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860 529-4167 Church

The Church Mouse

May 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

Confirmation Weekend

*Saturday and Sunday,
May 23 and 24, 2015*

After a year of prayer, fellowship, service, and fun together, four young people in our congregation will celebrate confirmation the fourth weekend in May on Pentecost Sunday. This is a significant moment for each of the young people and for the life of our congregation. The prayers and presence of the church family are welcome leading up to this moment and at the rite of Confirmation at the 10:00am worship service on Sunday. Please continue to support our soon-to-be-newest-members of RHCC!



Confirmation Class, 2015

Victoria Bower
Tyler Morgan

Louis DiRenzo
Brian Speers



NEEDED: "A Larger Frame Of Reference"

A group from my church often visits a restaurant right across the parking lot to share a meal after Bible study. One night the server asked one of my friends if we lived nearby. "Not far," he said, "but we work together every Tuesday night over at Resurrection Church. Have you ever been there?" "Nah," said the server, "I don't usually get along with church people." "Why is that?" someone asked. His response: "Because I have too many big questions, and their answers are always too small and packaged."

Chris Folmsbee, United Methodist Church,
"Millennials Seek Larger Framework to Understand God"
Published by the Lewis Center for Leadership

Too small and packaged. That would not be the first time I've seen that indictment of traditional church. Or, felt it myself. Life is big, complicated, messy, mysterious, hard, wonderful, taking everything we've got and often nevertheless feeling unsolvable. And whatever we mean by "God," even more so. People genuinely trying to live life deeply and faithfully, and who are seeking God – whatever their age or generation – want some context for doing so that hasn't been oversimplified, packaged up too neatly, made too superficial to count as truth. Or, to put it another way, "dumbed-down."

Churches feel awfully challenged these days, and with good reason. As the author of the above-mentioned article says (along with so many other voices who have been saying it for years), "This is now a post-Christian world." That is, Christianity is not the default ground we're on anymore. It can't be assumed or taken for granted as the general cultural frame of reference for everything. But if that feels a lot like loss – and I know it does – isn't there another way of reading it that feels like opportunity? If we can no longer assume the ease with which the old Christian answers, "too small and packaged," fall upon the current questions, does this mean we have a chance to live into some larger ones that are more resonant with our own time in history? I'd say yes. The fundamental human questions don't really change much. But the way we frame them and wrestle together toward understanding certainly does, because those things belong to each given time in history. We start with an inherited tradition, yes, but we can never avoid doing our own work with it.

The church's basic ground is what it's always been – theology. A conviction about who God is, what God does, who we are and how we live, in light of it. We can't avoid wrestling with that fundamental ground if we're going to be a meaningful, relevant, purposeful church – actually, if we're going to be a church at all. If the old "answers" aren't working now, that's our invitation into growing forward..... into the honesty of new exploration, asking, framing, imagining, seeking, discovering. Basic theological work. We might actually see it as kind of exciting that the church is at such a remarkably important point right now. And that the upshot is that we might get pulled back to what our core work really is.

The author of the article I cited above is especially concerned with what is needed in order for the church to engage the generation called Millennials -- those born roughly between the early 1980's and the early 2000's, so today's young adults and teens:

The answer is not to hire younger, cooler-looking staff and build edgier programs... The answer is to give a larger framework for God.... What Millennials, and the generations to follow, need from the church are meaningful conversations, dependable relationships, faithful leadership and mentoring, a commitment to missional discipleship, and lasting promise of enduring inclusivity. More than all of these, however, is a big concept of God. The smaller we make God seem, the less likely Millennials are going to engage with the church.

I'd say that's true for people across the board, of whatever age or generation. "Too small and packaged" doesn't serve anyone well... least of all, the gospel of Jesus, which is anything but small or packaged. The gospel itself is our most expansive force – even when we've tried to reduce that too.

So what would it mean for a congregation to know that everything it says, does and commits to is theological work... that can either expand or shrink its notion of "God"... and either invite or discourage a life of engagement with that work???

