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The Church Mouse

March 2014 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

SHROVE TUESDAY/ASH WEDNESDAY GATHERING

We gather for a traditional pancake dinner, celebration, and special music for "Fat[Shrove] Tuesday, followed by a contemplative worship for Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent.

Wednesday, March 5, 5:30—7:30 PM

Join us As we move from dancing into a time of preparation.



SIGN-UP IN CHAPIN HALL OR EMAIL MEGHAN@RHCCUCC.ORG

**You're Invited to
an Ecclesiastical Council for
Pastor Meghan D. Young
Hosted by Rocky Hill Congregational Church, United Church of
Christ
Sunday, March 16, 2014 at 3 PM
Reception following**

Please join us! On Sunday afternoon, March 16, we have the rare opportunity to participate in an old congregational tradition: an Ecclesiastical Council. The Committee on Church and Ministry of the Hartford Association of the Connecticut Conference UCC is sponsoring the Ecclesiastical Council for Pastor Meghan D. Young, hosted by our congregation. The purpose of the Ecclesiastical Council is to discern Meghan's preparation for and call to ordained ministry. This is the last step in the process toward ordination, pending call, and being granted full ministerial standing in the United Church of Christ. As in the time of our Puritan forbears, clergy and lay people from "neighboring churches" are encouraged to come participate. All members of our church and any clergy and members of local UCC congregations in the Hartford Association are invited to attend. Meghan will give a brief summary of her ordination paper, including comments about her spiritual journey and theology. Following Meghan's presentation, those gathered will be invited to ask questions to help discern her call to ordained ministry in the UCC. A reception, sponsored by the Board of Deacons, will follow.

Meghan joined our church staff in September 2009 and accepted the position of Acting Associate Pastor the following year. In December 2010, our Board of Deacons recommended to the Hartford Association that Meghan be received as a member-in-discernment. This began a process during which Meghan could discern her interest in a call to ministry in the United Church of Christ. Meghan is presently the Acting Associate Pastor for Faith Formation.

The Board of Deacons and Church Council would appreciate your presence and prayers for this important time in Meghan's ministry.

God is still speaking,
**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**



Interim Pastor's Message



Remember, hope is not some vague belief that "all will work out well," but biblical hope is the certainty that things finally have a victorious meaning no matter how they turn out. We learned that from Jesus, which gives us now the courage to live our lives forward from here. Maybe that is the full purpose of Lent.

-Richard Rohr

Twice in the church year, we keep of seasons of preparation: Advent before Christmas, and Lent before Easter. They are meant to be spiritual disciplines, time and space for being and doing that help us understand the nature of our faith and the one we follow. In Advent-Christmas, it's Jesus the Word-made-flesh. In Lent-Holy Week, it's Jesus the crucified-yet-risen. Paradox abounds in both. Truths that can't be simply stated or easily understood speak up, asking for our attention.

What I always hope for in Lent is that we will get serious about hope and the paradoxes in which it comes to us. What I mean is that we won't simply see "hope" as the thing we tack on at the end — a happy ending so certain that we figure we don't have to bother with all the rest of it first. If we know that Easter morning will dawn for sure and Christ will once more be risen, alleluia, then why do we need to go through weeks of other stuff ... the solemnity, the reflection, the self-examination, the whole dark ashes-to-crosses arc of it? Why not just sing alleluias all the way through? (I once heard a pastor suggest that we drop Lent. "Too much of a downer," he said. Seriously).

I guess the answer to that is because your life and mine are not alleluias all the way through, just like Jesus' life wasn't. If the gospel has anything to say to us, it will have to say it directly to the light-and-dark, up-and-down, joy-and-sorrow mix that we all live in — otherwise, we would know it is not really speaking to us. This is the power of Lent. It makes us listen for the truth about who we are (mortal, tempted, human ones) so that, by the end of it, we can...well, tell the truth about who we are (beloved of God and those for whom the risen Christ lives). In between the two poles of Ash Wednesday and Easter Sunday, we follow the whole thing yet again, dark and light, death and life, and remember the sheer power of starting with the truth. That's a different invitation than one to tack on "hope" or "joy" at the end without trying to discover what they mean all along the way.

Biblical hope is the certainty that things finally have a victorious meaning no matter how they turn out, says Richard Rohr. Yes. No matter how they turn out. May we find many ways in this Lenten season to discover the true dimensions of the hope that calls us.

