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February 2013 Newsletter

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SHROVE TUESDAY/ASH WEDNESDAY GATHERING

Gather for a pancake dinner, celebration, and special music, followed by a time of worship.

Wednesday, February 13, 5:30—7:30 PM

*Join us as we enter the season of Lent, moving
from dancing into a time of preparation.*



SIGN-UP IN CHAPIN HALL OR EMAIL MEGHAN@RHCCUCC.ORG



Dear friends,

Winter has arrived! I write this month's newsletter on a "snow day" in January. Since early this morning, the radio and television have been announcing snow closings for schools, businesses and churches. I can almost hear the shouts of joy from children on our street along with deep sighs as parents scramble to figure out alternative plans for child care.

We no longer have children or teenagers in our household to worry about on snow days. Kathryn went off to work, and Rose has returned to college the second semester of her freshman year. I felt slightly nostalgic this morning, yearning for our snow day ritual: pancakes (chocolate chip if we had them in the house!), pajamas, and plenty of time together.

For some, snow days mean extra work: maintenance folks, those who plow the roads and clean the sidewalks, health care workers, essential business employees. But others of us enjoying a snow day have an opportunity to slow down, watch the snow gently cover the earth, and remember that life does not always have to be lived at a fast pace.

A snow day can be a mini-retreat day. It's a chance to read a favorite or new Bible story, write or draw ten gifts God has given you, set a new goal for your faith formation, write a prayer of gratitude, make a meal for a neighbor in need, or reach out to a family member or friend.

There will be other snow days during the winter (I hope!) for us to enjoy and connect with God and one another. But we don't need a snow day to remember that our God is the creator of heaven and earth, and each one of us. We can live our faith, deepen our discipleship, and reach out in love and welcome each and every day. Let it be so!

With peace,

Donna

FEBRUARY WORSHIP

February 3 Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Scripture: Luke 10:25-37

Zulu Lemtur

Sermon: "Get Off Your Donkey"

February 10 Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Fat Sunday – Dixieland Jazz Band Providing Music

Scripture: Exodus 34:29-35, Luke 9:28-36 Meghan D. Young

Sermon: "Unveiled"

February 17 1st Sunday in Lent

Scripture: Luke 4:1-3

The Rev. Donna K. Manocchio

Sermon: "The Shape of the Wilderness"

February 24 2nd Sunday in Lent

Scripture: Luke 13:31-35

The Rev. Donna K. Manocchio

Sermon: "The Shape of Desire"

Bible Study meets each week on Wednesday 12:00 to 1:00 PM in the Quilters 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.



Open Choir

Save the Date!! Singers of **all** ages are invited to sing with our choir, bell choir **and** the Hofstra Choir in a special opening prelude on Palm Sunday. The music is not difficult but will be very festive and fun. We will also sing "The Palms" in procession back to our seats. Please stay tuned for details about rehearsal or see Mary with any questions.



“The church is like a family.” This statement was made and discussed at some length during our last Deacon’s meeting on January 8th. And, just like a family, our church has had reason to experience joy, loss and pride, all in the last few weeks. Seven persons joined our

congregation on January 20th, certainly a joyful occasion. We mourn the loss of our dear friend and Pastor Emeritus Arthur Weil, who served this church so faithfully for over 25 years. And we took great pride in welcoming back Sarah Biglow, who grew up in our church, for a second hour visit with us to discuss her first published book.

Draw your church family close to you during the upcoming days of Lent. Share your joys and concerns. Give your support and love to your fellow church members and expect to receive strength and solace in return. That’s what families do.

Bill Hoffman, for the Deacons

The Board of Deacons
Spiritual Welfare

Membership Vitality

Ministering



On Sunday, January 20th, we welcomed these newest members to our congregation.

Please get to know them!

Left to right: Galen Deming, Sandy Fritzer holding Jocelyn Fritzer, Lisa Eleck, Mark Fritzer, Kathy Bruni, Lisa Libera and Jim McNally

Global and Local Mission News

“So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen.

