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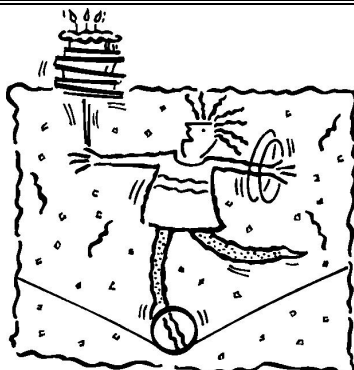
## **May 2013 Newsletter**

(860) 529-4167 church – (860) 257-9637 fax

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## **Rocky Hill Congregational Church Youth Talent Show**

**Saturday, May 4, 2013 at 6:00pm**

From our youngest among us to our High School Talent

**COME AND BE ENTERTAINED**

By our gifted and talented young people

**RECEPTION TO FOLLOW with Ice Cream Sundaes**

**Free will donation**



Dear friends and members of RHCC, UCC,

*I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. (Philippians 1:3-5)*

I borrow the apostle Paul's words because they perfectly express my gratitude and prayers as I write this last "pastor's letter."

I am so deeply thankful to our God for the blessed opportunity to share in the gospel together these last nine years. We have learned much together about what it means to be disciples and to be – as the Rev. Calvin Chapin wrote so many years ago – the home of Christ's friends.

We have learned that being disciples means finding Jesus in myriad and sometimes surprising places: in sanctuaries and soup kitchens, in homes and hospitals, in mosques and musical concerts, and in conversation and community gatherings.

And we have been on the road together. Whether it is in Rocky Hill or Hartford, in Berlin, CT or Biloxi, MS, Christ has traveled with us, opening our hearts and minds to love God and love our neighbors.

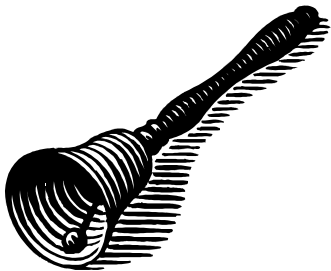
From the first days of my arrival, it was clear that RHCC, UCC was a church where people cared for one another and the family of faith. This core of community is truly a hallmark of RHCC, UCC, and it has been such a joy for me and for Dave, Kathryn, and Rose to call this place our home. It will be the future home for other pastors, and I know and trust that you will welcome them as warmly as you have welcomed me.

I look forward to sharing more words of gratitude and joy with you during the month of May and in my sermons on May 12 and May 26th. On the last Sunday of my leadership with you, I am grateful that we will have time for parting words of gratitude and a farewell litany that will give us the opportunity to thank God for our time and work together.

In peace and hope,  
Donna

# MAY WORSHIP

- May 5**      **Sixth Sunday of Easter**      Meghan D. Young  
**Communion Sunday/Dedication of Church Bell**  
Scripture: Acts 16:9-15; Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5  
Sermon: "Open Doors"
- May 12**      **Seventh Sunday of Easter**      The Rev. Donna K. Manocchio  
**Mother's Day**  
Scripture: John 17:20-26  
Sermon: "Always Stay Close"
- May 19**      **Pentecost Sunday**      Confirmands  
**Confirmation Sunday**  
Scripture: John 14:8-17, (25-27)  
Sermon: "A reflection from RHCC Confirmands"
- May 26**      **Trinity Sunday**      The Rev. Donna K. Manocchio  
Scripture: John 15:26-27; 16:12-15  
Sermon: "Help. Thanks. Wow."



## HAND BELL DEDICATION SCHEDULED FOR SUNDAY, MAY 5

A new hand bell given in memory of church member and friend Myrtle Furman will be dedicated in worship on Sunday, May 5. Myrtle's family will be present in worship, which will include a moment of remembrance, gratitude and blessing. The bell choir will be offering several selections as well. Please join us for this faith-filled and joy-filled worship!

