



The Reverend Donna K. Manocchio, Senior Pastor
donna@rhccucc.org
Meghan D. Young, Acting Associate Pastor
Minister for Faith Formation
meghan@rhccucc.org
Mary DeLibero, Minister of Music
mary@rhccucc.org



January 2013 Newsletter

Editor – Carol Harvey
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Saturday, January 26, 2013 at 5:30 PM Chapin Hall

Tossed Salad and Rolls • Hot Vegetables
Meat Loaf, Mashed Potato and Gravy • Ham, Macaroni & Cheese
Variety of Desserts • Coffee, Tea, Hot Chocolate, Soda

Entertainment by Magician Tommy James

\$10.00 – Adults; \$5.00 – 4 to 12 years;

Free – Children under 4 years old

Please reserve tickets: Joan Tennyson 860-529-8789
Tickets for sale beginning January 6 during Coffee Hour

Snow date: January 27, 2013



A contemporary theologian has described mercy as “entering into the chaos of another.” Christmas is really a celebration of the mercy of God who entered the chaos of our world in the person of Jesus, mercy incarnate. I have never found it easy to be with people

who suffer, to enter into the chaos of others. Yet, every time I have done so, it has been a gift to me, better than the wrapped and ribboned packages. I am pulled out of myself to be love’s presence to someone else, even as they are love’s presence to me.

I will never satisfactorily answer the question “Why?” because no matter what response I give, it will always fall short. What I do know is that an unconditionally loving presence soothes broken hearts, binds up wounds, and renews us in life. This is a gift that we can all give, particularly to the suffering. When this gift is given, God’s love is present and Christmas happens daily.—From an opinion piece written by Father Kevin O’Neil in the New York Times, December 25, 2012

Dear friends,

As the calendar pages turn to a new year, the images and questions from last year linger and some days are ever so hard to shake: children’s faces, firefighters in uniform, grieving families and communities. Our hearts break. We wonder why. We ask how such violence can happen. We light candles and ring bells; we pray for the victims and the survivors. We sing for peace to begin.

The year also ended with our celebration of Christmas, of love coming into the world in Jesus Christ. In the vulnerable and fragile state of a child, God chose to be made known. The song of angels announced his coming to those considered unworthy living in the fields. Those in power sought to have the Christ child killed, and his family sought safety in a country not their own. Chaos swirled in the world Jesus was born into, and was to it and to us as Kevin O’Neil writes, mercy incarnate.

For those of us who seek to follow Jesus, we are called to do the same - to be mercy incarnate in our families, workplaces, schools, church and community. How can we demonstrate unconditional love and mercy in word and action to the people we share our life and world with, especially as O’Neil says, those who are suffering? Each day presents the opportunity to answer this question.

Let us pray for the open hearts and hands to respond.

With peace,
Donna



We've all been touched and troubled by the tragic killing of schoolchildren and teachers in Newtown, CT this past December. Our ministers' immediate reaction to this tragedy was to organize a prayer vigil in our sanctuary on that same Friday night. Members and clergy of all the churches in Rocky Hill were invited to join us, as

well as all the other citizens of Rocky Hill.

Clergy from three other churches in Rocky Hill joined Donna and Meghan in leading the service. The sanctuary was filled, partly with RHCC, UCC members, but mostly with neighbors and friends who don't attend our church. We prayed together and sang together and cried together. And the common reaction was "...it was so good to be together at a time like this..."

What a wonderful sentiment to carry forward into the Epiphany season! We Christians are meant to worship together, not only "at a time like this", but every time. Won't you plan to join us in worship – every time?

Bill Hoffman, for the Deacons

The Board of Deacons

Spiritual Welfare

Membership Vitality

Ministering



On Friday, December 21, Ruth Fitzgerald (representing the Music Committee) and Pastors Donna and Meghan delivered \$850 in cash and gift cards to Mark Williams, Director of Human Services for the Town of Rocky Hill. The funds were a combination of the collection at the Lessons and Carols program and ongoing donations through the SCRIP program. Mark expressed his gratitude to the church for its ongoing and generous support, and we were delighted to help make a difference in the lives of town residences. Thanks to everyone for their generosity that enabled this donation!



