



The Reverend Craig L. Cowing, Pastor  
[ccowing@rhccucc.org](mailto:ccowing@rhccucc.org)  
Georgette L. Huie, Minister of Children and Youth  
[ghuie@rhccucc.org](mailto:ghuie@rhccucc.org)  
Mary DeLibero, Minister of Music  
[mary@rhccucc.org](mailto:mary@rhccucc.org)  
860-529-4167 Church

## The Church Mouse

## May 2016 Newsletter

RHCC e-mail address – [office@rhccucc.org](mailto:office@rhccucc.org)  
Website: [www.rhccucc.org](http://www.rhccucc.org)  
Office Hours – 9:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m. Monday-Thursday  
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Friday  
Sunday Worship Services – 10:00 a.m.

Childcare Available/Handicap Accessible

# **FOODSHARE** Walk **against hunger**

**Foodshare Walk Against Hunger**

**Sunday May 1st at 2:00 p.m.**

Time: 12:30 p.m. check-in / 2:00 p.m. Walk begins  
Place: The Hartford's Liam E. McGee Memorial Park,  
140 Garden Street, Hartford

\*free parking is available at 690 Asylum Ave.

We hope to see you there!

To register, go to [www.FoodshareWalk.org](http://www.FoodshareWalk.org) and search for  
Rocky Hill Congregational Church.



As I am sitting in my office working on my sermon I can hear the children in the toddlers' music class that meets upstairs. It occurs to me that these children, who are now about three to four years old, will be adults and on their own in about twenty years, more or less, which would be about 2036. By that point I will be 79 and retired, hopefully

in good health and still active. Many of our current church members will no longer be with us. The world will, however. These children and the world we live in will undoubtedly face challenges we can't even imagine. They will look back on our own time as the good old days.

I think about this as I consider what the church will be like. Will the Rocky Hill Congregational Church, UCC still be here? Or, will this building be an office building or a concert hall? We can't take it for granted that the church will still be here. What we do today will have a direct impact on what the church of the future looks like.

It occurs to me that the church I was ordained into no longer exists—referring not to my home church, Center Congregational Church in Meriden where I was ordained in 1985, but the church as a whole—this church no longer exists. At the time I was ordained the Internet was unknown. Home computers were a novelty, and the only telephones were attached to a wall. There was no Facebook, no eBay, no Amazon.com. That world is gone forever.

It's important to remember that the world as it is will not remain so. New technologies will replace what is in current use. The way we travel may change, or not. The way we communicate will undoubtedly change.

Through all this, the church will remain. What it will be, we don't know. It will remain because in our hearts we know that what we do always remains—building up disciples of Jesus. How we do that will change with the times. The important thing to remember is that what we do never changes. How we do it is always subject to change.

As we continue to work at being Jesus' disciples let's not forget this. Cherished traditions will certainly continue as long as they serve to build on that goal of making disciples.

It's important to remember Jesus' last words to his disciples as recoded at the end of the gospel according to Matthew, as he promises that he will always be with us: "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:18-20)

In Christ,

*Craig*



## **S.P.I.R.I.T. Church School News**

The narrative in John 19:1-21 provides us with examples of how Jesus fed his disciples, and gives us clues as to how to respond to Jesus' wish that we feed his sheep. He fed his disciples actual food; he cooked for them, so they had a hot meal after a hard night's work; he taught them where to put their nets to catch a maximum of fish; he facilitated their gathering together around a common meal. Through fish and bread, he addressed the disciples' physical needs; through cooking for them, he warmed not only their stomachs but their hearts; by teaching them, he improved their minds and their skills; through gathering, he provided them a sense of community and of God's Spirit.

As a youth growing up through the programs at the Presbyterian Church in Chinatown (San Francisco) and its community center, Donaldina Cameron House, I and my peers were encouraged to plan our activities using a four-square model: physical, social, mental, and spiritual. Being youth, we would have chosen all physical and social activities if we could, but being challenged to think of mental and spiritual activities helped us grow and become more well-rounded, not to mention being more well-grounded. Looking back, it is nice to see how this model fit Jesus' own approach.