## From the Moderator...

### STAFFING THE CHURCH FOR EVEN GREATER MINISTRY

*Gracious God, we give You thanks for our church staff and all who use the gifts You have given us to serve You and one another. May all who preach, teach, work and minister receive the strength only You, our loving God, can supply, so that in all things You may be glorified through Jesus Christ. Amen.*

-- Prayer based on 1 Peter 4:10-11

Dear Friends,

The Church Council has approved planning to restructure the current staffing configuration. The decision to advance some staffing changes is timely, following the resignation and retirement of Church Secretary Carol Harvey in April. This planning realigns the staff more closely to the church's mission and vision. Specifically, the position of Church Secretary has been restructured, establishing two new staffing positions: **Minister for Communications** and **Administrative Assistant**. The new positions are intended to staff the church for even more effective ministry. Here is a summary of these two new positions:

#### **(a) Minister for Communications**

Similar to the Minister of Music, this position can be filled by a non-ordained person. Responsibilities include shaping, developing, and coordinating communications within and outside the congregation. He/she will design and implement a plan for presenting comprehensive and consistent communications across multiple platforms, including worship bulletins, newsletters, calendars, website, social media, email, and external print and electronic media. These communications will convey a public face for RHCC, affirming and advancing a clear and consistent vision of who we are, what we believe, and what we do. She/he will engage the pastors, staff & congregation in this ministry. This is a salaried position (not hourly), one-third time (one-third of an equivalent full-time position).

#### **(b) Administrative Assistant**

The Administrative Assistant is responsible for supporting the ministry and mission of the congregation by accomplishing tasks associated with day-to-day church operations and workflow. Responsibilities include typing/word processing, greeting and reception, record-keeping, mailing, operating office equipment, coordinating building use, and maintaining calendar. She/he will be a source of welcome and hospitality to all who interact with the church. This is an hourly position requiring 20 hours per week (all year).

### **Questions and Answers...**

**What is a Minister for Communications?** "Communication" is a critical component of our life together. It directly reflects how we "tell our story." Sunday bulletins, newsletters, and calendars are just a few ways we "communicate" our story to other church members...and to the world. By enabling a member of the church staff to focus on communications, we give a more coordinated, consistent, and public face to the Spirit-alive at Rocky Hill Congregational Church. In some organizations and businesses, an equivalent position might be named "Communications Manager."

**What is the “big picture” goal of this staff restructuring?** The two new positions closely align these staff and their responsibilities with the congregation’s vision. The restructuring will enable more effective ministry and mission—expanding the church’s presence in the world (local, state, national, and global).

**What is the financial impact for funding these 2 new staff?** The proposed restructuring is designed to be “revenue neutral.” The staff expense of the “Church Secretary” is reallocated to funding the two new positions.

**When will this staff restructuring occur?** Now. This transition time makes this a good time to implement a staffing change.

**How was this plan prepared?** In August 2012, the Council established a subcommittee to study and make recommendations about the current staffing configuration. This effort followed nearly 3 years of additional conversations about staffing the church for more effective ministry. Numerous models were examined including the staffing configuration of other churches of similar organization and size. The Church Staffing Subcommittee included: Moderator Bob Inderbitzen, Board of Missions Chair Linda Calcagni, Treasurer Dave Hall, Senior Pastor Rev. Donna Manocchio, Council Member At-Large Tom Rolfe, Personnel Committee Chair Kristy Solie, and Acting Associate Pastor for Faith Formation Pastor Meghan Young. The recommendation of the subcommittee was approved by the Council.

Please contact me or any member of the Church Council if you have any questions.

Bob Inderbitzen, Moderator



All of our hearts sank a few weeks ago as we saw the words and pictures and heard the sounds of the bombings at the Boston Marathon and the explosion and devastation in the town of West, Texas. Then our spirits were lifted as we saw first responders and neighbors and townspeople go to work to comfort, care for and even house persons affected by these two events.

We all have family members and friends that we care about and whose lives we follow closely. It would be a revealing exercise to count how many people we consider to be in our “circle”, those to whom we feel connected on a daily basis. Every so often we have the opportunity to enlarge our circle a little bit; by offering a church member a ride to an evening event, housing a college choir member overnight, or greeting someone you hadn’t met before at the Easter sunrise service.

It would be a great thing to take away something positive from the tragedies in Boston and Texas. Let these two extraordinary events remind us how important it is to care for all of our brothers and sisters and neighbors, in whatever ways we care for them, as a part of our daily lives.

