Greater Hartford more than 137,000 people struggle with food insecurity.

Sunday, May 7, 2017: Foodshare Walk Against Hunger

11:30 AM - FREE Lunch at the church (after worship)

12:15 PM - Carpool to WALK, Liam E. McGee Memorial Park (formerly Hartbeat Park) 140 Garden Street, Hartford; FREE Parking at 690 Asylum Avenue

12:30 PM - Check-in at WALK

2:00 PM - WALK steps off; a gentle 2-mile route takes walkers through Bushnell Park and Hartford's West End. This event is family-friendly and tons of fun!

BONUS : Register and get a FREE Rocky Hill Congregational Church T-Shirt					
REGISTER BY SUNDAY, APRIL 16 Shirt sizes: Youth S, Youth M, Youth L					
WALKER:	Age:(if under 18) SHIRT SIZE:				
WALKER:	Age:(if under 18) SHIRT SIZE:				
WALKER:	Age:(if under 18) SHIRT SIZE:				
WALKER:	Age:(if under 18) SHIRT SIZE:				
WALKER:	Age:(if under 18) SHIRT SIZE:				
WALKER:	Age:(if under 18) SHIRT SIZE:				
Telephone Number:					
Email address:					
	hare Donation \$ = TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ vv Hill Congregational Church" at www.FoodshareWalk.or				

Make checks payable to RHCC, and give completed forms and payments to Bob Inderbitzen or the Church Office, or mail to:
Rocky Hill Congregational Church UCC, 805 Old Main Street, Rocky Hill CT 06067 You may call Bob Inderbitzen with questions at 860-418-9171.

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

Non-Profit Organization U.S. POSTAGE PAID Hartford, CT 06101

Permit #7

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED TIME VALUE MAIL

Mailed March 27, 2017



Jesus didn't turn people away. Neither do we.
The United Church of Christ:
No matter who you are,
Or where you are on life's journey...
You're welcome here.

JOIN US AT RHCC IN APRIL - ALL ARE WELCOME HERE

APRIL 9 – PALM SUNDAY AND START OF HOLY WEEK

APRIL 13 – MAUNDY THURSDAY EVENING SERVICE

APRIL 15 – HOLY SATURDAY FAMILY EGG HUNT & WORSHIP

APRIL 16 – EASTER SUNDAY, WORSHIP AT SUNRISE & 10AM

APRIL 16 – EASTER BREAKFAST IN CHAPIN HALL, 7AM

APRIL 22 – EARTH DAY RE-MAKER'S ARTS & RECYCLE FAIR

