



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

The Reverend Meghan D. Young, Acting Associate Pastor
meghan@rhccucc.org

Mary DeLibero, Minister of Music
mary@rhccucc.org

Mitsey Baker, Office Manager
office@rhccucc.org

860 529-4167 Church – 860 257-9637 Fax

The Church Mouse

February 2015 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



It is the time in our year to think about how each of us is called to participate in the life of our church. There are many opportunities for giving your time and talents. During the upcoming month the nominating committee will provide a brochure that presents and explains the many boards and committees. If we can't answer your questions about the particular responsibilities of one, we will refer you to the appropriate members for clarification.

If during your reflections there is an aspect of a board or committee's responsibility that interests you, please, make that known. For instance, 2 members helped the deacons deliver Christmas poinsettias to home bound members, another volunteer is cooking for the Comfort Dinner.

Lori Benito

Candy Smith

Rich Pawlich-Pagliccio

Steph Heneghan

Spiritually Literate Resolutions



We're a month in already, I know. Many of our "resolutions" for 2015 have probably already had about as much as life as they're going to. It's not easy to set a direction and stay focused there, whether we're talking about our health, our housework, or our spiritual intentions.

Regarding the latter, someone sent me these "Spiritually Literate Resolutions" that they found online, authored by a couple named Frederic and Mary Ann Brussat. Speaking for myself, I find them worth reading, thinking about, and even trying to practice. While they aren't specifically Christian in their framing, there is nothing in them that is incompatible with Christian faith. They bear essential themes we find throughout the sacred stories, teachings and practices of our tradition.

Maybe they will speak to you too.

Faithfully,

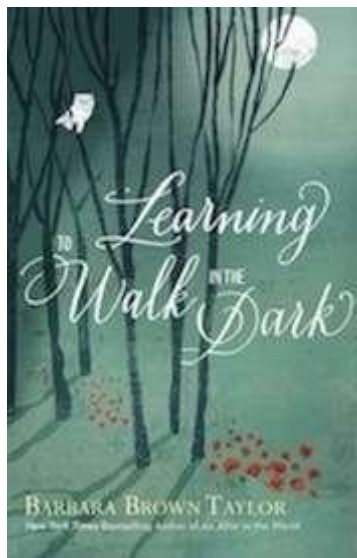
Rev. Brenda

- 1. I will live in the present moment. I will not obsess about the past or worry about the future.*
- 2. I will cultivate the art of making connections. I will pay attention to how my life is intimately related to all life on the planet.*
- 3. I will be thankful for all the blessings in my life. I will spell out my days with a grammar of gratitude.*
- 4. I will practice hospitality in a world where too often strangers are feared, enemies are hated, and the "other" is shunned. I will welcome guests and alien ideas with graciousness.*
- 5. I will seek liberty and justice for all. I will work for a free and fair world.*
- 6. I will add to the planet's fund of good will by practicing little acts of kindness, brief words of encouragement, and manifold expressions of courtesy.*
- 7. I will cultivate the skill of deep listening. I will remember that all things in the world want to be heard, as do the many voices inside me.*
- 8. I will practice reverence for life by seeing the sacred in, with and under all things of the world.*

9. *I will give up trying to hide, deny or escape from my imperfections.
I will listen to what my shadow side has to say to me.*
 10. *I will be willing to learn from the spiritual teachers all around me,
however unlikely, or unlike me, they may be.*
-

A BOOK FOR LENT:

***Learning to Walk in the Dark*, by Barbara Brown Taylor**



Sign up (Chapin Hall) to have a copy of the book ordered for you... dates will be announced for discussion opportunities around this book during Lent.

New York Times bestselling author, teacher and former pastor Barbara Brown Taylor writes about having grown increasingly uncomfortable and impatient with Christian teachings that celebrate "the light" while denying the existence of darkness and its wisdom. Doesn't God work in the nighttime too? "Darkness," she writes, "is shorthand for anything that scares me." That could include the fear of dementia, the loss of somebody we love, the challenges of aging, the fear of being alone, or anything at all that feels like a place of "darkness" to us. What do we learn when we are afraid? Taylor argues that it is precisely in such times that we learn courage, and learn to understand the world and trust the presence of God in new ways: *"So, I can only conclude one thing: I need the darkness as much as I need the light, because there are things there I will learn in no other way."*

Worship SCHEDULE

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

February 1

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Intergenerational worship; Communion

