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## The Church Mouse

## February 2016 Newsletter

RHCC e-mail address – [office@rhccucc.org](mailto:office@rhccucc.org)

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

Office Hours – 9:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m. Monday-Thursday

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Friday

Sunday Worship Services – 10:00 a.m.

Childcare Available/Handicap Accessible



Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ Hartford Association

At the request of Rocky Hill Congregational Church, UCC

And upon the recommendation of the

Committee on Church and Ministry of the Hartford Association

An Ecclesiastical Council is now called to install the Rev. Craig Lewis Cowing as Minister

**All are cordially invited to the installation of**

**The Rev. Craig L. Cowing**

**on**

**Sunday, February 7, 2016 at 3:00 PM**

**Rocky Hill Congregational Church, UCC**

**The Worship service for Installation will begin at 3:00 PM**

**A Reception will follow**



This month I will begin to offer a monthly program that I hope you will find interesting. For the last ten years I have used Tibetan singing bowls for meditation, and have offered sessions for the public.

First question—what is a Tibetan singing bowl? Singing bowls developed in the region of Tibet a long time ago. A singing bowl is a bronze bowl ranging in size from a few inches to eighteen inches or more in diameter. It can be played to produce a pleasing sound. Metal singing bowls will usually produce a harmonic as well as a dominant tone. In other words, the bowl will produce a harmonic cord, not just a single note.

I was introduced to singing bowls at a meeting of the New York Conference, where the SERRV table had some for sale. I began to use it for meditation, and found that they come in various shapes and sizes. Over the span of several years I put together a working collection of about seventy-five bowls which I arrange in groups on a rug and play. I can keep several going at once. A singing bowl can be played in two ways, by rubbing a wooden stick around the outside or by tapping it with a stick or mallet. Listening to singing bowls in person will cause the listener to relax. It's a wonderful way to relieve stress.

Most of the bowls I use are antique, ranging in age from a century to several centuries. They all come from the region of Tibet and Nepal, where singing bowls are still being made. They can often be found in New Age shops.

While in New York I went to a local addiction treatment center once a month and did a program for the residents, one for the men and one for the women. They often commented afterwards how relaxed they felt, a difficult thing for someone in recovery to experience. A social worker there told me that after one session a resident told her that it was the biggest waste of time. The next morning the resident commented how well she had slept, and wondered if the bowls had anything to do with it.

Research has been done in the last decade or so about the effects of sound on the mind. It has been found that soothing sounds can actually alter the brainwaves that are produced. The sound of singing bowls definitely has that effect. Come and see what it can do for you, and bring a friend!

In Christ,  
Craig



Lent is going to be a time for introspection and learning at our church. Craig has put together a set of programs and opportunities to stimulate thought and prayer.

### **Walking the Labyrinth Wed. February 10, 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM**

On Ash Wednesday the Chapel will be open for walking the labyrinth. Stop by the church to spend some time in prayerful reflection walking the labyrinth in our Chapel. There will be a basket of stones at the entry. You'll be invited to take a stone, carry it with you through the labyrinth, and leave it at the center. 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?



### **Icon of the Week**

On each Sunday in Lent there will be an "Icon of the Week" set up in the Chapel. Each week Craig will have a different icon or devotional painting in the chapel for you to enjoy. This will be an opportunity for contemplative prayer.

### **Fri. February 19 at 7 PM Harmonic Healing with Tibetan singing bowls**

See Craig's letter in this edition of the Church Mouse. This will be an opportunity for contemplation and prayer. You are guaranteed to come away relaxed!

### **Sun. February 21: 2<sup>nd</sup> hour program: "Where Did We Get The Gospels From?"**

Craig will talk on the theories about the formation of the gospels as we find them in the New Testament.

### **Sun. February 28: 2<sup>nd</sup> hour on Islam**

The Rev. Dr. Chuck Kennedy will talk about the basics of Islam in light of current events. He is a popular speaker on the subject and will help us to understand the most recently developed of the three Abrahamic faiths.