For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.”—2 Corinthians 4:18

FISCAL CLIFF - THE ROLE OF MISSIONS



I am sure that we are all relieved that all the media publicity on the “Fiscal Cliff” is finally over, well at least for now. We can now move forward after months and months of media over-coverage. While the majority of Americans probably were able to get some basic understanding of why this was such a big deal in Washington but didn’t fully understand why Congress couldn’t come to a compromise much earlier, most likely we all didn’t have a good grasp unless we invested much time and energy (We are all busy and have our day jobs.). After all, by the time Congress passed the “American Tax Relief Act of 2012” they avoided the “Fiscal Cliff” at the last minute, it was a 154 page document (Yes, I actually scanned the bill.). The bill was finally passed after extensive negotiation, debate and heated rhetoric. At the end of the day not everyone got what they wanted, but we were told if the bill wasn’t passed, the potential economic impact could have been devastating as some economists predicted. But most importantly, the social programs that the poor and lower income Americans depend on were not impacted.

While Washington struggles to agree on many important issues, it is comforting to know that your Missions Board consistently supports people and programs who are in need and constantly face their own “Fiscal Cliffs” that we help try to avoid. This support is for today, tomorrow, next week, next year and always. Thanks to the generous support of the RHCC members, we will continue to do our mission work on your behalf to help those facing “Fiscal Cliffs”.

Thomas Kainamura

A Conversation with Global Missionary James deBoer Wednesday February 27th from 6:00pm – 7:30pm

RHCC will have the pleasure of hosting James deBoer on Wednesday, February 27th! James is a member of Central Congregational Church in Providence, Rhode Island, and is serving as a Long-Term Volunteer with the Disciples of Christ Church in Argentina and Paraguay.

Come and join us for a light dinner and to hear James talk about his experiences as a missionary.

For more information or to RSVP please call or email:
Meghan Montana (203) 640-2386 mekelly@snet.net or
You can also sign up in Chapin Hall.

UPCOMING EVENTS

NEWTOWN – Reminder that collections for Newtown will continue throughout January.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 3RD, 2013 – “**GUEST PREACHER and SECOND HOUR with Zulu Lemtur** – Zulu is a student of the International Peacemakers Program at the Hartford Seminary, and our guest congregant from India.

SUNDAY MARCH 3RD, 2013 – “**SECOND HOUR – MISSIONS FAITH EXPLORATION**”

This fun, exciting, interactive all age and gender “exploration” event is where we will do a hands-on activity to benefit the local **Covenant to Care** organization. The activity will involve members assembling “Placement Packs” specifically for infant to adolescent age children entering out-of-home placement.



We will also break into groups seeking your input about what types of local mission projects or activities you would be interested in supporting.

We are hoping this brainstorming session will be beneficial for families and individuals, and deepen our Congregation’s Faith Formation through missions.

Please consider attending as we look forward to fresh ideas and perspectives.

DECEMBER MISSION DISTRIBUTIONS

- Energy Assistance **\$1,600**
- Operation Fuel **1,600**
- Support for the Ministry **850**
- Christmas Fund **850** (for retired ministers, church workers and clergy)

YOUR BOARD FOR MISSIONS MEMBERS

Linda Calcagni (Chair), Meghan Montana (Vice–Chair), Kari-McCaw-Blaise (Secretary), David Bell (Treasurer), Michael Bower, Bob Carberry, Jim Day, Cindy Hunt, Thomas Kainamura and Sarah Mosure (Members)

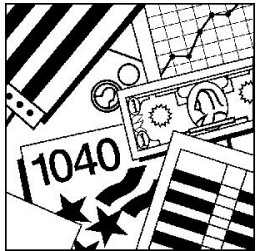


Upon request, we will reserve a copy of the large print bulletin for you each Sunday morning. It will be placed on the welcome podium in the narthex of the church with your name written on your copy. Please indicate if you need a large print newsletter as well and one will be sent to you each month. You can call Carol in the church office at 860 529-4167 or email your request to: office@rhccucc.org.



Rev. Arthur Weil, who served RHCC, UCC, for 25 years, died peacefully on January 3, 2013. His family is resting in God's grace and in the good memory of Arthur's long and faithful life.