Faithfully,

Rev. Brenda

Worship SCHEDULE

Listed below are the several lectionary texts for each Sunday. The lectionary is a three-year 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.

March 2

Last Sunday after Epiphany; Communion
Intergenerational Worship
Ex. 24:12-28; Ps. 2 or Ps. 99; 2 Pet. 1:16-21;
Matt. 17:1-9

Wednesday March 5

12:00 noon
5:30p.m.
6:45pm

Shrove Tuesday/Ash Wednesday ~ Beginning of Lent
Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 or Isa. 58:1-12; Ps. 51:1-17;
2 Cor. 5:20b-6:10; Matt. 6:1-6, 16-21
Brief prayers, imposition of ashes (Chapel)
Shrove Tuesday/Ash Wednesday Gathering
Service for the beginning of Lent

March 9

First Sunday in Lent
Gen. 2:15-17, 3:1-7; Ps. 32; Rom. 5:12-19;
Matt. 4:1-11

March 16

Second Sunday in Lent
Gen. 12:1-41; Ps. 121; Rom. 4:1-5, 13-17;
John 3:1-17 or Matt. 17:1-9

March 23

Third Sunday in Lent
Ex. 17:1-7; Ps. 95; Rom. 5:1-11; John 4:5-42

March 30

Fourth Sunday in Lent
1 Sam. 16:1-13; Ps. 23; Eph. 5:8-14; John 9:1-41

SMALL GROUP OPPORTUNITIES FOR LENT

Join a small group to explore and enrich your faith in new ways during Lent!

1. ART + FAITH.

7 PM – 8 PM, Thursdays, March 13, 20, 27 & April 3, facilitated by Pastor Meghan.

It has been said that creativity requires faith, and that art itself is an incarnational activity. Come and explore scripture and faith through different artistic mediums. Projects will be both group and individual. No artistic skill or experience needed.

Minimum of 4 committed participants required. Maximum of 8.

2. LIVING THE RESURRECTION.

12 PM – 1 PM, Sundays, March 23, 30 & April 6, 13, facilitated by Pastor Meghan.

What does it mean to live a life rooted in the resurrection? We will explore this question, as individuals and a community of faith, through two books: *Daring Greatly & Liberating Hope*. *Daring Greatly: How the Courage to Be Vulnerable Transforms the Way We Live, Love, Parent, and Lead* offers a powerful new vision that encourages us to dare greatly: to embrace vulnerability and imperfection, to live wholeheartedly, and to courageously engage in our lives. *Liberating Hope: Daring to Renew the Mainline Church* provides concrete and tangible 21st century insight to those churches looking to renew their congregations through hope and optimism rooted in the resurrection. Chapters from these books will be provided before each gathering.

Minimum of 4 committed participants required. Maximum of 10.

3. R - E - A - C - H for Lent!

A small-group faith enrichment experience, led by Rev. Brenda, meeting four times during lent.

REACH = “Recommunion Experience for Addressed Christians.”

Confirmation is typically a time in our youth when we get to explore the meanings of the Christian faith and our place within the community of faith, the church. It’s a time for wondering, asking, learning, wondering some more, then “confirming” what we believe. Often it culminates in the writing and sharing of a faith-statement: “This is what seems true to me now about my faith, and here are my questions.” Adults, however, seldom have the same opportunity to revisit core understandings of their faith and how they have changed through the experiences of adult life, or to put together a faith statement that reflects who they are now, many years after the Confirmation experience of their youth. This small group will be for just that purpose. Meeting four times, it will give participants a chance to do some exploring, reflecting and “reaching” through short readings and group conversation, and then the writing and sharing of faith statements at the end.

Minimum of four committed participants needed.

Two evening options (four Wednesday evenings or four Thursday evenings) and one daytime option (four Tuesdays, early afternoon) will be considered. One will be chosen, depending on strongest preference/ availability of participants. *Please indicate availability and preference of meetings times on the sign-up.*

SIGN-UP FOR ALL PROGRAMS REQUIRED BY SUN., MARCH 2;

Sign-Up in Chapin Hall or contact the Church Office: 860-529-4167 or office@rhccucc.org

FROM THE MODERATOR

Ministry, Mission and Money – OH MY!

