



The Reverend Donna K. Manocchio, Senior Pastor

donna@rhccucc.org

Meghan D. Young, Acting Associate Pastor for Faith Formation

meghan@rhccucc.org

Mary DeLibero, Minister of Music

mary@rhccucc.org



March 2013 Newsletter

Editor – Carol Harvey

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March 24, Palm Sunday

*Special Music from the Hofstra Chamber Choir and Open Choir Sunday
Procession and the festival of palms,
remembering Jesus' entry into Jerusalem*

March 28, Maundy Thursday

7:00 PM in the Sanctuary

9:00 PM All Night Vigil

Worship Service with candles and communion.

March 29, Good Friday

9:00 AM All Night Vigil Ends

5:30 PM – 7:00 PM in Chapin Hall

A meal and walk through Jesus' last words.

March 30, Holy Saturday

3:00 PM – 5:00 PM in Chapin Hall

An ALL Church Gathering

*Prepare for the risen Christ with special family activities,
an Easter egg hunt, and worship.*

March 31, Easter Sunday

6:15 AM Sunrise Service at Rose Hill Cemetery

7:00 AM Breakfast in Chapin Hall

10:00 AM **ALLELUIA! CHRIST Is Risen!**

Easter Sunday Worship in the Sanctuary



Dear friends in Christ,

In her latest book, *Still*, Lauren Winner, tells of her experience in a coffee shop in Amherst, MA across from Emily Dickinson's house. Winner is reading a volume of

Dickinson's poems, searching for the ones the 19th century poet wrote about Jesus. Among the names Dickinson gave to Jesus include "Largest Lover" – the lover willing to give his life for his beloved – and "Compound Witness" – his life does two things, testifying to God's love and transforms death. Winner's favorite – and now mine, too – is "Tender Pioneer," with Jesus as the one who sojourns ahead of us, clearing the brush, removing the impediments and making a path that will lead us to our true selves and to God.

What name or names do you have for Jesus? Is it a biblical one, or one that comes from your own journeying with our Savior? The season of Lent is the time we walk with Jesus, from his time in the wilderness, through the streets of Galilee, up to Jerusalem, where he will die, be buried, and be raised from the dead. Will you join me this year in finding a new name for Jesus, a name that comes from prayer, worship, the reading of Scripture, or whenever and wherever we encounter the presence of Christ? We may not be published poets that can craft images and words that will last for centuries, but all of us have the power of the Holy Spirit to inspire us to new ways and words to understand who Jesus is for and with us.

The name that will come to you might inspire another to deeper faith or discipleship, so please give me a call or send an email with what emerges for you. We'll find ways to share them in worship and community gatherings. I look forward to seeing how God will open our hearts and imaginations!

In faith,

Donna

Vigil: All Night in the Garden
9PM, March 28 – 9AM, March 29

Stay awake with Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane. Join us for a night of worship, action, prayer, foot washing, scripture, music, and reflection. Come for an hour or the whole night. *Open to ALL ages.*

MARCH WORSHIP

- March 3** **Third Sunday in Lent** Meghan D. Young
Scripture: Luke 13:1-9
Sermon: "The Shape of Humility"
- March 10** **Fourth Sunday in Lent**
Scripture: Luke 15:11b-32 The Rev. Donna K. Manocchio
Sermon: "The Shape of Grace"
- March 17** **Fifth Sunday in Lent**
Scripture: John 12:1-8 The Rev. Donna K. Manocchio
Sermon: "The Shape of Love"
- March 24** **Palm Sunday**
Scripture: Luke 19:28-40 Meghan D. Young
Sermon: "The Shape of Discipleship"
- March 24** **Easter Sunday**
6:15am Sunrise Service at Rose Hill Cemetery
10:00am Scripture: Luke 24:1-12 The Rev. Donna K. Manocchio
Sermon: "The Dazzling Dawn"

COMMUNITY PRAYER FOR PEACE

On February 20, a community prayer for peace was held in the Weil Chapel. During the prayer time, we were invited to place stickers on a map of the world where we desired peace to flourish. The map and stickers will remain in the chapel during Lent, and we will gather our prayers for peace during this holy season. Whenever you come to church, you are invited to pray for peace in a particular part of the world, and then place a sticker on the map. Please invite a friend and join us at a community prayer for peace on WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20 at 7 PM.\

DISCERNING THE WAY TOWARD ORDINATION:

MEGHAN YOUNG

Acting Associate Minister for Faith Formation Meghan Young has been a member in discernment for two years, working with the Committee on Ministry in the Hartford Association as she seeks to be ordained in the United Church of Christ. RHCC, UCC is her sponsoring church, even as she serves this community of faith, sharing her gifts in teaching, worship, preaching, and pastoral care.