Through the church school and youth programs here at RHCC, I hope that even as we feed these youngest of Jesus' sheep, they may grow to be well-rounded, well-grounded, and capable of being shepherds, teachers and leaders themselves.



If you are able and willing to help teach, lead an activity, or be a second adult in a classroom, please sign up in Chapin Hall or contact Georgette Huie or Kathy Morgan.

Thank You,  
Teachers!

## **S.P.I.R.I.T. Church School News**

Here is our upcoming schedule:

Topics for May 1 through May 22:

Pre-K to 1<sup>st</sup> grade: Lydia

Grades 2-5: Three Women of Faith

The children will:

- become familiar with the stories of Priscilla, Lydia, and Dorcas;
- understand the importance of hospitality;
- understand that women had an important role in the spreading of the Gospel;
- discover that these women can be role models for everyone;
- discover that it was revolutionary for women to have a significant role in the life of faith;
- come to know other women as spiritual leaders.

Grades 6-8: The Holy Spirit, Sharing, Courage, Welcoming All

On May 29, we will begin a brief study of worship in preparation for Children's Sunday to be held on June 12.



### **Middle School Youth Group**

On April 3, we gathered over a simple soup and bread meal to learn about hunger in our communities, and to watch a video from Heifer International about how its programs are helping poor and hungry people around the world. This was in preparation for the overnight trip we will be taking on May 6 to Heifer's Overlook Farm in Rutland, MA.

### **High School Youth Group**

May will be packed with opportunities for gathering with larger groups of faithful people. On May 1, we will join the Walk Against Hunger in Hartford; on May 8, we are invited once again to join the Muslim youth at the Berlin Mosque for an interfaith youth activity; and on May 15, the CT Conference will be holding its annual Youth Revival.



## Church Garden Ministry

A group of us met in April to discuss ideas for improving the church grounds through a new gardening ministry. We learned about “permaculture gardening,” a way of designing a garden the way nature does, and using low maintenance, self-fertilizing, self-watering plantings. For more information, visit West Parish Church UCC, [www.permaculturewestparish.org](http://www.permaculturewestparish.org).

If you’d like to get involved, see Michael Bower or Bob Inderbitzen.



## Nominating News

At the church meeting on March 13<sup>th</sup>, Linda Tokarski offered to serve as the Clerk, and Marsha Hoffman will now serve as Moderator, which is such great news.

The outstanding positions still needed include:

- + One auditor – there are no meetings associated with this position, in fact, it can be done remotely by reconciliation of a file that is emailed monthly.
- + Another deacon.
- + Someone for a two-month rotation on the flower committee.
- + One more member to serve with stewardship; members do not call to make calls asking for money.

If you would like to serve, please speak with any nominating member or contact Steph Heneghan at 860-529-4672 or [stephanie\\_heneghan@yahoo.com](mailto:stephanie_heneghan@yahoo.com)

## Annual Reports Due



## TO ALL BOARD AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Annual reports for the May 1, 2015 – April 30, 2016 fiscal year are due in the church office no later than **May 15**. Please send your reports to: [office@rhccucc.org](mailto:office@rhccucc.org). Thank you!

## WORSHIP RECORDINGS AVAILABLE

Audio recordings, written sermons and bulletins for many of our Sunday worship services are available on the church website, [rhccucc.org](http://rhccucc.org) (See WORSHIP BULLETINS) or you may contact the office to request an audio CD or printed sermon.

## GET INVOLVED WITH THE CHURCH FAIR – May 19 at 7pm

Please help in making the 2016 Church Fair one of our best yet! We need members to volunteer and/or donate items. We will accept donations of toys, games, electronics, jewelry, CD's, books, arts and crafts. The Events Committee meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of every month at 7pm. If you'd like to get involved, please see a committee member or come to a meeting. Our next meeting will be on May 19 at 7pm, in the Fiorilli Room.

Thank you for your support,

Your Events Committee (formerly the Fair Committee):

Peter Alessi-Chairman, Holly Alessi, Jean Goff, Jeannie Alessi,

Ruth Jensen, Lynn McKenna, Candy Smith.

