



The Church Mouse

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June 2017 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

CALL TO THE ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the Rocky Hill Congregational Church United Church of Christ is called for Sunday, June 11, 2017 immediately following worship in the sanctuary for the following items of business:

1. To receive and act upon the 2016 reports of Boards and Committees.
2. To vote on any revisions to the 2017-18 budget as presented at Budget and Elections meeting.
3. To hear a report on the proposed conference merger.
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, 2016 to April 30, 2017.

Respectfully submitted;
Linda Tokarski, Clerk



Looking at the copy I painted of the famous 6th century icon of Peter from Mt. Sinai that I have in my office, I thought it would be interesting to look at who he was. We read about the disciples of Jesus in the Gospels, but what we read is piecemeal, and we don't often get a fuller picture of who they were. Almost nothing is known about the apostle Peter before he became a disciple of Jesus.

At the beginning of his ministry Jesus called Peter and his brother Andrew in Capernaum, where they were living, although they were from Bethsaida. In Capernaum the ruins of a first century house are underneath the ruins of a Byzantine church, and it is remembered as Peter's house. We know that Peter was married or had been married because Jesus healed his mother-in-law (Matthew 8:14–15/Mark 1:29–31/Luke 4:38–41). We don't know if Peter's wife was still living, or if they had any children.



Peter appears to have been an impulsive person, prone to speaking before thinking. We get a much fuller profile of Peter than the other disciples because he appears in the gospel narratives much more frequently. Peter was in what seems to have been an inner circle of disciples, including James and John, who were also fishermen and among the first disciples called. They are with Jesus on a number of occasions, including the Transfiguration. Peter followed Jesus on the night of his arrest and in the courtyard of the high priest Caiaphus he denied ever knowing Jesus. Along with the other male disciples (except for John) Peter was not present at the crucifixion. He and the other male disciples hid for fear of the authorities. Depending on which gospel we read, Mary Magdalene or another disciple runs to see Peter and the others on the first Easter as they discover the tomb is empty. We assume that Peter was present with the disciples at the appearances of Jesus.

On the day of Pentecost (Acts 2) Peter got up and delivered a message describing the reasons for Jesus' execution and resurrection, and connected Jesus with texts from the Old Testament. Jesus had told Peter that he was the rock on which Jesus would build his church, and Peter's leadership brought that to fruition. Peter continued as the leader of the Jerusalem church, and also was involved in founding the church in Antioch in what is now Syria. The Book of Acts tells us about Peter's activity in that leadership position, including his teaching in the Temple and his confrontation with Paul over the issue of eating with Gentiles. In Acts 10 we read about an encounter Peter had with a Gentile named Cornelius who wanted to be baptized, after Peter had a vision telling him that no person is unclean in the sight of God. The Book of Acts eventually switches to the ministry of Paul, ending with Paul's imprisonment in Rome.



Although not as many scholars hold this view now, some believe that John Mark wrote the gospel that bears his name and that Mark was an associate of Peter. If Mark indeed wrote the gospel, it is possible that it contains summaries of Peter's teachings. The two letters that bear Peter's name date from a later time and were almost certainly not written by Peter himself.

A very ancient tradition holds that Peter was executed by crucifixion upside down in the Circus Maximus in Rome around 64. Paul is believed to have been beheaded around the same time. In the 1930's archaeologists discovered a first century cemetery under the present St. Peter's Basilica, which is built on the site of the Circus Maximus, and found a second century shrine to Peter directly under the main altar of the basilica. The shrine contained some human bones wrapped in expensive fabric. The bones appear to have belonged to an elderly man who had done a lot of heavy physical labor in his life.

We have no idea what Peter looked like, although early depictions of him establish the image of him as having short gray hair and a short beard, as in the Mt. Sinai icon.

Peter is viewed as the first Pope in Rome, although there is no record of his activity there beyond his execution. It is known that there was a Christian community in Rome very early and he may have been a part of it. Historically, there really was not a papacy for several centuries, but Peter's probable presence in Rome certainly can be seen as foundational to the Roman Christian community. Peter is one of the most significant figures in the early church, and a good reminder that Jesus didn't call people who were perfect, but called people who could do what needed to be done. We should take great comfort in knowing that Jesus chose this very imperfect man to be a leader of the disciples.