Arthur was our Pastor Emeritus and a beloved Minister of RHCC, UCC, and is fondly remembered for his energy, his commitment to the church, and his delight in being with people.



From your Financial Secretary:

Greetings! Anyone who has purchased Scrip from the church or previously requested a tax statement from me should have already received a statement either via e-mail or USPS. Please check your e-mail account – if I have an e-mail address for you, I will send to you statements via that route instead of using USPS. If you have not received a statement (either Scrip or tax statement) from me and have previously requested a statement, please let me know. I'll be happy to send one out to you. I can be reached at 860-257-1099 or by email (deb.copes@gmail.com).

Global Mission Trip Opportunity to Columbia

May 30th – June 9th

A US Delegation is being put together, by Global Ministries and the Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ, to support, gain insight, and have firsthand experience into the work of the Peace Commission in Columbia. Global Missionary Michael Joseph, who we have had the pleasure of hosting here at RHCC, will be our guide during this journey. We will begin and end in Bogota and will visit two other smaller communities while there. The trip will also end with a visit to the US Embassy to report on what we have seen. Commitments and deposits are due by mid-March, so if you are interested in learning more, please contact Meghan Montana at [203-640-2386](tel:203-640-2386) or me.kelly@snet.net



From the Scholarship Committee

Each year, our church awards college scholarships which are funded by investment returns from the Scholarship Endowment Funds. Applicants should be members of Rocky Hill Congregational Church, active members of one of its youth organizations, or active participants in the life of the church. Awards are based upon church and community involvement, demonstrated scholastic achievement, financial need, and the completion and submission of a scholarship application form. Scholarships may be awarded for up to four years of undergraduate studies. Recommendations on scholarship recipients are made by the Scholarship Committee, whose members are appointed by the Board of Trustees. This recommendation is then subject to the final approval of the Trustees.

Graduating high school seniors and returning college undergraduates who are seeking a church scholarship for the 2013-2014 academic year should obtain an application from the church office or from the web site, rhccucc.org and may be submitted electronically. Please complete and return it prior to April 15, 2013. Scholarship awards will be announced in June.

Scholarship Directory Available

A directory of scholarships that are available to college-bound students in the 29-town Greater Hartford region is now available from the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving. Students can pick up a copy of the directory from their school guidance office or you can access it online at www.hfpg.org/scholarships, or call the Foundation to obtain a copy.

Frank Roswell Fuller Scholarship



This scholarship requires that you be a member of the UCC/Congregational Church and “professed to be of the Congregational faith.” Applications are on the bulletin board in the church office. Feel free to come in to get your application while the office is open. If you are unable to come in during office hours please call and an application will be mailed to you.

Frank Roswell Fuller was born in Hartford on August 23, 1873 and attended local public schools. He went to New York City and 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 on March 1, 1957. His will, probated in the Probate Court for District of Hartford, 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.

Remember to file your FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) to federal processor by March 1. You may obtain a FAFSA application from your high school guidance counselor or at www.fafsa.ed.gov.

The deadline for submitting your application and other documents is May 15th.



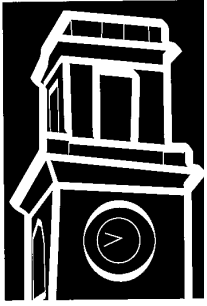
2	Anthony Asarisi, Jr. Cynthia Hunt Doreen Grandell	16	John Speers
3	Teagan Reed-Swale	17	Ryan Painter Owen Geddes
4	Bill Timrud	18	Kathy Bighinatti Alexander Benson
5	Kimberly Sweezy	19	Leona Griswold
6	Cole Triplets Ryan Madsen	20	Midge Harvey
7	Angelo Rutigliano Cheryl Hummel	22	Brendan Flynn Nathaniel Ware
8	Susan White Robert Mullins Christopher Gengenbach	23	Lee Rafferty Scott Bengston Brett Timrud
9	Leah Alferi	24	Jan LaCava Ben Rolfe Will Rolfe
10	Daniel Scribano	25	Hannah DeGiovanni
11	Val Triplets Izaque da Silva	26	Larry Carlson Bette Swain Karen Birck
12	Alfred Harlow III Annie Hokans-Doll Caryn Doten	27	Dot Wenzel Roxanne Molina
13	Bev Schmidt Tyler Morgan	28	Wayne MacNeil Jean Krischus-Henning Sarah Angeloni
14	Kurt Sheathelm Chris Mosure Brian Speers	29	Joseph Sheehan



