

The Church Mouse

The Reverend Dr. Brenda Pelc-Faszcza, 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

June 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



Sunday, June 21 at 10:00 a.m. A Farewell to Pastor Meghan

Please join us for a very special Sunday Morning Worship with a Liturgy of Farewell for **Rev. Meghan D. Young**, including special music and celebration of our shared ministry. There will be a reception following worship.

ALL are welcome!!

For more information, contact Michael Bower at mbower@cox.net

INTERIM PASTOR'S MESSAGE

"BIDDEN OR UNBIDDEN...."



We may ignore, but we can nowhere evade, the presence of God.
The world is crowded with God. God walks everywhere incognito.
And the incognito is not always hard to penetrate. The real labor is to remember, to attend. In fact, to come awake. Still more, to remain awake.

C. S. Lewis

Sometimes at the start of worship, after we have completed the announcements and we turn to enter the experience of the worship itself, I will share the words of Carl Jung: "Bidden or unbidden, God is present." It seems to me a prerequisite of our being able to worship at all, the remembering that God is already right there no matter what words we say or don't say, no matter whether we do or don't in some way specifically call upon God to be there (as though God could be, what.... absent, someplace else?) The question behind our gathering for worship is not whether God will show up, but whether we will. At least that is my premise as a worship leader. And so our opening prayer in worship does not "invoke" the presence of God, which needs no invoking. It aims, rather, to gather us, because we do need gathering. From our many places, our many thoughts and distractions, our many ways of defending our Selves and resisting God, we need to be gathered as a community, all over again, every time. Thus we call it a "Gathering Prayer," rather than a Prayer of Invocation.

I like the way C.S. Lewis puts it, too. He says "We may ignore, but we can nowhere evade, the presence of God." And that our real work is staying awake to exactly that. Of course church is not the only place, and worship not the only time, when we can be awake in that way. Every moment of every day, every single experience we have, is potential waking-up experience. It's just that we don't need to go hunting for some world or some experience that will have God in it. We're already there. "The world is crowded with God, God walks everywhere incognito." Would it make a difference, any difference at all, if we tried to see things that way? Ordinary things, daily things, hard things, easy things, all things? I think so.

The real labor is to remember... to come awake....and still more, to stay awake.

May our summer season, wherever it may take each of us, take us to the place of staying awake.

Faithfully, Rev. Brenda

JUNE WORSHIP

Listed below are the several lectionary texts for each Sunday. The lectionary is a threeyear 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.

June 7 Second Sunday after Pentecost; Communion

Gen. 3:8-15; Ps. 130; 2 Cor. 4:13-5:1; Mark 3:20-35

June 14 Third Sunday after Pentecost; S.P.I.R.I.T. Worship Sunday Recognition of graduates

Worship led by church school classes.

Ezek. 17:22-24; Ps. 92:1-4, 12-15; 2 Cor. 5:6-10; Mark 4:26-34

June 21 Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

The Rev. Meghan Young's last Sunday; special reception following worship.

Job 38:1-11; Ps. 107:1-3, 23-3; 2 Cor. 6:1-13; Mark 4:35-41

June 28 Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Wis. of Sol. 1:13-15, 2:23-24; Ps. 30; 2 Cor. 8:7-15; Mark 5:21-43

<u>"STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH"</u>

The Strengthen the Church special mission offering of the UCC will be collected on June 14, 2015. As God calls our congregation to be the "church" in new ways, your generosity will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches and develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults.





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

Church School

We have been busy preparing for Children's Sunday, revisiting our first unit of the year, which focused on "Heroes of the Bible". We've been learning all about Esther and can't wait to share her story with you. Don't forget to join us on June 14th for spirit filled worship!

Youth Group

This May we attended the UCC Youth Revival. It was a deeply faith filled time of multi-cultural, multi-racial worship. We also had a wonderful time picnicking in the park. June will be our last youth group gathering of the year.

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.

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.