Bill Hoffman, for the Deacons

*The Board of Deacons*

*Spiritual Welfare*

*Membership Vitality*

*Ministering*

# Global and Local Mission News

## Global and Local Mission News

*“Spring is when life ‘s alive in everything.” - Christina Rossetti*

As I’m writing this, I have for the first time this year, noted the signs of spring. The days are getting longer, the buds are just starting to appear on the trees, and the air itself has changed to take on the slightly richer smell of grass and thawing earth. All of these signs of life are such welcome changes after a cold and long winter.

We are also in a season of transition here at Rocky Hill Congregational Church. Loved ones are moving on to new adventures, and the opportunity and anticipation of new relationships with those who come after them are just on the horizon. The Missions Board is also in transition with new board members who will help us enhance and embrace our program and breathe new life into our group.

However, the things that stay the same at RHCC through all the seasons of change are our commitment to service and to each other. This congregation is alive with the talents and generous spirits of all of our members and we look forward to serving in the mission and ministry of this church with you all in the coming year!

In Faith,  
Meghan Montana  
Chair – Board for Missions

### **Aprils Events:**

In April, Missions donated 20 Easter baskets to the Covenant to Care organization. We put together these baskets during the overnight vigil on Holy Thursday with much help from the confirmands and others in the congregation who were in attendance. We also hosted speaker Mary Louise Vitelli, who is a global traveler, energy expert, and lawyer who spoke about her recent trip to Tonga, in the Pacific Islands.

We were blessed with the presence of all who attended and contributed to these events, thank you!

### **Upcoming Events:**

**Sunday May 5<sup>th</sup> – 30th Annual Walk Against Hunger**

**2:00 PM (Check-in begins at 1:00)**

The Walk Against Hunger provides much needed support for all of Foodshare's participating partner agencies. The largest Walk in CT, this event draws thousands of supporters from all over greater Hartford. Join us for a day of fun for this 2.5 mile walk around Bushnell Park in Hartford with entertainment, prizes and fun. Signup sheets are posted in Chapin Hall. All ages are welcome!

Contact Thomas Kainamura (thomascm@gmail.com) to learn more!

Since last month, your generosity has helped the following:

CT Conference Dues:           \$4,704

Adventures in the City:       \$5,500

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



Once again I am collecting books to be taken out to the Cheyenne River Sioux Reservation in South Dakota. Needed are children's books, ages 5-11, as well as novels for women to start a library. They must be like new or gently used, with no violence, sex or drugs. If you have a

contribution please leave it in Chapin Hall on the end table to be picked up Sundays until May 26<sup>th</sup>. Thank you for any contribution you can make.

Joan Tennyson (860) 529-8789

### **News from Your Fair Committee**

We would like to invite everyone to stop by our Refreshment Stand on Memorial Day, Monday, May 27th (weather permitting). You can enjoy coffee, water, donuts, treats and souvenirs for only \$1 each. Come join us as we watch the parade go by.

We are working toward our annual Country Fair for Saturday, October 19th. We **need** someone to chair the Silent Auction Booth (we have volunteers ready to help you). If you are interested in chairing a booth, please contact one of the committee members – we would be glad to have you!

The following booths will definitely be back – Jewelry Booth, Bake Sale, Candy Shop, Holiday House, the Farmers Market and Quilt Raffle. Due to popular demand, we are also re-opening the Toy Shop after a year's absence.

The country fair is the single-largest fundraiser the church presents each year and we are able to provide much needed funds for the church budget. We are able to do this with the grace of God and the hard work and generosity of our congregation. The events the Fair Committee put on give us a perfect combination of fun and fellowship and allows us, and the community, an opportunity to come together.

Phyllis Wilkey, Chair; Deb Copes, Neal Cox, Lynn McKenna, Don Pagnucco, Polly Pagnucco, Elaine Somes, Candy Smith, Jim Stevens, Nancy Flynn, Treasurer; Marsha Hoffman, Consultant

# **Your Prayer is Our Prayer**

## **Sharing Our Joys and Concerns in Worship**

Each week in worship at RHCC, UCC, we have the privilege of raising our joys, gratitude, hopes, and concerns to God. When called upon by the pastor, a person names their prayer aloud – Aunt Sue as she recovers from hip surgery; the joy of a new baby for a neighbor; James returning from serving in Afghanistan. Prayers have been recorded and then appear the following week's bulletin so we can continue to ask for God's presence to be with people and communities on their life and faith journeys.

