



The Reverend Dr. Brenda Pelc-Faszczka, Interim Senior Pastor
brenda@rhccucc.org
The Rev. Meghan D. Young, Acting Associate Pastor
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Mary DeLiberio, Minister of Music
mary@rhccucc.org
Mitsey Baker, Office Manager
office@rhccucc.org
860 529-4167 Church

The Church Mouse

March 2015 Newsletter

Website: www.rhccucc.org
Office Hours – 8:30 a.m.–2:00 p.m. Monday-Thursday
8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Friday
Sunday Worship Services – 10:00 a.m.

Childcare Available/Handicap Accessible



VERSIONS OF GOOD FRIDAY

*A small-group adult education opportunity
in Lent*

**Thurs., Mar. 19, 7-8:30 p.m.
OR Tues., Mar. 24, 1-2:30 p.m.
(same session offered twice)**

The story of the crucifixion of Jesus, like the narratives of his birth and resurrection, appears in differing versions in the four gospels of the New Testament. We'll look at each version, consider its details, reflect on what can be learned about how this central Christian story has been shaped and told.

No sign-up necessary.

WHAT STAYS ALIVE.....?



When I looked over at the girl in the wheelchair at the Mayo Clinic, and she looked at me, I had the sense that there was a third person there. He was there because she was there. And I was there. A very fragile line connected the three of us. Whoever this man was who lived and died and lived again was there, not literal, not visible but not absent, not without influence, not dead. The resurrection when looked at this way is not a magic act but is, instead, a revelation of what stays alive and what does not. Love and its close cousin vulnerability stay alive. The rest? The other narratives? Clanging symbols, sounding brass.

Nora Gallagher, sermon at the National Cathedral, June 9, 2013

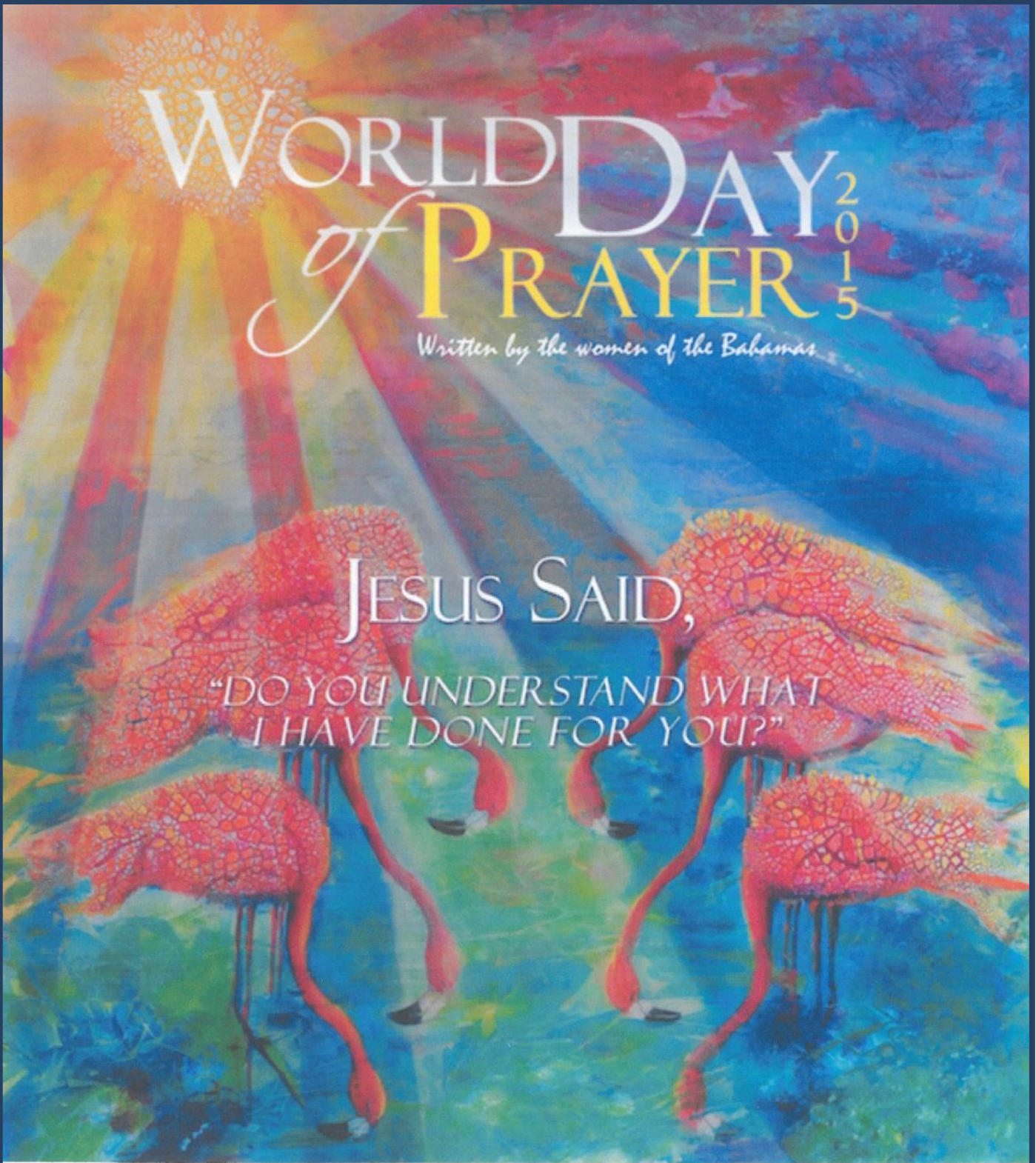
Think of it this way: Lent-to-Easter is the pathway of the question, *What stays alive?* Beyond the forces that deaden (fear, hate, cruelty, greed, power of the wrong sort.... make your own list), beyond death itself and everything about it we resist, what does stay alive? What would be your answer to that question from inside your own life and your own faith? What would be our collective answer to that question, as a faith community?

