



The Reverend Dr. Brenda Pelc-Faszczka, Interim Senior Pastor
brenda@rhccucc.org

Meghan D. Young, Acting Associate Pastor
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Mary DeLibero, Minister of Music
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Mitsey Baker, Office Manager
office@rhccucc.org

860 529-4167 Church – 860 257-9637 Fax

The Church Mouse

December 2013 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



LESSONS & CAROLS

Concert **Sunday, Dec. 8 at 4pm**

Rocky Hill Congregational Church, United Church of Christ

805 Old Main St., Rocky Hill, CT 06067

for more information: (860) 529-4167

Join us for a **free** family concert featuring Advent and Christmas carols interspersed with readings of the Christmas story. This Rocky Hill Congregational Church annual tradition will feature our senior and children's choirs as well as members of the handbell choir and members of our orchestra. All are welcome; childcare for children 4 and under will be provided. Reception to follow.



A Time to Wait

*In the world at large,
there is not much time to wait.
Not ever.
And certainly not in December,
which arrives as the time
for the opposite of waiting.
If ever your life had pauses,
you do not have them now.
If ever you felt able
to get still enough
for the eyes of your heart
to see what they otherwise miss,
to believe what they otherwise doubt,
you do not feel that now,
in the rushing, the striving,
the opposite of waiting.
The world at large
does not want you to stop.
It does not recognize
your pausing, your waiting,
or even your wanting to.*

*But in the church,
it is different.
December comes differently
in our Advent,
where it is entirely about waiting.
It wants to know not only
whether we can wait,
but how,
and for what.
It asks what newness
we are willing to watch for,*

*what messenger of God we will heed,
what preparing of what way
will get us to the pause
that will get us to the Birth.*

*December comes differently
when it comes as Advent.
Which is always
about our waiting.*

-BPF



Senior Pastor Search Committee Update

The Search Committee has met a few times within the last month, have set up our officers, and are continuing our progress in the search process. Next, we will be meeting with Tamara Moreland, our regional minister and discussing our path forward. We are excited to be starting the process and look forward to the coming work ahead!

If there are any questions, please don't hesitate to chat with any member of the search committee.

Liz Reed-Swale – Co-Chair, Gregson Curtin – Co-Chair, Hilaire Leavitt – Secretary, Meghan Montana – Communications, Neal Cox, Diana Hellyar, Stephanie Heneghan, Michele Jokl, Rhody Triblets

Worship **SCHEDULE**

ADVENT ~ CHRISTMAS ~ EPIPHANY

Sunday services at 10 a.m., child care provided.

- Dec. 1** **First Sunday of Advent**
Communion; Intergenerational Worship
Lighting of the First Advent Candle: Hope
Meghan D. Young preaching
- Dec. 8** **Second Sunday of Advent**
Worship and Church School
Lighting of the Second Advent Candle: Peace
Rev. Brenda Pelc-Faszczka preaching
- Thurs.
Dec. 12
6 p.m.** **Service of Healing and Remembrance (Chapel)**
A service of comfort and hope for those experiencing
grief, loss, separation, loneliness or other sadness during
the holiday season. Music, prayer, reflection.
- Dec. 15** **Third Sunday of Advent**
Worship and Church School
Lighting of the Third Advent Candle: Joy
The Rev. Brenda Pelc-Faszczka preaching
- Dec. 22** **Fourth Sunday of Advent**
Intergenerational Worship
Lighting of the Fourth Advent Candle: Love
Meghan D. Young preaching
- Dec. 24** **Christmas Eve**
5 p.m. **Family Candlelight Service**
11 p.m. **Candlelight Communion Service**
- Dec. 29** **First Sunday after Christmas**
Intergenerational Worship
The Rev. Brenda Pelc-Faszczka preaching.
- Jan. 5** **Epiphany Sunday**
Epiphany pageant; Communion



FAITH FORMATION @ RHCC

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

We started our second faith formation unit in November, *Christmas Journeys*. *Christmas Journeys* connects some of the great stories of the Bible through the theme of family relocation. All our lives are journeys with many stops we do not expect. We are talking about the ways we journey today and compare and contrast these with the ways that Jesus journeyed in his early life. We are exploring four journeys about the birth and young life of Jesus: the journey to Bethlehem that Mary and Joseph made before Jesus was born, journey of the magi, the flight to Egypt, and the family's return to Nazareth.