In Christ,

Craig



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



During Lent, church school families were asked to recycle and redeem their plastic bottles in order to raise money for the World Wildlife Fund (WWF). During the Easter service, the families brought their gifts forward: a total of \$188.27 was collected, and a match from Missions will make it \$376.54! WWF was selected for our support at the suggestion of 5th grader, Cole Triblets.

Cole attended a Governance lunch and meeting and offered his thoughts as to what our church could do. The Board for Faith Formation thought it would be a great Lenten project for the children to support Cole's idea, and I invited Cole to give a presentation to the church school classes. He created a whole PowerPoint presentation, using presentation skills he had learned in school. It was clear during the presentation that our children care deeply about animals.

Prior to Cole's presentation, the church school classes gathered in the Chapel for a time of music with Liz Reed-Swale. One of the songs required a second song leader, and when Liz asked for volunteers, we were all pleasantly surprised when 3rd grader Teagan Reed-Swale jumped up to lead. He needed a little help from mom, but how great that he stepped forward to try his hand at this form of leadership.

After Cole's presentation, the middle school church school class stuffed the Easter eggs that would be sought by the younger children during the Holy Saturday egg hunt. Some were present on Saturday to hide the eggs (resisting the urge to eat the contents). In this way, the middle schoolers were serving those younger than themselves.

In the span of a week, our church school children showed budding leadership skills. What I like about their brand of leadership is they stepped forward in response to a call, not in grandiose fashion but out of a desire to serve. They were thinking of others and sharing the gifts and talents they possess.

It is my hope that in RHCC church school and youth groups, our young people will grow and develop in the way of servant leadership, best modeled by Jesus Christ.

**CHILDREN'S SUNDAY WILL BE HELD ON
SUNDAY, JUNE 11th DURING OUR 10AM WORSHIP.**



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



Here is our upcoming schedule:

- On June 4, all classes will be preparing for Children's Sunday, which will be held during worship on June 11.
- On June 18, there will be no church school.
- On June 25, Summer Sunday School will begin (all grades together, every other Sunday).

High School Youth Group

On June 4, we will gather for an end-of-year celebration.

Middle School Youth Group

On June 11, we will gather for an end-of-year pool party at the Morgans' house.

Here are this year's teachers, to whom we owe a big "Thank you"!

Childcare:	Liz Pulling, Jen Cordes, Marge Murk, Don Pagnucco, Steph Heneghan
PreK to 1st grade:	Jen Cordes, Sandy Gau, Candy Smith, Kristy Solie, Sherry Silkowski
2nd-5th grades:	Kathy Morgan, Sue Speers, Kari McGaw, Sherry Silkowski
6th-8th grades:	Liz Reed-Swale, Christine Kainamura, Nancy Rolfe

If you would like to join any of these teams starting in the fall, please let Georgette or Steph Heneghan know.

A Dinner for all confirmands, their sponsors and parents, will be held on Saturday, June 3rd from 4-7pm, in Chapin Hall.

Confirmation on June 4th on Pentecost Sunday

Confirmation means affirmation of faith. It is an acknowledgement by both the individual and 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.





God works in strange and wonderful ways! Who would have thought that coming to Rocky Hill Congregational Church, UCC would lead to my seeking ordination in the United Church of Christ? Yet, here I am, preparing for my Ecclesiastical Council. I am so grateful for the support I have received from the people of this congregation along my journey!

When I first attended this church, I learned it was Open and Affirming and that all people were invited to Jesus table. (What a wonderful concept and way to be Christian!) I was warmly welcomed! (Thank you everyone who makes newcomers feel welcome!) The pastors were female. (Oh, my goodness! I was not used to seeing women in clergy robes.) The liturgy was creative while still following the lectionary. And many of the hymns were familiar. There was outreach and Bible study. (What awesome opportunities!) This became my church home.

It is where I realized my call to ordination. It is as if the experiences I had in my life, my experiences with this church (I am not referring to this building, but its people) and what I learned about the UCC were together percolating something new. I was encouraged by the pastor to attend a course at Hartford Seminary. During that course, I knew I wanted to be a pastor. Gratefully, the Deacons approved my request to be a Member in Discernment. It was then approved by the Committee on Church and Ministry of the Hartford Association in 2014.

I have now completed my courses at Hartford Seminary and Yale Divinity School and internships at First Congregational Church, Southington and Center Church, Hartford. My ordination paper has been approved. And my Ecclesiastical Council, to which you are all invited, will be held here at 3:30pm, Sunday June 4, 2017. It has been an amazing journey!