On Easter Sunday this year, instead of being called upon individually, the congregation was invited to raise their prayers as an alleluia. People named aloud their hopes and prayers, one after another - Elizabeth, Uncle Bob, peace in Korea, visiting family – filling the sanctuary with petitions of praise and hope.

In their evaluation of Holy Week services, the Deacons discussed the time of prayer, and acknowledged it was a beautiful and powerful moment of worship. Because the “Easter way” allows people to raise their prayers in a peaceful and reverent way and continues the RHCC tradition of hearing multiple voices in worship, the deacons decided to use this practice beginning on MAY 5. It will be adapted to include a congregational response to each of the prayers raised aloud, a response suggested by a church member who learned it at another church: “YOUR PRAYER IS OUR PRAYER.”

Beginning on May 5, sanctuary worship will include this new practice; our young people have already been using it in their chapel services. Instructions will be listed in the bulletin, and cards will be available in the pews for people to write down their prayer, and if so indicated, the prayers will be listed in the following week's bulletin.

We look forward to the ways that this new practice will call us deeper into the heart of God and form us as a community of worship. Please speak to one of the deacons or the pastors with any questions.





2	Jeanne Timrud Christina Connor Liam Flynn	16	Jean Hamilton Hilaire Leavitt
3	Beverly Ahlberg Cynthia Sweezy Laura Walker	17	Rebecca Behlman
4	Chris Sheehan Ben Bellizzi	19	Alana Hokans
5	Sara Toft Elizabeth Burnham Abigail Bellizzi	20	Judy Milles Abigail Charamut
6	Joan Tennyson Jane Lataille	21	David Kromas Karen Hoffman Tate Veley Emily Grandell Megan Grandell
7	Sharon Kromas Brianna Calderon Charles Vassilopoulos	22	Louise Butts
9	Christine Mullins Kimberly Rutigliano	24	Jackson McNally
12	Waverly Kelley	25	Bob Hamilton Barbara Carlson Lisa Eleck James McLean
13	Adam Carberry Mark Carberry	27	Priscilla Lexa Laurie Pipke Doug Elliot Carol Marshall
14	Steve Smith Paul Burnham Randy Pulling Christine Kainamura Bob Furman	28	Don Pagnucco Karen Coughlin Stephanie Heneghan Justin Ross
15	Jay Jensen Mark Pawlich Matthew Yorgensen	29	Jim DeGiovanni
		30	Robin Welch Brian Tokarski
		31	Francesca Moot

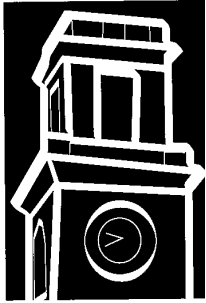


**Bill and Janet Pierson**  
were married on  
**May 4, 1963**

**Al and Joan Diaz**  
were married on  
**May 16, 1964**

**Jim and Lois Stevens**  
were married on  
**May 14, 1955**

**Bob and Fidle Lane**  
were married on  
**May 19, 1951**



# WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday Morning Worship  
Communion 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday  
10:00 a.m. with childcare



