



The Reverend Dr. Brenda Pelc-Faszczka, Interim Senior Pastor
brenda@rhccucc.org
Meghan D. Young, Acting Associate Pastor
meghan@rhccucc.org
Mary DeLibero, Minister of Music
mary@rhccucc.org
Mitsey Baker, Office Manager
office@rhccucc.org
860 529-4167 Church – 860 257-9637 Fax

The Church Mouse

May 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

CALL TO THE ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the Rocky Hill Congregational Church United Church of Christ is called for **Sunday, June 1, 2014** immediately following worship in the sanctuary for the following items of business:

1. To receive and act upon the 2014 reports of Boards and Committees.
2. To vote on any revisions to the 2014-15 budget as presented at Budget and Elections meeting.
3. To vote on any changes to the report of the Nominating Committee.
4. To remember and reflect on those members and friends of the church who have entered the Church Eternal from May 1, 2013 to April 30, 2014.

Respectfully submitted;

Marsha Hoffman, Clerk

INTERIM PASTOR'S MESSAGE



Over the years, I've taught many Confirmation classes, filled with the young who've had varying degrees of experience with church (either a little or a lot), varying degrees of affinity with what they've experienced there (a little or a lot), and who were now being asked to explore it all at a more grown-up level in order to come to a decision about staying connected. It's been important to me to try to understand where we were starting from – in other words, where they were starting from, to try to know rather than guess what the key questions were, what basic "yes" and "no" energies were being carried into the whole enterprise. And so I would ask them to complete sentence-starters like these:

The reason I'm in Confirmation Class is...

What I just don't get about faith is...

The most basic thing I know so far about faith is...

What I hope to learn more about is...

My most important question about God right now is...

My biggest concern about our world is...

The thing I value most right now about church is...

The thing I am most unsure of right now about church is...

My most negative impression about Christianity is...

My most positive impression about Christianity is...

If asked to tell someone who Jesus is, I would say...

I've also learned that these are good questions for anybody in the church and that they're not asked of us very often. So we might ask them of ourselves, or of each other in conversation.

"Always be ready to give an account for the hope that is in you," says 1 Peter 3:15. We may have very little sense of what our own responses would be, until someone asks us to "give an account" of why we feel what we feel, question what we question, value what we value. Spend some time with these questions and see what happens.

So...what *would* you say??

Faithfully,

Rev. Brenda

MAY WORSHIP

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.

May 4 **Third Sunday of Easter**
Intergenerational worship; Communion

Acts 2:1-4a, 36-41; Ps. 116:1-4, 12-19; 1 Pet. 1:17-23;
Lk. 24:13-35

May 11 **Fourth Sunday of Easter**
Festival of the Christian Home;
Sacrament of Baptism

Acts 2:42-47; Ps. 23; 1 Pet. 2:19-25; Jn. 10:1-10

May 18 **Fifth Sunday of Easter**
Laity Sunday – worship led by members of the
congregation

Acts 7:55-60; Ps. 31:1-5, 15-16; 1 Pet. 2:2-10; Jn. 14:1-14

May 25 **Sixth Sunday of Easter**

Acts 17:22-31; Ps. 66:8-20; 1 Pet. 3:13-22; Jn. 14: 15-21





FAITH FORMATION @ RHCC

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

Church School

We just began our final unit of the year, *Following Jesus' Way*. The book of Acts and many of the New Testament Epistles document Paul's travels as he went from place to place, sharing the life-changing story of Jesus' resurrection and instructing others how to live in Jesus' way. In this unit we will focus on the events of Acts 16 where Paul meets Lydia and survives imprisonment for the sake of the gospel. We will focus on themes of forgiving, healing, welcoming, and loving. They are words that summarize the heart of Jesus' life and ministry. Jesus has shown us the way we should follow and promises to be with us as we journey on that way, whether we are feeling strong or weak. Jesus' resurrection is life-changing, and it informs how we are invited to live in his way. This unit will culminate on Pentecost with Children's Sunday on June 8th.

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

Youth Group

Recently we went to see the movie *Divergent*. We had a great conversation about our gifts, how we be ourselves even when we don't fit in, how we allow others to share their uniqueness, and how we often divide into "factions". We also are looking forward to some service projects and a youth revival.

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.