Harry and Bev Schmidt
were married on
February 15, 1958



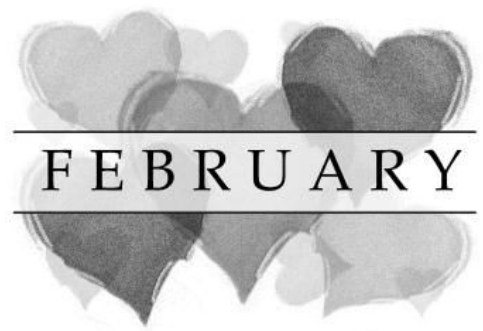
Family and friends of Jean Palmer who died on January 27, 2013



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



GOOD
care
 Provided



F E B R U A R Y

2013

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
3 Scrip Pick Up Communion Sunday 11:30am 2 nd Hour with Zulu 11:30am Noah's Table Scrip Deadline	4 5:30pm Yoga w/Lynn 7:00pm Women's AA 7:00pm RHCC Bowling 7:30pm Bell Choir	5 7:00pm Board and Committee Mtgs 7:00pm Confirmation	6 9:00am Quilters 10:30am Apple Rehab Svc 12:00pm Bible Study 7:30pm Adult Choir
10 Fat Sunday Dixieland Jazz Ensemble 11:30am Noah's Table 5:00pm Confirmation	11 2:00pm The Lodge Svc 5:30pm Yoga w/Lynn 7:00pm Women's AA 7:00pm RHCC Bowling 7:00pm RHCCNS Mtg 7:30pm Bell Choir	12 8:30am Breakfast Club 7:00pm Council Meeting	13 9:00am Quilters 12:00pm Bible Study 5:30pm Shrove Tuesday/ Ash Wednesday 7:30pm Adult Choir
17 11:30am Noah's Table	18 OFFICE CLOSED 5:30pm Yoga w/Lynn 7:00pm Women's AA 7:00pm RHCC Bowling 7:30pm Bell Choir	19	20 9:00am Quilters 12:00pm Bible Study 6:00pm Community Event 7:30pm Adult Choir
24 Scrip Deadline 11:30am Community Gathering 11:30am Noah's Table 5:00pm Confirmation	25 5:30pm Yoga w/Lynn 7:00pm Women's AA 7:00pm RHCC Bowling 7:30pm Bell Choir	26	27 9:00am Quilters 12:00pm Bible Study 6:00pm Global Ministry Conversation 7:30pm Adult Choir

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:

Donna Manocchio, Senior Pastor	202	Mary DeLibero, Minister of Music	207
Meghan Young, Acting Director CE	204	Thomas Munger, Custodian	205
and Minister for Faith Formation		RHCCNS (Nursery School)	208
Carol Harvey, Office Secretary	201		

ROCKY HILL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

United Church of Christ

805 Old Main Street – Rocky Hill, CT 06067

(860)529-4167 office • (860)257-9637 fax

office @ rhccucc.org • website: rhccucc.org • Visit us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/rhccucc

Office Hours 8am-2pm Monday– Thursday / 8am-noon Friday

The Reverend Donna K. Manocchio, Senior Pastor

Meghan Young, Acting Associate Pastor and Minister for Faith Formation

The Reverend Arthur C. Weil, Minister Emeritus

Mary DeLibero, Minister of Music

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 5:00pm Youth Group Gathering	2 8:30am Yoga w/Lynn 6:00pm Chili Dinner and Talent Show
7 5:30pm TOPS 7:00pm Theology on Tap 8:00pm Men's AA	8	9 8:30am Yoga w/Lynn 6:00pm Dinner/Movie
14 5:30pm TOPS 8:00pm Men's AA	15 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	16 8:30am Yoga w/Lynn
21 5:30pm TOPS 7:00pm Women's Bible Study 8:00pm Men's AA	22	23 8:30am Yoga w/Lynn CT Flower & Garden Show
28 5:30pm TOPS 8:00pm Men's AA		