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 3

Fifth Sunday of Easter; Communion

Intergenerational worship

Acts 8:26-40; Ps. 22:25-31; 1 Jn. 4:7-21; John 15:1-8

May 10

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Acts 10:44-48; Ps. 98; 1 Jn. 5:1-6; John 15:9-17

May 17

Seventh Sunday of Easter

Acts 1:15-17, 21-26; Ps. 1; 1 Jn. 5:9-13; John 17:6-19

May 24

Pentecost; Confirmation Sunday

Intergenerational worship, planned and led by confirmands

Acts 2:1-21 or Ezek. 37:1-14; Ps. 104:24-34, 35b; Rom. 8:22-27; John 15:26-26-7; 16:4b-15

May 31

First Sunday after Pentecost

Isa. 6:1-8; Ps. 29; Rom. 8:12-17; John 3:1-17



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 walking in our faith and beginning to prepare for confirmation Sunday. We began preparation for Confirmation Sunday, studied the bible and scripture, reflected on our Holy Week experience, met with our mentors to discuss what it means to live a life of faith, and slept over at church to watch Harry Potter and discuss how it might speak to our life of faith.

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 24th, Confirmation Sunday.**

May Schedule:

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

Date	Class/Event	Times
Sunday, May 10	CLASS: Sharing Our Journey	5 PM – 7 PM
Saturday, May 23	CLASS: Confirmation Practice WORSHIP: Worship & Dinner Celebration (Parents & Mentors Invited)	10 AM (TBD) 5 PM – 7 PM
Sunday, May 24	WORSHIP: Confirmation Sunday!	10 AM Service

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

Church School

We have had a great time “Celebrating God’s Creation” this April. We have learned about the wonders of God’s creation, who we are as children created by God, and what our role is as part of creation. We’ve created star prayers, made creatures, and participated in some great hands on projects to help the environment.

In May we are looking forward to beginning our preparations for Children’s Sunday. Please email Meghan Young if your child is planning to participate in Children’s Sunday on June 14.

Gatherings

On Holy Saturday we held our annual Easter Egg Scavenger hunt that told the Easter story, and had a great time baking the bread for communion on Easter Sunday!

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.

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.

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, May 3	Fifth Sunday of Easter Family worship. Communion.
Sunday, May 10	Sixth Sunday of Easter S.P.I.R.I.T. Church School: <i>Children’s Sunday Preparation</i>
Sunday, May 17	Seventh Sunday of Easter S.P.I.R.I.T. Church School: <i>Children’s Sunday Preparation</i>
Sunday, May 24	Pentecost Sunday & Confirmation Sunday Family worship.
Sunday, May 31	S.P.I.R.I.T. Church School: <i>Children’s Sunday Preparation</i>

Youth Group Calendar: May

Date	Fellowship Gatherings
Sunday, May 3	5 th Annual CTUCC Youth Revival! – 3 PM See details below.
Sunday, May 17	Noah's Table (6 th -12 ^h Grade) → 5 PM – 6:30 PM. Join us for a picnic dinner and games at Elm Ridge Park. Bring a picnic blanket and dish to share. As always friends are welcome. Please RSVP by Wednesday, May 13. 1 Chaperone is needed for this event.

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

5th Annual Youth Revival!

WHO: Youth Group (Grades 5-12)

WHEN: Sunday, May 3, 2:30 PM – 5:30 PM

(Revival starts at 3 PM, we will meet at church at 2:30 PM)

WHAT: Inside & Out #AFFIRMED! Gather with youth group's from across the Connecticut Conference of the UCC. Join us for a dynamic worship service that will renew your spirit. Come and sing praise, celebrate vitality, and embrace diversity!

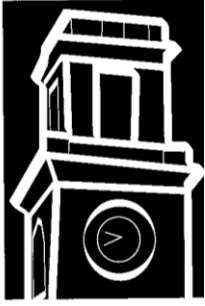
WHERE: First Congregational Church in Bloomfield

**For more information or to sign-up, contact Meghan Young at meghan@rhccucc.org.
Chaperones and drivers needed. Sign-up is requested by Monday, April 27th.**

SENIOR PASTOR SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Search Committee has continued the hard work of reviewing profiles and interviewing candidates this past month. Search processes are often a matter of timing, the timing of a candidate's job search, as it coincides with the timing of our committee's work, and sometimes those two things don't quite align. We keep diligently working and praying, and we know that, with God's help, we will find the best fit for our church and trust that our call will be extended to the right person.





WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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



CHILD
care
 Provided

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
3 10:00am Worship 2:20pm Youth Revival 4:00pm Tamil Sangam	4 10:30pm Apple Rehab Svc 5:00pm Yoga with Lynn 7:00pm Women's AA 7:00pm Bowling	5 11:00am The Lodge Svc 7:00pm Boards/Committees	6 9:30am Quilters 7:30pm Adult Choir
10 Mother's Day 10:00am Worship 4:00pm Tamil Sangam 5:00pm Confirmation	11 5:00pm Yoga with Lynn 7:00pm Women's AA 7:00pm Bowling	12 8:30am Breakfast Club	13 9:30am Quilters 7:30pm Adult Choir
17 10:00am Worship 4:00pm Tamil Sangam 5:00pm Noah's Table	18 7:00pm Women's AA 7:00pm Bowling	19 11:00am Retired Clergy Mtg	20 9:30am Quilters 7:30pm Adult Choir
24 10:00am Worship CONFIRMATION 2:30pm Wedding 4:00pm Tamil Sangam	25 Office Closed Memorial Day 7:00pm Women's AA 7:00pm Bowling	26 Newsletter Mailing 6:00pm Community Event	27 9:30am Quilters 7:30pm Adult Choir
31 10:00am Worship 4:00pm Tamil Sangam			

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



MAY

2015

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2 8:30am Men's Bible Study 9:00am Yoga w/Lynn
7 7:30pm Men's AA	8	9 8:00am May Breakfast/ Plant Sale 9:00am Yoga w/Lynn
14 7:30pm Men's AA	15 Newsletter and Annual Report Deadline	16 8:30am Men's Bible Study 9:00am Yoga w/Lynn
21 7:30pm Men's AA	22	23 9:00am Yoga w/Lynn 10:00pm Confirmation Practice 3:30pm Wedding Rehearsal 5:00pm Confirmation Worship & Dinner
28 7:30pm Men's AA	29	30 9:00am Yoga w/Lynn

Working for an inclusive community of love and justice doesn't mean throwing all of us with our various beliefs into a big blender so that our believing and belonging become homogenized. It means being able to celebrate difference and argue for our point of view without wanting to imprison or kill those who differ from us.

2 Jeanne Timrud
Liam Flynn
3 Cynthia Sweezy
4 Chris Sheehan
5 Elizabeth Burnham
6 Joan Tennyson
8 Jeremy Thompson
9 Christine Mullins
Kimberly Rutigliano
14 Steve Smith
Paul Burnham
Randy Pulling
Christine Kainamura
Bob Furman
15 Jay Jensen
Mark Pawlich



16 Jean Hamilton
Hilaire Leavitt
20 Judy Milles
21 Karen Hoffman
Emily Grandell
Megan Grandell
22 Louise Butts
24 Jackson McNally
25 Bob Hamilton
Lisa Eleck
James McLean
27 Priscilla Lexa
Doug Elliot
28 Don Pagnucco
Stephanie Kelley
29 Jim DeGiovanni
30 Robin Welch

**Bill and Janet
Pierson**

were married on
May 4, 1963

Al and Joan Diaz

were married on
May 16, 1964

Steve and Wendy Ware

Were married on
May 24, 1975



Jim and Lois Stevens

were married on
May 14, 1955

Dick and Lynn Webster

were married on
May 17, 1969



Happy Mother's Day!

We extend an invitation to all **great-grandmothers** to worship with us on Mother's Day, May 10. 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
Evelyn Danforth
Jeannette Doane
Lois Griswold
Jean Hamilton

Janet Hansen
Midge Harvey
Doris Hick
Anne King
Gladys Kitchens
Janet Kunzelman
Betty Mooney
Irene Moore
Emily Rosenthal

Doris Schreier
Thelma Somes
Sue Starr
Sylvia Steucek
Midge Sword
Joyce Toft
Liz Vann
Alice Weil
Dot Wenzel

**In honor of Mother's Day, May 10,
InReach is sponsoring a special coffee hour
with Strawberry Shortcake for all.**

CALLING ALL GRADUATES

In June, we celebrate and acknowledge all our members who have graduated from high schools, colleges and post college degree programs. Please, notify the office by phone (860-529-4167 or email (office@rhccucc.org) of anyone to be recognized and supply the institution and degree earned.



Scrip-Sure Update

For the fiscal year about to end on April 30th, we should book a little over \$17,000 in profits from the Scrip-Sure program. Thanks to all who continue to make this such an important revenue source to "Fund our Faith."

The next ordering deadlines are as follows:

Orders placed by April 26 will be available for pickup on May 3.

Orders placed by May 23 will be available for pickup on May 31. (Note that this is one week earlier than usual.)

Of course, we'll continue to keep the most popular cards in inventory, available for purchase each Sunday.