Gatherings

On Holy Saturday we worshiped together, held our annual Easter Egg Scavenger hunt that told the Easter story, and participated in a community art project. We transformed the watercolor squares, expressing who we are, that we put away for Lent, into colorful welcome sign to remind us of God's love. *Check out a picture of the sign, and be sure to add your name.*

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...

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

Date	Scripture/Lesson
Sunday, May 4	Communion Sunday, Family Worship
Sunday, May 11	Week 1: Following Jesus' Way
Sunday, May 18	Week 2: Following Jesus' Way
Sunday, May 25	Week 3: Following Jesus' Way

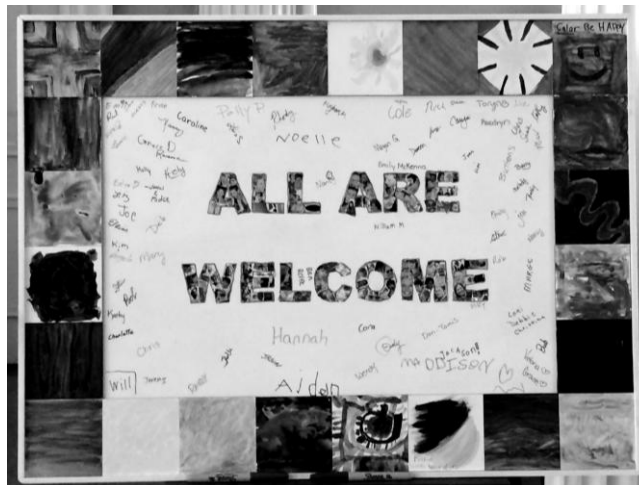
Youth Group Calendar: *May*

Date	Fellowship Gatherings
Sunday, May 4	Noah's Table (6 th -12 ^h Grade)➔ 5 PM – 7 PM Off-Site Service Project and dinner. We will be doing yard work at a parishioners house.
Saturday, May 17	Noah's Table (6 th -12 ^h Grade)➔ 3:15 PM – 7 PM 4 th Annual UCC Youth Revival. We will join together with other UCC youth from around the state for multi-cultural, multi-racial worship with music, testimony, prayer, and praise! 5 th graders are welcome at this event.

****please RSVP with Diana Hellyar for all youth group event.**

“ALL ARE WELCOME”

Add your name to our sign!



On Easter Sunday the S.P.I.R.I.T. Children and Youth presented to RHCC the welcome sign they made during Lent and transformed for Easter. We ask everyone to please take a moment to sign their first name on the "ALL ARE WELCOME" sign. Whether you are a visitor, a friend, or a member, add your name so that each time we view our welcome sign we may glimpse a part of God's family.

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

COME JOIN THE CIRCLE: Unit 5 – Following Jesus' Way

During this unit we are learning about discipleship, focusing on the stories of Paul, Lydia, and the jailer in Acts 16. These Christians from the early church provide living examples of people who dared to follow in Jesus' way. Like Jesus, these disciples chose to follow Jesus' way, showing their faith through actions: offering forgiveness, welcome, compassion, and freedom.

Forgiveness: A New Name, a New Life

The apostle Paul was not always a follower of Jesus. His name was not always Paul either; he was born as Saul. Like you and I, Saul never met Jesus and hadn't heard Jesus teach. One day Saul had an amazing experience. His encounter with the risen Christ opened him to a new way of seeing, and it opened the early Christian community to the risks and joy of forgiveness.

Connect with the Bible. Find a kitchen timer and candle for your table. Light the candle and then read aloud Acts 9:1-22. Pause after verse 9 and set the timer for three minutes. Close your eyes and imagine what Paul might have thought or experienced during the three days he was blind. When the time is up, finish reading the story.

Share Your Faith.

- 1) Think about the name of the early church – the Way. What does this name communicate to you about the life of faith? What does our church's name communicate?
- 2) How is forgiveness part of this story? When have you felt the need to ask for forgiveness? When have you been in a position to extend forgiveness? Which do you think is harder to do? What is one action you could take today that would either extend or receive forgiveness?

Take time to Pray. Sing or hum a verse of "Amazing Grace." Reflect on the connections between this song, the story of Paul's conversion, and your own experience.

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

Small Group Ministry at RHCC

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

Easter Small Groups:

Easter Stories.

