



The Church Mouse

The Reverend Craig L. Cowing, Pastor
ccowing@rhccucc.org

Georgette L. Huie, Minister for Children and Youth
ghuie@rhccucc.org

Mary DeLibero, Minister of Music
mary@rhccucc.org
860-529-4167 Church

February 2018 Newsletter

RHCC e-mail address – office@rhccucc.org
Website: www.rhccucc.org

Office Hours – 9:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m. Monday-Thursday
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Friday
Sunday Worship Services – 10:00 a.m.

Childcare Available/Handicap Accessible

February 13 – Shrove Tuesday Supper and Worship Service - 5:30 p.m.



Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday will be celebrated by
Inreach and Faith Formation. On February 13th at 5:30pm.

Please join us for pancakes, activities and music; and then we will turn our
hearts and minds to the reflective time of Lent, as celebrated with a service
of prayer and ashes. We are collecting bits of yarn to be re-purposed on
Holy Saturday. Sign up in Chapin Hall or call Steph Heneghan.

A Journey  Through Lent



We didn't use paraments in the sanctuary that indicated the different seasons, such as purple for Lent, blue for Advent, etc. Instead it was always green--which ironically is the color for "ordinary time." It was always ordinary time at Center Church. No differentiation. I first learned about liturgical colors and seasons in college when I ran the chapel program during my junior and senior years. The sense that I got was that only "high church" congregations used them. In fact, I hadn't heard the terms "low" and "high" church until that time. It was an eye-opener.

In my early years I downplayed the significance of the seasons, only gradually learning to appreciate the significance of each one. I learned that the origin of the seasons was to give new Christians a sense of the progression of events in the New Testament, beginning with the birth of Jesus, moving through his ministry, to the crucifixion and resurrection of Holy Week and Easter, then the birth of the Christian Church at Pentecost. After that the season lapses into green ordinary time.

The other origin of my resistance to liturgical seasons was that I saw it as too high church. For years I resisted doing Ash Wednesday services because it was "too Catholic." I've grown beyond that now.

don't like to be rigid about the seasons, but I see the liturgical calendar as a way to appreciate the cycle of the year that carries us through the experiences of our lives.

And, I love stoles. Lots of them. Bright, colorful. So much so that I make them for myself.

In Christ,

Pastor Craig



The CAC is still demanding major corrections to the living conditions from negligent landlord Immanuel Ku. The city council along with Mayor Brown and Congressman Larson are working collectively to cease landlord Ku's repeated inaction of some of the violations of repairs.

CAC is making strides in its faith-based organizing initiative. This past November and December, CAC held six workshops for potential core team members from within various congregations. Over 120 people participated! CAC will begin holding trainings for the congregations' core teams toward the end of January 2018. Your prayers are appreciated as we move forward in moral power needed to make Greater Hartford a more just and equitable place.

Rev. AJ Johnson, CAC Organizer, received the Drum Major Award from the greater Hartford Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance for his outstanding work in the Greater Hartford Community. They presented the award to him at their annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration Service. You can view part of his acceptance speech on CAC's Facebook page.

Peace,

Rich Pawlich-Pagliccio

CAC Strategic Planning & Program Committee

Events and Fair Committee February Report – Plans for 2018

Hello from your Events & Fair Committee. We thought we should let you know in advance of what events we have planned for this year.

- May 12th will be our Spring Breakfast and Plant Sale – Don't forget mom and come down and buy her a plant or two and enjoy breakfast with friends.
- Memorial Day Parade, pending on the weather we will be trying again to have soda, flags and donuts for the attendees of the parade.
- June 2nd, we will be holding our 2nd annual Craft Fair.
- October 20th will be our famous Country Fair.



We hope that you will mark your calendars for the fun! We are also looking for new members to join and looking for a secretary to take notes during the meetings. The Secretary does not have to become a member if he or she doesn't want to. We are also inviting all members of the church to feel free to attend our meetings to listen and to share their ideas. -Your Events & Fair Committee



Ok – I have a confession to make: I have never really liked pageants, whether being in them or directing them. So when I learned, in my first month here at RHCC, that the Epiphany Pageant is a mainstay and that I would be in charge of the whole thing, well, let's just say I was not thrilled. But, now in my third year of getting to know the children and after directing my third pageant (this past January 7), my heart and mind have changed. As Dave Hall has quipped: I had an epiphany!