When Michael and I made a commitment to journey with this congregation nearly 14 years ago, we received information from the church about its operating expenses and stewardship. We were invited to complete a pledge card. It was the first time we encountered the “split” offering amounts: LOCAL and BENEVOLENCE. Confused by the labels, we asked a faithful member of the congregation to explain the “split.” He said, “our local budget keeps the lights on and pays the staff. The benevolence budget goes to the Board of Missions—and they use it to help the poor.”

More than “Keeping the Lights On”

To describe the church’s operating budget as “keeping the lights on” or even “local” is like describing your own family in terms of your street address. Yes, RHCC UCC is blessed to have grand building. But wait...there’s more:

Sunday worship is over. The meeting ends. The congregation leaves. The pastors and staff go home. The lights at 805 Old Main Street are turned off (every day!). But being-the-church isn’t over. Diane Roth, a Lutheran pastor in Minnesota, says this about the congregation: “They go to families and communities and work. They go to be larger than themselves, to bear witness to something more loving and more gracious than themselves. We gather to encourage one another and bind up each other wounds, but when we go, we go to love the world, and apply God’s healing.” **WE GO TO LOVE THE WORLD, AND APPLY GOD’S HEALING.**

The financial ministry of this church is much more than keeping the lights on and staff paid. And, it’s much more than designating some of our monies for mission. Rather, we, as a congregation, are fulfilling a theology to use the gifts God has given us--time, talent and money--in the service of continuing Christ’s ministry and mission in the world.

One Church. One Budget.

After significant study, discussion and reflection, the Church Council has decided to organize the 2014/2015 budget in a more common way. Instead of preparing separate “local” and “benevolence” budgets, **a single church budget will be prepared.** Preparing one overall budget, decided and adopted by the congregation as a whole, is a well-used practice in most churches.

This more standard way of organizing the budget was jointly proposed with the Board of Missions. Together, we have agreed to represent a single budget--one that supports all of the mission and ministry of RHCC UCC. Just like being the one Body of Christ, our one church budget will reflect the interconnectedness of all of our resources: building, pastors, staff, ministry resources and mission partners.

In response to this approach of organizing the church budget, the Stewardship Committee will represent a single goal for this year’s annual pledge campaign. Rather than seeking a split pledge amount, each member or family in the congregation will be invited to pledge a single amount. This approach will bring us closer to treating money as a gift from God. How will the congregation use those monies? That question can be answered by all of us after we have returned those first fruits to God.

But doesn't our church Constitution require two "separate and distinct" budgets? Technically, we still are doing that - as you'll continue to see the traditional Benevolence budget items distinctly broken out as components of the consolidated budget. The Board for Missions will continue to oversee and administer those expenditures just as the Constitution stipulates. The Constitution also says that if a member designates a split of his/her pledge into "local" and "benevolence" amounts, then the church must honor that split. But there is no requirement that members must subdivide their pledges - and based on widespread feedback, we believe that most pledgers would prefer not to have to make that allocation, instead relying on the church body to oversee the most appropriate allocation of all resources in a way that best fulfills our vision of the church's ministries and mission.

"Every dollar in a church budget is a dollar that someone has given freely, driven by a wish for the church to exist. The church budget is a celebration of organized generosity."

How can we help?

- 1) **Familiarize yourself with the consolidated budget format when it is released** (the Budget & Elections Meeting is Sunday, March 23). We think it's simpler! Treasurer Dave Hall has even included the previous year's budget in the same format—so you can compare it, line-by-line, to the proposed budget. It's all there: staff compensation, building & grounds maintenance, dues and monies contributed to our denominational partners, and mission expenditures: local, national and global.
- 2) **Participate in this year's Stewardship Campaign.** Your decision on how much to pledge is one you make with God. Whatever God has given you, large or small, you are entrusted with that gift. We are called to share what we have, to give back to God what is God's. **Believe. Reach high. Care deeply. Take responsibility.**

Please contact me, or any of the members of the Church Council, if you have any questions or comments.

I give thanks to God for each one of you.

Peace,

Bob Inderbitzen, Moderator
rinderbitzen@cox.net
tel 860-418-9171



Church Council: Don Pagnucco, Diaconate; Lynne Lataille, Board of Trustees; Caryn Doten, Board for Faith Formation; Meghan Montana, Board for Missions; Barry Wilcock, Stewardship Committee; Bob Carberry, At Large Member; Tom Rolfe, At Large Member; Brenda Pelc-Faszczka, Senior Pastor; Meghan Young, Acting Associate Pastor for Faith Formation; Marsha Hoffman, Clerk; Dave Hall, Treasurer; Bob Inderbitzen, Moderator

CONGREGATIONAL CONVERSATION #5:

"Church Shouldn't Be This Hard"

Sunday, March 9, 11:30 – 12:15

The next in our series of interim process conversations will be based on a recent commentary piece in the Washington Post, by Tom Ehrich, an Episcopal priest and church consultant. The brief piece, which appeared on Jan. 7, 2014, was entitled "Church Shouldn't Be This Hard" and reflects the writer's views on how the church today is impeding itself, through attitudes, expectations and behaviors... and assumptions about clergy roles.