### **Sun. March 6: 2<sup>nd</sup> hour program: "Good Friday and Easter in Art East and West"**

Craig will talk about how these two days, central to the Christian faith, are portrayed in art from the medieval and Renaissance worlds. He will also have copies of paintings he has done.

## SUN. FEB. 28<sup>TH</sup> – 2<sup>ND</sup> HOUR ON ISLAM

Charles A. Kennedy is professor emeritus of religion at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, better known as Virginia Tech. He taught courses in biblical studies and the religions of the Middle East: Judaism, Christianity and Islam.

His experiences in the Middle East began during his graduate work at Yale when he visited archaeological sites in Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Palestine and Egypt. After a crash course in Arabic at Harvard, he returned to Cairo for a semester of special study in Islam at the Azhar University before continuing on to India, Southeast Asia and Japan.

In 1990 he spent a month in Tunisia, at which time he met Yasser Arafat who was then in exile after the Lebanese Wars. Two years later he went to Kuwait and Syria in the aftermath of the Persian Gulf War and met with government and educational officials as part of a national faculty program.

He has been very active in writing and presenting programs on Arab stereotypes in American popular music, including lecture-recitals at the Clark Art Institute, Williamstown, Mass., and Yale University. He has taught courses on Islam and western religions for the Adventures in Learning program at Colby-Sawyer College.



### **United Church of Christ Middle East Initiative Purpose Statement**

The Global Ministries Middle East Initiative invites the whole church to focus on the region of the Middle East for an extended period of time. Through highlighting aspects of mission and partnership, the Initiative offers an opportunity for the church to become familiar with the range of denominational partners in the region and the issues they face and the context in which they face them; how each of us as members of North American churches can become active in education and advocacy, as well as support the various programs and witness of partners in the region; and to learn about ways that the UCC and Disciples continue to build on an already-lasting history of engagement. The whole church can draw on various resources and tools, including VBS materials, Webinars, Bible Studies, Bulletin Insert and more, so that greater familiarity with the Middle East is possible, including the long legacy of Christian presence there.

# Local Mission News



I would like to start by saying a big **THANK YOU** to everyone who purchased diapers or donated money and gift cards to our diaper drive. You have no idea how much these diapers are appreciated. Imagine leaving a baby in the same diaper all day long. Imagine trying to wash out a disposable diaper and re-use. This is what many low-income families have to do; not because they don't care but because it is their only option. Because of you, some babies will have some soft, clean tushes and I know they are blowing kisses to you all.

In February, the organizers of the **talent show** were nice enough to reach out to Missions and the offering will be used for the CREC Musical Instrument Fund. Who doesn't want kids to play musical instruments, right?



I would like to take this space to let the congregation know that anyone can **get involved** in missions at any time. If you have a project or organization that is near and dear to your heart; let us know. We often look at ways that we can help beyond what we are currently doing. We also have the expertise on the board to fact-find and see the mission behind the organization and where the biggest bang for the buck is. Encourage the kids to come to us also. Little hands make big impacts. You can always email me at [kariblaise@hotmail.com](mailto:kariblaise@hotmail.com)

Thank you for your continued support.

Kari

The Board for Missions is Kari McCaw - chair, Wendy Ware – secretary, Bob Inderbitzen, Marge Murk, Cindy Hunt and Lisa Eleck.

## Bible Study



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

Come join your Christian brothers as we pursue and try to understand God's words. All are welcome.

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

## **SHARING YOUR TIME AND TALENT**

It is the time in our year to think about how each of us feels called to participate in the life of our church. There are many opportunities for giving your time and talent. There are brochures available if you have questions about the various positions and the opportunities associated with each. If we can't answer your questions about the particular group we will put you in touch with someone who can.