On November 10th we had our first all S.P.I.R.I.T. Church School Mission project. All classes participated together in two mission projects. We made Holiday Decorations for our friends at Apple Rehab in Rocky Hill, as well as holiday cards and care packages for a recently deployed Army infantry platoon in Afghanistan. We have adopted this platoon for the entirety of their nine month deployment. If you would like to donate to a care package or find out ways you can get involved, please contact Meghan Young.

Check out the "What We're Learning Now" box and learn with us!

Youth Group

This month Youth Group attended a gathering at Trinity College in Hartford, hosted by their Fellowship of Christian Athletes. We joined with youth groups from across the state for a morning of playing sports, competing in a dodge ball tournament, and listening to a speaker share his faith testimony. It was a fun day of ecumenical fellowship and faith sharing!

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.

ADVENT GATHERING **Sunday, December 1st, 5 PM – 7 PM**

Join us for a pot-luck dinner, crafts, and worship as we break open the season of Advent to wait in anticipation during the season of Advent for the birth of Jesus Christ.

This is an intergenerational event for the entire church family and friends.

Please sign-up in Chapin Hall or email Meghan@rhccucc.org to let us know you are coming.

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

SPECIAL EVENTS: *You do not want to miss these!*

Date	Scripture/Lesson
Sunday, December 1	Advent Gathering: 5 PM – 7 PM Join us for a pot-luck dinner, crafts, and worship as we wait in anticipation during the season of advent. An ALL ages event.
Sunday, December 8	Pageant Kick-Off: Immediately Following Worship Interested in being part of the pageant? Join us in the chapel, for a brief 30 minute meeting, as we introduce the 2012 Epiphany Pageant and assign parts. ALL ages welcome. <i>Mark your calendars, the Pageant is Sunday, January 5.</i>
Saturday, December 14	Jingle Bell Rock: 9 AM – 12 PM A Children's Christmas Carol Workshop. <i>See flier for more information. RSVP requested.</i>
Saturday, December 14	Epiphany Pageant Rehearsal: 2 PM – 4 PM Come meet in the Sanctuary for the 1 st rehearsal.

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

Date	Scripture/Lesson
Sunday, December 1	First Sunday of Advent <i>Communion Sunday, Family Worship</i>
Sunday, December 8	Second Sunday of Advent Week 3: Christmas Journeys
Sunday, December 15	Third Sunday of Advent Week 4: Christmas Journeys
Sunday, December 22	Fourth Sunday of Advent <i>Family Worship</i>
Tuesday, December 24	Christmas Eve <i>5 PM Intergenerational Worship, 11 PM Traditional Service with Communion</i>

Youth Group Calendar: *December*

Date	Fellowship Gatherings
Sunday, December 1	Noah's Table (6 th -12 ^h Grade) ➔ 11:30 AM – 1 PM
Friday, December 6	Youth Group Annual Holiday Party (6 th -12 ^h Grade) ➔ 5 – 9 PM
Sunday, December 8	Noah's Table (6 th -12 ^h Grade) ➔ 11:30 AM – 1 PM

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) for more information. You can also sign-up outside the Nursery.

S.P.I.R.I.T. CHURCH SCHOOL – What We're Learning Now!

COME JOIN THE CIRCLE: Unit 2 – Christmas Journeys

Christmas Journeys emphasizes the early life of Jesus and the political powers that shaped and influenced his family's choices. Decrees, statements, and laws instigated each journey by Jesus' family. The circle returned Jesus to Nazareth where the story of his life continued. Through four journey stories we will learn about the life of Jesus from his birth through his early childhood. We will hear of the continuing love and protection offered by Jesus' family. We will explore this very human picture of a family, blessed by God, as we explore our own very human journeys. All our lives are journeys with many stops we do not expect.

Christmas Journeys around the World

This unit explores four journeys about the birth and young life of Jesus: the journey to Bethlehem that Mary and Joseph made before Jesus was born, journey of the magi, the flight to Egypt, and the family's return to Nazareth. Enjoy exploring these journey customs as you prepare your heart to receive the Christ child.

Los Posadas, a Mexican Journey

Mexico has a celebration called *Los Posadas*. This is a reenactment of the journey of Mary and Joseph to find a safe place to stay in Jerusalem and have their baby. *Los Posadas* happens during the last 12 days of Advent. Each night Mary and Joseph go from house to house asking if there is room for them to stay. Some places say there is "no room," just like the inn keeper. But finally, on Christmas Eve, there is one place that welcomes Mary and Joseph to stay.