Please read the piece beforehand (it's only two pages). Hard copies will be out and available at church, or you may go to:

http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/religion/commentary-church-shouldnt-be-this-hard/2014/01/07/1d869022-77c0-11e3-a647-a19deaf575b3_story.html



Senior Pastor Search Committee Update

The Search Committee has continued our work this past month updating the church profile, researching new items, and discussing changes. We will be looking to the congregation in the coming weeks to provide us some feedback and input on several areas, so be on the lookout for some opportunities to share your thoughts!

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact any of the committee members.

Senior Pastor Search Committee:

Liz Reed-Swale - Co-Chair, Gregson Curtin - Co-Chair, Stephanie Heneghan - Chaplin, Hilaire Leavitt - Secretary, Meghan Montana - Communications, Neal Cox, Diana Hellyar, Michele Jokl, Rhody Triblets

CHILDREN AND YOUTH MUSIC



Calling all young musicians!! Experience the joy of making music together and offering praises to God. There is so much wonderful music just waiting for us to do this spring! We have opportunities for drumming, chiming, singing and playing instruments and perhaps a small praise band of players and singers. There will be opportunity for everyone to sing in the Palm Sunday processional with the Open Choir, Adult Choir, and Bell Choir. It is **not too late** to join. **If you are interested, let Mary DeLibero know** via email at mary@rhccucc.org, or leave a message in the Church Office.

The first rehearsal will be Sunday, March 2 at 11:30 am in the Choir Room.



I have recently heard several people state "We are the Church". I never really thought much about it, but upon reflection realized how very true that statement is. Each and every one of us plays a very important part in the ongoing life of our Church.

Over the past ten years that I have been a member of our Church, I have been involved with committees and groups that provide a personal meaning to me. I love gardening and decorating my home so I joined the Flower Committee. This is my Church home, and I enjoy adding a touch of physical beauty to compliment its spiritual beauty.

Being able to bring comfort to members of our Church family means a great deal to me, personally. As a founding member of the Heavenly Hosts I am able to express my affection when we host a memorial reception for our departed loved ones and their families.

Sunday Service affords me the chance to smile and greet my Church family members as we gather together in worship.

Having a Blessing Of The Animals enables me to join with others to show our love for God's creatures who bring so much joy to our everyday lives.

The Nominating committee offers me the opportunity to try and connect individuals with a specific role to play in our Church life.

These activities with which I am involved make me feel proud and privileged to be a part of our Church family. As I stated before we should never forget, "We are the Church". Without our involvement our Church would not be what it is.

Faithfully, Joan Diaz



FAITH FORMATION @ RHCC

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

Church School

We are enjoying our 3rd faith formation unit of the year, *Praying With Jesus*. We are studying the Lord's prayer. Jesus' words recorded in both Matthew and Luke, were a response to a request from his disciples: "Lord, teach us to pray." Jesus' reply has become a central, virtually unchanged piece of our Christian worship. The prayer is spoken on behalf of others, and echoes with voices from the past, present, and future. The emphasis is on community, rather than self. Through this concern for others, expressed in prayer, we can feel connected with God.

March and the season of lent brings with it our 4th faith formation unit, *Women of the Resurrection*. We will explore the gift that the presence of women brought to Easter morning and ultimately Christianity.

Check out the "What We're Learning Now" box for more information about our next faith formation unit, "Women of the Resurrection", and learn with us!

Youth Group

We're trying something new with youth group beginning in March. Noah's Table will now meet twice a month on Sunday evenings from 5 PM – 6:30 PM for dinner, fellowship, and faith formation. We will now concentrate primarily on Noah's Table, with additional meetings for mission projects. We are also looking to go on an overnight mission trip this Summer.

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.

GROW YOUR FAITH & GET INVOLVED WITH S.P.I.R.I.T.