7 PM – 8 PM, Sundays, May 11 & 18, and June 1

Through beautiful, deeply spiritual, films made by the SALT project, we will explore Resurrection, Blessing, and Strange Fruit. Each session will consist of a short film viewing followed by a discussion. SALT is a not-for-profit project dedicated to reclaiming and sharing the beauty of Christian life through film, photography, music, poetry, and ideas. SALT aims to build a community of conversation and resource-sharing that, like salt itself, preserves and seasons the best and most beautiful of the Christian tradition. No preparation necessary.

Minimum of 4 committed participants required. Maximum of 12.

Pilgrim People.

12 PM – 1 PM, Sundays, May 11 & 18, June 1 & 8

Pilgrims are willing to explore and adventure in their faith. “Pilgrim People” is a discussion group rooted in scripture. Over the course of four weeks we will explore prayer, presence, service, generosity, and spiritual growth. No preparation necessary.

Minimum of 4 committed participants required. Maximum of 12.

Sign-Up for Easter Small Groups in Chapin Hall or contact the Church Office.

Open On-Going Groups:

Art + Faith.

On-Going. Open Group. Beginning in May.

It has been said that creativity requires faith, and that art itself is an incarnational activity. The Art + Faith Group will meet twice a month to explore scripture and faith through the arts. The group will look at the work of various artists as well as engage in individual and group art projects. Additionally the Art + Faith Group will work with the pastors to design Altar Scapes and incorporate visual elements into worship. No artistic skill or experience needed. *Please contact Stephanie Heneghan (860-529-4672) or Nancy Rolfe (860-257-3489) for more information.*

DEACONS

Our church vision is on the RHCC website to let a casual viewer know more about us as a congregation but more importantly as a reminder to us, of our goals. But do we reread each time we log on or is the Vision Statement something we no longer 'see' in our haste to get to the calendar, the newsletter, etc? Two of the vision statements that draw my attention are Joyful Generosity and Active Engagement. Most of the time, I mush the two together in my thoughts. Joyful Generosity is not always a monetary donation while Active Engagement is not always giving our time and talents.

As with other boards in the church, the Diaconate is saying goodbye and a heartfelt thanks to departing deacons and a joyous welcome to a new member. Elaine Somes, Joe Sheehan, and Val Triplets have completed their terms as active deacons. Their commitment to the Diaconate, to the church and church family can't be measured. We will miss their input at meetings and their willingness to volunteer without pressure! Thank you and welcome to Michael Bower as he begins his term on the Diaconate.

Volunteering is a way of showing God's love to other people. Our church has generosity as a core value – giving freely of our time, talent, and treasure. So please say yes to a caller looking for a Sunday usher, purchase an extra jar of peanut butter, a toothbrush, or detergent on sale for our food basket, join in the Walk on Hunger by participating or sponsoring a walker, combine efforts with a friend and donate a basket to the Fair Silent Auction, and please participate in activities of the church. We have a birthday ministry in the church. How many days do you receive greeting cards from organizations requesting donations? If you do not plan on using the cards, please consider donating them to this ministry. A drop off box will be on the sign-up table in Chapin Hall.

In May, we have the opportunity to once again recognize the great-grandmothers of our congregation. We are so fortunate to have these wonderful women in our lives.

Gail Tine
Co-Senior Deacon

2 Jeanne Timrud
Christina Connor
Liam Flynn
3 Beverly Ahlberg
Cynthia Sweezy
Laura Walker
4 Chris Sheehan
Ben Bellizzi
5 Sara Toft
Elizabeth Burnham
Abigail Bellizzi
6 Joan Tennyson
Jane Lataille
7 Sharon Kromas
Brianna Calderon
Charles Vassilopoulos
9 Christine Mullins
Kimberly Rutigliano
12 Waverly Kelley
13 Adam Carberry
Mark Carberry
14 Steve Smith
Paul Burnham
Randy Pulling
Christine Kainamura
Bob Furman
15 Jay Jensen
Mark Pawlich
Matthew Yorgensen



16 Jean Hamilton
Hilaire Leavitt
17 Rebecca Behlman
19 Alana Hokans
20 Judy Milles
Abigail Charamut
21 David Kromas
Karen Hoffman
Tate Veley
Emily Grandell
Megan Grandell
22 Louise Butts
24 Jackson McNally
25 Bob Hamilton
Barbara Carlson
Lisa Eleck
James McLean
27 Priscilla Lexa
Laurie Pipke
Doug Elliot
Carol Marshall
28 Don Pagnucco
Karen Coughlin
Stephanie Kelley
Justin Ross
29 Jim DeGiovanni
30 Robin Welch
Brian Tokarski
31 Francesca Moot