Thank you, Everyone, for all your support, encouraging words, hugs, and of course, prayers! I am truly blessed!

Lisa Eleck

Proposed merger of Connecticut, Massachusetts and Rhode Island Conferences

The three conferences are offering five opportunities to attend online webinars to learn more about the proposed merger. The webinar schedule is as follows:

Wednesday, June 7, 7:00 PM

Thursday, June 8, 1:00 PM

Thursday, June 8, at 7:00 PM

To register for one of these webinars, visit the Connecticut Conference website at www.ctucc.org and click on the icon for the Tri-Conference Annual Meeting. You will find links to register, as well as more information.

TriCon Annual Meeting – Hartford June 16-17 Help Wanted: Greeters, Ushers, and “Smilers”

Bob Inderbitzen is seeking volunteers to help welcome delegates and visitors to the historic joint Annual Meeting of the Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island Conferences of the United Church of Christ. The Annual Meeting will be held June 16-17 at the Connecticut Convention Center in Hartford.

Volunteers will be assigned a short 3-hour shift on Friday and/or Saturday, to help greet convention attendees. Some volunteers will help direct people to activities. Others will serve as ushers during the huge worship services. Volunteers will receive training (easy) and information.

If interested, contact Bob Inderbitzen, 860-418-9171 or email rinderbitzen@cox.net. And complete an online registration to attend the Annual Meeting: www.ctucc.org/TriConAm. The registration fee is \$85 and includes entry to the event on both days, and access to all of the exhibits, worship events, presentations and keynote speaker, and lunch on Saturday.



We invite you to join us at our
1st Annual Craft Fair
Saturday, June 10, 2017
9:00am to 2:00 pm
Rocky Hill Congregational Church



This Craft Fair offers limited tables inside for \$25.00 a table. Outside table lots will be \$20.00 per 18x18 section. Vendors outside must supply their own tables and tents. Limited electrical hook ups. Set-up time will start at 7:30 a.m. Payment must be made prior to set-up on the day of the Fair. For more info, contact: office@rhccucc.org



The Men's Bible Study Group will meet
Saturday June 10th, 8:30-9:30am in the Fiorilli room.

Study If you enjoy fellowship and want to learn more about scripture and other faith topics, please join us. If you would like further information, please see Jim Stevens at church or call 860-632-5810. Thanks be to God.



Strengthen the Church – June 4

Strengthen The Church (STC) is a special mission offering to reimagine and build the future of the UCC. Shared at the conference and national levels, STC largely supports youth ministries and full-time leaders for new churches in parts of the country where the UCC voice has not been heard.

As God calls our congregations 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. Most congregations will receive the STC offering on Pentecost Sunday, June 4, 2017



HANDBELL CONCERT
Featuring
THE SHORELINE RINGERS
SATURDAY, JUNE 17TH 7:00PM
ROCKY HILL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC
805 Old Main Street, Rocky Hill
For info: 860-529-4167
office@rhccucc.org

We are delighted to host the Shoreline Ringers, a community handbell choir from southeastern Connecticut. Under the direction of Jane Nolan, this dynamic and energetic handbell choir is dedicated to musical excellence and handbell education through their exciting and uplifting performances.

Please plan to join us to hear this delightful concert.
A reception will follow the performance in Chapin Hall.
The RHCC.UCC Music Committee

RESCHEDULED FOR JULY – RE-MAKER'S FAIR AND FESTIVAL

Date to be announced. The Re-Maker's Fair will feature creatively hand-crafted items made from re-used or up-cycled materials, saved from the waste stream to become beautiful or useful objects. Information on local recycling and other environmental efforts will also be available. For more information or to sign up for a table to sell items, please contact Anita Hawkins at church or leave a message with the church office 860-529-4167 OR office@rhccucc.org



On Sunday, June 11,
we will recognize our Graduates during worship
Blessing of Graduates

We thank you for the gifts of you, our graduates; your excitement, your awesome wonder and curiosity, your open speech and encouraging words.

Your contributions have blessed and challenged us, and we have become a richer and more diverse community because of them.

As you step forward into the world that awaits, we ask God to comfort your fears with the full knowledge of God's divine presence.

Strengthen your resolve to walk in the footsteps of Jesus as modern-day disciples in a world that needs their spirit.

Guide your feet as you move through life, protecting you from the pitfalls of darkness while you help to lead future generations into the warmth and promise of your light.

We ask this blessing upon each of them, In God's name.