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

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

Date	Lesson
Sunday, June 7	Family worship. Communion.
Saturday, June 13	S.P.I.R.I.T. Sunday Rehearsal
	3 PM – 4:30 PM
Sunday, June 14	S.P.I.R.I.T Worship Sunday
	S.P.I.R.I.T. Church School leads worship at 10 AM
	All children leading worship should meet at 9 AM.
Sunday, June 21	Family worship. Father's Day.
Sunday, June 28	Family worship

Youth Group Calendar: June

Date	Fellowship Gatherings
	Noah's Table (6 th -12 ^h Grade) → 5 PM – 7:30 PM. Join us for our last gathering of the program year. Come for dinner, a lip sync battle, a climb to the top of the church, and a time of saying goodbye. Please RSVP by Friday, June 12. 1 Chaperone is needed for this event.

^{**}Incoming 6th Graders are invited to all Youth Group events beginning in June.

S.P.I.R.I.T. Summer Programming

Mark your calendars. S.P.I.R.I.T. Summer Programming for grades K - 5, will be offered July 13, July 26, August 9, and August 23.

If you are interested in being a S.P.I.R.I.T. Summer Teacher, please email Meghan@rhccucc.org

S.P.I.R.I.T Worship Sunday June 14, 2015 at 10 AM



Come worship with us as the children and youth of the RHCC, UCC, S.P.I.R.I.T. Church School, lead us in worship, inviting us to prayerfully and faithfully ask what it means to be a hero in the eyes of God. Do you have what it takes to be a hero?

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



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.

The 2014-2015 Confirmation Class was confirmed and joined the membership of RHCC on May 24, 2015. Confirmation weekend was a wonderful and meaningful experience of faith, fellowship, family, and community. On Saturday, May 23rd, the Confirmands and their families came together for worship in the sanctuary. We took time to reflect on our year together and gave thanks for the mentors, families, and communities that have helped our Confirmands to grow in their faith. We were also treated by the Deacons to a delicious dinner.

On Confirmation Sunday, the Confirmands wrote and led worship. They thoughtfully shared their faith while bringing us together as a community. The Holy Spirit was truly present. What a joy and blessing it is to have these young people as a part of this community! We look forward to the ways in which they will continue to share their gifts with us.

Blessings and welcome to Victoria Grace Bower, Louis Francis DiRenzo, Tyler Jon Morgan, and Brian Patrick Speers.

AID FOR NEPAL

The April 2015 earthquake in Nepal killed more than 8,000 people and injured more than 19,000. It was the worst earthquake to strike Nepal in over 80 years. United Church of Christ Disaster Ministries is present on the ground in Nepal, working through our partners in the ACT Alliance, providing food, water, and shelter. Those who survived the quake will need support for many years to come. The Board of Missions voted to send \$500 to UCC, Wider Church Ministries in support of the Nepal earthquake victims. The Board of Missions will also match additional church contributions up to \$500. Please write Nepal Fund in the memo line of any checks. See Kari McCaw-Blaise for any questions.



June 1 Harry Schmidt

Zachary Rupaka

- 2 Eric Jokl
- 6 Sandra Fritzer
- 8 Thomas Kainamura
- 9 Samuel Dean-Lee Julia O'Connor
- 11 John Goff III Stephen Kobernat Morgan McLean
- 15 Robert Carberry
- 20 Elaine Motta
- 21 Glenn Hunter Jack Pawlich

- 22 Gail Hall Frank Murray
- 24 Philip Carpenter, Jr. Douglas Toft
- 25 Kirsten Fulda
- 26 Aiden Montana
- 27 Arthur Peterson Nancy Robbins
- 28 Linda Calcagni Marjorie Sheathelm Matthew Flynn Lynn Webster
- 29 Jaye Veley Riley McLean



Mike and Steph Heneghan were married on June 10, 1967

John and Marilyn Van Doran Were married on June 12, 1971 Darrell and Holly Peterson were married on June 20, 1970



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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





SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
	7:00pm Women's AA	2 7:00pm Boards/Committees	9:00am Quilters 7:30pm Adult Choir
7 10:00am Worship 11:00am Annual Meeting 4:00pm Tamil Sangam	8 7:00pm Women's AA	9 8:30am Breakfast Club 7:00pm Council	9:00am Quilters 7:30pm Adult Choir
14 S.P.I.R.I.T. WORSHIP 10:00am Worship Graduate recognition Strengthen the Church offering 4:00pm Tamil Sangam 5:00pm Noah's Table	15 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 7:00pm Women's AA	16 11:00am Retired Clergy	17 9:00am Quilters 7:30pm Adult Choir
21 10:00am Worship 11:00am MDY Reception 4:00pm Tamil Sangam	7:00pm Women's AA	23 6:00pm Community Event	24 9:00am Quilters
28 10:00am Worship 4:00pm Tamil Sangam	29 7:00pm Women's AA	30	

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:

Brenda Pelc-Faszcza, Interim Sr. Pastor	202	Mary DeLibero, Minister of Music	207
Meghan Young, Acting Associate	204	Myke Halpin, Custodian	205
Pastor for Faith Formation		RHCCNS (Nursery School)	208
Mitsey Baker Office Manager	201		



THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
7:30pm Music Committee 7:30pm Men's AA	5	8:30am Men's Bible Study 9:00am Yoga w/Lynn 11:00am Open Road Rehearsal
11 7:30pm Men's AA	12	9:00am Yoga w/Lynn 3:00 S.P.I.R.I.T. Worship Rehearsal
18 7:30pm Men's AA	19	8:30am Men's Bible Study 9:00am Yoga w/Lynn
25 7:30pm Men's AA	26 5:00pm Wedding Rehearsal 7:00pm Coffee House Concert	9:00am Yoga w/Lynn 11:00am Memorial Service 3:00pm Wedding



FROM THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY



Happy summer! With the change in the pledge year from May-April to January – December, I will be sending to all pledgers an accounting letter that will cover the first 6 months of the year. If you do not receive a letter from me before the end of July, 2015, please feel free to contact me. If I have an email address, that is my preferred method to send these to you. Thanks so much and enjoy your summer!



Scrip-Sure Update

For the fiscal year ended April 30th, we booked \$17,144 in profits from the Scrip-Sure program. This was our second consecutive year of exceeding \$17,000 in income. Since the program's November 2009 inception, we've now earned more than \$73,000. Thanks to all who continue to make this such an important revenue source to "Fund our Faith."

The May and June ordering deadlines are as follows:
Orders placed by May 23 will be available for pickup on May 31.
Orders placed by June 21 will be available for pickup on June 28.

(Note that these are both one week earlier than usual.)

Of course, we'll continue to keep the most popular cards in inventory, available for purchase each Sunday.

THINK SCRIP

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!!

We extend an invitation to all great-grandfathers to worship with us Father's Day on June 21. During this worship we will proudly recognize our great-grandfathers of the church.

Honoring Great Grandfathers on Father's Day

If your name is not listed below or if you recently became a new greatgrandfather, please contact the church office at 860-529-4167 and we will add your name to our list.