Deut. 18:15-20;

Ps. 111;

1 Cor. 8:1-13;

Mk. 1:21-28

February 8

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Isa. 40:21-31;

Ps. 147:1-11;

I Cor. 9:26-23;

Mk. 1:29-39

February 15

Last Sunday before Lent; Transfiguration Sunday

2 Kings 2:1-12;

Ps. 59:1-6;

2 Cor. 4:3-6;

Mk. 9:2-9

February 18

Ash Wednesday ~ Beginning of Lent

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 or Isa. 58:1-12;

Ps. 51:1-17;

2 Cor. 5:20b – 6:10;

Matt. 6:1-6, 16-21

12:00 - 1:00 p.m.

Fiorilli Room

Scripture study and reflection for Ash Wednesday

We will look together at the several Scripture readings in our lectionary for Ash Wednesday, with a focus on the spiritual themes into which they invite us as we begin the season of Lent.

5:30 – 7:30pm

Ash Wednesday gathering

7:00pm

Ash Wednesday Worship Service

Ash Wednesday Labyrinth

9 AM – 5 PM *Chapel*

Come walk the Labyrinth. Stop by the church to receive ashes and spend some time in prayerful reflection walking a labyrinth we will be creating in our chapel. Labyrinths have been used for centuries, in many cultures, to facilitate prayer, meditation, and spiritual transformation. When we walk the labyrinth, we begin a pilgrimage. Where will yours take you?



February 22

First Sunday in Lent

Gen. 9:8-17;

Ps. 25:1-10;

1 Peter 3:18-22;

Mk. 1:19-15



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

Church School

On January 4th, 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. (See pictures below). We shared the story of Las Posados, a symbolic retelling of our own life journeys, through the story of Mary and Joseph. We remembered that it is by God's incarnate grace that we are welcomed, and in turn, called upon to welcome others who may knock at our "doors".

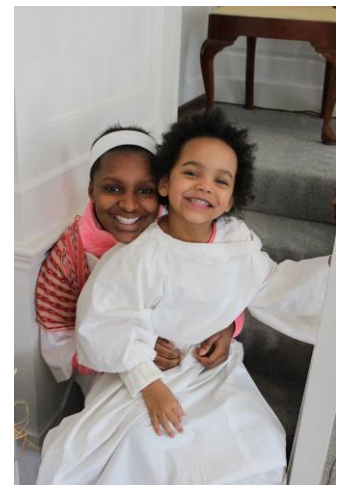
We have started our 4th faith formation unit of the year, *Jesus, The Storyteller*. Jesus was a wonderful storyteller – a teller of theological stories. We are exploring Jesus' parable of the sower, the parable of the yeast, the parable of the bridesmaids, and the parable of the talents. Jesus' stories invite us to hear and share the good news of God's love for all people.

Check out the "What We're Learning Now" box for more information about our current faith formation unit, "Jesus, The Storyteller", and learn with us!

Youth Group

We had two gatherings in January. On our mission night, we made dinner together and baked cookies. We then walked to Human Services, the Fire Station, The Police Station, and Town Hall, praying at each location. We also delivered the cookies and cards to the police and fire station, thanking them for their service. On our Winterfest night, we had a great night ice skating at Hartford's Winterfest and enjoying all that our community has to offer.

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. Noah's Table now meets twice a month on Sunday evenings from 5 PM – 6:30 PM for dinner, fellowship, and faith formation. Schedule is subject to change based on activities determined by the Youth Group.



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

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

Date	Scripture/Lesson
Wednesday, February 18	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	Lesson
Sunday, February 1	Communion Sunday. Family worship.
Sunday, February 8	S.P.I.R.I.T. Church School: "Jesus the Storyteller"
Sunday, February 15	Fat Sunday S.P.I.R.I.T. Church School: "Jesus the Storyteller" <i>Baptism</i>
Sunday, February 22	First Sunday in Lent S.P.I.R.I.T. Church School: "Let Us Break Bread Together"

Youth Group Calendar: *February*

Date	Fellowship Gatherings
Sunday, February 15	Noah's Table (6 th -12 ^h Grade) → 5 PM – 6:30 PM. <i>Fat Sunday – Preparing for Lent</i>

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

Children & Youth Leadership Programs at RHCC

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

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!