AMEN AND ALLELUIA!



IN LOVING MEMORY

The following members of our church have passed on.
They will be missed and remembered by many in our church family.



Thelma Dimock Somes and Richard Somes

Cards of Sympathy may be sent to: Elaine Somes, 150 Elm Street, RH, CT 06067.

Barbara Burgess

Cards of Sympathy may be sent to: Rudy Burgess, 83 Berkshire Road, RH, CT 06067

Donations may be made in their memory to:

Rocky Hill Congregational Church, 805 Old Main Street, Rocky Hill, Connecticut 06067.

Submission deadline for the July/August issue of The Church
Mouse will be Wednesday, June 14 and the mailing date will be
TUESDAY, JUNE 27 from 9:30-11:30am. We want to hear from
you! Send your articles and photos to: office@rhccucc.org



***An interfaith coalition is inviting people of all faiths to take part in the
"River of Life: Connecticut River Pilgrimage" May 31 - July 9.***

Organizers point out that water is central to life, and living, flowing rivers have played an integral role in ecological, social, economic and spiritual practice worldwide since time immemorial. The Connecticut River is a prime example of a river carrying the lifeblood of a region.

A core group of “river pilgrims” will journey the full length of the river, beginning in New Hampshire May 31st, being joined by “daily pilgrims” as they traverse individual stretches/communities, and by “pilgrims in prayer” for those who aren’t able to paddle along or join in events but want to participate in the 40-day spiritual practices that correspond with the Pilgrimage dates. Locally organized, shore-based, events will draw attention to the beauty and challenges — ecological, social, economic, and spiritual — along the waterway. People of all faiths, beliefs, and paths are welcome for any/all of the Pilgrimage.

The River of Life pilgrimage is sponsored by the Episcopal Dioceses of New Hampshire, Vermont, Western Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, and Maine, in partnership with Province I of the Episcopal Church, the New England Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and Kairos Earth. It is endorsed by the Environmental Justice Center at Silver Lake in CT, and the Massachusetts Conference, United Church of Christ.

For more information, visit: kairorearth.org/river/

JULY 1-9 : SPRINGFIELD, MA TO LONG ISLAND SOUND

Spiritual theme: Transformation and Resurrection

SEGMENT #8 (JULY 3 – JULY 5): Springfield, MA to Middletown, CT

Put-in location = Riverfront Park, Hartford

Pull-out location = Harbor Park, Middletown

Mileage = 41.5 miles in 3 days

Longest day = 18.5 miles with 0 portages



SEGMENT #9 (JULY 6 – JULY 8): Middletown, CT to Essex, CT

Put-in location = Harbor Park

Pull-out location = Essex Park

Mileage = 24.5 miles in 3 days

Longest day = 9.5 miles with 0 portages

JULY 8: Land-based event(s) near Essex, CT, to celebrate the conclusion of the Pilgrimage – visit our Events page for more details

SEGMENT #10 (JULY 9): Essex, CT to Long Island Sound

Put-in location = Essex Park

Pull-out location = TBD near Old Saybrook

Mileage = 6 miles in 1 day

Difficulty = flat water with tidal effects and possible high waves in open water

Participation limit = experienced paddlers only due to tidal effects, current, and waves



We extend an invitation to all Great-grandfathers to worship with us Father's Day on June 18. During this worship we will proudly recognize our great-grandfathers of the church. If your name is not listed below or if you have recently become a new great-grandfather, 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
John Sword	James Ussery Jr.	Frank Vann	

In honor of Father's Day, June 18
InReach is offering Brownie Sundaes
during Coffee Hour.
All are welcome!



To recognize and honor the great grandmothers in our congregation on Mothers Day, and the great grandfathers in our congregation on Fathers Day, the Diaconate Board is making a combined donation of \$200 on their behalf to Nutmeg Big Brothers Big Sisters in Hartford.



Theresa will be on vacation the week of June 19 -23.
The church office will be open during Craig's office hours: Tuesday – Friday, 9am-Noon, and afternoon hours by appointment. 860-529-4167. office@rhccucc.org. The worship bulletin for June 25th will be printed on Friday June 16.