Turn your home into a reenactment of the *Los Posadas* journey. Begin by preparing a small picnic, including snacks and a blanket to sit on. Put the name of every room in the house on small pieces of paper and place them in a basket. Draw one room name from a basket. Place the picnic inside the room listed on the piece of paper you chose. Shut the doors of all the rooms.

Pretend that you are travelers looking for a place to stay. You are tired and you are anxious about finding a place that will welcome you. Go from room to room carrying flashlights. At each door knock and together ask, "Is there room for us to stay here?" Open the door and look inside. If the picnic is inside the room, you will know that you are welcome to come in and enjoy hospitality. While you eat the picnic, talk about the importance of always letting Jesus into our lives. Our hearts and our homes must be open to all who need help and hospitality, just like Mary and Joseph did.

A Prayer For The Unit. God, help us to explore the journey to Bethlehem, the journey of the magi, the journey to Egypt, and the journey to Nazareth. Open our eyes and our hearts to the journeys you made, and help us to know you are always with us. *Amen.*

*Don't forget to learn along with us in our weekly bulletins.
Check them out for faith nurture ideas you can use at home to learn with us!*

Jingle Bell Rock!

A Children's Christmas Carol Workshop



Come join us for a fun-filled morning of learning and singing everyone's favorite Christmas Carols, making crafts, and decorating tasty cookies.

Saturday, December 14th

9 AM – 12 PM

(Adult supervision provided.)

Open to ALL children in PreK - 5th Grade

Bring a non-perishable food item or new toy for those in need in our community.

RSVP Appreciated:

Sign-Up in Chapin Hall or email Meghan@rhccucc.org.

Questions or Interested in Volunteering for this event?

Please contact Meghan Young at 860-529-4167, ext 204 or email meghan@rhccucc.org



COOKIE WALK

It doesn't seem possible that this year will be our 12th Cookie Walk! We would like to thank all of you who have baked for us, bought from us, and supported us through that hectic week for the past 12 years.

Cookie Walk is a major fund raiser for the choir. It has allowed us the opportunity to travel to Sweden and to South Carolina for performances as well as provide additional support for the Music Program at RHCC, UCC.

This year The Walk will be held **Sunday December 15th** from **11:15** until we are sold out. Snow date will be December 22nd. As in previous years, we will offer gluten free and diabetic treats as well as nuts/ no nuts. We will also be able to pre-package treats on request.

We ask for signups to make sure we have a wide variety of treats. We are also asking for help setting up on Saturday the 14th, and for assistance with cookie decorating. If you don't feel you can bake but you have an artistic bent we have a place for you!

Please see either of us after church in Chapin Hall or call / text us at the numbers below.

Marsha Hoffman
860-563-1367

psuconn@cox.net

Linda Tokarski
860-633-8413

ltokarski64@gmail.com



Sunday, December 15 at 2:00pm

Join the Music Committee for an afternoon of singing your favorite Christmas carols. We will be visiting several nursing houses and our church family shut-ins and sharing our gifts. All ages welcome. We will meet at the church and car pool and come back to the church afterward or hot cocoa and cider.

DEACONS

The calendar says the holidays are near but are you ready?

Or are you already looking forward to January? It is so easy to get caught up in the holiday activities that we forget what the season really means to us as Christians. When you make your holiday gift list do you think of Christmas' past, remembering one gift that will always be special? In 1960, I got a belated gift that I had not asked for or even knew that I wanted or needed in my life. But God knew. My parents responded to a request to invite a resident of the local boys home to spend a few days after the holiday with local families. Our guest arrived with his one toy truck and a new pair of shoes. This three-year-old so captivated our family that at the end of the weekend we could not bear to let him return to the children's home. He joined our blended family and became my adored little brother.

During our life and especially during this busy season, God provides us with many doors to open. We choose when and how to open the doors. Will we open the door of Time that guides us to sit and pray during these busy days, to reread the Christmas story, to really look at our nativity scene and think of the first Christmas and what it means to us? Will we open the door of Generosity and help provide for someone(s) less fortunate than us? Opportunities are endless.