The RHCC S.P.I.R.I.T. Church School is a place that values intergenerational relationships, growing in faith, and learning throughout our lives to be the disciples Christ calls us to be. You are invited to come join the circle and get involved. **We are currently in need of a Community Life, Show & Tell and a Food & People Learning Center Guide for unit 4 (begins on March 9).** Learning Center guides prepare engaging activities to teach the bible story through community service, drama, games, crafts, and food. Training and lesson plans are always provided. **If you are interested in getting involved in this ministry please contact Meghan Young at meghan@rhccucc.org.**

NURSERY VOLUNTEERS: Nursery Volunteers are needed. If you are interested in volunteering in the Nursery during Sunday morning worship, please contact a member of the Childcare Committee or email them at 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 this!*

Date	Scripture/Lesson
Wednesday, March 5	Shrove Tuesday/Ash Wednesday Gathering: 5:30 PM – 7:30 PM, Chapin Hall ALL invited. See details in Newsletter Announcement.

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

Date	Scripture/Lesson
Sunday, March 2	Communion Sunday, Family Worship
Sunday, March 9	Week 1: Women of the Resurrection
Sunday, March 16	Week 2: Women of the Resurrection
Sunday, March 23	Week 3: Women of the Resurrection
Sunday, March 30	Week 4: Women of the Resurrection

Youth Group Calendar: *March*

Date	Fellowship Gatherings
Sunday, March 23	Noah's Table (6 th -12 ^h Grade) → 5 PM – 6:30 PM
Sunday, March 30	Noah's Table (6 th -12 ^h Grade) → 5 PM – 6:30 PM

****please RSVP with Diana Hellyar for Noah's Table**

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

COME JOIN THE CIRCLE: Unit 4 – Women of the Resurrection

The resurrection is the central theme of Christianity and winds of hope blow through the Gospel stories that record this miraculous event. The resurrection is a pivot point of faith and for Christians all that happened before and since revolves around this experience. Our self-understanding comes from this incredible resurrection event experienced by the disciples and the early church.

The four Gospels do not give us a single consistent story line about the resurrection. For some this might be distressing. It may help to understand that for the Gospel writers, the truth of the resurrection was a “sure thing.” They were not trying to prove that it happened. Instead, they were trying to help readers better understand what God was doing through Jesus' resurrection. They wanted us to see the empty tomb as crucial to faith and life.

During this unit we will read and reflect on the four Gospel accounts of the resurrection, focus on the experiences they describe, explore the gift that the presence of women brought, and open ourselves anew to the miracle of the resurrection.

A Prayer For The Unit. Gracious God, like the women who followed you, we also go to your tomb. When we find it empty, sometimes we are filled with fear, not sure how to move ahead. Sometimes we are inspired, but we don't think our message is heard by others. Give us physical strength, emotional control, and spiritual depth to be witnesses to what we have seen and heard and learned in you. Help us to share the joy of the resurrection with others and open us to receive their witness too. In your name we pray, Amen.

Check out the weekly bulletins for faith nurture ideas you can use at home!

Global and Local Mission News

"We are one body, one body in Christ; and we do not stand alone..."

lyrics by Dana Scallon

As you will hear in the coming weeks, the Church Council will be presenting our budget for the 2014/2015 year to the congregation. You will see some changes to the structure of our budget as well as pledging, and we are sure there will be questions and discussion around these proposals. Our Moderator, Bob Inderbitzen has very nicely explained and outlined the changes in his Letter from the Moderator, in this edition of the Church Mouse, and I encourage you to take a few minutes to read it. Throughout these coming discussions, please know that the Missions Board has been a part of the conversations about budget all along the way and fully support this change. The effort to present one church, one budget, one mission both inside our walls and outside in the wider community is something that is very important to us. I think this is a great step towards being truly one body in Christ and sharing together in all aspects of church life and appreciate how everything is connected. The Budget and Elections meeting is set for Sunday, March 23rd and I hope many of you will attend to listen to the proposal and take the opportunity to ask questions that you may have. Please feel free to also chat with myself or any other member of the Missions Board. We look forward to turning this new page in the life of our congregation!

In Faith,
Meghan Montana
Chair – Board for Missions

Since last month, your generosity has helped the following:

Back Bay Mission	\$1,500
Inyana Scholarship	\$2,000

Volunteer Opportunity

The Missions Board is looking to bring a group of volunteers to serve a meal at a local soup kitchen or homeless shelter this month. We had some scheduling conflicts for February, but March is a new month! If you have expressed interest, we have your names and will be contacting you! If you would like to be added to the list, please contact Meghan Montana.