Somewhere within any response, how could there not be this: "Love, and its close cousin, vulnerability." Love and vulnerability. Vulnerability and love. Sometimes I think they are basically two names for the same thing. Think Good Friday.

What stays alive? Let our Lenten season take us on the journey where we won't be able to help but ask the question, or help but feel a response that is way more than clanging symbols or sounding brass, signifying nothing. Love and vulnerability are never about nothing. They are always about everything.

Faithfully,

Rev. Brenda



WORLD DAY²⁰¹⁵
of PRAYER
Written by the women of the Bahamas

JESUS SAID,
"DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT
I HAVE DONE FOR YOU?"

**Friday, March 6, 2015 ~ 7:00 P.M.
Saint Elizabeth Seton Church**



WORSHIP AND SECOND HOURS

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.

Sermon Series: "Dangerous Conversations" *It is said that all conversations with Jesus are dangerous, because they always leave the world changed and transformed. Jesus grabs hold of us and shakes us loose, claiming us for God. Join us throughout Lent for a sermon series focusing on Jesus' "dangerous conversations." What dangerous conversation does God have in store for you this Lenten and Easter season?*

SUNDAY MORNINGS IN MARCH

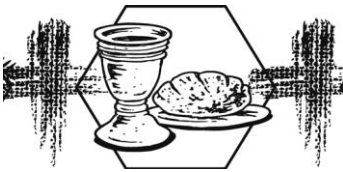
Worship at 10:00 a.m.

Second Hour discussions 11:30 a.m.– 12:30 p.m.

March 1

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT; COMMUNION Intergenerational Worship

Gen. 17:1-7, 15-16; Ps. 22:23-31; Rom. 4:13-25;
Mark 8:31-28



Second Hour conversation: "Died for our Sins"

The Christian idea of atonement. What is our modern understanding of/struggle with the traditional Christian idea that the death of Jesus is a substitutionary punishment for our own wrongdoing? Third in a series of conversations on faith topics submitted by the congregation.

March 8

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

Ex. 20:1-17; Ps. 19; 1 Cor. 1:18-25; Jn. 2:13-22

Second Hour conversation: Civil Rights for Adoptees

Guest Karen Caffrey of Access CT returns for Part 2 of a presentation about her organization's hoped-for expansion of current state law regarding adoptees' access to their original birth information. *RHCC is being asked to bring a resolution of support for this to the Connecticut Conference of the UCC in October.*

March 15

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Num. 21:4-9; Ps. 107:1-3, 17-22; Eph. 2:1-10;
Jn. 3:14-21

Second Hour conversation: Anoinette Brown Blackwell

Facilitated by Kari McCaw-Blaise for Women's History Month, an opportunity to learn about the first woman to be ordained by a mainstream Protestant church (1853, by the Congregational Church in South Butler, NY).