Meghan's journey toward ordination has been intentional and faith-filled. While still in high school, she discerned a call to ministry. In college, she worked as the Director of Christian Education at a UCC church in Pittsburgh. After graduating from Carnegie-Mellon University, Meghan worked in the non-profit arena with children and youth. She entered Yale Divinity School, and graduated in 2008. While in seminary, she served two churches as a student pastor: one in the city of New Haven, and one in Terryville. She came to Rocky Hill as a part-time director of Christian Education while she served as a Resident Chaplain at Hartford Hospital. And for the last two and half years, Meghan has served as the Acting Associate Pastor.

Meghan's depth and breadth of experience has been a blessing to her and to the communities she has served, including RHCC. She is now nearing the end of the formal process of discernment that is part of the UCC process toward ordination. The Committee on Ministry has affirmed Meghan's gifts for ministry, and has asked her to write an ordination paper, in which she shares her personal journey and theological perspectives, as well as her understanding of the history and organization of the United Church of Christ. The Committee has received Meghan's paper, and is currently reviewing it. Meghan will receive recommendations and suggestions from the Committee, and after the paper is finalized, the committee will vote as to whether to schedule an ecclesiastical council.

While the committee will discern and then vote on the next steps for Meghan, all indications appear positive that the Committee will recommend an ecclesiastical council. Delegates from the churches in the Hartford Association gather as a council to hear Meghan share parts of her ordination paper and respond to questions about her journey, theology, call to ministry, and the state of the church. Since RHCC, UCC is Meghan's home church, we would serve as hosts for Meghan's ecclesiastical council.

With the blessing of the ecclesiastical council, Meghan can pursue settled ministry and ordination anywhere in the United Church of Christ. We're pleased that Meghan has recently shared her interest in considering settled, ordained ministry here at RHCC. Today, Meghan serves our congregation as a fully-licensed minister, able to fulfill all of the ministry and duties of the Acting Associate Pastor. Very little would change if the congregation should decide to call Meghan as an ordained Associate Pastor (she'd no longer carry the label of "Acting").

Each of us hears God's call in different ways. We're blessed that Meghan has included us on her journey toward ordained ministry.



This is a time of transition for our entire church family. Our individual reactions to Senior Minister Donna Manocchio's impending departure are varied, from sadness to confusion to excitement for Donna in her new ministry. Our congregation will thrive in this time of transition, because we are energetic, we have strong leadership and our vision is clear.

Our church Constitution directs the Diaconate to "Arrange for the hiring of temporary ministers when necessary, whether for a single service, or for extended periods of interim vacancy". An ad hoc committee of the Deacons will work with our new Regional Minister, Tamara Moreland, to develop a plan and timetable for calling an Interim Minister. The committee will work with the staff at the Connecticut Conference UCC to identify potential candidates. Interviews will be conducted, and input from Acting Associate Minister Meghan Young, Minister of Music Mary DeLibero and other church leaders and church staff will be solicited. And, after due consideration, an Interim Minister will be chosen.

The Deacons will publish the names of our ad hoc committee and keep you informed of progress identifying an Interim Minister in The Churchmouse and in weekly bulletins. Please feel free to offer your thoughts and suggestions on this important subject to committee members or to any member of the Diaconate.

Bill Hoffman, for the Deacons

The Board of Deacons
Spiritual Welfare

Membership Vitality

Ministering

Global and Local Mission News

*“Man shall not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.” Matthew 4:4*

As we journey through the wilderness of this Lenten season, there is one question that buzzes all around us. “What are you giving up for Lent?” We have learned the practice of denying ourselves something that we value in order to feel, in a small or large way, the significance of that walk through the wilderness with Christ. Some will be fasting from chocolate or TV, but in the end it should be something that is difficult for you to live out, something that challenges your will and your commitment to your promise.