“SCRIP-SURE”

Order Schedule

Scrip Pick Up is

February 3

Scrip Deadline is

February 24



InReach is organizing a group trip to the CT Flower & Garden Show at the Connecticut Convention Center on Saturday, February 23, 2013. The Group Rate is \$11.00 per person for a group of at least 15 people. Please contact Nancy Rolfe at 860-257-3489 or nprolfe@cox.net if you are interested.



FAITH FORMATION @ RHCC

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

Church School

On January 6th, the children and youth of the S.P.I.R.I.T. Church School beautifully lead worship, as they shared the birth story of our faith in word and song, with our annual Epiphany Pageant.

This month we also started our third unit of the year, *Baptism*. When people are baptized – whether as infants, older children, or adults – this is a sign of the relationship God initiates. We love because God first loves us. Whether at a font, in a tank, or at the riverside, Scripture shows that water and baptism are both too powerful to be contained in a vessel or confined to a moment in time. In baptism we understand our identity as God’s beloved children. Knowing one’s self to be beloved is a powerful experience. At baptism we begin our journey as God’s servants. We are called to serve God by bringing justice to the Earth and compassion to all people. We look forward to learning about the Baptism of Jesus, and its meaning for us.

Check out the “What We’re Learning Now” box for more information about our next unit, “Road to Emmaus”, beginning on February 17th, and learn with us!

Youth Group

Sadly, rain prevented us from going ice skating as planned in January, but we still had a great youth group night in, making pizza, competing in indoor winter Olympics, and watching a movie. We also gathered on Martin Luther King, Jr., Day, for a great day of service in Hartford, with area youth groups, hosted by Hands on Hartford. Our day included painting, cleaning, and games at Peter’s Retreat.

NURSERY VOLUNTEERS: Nursery Volunteers are needed for February and March. 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.

Silver Lake 2013

Pick up your Silver Lake 2013 summer camp calendars in Chapin Hall or in the Church School hallway, and sign-up for summer fun! *Scholarships are available. Please contact Meghan Young at meghan@rhccucc.org for more information.*

GROW IN FAITH: We are still in need of S.P.I.R.I.T. Church School Volunteers. We are looking for 2 learning center guides, and a 6th-8th grade shepherd. Grow in your faith as you participate in faith formation. For more information talk to Meghan Young or a current S.P.I.R.I.T. Guide or Shepherd.

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

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

Date	Scripture/Lesson
Wednesday, February 13	Shrove Tuesday/Ash Wednesday Gathering: 5:30 PM – 7:30 PM, Chapin Hall ALL invited. See details in Newsletter Announcement.

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

Date	Scripture/Lesson
Sunday, February 3	Communion Sunday, Family Worship
Sunday, February 10	Week 4: Baptism
Sunday, February 17	Week 1: Road to Emmaus
Sunday, February 24	Week 2: Road to Emmaus

Youth Group Calendar: *February*

Date	Fellowship Gatherings
Friday, February 1	Youth Group Gathering (6 th -12 ^h Grade) → 5 – 9 PM
Sunday, February 3	Noah's Table (6 th -12 ^h Grade) → 11:30 AM – 1 PM
Sunday, February 10	Noah's Table (6 th -12 ^h Grade) → 11:30 AM – 1 PM
Sunday, February 17	Noah's Table (6 th -12 ^h Grade) → 11:30 AM – 1 PM
Sunday, February 24	Noah's Table (6 th -12 ^h Grade) → 11:30 AM – 1 PM



Breakfast Club
Tuesday, February 12 at 8:30 AM

We meet at BOB'S COFFEE SHOP, 33 New Britain Avenue in Rocky Hill. Come join us for coffee, conversation, and community!



Women of the Bible
Thursday, February 21 at 7:00 PM in the Fiorilli Room

Join with other women to explore the women of the Bible.
 Come and pray, read, talk, laugh, and eat together!