March 22

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Jer. 31:31-34; Ps. 51:1-12 or Ps. 119:9-16; Heb. 5:5-10;
Jn. 12:20-33

Second hour: Congregational meeting.

RHCC's annual budget and elections meeting.

March 29

PALM SUNDAY, BEGINNING OF HOLY WEEK

Mark 11:1-11 or John 12:12-26; Ps. 118:1-2, 19-29

Second hour conversation: Learning to Walk in the Dark.

Discussion of the selected book for Lent. Author Barbara Brown Taylor raises the question of whether Christianity has so focused on "the light" that we have neglected the deep wisdom available to us in experiences of darkness. ("Doesn't God work in the nighttime too?")

If you did not order the book through the church, you are welcome to obtain your own copy and join the conversation.





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

Church School

We finished our 4rd faith formation unit of the year, *Jesus, The Storyteller*. Jesus was a wonderful storyteller – a teller of theological stories. We explored Jesus' parable of the sower, the parable of the yeast, the parable of the bridesmaids, and the parable of the talents. Jesus' stories invite us to hear and share the good news of God's love for all people. We planted seeds, played games, and told our stories!

This month we begin "*Meals of Blessing*" our communion education unit. We will learn all about this sacrament and the blessing that it is, as we prepare for communion on Easter Sunday.

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

Youth Group

The snow and the Super Bowl got in the way of youth group this month, but we're hoping to be back in action in March. See you then!

All Youth Group events for the year will be open to 6th-12th graders, and when appropriate 6th-8th graders and 9th-12th graders will break off for separate discussion groups. We will meet several times throughout the year for Youth Group Night Out events and service projects. Noah's Table now meets twice a month on Sunday evenings from 5 PM – 6:30 PM for dinner, fellowship, and faith formation. Schedule is subject to change based on activities determined by the Youth Group

Gatherings

Our annual Shrove Tuesday/Ash Wednesday dinner was a wonderful night of worship, celebration, games, reflection, and community. The in-reach committee made a wonderful pancake dinner, the Dixieland Jazz Band and Liz Reed-Swale shared their gifts of music, and the Faith Formation committee prepared activities for us. We made Easter Cards for church members, wrote down our Lenten promises and blessings, and decorated masks. We are looking forward to exploring the depths of our faith this Lenten Season.

BREAD: A Call for Recipes

This year for Lent the church school put away wheat for Lent, as well as wrote our blessings and hopes on communion cloths. This year on Holy Saturday we will transform the "wheat" into bread for communion on Easter Sunday. If you have a simple bread recipe, please share. Gluten Free recipes are also needed. For information and to submit a bread recipe, please email Meghan Young at Meghan@rhccucc.org.

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

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

| Date | Lesson |
|------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sunday, March 1 | Second Sunday in Lent - Communion Sunday. Family worship. |
| Sunday, March 8 | Third Sunday in Lent S.P.I.R.I.T. Church School: "Meals of Blessing" |
| Sunday, March 15 | Fourth Sunday in Lent S.P.I.R.I.T. Church School: "Meals of Blessing" |
| Sunday, March 22 | Fifth Sunday in Lent S.P.I.R.I.T. Church School: "Meals of Blessing" |
| Sunday, March 29 | Palm Sunday Family worship. |

Youth Group Calendar: *March*

| Date | Fellowship Gatherings |
|------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sunday, March 15 | Noah's Table (6 th -12 ^h Grade) → 5 PM – 6:30 PM. <i>March Madness! March 15 is selection Sunday, the kick-off of the NCAA basketball tournament and March Madness. We'll be doing our own version of March Madness – "Lenten madness". Join us as we make dinner and pit our favorite bible characters against each other in an NCAA style tournament.</i> |
| Sunday, March 29 | Noah's Table (6 th -12 ^h Grade) → 5 PM – 6:30 PM. <i>Palm Sunday – Dinner and preparing for Holy Week.</i> |

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

Children & Youth Leadership Programs at RHCC

The children and youth leadership programs at RHCC have launched. This program is for those between the ages of 2nd-12th grade. Get involved, be a leader, and be part of your church. For information and to sign-up, contact Meghan Young at Meghan@rhccucc.org.