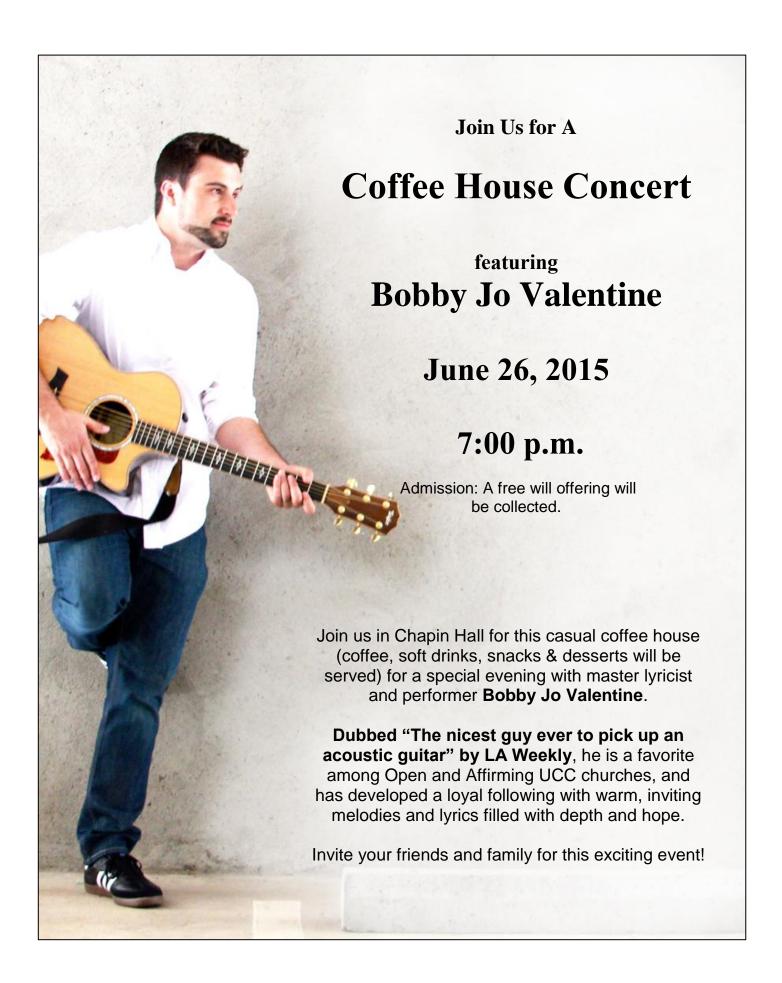
Rudy Burgess Neal Cox David Dean Bob Hamilton Bob Hansen Joe Kunzelman Ralph Lexa Tom Schreier Richard Somes John Sword James Ussery Jr. Frank Vann

> In honor of Father's Day, June 21, InReach is offering Brownie Sundaes during Coffee Hour.



Calling All Graduates

On June 14th, we will celebrate and acknowledge all our members who have graduated from high schools, colleges and post college degree programs. Please notify the office at 860-529-4167 or office@rhccucc.org of anyone to be recognized and supply the institution and degree earned.





More on Bobby Jo Valentine.....

This West Coast artist has been praised for his sense of realism, charm, and infectious vocal melodies. Industry veteran Brian Lucey says "Bobby writes with a sweetness and honesty seldom heard in acoustic pop music." Those same attributes have earned him an ever-expanding fan base and the West Coast Songwriter Association's Songwriter of the Year Award. Bobby Jo's albums have garnered overwhelmingly positive reviews, but more noteworthy are the responses to his honest, raw, resonating live performances. His unique brand of hopeful folk/pop has also recently been featured in a commercial for the new Ford Fusion.

Bobby Jo lives 30 miles north of San Francisco with his partner, and travels around the country for 15-20 shows each month. A favorite among Open and Affirming UCC churches, he has developed a loyal following with warm, honest messages about life's struggles, faith and hope.

HONOR LOVED ONES DEDICATE SANCTUARY FLOWERS

Please sign up to contribute flowers for the sanctuary. It is a lovely way to honor the memory or special events of family and friends. Sign up on the flower calendar in **Chapin Hall, email office@rhccucc.org** or call the church office (860-529-4167).

HISTORIAN NOTES - APRIL 2015

Profit from the Scrip-Sure Fundraising Program for April 2015 was just over \$1,400. The Program earned more than \$17,000 of income for the fiscal year ended April 30, 2015.

Maundy Thursday, April 2: An evening service commemorated the Last Supper and the crucifixion of Christ, through the Sacrament of Communion (The Lord's Supper) and the Service of Tenebrae. Rich Pawlich-Pagliccio, Don Pagnucco, Lisa Eleck, Victoria Bower, Nancy Parsons, Will McKenna, Chris Sheehan, Rev. Dr. Brenda Pelc-Faszcza, and Rev. Meghan Young were the readers of the scriptures for this commemoration as the darkness increased. Communion music was provided by Dave Hall playing "O Sacred Head Now Wounded" on cello. The Choir provided anthems, and the service ended in darkness and silence after the Jubilate Handbell Choir played "Pavane." But not before the Christ Candle was relit.