I saw the unbounded joy of the youngest children as they dressed up in the animal costumes of their choice and were included among those worshipping the baby Jesus. I saw how two or three of the shyest children cast off their security blankets – on their own – and put themselves out there. I saw how two or three older children, who like me are not necessarily thrilled about pageants, stepped it up to fill roles and to be of help to the younger children. I saw how Board for Faith Formation members coalesced as one to ensure complete coverage of all the kids.

It seems that dressing up in costumes and putting on a play about Jesus enabled us all to be a little braver, a little more joyous, a little more focused and in the moment. For all this and more, I am grateful for the Epiphany Pageant and look forward to next year's!

Bob Inderbitzen captured the pageant so beautifully through his photos. Check them out on Facebook or on the hallway bulletin board, and see in them once more the majesty and joy of Christmas and Epiphany.

Here is our upcoming schedule:



Church School

From February 11-25, the children in Pre-K to 5th grade will be learning about “Abraham and Sarah.” They will explore the following concepts:

- In the book of Genesis, we find how Abraham and Sarah were the first people to be called the People of God. God promised Abraham that a great nation would come from his and Sarah's descendants.
- Although Abraham and Sarah were beyond the customary age for starting a family, they trusted God and left their home as God told them.
- Many years passed, while Abraham and Sarah had to wait, until God fulfilled the promise made.

Grades 6-8 will focus on the following topics: Knowing Jesus, Praising Jesus, Giving Generously

Youth Groups

The High School Youth Group watched the movie *Babe* on January 7, and helped move pageant costumes and props back to the attic. We will make and sell Super Bowl sub sandwiches to raise funds for our summer mission trip on February 4, and will enjoy the pancakes at the Shrove Tuesday/Ash Wednesday event on February 13.

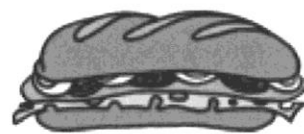
The Middle School Youth Group held its belated Christmas party on January 14, and will be making and serving the dinner at Center Church in Hartford on January 28. We will attempt an Escape Room on February 11, and make potstickers on February 18 to celebrate Chinese New Year.

Georgette Huie





High School Youth Group *Super Sub* Fundraiser!



Proceeds to support the youth mission trip to West Virginia

Return this completed form to Theresa with your payment, or slip under Georgette's office door or email it to Georgette (ghuie@rhccucc.org). Your order will be ready for pick-up after worship on Sunday, February 4.

Your Name: _____

Bread (6 inches): White _____ or Wheat _____

Dressing: Mayonnaise _____ Yellow Mustard _____
 Honey Mustard _____ Dijon Mustard _____
 Guacamole _____ Hummus _____

Meats: Bacon (\$1 extra) _____ Ham _____ Roast Beef _____
 Turkey _____ Salami _____ (You can check more than one)

Cheese: American _____ Cheddar _____ Provolone _____
 Swiss _____

Veggies: Lettuce _____ Tomato _____ Raw Onion _____
 Black Olives _____ Roasted red peppers _____

For a complete meal:

 Banana _____ or Chocolate Chip Cookie _____

Complete meal includes chips, bottle of water and a cookie or banana: _____ \$10

Sub sandwich only: _____ \$8 with bacon: _____ \$9 or _____ \$11

Checks can be made out to RHCC, memo: youth group



Icons for February

February is Black History Month, so in honor of that the Icon of the Month for February 1-13 will be of Rosa Parks (1913-2005). Parks became known to the wider world after her refusal to give up her seat in the "colored section" to a white passenger, after the whites-only section was filled. This sparked the Montgomery, Alabama Bus Boycott, which marks the beginning of the modern civil rights movement. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., a local pastor, became a leader of this movement.

From February 14-28, the first part of Lent, the icon will be John the Baptist. This is a copy of one of the earliest icons in existence, painted for the Monastery of St. Catherine at Mt. Sinai and dating from the late 400's to early 500's. The original is in a museum in Kiev, Ukraine. John the Baptist figures prominently during Lent as the forerunner of Jesus. It is quite possible that Jesus was one of his disciples.

Visit anytime for prayer and contemplation in the Weil Chapel.

Missions Update



This is a generous congregation, and through your support, we're changing lives...here, near, and far. Throughout the Christmas season, you helped us respond to a handful of collections to support the needs of our neighbors impacted by poverty, hunger, homelessness, and other challenges. Thank you!