Jesus, the Storyteller

Jesus was a wonderful storyteller – a teller of theological stories. Jesus crafted word pictures about familiar objects and situations to tell the good news of God's love for all people. This unit we will hear, dramatize, investigate, and live into several of Jesus' stories called parables. We will explore Jesus' parable of the sower, the parable of the yeast, the parable of the bridesmaids, and the parable of the talents.

Stories all Around. Everyone has a story. Some share them with ease while others need an invitation to voice their stories. Look and listen around your neighborhood. Who knows the local anecdotes and is familiar with the local characters? Take time to ask and listen. Encourage your children's friends to share tales of family trips and other adventures. Plan a casual block party event for storytelling that will create a web of friendships. Serve root beer floats on a hot evening or hot cocoa on a chilly winter night. Make Sunday night "story night" in your family and let everyone have a turn spinning a tale. However you choose to make stories a part of your life, regularly include favorites from the Bible. Learn from and enjoy the master storyteller, Jesus.

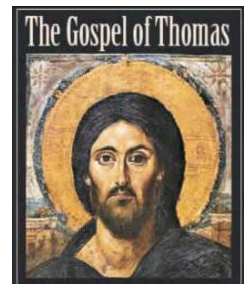
A Prayer For The Unit. God of stories, open us to yours. Amen.

*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!*

WEDNESDAY SCRIPTURE STUDY

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

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



MEN'S BIBLE STUDY



The group meets the first and third Saturdays in the church parlor, 8:30-9:30am. For the next several months we will be addressing the subject of "forgiveness". Come join your Christian brothers as we pursue and try to understand God's words.

For more details please contact Jim Stevens . 860-632-5810



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.

In January we learned 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 had a great night asking difficult questions about our faith, such as: Does God have a gender or race? Does God exist? What does God look like? Did the stories in the Bible really happen? Should religion inform our politics? And many more. We have a great and deeply thoughtful confirmation class!

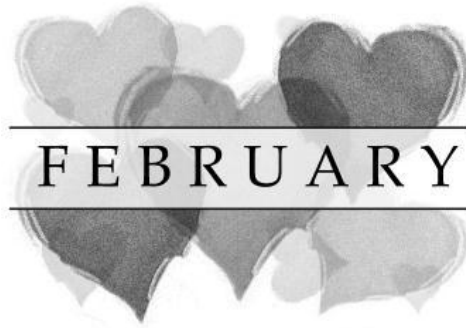
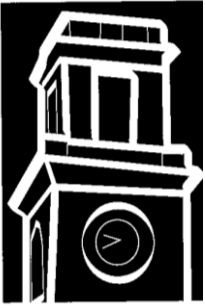
February brings with it more mentoring, and a time to learn about our two Sacraments: Baptism & Communion. We will also be joining the boards for board night in February, participating in the meetings, learning about each board, and seeing ways that we can serve the church.

If you would like more information about being part of the Confirmation class (9TH & 10TH graders), or if you are interested in being a mentor for the confirmation class please contact Meghan Young at Meghan@rhccucc.org.

February Schedule:

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

Date	Class/Event	Times
Tuesday, February 3	EVENT: Board Night	7 PM – 9 PM
Sunday, February 8	CLASS: Baptism	5 PM – 7 PM
Wednesday, February 18	WORSHIP: Ash Wednesday Service *You are welcome to come for dinner and the entire Shrove Tuesday/Ash Wednesday event, starting at 5:30.	7 PM
Sunday, February 22	CLASS: Communion	5 PM – 7 PM



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday Morning Worship

Communion 1st Sunday

10:00 a.m. with childcare



CHILD
care
Provided

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
1 Communion Sunday 11:30am Second hour 11:30am Dixieland Band Rehearsal 4:00pm Tamil Sangam	2 10:30am Apple Rehab Svc 7:00pm Women's AA 7:00pm RHCC Bowling 7:30pm Bell Choir	3 11:30Am Lodge Svc 7:00PM Confirmation 7:00pm Board and Committee Mtgs	4 9:30am Quilters 12:00pm Bible Study 7:30pm Adult Choir
8 11:30am Second Hour 2:00am Community Event 4:00pm Tamil Sangam 5:00pm Confirmation	9 7:00pm Women's AA 7:00pm RHCC Bowling 7:30pm Bell Choir	10 8:30am Breakfast Club	11 9:30am Quilters 12:00pm Bible Study 7:30pm Adult Choir
15 4:00pm Tamil Sangam 5:00pm Noah's Table	16 OFFICE CLOSED NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 7:00pm Women's AA 7:00pm RHCC Bowling 7:30pm Bell Choir	17 11:00am Retired Clergy	18 ASHWEDNESDAY 9:30am Quilters 12:00pm Bible Study 5:30pm Ash Wed Gathering 5:30pm Confirmation 7:00pm Ash Wed Worship
22 11:30am Second hour 4:00pm Tamil Sangam 5:00pm Confirmation	23 7:00pm Women's AA 7:00pm RHCC Bowling 7:30pm Bell Choir	24 NEWSLETTER MAILING 6:00pm Community Event	25 9:00am Quilters 12:00pm Bible Study 7:30pm Adult Choir