JUNE BIRTHDAYS

1	Harry Schmidt	20	Elaine Motta
1	Zachary Rupaka	21	Glenn Hunter
2	Eric Jokl	21	Jack Pawlich
4	Alexander Gau	22	Gail Hall
7	Linda Marchand	24	Douglas Toft
8	Thomas Kainamura	25	Katie Hoffman Fulda
9	Samuel Dean-Lee	26	Aiden Montana
9	Julia O'Connor	26	Nancy Robbins
10	Paul Wilson	26	Douglas Sudell
11	John Goff III	28	Marjorie Sheathelm
13	Mo Wyman	28	Matthew Flynn
15	Robert Carberry	28	Lynn Webster
		29	Jaye Veley

June Anniversaries



Christopher and Jessica Yorgensen

Raymond and Donna Gagnon

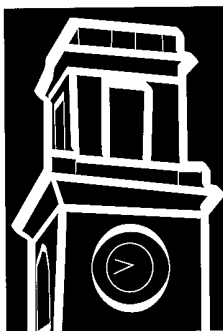
John and Karen Hoffman

Bill and Jennifer Cordes

John and Marilyn Van Doran

Donald and Palma Pagnucco

David and Nadine Bell



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
4 Communion Sunday <i>Pentecost</i> 10:00am Worship/Confirmation Strengthen the Church 3:30pm Ecclesiastical Council	5 <i>Rev. Craig Study Leave</i> <i>This week →</i> 7:00pm Women's AA 7:30pm Bell Choir	6 6:00pm Cedar Hollow 7:00pm Boards & Committees 7:00pm Hearing Voices	7 <i>Rev. Craig Study Leave</i> <i>This week →</i> 6:00pm Pilates 7:30pm Choir
11 Children's Sunday 10:00am Worship Graduate Recognition 11:00am Annual Meeting 4:30pm Youth Group Party	12 7:00pm Women's AA 7:30pm Bell Choir	13 7:00pm Council 7:00pm Hearing Voices	14 Newsletter Deadline 9:00am Breakfast Club at Bob's Café 6:00pm Pilates 7:30pm Choir
18 Happy Father's Day 10:00am Worship/Baptism Father's Day Coffee hour	19 Office Closed <i>Theresa on vacation this week →</i> 5:00pm Women's AA (Chapir 7:00pm Bonsai Group (Chapel 7:30pm Bell Choir	20 <u>Office Open 9am-Noon</u> 10:30am Retired Clergy 7:00pm Hearing Voices	21 <u>Office Open 9am-Noon</u> <i>Theresa vacation this week →</i> 6:00pm Pilates 7:30pm Choir
25 10:00am Worship	26 <i>Rev. Craig Study Leave</i> <i>This week →</i> 7:00pm Women's AA 7:30pm Bell Choir	27 Newsletter Mailing 7:00pm Cedar Hollow 7:00pm Hearing Voices	28 6:00pm Pilates 7:30pm Choir

OFFICE HOURS June 19 Week.
 Rev. Craig office hours:
 Tuesday – Friday 9:00am – Noon
 Afternoon hours by appointment

Happy Father's Day to all

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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



**CHILD
care**
Provided

2017

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 9:30am Music Together 7:30pm Men's AA	2 9:00am Graduation Little Scholars Preschool	3 4:00pm Confirmants' Dinner
8 9:30am Music Together 7:30pm Men's AA	9 4:00pm Craft & Flea Market set up in Chapin Hall	10 8:30am Men's Bible Study 9am-2pm Craft & Flea Market
15 9:30am Music Together 7:00pm Fair/Events Mtg 7:30pm Men's AA	16 UCC Meeting → (CT, RI, MA) 4:00pm Concert set up Sanctuary & Chapin	17 UCC Meeting (CT, RI, MA) 7:00pm Shoreline Ringers Handbell Concert
22 <u>Office Open 9am-Noon</u> 7:00pm Events Committee 7:30pm Men's AA	23 <u>Office Open 9am-Noon</u>	24
29 <i>Rev. Craig Study Leave This week →</i> 7:30pm Men's AA	30	



We'll hold our Summer
worship in air-conditioned
Chapin Hall during
July and August
10:00 a.m.



There will be pastoral coverage by Rev.
Woodward during the weeks of June 5th
and June 26th; when Rev. Craig is out
of the office taking study leave. Call the
office with any pastoral needs.

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

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Permit #7

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED
TIME VALUE MAIL

Mailed May 30, 2017



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.



You are cordially invited to
the Ecclesiastical Council for
Lisa M. Eleck
on Sunday, June 4, 2017 at 3:30 PM
at

Rocky Hill Congregational Church, United Church of Christ
805 Old Main Street, Rocky Hill, CT 06067