Mark Your Calendar for the Fair: Saturday, October 22, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

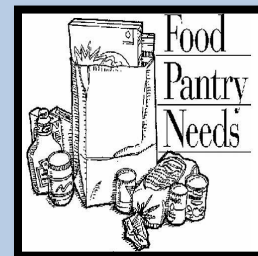
<p><b><u>Farmers Market</u></b> Ruth Jensen (860-563-4617) Jellies, jams, fruit butters, chutneys, relishes, dried fruit such as apples. <i>Donations Gratefully Accepted of any of the above, and/or 4, 6, and 8oz canning jars.</i></p>	<p><b><u>Silent Auction</u></b> Gift Certificates, Theme baskets (wine, soaps, etc.), small furniture and other appropriate items. <i>Volunteers and Donations Gratefully Accepted</i></p>
<p><b><u>Holiday Shop</u></b> Lynn McKenna (860-513-1025) <i>Donations Gratefully Accepted</i></p>	<p><b><u>Bake Shop</u></b> Polly &amp; Don Pagnucco (860-563-3233) <i>All kinds of baked goods; cakes, pies &amp; cookies are needed. Small and individual portions also needed.</i></p>
<p><b><u>Candy Shop</u></b> Candy Smith (860-803-8908) <i>Donations Gratefully Accepted</i></p>	<p><b><u>Snack Shop</u></b> Jean &amp; John Goff and Jeannie Alessi (860-729-8153) <i>Volunteers and Donations Gratefully Accepted</i></p>
<p><b><u>Toy Shop</u></b> Holly Alessi (860-680-3163) Assorted toys and games Cotton Candy <i>Volunteers and Donations Gratefully Accepted</i></p>	<p><b><u>Jewelry Shop</u></b> Jewelry, hats, scarves &amp; purses <i>Volunteers and Donations Gratefully Accepted</i></p>

***Mark Your Calendar for the Fair  
Saturday, October 22, 2016  
9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.***



### RHCC FOOD PANTRY BASKET

Each week we collect and donate various food and paper goods for the Rocky Hill Human Services Food Pantry. The following non-perishable food items are requested: Spaghetti sauce and pasta, crackers rice juice, coffee, tea, soups, cereals tuna & canned chicken, applesauce peanut butter & jelly. Jars can be plastic or glass. Additionally all paper goods (towels, toilet paper, etc.) and detergents are in short supply and always needed. Toothpaste, shampoo and conditioners are needed. The pantry also accepts hotel size containers. All donations are welcome.



### *Bible Study*



### **Men's Bible Study First and Third Saturday**

Come join your Christian brothers as we pursue and try to understand God's words. All are welcome.

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

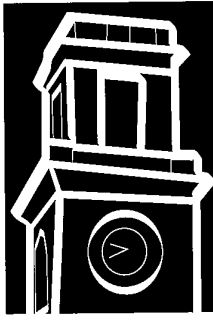
### **Sound Healing Meditation with Tibetan Singing Bowls with Rev. Craig Cowing**

**Third Friday of the Month, 7pm, May 20**

In sound healing meditation, we use the healing vibrations of the singing bowls to uplift the spirit, relax the body and quiet the mind. Singing bowls developed in the region of Tibet a long time ago. A singing bowl is a bronze bowl ranging in size from a few inches to eighteen inches or more in diameter. These instruments have been found to positively affect the body on many levels. The vibrations soothe the nervous system and invite the release of tight muscles, stress, anxiety, PTSD and depression. Research has been done in the last decade or so about the effects of sound on the mind. It has been found that soothing sounds can actually alter the brainwaves that are produced. The sound of singing bowls definitely has that effect. Come and see what it can do for you, and bring a friend







SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
<b>1 Communion Sunday</b>  10:00am <b>Worship</b> 11:30am <b>Walk Against Hunger</b>  4:00pm Siragu Tamil	<b>2</b>  7:00pm Women's AA 7:30pm <b>Bell Choir</b>	<b>3</b>  7:00pm <b>Boards and Committees Mtgs</b> 7:00pm Hearing Voices	<b>4</b>  6:00pm Pilates w/Caroline  7:30pm <b>Adult Choir</b>
<b>8</b> Happy Mother's Day 10:00am <b>Worship</b> 11:00am <b>In Reach Mom's Day Strawberry Shortcake</b> <b>HS Youth Group Interfaith</b>  4:00pm Siragu Tamil	<b>9</b>  7:00pm Women's AA 7:30pm <b>Bell Choir</b>	<b>10</b>  7:00pm <b>Council Mtg</b>	<b>11</b>  6:00pm Pilates w/Caroline 7:30pm <b>Adult Choir</b>
<b>15</b> 10:00am <b>Worship</b> 11:00am <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Hr Governance</b> 2:30pm <b>Youth Group UCC Conf.</b> 4:00pm Siragu Tamil	<b>16 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</b> <b>Annual Reports Due</b>  7:00pm Women's AA 7:30pm <b>Bell Choir</b>	<b>17</b>  11:00am Retired Clergy  7:00pm Hearing Voices	<b>18</b> 9:00am <b>Breakfast Club at Bob's Café</b>  6:00pm Pilates w/Caroline 7:30pm <b>Adult Choir</b>
<b>22</b> 10:00am <b>Worship</b>  4:00pm Siragu Tamil	<b>23</b>  7:00pm Women's AA 7:30pm <b>Bell Choir</b>	<b>24</b>  7:00pm Hearing Voices	<b>25</b>  6:00pm Pilates w/Caroline 7:30pm <b>Adult Choir</b>
<b>29</b> 10:00am <b>Worship</b>  4:00pm Siragu Tamil	<b>30 Memorial Day</b> <b>Office Closed</b>  7:00pm Women's AA 7:30pm <b>Bell Choir</b>	<b>31</b> <b>Newsletter Mailing</b>  7:00pm Hearing Voices	



Wishing you a beautiful Memorial Day weekend. In honor of all the veterans as well as the active service members.



# WORSHIP SCHEDULE

## Sunday Morning Worship

Communion 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday

10:00 a.m. with childcare



**CHILD  
care**  
Provided

# 2016

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>5</b> 9:30am Little Hands in Harmony  7:30pm Men's AA	<b>6</b> Chapin Hall set up for Historical Committee meeting  <b>Youth trip to Heifer Int. Farm</b>	<b>7</b> 8:30am <b>Men's Christian Fellowship</b>  8:30am Ct. Conf. Historical Committee meeting
<b>12</b> 9:30am Little Hands in Harmony  7:30pm Men's AA	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>19</b> 9:30am Little Hands in Harmony 7:00pm <b>Church Fair Meeting</b> 7:30pm Men's AA	<b>20</b>  7:00pm <b>Harmonic Healing Tibetan Singing Bowls</b>	<b>21</b> 8:30am <b>Men's Christian Fellowship</b>
<b>26</b> 9:30am Little Hands in Harmony  7:30pm Men's AA	<b>27</b> 10:00am <b>West Hill Elementary Field Trip to RHCC</b>	<b>28</b>



Wed. May 11 at 9:00am - Breakfast Club at Bob's Coffee Shop, 33 New Britain Ave, Rocky Hill. Members of RHCC meet once a month, on the second Wednesday. Join us for coffee and fellowship!



## **Mark your calendars!! Invite your friends!!**

**Dinner and Bobby Jo Valentine coffeehouse. Friday, July 22.**

Bobby Jo Valentine is coming back to RHCC-UCC this summer. Last June, Bobby delighted a packed Chapin Hall coffeehouse with his special talent for songs from the heart. Talented, engaging and authentic, Bobby's gentle and humorous style will touch your heart. He now has a new album out, so he has even more to share. Please mark your calendars for **Friday, July 22,<sup>nd</sup>** and join us for a great evening of food (of course!), sharing, humor and deep connection. More details coming soon in next month's Churchmouse and on the church website.





We encourage all members of Boards, Committees and the Church to share their news, events and photos for our facebook page, by sending these to [office@rhccucc.org](mailto:office@rhccucc.org). The facebook administrators will post it in a timely manner. Don't forget to follow us on facebook for updates about Worship and Events!