VOICE MAIL INSTRUCTIONS – If you call the church (860-529-4167) 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	Myke Halpin, Custodian	
Mitsey Baker, Office Manager	201	RHCCNS (Nursery School)	208

2015

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
5 7:00pm Search Committee 8:00pm Men's AA	6	7 8:30am Men's Bible Study
12 9:00am Committee on Interim Ministry 8:00pm Men's AA		14
19 8:00pm Men's AA	20	21 8:30am Men's Bible Study
26 8:00pm Men's AA	27	28 6:00pm Talent Show

THINK SCRIP
 Our fundraising program where participating retailers sell gift certificates or gift cards to our church at a discount. Members buy the certificates for full face value and redeem them for full face value. Our church keeps the difference as revenue. Retailers get our business. Our church gets a regular source of revenue that involves nothing other than what we would be doing anyway – shopping/spending at grocery stores, drugstores, restaurants, gas stations and others. See Dave or Gail Hall for more information

4rd Annual Talent Show Saturday, Feb 28, 2015 at 6:00 PM



For Adults and Teens
 Sponsored by
 The RHCC Music Committee

UPCOMING SECOND HOURS

Feb. 1 A Civil Right for Adoptees – An important issue and a chance for our church to advocate within CT.

Our guest will be Karen Caffrey, an attorney and psychotherapist, and President of Access CT. Church member Brian Donohue, adoptive parent and part of a grassroots organization called "Access CT," that works on issues of legal rights for adoptees, is hoping that RHCC will want to learn about and then advocate for the expansion of a current state law. An expanded law would allow persons adopted before 1983 to access their original birth certificates and thus information about their biological parentage and history – important for health care and other reasons. This access is not possible under current law. Brian hopes that RHCC will sponsor a resolution to come before the Annual Meeting of the CT Conference of the UCC, in October, 2015, so that the Conference might then become an advocating organization with the CT State Legislature for a revision of the law. The first step to our possibly becoming a sponsoring church is to become informed about the issue.

Sun., Feb. 8, 11:30 – 12:30 Literalism and the Bible

How do we read Scripture, so as to hear its true meanings? Reading it literally, taking everything at face value, generally creates more questions than answers (e.g, if Adam and Eve were the first two people on earth, and had sons, where did the sons find women to marry, as the Bible says they did? What about all the other things in the Bible that we would find it hard to believe, given what science teaches us about the way things work?). How do we understand these texts other than at a literal level?



**Sunday February 22, 11:30am
Celebrating
Black History Month Conversation**

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

2 Cynthia Hunt
Doreen Grandell
3 Teagan Reed-Swale
Zoey Grisham
5 Kimberly Sweezy
6 Cole Triplets
Cheryl Hummel
8 Susan White
Robert Mullins
11 Val Triplets
Izaque da Silva
12 Alfred Harlow III
Annie Hokans-Doll
Caryn Doten
13 Bev Schmidt
Tyler Morgan
14 Kurt Sheathelm



14 Chris Mosure
Brian Speers
16 John Speers
18 Alexander Benson
19 Leona Griswold
20 Midge Harvey
22 Brendan Flynn
23 Scott Bengston
24 Jan LaCava
Ben Rolfe
Will Rolfe
25 Hannah DeGiovanni
26 Karen Birk
27 Dot Wenzel
Gabriella Silkowski
Keira Silkowski
29 Joseph Sheehan



Harry and Bev Schmidt
were married on
February 15, 1958

Silver Lake 2015 – Calendars and Scholarships Available

Pick up your Silver Lake 2015 summer camp calendars in Chapin Hall and sign-up for summer fun! *Scholarships are available. Scholarship requests must be received by March 30. Please contact Meghan Young at meghan@rhccucc.org for more information.*



SCRIP-SURE Update

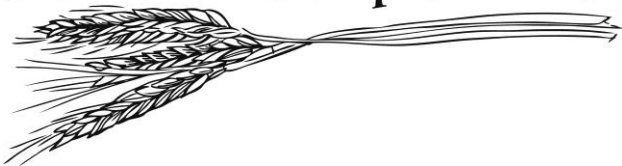
During calendar year 2014, RHCC earned \$17,500 from the sale of \$247,000 of scrip. 86 individuals or families bought scrip one or more times during the year. Counting each family unit as two buyers, this represented 122 individual scrip buyers, an increase of 15% over 2013.