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

COME JOIN THE CIRCLE: Unit 4 – Road To Emmaus

On February 17th, the children and youth in the S.P.I.R.I.T. Church School will be starting a Lenten unit called "Road To Emmaus".

Most people are familiar with the story of Jesus' death and resurrection. We recall Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, the last meal he shared with his disciples on Maundy Thursday, his arrest and trial, his death on the cross on Good Friday, and the amazing news at the tomb: "Jesus is risen!" And the story continues.

During this unit the children of the congregation will be exploring how the disciples encountered Jesus on the road to Emmaus. Theologian Thomas Long summarizes the impact of the story this way:

When an incognito Jesus joins these two as they are walking and asks what they are talking about they respond in language that sounds much like a creed: "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people..." Then Jesus "interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures," an action that forms an ideal expression of preaching. When the threesome arrives at Emmaus they gather for a meal that sounds for all the world like the Lord's Supper. The guest becomes the host, the bread is blessed and broken, and it is here that they recognize Jesus. In other words, the risen Christ is present as the church travels the Christian way, confesses its faith, listens attentively to the proclamation of the scriptures, and gathers around the table to eat and drink.

The warmth of this encounter with the risen Christ inspires us to reach out to those around, especially as we gather for table fellowship. We hope during this unit to explore how we are all invited to experience the presence of the risen Christ.

A Prayer For The Unit. Help us dance with your spirit this day, O Jesus. Dance with us, as we celebrate the good news that you are with us. We recommit ourselves to living your good news. 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.*

Theology on Tap – NEW LOCATION!

Thursday, February 7 at 7:00 PM

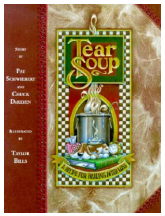
Panera Bread

1129 Silas Deane Hwy., Wethersfield

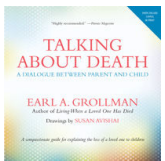
Are you interested in sharing questions and experiences about God and God's presence in your life? If so, come and join with other church members and friends at Panera's. We discuss a different topic each month, so join us whenever you can. Bring a friend and see you at Panera's! Contact Donna (donna@rhccucc.org or on FACEBOOK) if you have questions, want to suggest a topic, or can join us for a gathering.

New Grief Resources at RHCC

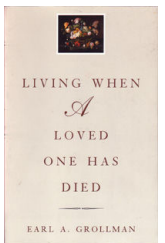
We all experience grief throughout our lives. Whether it is the death of a loved one, the loss of a relationship, job, or a dream we held, we know the complexity of its emotions. Grief presents uniquely for each of us, and can be hard to explain and process. As grief expresses itself for you or your loved ones, there are many resources available. We are fortunate to have received three new grief resources for the RHCC library, which may be helpful:



***Tear Soup: A Recipe For Healing After Loss*, by Pat Shwiebert and Chuck DeKlyen.** In this richly illustrated book, Grandy has just suffered a big loss in her life, and so she is cooking up her own unique batch of “tear soup” *Tear Soup* gives you a glimpse into Grandy’s life as she blends different “ingredients into her own grief process. Her tear soup will help to bring her comfort and ultimately help to fill the void in her life that was created by her loss. *Tear Soup* is an illustrated children’s book that is helpful for people of all ages. *Tear Soup* affirms the bereaved, educates the unbereaved, and is a building block for both children and adults.



***Talking About Death: A Dialogue Between Parent and Child*, by Earl A. Grollman.** How do you explain the death of a loved one to a child? Earl Grollman’s classic *Talking about Death* provides sensitive, compassionate, and helpful advice for families coping with loss.



***Living When A Loved One Has Died*, by Earl A. Grollman.** When someone you love dies, Earl Grollman writes, “there is no way to predict how you will feel. The reactions of grief are not like recipes, with given ingredients, and certain results. . . . Grief is universal. At the same time it is extremely personal. Heal in your own way.” If you or someone you know is grieving, *Living When a Loved One Has Died* can help. Earl Grollman explains what emotions to expect when mourning, what pitfalls to avoid, and how to work through feelings of loss. Suitable for pocket or bedside, this gentle book guides the lonely and suffering as they move through the many facets of grief, begin to heal, and slowly build new lives.