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

With warm regards;

*Bill Hoffman    Candy Smith*

*Rich Pawlich-Pagliccio*

*Steph Heneghan*







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

I was in the children's section at a public library here in Connecticut, and noticed a special display: highlighted there were *children's* books about stress and anxiety. I was glad to see the display, for so many young people today are indeed experiencing stress and anxiety, but I was also sad because... so many young people today are indeed experiencing stress and anxiety! It's nice that there are now books which may be helping kids cope, but I always wonder: shouldn't our best response be to change or remove that which is causing the stress and anxiety in the first place? Studies and anecdotal evidence are now showing increased levels of anxiety in our younger population, and among a wider number.

What we do in church school and youth group matters greatly in this regard. A psychologist friend of mine actually suggests to his young clients that they consider joining a church youth program, for here is one place they can be welcomed, affirmed for who they are, and not asked to perform or achieve as if their self-worth (or college education) depends on it. Children can find here adults, who in addition to their parents, can be a supportive and caring presence for them.

Recently, here at RHCC, two of our church school students shared with their teacher how they are experiencing some problems with their classmates in public school. While RHCC church school teachers are not in a position to actually do something about public school interactions, the two students received the benefits of being able to offload their concerns to a caring adult, who affirmed them and gave them perspectives and strategies for dealing with their respective situations. This is not uncommon: church school and youth group are as much about ministering to young people as they are about education.

Even though adult volunteers may not feel completely adequate to teach the Bible, that is secondary to being someone who cares about young people. If you have a heart for young folks, would you please consider being a church school teacher or youth group chaperone? We can train you on the teaching part. All you need to bring is your caring heart.

Here is our upcoming schedule:

#### Topics for January 17 to February 7:

Pre-K to 1<sup>st</sup> grade: Love Is... (1 Corinthians 13)

Grades 2-5: Acceptance (1 Corinthians 12, Acts 10)

- We are all created in the image of God
- We believe God's love is for all people
- God's love is also for us – we need to accept ourselves
- When we recognize our diverse and unique gifts, we can work together to serve God and others
- It is important not to prejudge people
- We can work to accept others
- We can be sensitive to our own behaviors or language that may show prejudice
- We can learn about and show appreciation for other cultures, countries, and peoples

Grades 6-8: Being Called, How to Treat Others, Having a Healing Faith, Sharing

Topics for February 14 to March 6:

Pre-K to 1<sup>st</sup> grade: The Lost Sheep and Lost Coin

Grades 2-5: Burning Bush and Other Images of God

The children will:

- enlarge their understanding of God through exposure to new images of God;
- explore a variety of images of God in the Bible -- fire, rock, eagle, and light;
- explore the idea that the image of God can be revealed through them and their actions.

Grades 6-8: Knowing Jesus, Praising Jesus, Justice, Sharing Communion

If you are able and willing to help teach, lead an activity, or be a second adult in a classroom, please sign up in Chapin Hall or contact Georgette Huie or Kathy Morgan.

**Middle School Youth Group**

***On January 17***, we met to bake a casserole for feeding the homeless. In one hour, three of us (Nick Alessi, Steph Heneghan and Georgette) assembled a 25-person meal!

***On February 7***, we will celebrate the Lunar New Year.

**High School Youth Group**

***On January 10***, we met for a post-Christmas party. We enjoyed dinner, games, writing thank-you notes, and a gift exchange. Three of the youth (Victoria, Julia, and Brian) are committed to attending the UCC National Youth Event in July. We are tremendously grateful for the financial support we have received from the Cookie Walk and Church Fair.

***On January 31***, we will cook and serve the community dinner at Center Church in Hartford, with support from the Missions Committee.