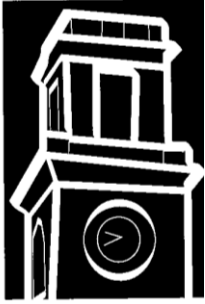
**Bill and Janet
Pierson**
were married on
May 4, 1963

Al and Joan Diaz
were married on
May 16, 1964



Jim and Lois Stevens
were married on
May 14, 1955

Dick and Lynn Webster
were married on
May 17, 1969



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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



CHILD
care
 Provided

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
4 Communion Sunday 10:00am Worship 11:30am Search Committee 5:00pm Noah's Table	5 10:30pm Apple Rehab Svc 7:00pm Women's AA 7:00pm Bowling 7:30pm Bell Choir	6 7:00pm Boards/Committees	7 9:00am Quilters 12:00pm Bible Study 7:30pm Adult Choir
11 Mother's Day 10:00am Worship	12 7:00pm Women's AA 7:00pm Bowling 7:30pm Bell Choir	13 8:30am Breakfast Club	14 9:00am Quilters 12:00pm Bible Study 7:30pm Adult Choir
18 Laity Sunday 10:00am Worship – Open Road 11:30am Search Committee	19 Newsletter Mailing 7:00pm Women's AA 7:00pm Bowling 7:30pm Bell Choir	20 4:00pm The Lodge Svc	21 9:00am Quilters 12:00pm Bible Study 6:00pm Community Event 7:30pm Adult Choir
25 10:00am Worship	26 Office Closed Memorial Day 7:00pm Women's AA	27 11:00am Retired Clergy Mtg	28 9:00am Quilters 12:00pm Bible Study 7:30pm Adult Choir

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



2014

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 8:00pm Men's AA	2 5:00pm Wedding Rehearsal	3 3:00pm Wedding
8 8:00pm Men's AA	9	10 8:00am May Breakfast/ Plant Sale
15 Newsletter/ Annual Report Deadline 7:00pm Fair Meeting 8:00pm Men's AA	16	17 10:00am Open Road Rehearsal 5:00pm Noah's Table
22 8:00pm Men's AA	23	24
29 8:00pm Men's AA	30	31

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



Happy Mother's Day!

We extend an invitation to all **great-grandmothers** to worship with us on Mother's Day, May 11. 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
Charlotte Bacon
Carol Baran
Ruby Bennett
Mary-Edith Bowman
Barbara Burgess
Del Buswell
Duffy Carruthers
Evelyn Danforth
Doris Day
Jeannette Doane

Lois Griswold
Jean Hamilton
Janet Hansen
Midge Harvey
Doris Hick
Anne King
Gladys Kitchens
Janet Kunzelman
Eleanor Maynard
Ella Michaud
Betty Mooney

Irene Moore
Emily Rosenthal
Doris Schreier
Thelma Somes
Sylvia Steucek
Midge Sword
Louise Tangarone
Joyce Toft
Liz Vann
Alice Weil
Dot Wenzel



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.

Global and Local Mission News



Arm2Arm, Inc.

68 Goodwin Avenue
Wethersfield, CT 06109

Providing basic assistance to the underprivileged populations in the Dominican Republic and

Dear RHCC and the RHCC Missions Board,

Thank you for hosting the Arm2Arm pasta dinner fundraiser this past Saturday. Your steadfast support never fails, and I know I will always return to the community at RHCC when I have the chance. As I go forward to new places, seeking new opportunities, I am inspired by my Christian faith to help to those in need. Growing up in my church family has been one of the greatest gifts I could have had; truly, there is no other place where love and trust is so abundant. The best way I can show my thanks is by giving back to others, and right now that is through supporting Arm2Arm. I am confident that this organization is changing the lives of people who have no other hope for a better life. I can only imagine how they must survive, and I look forward to sharing my experiences after our medical mission trip in July. RHCC may be smaller than most congregations, but we have passion and faith enough to create lasting ripples in our local community and beyond. Again, I cannot thank you enough for everything you have given me, and I will do my best to share the love and humanity I have been taught.