You are encouraged to borrow these books as you find them helpful.

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.

We had to shift some of our classes around, but January was a great month of learning and fellowship. We were able to learn more about RHCC and the UCC, taking a tour of the church and discussing the ins and outs of the United Church of Christ. We also finally met our mentors! We're looking forward to growing in faith together, and sharing our hopes and challenges in our journeys. February brings with it more mentoring, and a time to learn about our two Sacraments: Baptism & Communion. We will also be joining the boards and committees for board night in February, participating in the meetings, learning about each board, and seeing the ways that we can serve the church.

February Schedule:

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

Date	Class/Event	Times
Tuesday, February 5	<i>EVENT:</i> Board Night	7 PM – 9 PM
Sunday, February 10	<i>CLASS:</i> Baptism	5 PM – 7 PM
Wednesday, February 13	<i>WORSHIP:</i> Ash Wednesday Service <i>*You are welcome to come for dinner and the entire Shrove Tuesday/Ash Wednesday event, starting at 5:30.</i>	7 PM
Sunday, February 24	<i>CLASS:</i> Communion	5 PM – 7 PM

2nd Annual Talent Show and Chili Supper Saturday, Feb 2, 2013 at 6:00 PM

For Adults and Teens
Sponsored by
The RHCC Music Committee

New Executive Director – It is with great honor and excitement that the Board of Directors has appointed Reverend Edwin Ayala as our new Executive Director. Ed has been with the CAC for 16 years. He is well known at Rocky Hill Congregational Church as a great friend and leader. Rev. Ayala will bring the CAC to the forefront in the Greater Hartford area and the State of Connecticut. He is full of energy and compassion to fulfill our mission to help the poor and needy. I look forward, with great respect, to working with Ed in his new capacity as Executive Director.

Reverend Steinle's Retirement Dinner: On October 26, 2011, 150 people honored Rev. Steinle for his 31 years as Executive Director of the CAC. Don will be a consultant with the CAC for one year. Rev. Steinle left a legacy that we will continue to carry on for many years to come.

Budget 2013: Like many other non-profits, the CAC struggles have continued financially. The Edgewood Housing Development continues to devastate some of our cash flow. I will always deeply appreciate the Board of Missions and our church members donations to the Christian Activities Council.

We will never fail to carry on with our commitment to the ever important programs, such as Adventure's in the City.

God Bless,

Rich Pawlich-Pagliccio

Delegate and Member of the Board of Directors



**Come Join us for Dinner and a Movie
Saturday, February 9, 2013
at 6:00 pm in Chapin Hall.**

**The film showing will be
"Salmon Fishing in the Yemen"**

From the beloved director of *Chocolat* and the Oscar winning screenwriter of *Slumdog Millionaire* comes the inspirational comedy, *Salmon Fishing in the Yemen*. A visionary Sheikh (Amr Waked) believes his passion for the peaceful pastime of salmon fishing can enrich the lives of his people, and he dreams of bringing the sport to the not so fish-friendly desert. Willing to spare no expense, he instructs his representative (Emily Blunt) to turn the dream into reality, an extraordinary feat that will require the involvement of Britain's leading fisheries expert (Ewan McGregor), who happens to think the project both absurd and unachievable. That is, until the Prime Minister's overzealous press secretary (Kristin Scott Thomas) latches onto it as a 'good will' story. Now, this unlikely team will put it all on the line and embark on an upstream journey of faith and fish to prove the impossible, possible. Pure delight. A smart, original treat. This is one to see!

Sneak preview for March – "*Miss Pettigrew Lives For A Day*"



.....*February Delights*

February is often thought of as a dreary, gray, cold, winter month. Sometimes it is. But it can also be a time of many delights, such as an early morning colorful sunrise breaking through the clouds of night. It can be watching or joining children creating snow ‘people’ after a winter storm. And delightful signs of spring – mini daffodil plants and bunches of fresh-cut tulips – are beginning to appear in grocery store floral shops.