**GETTING TO KNOW YOU:
An information session about RHCC, UCC
Sunday, January 13
2:00 – 3:30 PM**

Are you new to RHCC? Have you been worshipping with us for a while and desire to know more about our church community? Perhaps you're even thinking about joining the church on January 20. If so, please join the pastors and other church members at a session that includes basic information about the church including:

- RHCC mission and history
- our denominational affiliation: the United Church of Christ
- boards and committees
- church staff
- becoming a member
- belonging to the church
- YOUR QUESTIONS

CHILD CARE WILL BE PROVIDED.

Sign up in Chapin Hall or contact one of the pastors for further information.

**INTERESTED IN JOINING THE RHCC FAMILY?
New Member Sunday Scheduled for January 20, 2013**

We will receive new members into our church family on **Sunday, January 20, 2013**. The morning begins with a breakfast gathering at 9:00 AM, followed by the reception of new members during the 10:00 AM service, and concludes with a reception during coffee hour. If you have been with us as a visitor and would like to enter into full membership, please contact one of the pastors. Those interested are also invited to attend a "Getting to Know You" session on Sunday, January 13, from 2:00 – 3:30 PM.

Global and Local Mission News

JOY, BIRTH, STARTING ANEW



This missions article was started early in December. The title was inspired by the story of Mary and Elizabeth and their joy, to learn they would be bearing sons; one the Son of God and the other his cousin John the Baptist. In the midst of their respective miracles, unanswered questions, and probable fears, they were able to revel in the wonder and joy of the coming births. Faith is such a powerful thing. There is little that can bring hope greater than the birth of a child, which breathes new life into every fiber of the family structure. Likewise, we cherish those ties when our church community baptizes a new child who brings hope to our church community. That child is the newest generation and the hope of all hopes for starting anew.

On December 14, 2012, we saw this hope crushed for many families and their community as the unspeakable unfolded at Sandy Hook Elementary School. For these families, friends, students, teachers, the town in Newtown, and our nation, hope was swept away in an ugly tide of violence. We all looked on, horrified, as the details unfolded. We want to make sense of it but we know we never will. We want to do something, knowing fully that no amount of gifts or money will soften the shock, or turn back the clock to prevent the tragedy.

We here at Rocky Hill Congregational Church are always ready to do what is necessary for those in need, but death is final and we can't erase the awful memories of the witnesses and survivors. The newsletter gives details of our initial response. The one thing we have to give in abundance at this time is prayer. Let us not forget the pain of others in this season of our Christ's birth. Hope that they will find comfort in time, knowing their loved ones are with God.

Matthew 19:14

"...but Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs."

Let us now and always, continue to listen and hear the need of others, outside and within the walls of our congregation.

Yours in Christ,

Linda Calcagni
Chair, Board for Missions

BLANKET CARDS REPORT – Benefitting Church World Service. Thank you to everyone who purchased a Christmas blanket card. Find your Joy in keeping someone warm this season. Thanks also to Marge Murk for running this activity for Missions.

December 9th – TOY DRIVE REPORT – The response to this year’s toy drive was overwhelming! Kari reports that each Sunday the ornaments on the CARE TREE were gone within minutes.

In the true generous spirit of the Holiday and RHCC tradition, approximately 80 gifts were purchase for the clients of our Covenant-to-Care social worker, Jessica Flemati.

Additionally \$250.00 worth of gift cards were given to Jessica, which will be used to provide some parents an opportunity to shop for their child. Thanks to all of you and Kari McCaw-Blaise, for organizing this Local Mission Project.

Up and Coming Events:

Look for upcoming information on a “Missions Exploration.” During Lent, the Board for Missions will be using their second-hour opportunity to have an all-age, all-gender “exploration” where we will do a hands-on activity(ies) to benefit a local recipient. We will also break into groups for your input as to what kinds of things you might like to see done for local missions. 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.