In our family, it has long been the idea that you do not need to give something up but rather DO something good. Instead of asking what we can live without, ask what we can do for others so that they can more easily live through their own wilderness. So instead of passing on ice cream or missing the latest “Housewives”, consider serving in a soup kitchen, spend time with an elderly neighbor, or write a letter to a service member. Do good acts to show that we do not only live on bread but on the love and kindness we feel when we commit to the mission of God’s word.

In Faith,

Meghan Montana

Global Mission Trip Opportunity to Columbia – May 30th – June 9th

A US Delegation is being put together, by Global Ministries and the Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ, to support, gain insight, and have firsthand experience into the work of the Peace Commission in Columbia. Global Missionary Michael Joseph, who we have had the pleasure of hosting here at RHCC, will be our guide during this journey. We will begin and end in Bogota and will visit two other smaller communities while there. The trip will also end with a visit to the US Embassy to report on what we have seen. Commitments and deposits are due by mid-March, so if you are interested in learning more, please contact Meghan Montana at [203-640-2386](tel:203-640-2386) or me.kelly@snet.net

January’s Events:

In January, Missions hosted several wonderful events! We gathered on our Night of Kindness with food and reflection on our 26 Acts of Kindness for Newtown, and our collection for Newtown reached \$769 which will be matched by the Missions Board. We also were blessed to have a second hour with Zulu Lemtur our friend and International Peacemaker student at Hartford Seminary where he discussed the religious and political turmoil in his homeland. Additionally Global Missions was also able to host James deBoer who is serving as a long term volunteer in Argentina and Paraguay and heard of his experiences there. We were blessed with the presence of all who attended and contributed to these events, thank you!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday March 3rd – Second Hour, Missions Exploration

The Board for Missions will be using this second-hour opportunity to have an all church, all age “Missions Exploration” where we will be putting together placement packs for the Covenant to Care organization and brainstorming new mission opportunities.

Care packs are given to children who have been removed from unsafe home environments and at times have nothing more than the clothes they are wearing. The packs give them a few items to call their own and make them feel more cared for. After our care pack assembly, we will have group discussions about where and how you would like to reach out and give to our local community. Bring ideas and projects that you have had experience with or have always wanted to learn more about! Families are encouraged to attend as all ages can be a part of our mission at RHCC and mission work is a great way to highlight what we learn from Faith Formation. We look forward to seeing you there and gaining some wonderful new ideas!

Sunday, March 10th – One Great Hour of Sharing

For over 65 years, Christians in North America have changed lives with their gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing. This year, the theme for One Great Hour of Sharing is "Sharing Brings Joy." The gifts made real by our support are transformed into gifts of love, joy and restoration, as:

- families displaced by natural disaster or political unrest are comforted by food, shelter and a safe place to begin rebuilding their lives.
- worried mothers caring for their children in times of food insecurity; are transformed to deep peace when sustenance arrives.
- a woman who has had to walk for miles for potable water smiles as she draws fresh water from the new well placed in her community near her home.

As you make your offering to One Great Hour of Sharing this year, remember the numerous ways your gifts bring joy - to you, to all of God's cherished children, and especially to the Holy One. Please consider giving to this special UCC offering.

Since last month, your generosity has helped the following:

Back Bay Mission:	\$2,500
OCWM	5,500
Newtown Appeal	769
Board for Missions	769
Church World Service	115 (blanket cards)

YOUR BOARD FOR MISSIONS MEMBERS:

Linda Calcagni (Chair), Meghan Montana (Vice–Chair), Kari-McCaw-Blaise (Secretary), David Bell (Treasurer), Michael Bower, Bob Carberry, Jim Day, Cindy Hunt, Thomas Kainamura and Sarah Mosure (Members)



*Remember or Honor Loved Ones
With Easter Flowers*

The flowers will adorn the sanctuary for worship on
Easter Sunday, March 31.

The three choices this year will be:

Lily (\$11.95), Hyacinth (\$7.95), or Tulip (\$7.95)

**This year, at the request of the florist, for ordering purposes
the Deadline for ordering is Wednesday, March 20, 2013.**

Please fill out the information below and mail to Joan Diaz (*see address below*)

Given by: _____

Daytime Telephone Number: _____

Dedication (“in loving memory of...”, “in honor of...”, etc.):

- | |
|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lily @ \$12.95 each |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hyacinth @ \$8.95 each |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tulip @ \$8.95 each |

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

Please select:

[] I will pick up my plant after worship on Sunday, March 31.

[] The Deacons may give my plant to a shut-in or homebound member.