**CHILD  
care**  
Provided



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
			<b>1</b> 9:00am <b>Quilters</b> 12:00pm <b>Bible Study</b> 7:30pm <b>Adult Choir</b> 6:00pm <b>Donna PRC</b>
<b>5</b> <b>Communion Sunday</b> <b>Scrip Pickup</b> 10:00am <b>Dedication of Bell</b> 11:30am <b>Noah's Table</b> 2:00pm <b>Walk Against Hunger</b>	<b>6</b> 5:30pm <b>Yoga w/Lynn</b> 7:00pm <b>Women's AA</b> 7:30pm <b>Bell Choir</b>	<b>7</b> 7:00pm <b>Boards/Committees</b>	<b>8</b> 9:00am <b>Quilters</b> 10:30am <b>Apple Rehab Svc</b> 12:00pm <b>Bible Study</b> 7:30pm <b>Adult Choir</b>
<b>12</b> 11:30am <b>Noah's Table</b>	<b>13</b> 2:00pm <b>The Lodge Svc</b> 5:30pm <b>Yoga w/Lynn</b> 7:00pm <b>Women's AA</b> 7:00pm <b>RHCCNS Mtg</b> 7:00pm <b>Bible Study</b> 7:30pm <b>Bell Choir</b>	<b>14</b> 8:30am <b>Breakfast Club</b>	<b>15</b> 9:00am <b>Quilters</b> 12:00pm <b>Bible Study</b> 6:00pm <b>Community Event</b> 7:30pm <b>Adult Choir</b>
<b>19</b> <b>Confirmation Sunday</b> 11:30am <b>Noah's Table</b>	<b>20</b> 5:30pm <b>Yoga w/Lynn</b> 7:00pm <b>Women's AA</b> 7:30pm <b>Bell Choir</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 9:00am <b>Quilters</b> 12:00pm <b>Bible Study</b> 7:30pm <b>Adult Choir</b>
<b>26</b> <b>Scrip Deadline</b> 11:30am <b>Noah's Table</b>	<b>27</b> <b>Office Closed</b> <b>Memorial Day</b> 5:30pm <b>Yoga w/Lynn</b> 7:00pm <b>Women's AA</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 9:00am <b>Quilters</b> 12:00pm <b>Bible Study</b> 7:30pm <b>Adult Choir</b>

**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	204	Custodian	205
Pastor for Faith Formation		RHCCNS (Nursery School)	208
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](http://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
<b>2</b> 1:30pm CVOC 5:30pm TOPS 8:00pm Men's AA	<b>3</b> 5:00pm Youth Group Gathering	<b>4</b> 8:30am Yoga w/Lynn 6:00pm Children's Talent Show
<b>9</b> 5:30pm TOPS 8:00pm Men's AA	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 8:30am Yoga w/Lynn 11:00am Jean Palmer Memorial Service 6:00pm Dinner/Movie
<b>16</b> 5:30pm TOPS 7:00pm Fair Meeting 8:00pm Men's AA	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 8:30am Yoga w/Lynn 5:00pm Confirmation Dinner
<b>23</b> 5:30pm TOPS 8:00pm Men's AA	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 8:30am Yoga w/Lynn
<b>30</b> 5:30pm TOPS 8:00pm Men's AA	<b>31</b>	



**“SCRIP-SURE”**

**Order Schedule**

Scrip Pick Up

May 5

Scrip Deadline

May 26

On Memorial Day  
Remember  
Those Who  
Served



## **Women's Bible Study**

MONDAY, MAY 13

7:00 PM

Women's Bible Study will meet for our final session in May.

Use your imagination and biblical knowledge  
to bring a pot luck item to share  
that is based on one of the women in the Scripture.



### **Breakfast Club**

**Tuesday, May 14 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!



**Come Join us for a Pot Luck Dinner and a Movie**  
**Saturday, May 11, 2013 at 6:00 pm in Chapin Hall.**

**The film showing will be**  
***"Heartbreaker"***

*(shown in French with subtitles)*

Featuring two of France's biggest stars, *Heartbreaker* has been hailed by critics as a crowd pleasing piece of work with engaging performances by Romain Duris as a cocky guy who makes a living breaking up romantic relationships and the gorgeous Vanessa Paradis as his latest target.

Alex has the perfect recession-proof job: ending relationships. Using his expertise - charm - he can convince women to split before breaking their heart. His caveat: he only works if the woman is unhappy. And he never, ever falls in love.

The beautiful heiress, Juliette is ten days from marrying the man of her dreams. In desperate financial straits, Alex accepts her father's mission, to complete his usual task before their wedding. While evading creditors and exes, will Alex be able to con his beautiful "assignment" before the deadline? Or will he find out even the best plans can't fool the heart.

Sneak preview for June: *The Station Agent* starring Peter Dinklage



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

#### **Church School**

We started our final unit of the year, “Go and Make Disciples”. In his final words to his disciples, Jesus had urged them to “Go and make disciples, baptizing them” (Matthew 28:19). We call this Jesus’ “great commission.” The disciples did as Jesus commanded. They left the security of their small circle of friends and dared to reach out, traveling beyond Jerusalem in many directions. The book of Acts and many of the New Testament epistles describe these missionary journeys of the disciples and the encounters they had along the way. This unit’s focus story invites us to look at three important themes: what it means to be witnesses, God’s definition of inclusiveness, and the gift of baptism. We are enjoying exploring what it means to be a disciple of the risen Christ through crafts, drama, games, and more.