Silver Lake 2015 – Calendars and Scholarships Available

Pick up your Silver Lake 2015 summer camp calendars in Chapin Hall and sign-up for summer fun! *Scholarships are available. Scholarship requests must be received by March 30. Please contact Meghan Young at meghan@rhccucc.org for more information.*

NURSERY VOLUNTEERS: Nursery Volunteers are always needed. If you are interested in volunteering in the Nursery during Sunday morning worship, please contact a member of the Childcare Committee (RHCCchildcare@gmail.com) for more information. You can also sign-up outside the Nursery.

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

Meals of Blessing

The title of this unit, *Meals of Blessing*, refers to three different meals: the Passover celebrated by the Hebrew people on the eve of their liberation from slavery in Egypt; the Passover Jesus celebrated with his disciples – an event which Christians later referred to as Jesus' last supper; and the Christian sacrament of Holy Communion. Although they are both unique meals, the Christian practice of communion draws on many of the same themes as the Jewish Passover meal. Both are meals of liberation. Both are meals of blessing. Both are meals of remembrance.

In Hebrew thought, *remember*, means more than calling to mind. Remembering is linked to God's promise. It brings God's actions of the past into the present and enables God's future to enter the present reality.

In a similar way, Jesus commanded his disciples "Do this in remembrance of me." To remember is not just to think about something – it is to experience it. Through Holy Communion we are joined to the life and death of Jesus and renewed in our relationship with God, who wants us to experience deep and abiding joy. This unit we hope to enter into the story of God's liberating love in both Hebrew scripture and New Testament times and in our own life as well.

A Prayer For The Unit. Jesus, our teacher, our servant, and guide: help us to remember you whenever we gather and to see you in the faces of others. Make each meal a feast of plenty and each gathering a celebration of your peace. Bless our growing and our sharing, for we ask it in your holy name. Amen.

*Don't forget to learn along with us in our weekly bulletins.
Check them out for faith nurture ideas you can use at home to learn with us!*

UCC OPPORTUNITIES FOR GROWTH, LEADERSHIP, & FAITH FORMATION

GOING UP RIVER: WORKING FOR A JUST SOCIETY

Saturday, March 14, 8:30 AM - 4 PM at First Church of Christ in Mansfield

Explore the biblical mandate to "go up river", examine what helps and hinders us from fully responding to God's call to "do justice" by becoming a more effective advocate for justice and peace, and learn how justice may be incorporated into the life and ministry of your church. This training is offered to support teams of local church members - laity and clergy - who wish to infuse more faith-based justice conversations, education, skills and opportunities into their respective ministries and communities. Leading justice is a collaborative effort; it's most effective to learn with a team. To attend with the RHCC team, please RSVP to meghan@rhccucc.org or sign-up in Chapin Hall.

SUPER SATURDAY

Saturday, March 21, 2015. Must register by March 6th.

Hosted by the CT and MA Conferences of the UCC.

Join hundreds of pastors and lay leaders from across two conferences for a day of worship, workshops, networking, and a marketplace. The day will feature The Rev. Ruben Duran, Program Director for New Congregations for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, who will speak in the morning on Church for the Life of the World. For complete details, workshop descriptions, and to register: www.macucc.org/supersaturday. Please contact a Pastor if you are interested in attending. Cost of attending is \$54, however if we register a group of 5 or more the cost is \$44.



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 as we focused on the Sacraments. We attended the Shrove Tuesday/Ash Wednesday service, entering into the journey that is walking with God during Lent. We explored the meaning of grace in the covenant of Baptism. 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 March we will continue our walk during Lent, living out and encountering our faith, worshiping during holy week, and keeping vigil with Jesus.

February Schedule:

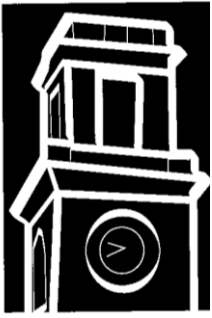
Here's what we're learning and doing this month...

| Date | Class/Event | Times |
|----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Friday, March 6 – Saturday, March 7 | MISSION TRIP: Youth Service Opportunities Program in New York City. | 3/6 11:30 AM – 3/7 9 PM |
| Sunday, March 8 | CLASS: Dangerous Conversations (<i>Sin & Grace</i>) | 5 PM – 7 PM @ TBD |
| Sunday, March 22 | CLASS: A Walk Through Holy Week | 5 PM – 7 PM |