2,363 Diapers. That's how many diapers were contributed during the Epiphany Pageant in early January. A special note of gratitude to Wendy and Steve Ware for delivering the diapers to The Diaper Bank, which distributes free diapers to poor families in Connecticut.

March of the Toys! Our annual Christmas toy drive for Hartford Seminary was a huge success. The toys were delivered by Marge Murk to the seminary – and were distributed to social workers and organizations supporting children throughout the Hartford area.

\$590 in Gift Cards. Thanks to your generous donations, Heather Collins was able to present our Covenant to Care social worker with gift cards to support the children they serve in foster care.

Warm Heart Tree! We're grateful to Gail Tine for re-introducing the Tom and Doris Schreier Warm Heart Tree. Sadly, we lost Doris in 2016 and Tom last September. They had both started this ministry and supported it for many years: collecting donated hats, gloves, mittens, and scarves on one of the church's Christmas trees. Gail reports that there were over 500 items donated this year! She distributed the items to many organizations including the VA Center on Elm Street, Children's Alliance of Foster & Adoptive Families, South Park Inn Shelter in Hartford, and the Rocky Hill Food Bank. Gail says, "one woman was so happy to have a 'church' hat! (someone had donated a black dress hat)." This small ministry is a great reminder of how significantly our small congregation can help change lives!

Finally, the following contributions were made in January:

\$12,000 - Basic Support for Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM). Each year, the Board for Missions makes a significant contribution on behalf of our congregation to the United Church of Christ to support mission across the country and around the globe. The monies are split between the Connecticut Conference and the national setting of the UCC. This money is important to sustain global partnerships, missionaries, and advocacy. For example, did you know that UCC staff traveled to marches, rallies, and vigils such as those in Standing Rock, North Dakota; Flint, Michigan; and Orlando, Florida? OCWM makes it possible to live out the vision of the United Church of Christ: United in Christ's love, a just world for all.

Missions Update



This is a generous congregation, and through your support, we're changing lives...here, near, and far. Throughout the Christmas season,

\$550 – Strengthen the Church Offering. This is one of four special UCC offerings supported each year by our congregation. The money is used to support church growth, pastoral and lay leadership development, youth and young adult ministries within conferences and administered by Local Church Ministries.

\$733 – Neighbors in Need. This is also one of the special UCC offerings. One-third of this offering supports the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM) and two-thirds is administered by Justice and Witness Ministries to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants.

\$500 – The Christmas Fund. This special UCC offering, administered by the Pension Boards, provides direct financial assistance to retired and active United Church of Christ authorized ministers and lay employees and their surviving spouses, including pension and health premium supplementation, emergency assistance, and Christmas thank-you checks.

\$496.50 – Hartford Association, UCC. This per capita contribution (\$1.50 per member) helps sustain the work of our Hartford Association of UCC churches. The majority of their expenses provide support for volunteer delegates traveling to General Synod (every 2 years), donations to support the good work of the Christian Activities Council in Hartford, and support youth attending the National Youth Event and Silver Lake summer camp.

THANK YOU from the Board for Missions: Heather Collins, Anita Hawkins, Bob Inderbitzen (co-chair), Marge Murk, Elaine Sellenberg, Sue Speers, Wendy Ware (co-chair), and Benevolence Treasurer Kathy Morgan



Dixieland Music Returns on Transfiguration Sunday



The day before Ash Wednesday is commonly referred to as “Shrove Tuesday”. The word “shrove,” the past tense of “shrive,” is an old English word which means to hear a confession, and in doing so to become absolved from sin. Shrove Tuesday is a reminder to many Christians that we are entering a season of penance, since Lent begins on Ash Wednesday.

Mardi Gras is a globally-recognized celebration and is sometimes considered somewhat hedonistic, but like Shrove Tuesday its roots lie in the Christian calendar as the last celebration before Lent on Ash Wednesday. Mardi Gras reaches its climax on Shrove Tuesday with Dixieland-style music as a dominant feature.

For churches that follow the Revised Common Lectionary, the Sunday before Lent is known as “Transfiguration Sunday,” and is the Sunday when we celebrate the revelation of Christ’s glory “before the passion” so that we may “be strengthened to bear our cross and be changed into his likeness.”