Since last month, ***your generosity has helped the following:***

- Neighbors in Need 687.00
- Hartford Assoc. Dues 882.00
- Volunteer Care Teams
- of Rocky Hill 500.00
- Interval House 600.00
- Families in Crisis 700.00
- OCWM 5,500.00

Total Jewelry Sales for the Haiti Project – drumroll please – \$2,231.20!!!
(Goes directly back to Haiti to the Artists who designed and made the jewelry)

The Board for Missions extends its gratitude to all who supported this project by bringing in boxes and purchasing jewelry. Thank you Phyllis Wilkey for donating strands of beads and other jewelry to be “up-cycled” into new jewelry pieces. Extra special thanks go to Lisa Eleck for holding the jewelry sale. If anyone is interested in hosting his or her own jewelry party please see Linda Calcagni, Meghan Montana, or Lisa Eleck. Thanks again!

Your Board For Missions Members: David Bell - Treasurer, Michael Bower, Linda Calcagni – Chair, Bob Carberry, Jim Day, Cindy Hunt, Thomas Kainamura, Meghan Montana – Vice-chair, Kari-McCaw-Blaise – Secretary, Sarah Mosure.

RHCC's Response to the Newtown Tragedy: Loving Acts of Contribution and Kindness

Sunday, January 6, 2013 – Collection and Star Gifts
Wednesday, January 30, 2013- A Night of Kindness

On Friday, December 14, 2012 tragedy struck Sandy Hook School, the town of Newtown, the state and the nation. By now, we are all too familiar with the details about the loss of life and loss of innocence. On that first night, we held a town wide vigil to remember the children of God whose lives were lost and to offer our prayers of love and support. A week later, we gathered again to ring the church bells in remembrance and to pray for peace.

The needs for victims' families and all those affected by the violence can seem overwhelming. And they certainly will be ongoing. The Board for Missions, in conversation with the pastors and church leadership, has decided on two immediate responses – loving acts of contribution and loving acts of kindness.

For the loving acts of contributions, the church will collect monetary donations for those most impacted by the tragedy. The CT Conference of the United Church of Christ has organized a "Care for Newtown" appeal, and all funds collected in church will be sent to this appeal. Funds from the "Care for Newtown" are being sent to religious leaders in Newtown, who are in direct contact with those most in need. **FUNDS will be collected as part of Epiphany Pageant Sunday, JANUARY 6 and through January 30th.** The Board for Missions will match all funds up to \$1,000.

Also on January 6, individuals and families will receive "star gifts," an Epiphany tradition. Each "gift" will contain an invitation to participate in the "Random Acts of Kindness" effort that has emerged from the tragedy, most famously from NBC news correspondent Ann Curry. For the month of January, church members are invited to commit acts of kindness such as sending a thank you note to teachers and principals, bringing food to the homeless, sending a card to a neighbor, buying coffee for a stranger, paying for someone's groceries standing behind you in line. Kindness can transform the receiver, the giver, and the world. On Wednesday, January 30 at 5:30 – 7:00 PM, we will gather for a "Night of Kindness" to hear these stories of transformation from each other. Like the summer's "supper and service" program, you are invited to bring a favorite pot luck item. We will share prayers, stories, and the sacrament of communion.

In tragedies, some effects begin to show themselves months or even years afterwards. Please know that the Board for Missions and church leadership will continue to stay informed on the ways people and congregations can respond to all of God's children.