**EPIPHANY PAGEANT 2016**









**From the Financial Secretary:**

Please contact me, Deb Copes, either by phone (860-729-6541 new number) or email ([deb.copes@gmail.com](mailto:deb.copes@gmail.com)) if you need pledging envelopes for our 2016 pledge year. I can leave them for you down in Chapin Hall or another place in the church convenient for you to pick them up. If you are interested in signing up for Vanco/electronic funds transfer for your pledge, I would be happy to help you do that. I do contribute via Vanco for everything – pledge, Scrip payment, Missions/Diaconate offerings – and it is very convenient. And I'm all about convenience! If you already use Vanco and need assistance changing your current pledge, I would be happy to assist you with that as well.



We encourage all members of Boards, Committees and the Church to share their news, events and photos for our facebook page, by sending these to [office@rhccucc.org](mailto:office@rhccucc.org). The facebook administrators will post it in a timely manner.

Don't forget to follow us on facebook for updates about Worship and Events!

<https://www.facebook.com/rhccucc>



## **Sound Healing Meditation with Tibetan Singing Bowls Friday, Feb 19, 7pm**

In sound healing meditation, we use the healing vibrations of the singing bowls to uplift the spirit, relax the body and quiet the mind.

Singing bowls developed in the region of Tibet a long time ago. A singing bowl is a bronze bowl ranging in size from a few inches to eighteen inches or more in diameter. It can be played to produce a pleasing sound. Metal singing bowls will usually produce a harmonic as well as a dominant tone. In other words, the bowl will produce a harmonic cord, not just a single note.

These instruments have been found to positively affect the body on many levels. The vibrations soothe the nervous system and invite the release of tight muscles, stress, anxiety, PTSD and depression.

Research has been done in the last decade or so about the effects of sound on the mind. It has been found that soothing sounds can actually alter the brainwaves that are produced. The sound of singing bowls definitely has that effect. Come and see what it can do for you, and bring a friend!



## **Thursday, February 11th at 6pm in Chapin Hall Missions Pizza Party with Special Guest Michael Joseph**

Come hear Common Global missionary Michael Joseph share the story of his 8 years of mission work in Colombia.

Michael is currently coordinating the Prophetic Call Human Rights Documentation Program. This project of the Peace Commission documents the impact of the war on Protestant and evangelical churches. Through the Prophetic Call Documentation Project, the Peace Commission can advocate on behalf of the church's victims to the State and international governments, as well as provide spiritual, emotional, financial and legal support to the victims of the conflict.

Michael grew up in Latin America (the child of missionaries to Brazil), and has lived roughly half of his life in the U.S. and half in different countries in Latin America. From a young age he has been interested in the relationship between the United States and Latin America; and Colombia is one of those places where the links are so very important. He says: "When you think of the U.S. and Columbian relationship, much has been focused on drugs and guns.....I think we can do a lot better than that. I think as a church in the United States we are called to be so much more than that."



# **SAVE THE DATE!!!**

**Sat. Feb. 27, 6pm**

## **Fourth Annual Talent Show and Chili Supper**



The Music Committee invites you to attend our **fourth annual** Talent Show and Chili Supper. This annual extravaganza of good food and good entertainment comes JUST at the point in mid-winter when we really need the warmth of chili and laughter!

1) If you have a TALENT to share, please communicate with Liz Reed-Swale. All talent is gratefully appreciated. In past years we have enjoyed folk singers, singing nuns, instrumentalists, pottery and science demonstrations, comedy and storytelling. just to name a few. Call Liz at (860) 428-3165.

2) If you can make a pot of CHILI to share, please contact Deb Copes (860) 729-6541 or Ruth Fitzgerald (860) 543-1520. Cornbread and dessert are also welcome! Please let us know.

Bring friends!! Bring family!! Invite the neighbors!! There is no charge for the event, but a free will offering will be taken and the proceeds doted to the CREC Musical Instrument Fund.