#### **Youth Group**

Youth Group had a great night in. We showed off our four square skills, made breakfast for dinner, and watched Harry Potter, discussing Harry Potter and Christian Theology. In May we’re looking forward to a fun night out and the annual UCC Youth Revival.

### **Being Disciples: Questions for God**

Like Jesus’ disciple Thomas, as disciples we seek, we doubt, we question, we hope, we love, we challenge, and we live our faith. In the spirit of Thomas, during our final unit of the year, each week in chapel the children and youth of RHCC have asked questions about God, and worked together to discern an answer. We would like to share our reflections with the church, and invite you to submit your own questions for pondering.

**QUESTION:** Do You (God) have a Kitty?

**ANSWERS:** Yes! God has a Kitty, a Dog, a Zebra, a Rabbit, a you, and a me. We are all God’s creatures.

**QUESTION:** How are You (God) everywhere at once?

**ANSWERS:** God is each of our hearts, so God is with you and me and everyone all around the world. God is also in the sky, watching over us with love, and everyone can see the sky, so God is everywhere.

**QUESTION:** How old are You (God)?

**ANSWERS:** Infinity years old. We don’t have a word for how old God is. God existed before time, and will always exist.

**QUESTION:** What Color are Your (God’s) eyes?

**ANSWERS:** God is a painter with a giant canvas – He paints all of us and God might look like the clouds

As God is all things, we think God’s eyes are all colors at once, like a rainbow.

*Discipleship questions may be emailed [Meghan@rhccucc.org](mailto: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	Scripture/Lesson
Sunday, May 5	Communion Sunday, Family Worship
Sunday, May 12	Week 4: Go and Make Disciples
Sunday, May 19	Confirmation Sunday, Family Worship
Sunday, May 26	Family Worship

**\*Mark your calendars: June 8<sup>th</sup> is Children's Sunday rehearsal, June 9<sup>th</sup> is Children's Sunday**

## Youth Group Calendar: May

Date	Fellowship Gatherings
Friday, May 3	Youth Group Gathering (6 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>h</sup> Grade)→ 5 – 9 PM
Sunday, May 5	Noah's Table (6 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>h</sup> Grade)→ 11:30 AM – 1 PM
Friday, May 10	Youth Revival in Bridgeport (6 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>h</sup> Grade)→ 7 PM
Sunday, May 12	Noah's Table (6 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>h</sup> Grade)→ 11:30 AM – 1 PM
Sunday, May 19	Noah's Table (6 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>h</sup> Grade)→ 11:30 AM – 1 PM
Sunday, May 26	Noah's Table (6 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>h</sup> Grade)→ 11:30 AM – 1 PM

## SPECIAL EVENTS: *You do not want to miss this!*

Date	Scripture/Lesson
Saturday, May 4 6 PM	<b>Children &amp; Youth Talent Show:</b> Enjoy the musical, artistic, and comedic talents of the RHCC Children and Youth. Make your own sundaes after the show. ALL invited. See details in Newsletter Announcement.

**NURSERY VOLUNTEERS:** Nursery Volunteers are needed for April and May. 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, and Liz Reed-Swale) or email them at [RHCCchildcare@gmail.com](mailto:RHCCchildcare@gmail.com) for more information. You can also sign-up outside the Nursery.

## You are invited to Koinonia 2013!

Join us at RHCC for a 4 night (5:30-7:30 PM), intergenerational Vacation Bible School, "Koinonia 2013", for the whole church family, from June 24<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup>. This summer you are invited to renew and spark your faith as we join together for fun, food, fellowship, and faith formation. Separate faith formation programming will be available for children, youth, and adults.