And where is God on our gift list? Maybe our gift to God will be something we know he has been asking of us but we keep thinking tomorrow will be soon enough. Let's make our gift to God the most important gift we give this season.

Gail Tine for the Deacons

WEATHER CANCELLATION POLICY

In the event of winter weather on a Sunday morning, our first priority is to ensure the safety of church members. Some winters the snow and ice are a real danger, and so worship is cancelled for the day. If such a storm happens, please know that a system is in place to make as many of our members and friends aware as possible. If and when worship is canceled, notice will be posted on **Channel 3 WFSB-TV**, and the voice mail greeting on the church phone will be updated with the cancellation if you choose to phone the main number. Additionally, an email and phone tree will alert church leaders to the same information. It takes a real storm to disrupt our worship, but if that happens, we want to be ready. Cancellations will also be posted on the church website: www.rhccucc.org.

On weekdays, if schools are closed in Rocky Hill, the church office will also be closed.

Global and Local Mission News



"A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices..." – O Holy Night

The Christmas season is my absolute favorite time of year. I know that some people feel overwhelmed by all that goes on, the presents, the shopping, the parties, and the food. However, I never feel so close to my faith or as full of hope as I do when driving around in the soft glow of white twinkle lights, or coming home to a decorated tree with ornaments from my childhood right next to ones that our children have made. I feel very strongly that thrill of hope in this otherwise weary world. A world that can be harsh and cold, but for brief moments gives us small, and life changing, Christmas miracles. Christmas miracles that come in the form of giving trees, soup kitchens, and the opening of your homes and hearts to those who might need some small sign that they are still loved, still a part of a community who cares. So while you are going through the bustle of the season, take a minute to stop and listen. Listen to the carols, listen to the friends and family gathered around you, and listen for our still speaking God who is coming to us anew in each frosty, hot chocolate and candy cane filled day. Merry Christmas to you all, I wish you and your families all the warm blessings that this season brings.

In Faith,
Meghan Montana
Chair – Board for Missions

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.

Since last month, your generosity has helped the following:

Operation Fuel	\$1,600
The Christmas Fund	\$850

WAYS TO GIVE

GIFT TREE FOR COVENANT TO CARE



This year, we will again be having a giving tree to benefit the children in the Covenant to Care programs. We will be setting up the tree with ornaments that have children and their needs listed on them in early December. This is a wonderful way to give the struggling children in our communities the gift of Christmas love. The dates for collection will be posted in the weekly bulletins in December. See Kari McCaw-Blaise for questions.

"WARM HEART TREE"

For the 39th year, the Warm Heart Tree will return to the narthex through January 5th. We will once again be collecting donations of warm hats, gloves, packages of white athletic socks, and scarves to decorate the tree. Teen and men's items are especially needed. Please place your donations directly on the tree. Your generous donations will be distributed to help ease the sting of the winter wind for those in need.



POINSETTIA DELIVERY



In this season of giving, consider giving a bit of your time to deliver a flower to and visit a few minutes with one of our members who cannot worship with us on Sundays. The Diaconate is purchasing small poinsettias that will be available for delivery the weekend of Dec 14th. If you would like to assist with this ministry of caring contact Steph Heneghan 860-529-4672 or speak with any deacon.

December Birthday



- 1 John Hoffman
Billie Charamut
Aaron Vann
- 2 Anita Watson
Joe Kunzelman
Tamara Connor
- 3 Jennifer Courtemance
Liz Cardello
- 4 John Hummel
- 5 Debbie Schreier
- 6 Marty Rowe
- 7 Robert Mullins
Christina Jensen
- 8 Lawrence Siembab
- 9 Kendres Lally
Amy Murk
Julie Fell
- 11 Gary Nicholson
William Knight
- 12 Nathan Friday
- 13 Ralph Ahlberg
Thelma Somes

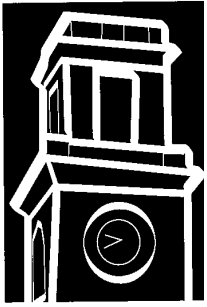
- 14 Dave Hall
- 15 Linda Grillo
Chloe Bellizzi
- 16 Rebecca Alferi
Eva Shen
- 17 Alex Siembab
Jacob Engel
- 19 Midge Sword
Carolyn Scheirey
- 20 Julia Stewart
Nicholas Jokl
- 21 Holly Peterson
Christina Santiago
- 24 Nancy Edwards
- 25 Jonathan Rutigliano
- 26 Janet Kunzelman
Aaron Moore
- 27 Donald Stedman
Nicholas Lizotte
- 28 Nathan Vann
- 29 Nicholas Cardello
- 30 Krista Pender
Karen Meszaros



Rudy and Barbara Burgess
were married on
December 29, 1956

Please save this date!
Saturday, January 25, 2014
Comfort Food Dinner with Magician entertainment
Details will be in January newsletter.