Beginning in 2006, our church has taken advantage of its musical resources and diversity by engaging various vocal and instrumental ensembles to provide Dixieland-style music during the morning worship service on Transfiguration Sunday. Since 2009, our own in-house Dixieland Combo has evolved to provide the full complement of worship music for these services, including hymns, anthems, meditations, and celebratory postludes.

We will continue that recent tradition on Transfiguration Sunday on February 11, 2018. Please join us as we celebrate the final Sunday of Epiphany before transitioning to the more reflective season of Lent.



Sunday, February 11th at 11am – Second Hour gathering for knitting. Join Anita Hawkins and others for a friendly time of ‘making’.

RHCC hosted one of eleven Focus Groups being held in CT, MA and RI to further discuss the proposed Together, As One conference. Over 50 people attended the meeting that was held at our church on Saturday, January 20th from 2 - 3:30 PM.



Governance Update

In mid-November, the Governance Committee released a preliminary draft of a proposed Constitution, embodying many of the organizational concepts that we've been discussing over the past several years. Thanks to those of you who took time to read through the draft and provide comments. Your feedback definitely led to some revisions in several sections, helped us to clarify concepts that were not well defined, and generally improved the entire document.

On December 18th, we released our final version of the proposed Constitution. This Dec 18th release date was important, ***because we plan to vote to adopt this proposal at the Budget and Elections Meeting on March 18***, and we are required to publish Constitutional revisions three months in advance of any vote.

This new Constitution, if adopted, will be effective at the start of the next fiscal year – May 1, 2018. While this is technically a “final” draft, we expect that more changes will be necessary over the first year as we begin to operate under the new format.

In the next several months, we'll be formulating transition plans with the existing Boards and Committees, and we hope to host a second hour program to promote greater understanding.

Meanwhile, since we know the Constitution itself can be rather dry and legalistic, we've also published a set of “frequently asked questions” (FAQ) to try to articulate how the changes may impact us in more conversational language. Hard copies of both documents – the Constitution and the FAQ – can be picked up at the church, or you may request digital copies (in pdf format) by emailing Dave Hall at treasurer@rhccucc.org.

Governance Committee: Deb Copes, Craig Cowing, Ruth Fitzgerald, Dave Hall, Marsha Hoffman

NOMINATING TIME

It's that time of year again! Time to think about how each of us feels called to participate in the life of our church. There are many opportunities for sharing your time and talent. As you know, the church is considering governance revision which will result in some changes to how we do things. But there are still many, many opportunities to serve. For questions about a particular board or committee or ministry, please contact someone currently serving or one of us on the Nominating Committee.



Blessings,

Bill Hoffman (860-563-1367), Ruth Fitzgerald (860-232-2238), Candy Smith, and Rich Pawlich-Pagliccio.



LENTEN PROGRAMS AT RHCC UCC
SECOND HOUR PROGRAMS
SPECIAL WORSHIP SERVICES

Sunday, February 18 at 11:00 a.m.

The Reformation: Puritanism in England 1550-1650.

In this program we'll look at how Puritanism developed in England and influenced the development of Puritanism in America.

Wednesday, February 28 at 6:30 p.m.

Early Christian Service, held in the Weil Chapel. This will be a communion service in the style of a worship service in the early church ca. 200 AD.

Sunday, March 4 at 11:00 a.m.

The Reformation: Puritanism in America, 1620-1700

In this program we'll look at how Puritanism became the impetus for migration to the New World, and how it influenced the formation of American traditions.

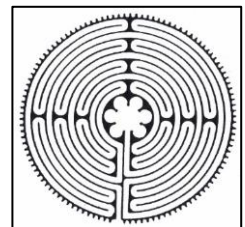
Wednesday, March 14 at 6:30 p.m.

Early Christian Service, held in the Weil Chapel. This will be a communion service in the style of a worship service in the early church ca. 200 AD.

We hope that you will find these programs interesting and enlightening.

Walking the Labyrinth - On Ash Wednesday February 14, the Chapel will be open from 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 a.m for walking the labyrinth. 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?