203-640-2386 or meghan.montana1105@gmail.com

Arm2Arm Pasta Dinner

Saturday, March 22nd

5:00 pm – 8:00 pm

\$10 for adults \$5 for kids

In July, our very own Sarah Mosure will be travelling to Haiti with an organization called Arm2Arm that provides local assistance to the people of Haiti! On Saturday, March 22nd we will be hosting a pasta dinner to help raise some funds and also some items for Sarah to bring with her on her journey. A member of the Arm2Arm organization will be with us this evening to give a short presentation and to answer any questions.

We will be publishing a list of items that are most needed in the weekly bulletins and in other media so please check back for what you can bring with you to support Sarah and Arm2Arm!

Please RSVP to Meghan Montana by Sunday March 16th so we can plan for food.

Hope to see you there!

meghan.montana1105@gmail.com or 203-640-2386

Prayers for Botswana

Prayers this month for our Global Ministry partners in Botswana who are struggling with political and social churn – Prayer written by Global Missionaries Jayanthi and Jim Wilson.

Dear Gracious and loving God, we give thanks that you are forever tied up with our lives.

Our joys are your joys. Our trials are yours and we are never made to walk alone.

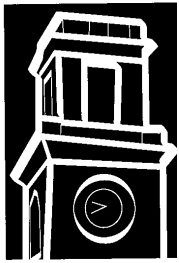
This week we come to you to lift up the people of Botswana. Be with them in the upcoming general elections and keep them safe and fair. We ask that those living with the condition of albinism feel the full weight of your love and a new sense of inclusiveness in society at large. Lift up our partner organizations in Botswana, the UCCSA and Kgolagano College, as witnesses of your love unto all.

God, guide Botswana to realize their dream of building a railroad opening up the corridor linking countries now landlocked with those who lie on the ocean.

In all things, we give you the glory. Amen

www.globalministries.org

Your Board For Missions Members: Meghan Montana – Chair, Kari McCaw-Blaise – Secretary, David Bell - Treasurer, Lisa Eleck, Cindy Hunt, Thomas Kainamura, Sarah Mosure, Wendy Ware.



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
2 Communion Sunday Dixieland Combo 11:00am Souper Sunday 11:30am Search Committee 11:30am Children youth music	3 10:30am Apple Rehab Svc 7:00pm Women's AA 7:00pm RHCC Bowling 7:30pm Bell Choir	4 6:00pm Deacons 7:00pm Board and Committee Mtgs	5 Ash Wednesday 9:30am Quilters 12:00pm Worship 5:30pm Gathering/supper 6:45pm Worship 7:30pm Adult Choir
9 First Sunday in Lent Daylight savings 10:00am Worship 11:30am Interim Second Hour 11:30am Children youth music	10 7:00pm Women's AA 7:00pm RHCC Bowling 7:30pm Bell Choir	11 8:30am Breakfast Club	12 9:30am Quilters 12:00pm Bible Study 7:30pm Adult Choir
16 Second Sunday in Lent 10:00am Worship 11:30am Search Committee 11:30am Children youth music 3:00pm Ecclesiastical Council	17 7:00pm Women's AA 7:00pm RHCC Bowling 7:30pm Bell Choir	18 4:00pm Lodge Svc	19 9:30am Quilters 12:00pm Bible Study 6:00pm Community Mtg 7:30pm Adult Choir
23 Third Sunday in Lent Budget & Election Mtg 10:00am Worship 11:30am Budget mtg 11:30am Children youth music 5:00pm Noah's Table	24 Newsletter Mailing 7:00pm Women's AA 7:00pm RHCC Bowling 7:30pm Bell Choir	25	26 9:00am Quilters 12:00pm Bible Study 7:30pm Adult Choir
30 Fourth Sunday in Lent 10:00am Worship 11:30am Search Committee 11:30am Children youth music 5:00pm Noah's Table	31 7:00pm Women's AA 7:00pm RHCC Bowling 7:30pm Bell Choir		

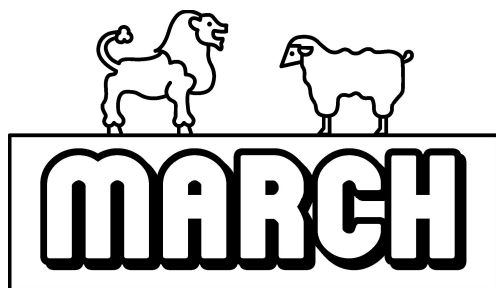
Bible Study



Bible Study Wednesday

12:00 to 1:00 PM in the Fiorilli 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.