Make checks payable to RHCC and give them directly to or mail to Joan Diaz:

15 Thistle Down, Cromwell CT 06416

You may call Joan with questions at 860 613-2889.

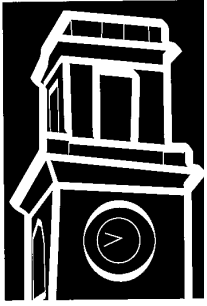


- | | | | |
|----|--|----|---|
| 1 | Bill Hoffman
Todd McGowan
Bill White | 17 | Kathryn Morgan
Rocco Rodriguez |
| 2 | Carole Christopher
Sean Painter
Rebecca Milles | 18 | Gabriella Salazar
Jim Bishop |
| 3 | Alice Weil
Pat Gordon
Grace Donahue | 19 | Louise Tangarone |
| 4 | John Van Doran | 20 | Susan VanNess
Elaine Somes
Charlotte Reed-Swale |
| 5 | Tim Bishop | 21 | Ryan Bengston |
| 6 | Percy Hall | 22 | Gladys Carpenter
Meghan Young |
| 7 | Margaret Vassilopoulos | 23 | Marilyn Van Doran |
| 8 | Dot Hunter
Joan Dean
Kevin Sudell | 24 | Bea Donahue
Janice Wine
Sarah Mosure |
| 9 | Colleen Schultz
Jason Hall | 25 | Margaret White |
| 10 | Jennifer Knight | 26 | Todd Pender |
| 11 | Cheryl Robbins
Chase Corvo
Ryan Tuohey | 27 | Ruth Bergengren
Richard Sweezy, Jr
Rebekah Van Epps |
| 12 | Tim Dostie
Todd Doten
Suzanne Speers
Ryan Walker
Isabella St. Pierre | 28 | Gail Fu
Lisa Siembab
Nicole Graham |
| 13 | Dick Somes
Jackie Little | 29 | Kim Burghoff
Carol Jensen
Laura Fell
Erik Rousseau
David Van Epps |
| 14 | Mary D'Addario
Lorraine Lewis
David Bell | 30 | Jayson Veley
Sean Yorgensen |
| 15 | Alexander Ware | 31 | Mark Walworth
Pat Hughes-Walworth
Jayne Bishop |



Paul and Gail Tine
were married on
March 4, 1972

Jim and Lois Griswold
were married on
March 16, 1946



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



GOOD
care
 Provided



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
3 Third Sunday in Lent Communion Sunday 11:30am Missions Exploration 11:30am Noah's Table	4 5:30pm Yoga w/Lynn 7:00pm Women's AA 7:00pm RHCC Bowling 7:30pm Bell Choir	5 7:00pm Board and Committee Mtgs	6 9:00am Quilters 10:30am Apple Rehab Svc 12:00pm Bible Study 7:30pm Adult Choir
10 Fourth Sunday in Lent One Great Hour of Sharing 11:30am Community Gathering 11:30am Noah's Table 5:00pm Confirmation	11 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	12 8:30am Breakfast Club	13 9:00am Quilters 12:00pm Bible Study 7:30pm Adult Choir
17 Fifth Sunday in Lent Budget & Election Mtg 11:30am Noah's Table	18 5:30pm Yoga w/Lynn 7:00pm Women's AA 7:00pm RHCC Bowling 7:30pm Bell Choir	19	20 Easter Flower Deadline 9:00am Quilters 12:00pm Bible Study 6:00pm Community Event 7:00pm Community Prayer 7:00pm Fair Meeting 7:30pm Adult Choir
24 Palm Sunday All Church Choir 11:30am Noah's Table 4:00pm Hofstra Concert TBD Confirmation	25 5:30pm Yoga w/Lynn 7:00pm Women's AA 7:00pm RHCC Bowling 7:30pm Bell Choir	26	27 9:00am Quilters 12:00pm Bible Study 7:30pm Adult Choir
31 Easter Sunday 6:15am Sunrise Service 7:00am Easter Breakfast 10:00am Traditional Service			

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 Associate Pastor for Faith Formation	204	Thomas Munger, Custodian	205
		RHCCNS (Nursery School)	208
Carol Harvey, Office Secretary	201		