**HEAVENLY HELPERS** One of the most meaningful pastoral services that our church community offers is a memorial service and, for current or previous members, a reception for family and friends afterwards. Food, flowers and fellowship are staples of church family and are very much appreciated by those celebrating the life of someone they have known and loved. The number of folks available to offer this service is dwindling. Often, there is not much notice given for the event and the time and effort needed are easier when shared by many. Volunteers are asked to bake, or help for 2 hours of setting up, or two hours for serving and cleaning up.

The families who are served by this mission are so grateful and the act of having lightened the burden of grief is special for those of us who serve. Please, contact **Jan LaCava 860-529-2192 or Steph Heneghan 860-529-4672** to volunteer.





## **How can we be more visible in the wider community?**

A lively second hour discussion session after church on January 17<sup>th</sup> generated many ideas. Those attending were asked to consider our biblical mandate for being more active on social justice issues as Christ requires us to do. It was noted that this is the beginning of an on-going conversation. We were also reminded that our mission in this is not to add members (though that would be icing on the cake). Our mission is to be a good and faithful church in following Christ's teachings. Those attending were asked to share their ideas, hopes, and fears about what "more visible" would look like and what does "wider community" mean. Following is a summary of various thoughts that were shared:

- We want the wider community to know that this is a place where ideas can be shared and issues can be discussed—tactics may differ, but we should be clear about what we stand for
- We should have clarity about who we are and what we stand for to the community
- Community means Rocky Hill, larger Hartford area, the global community
- Support was mentioned for the banners as a first step in letting others know who we are.
- We should have programs for children and youth—things that they enjoy and want to attend and which are enriching
- When we invite others into our church we often miss an opportunity to show what goes on in our church community. Suggestions included:
  - More photos of children's programs and mission programs
  - Having prayer requests available and mentioned at events like the Comfort Dinner and other events/groups who meet here
  - Developing a bookmark to leave at every seat at events (such as Comfort Dinner or Roast Beef dinner, or other events and groups who meet here)
- Can we house or support a church-friendly activity or group or mission in some of the space that we are not using much?
- Our building is an asset; how can we get others involved in using it
- Trustees are currently in process to revise church use policy and are getting input from other churches. Many churches support mostly non-profits.
- Use social media more—especially Instagram to communicate with younger people
- Develop some pop-up mission projects/displays
- How do we get more participation in programs
  - Getting better and better at publicity
  - Personal invitation is best



- Hold a prayer or discussion group to which we invite people of different faiths
- Investigate possible social commentary programs to show and advertise to wider community. Specific ideas mentioned included documentary Salaam Neighbor and a UCC presentation on how to live as an open and affirming church.
- Point was made that open and affirming means EVERYONE.
- Even though our vision is one of inclusion, we don't want to exclude those who do not embrace inclusion.
- We really want to increase our diversity so that others will be able to see that there are other people who look like them in this church family. And to show diversity, we have to be out and actively involved in the wider community.
- It was noted that we have an opportunity to "practice" being with a diverse group of people at 60 West, and perhaps we could arrange some type of event there.
- We want to send a message that the poor are welcome by actively addressing hunger issues, welcoming people to events, actively seeking out those less privileged.

A specific idea was raised of holding a free Community Dinner on a regular basis (monthly? quarterly?) This would involve actively seeking out attendees from both inside and outside our existing church family. Craig noted that his previous church had a handbook on holding a community dinner—we will get a copy.

- We should learn to use our resources better:
  - Facebook posts can be sent to Craig, Theresa at the church office, Bob Inderbitzen, Dave Hall or Tom Rolfe
  - There is a budding Communications Ministry Team that can be consulted to help strategize on communicating events
  - There is a plan to update the website
- It was noted that we need Disciples—Champions and volunteers who will take one task or one initiative and make it happen
- It was suggested that we have a policy to always share our names and roles when we make an announcement in church (and not assume that everyone knows everyone else)
- It was noted that many people use our building and almost always use the back door—where we have no information about who we are or what we do or what activities are coming up.
- The Council is considering a new governance model with a smaller structure, but more room for Ad Hoc committees and Ministry Teams to mobilize on specific issues and projects.
- Council will challenge all Boards and Committees to think about this issue in light of their own mission and how they might want to address this more actively
- A specific idea was raised for a "Re-use Fair" near Earth Day, focusing on inviting artists who create art and objects by reusing materials of all types.