Lenten Labyrinth

*Throughout Lent in the Chapel.
Open during office hours and on Sundays.*

Come walk the Lenten Labyrinth. Stop by the church and spend some time in prayerful reflection walking a labyrinth. Labyrinths have been used for centuries, in many cultures, to facilitate prayer, meditation, and spiritual transformation. Labyrinths have one way in and one way out, winding back and forth, to the middle and back out, until we reach the center. When we walk the labyrinth, we begin a pilgrimage. Where will yours take you?



| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 Communion Sunday Second Sunday in Lent 10:00am Worship 11:30am Second Hour 4:00pm Tamil Sangam | 2 10:30am Apple Rehab Svc 7:00pm Women's AA 7:00pm RHCC Bowling 7:30pm Bell Choir | 3 11:00am Lodge Service 7:00pm Board and Committee Mtgs | 4 9:30am Quilters 12:00pm Bible Study 7:30pm Adult Choir |
| 8 Third Sunday in Lent Daylight savings 10:00am Worship 11:00am Souper Sunday 11:30am Second Hour 4:00pm Tamil Sangam 5:00pm Confirmation | 9 7:00pm Women's AA 7:00pm RHCC Bowling 7:30pm Bell Choir | 10 8:30am Breakfast Club 7:00pm Council | 11 9:30am Quilters 12:00pm Bible Study 7:30pm Adult Choir |
| 15 Fourth Sunday in Lent One Great Hour of Sharing offering 11:30am Second Hour 10:00am Worship 4:00pm Tamil Sangam | 16 Newsletter Deadline 7:00pm Women's AA 7:00pm RHCC Bowling 7:30pm Bell Choir | 17 11:00am Retired Clergy | 18 9:30am Quilters 12:00pm Bible Study 7:30pm Adult Choir |
| 22 Fifth Sunday in Lent Budget & Election Mtg 10:00am Worship 11:00am Budget mtg 4:00pm Tamil Sangam 5:00pm Confirmation | 23 Newsletter Mailing 7:00pm Women's AA 7:00pm RHCC Bowling 7:30pm Bell Choir | 24 1:00pm Versions of Good Friday 6:00pm Community Mtg | 25 9:30am Quilters 12:00pm Bible Study 7:30pm Adult Choir |
| 29 Palm/Passion Sunday 10:00am Worship 11:30am Second Hour 4:00pm Tamil Sangam | 30 7:00pm Women's AA 7:00pm RHCC Bowling 7:30pm Bell Choir | 31 | |

Bible Study



Men's Bible Study First and Third Saturday

For the next several months we will be addressing the subject of "forgiveness". Come join your Christian brothers as we pursue and try to understand God's words.

For more details please contact
Jim Stevens . 860-632-5810.

2015

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



CHILD
care
 Provided

| THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | | 1 |
| 5 7:00pm Search Committee 7:30pm Men's AA | 6 7:00pm World Day of Prayer St Elizabeth Seton Church | 7 8:30am Men's Bible Study 9:00am Yoga with Lynn |
| 12 7:30pm Men's AA | 13 | 14 9:00am Yoga with Lynn |
| 19 7:00pm Versions of Good Friday 7:30pm Men's AA | | 21 8:30am Men's Bible Study 9:00am Yoga with Lynn |
| 26 7:30pm Men's AA | 27 | 28 9:00am Yoga with Lynn |
| | | |



**DON'T FORGET
 TO SET YOUR
 CLOCKS AHEAD
 ON
 SATURDAY
 NIGHT
 MARCH 7**

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 | |
| Mitsey Baker, Office Manager | 201 | RHCCNS (Nursery School) | 208 |

FROM THE MODERATOR

Dear friends in Christ,



Last November, our congregation participated in a stewardship program that focused on the spiritual benefits of “giving” rather than the need to pay the church’s bills. We learned, together, about the discipline of giving as one way we respond to the invitation, “Who is God calling me to be?” Then, we gathered for Consecration Sunday, committing our gifts to God as a holy act and celebration. Next, on Sunday, March 22, the congregation will gather for our annual Budget & Elections Meeting. At that meeting, we will decide together how to use these gifts for the ministry and mission of our church. Here are some of the highlights of the proposed 2015/2016 plan:

- In the coming months, this congregation will call a new pastor who will serve as the church’s solo pastor. In our tradition, the opportunity to call a pastor to settled ministry is a celebration—and we look forward to the spirit of recommitment and revitalization that is often experienced with new pastoral leadership.
- Responding to years of declining membership and worship attendance, the Council has recommended eliminating the position of an associate pastor. This will reduce the overall expenditure on church staffing to a sustainable level—and will help the church in maintaining fair and just compensation for all of our staff. The reduction in pastoral leadership, however, will undoubtedly come with some growing pains. Each of us will be challenged to recommit ourselves to the covenant of our Baptism which calls us into ministry as members of the Body of Christ.
- This plan includes a commitment to staff a part-time position responsible for the church school and youth ministry. The Council and Board for Faith Formation will work together with our next settled pastor to develop a leadership and oversight plan for the next church school year. Faith formation among our children and youth is a priority!
- Our building remains a focal point for much of our ministry. In addition to housing our regular Sunday worship, our building supports meetings that further the work of our church and our commitments, serves as a host to community groups seeking a home for their ministries of support and recovery, and is the home for the Little Scholars Preschool (formerly the Cooperative Nursery School). For church members and friends—the church is home for celebrations and solace: weddings, baptisms and memorial services. The Board of Trustees is faithful to its responsibilities to equip and maintain our building to serve a variety of ministries and uses. They also work hard to control costs, seeking volunteers to help with repairs, and bidding-out contracts for significant projects.
- As people of God we are called to serve the world around us...near and far. We respond to that call with time and money for the work of the church beyond our walls, in our city, our country, and in communities in need around the world. In addition to supporting the work of the United Church of Christ through gifts to our association

and conference, our national offices and special offerings, our congregation maintains a strong ministry of care and support for God's people through our financial and volunteer support of a range of ministries that alleviate suffering and address essential human need. The Board for Missions provides oversight for these monies, ministries and relationships. Our congregation's special history of "mission" and our commitment as a Global Mission Church challenges each of us to stretch toward a new level of interest in, and commitment to, God's world!

- We celebrate our worship experience, where we gather as a community of faith to enter God's presence, hear the Good News preached with conviction and thoughtfulness, respond with music and prayer, and leave encouraged to do God's work in the world. In addition to gathering each Sunday, we celebrate worship throughout the Christian holiday seasons of Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter, and gather for other events that mark mile stones and passages in the lives of our family of faith. We are especially grateful to all who contribute to planning and leading our worship experiences: pastors, music ministers, deacons and other members of our congregation.

I hope you'll familiarize yourself with the 2015/2016 plan. Copies of the budget will be made available throughout the church, and on the church website: rhccucc.org.

Please contact me, or any of the members of the Church Council, if you have any questions or comments. And, I look forward to seeing you at the Budget & Elections Meeting on Sunday, March 22 following morning worship.

I give thanks to God for each one of you.

Peace,

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



2014/2015 Church Council
Diaconate, Don Pagnucco
Board of Trustees, Lynne Lataille
Board for Missions, Meghan Montana
Board for Faith Formation (Christian Education), Caryn Doten
At Large Member, Bob Carberry
At Large Member, Ed Bacon
At Large Member, Rich Pawlich-Pagliccio
Acting Associate Pastor for Faith Formation, Rev. Meghan Young
Interim Senior Pastor, Rev. Dr. Brenda Pelc-Faszczka
Clerk, Marsha Hoffman
Treasurer, Dave Hall
Moderator, Bob Inderbitzen



March Birthdays

- | | | | |
|----|------------------------|----|----------------------|
| 1 | Bill Hoffman | 17 | Kathryn Morgan |
| | Todd McGowan | 18 | Gabriella Salazar |
| 2 | Rebecca Milles | 20 | Susan VanNess |
| 3 | Alice Weil | | Elaine Somes |
| | Pat Gordon | | Charlotte Reed-Swale |
| | Grace Donahue | 21 | Ryan Bengston |
| 4 | John Van Doran | 22 | Gladys Carpenter |
| 6 | Percy Hall | | Meghan Young |
| | Bay Tran | 23 | Marilyn Van Doran |
| 7 | Margaret Vassilopoulos | 24 | Bea Donahue |
| 8 | Kevin Sudell | | Sarah Mosure |
| 9 | Colleen Schultz | 26 | Todd Pender |
| 11 | Chase Corvo | 27 | Richard Sweezy, Jr |
| 12 | Tim Dostie | 28 | Gail Fu |
| | Todd Doten | | Nicole Graham |
| | Suzanne Speers | 29 | Kim Burghoff |
| | Ryan Walker | | Erik Rousseau |
| 13 | Dick Somes | 30 | Jayson Veley |
| | Jackie Little | 31 | Mark Walworth |
| 14 | David Bell | | Pat Hughes-Walworth |
| 15 | Alexander Ware | | |