Good Friday, April 3: An evening meal and a "walk" through Jesus' last words.

Holy Saturday, April 4: An afternoon all-church gathering with family activities, including baking the bread for Easter Communion, an Easter Egg Hunt, and worship.

Easter Sunday, April 5: Sunrise Service with Communion at Rose Hill Cemetery led by Rev. Meghan Young and Deacons Judy Graham and Elaine Somes. Easter music by Dave Hall on trumpet, Gail Hall on Clarinet, and Jason Hall on Trombone.

Breakfast followed in Chapin Hall, prepared by Marsha Hoffman.

Festival Easter Worship Service with Communion at 10 AM led by Rev. Dr. Brenda Pelc-Faszcza and Rev. Meghan Young. Easter music was offered by the Children and Adult Choirs, Michael Bower and Tom Rolfe on drums, Dave Hall on trumpet, Ruth Fitzgerald on baritone horn, Jason Hall and Sarah Mosure on trombone, Gail Hall on clarinet, the Jubilate Handbell Choir, Katie Hoffman-Fulda on flute, and Mary DeLibero, Minister of Music.

The Easter offering was chosen by our Board for Missions to benefit the Youth Services Opportunities Project. Its mission is to help young people become part of the solution to societal problems.

The colorful, inspiring Easter bulletin cover artwork and design was by Nancy Edwards.

Easter lilies, tulips, and hyacinths decorated the Sanctuary.

Sunday, April 12: Kari McCaw Blaise offered a second hour honoring Women's History Month, focusing on Antoinette Brown Blackwell, who was ordained in 1853 by the Congregational Church in South Butler, NY. She was the first woman to be ordained by a mainstream Protestant church.

Saturday, April 18: RHCC hosted pastors and delegates from churches in the CT UCC Conference for an orientation for the General Synod to be held June 26 - 30, 2015, in Cleveland, Ohio. Bob Inderbitzen is RHCC's delegate.

Sunday, April 19: The Board for Missions sponsored a fundraising taco luncheon & sunglasses drive to help Sarah Mosure's new organization called Hearts Over Latin America ("HOLA"). HOLA has a goal to raise \$5,000 that will be used for starting up a new school in the Dominican Republic. Sarah went on a mission trip last July to the Dominican Republic.

Saturday, April 25: RHCC hosted the CT Conference Historian Workshop led by CT UCC Historian Rev. John Van Epps. Kari McCaw Blaise, our Historian for 2015-16, attended.

The Spring Gathering of CT Women was held at Faith Congregational Church, Hartford.

Creation Sunday, April 26: Worship was called by a newly formed intergenerational drum circle. During coffee hour the children invited us to participate in "creation" projects which we could take away in service to the community.



If you want to identify me, ask me not where I live, or what I like to eat, or how I comb my hair, but ask me what I think I am living for, in detail, and ask me what I think is keeping me from living fully for the thing I want to live for. Between these two answers you can determine the identity of any person.

Thomas Merton

A person will worship something, have no doubt about that. We may think our tribute is paid in secret in the dark recesses of our hearts, but it will out. That which dominates our imaginations and our thoughts will determine our lives, and our character. Therefore, it behooves us to be careful what we worship, for what we are worshiping we are becoming.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

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

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Mailed May 26, 2015

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



CALL TO THE ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the Rocky Hill Congregational Church United Church of Christ is called for **Sunday, June 7, 2014** immediately following worship in the sanctuary for the following items of business:

- 1. To receive and act upon the 2015 reports of Boards and Committees.
- 2. To vote on any revisions to the 2015-16 budget as presented at Budget and Elections meeting.
- 3. To hear a report of progress of the Settled Pastor Search Committee.
- 4. To vote on any changes to the report of the Nominating Committee.
- 5. To conduct any additional business to come before the congregation.
- 6. To remember and reflect on those members and friends of the church who have entered the Church Eternal from May 1, 2014 to April 30, 2015.

Respectfully submitted;

Marsha Hoffman, Clerk