- It was noted that when we say we want more youth activities, we should not think of children and youth as “separate” from the rest of the church body, but that we should be thinking of ways to invite and integrate them into all of our missions and activities.
- Can we develop some personal connections with partner churches in other parts of the country or world? Many churches do this.

It was noted that some of these items or activities can begin right away. Others need ‘Disciple Champions’ and specific plans.

Submitted by Ruth Fitzgerald

We **warmly welcome** Kathleen Bergamo and Maurice (Mo) Wyman. Kathleen and Mo were received as new members during worship on Sunday, January 17, 2016. We are glad you’re here!

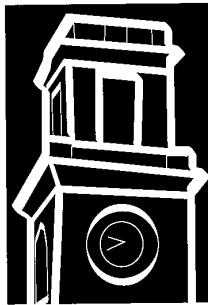
Interested in joining the church? Please contact the church office to speak with Pastor Craig Cowing or any Deacon. No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!



To my Rocky Hill Friends,

I want you all to know how much I was touched by the generosity of your gift to me. I am so appreciative of your thoughtfulness and will use it for something special. The Anniversary plate fits well in my dining room corner cabinet and will always remind me of my time with you. The beautiful peace plant is lovely addition to my living room. But most of all, I want to thank you for your support and your friendship through the years. That will remain with me always.