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

Office Hours 8am-2pm Monday– Thursday / 8am-noon Friday

The Reverend Donna K. Manocchio, Senior Pastor

Meghan Young, Acting Associate Pastor for Faith Formation

Mary DeLibero, Minister of Music

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 5:00pm Youth Group 7:00pm World Day of Prayer @ St James	2 8:30am Yoga w/Lynn
7 10:30am Love Wins 5:30pm TOPS 8:00pm Men's AA	8	9 8:30am Yoga w/Lynn 6:00pm Dinner/Movie
14 10:30am Love Wins 5:30pm TOPS 8:00pm Men's AA	15 <div style="text-align: center; background-color: black; color: white; padding: 5px;">NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</div>	16 8:30am Yoga w/Lynn 5:00pm Healing Service
21 10:30am Love Wins 5:30pm TOPS 7:00pm Women's Bible Study 8:00pm Men's AA	22 6:00pm RHCCNS Movie Night	23 8:30am Yoga w/Lynn
28 Maundy Thursday 5:30pm TOPS 7:00pm Maundy Thursday Service 9:00pm All Night Vigil	29 Good Friday 9:00am All Night Vigil Ends 5:30pm Service and Dinner	30 Holy Saturday 8:30am Yoga w/Lynn 3:00pm All Church Gathering and Easter Egg Hunt



**“SCRIP-SURE”
Order Schedule
Scrip Pick Up
March 3
Scrip Deadline
March 31**

Save the Date

Wednesday, April 24, 2013

5:00 to 8:30 pm

A Women's Evening of Reflection: The Road to Emmaus, Recognizing Jesus on Our Journeys and at Our Tables

Join other women as we explore scripture, share our stories, grow our faith, and break bread together. Presented by Lisa Eleck as part of her course at Hartford Seminary with support from Rev. Donna Manocchio. Cost: \$10 to cover a light meal



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

We finished our unit on Baptism, with the knowledge that we are loved and accepted by God, and are now in our Lenten unit, “Road To Emmaus”. Most people are familiar with the story of Jesus’ death and resurrection. We recall Jesus’ triumphant entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, the last meal he shared with his disciples on Maundy Thursday, his arrest and trial, his death on the cross on Good Friday, and the amazing news at the tomb: “Jesus is risen!” And the story continues.

During this unit the S.P.I.R.I.T. Church School is exploring how the disciples encountered Jesus on the road to Emmaus. Theologian Thomas Long summarizes the impact of the story this way:

When an incognito Jesus joins these two as they are walking and asks what they are talking about they respond in language that sounds much like a creed: “The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people...” Then Jesus “interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures,” an action that forms an ideal expression of preaching. When the threesome arrives at Emmaus they gather for a meal that sounds for all the world like the Lord’s Supper. The guest becomes the host, the bread is blessed and broken, and it is here that they recognize Jesus. In other words, the risen Christ is present as the church travels the Christian way, confesses its faith, listens attentively to the proclamation of the scriptures, and gathers around the table to eat and drink.

The warmth of this encounter with the risen Christ inspires us to reach out to those around, especially as we gather for table fellowship. We hope during this unit to explore, discover, and prepare our hearts in Lent, focusing on how we are all invited to experience the presence of the risen Christ.

Check out S.P.I.R.I.T. Corner in the weekly bulletins for more information about what we’re learning on the, “Road to Emmaus”, and join us!

Youth Group

This month our Youth Group returned to Peter’s retreat, for a fun night of hosting bingo and serving ice cream sundaes. We also had dinner at the church and relaxed with a movie. We’re continuing to look for more mission projects to do in the area, and are looking forward to some exciting opportunities.

Gatherings

Lent began with our Shrove Tuesday/Ash Wednesday Gathering & Worship on January 13th. We came together for a wonderful night of crafts, tasty pancakes thanks to the In-Reach committee, spirit moving music by the Dixieland Jazz Ensemble, and Ash Wednesday worship, as we moved from dancing to walking in the wilderness. Along with the Alleluias we wrote down and put away what we hope and pray will be transformed for us this Lent, to remind ourselves that we come as we are to walk in the wilderness during Lent, with the hope and knowledge that we are transformed in the gift of Jesus the Christ that we rejoice in every Easter.

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

SPECIAL EVENT: *You do not want to miss this!*

Date	Scripture/Lesson
Saturday, March 30 3 PM – 5 PM Chapin Hall	HOLY SATURDAY GATHERING & EASTER EGG HUNT: Prepare for the risen Christ with special family activities and worship. Come transform what we put away on Ash Wednesday, participate in an Easter egg hunt for all ages, and worship as we prepare for Easter rejoicing. RSVP appreciated. Please email meghan@rhccucc.org , for more information and to sign-up.