*Save
the
Date*



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



CHILD
care
 Provided



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
1 1st Sunday of Advent 10:00am All Church Chorus 11:30am New Member Meeting 11:30am Noah's Table 11:30am Lessons & Carols Rehearsal 5:00pm Advent Gathering	2 10:30am Apple Rehab Svc 5:30pm Yoga w/Lynn 6:00pm Children Choir 7:00pm Women's AA 7:00pm RHCC Bowling 7:30pm Bell Choir	3 7:00pm Board and Committee Mtgs	4 9:30am Quilters 12:30pm Bible Study 7:00pm Lessons & Carols and Adult Choir
8 2nd Sunday of Advent 11:15am Pageant Kickoff 11:30am Noah's Table 3:00pm Lessons & Carols Warmup 4:00pm Lessons & Carols Concert	9 5:30pm Yoga w/Lynn 7:00pm Women's AA 7:00pm RHCC Bowling 7:00pm RHCCNS Mtg 7:30pm Bell Choir	10 8:30am Breakfast Club 7:00pm Council	11 9:30am Quilters 12:30pm Bible Study 7:30pm Adult Choir
15 3rd Sunday of Advent 11:00am Cookie Walk 2:00pm Christmas Caroling	16 Poinsettia's Due 5:30pm Yoga w/Lynn 7:00pm Women's AA 7:00pm RHCC Bowling 7:30pm Bell Choir	17 4:00pm Lodge Svc	18 9:30am Quilters 12:30pm Bible Study 6:00pm Community Meeting 7:30pm Adult Choir
22 4th Sunday of Advent 11:00am Cookie Walk Snow Date	23 5:30pm Yoga w/Lynn 7:00pm Women's AA 7:00pm RHCC Bowling 7:30pm Bell Choir	24 5:00pm & 11:00pm Christmas Eve Sves	25 Office Closed
29	30 Newsletter Mailing 5:30pm Yoga w/Lynn 7:00pm Women's AA 7:00pm RHCC Bowling 7:30pm Bell Choir	31 New Year's Eve	

VOICE MAIL INSTRUCTIONS – If you call the church and the Voice Mail answers, you do not have to listen to the entire message. Anytime during the message you can have the call transferred directly to the person you are trying to reach by simply keying in the following numbers:

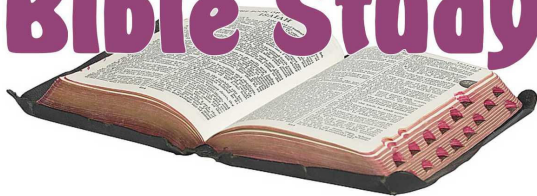
Brenda Pelc-Faszczka, Interim Senior Pastor	202	Mary DeLibero, Minister of Music	207
Meghan Young, Acting Associate Pastor	203	Mike Halpin, Custodian	205
Mitsey Baker, Office Manager	201	RHCCNS (Nursery School)	208

December 2013



THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
5 5:30pm TOPS 8:00pm Men's AA	6 5:00PM Youth Group	7 8:30am Yoga w/Lynn 9:45am Yoga w/Lynn
12 5:30pm TOPS 6:00pm Service of Healing 8:00pm Men's AA	13	14 8:30am Yoga w/Lynn 9:00am Jingle Bell Rock 9:45am Yoga w/Lynn 2:00pm Epiphany Pageant Rehearsal 6:00pm Dinner/Movie
19 Newsletter Deadline 5:30pm TOPS 8:00pm Men's AA	20	21 8:30am Yoga w/Lynn 9:45am Yoga w/Lynn
26 5:30pm TOPS 8:00pm Men's AA	27	28 8:30am Yoga w/Lynn 9:45am Yoga w/Lynn