The face amount sold and profits for 2014 were essentially the same as in 2013. Grocery cards continued to be the dominant cards sold, producing almost 50% of all profits. Over the year, cards for 114 different retailers were sold.

For more details on the 2014 SCRIP-SURE results, please pick up a report at the scrip table in Chapin Hall.

The next ordering deadline will be on February 22. Orders placed by that date will be available for pickup on Sunday, March 1. As usual, a limited supply of the most popular cards will also be kept in inventory and available for sale each Sunday morning in Chapin Hall.

Stewardship News



On Consecration Sunday Barry Wilcock announced that 68 pledging units completed "Estimate of Giving cards". In the weeks following, those who were unable to be with us that day have sent in cards for a total of 103 pledging units. Of those 103 cards received 71 are either an increase over last year or new pledges. Thank you all!

By now everyone who completed an "Estimate of Giving card" should have received a letter from the Stewardship committee confirming their financial commitment to the mission and ministry of Rocky Hill Congregational Church. If you completed a card and did not receive a letter, please contact Barry Wilcock, Stewardship chairman, at (860) 563-9865. If you have any questions regarding the information in the letter, you may contact Barry or Deb Copes, Financial Secretary, at (860) 257-1099.

DEACONS

The Board of Deacons would like to thank you for your generous giving of over \$2,200 to our Christmas offering. The offering will be forwarded to the Backpack Nutrition program at Hands on Hartford. Your offering will fill 419 backpacks with two meals and a large number of nutritional snacks (fruit cups, etc). The program currently fills 325 backpacks each week.

We also thank you for your continued support of the Tower Lighting. The sign-up list will remain in Chapin Hall.

Come join us for worship services and special activities that will enrich your life. Mother Teresa said: ‘...smile at each other – it doesn’t matter who it is – and that will help you grow up in greater love for each other.’

Gail Tine, Deacon

Senior Pastor Search Committee Update

Over the past month the Search Committee conducted several interviews and also continued to review new profiles that came to us. We have moved into second interviews with some candidates and are happy to be talking, sharing, and learning from those we have met with. The Committee is excited to be continuing in this work as we prayerfully discern the best choice for our next Pastor.



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

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

Global and Local Mission News



"I prayed for twenty years but received no answer until I prayed with my legs."

– Frederick Douglass

Thank You!

Covenant To Care Giving Tree

Thanks to so many of you who contributed to our Covenant to Care giving tree this Christmas. Because of your generosity, we were able to help 81 children and 1 family through our DCF social worker Allison! We are so happy that our Covenant to care relationship has been strengthened this year and look forward to more opportunities to work with them and the families they support.



Our social worker Allison picking up all
our gifts to deliver!

Apparent Project Jewelry Sale

Our Apparent Project jewelry sale was another huge success this year. Between sales at RHCC, and sales at Lisa Eleck's workplace, we were able to raise \$1,733.50 for the people of Haiti! We love seeing all the beautiful jewelry that everyone is wearing.

Thank you!

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

Hartford Assoc Dues	\$794
OCWM	\$6,000
Rocky Hill Human Services	\$500
Volunteer Care Teams of Rocky Hill	\$500
Families in Crisis	\$500
Hands on Hartford	\$500
Christmas Fund	\$550
Peter's Retreat	\$1,000
Hawkwing Organization	\$2,000*

*This donation is earmarked for an emergency weather relief effort that taking place on the Cheyenne River Indian Reservation in South Dakota. The people in this area are dealing with extreme temperatures and need significant help with food, shelter, and other emergency items.

Global Prayer This Month

Prayers for Lebanon

Brought to us by Global Missionary Joel Cooper who is working for reconciliation among Lebanese, Syrians, Palestinians, Christians, Sunnis, Shi'ites, Islamists, secularists, and others in the Middle East.