***Please mark your calendars and sign-up in Chapin Hall or by emailing [meghan@rhccucc.org](mailto:meghan@rhccucc.org).***

## Youth Night Out

Join us on Friday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, from 5 PM-9 PM a picnic dinner and games at Elm Ridge Park. This event is open to youth, grades 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>. As always friends are welcome. Please RSVP with Meghan Young ([meghan@rhccucc.org](mailto:meghan@rhccucc.org)) by Wednesday, May 1<sup>st</sup>.

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Youth Revival!

**WHO:** Youth Group (Grades 6-12)

**WHEN:** Friday, May 10<sup>th</sup>, 7 PM

**WHAT:** Declare our future at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Youth Revival as we gather with youth group's from across the Connecticut Conference of the UCC. Join us for music, testimony, preaching, prayer and fellowship in a multi-cultural, multi-racial setting.

**WHERE:** United Congregational Church of Bridgeport

**For more information or to sign-up, contact Meghan Young at [meghan@rhccucc.org](mailto:meghan@rhccucc.org).**

**Chaperones and drivers needed. Sign-up is requested by Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup>.**

## 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.*

April was a month of planning and walking in our faith. We began preparation for Confirmation Sunday, studied the bible and scripture. We discussed with our mentors who we are as ministers in the Body of Christ. We reflected on the challenges of how our faith interacts with our daily lives, and informs our social, political, and worldly views.

May is the last month of Confirmation. As we continue to discern our faith and arrive at confirmation, we ask that you hold us in prayer. We look forward to sharing our faith with you on May 19<sup>th</sup>, Confirmation Sunday.

### **May Schedule:**

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

Date	Class/Event	Times
Sunday, May 5	CLASS: Sharing Our Journey	5 PM – 7 PM
Saturday, April 18	CLASS: Confirmation Practice WORSHIP: Worship & Celebration (Parents & Mentors Invited)	TBD 5 PM – 7 PM
Sunday, May 19	WORSHIP: Confirmation!	10 AM Service

## **Happy Mother's Day!**

We extend an invitation to all great-grandmothers to worship with us on Mother's Day, May 12. During this worship we will proudly recognize our great-grandmothers of the church. If you are recently a new great-grandmother or if your name is not on this list, please contact the church office and let us know. Happy Mother's Day!

Thelma Backe	Jeannette Doane	Emily Rosenthal
Charlotte Bacon	Lois Griswold	Doris Schreier
Carol Baran	Jean Hamilton	Thelma Somes
Ruby Bennett	Janet Hansen	Sylvia Steucek
Mary-Edith Bowman	Midge Harvey	Midge Sword
Barbara Burgess	Doris Hick	Louise Tangarone
Del Buswell	Anne King	Joyce Toft
Duffy Carruthers	Gladys Kitchens	Liz Vann
Carole Christopher	Janet Kunzelman	Alice Weil
Amy Cooke	Eleanor Maynard	Dot Wenzel
Evelyn Danforth	Ella Michaud	
Doris Day	Betty Mooney	
Joan Dean	Irene Moore	

## **Frank Roswell Fuller Scholarship**

**Deadline May 15<sup>th</sup>**



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.

The deadline for submitting your application and other documents is May 15<sup>th</sup>.



## **CHANGING THE CULTURE FOR DEMENTIA CARE**

The Path to a better Quality of Life for People with Alzheimer's Disease

Author Randy L. Griffin, RN, MS, HNC

Tuesday May 28 2013

in the CVOC Dining Room 52 Missionary Road Cromwell

Coffee and....at 9:00 am

Lecture from 9:30 – 10:30 am

Book Signing at 10:30 am

Randy is the author of CHANGING THE CULTURE FOR DEMENTIA CARE: As a recognized expert in the field of dementia care, she will show us how the quality of life can be improved for these people if we treat the “whole” person and not just the symptoms.

### **God Would Kneel Down**

I think God might be a little prejudiced.  
For once He asked me to join Him on a walk  
through this world,

and we gazed into every heart on this earth,  
and I noticed He lingered a bit longer  
before any face that was  
weeping,

and before any eyes that were  
laughing.

And sometimes when we passed  
a soul in worship

God too would kneel  
down.

I have come to learn: God  
adores His  
creation.