Delights abound also at RHCC, UCC. They can be observed and/or experienced in various forms of action. To name a few, during a Faith Formation workshop, children and adults created Christmas cards to be enclosed with poinsettias delivered by our Diaconate. The Epiphany Pageant, Christmas music, missions projects all presented opportunities for each of us to find moments of delight and joy knowing that in some way we shared our time, talents, and or monetary support that provided delight and joy to the givers and to the receivers.

As we move into the coming months of our church life together, we are grateful for all the “delights” of the past year and look forward with grace and hope to new delights through the sharing of precious gifts as a way of giving back to our living God.

Peace and gratitude,

The Stewardship Committee



Always Welcome! – Hunger never takes a holiday... Food Pantries need our help to meet the food demands...Please consider bringing a non-perishable food item, laundry detergent, or baby items to worship every time you come. The

large basket in the front foyer of the church welcomes all food donations. Pew Crew members have been taking your donations to the food pantry. Mark Williams sends a thank you note every month in gratitude for your generosity.



February 2013: The Horror of Violence

If one member suffers all suffer together. I Corinthians 12:26a

The situation in Syria worsens by the day. Humanitarian needs continue to escalate as the violence spreads and deepens. Ordinary civilians – men, women and children – are the primary victims of the violence. An ever growing number of people are displaced, many for the second or third time. Tens of thousands of internally displaced persons are staying temporarily in buildings that are unsuitable for the cold of winter. Loss of livelihoods due to insecurity and market disruptions negatively impact purchasing power and leave more people without access to basic essentials, electricity, heating or fuel.

Since the onset of the conflict in Syria in March, 2011, Global Ministries has supported the efforts of our partners across the region and is today actively involved in efforts to respond to the crisis and the growing number of displaced people. Emergency food packages, hygiene kits, bedding, and portable stoves have been distributed. Psychosocial support and health care is also being provided. Warm clothing and activities for children are organized in the Za'atri refugee camp in Jordan. Gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing and Week of Compassion are helping to supply these needs.

Oh God, today we pray for Syria and all its people, even as they are scattered far and wide. In this land that was touched by the feet of our Lord, and where Paul was baptized and became the Apostle of nations, the cradle of prophets and religions, we acknowledge our link to the Christian legacy and historical churches there. We fervently pray for the Syrian Christian leadership and for the country's leaders in this precarious time. We seek to understand and respect others and pray that the Syrian nation may find a way to work together in order to achieve peace and stability in Syria. We hold the people of Syria in our prayers, asking for solace and comfort, security and the provision of basic needs. We faithfully pray. Amen.



Yoga Offered by Core Power, LLC – Experience the dynamic flow and challenge of yoga which builds strength, balance and flexibility for an overall fit and healthy body. Classes are for all-levels with options for everyone! This class meets: Monday evenings from 5:30-6:30pm, and Saturday mornings in from 8:30-9:15am. Contact Lynn MacDonald 860-550-4660 to register – Please bring water bottle, yoga mat, and a friend!!

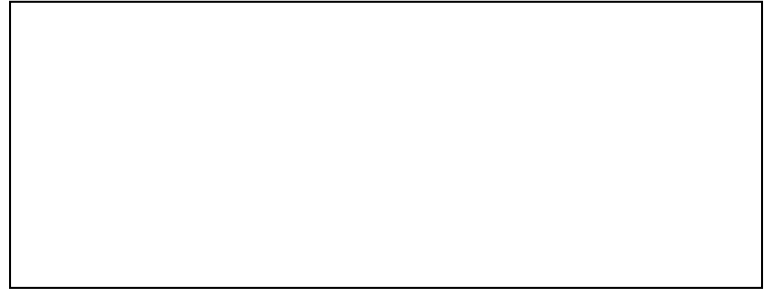
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No matter who you are,
Or where you are on life's journey...
You're welcome here.



Our Lenten Journey: Community and Conversion

Join the RHCC, UCC church family
as we journey through Lent.

Brochures announcing programs,
special prayer services
and community gatherings
available on February 10