Thanks so much!  
Mitsey Baker



## WORSHIP SCHEDULE


Sunday Morning Worship

Communion 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday

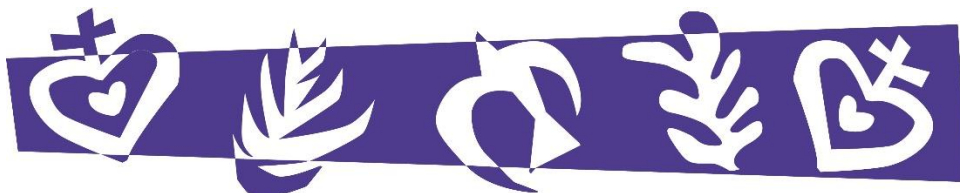
10:00 a.m. with childcare

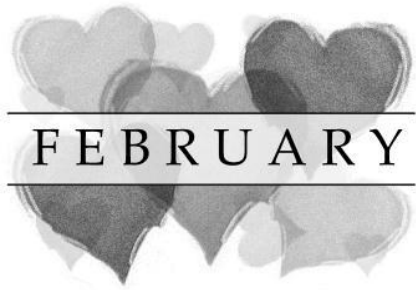


**CHILD**  
**care**  
Provided

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
	<b>1</b>  7:00pm Women's AA 7:30pm <b>Bell Choir</b>	<b>2</b> 6:00pm Kickboxing w/Caroline 7:00pm <b>Board and</b> <b>Committee Mtgs</b> 7:00pm Hearing Voices	<b>3</b>  6:00pm Pilates w/Caroline 7:30pm <b>Adult Choir</b>
<b>7</b> <b>Communion Sunday</b> 10:00am Worship <b>3:00 pm Rev. Cowing Installation</b> <b>service &amp; reception</b>  4:00pm Siragu Tamil <b>5:00pm High School Youth</b>	<b>8</b>  7:00pm Women's AA 7:30pm <b>Bell Choir</b>	<b>9</b> <b>Shrove Tuesday Gatherin</b> 3:00pm – set up <b>5:30-7:30pm</b>	<b>10</b>  <b>Chapel open</b> <b>for labyrinth</b> <b>meditation</b>  6:00pm Pilates w/Caroline 7:30pm <b>Adult Choir</b>
<b>14</b> <b>First Sunday in Lent</b> 10:00am Worship  4:00pm Siragu Tamil ..	<b>15</b> President's Day <b>Office Closed</b> <b>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</b> 7:00pm Women's AA 7:30pm <b>Bell Choir</b>	<b>16</b> 11:00am Retired Clergy  6:00pm Kickboxing 7:00pm Hearing Voices	<b>17</b> <b>9:00am Breakfast Club</b> <b>at Bob's Café</b> 6:00pm Pilates w/Caroline 7:30pm <b>Adult Choir</b>
<b>21</b> 10:00am Worship 11:30am <b>2<sup>nd</sup> hour – Gospels</b>  <b>3:00 pm Installation (snowdate)</b> 4:00pm Siragu Tamil	<b>22</b>  7:00pm Women's AA 7:30pm <b>Bell Choir</b>	<b>23</b> .. 6:00pm Cedar Hollow 7:00pm Hearing Voices	<b>24</b>  6:00pm Pilates w/Caroline 7:30pm <b>Adult Choir</b>
<b>28</b> 10:00am Worship 11:30am <b>2<sup>nd</sup> hour - Islam</b> 4:00pm Siragu Tamil	<b>29</b> <b>Newsletter Mailing</b> 7:00pm Women's AA 7:30pm <b>Bell Choir</b>		

**JOIN US FOR SUNDAY SECOND HOUR 11:30 am on Feb 21 & 28**



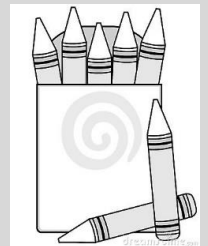


# 2016

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 8:30am Men's Christian Fellowship 11:00 am – Robert Ledder Memorial Service
<b>11</b> 9:30am Little Hands in Harmony Mission Speaker & Pizza 6pm Chapin Hall 7:30pm Men's AA in Rm 23	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>18</b> 9:30am Little Hands in Harmony 7:30pm Men's AA	<b>19</b> Harmonic Healing with Tibetan Singing Bowls 7pm Chapel	<b>20</b> 8:30am Men's Christian Fellowship
<b>25</b> 9:30am Little Hands in Harmony 7:30pm Men's AA	<b>26</b> 	<b>27</b> Talent Show & Chili Supper 6pm Chapin Hall

## Crayon Collection for Lent

Bring in your broken crayons for lent, as we reflect on our own 'broken-ness' during the Lenten Season. We'll have boxes posted near the doors and in Chapin Hall.



## *FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS*

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



Harry and Bev Schmidt  
were married on  
February 15, 1958



happy anniversary



## HISTORIAN NOTES – FEBRUARY 2016



In 1893, Bernared Steiner observed in colonial Connecticut that each large village had a 'negro' corner in the Meeting House gallery and in the graveyard. Winthrop D. Jordan points out that the segregation of blacks in colonial churches reflected a social worldview based on distinctions. It categorized the "orders of men", white and blacks. Social order placed African Americans at the lowest rung of the ladder. Or up the stairs, if the most remote corner happened to be above ground level. In Rocky Hill, blacks were banished from the body of the building and the galleries; they had to go to a stall "high up behind the singer's gallery, and at the farthest possible remove from the pulpit."

I know this information may upset some but I wanted to tell it not to shame and ridicule but to show it as a *shining example of how far we have come*. We now have blacks behind the pulpit and in front of it, near it and far because we now have the freedom of choice. Rocky Hill Congregational Church UCC has chosen love!

Happy Black History Month!

*Kari McCaw, RHCC Historian*

**"You must never  
be fearful about  
what you are  
doing when it is  
right."**

**Rosa Parks**

**ROCKY HILL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**  
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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.



## SHROVE TUESDAY/ASH WEDNESDAY GATHERING

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

*Tuesday, February 9 5:30-7:30pm*

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



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