February Birthdays

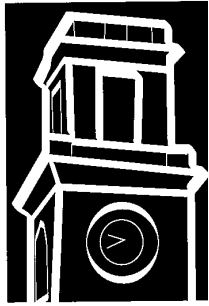
1	Anthony Asarisi, Jr.	17	Owen Geddes
1	Cynthia Hunt	18	Kathy Bighinatti
1	Doreen Grandell	18	Alexander Benson
3	Teagan Reed-Swale	19	Leona Griswold
4	Bill Timrud	20	Midge Harvey
5	Kimberly Sweezy	22	Brendan Flynn
6	Cole Triblets	22	Nathaniel Ware
6	Ryan Madsen	23	Scott Bengston
7	Angelo Rutigliano	23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



happy anniversary

Brian and Sherry Silkowski were married on February 18, 2008

Harry and Bev Schmidt were married on February 15, 1958



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday Morning Worship

Communion 1st Sunday

10:00 a.m. with childcare

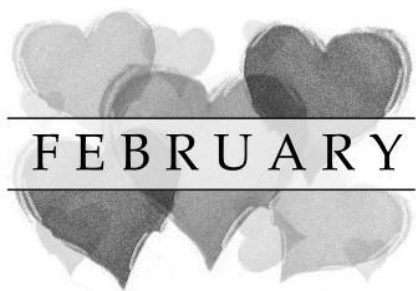


CHILD
care
Provided

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
<i>Childcare is available during worship every Sunday in Room 4</i>			
4 Communion Sunday 10:00am Worship Church school Super Sub Fundraiser!	5 7:00pm Women's AA 7:30pm Bell Choir	6 7:00pm Boards and Committees 7:00pm Hearing Voices	7 7:30pm Choir
11 10:00am Worship Dixieland Sunday 11am Knitting Group Church school 5:30 MS Youth 5pm Confirmation class	12 7:00pm Women's AA 7:30pm Bell Choir	13 SHROVE TUESDAY 5:30pm 7:00pm Council 7:00pm Hearing Voices	14 ASH WEDNESDAY <i>Prayer in Chapel</i> 9:00am Breakfast Club at Bob's Coffee Shop 7:30pm Choir
18 10:00am Worship First Sunday of Lent Church school Lenten 2nd Hour Program <i>No Youth Group – winter break</i>	19 <i>President's Day</i> OFFICE CLOSED <i>Little Scholars closed</i> 7:00pm Bonsai Group 7:00pm Women's AA 7:30pm Bell Choir	20 <i>Little Scholars closed</i> 7:00pm Hearing Voices	21 7:30pm Choir
25 10:00am Worship Church school 5:30pm MS Youth group 5pm Confirmation class	26 Newsletter mailing 7:00pm Women's AA 7:30pm Bell Choir	27 6:00pm Cedar Hollow 7:00pm Hearing Voices	28 6:30pm Lenten Service 7:30pm Choir

SHROVE TUESDAY/ASH WEDNESDAY GATHERING
Tuesday, February 13, 5:30pm
Join us as we move from dancing into a time of preparation.





2018



Rocky Hill Schools
Winter Break
Feb 16-20

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 9:30am Music Together 7:30pm Men's AA	2 9am LSP/Music 6pm Tamil School	3
8 9:30am Music Together 7:30pm Men's AA	9 9am LSP/Music 6pm Tamil School	10
15 <i>Preschool Closed</i> 9:30am Music Together Newsletter deadline 7pm Tibetan Bowls 7:30pm Men's AA	16 <i>Preschool Closed</i> <i>(No Tamil School)</i>	17
22 9:30am Music Together 7pm Events Committee 7:30pm Men's AA	23 6pm Tamil School	24

Sound Healing Meditation with Tibetan Singing Bowls Thursday, February 15, 7pm

The healing vibrations of the singing bowls can uplift the spirit, relax the body and quiet the mind. Come and see what it can do for you, and bring a friend! Free will food offerings support the Rocky Hill Food Pantry.



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

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

Permit #7

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED
TIME VALUE MAIL

Mailed January 30, 2018



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.

DIXIELAND SUNDAY FEBRUARY 11

Beginning in 2006, our church has taken advantage of its musical resources by engaging various vocal and instrumental ensembles to provide Dixieland-style music during the morning worship service on Transfiguration Sunday.

Since 2009, our own in-house Dixieland Combo has evolved to provide the full complement of worship music for these services, including hymns, anthems, meditations, and celebratory postludes.

We will continue that recent tradition on Transfiguration Sunday on February 11, 2018. Please join us as we celebrate the final Sunday of Epiphany before transitioning to the more reflective season of Lent.