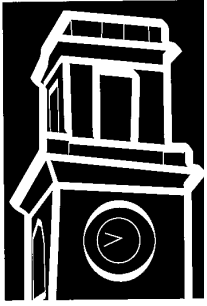


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| 01 Gladys Kitchens
Juliana Moot
Samantha Dion | 17 Kenneth Rousseau
Jeff Peisach
Ellen Scully |
| 02 Amy Dion
Jennifer Tennyson
Carl Hokans | 18 Grace Cole
Daphne Donahue
Edward Anderson |
| 03 Fred Nashold
Rose Lewis | 19 Anne King |
| 04 Michael Bighinatti
Jack Malespini
Ray Laporte | 20 Lois Stevens
Nancy Flynn |
| 05 Babs Wheeler | 21 Liz Vann
William Cordes
Lindsey Nunes |
| 06 Joan-Marie Schaefer
Wayne Pipke
William Day
JoDee Lupacchino | 22 Betty McKinney
Charlotte Bacon |
| 07 Julie Anzulewicz | 23 Nancy Newton |
| 08 Brian Silkowski
Thomas Day | 24 Doris Hick
Dorothy Carruthers
Joe Tokarski
Andrew Harvey
Candy Smith |
| 09 Debra Peterson
Ryan Charamut
Melody Hall | 25 Sylvia Steucek
Ron Robbins
John Engel II |
| 10 Natalie Tine
Nicolis Alessi | 26 Spencer Rupaka
Sarah Bell
Brian Bell |
| 11 Gregory Pickett | 27 Judy Graham
Alison MacNeil
Emma Vann |
| 12 David Dean
Daniel MacNeil | 28 Laura Pandolfo |
| 13 Robert Speers
Louis DiRenzo | 29 Toryn Pulling |
| 14 Arthur Murk | 30 Jason Montana |
| 15 Frederick Ellegard
Mark Sheehan | 31 Judy Tatem
Laurel Cole |
| 16 Doris Schreier
Martin Sudell, Jr.
Kathryn Eichner
Logan Torres | |



John and Midge Sword
were married on
January 19, 1947

Percy and Nancy Hall
were married on
January 27, 1951



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



GOOD
care
 Provided



2013

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
		1 Office Closed	2 7:30pm Adult Choir
6 Communion Sunday 10:00am Epiphany Pageant 6:00pm Epiphany Gathering Scrip Deadline	7 5:30pm Yoga w/Lynn 7:00pm Women's AA 7:00pm RHCC Bowling 7:30pm Bell Choir	8 8:30am Breakfast Club 7:00pm Board and Committee Mtgs	9 9:00am Quilters 10:30am Apple Rehab Svc 12:00pm Bible Study 7:30pm Adult Choir
13 11:30am Noah's Table 2:00pm Getting to Know You 5:00pm Confirmation Scrip Delivery	14 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	15 Newsletter Deadline 7:00pm Council Meeting	16 9:00am Quilters 12:00pm Bible Study 6:00pm Community Meeting 7:30pm Adult Choir
20 New Member Sunday 9:00am New Members Gathering for Breakfast 11:30am Author's Book Talk 11:30am Noah's Table	21 Office Closed 8:00am MLK Svc Day 5:30pm Yoga w/Lynn 7:00pm Women's AA 7:00pm RHCC Bowling 7:30pm Bell Choir	22	23 9:00am Quilters 12:00pm Bible Study 7:30pm Adult Choir
27 10:00am Baptisms 11:30am Noah's Table 1:00pm Comfort Food Snow date Scrip Deadline	28 5:30pm Yoga w/Lynn 7:00pm Women's AA 7:00pm RHCC Bowling 7:30pm Bell Choir	29	30 9:00am Quilters 12:00pm Bible Study 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
and Minister for Faith Formation | 204 | Thomas Munger, Custodian | 205 |
| Carol Harvey, Office Secretary | 201 | RHCCNS (Nursery School) | 208 |

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

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
3 5:30pm TOPS 8:00pm Men's AA	4	5 8:30am Yoga w/Lynn 10:00am Epiphany Pageant Dress Rehearsal
10 1:30pm CVOC Visit 5:30pm TOPS 7:00pm Theology on Tap 8:00pm Men's AA	11 5:00pm Youth Group Gathering	12 8:30am Yoga w/Lynn 6:00pm Dinner/Movie
17 5:30pm TOPS 7:00pm Women's Bible Study 8:00pm Men's AA	18	19 8:30am Yoga w/Lynn 5:00pm Winterfest Family Game Night
24 5:30pm TOPS 8:00pm Men's AA	25 2:00am Setup for Comfort Food Dinner	26 8:30am Yoga w/Lynn 1:00pm Set up for Dinner 5:30pm Comfort Food Dinner
31 5:30pm TOPS 8:00pm Men's AA		



“SCRIP-SURE”

Order Schedule

Scrip Deadline is

January 6

Scrip Delivery is

January 13

Scrip order

deadline is

January 27





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

Church School

We finished our second unit of the year, *Mary & Elizabeth's First Christmas*, on December 16th. We remembered that hope, love, joy, and peace are gifts that come with the promised one – Jesus. We discovered these stories about God’s family through games, acting out the story in costumes, delicious angel cookies, Christmas cards, and making warm blankets for others. We listened to the birth stories of God’s family, and saw how we are a part of that family, with good news to share.