Bible Study



**Wednesdays, 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.



1. Retirement of Executive Director: It is with great regret that the Board of Directors accepted the retirement of the Reverend Edwin Ayala, effective June 30, 2014. Rev. Ayala and I have become close personal friends since hiring Ed in 1996. He is also a great friend of the Rocky Hill Congregational Church. Rev. Ayala is tireless in serving the poor and needy of North Hartford and surrounding towns. He will be greatly missed.
2. Staffing Changes: A search committee has been formed headed by CAC President Reverend Mark Diters. It also includes other officers and members of the Board of Directors – Rev. Executive Director Ayala has agreed to stay on up to three months after his retirement during the transition period. After many years of service to the Christian Activities Council, because of reductions in grants that paid for their salaries, Tori Hamilton, Ralph Knighton and Denise Best are no longer employed. We all thank them for their commitment to our mission. At our Annual Awards dinner they were recognized with a leadership certificate. Also Pat Johnson has been hired as Community Leadership Development Coordinator on a consultant basis. She has been in a leadership role with the CAC most recently with the Adventures in the City Summer Program. Edgar Dreyer will be our Construction Manager. Consultant Dreyer was the developer on Irving and Vine Streets where many RHCC members helped in building these new homes.
3. Dedication of Mural: On October 18th the beautiful mural that was painted by young people from North Hartford was dedicated and hung on the walls at City Hall. Under the direction of Pat Johnson and Joy Monroe from the Connecticut Art's Initiative, this program was a part of the Adventures in the City.
4. Annual Awards Dinner: The Awards dinner was held at the Bloomfield Congregational Church with the Reverend Deb Blood, Sr. Pastor, as host. We were welcomed by the Rev. Ed Ayala and President Mark Diters. We honored Virginia Thrall Smith who was the only woman to serve as Executive Director of the City Missionary Society (now the Christian Activities Council) from 1876 until 1892. She was an outstanding leader when women weren't given leadership roles. She helped start kindergartens, Boy's Club, the Newington Home for Crippled Children, and many other great organizations to help the poor and needy. The Rev. John Selders, Program Coordinator for the Zezzo House, also received an Award of Appreciation. Our Keynote speaker, the Rev. Demaris Whittaker, Sr Pastor of First Church of Christ, Center Church in Hartford, gave an outstanding speech on women's lack of leadership positions in this state and country. She emphasized how the rich are richer and the poor, poorer. We must all stand up to help the people less fortunate than us. Thanks to Michelle Roberts, Charmaine Simpson and Flora Foster for their work in organizing the Annual Dinner.

Peace,
Rich Pawlich-Pagliccio

Delegate, Member Board of Directors



**CT Women of the UCC
Retreat at Silver Lake Conference Center
Held September 20-21, 2013**

This Retreat was led by the Rev. Lee Ireland. She asked all attendees to read the book "Proof of Heaven" by Dr. Eben Alexander prior to the Retreat. The main message of this book was woven into her presentation and subsequent project for us: She urged us to pay attention to our dreams! Try to remember our dreams when we wake up! Aren't dreams one means of our still-speaking God to send us messages? Rev. Ireland noted that symbols are used in dreams, and she provided us hand-outs about common symbols and themes in dreams. A fun project we did was making "dream catchers." Also awesome was the food served, using green technology and local foods. UCC-CT can be very pleased to have the Silver Lake Conference Center and its dedicated staff.

Sincerely, Jackie Little



**The Connecticut Conference
United Church of Christ**

**Annual Meeting
Held October 18 and 19, 2013
Asylum Hill Congregational Church, UCC**

I was pleased to represent RHCC, UCC, as a delegate to the Annual Meeting. Like Lisa Eleck, also a delegate, I was sad that I could not attend our Country Fair. On a positive note, however, the speakers were excellent. The topics included the life cycle of churches, how to listen to our still-speaking God, and presentations on our partnerships with South Korea and Columbia, South America. Also, a big group of youth were commissioned to do a work service project at Colt Park that afternoon. Also exciting for me was to be part of the new UCC-CT Conference choir which was part of the Saturday afternoon worship service. This was an initiative in response to addressing diversity. We sang songs in other languages and one with sign language. In the business part of the Meeting three resolutions were presented and approved.