Dave Hall, Treasurer

Annual Reports Due



TO ALL BOARD AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Annual reports for the 2014 - 2015 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 24

Global and Local Mission News

"Spring is when life's alive in everything." - Christina Rossetti

31st Annual Walk Against Hunger

Sunday, May 3 at 2:00 PM

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 and is a pretty 2.5-mile walk around Bushnell Park in Hartford. All ages are welcome!

Thomas Kainamura (thomascm@gmail.com) will be walking with his team and is able to take donations if you would like to make them! Please see Thomas for any additional information.

Since our last update, your generosity has helped the following:

Charter Oak Cultural Center	\$500
Town of Rocky Hill Human Services	\$500
Church World Services	\$500
One Great Hour Of Sharing	\$710

Global Prayer This Month

Prayers for Thailand

Brought to us by Global Missionary Nicole Betteridge who is working in Thailand as a Global Mission Intern.

Loving and grace filled God, we are grateful for your unconditional love and comfort through all the seasons of our lives. Sometimes we grow frustrated with one another, but we are reminded that our actions and words must carry a sense of patience, justice, harmony, and love despite differences. Sometime we question ourselves, but we know you are always present with us as a guide. We are taught through you that we must bring edification to people and situations rather than demolition. Sometimes we are not sure what the future will hold, so we treasure the time we have now. As we learn and grow by building relationships with people around the world, we are grateful for the many blessings and individuals you have placed in our lives.

In all these things we pray, Amen.

www.globalministries.org

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

Spring is a great season for renewal, for a fresh perspective and for spiritual growth. Please take advantage of exciting opportunities to expand your horizons through activities at our church.



As with other boards in the church, the Diaconate is saying goodbye to members of their board. Our heartfelt thanks goes to departing deacons and a joyous welcome to three new members. Stephanie Heneghan, Bill Hoffman, Ellie Mahar, and Don Pagnucco 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 Gail Hall, Victoria Bower, and Bob Carberry as they begin their terms on the Diaconate.

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, the life of the church, and their continued presence in our Sunday services. We take this opportunity to acknowledge their importance to the structure of our church family.

Gail Tine for the Deacons

Christian Activities Council

It is with a joyful heart that I inform our ministers and the congregation that the Christian Activities Council has decided to move in a totally different direction. The Executive Director Cori Mackey, the Board of Directors and Council members met with two consultants, Pat Speer and Roosevelt Smith, both with expertise in community organizing. After these meetings we made an informed decision. The following is a summary of our new commitment written by Executive Director, Cori Mackey.

Rich Pawlich-Pagliccio
Member Board of Directors and Delegate

The Christian Activities Council is a 164 year-old UCC mission organization that has had a life-long mandate to respond to the poor, the immigrant, the outcast and the marginalized by working for social justice. Over the past two decades our focus has been on developing low income housing and homeownership. While we will continue to operate our land lease program, a program that preserves low income housing opportunities in over 200 suburban neighborhoods, we have affirmed a new set of priorities for the organization under the leadership of our new executive director. CAC is excited to transition to a focus on engaging congregations and low-income leaders in addressing root causes of systemic issues through leadership development and organizing for action. Additionally, we are expanding and improving our summer youth program which has served vulnerable Hartford youth for over 30 years.

HISTORIAN NOTES - MARCH 2015



Profit from the Scrip-Sure Fundraising Program for March 2015 was more than \$1,500.

Sunday, March 1: First Sunday worship service after the last two Sunday services were canceled due to snowy weather. The Dixieland Band, which had been scheduled for February 15, then the 22nd, led us with music this day.

Friday, March 6: Ecumenical World Day of Prayer service was held at Saint Elizabeth Seton Church this year. The service was written by the women of the Bahamas, with the theme of recognizing Jesus' radical love for us with prayers to help us share it.

Also, the confirmands went on an overnight mission trip to NYC through the Youth Service Opportunities Project.

Sunday, March 8: The confirmands told about their experiences of the mission trip.

Sunday, March 15: Special Offering, One Great Hour of Sharing, collected. It is the Lenten offering of the UCC supporting disaster, refugee and development actions.

Sunday, March 22: Annual Budget and Elections Meeting immediately following worship.

Palm Sunday, March 29: The greatly anticipated arrival of Jesus with the singing of the Processional Hymn, "The Palms," and the waving of the palm branches - turned into shock as we begin to remember Jesus' trials, our trials, through Holy Week.



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.

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

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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 9th

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