Check out the “What We’re Learning Now” box for more information about our next, “Baptism”, beginning on January 13th, and learn with us!

Youth Group

Youth group has met throughout November. On Sundays, Noah’s Table meets over lunch to discuss what it means to be disciples. On November 30th, the Youth Group gathered, for our annual Advent/Christmas party at the church. We checked-in with each other, made delicious and unusual grilled cheeses, played some games, frosted cookies, and watched the Santa Clause.

Gatherings

The annual RHCC Advent Family Night, on December 2nd, was an opportunity to gather for a meal, crafts, and worship, as we broke open the season of Advent to wait in anticipation for the birth of Jesus Christ. We made “gingerbread” houses and Advent Calendars that encourage us to spread random acts of Christmas kindness. We were also able to share our prayers for joy, peace, hope, and love during this season.

On December 15th, we hosted our third annual Jingle Bell Rock children’s Christmas carol party. It was non-stop, fun-filled, morning of singing Christmas songs, playing Christmas games, painting ornaments, and decorating Christmas cookies. Many thanks to all the volunteers!

Epiphany Pageant
Sunday, January 6th at 10 AM

Come join us as we worship in wonder and mystery, bringing the story of Christmas and Epiphany to light, as worship leaders of ALL ages put on costumes and remember through word and action, the birth story and revelation of our faith. The dress rehearsal will be **Saturday, January 5th, 10 AM – 12PM.**



This year we will not be collecting baby items. Instead, we will collect a special offering to be used to support those in the Newtown Community affected by the tragic events at Sandy Hook School. See Meghan Young for more information.

NURSERY VOLUNTEERS & DONATIONS REQUESTED: Donations of storage bins and toy boxes are needed to organize the Nursery. Additionally, Nursery Volunteers are needed for January. 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.

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

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

Date	Scripture/Lesson
Sunday, January 5	Epiphany Pageant Rehearsal: 10 AM – 12 PM Get your costume and meet in the sanctuary.
Sunday, January 6	Epiphany Gathering: 6 PM – 8 PM Come celebrate the light of Jesus Christ with worship, food, and fellowship. <i>Sign-up in Chapin Hall.</i>
Saturday, January 19	Winterfest Family Game Night: 5 PM – 7 PM Join us for a fun-filled night of games and food. <i>See flyer for more details.</i>

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

Date	Scripture/Lesson
Sunday, January 6	Epiphany: Communion Sunday, Family Worship <i>*The Epiphany pageant will occur during worship. Pageant participants are requested to arrive by 9:15 AM.</i>
Sunday, January 13	Week 1: Baptism
Sunday, January 20	Week 2: Baptism
Sunday, January 27	Week 3: Baptism

Youth Group Calendar: *January*

Date	Fellowship Gatherings
Friday, January 11	Youth Group Gathering (6 th -12 ^h Grade) → 5 – 9 PM <i>We'll be having dinner at the church and then heading to Bushnell Park's Winter Fest for ice skating. Chaperones needed.</i>
Sunday, January 13	Noah's Table (6 th -12 ^h Grade) → 11:30 AM – 1 PM
Sunday, January 20	Noah's Table (6 th -12 ^h Grade) → 11:30 AM – 1 PM
Sunday, January 27	Noah's Table (6 th -12 ^h Grade) → 11:30 AM – 1 PM



Winterfest:

A Family Game Night

Saturday, January 19th
5 PM – 7 PM
ALL ages welcome.



Join us for a night of fun and fellowship. Bring yourself, bring a friend, bring a food item to share, and your favorite board game. Trivia, games, Wii bowling, and prizes for ALL ages!

Sign-up in Chapin Hall or email Meghan@rhccucc.org for more information.

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

COME JOIN THE CIRCLE: Unit 3 – Baptism

Starting on January 13th, the children and youth in the S.P.I.R.I.T. Church School will be learning about the baptism of Jesus. As they learn about baptism and its meaning, you are invited to learn along with them.