Paul and Gail Tine
 were married on
March 4, 1972



Senior Pastor Search Committee Update

Over the past month the Search Committee conducted several interviews and also continued to review new profiles that came to us. We are keeping momentum going and trying to meet as often as we can with all this snow! We have moved into second interviews with some candidates and are happy to be talking, sharing, and learning from those we have met with. The Committee is excited to be continuing in this work as we prayerfully discern the best

choice for our next Pastor.

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 - CoChair, Stephanie Heneghan - Chaplain, Hilaire Leavitt - Secretary, Meghan Montana - Communications, Neal Cox, Diana Hellyar, Michele Jokl, Rhody Triplets

WILL YOU GIVE TO

One Great Hour
OF SHARING

2 Corinthians 8:13-15 www.onegreathourofsharing.org

God is still speaking,
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

One Great Hour of Sharing offering will be collected on Sunday March 15, 2015. It is the Lenten Offering of the UCC supporting disaster, refugee and development actions. More information to come in Sunday Bulletins.

HISTORIAN NOTES – JANUARY 2015

Profit from the Scrip-Sure Fundraising Program was \$1,017 for January 2015.

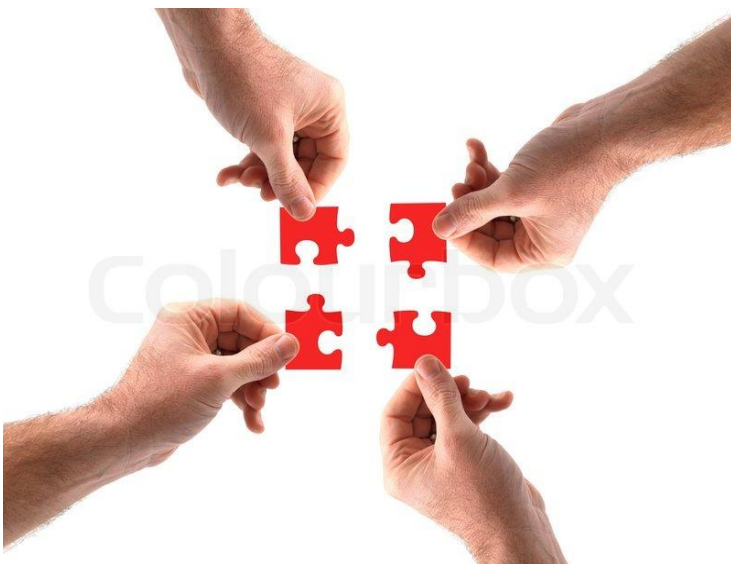


Sunday, January 4: Presentation of an Epiphany Pageant inspired by an old Latin-American tradition of teaching through drama. This pageant was led by the children and youth of our S.P.I.R.I.T. Church School. Entitled "A Service of Las Posadas," it symbolizes Mary and Joseph's frustrating search for lodging on the long journey to Bethlehem. It reminds us to look for the grace of God in our own life journeys and teaches us to carry forward that grace, that by welcoming the poor, we welcome Jesus.

Sunday, January 11: Congregation's Renewal of Baptismal Vows

Sunday, January 18: Baptisms: Aiden Cole Montana and Logan David Fritzer

Saturday, January 31: Comfort Food Dinner sponsored by InReach with entertainment by Steve Taylor, Magician and Puppeteer; a welcoming, comforting, fellowship event in the middle of winter.



CAN YOU HELP?

How do you want to fit into the ministries of our church community?

Look for Caring Ministries and Worship Ministries presented on the board in Chapin Hall.

CARING MINISTRIES at RHCC

We are a church of ministers. We are disciples who seek to love God, and love our neighbor. Caring Ministries provides opportunities for us as a congregation to share God's love with one another, and provide care for our community. Prayerfully consider how you can be part of this important ministry.