Thank you,
Jackie Little

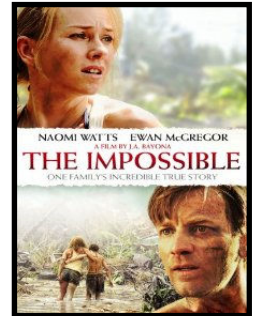


PLEASE JOIN US

for the 54th and FINAL
Pot Luck Dinner and a Movie
on Saturday, December 14, 2013
at 6:00 PM in Chapin Hall.

Beginning in November of 2008 we have journeyed from independent films like **The Visitor** and **Lars And The Real Girl** to romantic comedies like **Elizabethtown** and **Serendipity** to stark reality like **Death Defying Acts** and **Frozen River** to end with uplifting stories like **Beginners** and **The Intouchables**.

The last film showing is **The Impossible**. Maria (Naomi Watts) and Henry (Ewan McGregor) are on a family Christmas vacation in Thailand, enjoying the beachfront resort when their world is suddenly turned upside down. Unbeknownst to them, a huge earthquake across the ocean has triggered a massive tsunami...one of the most devastating natural catastrophes on record. This is their story.



News from the Fair Committee

News from Your Fair Committee

Well, the results are in and it's official - the 2013 RHCC Country Fair was a success !!!
We made a profit of \$11,053; but that is only one part of what was accomplished.

We cannot present a fair without volunteers- we can have ideas; we can wish for things to happen, but until we have the people sign up and offer to help we have nothing. We were blessed to have congregation members come forward in the last month leading up to the fair and they pulled along their spouses, friends and family members to help us present a great event to the community. We had over 80 volunteers on October 19th. We extended an extravagant welcome to over 200 fairgoers; we offered a variety of booths showcasing the talents of our members, in cooking, baking, sewing, painting and salesmanship.

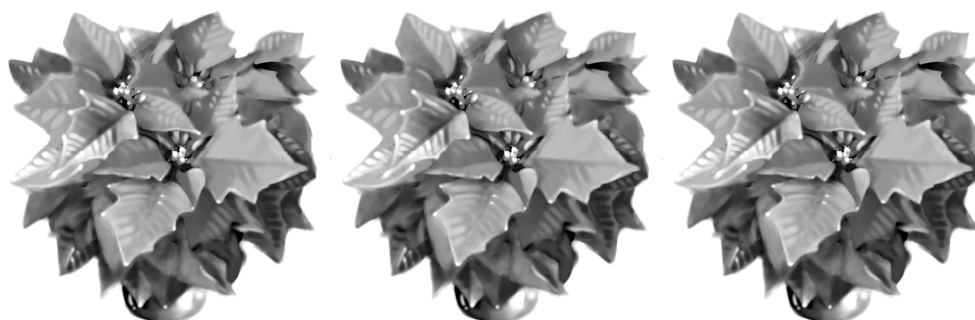
Marsha Hoffman, along with her group of dedicated volunteers, brought another evening of good food and fellowship into Chapin Hall. The Quilters, who worked diligently all year long, gave us another beautiful quilt for us to raffle, and we sold 1008 tickets - with one lucky person, ME, walking away with the coveted prize!

So thank you - thank you to ALL of you who helped us - by setting things up; by assisting in the office; by working at the fair; by your donations; by your moral support; by shopping. We truly could not have done it without all of you.

To my fellow fair committee members - it has been an honor and privilege to work alongside you. We have a great deal to be proud of, and I thank all of you for your service and dedication throughout the year.

Phyllis Wilkey, Chair

*Remember to Honor your Loved Ones
With Christmas Poinsettias*



They will adorn the sanctuary for worship on
Sunday, December 22rd

The cost is \$12.50 per plant.

Ordering deadline is Monday, December 16th

Please fill out the information below and mail to Kim Burghoff (*see address below*)

Given by: _____

Daytime Telephone number: _____

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

1. _____

2. _____

Please select:

☐ I will pick-up my plant after worship on Sunday, December 22rd.

☐ Use my plant to decorate the church through Christmas.

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

Make your checks payable to:

Katherine Burghoff with "Poinsettia" in memo line and mail to:

204 Gray Fox Lane, Rocky Hill CT 06067.

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

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 November 25, 2013



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.



NEW MEMBER OPPORTUNITY

The next opportunity for new members to join RHCC will be during worship on Sunday, **December 15th**, with a preparatory gathering after the service on **December 1st**. We welcome all who wish to join the church at that time, or who wish to explore membership, without obligation. Please indicate your intention to participate by contacting the church office. If you need child care, please let us know that as well.