God, you remind us that even Jesus came from a negatively stereotyped town, so we should not disparage, judge, or discriminate against others based on their background. Please help us recognize that our busy lives result in dangerous ignorance of our sisters and brothers, from the inner-cities of the United States to the mountains of Lebanon. Open our minds to our neighbors' unique experiences and give us faith in their intentions. Motivate us to support organizations working towards reconciliation among Middle Eastern political, religious, and ethnic factions. Empower us to advocate with our legislators to adopt selfless foreign policy so that we may slowly build trust in spite of our shameful history. Please give us compassion for the people in Lebanon, a third of whom are refugees from Syria, Palestine, and Iraq. You say "blessed are the peacemakers," so please give us faith in your words so that we may be worthy of your blessing. Amen.

www.globalministries.org

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

HISTORIAN NOTES - DECEMBER 2014

Profit from the Scrip-Sure Fundraising Program was \$1,761 for December 2014. Gail and Dave Hall were honored for managing Scrip-Sure for the past five years which has allowed RHCC to realize over \$67,000 in earnings. That's \$67,000 so far to "fund our faith," and we're on a roll with the support of all who buy Scrip.



Sunday, December 7: Second Sunday of Advent — The candle of peace was remembered and lit by John, Christina, Mollie and Jacob Engle.

Tuesday, December 9: All-Church Visioning Dinner followed by small discussion groups on updating our Church's Vision.

Saturday, December 13: At 9 AM the 5th Annual Jingle Bell Rock Children's Christmas Workshop was held.

Sunday, December 14: Third Sunday of Advent — The candle of joy was remembered and lit by Ellie Maher and Bay Tran.
Baptism of Emily Elizabeth Bacon.

At 4 PM the annual Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols was held, telling and celebrating the story of Christ's coming in word and music. This Christmas service featured Acolytes, Scripture Readers, Instrumentalists, the Adult Choir, Children's Choir, Jubilate Handbell Choir, and the Ministers. Refreshments at a reception for all followed.

Saturday, December 20: 14th Annual Cookie Walk fundraiser for the music program.

Sunday, December 21: Fourth Sunday of Advent — The candle of love was remembered and lit by Liz Pulling and Val Triblets. The special Christmas offering was designated for the Nutrition Backpack Program of Hands on Hartford. Gifts for children in the Covenant-to-Care program were blessed. Christmas poinsettias decorated the sanctuary.

At 2 PM Christmas caroling to local nursing homes and shut-ins. Poinsettias and hand-made Christmas cards also delivered this week.

Wednesday, December 24: Two Christmas Eve Services were held. At the 5 PM Intergenerational Service the Christ Candle was remembered and lit by Michael Bower, Bob Inderbitzen, and Victoria Bower. At the 11 PM Candlelight and Communion Service the Christ Candle was remembered and lit by Niki Graham, Frankie, and Louis DiRenzo.

SAVE THE DATE

Super Saturday

March 21, 2015
Ludlow High School
Ludlow, MA

Each Super Saturday offers numerous workshops, a keynote address, worship, a market place of vendors and ideas, and an opportunity for church leaders - both lay and clergy - to network with one another.

Keynote speaker the Rev. Ruben Duran highlights the Super Saturday event, sponsored jointly by the Connecticut Conference and the Massachusetts Conference: a full day of skills building, networking, and discussing best practices

The Rev. Ruben Duran serves as Director for New Congregations in the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. He is responsible for promoting the development of Synodical mission strategies, local initiatives and emerging models for the multiplication of new communities of faith in the USA and the Caribbean. Ruben is a native of Lima, Peru, South America. He served parishes in the Seattle, Washington and Los Angeles, California areas prior to becoming Associate to the Bishop and Mission Director for the Metropolitan Chicago Synod, ELCA. He has also served as Associate Director for Latino Outreach in the former Division for Congregational Ministries, ELCA and Executive for Congregational Outreach Services in the former Division for Outreach, ELCA prior to his current position.

Watch for registration materials in the mail and online at
macucc.org/supersaturday.

Join lay and clergy leaders from across the Massachusetts and Connecticut Conferences for a day of worship, workshops and networking.

**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**



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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Mailed January 26, 2015

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PERMIT NO 7

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



SHROVE TUESDAY/ASH WEDNESDAY GATHERING

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

Wednesday, February 18, 5:30—7:30 PM

Join us As we move from dancing into a time of preparation.



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