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



CHILD
care
 Provided

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1
6 5:30pm TOPS 8:00pm Men's AA	7 7:00pm World Day of Prayer United Methodist Church	8
13 5:30pm TOPS 8:00pm Men's AA	14 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	15
20 5:30pm TOPS 8:00pm Men's AA	21	22 Pasta Sup
27 5:30pm TOPS 7:00pm Fair Committee 8:00pm Men's AA	28	29 



**DON'T FORGET
 TO SET YOUR
 CLOCKS AHEAD
 ON
 SATURDAY
 NIGHT
 MARCH 8**

VOICE MAIL INSTRUCTIONS – If you call the church (860-529-4167) 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-Faszczka, Interim Senior Pastor	202	Mary DeLibero, Minister of Music	207
Meghan Young, Acting Associate Pastor	203	Myke Halpin, Custodian	205
Mitsey Baker, Office Manager	201	RHCCNS (Nursery School)	208

March Birthdays

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



Paul and Gail Tine
were married on
March 4, 1972



Yes, spring is still on the calendar! After three snow 'events' in one week I checked and we can expect spring to arrive March 20 at 12:57pm. Our busy schedules now include almost daily time with our shovels. Perhaps more than ever before, we need to rediscover the art of a daily retreat.

Like many, I am happiest being busy and being engaged in a variety of activities. However, being busy can become addictive. It is easy to lose the ability to find space for our souls to breath.

Jesus didn't tell us to ignore the demands of our life. In Mark 1:35, the Bible says, "*Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed.*" To create a space for God in our busy lives, can we get up a few minutes earlier while the house is quiet to read a devotional and pray? If we do this every day in Lent, our Daily Retreat with God will become part of our daily schedule.

Gail Tine for the Deacons



Here is a summary of a challenging day at CAC:

***We are all doing our work** – Michelle on finances, Charmaine on Adventures in the City, Edwin writing an important grant, Pat moving the leadership development strategy forward, Assisters doing their work pro health care.

***Suddenly...a crisis!** A member of our leadership team needs help – no food for days at the table for a family of three, including a young girl. Pat's question...what can we do? Edwin had asked not to be interrupted in order to finish his grant application. Michelle (Office Manager) takes action asking Edwin for options. Decision: **let's get emergency food!** Michelle rushes to the Supermarket, and buys and delivers the food – the family in tears **so grateful, so happy!**

***Crisis on 84-east.** While Michelle is driving on 84-East to deliver the food she sees a man sitting on the bridge between Hartford and East Hartford ready to jump. Police and emergency crews are trying to stop him from jumping. Michelle sees the young man **face to face**. She has to keep driving. What happened? The news just reported that the young man jumped...his body floating down the river...**a life had not been able to be saved!**

***Michelle...**happy to help one family and very sad not to be able to help a young man in crisis! Our work has to do with supporting those in need. Our work continues in the midst of joy, hope and sorrow! Let's continue to embrace the opportunities that come to us to affirm and empower the disadvantaged. That is our work. That is our mission!

One more day at CAC. Our staff is committed to do what needs to be done!
God Bless.

The Rev. Edwin Ayala



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 2014-2015 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, 2014. 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.



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER
Streams in the Desert

March 7, 2014

7:00 pm

Rocky Hill United Methodist Church
626 Old Main Street

PREPARED BY WDP EGYPT

To download or order celebration materials, visit www.wdp-usa.org or call 888-937-8720

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER, USA COMMITTEE

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ROCKY HILL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
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Telephone # 860 529-4167

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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 23, 2014** immediately following worship in the sanctuary for the transaction of the following items of business:

1. to vote on the proposed budget for the 2014-2015 fiscal year;
2. to approve all special offerings for Missions and Diaconate;
3. to elect church officers and board and committee members for terms beginning May 1, 2014;
4. to approve the recommendation of the Fair Committee for expenditure of the proceeds from the 2013 events;
5. to vote on the distribution of unspecified bequests for the 2014-2015 fiscal year;
6. to conduct any other business brought before the congregation.

Marsha Hoffman, Church Clerk