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.

Gather some mementos of your baptism and place them in a quiet corner or on your kitchen table. If you do not have mementos, spend some time considering these ideas:

- 1) I wonder what is symbolized by clothing worn at baptism, and how it has changed over the years...
- 2) I wonder how the service of baptism has changed in our congregation...
- 3) I wonder how I am part of each baptism that takes place in our congregation.

A Prayer For The Unit. God of blessing, in baptism you call us by name and claim us as your beloved children. We love because you first loved us. Fill us with your light. Help us to share the joy of your promise to be with us always. 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.*



Martin Luther King, Jr., Day of Service

Monday, January 21

8 AM – 3 PM

You're invited to join the RHCC Youth Group for a day of service projects, reflection, and celebration to honor Martin Luther King, Jr., in his quest for peace and justice. We will join other youth groups from the Hartford Area to participate in service projects facilitated by Hands on Hartford, connect with each other, and be change makers together. Projects include (but are not limited to), stocking shelves at a food pantry, painting at a local shelter, and serving a meal at a soup kitchen.

We have 10 spots available for youth in grades 6th-12th to participate.

Friends are welcome. Contact Meghan Young (Meghan@rhccucc.org) to RSVP.

Please RSVP by January 14th.

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.

Confirmation class delved into the Christmas and Advent season, participating in Lessons & Carols, and joining us for Christmas Caroling. We also had some great discussions on prayer, and how we talk to and about God. As we start the new year, we're also looking forward to meeting our confirmation mentors who will be joining us throughout the year. And, learning more about Rocky Hill Congregational Church UCC and the United Church of Christ.

January Schedule:

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

Date	Class/Event	
Sunday, January 13	CLASS: Meet Your Mentors	5 PM – 7 PM
Sunday, January 20	CLASS: One Body, Many Parts – RHCC & UCC	5 PM – 7 PM

Performers and Chefs Wanted!

2nd Annual Talent Show and Chili Supper

For Adults and Teens

Sponsored by

The RHCC Music Committee



Saturday, Feb 2, 2013 at 6:00 PM

Please contact:

Valerie Triblets (vtriblets@sbcglobal.net)

(860) 529-9361



**Come Join us for Dinner and a Movie
Saturday, January 12, 2013
at 6:00 pm in Chapin Hall.**

**The film showing will be
"The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel"**

An award-winning all star winning cast including Judi Dench, Bill Nighy, Maggie Smith, and Tom Wilkinson, lights up this buoyant comedy laced with genuine emotion. When seven cash strapped seniors decide to "outsource" their retirement to a resort in far off India, friendship and romance blossom in the most unexpected ways. Smart, life-affirming and genuinely charming, *The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel* is a true classic that reminds us it's never too late to find love and a fresh beginning at any age.

Sneak preview for February – *Salmon Fishing in the Yemen*



**Bible Study will resume on Wednesday, January 9, 2013
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.



**Breakfast Club
Tuesday, January 8 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!

**Theology on Tap – NEW LOCATION!
Thursday, January 10 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 in the "back room" of the Chuck's Steakhouse. We discuss a different topic each month, so join us whenever you can. Bring a friend and see you at Chuck'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.

**Women of the Bible
Thursday, January 17 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!



....a Stewardship message

...Joy...Faith...Peace ...Love ...Gratitude

This past month during Advent, our Pastors led us in looking anew at the words *Joy, Faith, Peace, and Love*. Maybe you felt the **joy** of sharing as we saw the many, many gifts being brought forward during a recent Christmas service. These gifts were for children in the Covenant-to-Care program. Or possibly an aspect of your **faith** was supported and reinforced during a worship service or while participating in one of the Faith Formation activities. Prayerful expressions of **love** and **peace** were evident and represented by the growing number of colorful ribbons tied to the tree in the sanctuary – and especially so during the interfaith community prayer vigil service on Friday, December 14th

Such cherished moments in the life of our church are just a few examples of why RHCC, UCC is a vibrant, growing, caring, worshipful family of people. The dedication of time given, of skills and talents shared, and of financial support provided are received with deep **gratitude**. They make it possible for “the Spirit of the Living God” to be ever present. As we move into a new year, we look forward to growing in our faith, to being mindful of meeting needs both practical and spiritual, and to supporting the essential ministries of our church. We are most thankful for each and every gift.