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

Date	Scripture/Lesson
Sunday, March 3	Communion Sunday, Family Worship
Sunday, March 10	Week 2: Road to Emmaus
Sunday, March 17	Week 3: Road to Emmaus
Sunday, March 24	Palm Sunday, Family Worship
Sunday, March 31	Easter Sunday, Family Worship

Youth Group Calendar: *March*

Date	Fellowship Gatherings
Friday, March 1	Youth Group Gathering (6 th -12 ^h Grade) → 5 – 9 PM
Sunday, March 3	Noah's Table (6 th -12 ^h Grade) → 11:30 AM – 1 PM
Sunday, March 10	Noah's Table (6 th -12 ^h Grade) → 11:30 AM – 1 PM
Sunday, March 17	Noah's Table (6 th -12 ^h Grade) → 11:30 AM – 1 PM
Sunday, March 24	Noah's Table (6 th -12 ^h Grade) → 11:30 AM – 1 PM
Thursday, March 28 – Friday, March 29	Vigil: All Night in the Garden → 9 PM – 9 AM <i>Stay awake with Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane</i>

NURSERY VOLUNTEERS: Nursery Volunteers are needed for March & April. If you are interested in volunteering in the Nursery during Sunday morning worship, please contact a member of the Childcare Committee (Kari McCaw-Blaise, Liz Pulling, Liz Reed-Swale) or email them at RHCCchildcare@gmail.com for more information. You can also sign-up outside the Nursery.

GROW IN FAITH: We are still in need of S.P.I.R.I.T. Church School Volunteers for March 10th and 17th. We are looking for 2 learning center guides (Fun & Games, Community Life), and a 6th-8th grade shepherd. Grow in your faith as you participate in faith formation. For more information talk to Meghan Young or a current S.P.I.R.I.T. Guide or Shepherd.

Silver Lake 2013 – Calendars and Scholarships Available

Pick up your Silver Lake 2013 summer camp calendars in Chapin Hall or in the Church School hallway, and sign-up for summer fun! Scholarships are available. Scholarship requests are due by March 31st. Please contact Meghan Young at meghan@rhccucc.org for more information.

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.

February was a month of learning and walking in faith. We attended the Shrove Tuesday/Ash Wednesday service, entering into the journey that is walking with God during Lent. We met with our mentors to explore what worship means for us, and what the sacrament of Communion means in our daily lives and faith. And, we joined the boards and committees to learn how they serve our Church. During April we will continue our walk during Lent, living out and encountering our faith, worshiping during holy week, and keeping vigil with Jesus.

March Schedule:

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

Date	Class/Event	Times
Sunday, March 10	CLASS: Baptism	5 PM – 7 PM
Sunday, March 24	CLASS: Walk Through Holy Week	TBD
Thursday, March 28	WORSHIP: Maundy Thursday <i>*Optional, but encouraged.</i>	7 PM
Thursday, March 28 – Friday, March 29	WORSHIP/EVENT: Holy Week Vigil <i>Stay awake with Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane.</i>	9 PM – 9 AM
Friday, March 29	WORSHIP: Good Friday	5:30 PM – 7 PM



Breakfast Club

Tuesday, March 12 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!

SAVE THE DATE

Join In a New Interfaith Initiative in Greater Hartford to
“End the Culture of Violence”



We are welcoming keynote speaker, Marian Wright Edelman,
Founder & President of the Children's Defense Fund (CDF)

Thursday, March 14, 2013 | 7:00 pm
Lincoln Theater, University of Hartford

Admission is free and open to the entire community,
but reservations are required

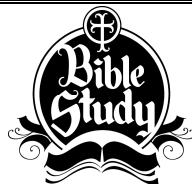
RSVP to the Lincoln Theater Box Office - 860 768-4454



JEWISH
COMMUNITY
RELATIONS
COUNCIL



UNIVERSITY OF HARTFORD



Women of the Bible
Thursday, March 21st

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!



An unexpected abundance ...

Not counting our snowstorm of the February 8-10th weekend, “*when have you experienced an unexpected abundance?*” ... Either here at RHCC, UCC or at some point in your life’s journey?