By Daniel Ladinsky

# May 2013: My Yoke is Easy and My Burden Light

*Written by Matthew Fehse*

*“Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me,  
for I am gentle and lowly in heart and you will find rest in me.”—Matthew 11:29*



Seven hours by bus through thunderous rains dousing rice fields and plantations. Another four hours by shuttle scaling the mountain roads revealing garden terraces carved out of the face of the earth taking me to meet with a welcoming group. Then into the back of a jeep which took us another three hours through winding dirt roads passing through mining sites, narrow ridge tops, eventually stopping at the far flung United Church of Christ in the small mountain community of Copcopit.

Just the day before a member of the community, Abraham Decoyna, had died of cancer. We were there to share in the loss with the family gathered in his home, along with the entire community.

The people of Copcopit not only attend church together, they also work together, help raise each other's children, cook together, and mourn together. Unity is regarded as essential in overcoming obstacles or seeing goals met. A break in unity could be devastating. They believe in consensus in everything connected to the community including funeral proceedings: what food to prepare, what clothes to dress the deceased in, and participating in the coffin construction. For four days we shared fellowship with the family. We held worship services each night in the family kitchen and shared meals together. As stories were shared by friends and family, laughter echoed late into the night, and the next morning it started again.

Throughout the week, people gave generously to the family. This is done with every family who suffers the loss of a loved one to lighten and share their burden for the costs of the four-day feasts, hospital bills, remaining debts, and a small amount for the family. Any amount remaining is given to an organization that helps this and surrounding communities during hardships. All in all, there was almost \$3,000 raised. When faced with seemingly impossible odds or dealing with loss, not only does Copcopit have a community of faith to lean on, but they join in sharing the yoke of others. As the community shares the same yoke they share the same burden.

God, we pray for the people of Copcopit, and reflect on their community service and support of each other. Help us to be as generous and kind with our time and treasure.

*Matthew Fehse serves with the human rights desk of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines.*



## PRESS RELEASE

### Summer Camp Financial Assistance Program

The Town of Rocky Hill Human Services Department announces the availability of funds to assist needy Rocky Hill families with the financial costs of summer camp or other educational/recreational summer activities. Financial assistance is available for children ages 5 to 17 years and whose family meets income and asset guidelines. A \$200 maximum assistance limit exists per household. Funds are limited and are on a first come, first serve basis. Income and asset verification is required.

Please call the Human Services Department at 860-258-2799 with questions and/or to schedule an appointment to apply.



**Always Welcome!** – Hunger never takes a holiday... Food Pantries need our help to meet the food demands...Please consider bringing a non-perishable food item, laundry detergent, or baby items to worship every time you come. The large basket in the front foyer of the church welcomes all food

donations. Pew Crew members have been taking your donations to the food pantry. Mark Williams sends a thank you note every month in gratitude for your generosity.

**Yoga Offered by Core Power, LLC** – Experience the dynamic flow and challenge of yoga which builds strength, balance and flexibility for an overall fit and healthy body. Classes are for all-levels with options for everyone! This class meets: Monday evenings from 5:30-6:30pm, and Saturday mornings from 8:30-9:15am. Contact Lynn MacDonald 860-550-4660 to register – Please bring water bottle, yoga mat, and a friend!!

**ROCKY HILL HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.**

*Annual Meeting: "Quarries of Selden Neck"*

*Friday, May 10, 6:00pm, United Methodist Church, 623 Old  
Main Street, Rocky Hill,  
\$10.00 per person*



*Enjoy coffee and dessert as we select Society officers for 2013-2014. At 7:30 pm Selden Neck historian David Wordell will present a 45 minute film, "Quarries of Selden Neck". This presentation details the days of quarries and schooners bound for New York City, as well as other facts and folklore about the island, which is in the Connecticut River between Lyme and Deep River. Mr. Wordell will entertain questions after the presentation.*

**ROCKY HILL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**  
**805 Old Main Street, Rocky Hill CT 06067**  
**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.



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**Pack the Church! ...**  
**Sunday, May 26, 2013 at 10 AM**

**“A Farewell to Pastor Donna”**

- Sunday Morning Worship with Liturgy of Farewell
- Special Music & Celebrations of Our Shared Ministry
- Reception Following Worship.

**ALL are welcome!!**



More details coming by mail.

For more information, contact Bob Inderbitzen, Moderator.