Pastoral Visitors. Visit church members and friends who are homebound, hospitalized, or who have recently experienced a loss. Offer prayer, bring communion with the pastors, and share in fellowship. Your visitation extends the welcoming hand of the church and brings joy to our members and friends. *No experience necessary. On-going training and support around issues of pastoral care provided.*

Heavenly Hosts. Heavenly hosts provide food, support, and reception set-up for families of RHCC members, who want to host a reception at RHCC for their loved ones following memorial and funeral services.

Funeral Ushers. Provide care to families in their times of grief. Funeral Ushers assist with seating, distributing bulletins, and welcoming at memorial and funeral services.

Wedding Coordinators. Lend a helping hand to couples as they celebrate their wedding. Wedding coordinators assist pastors with wedding rehearsals and ceremonies, as well as answer couples questions about weddings at RHCC.

Prayer Shawl Ministry. Do you love knitting or do you want to learn? The prayer shawl ministry knits prayer shawls that are given to church members and friends in times of grief or illness. We also donate prayer shawls to local hospitals. *No knitting experience required, just ask and we'll teach you.*

Ride Care. Several of our church members and friends have mobility issues, do not drive, or do not have a car. Get to know folks as you give them rides to and from worship services and church events. *Must have car, with valid registration, license, and car insurance.*

Agape Feast. Sometimes we are unexpectedly faced with illness or the loss of a loved one. Members of Agape Feast cook and deliver fresh meals for church members and friends as needed, to ease the burden of families when they face the unexpected. *This is an especially great way for families with children to be part Caring Ministries and cook a meal together. Recipes provided.*

Please contact Meghan Young at meghan@rhccucc.org or Stephanie Heneghan at stephanie_heneghan@yahoo.com for more information and sign-up. Look for additional information and opportunities in the coming months.



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 2015-2016 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, 2015. 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.

REMEMBER OR HONOR LOVED ONES WITH EASTER FLOWERS



The flowers will adorn the sanctuary for worship on
Easter Sunday, April 5.



- The three choices this year will be:
- Easter Lily in 6 1/2 inch pots with 6+ buds (\$11.95)
 - Hyacinth 6 inch with 3 bulbs (\$7.95)
 - Tulip 6 inch full pots with limited color options (\$10.95)

Prices are tentative. Deadline to be determined.

Please fill out the information below and give to Kathy Mosure or the Church Office.



Given by: _____

Daytime Telephone Number: _____

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



Number ordered

Dollar Amount

Lily @ \$11.95 each _____ x 11.95 = _____

Hyacinth @ \$7.95 each _____ x 7.95 = _____

Tulip @ \$10.95 each _____ x 10.95 = _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

Please select:

- I will pick up my plant after worship on Sunday, April 5.
- The Deacons may give my plant to a shut-in or homebound member.

**Make checks payable to RHCC and give them directly to
Kathy Mosure or mail to the Church Office**
805 Old Main Street, Rocky Hill CT 06067, Attn: Flower Committee

You may call Kathy with questions at 860 632-9763.



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

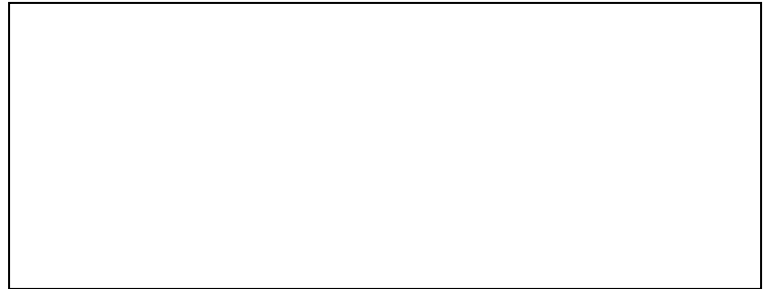
NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
HARTFORD, CT 06101

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

PERMIT NO 7

Mailed February 24, 2015

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 22, 2015 immediately following worship in the sanctuary for the transaction of the following items of business:

1. to approve the recommendation of the Council to reduce the ordained ministerial staff to one pastor;
2. to vote on the proposed budget for the 2015-2016 fiscal year;
3. to approve all special offerings for Missions and Diaconate;
4. to vote on the distribution of any undesignated bequests for the 2015-2016 fiscal year;
5. to elect church officers and board and committee members for terms beginning May 1, 2015;
6. to approve the recommendation of the Fair Committee for expenditure of the proceeds from the 2014 events;
7. to conduct any other business brought before the congregation.

Marsha Hoffman, Church Clerk