This question was posed in a couple of meetings recently (Stewardship, Council) and resulted in very thoughtful expressions of surprise, delight, deep gratitude, appreciation, blessings. Several responses shared gratitude for the abundance of family love as they gathered from afar for recent weddings. Another response was the surprise and delight when hearing that not just one baby was waiting to be born... but two... an abundance of family love on its way. As one who traveling by plane viewed the landscape below covered with white snow, an awesome feeling of abundance and appreciation was experienced for the land we live on. The music in our church life was the source for another expression of rich abundance experienced while listening to the blending of voices during the “Lessons and Carols” Candlelight Service in December.

Think upon this question and how it relates to you. Recall a time or special event in which you experienced an unexpected abundance... or possibly you experienced the surprising delight and joy of others through your sharing and giving. In this month of March, we are emerging from a long winter and witnessing the growing “abundance” of spring and new growth. And may it also be so for our church family as we continue to move forward in ways that ensure the continuance of our church’s vision through the prayerful practice of sharing and gifting of our time, talents, and treasures.

Your Stewardship Committee



Helena Lee Rafferty died on January 28, 2013. There will be a memorial service on Saturday, March 16th at 2:00pm at Broadview Community Church in Hartford.



HOFSTRA CHAMBER CHOIR HOST FAMILIES NEEDED

We are proud to once again host the Hofstra Chamber Choir. This year they will be with us on Sunday, March 24 (Palm Sunday). Because it is a special Sunday, they will be offering their gifts in worship that morning, followed by a full concert in the afternoon. We are looking for host families for Saturday night, March 23. If you can host 2 or more choir members overnight, with dinner that evening and breakfast the next morning, the choir would be most grateful. Those who hosted last year can tell you that this is a delightful group of young adults who love to talk about their hopes and dreams. If you can help out, please see Gail Hall at the Scrip table any Sunday, leave a message in the Music Committee mailbox in the church office, or contact any member of the music committee.

Spring Choral Concert **Sunday, March 24, 2013 at 4:00pm**

Featuring the Hofstra University Chamber Singers

The Hofstra Chamber Singers specializes in the study of traditional, contemporary and multicultural choral repertoire, extending from the Renaissance to the 21st century. This smallest and most select of the Hofstra choirs focuses on the distinct art of a cappella singing. The cost is \$10 (\$25 family Maximum).

Open Choir

Save the Date!! Singers of **all** ages are invited to sing with our choir, bell choir **and** the Hofstra Choir in a special opening prelude on Palm Sunday, March 24th.. The music is not difficult but will be very festive and fun. We will also sing "The Palms" in procession back to our seats. Please stay tuned for details about rehearsal or see Mary with any questions.



From the Scholarship Committee

Each year, our church awards college scholarships which are funded by investment returns from the Scholarship Endowment Funds. Applicants should be members of Rocky Hill Congregational Church, active members of one of its youth organizations, or active participants in the life of the church. Awards are based upon church

and community involvement, demonstrated scholastic achievement, financial need, and the completion and submission of a scholarship application form. Scholarships may be awarded for up to four years of undergraduate studies. Recommendations on scholarship recipients are made by the Scholarship Committee, whose members are appointed by the Board of Trustees. This recommendation is then subject to the final approval of the Trustees.

Graduating high school seniors and returning college undergraduates who are seeking a church scholarship for the 2013-2014 academic year should obtain an application from the church office or from the web site, rhccucc.org and may be submitted electronically. Please complete and return it prior to April 15, 2013. Scholarship awards will be announced in June.

Scholarship Directory Available

A directory of scholarships that are available to college-bound students in the 29-town Greater Hartford region is now available from the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving. Students can pick up a copy of the directory from their school guidance office or you can access it online at www.hfpg.org/scholarships, or call the Foundation to obtain a copy.

Frank Roswell Fuller Scholarship



This scholarship requires that you be a member of the UCC/Congregational Church and “professed to be of the Congregational faith.” Applications are on the bulletin board in the church office. Feel free to come in to get your application while the office is open. If you are unable to come in during office hours please call and an application will be mailed to you.

Frank Roswell Fuller was born in Hartford on August 23, 1873 and attended local public schools. He went to New York City and later formed his own company at 40 Wall Street known as Fuller & Company, which operated from 1904 to 1920. When he retired he came to live in West Hartford. He died on March 1, 1957. His will, probated in the Probate Court for District of Hartford, established a substantial scholarship fund. Mr. Fuller was always interested in helping “needy, deserving” students obtain the education that he had not been able to enjoy himself.