The Stewardship Committee



“Warm Heart Tree”

For the 38th year, the Warm Heart Tree has returned to the narthex and will be up through January 6th. We will once again be collecting donations of warm hats, gloves, packages of white athletic socks, and scarves to decorate the tree. Men’s hats should be black, brown, or gray without decoration. Please place your donations directly on the tree. Donations can be hand-made, bought, or even a new re-gifted item (let someone

benefit from 'Mom, what was Grandma thinking, I will NOT wear that!'). The donations will be distributed to some of Connecticut's neediest. Some of the children and teen donations will be removed from the tree and delivered BEFORE Christmas to The Connecticut Association of Foster and Adoptive Parents located in Rocky Hill.



January 2013: Sharing Talents

*Well done good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a little, I will set you over much; enter into the joy of your master.
Matthew 25:23b*

The members of the Microcredit and Savings Project of the Disciples of Christ in the Democratic Republic of Congo are generating funds that improve the lives of their family and community. The microcredit project began in 2008 with the women in communities where congregations are located. Now there are 40 projects, with an average of 25 members each.

The microcredit project offers two ways to effect change. Individuals may borrow up to \$200 with an initial loan of \$50, to start a small business or make a needed investment. Borrowers must repay their loan in a prescribed amount of time, usually up to six months. From the modest interest on the loans, participants are given money for immediate needs, and a portion is then put into a savings account for them. The interest also becomes income to women who have invested with the group. As individuals demonstrate their ability to repay the loans with interest, they are able to borrow again. Subsequent loans may be larger because they have proven themselves trustworthy.

One project began with 20 women and grew to 43 participants of which 38 are women and 5 are men. One of the participants, a mother of eight children has made enough to build a house! She used the loan to make and sell jams, cake, soap, and perfume. Her challenge now is acquiring the wrapping paper to package her wares for sale. This particular group meets twice a month and has \$16,000 available for loans and \$5,000 in savings.

Together we pray, God, small ways make great differences. With your support and guidance we see possibilities bloom. Help us to remember how our actions may touch and change the lives of others.

The Connecticut Flower and Garden Show 2013

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 if you are interested.



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.



LITCHFIELD – “A Hospice Volunteer’s Visual Response”, artwork of **Don Cooper**, will be presented on **January 12 – February 9, 2013** at the Marie Louise Trichet Art Gallery at Wisdom House Retreat and Conference Center. On display are a collection of digital illustrations which express Mr. Cooper’s emotional responses to visiting with hospice patients. **Opening:** Saturday, January 12, 3:30 PM – 5:30 PM **Artist’s Talk:** 3:45 PM followed by a reception. **Gallery hours: Monday through Saturday 10 AM-4 PM.** For more information call Wisdom House at (860) 567-3163 or visit: www.wisdomhouse.org



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.

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!!

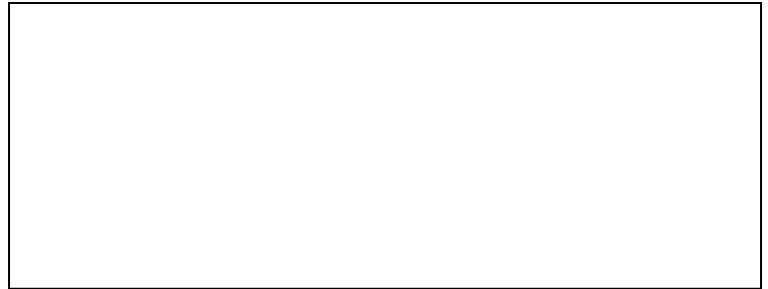
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No matter who you are,
Or where you are on life's journey...
You're welcome here.



Epiphany Gathering



Sunday, January 6th
6 PM–8 PM

Come rejoice in the wonder, mystery, and joy of the light of God made known to us in Jesus Christ. Join us for a simple supper, fellowship, and worship as we celebrate the festival of Epiphany.

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