Much love,

Sarah Mosure

TO ALL BOARD AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Annual reports for the 2013 - 2014 year are due in the church office no later than May 15th for publication in Annual Report. Please don't be late. Please send your reports to Church Office Manager Mitsey Baker, office@rhccucc.org. This gives Mitsey just enough time to assemble and print the report so copies are available by Sunday, May 25. The Annual Meeting is following worship on June 1.

Here's a link to last year's report, for your reference: [http://rhccucc.org/RHCC April-2013 Annual Reports.pdf](http://rhccucc.org/RHCC%20April-2013%20Annual%20Reports.pdf)

"I came that they may have life and have it abundantly."

J o h n 10:10b

Sustaining Hope

The Association Promoting Education and Conservation (APECA), grassroots in the beginning, started as a floating health clinic growing into a comprehensive Ministry of Health. For over 20 years, APECA has worked with community members in remote villages, and together they have equipped and deployed Peruvians to over 30 communities along the Amazon River trained in health care, midwifery, leadership and conservation.



El Fundo, Peru, serves as the base of operations and training center where local volunteers go to learn about fish ponds, vegetable gardens, clean drinking water systems, trash pits, reforestation, natural medicine, planting and tree nurseries. Participants are educated on the important role they play in conserving the rainforest. Through the support of interns and volunteers, APECA empowers individuals, families, and communities.

In November 2013, Area Executive Rev. Felix Ortiz of Global Ministries traveled to welcome APECA as its newest partner. They journeyed to the beach to meet one of APECA's health promoters, Pablo. He and his family tend a peanut field planted in the silt and sand of a receded Amazon River. Pablo explained the level of hardship experienced by community farmers, conditions APECA's sustainable development program addresses. APECA is clearly a vital presence for these communities, and Global Ministries wants to partner in these programs as a companion.

This is a time of great celebration for APECA and local volunteers, who have advanced in sustainable ways, 20 years of hard work on health care and conservation. In November 2013, APECA also signed a project agreement with a local parent-teacher group to create a tree nursery for school children and their families. The schools and the families working together insure the success of reforestation in the community, making it far more secure for future generations.

To learn more about APECA, contact Global Ministries Area Executive for Latin America and the Caribbean, Rev. Felix Ortiz.



You make the difference...

The prayers and help you provide through your local congregations make possible the work and witness of GLOBAL MINISTRIES, which is supported by Disciples Mission Fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) of the United Church of Christ.

WWW.GLOBALMINISTRIES.ORG

Tax Relief Applications for Elderly/Disabled Renters (Renters Rebate)

The Town of Rocky Hill Human Services Department will be accepting applications for the Elderly/Disabled Tax Relief Program for Renters from May 12, 2014 through October 1, 2014. This is a State of Connecticut financial assistance program which allows the eligible applicant a financial payment between \$50 and \$900 on an annual basis. The applicant(s) must be 65 years of age by the end calendar year 2013 or totally disabled. Applicants must be renters and reside in Rocky Hill.

The 2013 income limit for one person is \$34,100 and \$41,600 for two persons. This includes all income. Proof of income for 2013 is required. Also, proof of rent and utility payments is required for 2013. Applicants may call Human Services at 860-258-2799 to make an appointment. Outreach applications to the person's place of residence will be provided if necessary. We will begin accepting appointment phone calls on 5/5/14.



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

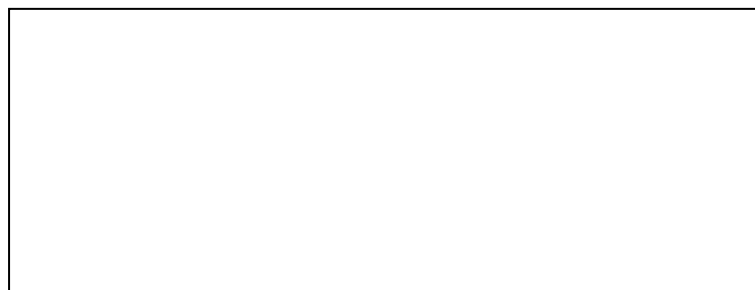
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Mailed April 28, 2014

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

PERMIT NO 7

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



MAY BREAKFAST

Egg Strata ~ Pancakes ~ French Toast
Cereal ~ Bacon ~ Sausage ~ Juice ~ Milk ~ Coffee

Adults \$7.00 ~ Kids (4-12) \$5.00 ~ under 4 - free

.....

PLANT SALE

Flowers & Vegetables

Saturday, May 10th

8:00 A.M. - 10:00 A.M.