Remember to file your FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) to federal processor by March 1. You may obtain a FAFSA application from your high school guidance counselor or at www.fafsa.ed.gov.

The deadline for submitting your application and other documents is May 15th.



Come Join us for Dinner and a Movie

**Saturday, March 9, 2013
at 6:00 pm in Chapin Hall.**

**The film showing will be
"Miss Pettigrew Lives For A Day"**

Academy Award nominee Amy Adams and Academy Award winner Frances McDormand star in this charming comedy about finding new life and new love, all in one day. When Miss Pettigrew (McDormand) stumbles upon the chance to become the new "social secretary" to glamorous high society singer and actress, Delysua Lafosse (Adams), she seizes the opportunity despite being totally out of her element. Swept up into the glamorous whirl of high society, it's all Miss Pettigrew can do to keep up with Delysia as she juggles her love life and career in this delightful champagne cocktail of a comedy. Delightful, charming and very funny.

March 2013: Down by the Riverside Written by James deBoer and Marian Thorpe

And they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.—Matthew 3: 6



This past Sunday morning, I was blessed to be present for the sacrament of Baptism at the Disciples of Christ Church in Ciudad del Este, Paraguay. After the Sunday morning service, the whole congregation caravanned down to the river on the city's outskirts. The two pastors and several elders marched into the water, and then the deacons escorted 70 new church members into the river to be baptized. Everyone shared in the spirit of joy.

The people being baptized were accompanied to the water's edge with warm encouragement by family, friends, and the 8 – 12 people that each person meets with once or twice a week for Bible Study and devotion. This allows people to form close friendships and get to know one another even in a church with over 700 members.

Some were young, maybe 11 or 12, while others were more advanced in life. Many were serious, but a few were laughing. Some had been born and raised in the city; others had migrated from the *campo*. Yet despite all of this, everyone shared in beginning a new phase of their faith journey – the moment when they committed themselves to following Christ together with the whole congregation. The experience of their baptism must have been exhilarating, overwhelming, and reassuring, all at the same time.

Prayer: God of the nations, in a time of divisions and difficulties for many, may we all be refreshed by your presence and promise. May we each remember our baptisms into the life of Jesus Christ and allow him to guide us each day to make the right decisions. And, may we be opened up to the magic of the Holy Spirit who throughout time and space knits us together, through love, into one body. In the name of all that is holy. Amen."

James deBoer and Marian Thorpe were long-term missionaries with the Disciples of Christ in Argentina and Paraguay. They served as consultants for Mission Development.

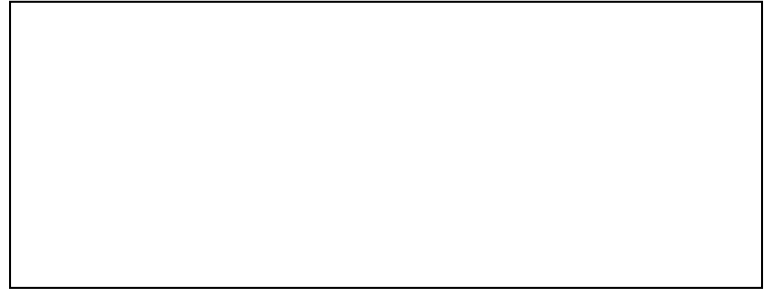
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No matter who you are,
Or where you are on life's journey...
You're welcome here.



CALL TO THE ANNUAL BUDGET AND ELECTIONS MEETING

The annual Budget and Elections Meeting of the Rocky Hill Congregational Church, United Church of Christ is called for Sunday, March 17, 2013 immediately following worship in the sanctuary for the transaction of the following items of business:

1. to vote on the proposed local budget for the 2013-2014 fiscal year;
2. to vote on the proposed benevolence budget for the 2013-2014 fiscal year and to approve all special offerings for Missions and Diaconate;
3. to elect church officers and board and committee members for terms beginning May 1, 2013;
4. to approve the recommendation of the Fair Committee for expenditure of the proceeds from the 2012 events;
5. to vote on the distribution of the loose collections for the 2013-2014 fiscal year;
6. to conduct any other business brought before the congregation.

Marsha Hoffman, Church Clerk