<https://www.facebook.com/rhccucc>

Submission deadline for the June issue of The Church Mouse will be Monday, May 16 and the mailing date will be Tues. May 31.

We want to hear from you!

Send your articles and photos to: [office@rhccucc.org](mailto:office@rhccucc.org)



### Calling All Graduates!

Are you graduating? Or had you graduated sometime this past year? High school, college, a credited program? We would like to recognize your accomplishment in June during worship. Please contact the office and let Theresa know your name and the accomplishment at 860-529-4167 or [office@rhccucc.org](mailto:office@rhccucc.org)



### Great Grandmothers!

Are you a new great-grandmother? Please let us add you to our list of fabulous ladies who have become great-grandmothers, and we will be honoring you during worship on Mother's Day. Contact the office at 860-529-4167 or [office@rhccucc.org](mailto:office@rhccucc.org)

### **“A Note from The Trustees”**

The Trustees would like some help with two projects which they are planning to do later this year. First we are planning to replace the carpet in the Sanctuary and would like a few more members to join a group to select the carpet. And second, we will be updating the Narthex bathroom and need help with new window treatments. The windows are an unusual shape; so, the treatments will have to be custom-made. If you would like to help, please contact Jim Stevens or Dave Sageman.

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



### **May 15 Second Hour:**

#### **New Model of Organization and Governance**

There is a shifting dynamic that it is happening in our denomination, and in organized religion as a whole. The idea of smaller, more nimble governance structures is being discussed among churches who have recognized that a change in perspective could help refresh and revitalize our faith communities. Here at RHCC, a small ad-hoc group of the council has been working to explore how we might streamline our own governance structure. The group made a presentation at the B&E meeting and are now beginning to host several second hour discussions with the congregation (copies of the small group's presentation can be found in the office if you were unable to attend). Please join us for this informative discussion, we hope to see you there!

# HAPPY MAY BIRTHDAY!



2	Jeanne Timrud Liam Flynn	16	Jean Hamilton Hilaire Leavitt
3	Cynthia Sweezy	20	Judy Milles
4	Chris Sheehan	21	Karen Hoffman Emily Grandell Megan Grandell
5	Elizabeth Burnham	22	Louise Butts
6	Joan Tennyson	24	Jackson McNally
8	Jeremy Thompson	25	Bob Hamilton Lisa Eleck James McLean
9	Christine Mullins Kimberly Rutigliano	27	Priscilla Lexa Doug Elliot
14	Steve Smith Paul Burnham Randy Pulling Christine Kainamura Bob Furman	28	Don Pagnucco Stephanie Kelley
15	Jay Jensen Mark Pawlich	29	Jim DeGiovanni
		30	Robin Welch

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

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

*Steve and Wendy Ware  
Were married on  
May 24, 1975*



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

*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 8. 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!

Charlotte Bacon  
Carol Baran  
Ruby Bennett  
Mary-Edith Bowman  
Barbara Burgess  
Jeannette Doane  
Lois Griswold  
Jean Hamilton

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

Doris Schreier  
Thelma Somes  
Sue Starr  
Sylvia Steucek  
Midge Sword  
Joyce Toft  
Dot Wenzel

**In honor of Mother's Day, May 8,  
InReach is sponsoring a special coffee hour  
following worship  
with Strawberry Shortcake for all.**





### **Ruby Bennett Turns 100!**

*On April 16<sup>th</sup> Ruby Bennett celebrated her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. Much of her family visited for the event and they enjoyed a small luncheon at a restaurant in town. Steph Heneghan gave her a card from RHCC with 100 signatures of well wishes!*





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

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Mailed April 25, 2016



Jesus didn't turn people away. Neither do we.  
The United Church of Christ:  
No matter who you are,  
Or where you are on life's journey...  
You're welcome here.



MAY 8th  
Happy Mother's Day

In honor of Mother's Day, May 8,  
InReach is sponsoring a special coffee hour  
with Strawberry Shortcake for all.

Happy Memorial Day May 30<sup>th</sup>  
God Bless our men and  
women in service

