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860-529-4167 Church

## The Church Mouse

## May 2017 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 7 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.



By now, some of you may know that the Connecticut, Massachusetts and Rhode Island Conferences of the United Church of Christ will meet in Hartford to vote on whether to merge the three conferences. I will be attending this important meeting.

I am in favor of this merger for the following reasons:

- Membership in our churches (in toto) is declining. Churches are giving less to OCWM, and conferences are finding it necessary to retain more and more of that money, meaning the denomination on the national level gets less money. I don't know of a single conference that isn't running deficits year after year. Sharing resources with churches and people in Massachusetts and Rhode Island would be to our benefit.
- A regional conference can be a louder voice and a greater advocate for change in our region. Parochialism has always been an issue in Connecticut as well as the rest of New England, and it will help us to think beyond our state's borders.
- A regional conference would provide more flexibility in terms of staffing, which is important for local churches in the search process or in conflict and in need of mediation by a regional conference minister.

Yes, we need to realize that the traditions and ways of doing things that have guided us in the past are no longer working, and we need to rethink this.

At the Connecticut Conference website ([www.ctucc.org](http://www.ctucc.org)) you will find a page entitled "Together, As One – FAQs." An excerpt is below:

Simply put, we believe that God is calling us to greater collaboration, interdependence, and unity. As a united and uniting church, we are convinced that we need each other to navigate the changes we are all experiencing—globally, nationally, locally, and within our congregations. With the Prophet Isaiah, we hear God saying, "I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?" (Isaiah 43:19). With the Apostle Paul, we believe that "just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ" (1 Corinthians 12:12). With our forebears who created the United Church of Christ, and with Jesus himself, we continue to pray "that they may all be one" (John 17:21). By moving forward Together, As One, we are following the impulse of connection that is part of our DNA as Christians, and we are living out our faith in new ways for a new time.

Our three Conferences have been engaged in a process of discernment and increasing connection for many years. This has included collaboration among Conference staff, sharing of resources (such as Fitness Reviews, Boundary Training, and Racial Justice Training), and creation of joint programs for learning and mission (such as Super Saturday, joint General Synod caucuses, and the RIMACT youth delegations to General Synod and National Youth Event). As we have collaborated, we have discovered the strength and joy that come from pooling our resources and joining with our siblings in Christ to accomplish more together than we can ever do alone.

We have also engaged in an intentional process of discernment. Following several years of increasing collaboration, in November 2014, the three Conference Boards of Directors held a joint meeting, followed by a joint Conference staff meeting in January 2015. In September 2015, the three Boards of Directors voted to enter into a year-long Season of Discernment, which included opportunities for in-person feedback at Association and Conference meetings, Super Saturday, and other events, as well as an online survey. The three Boards and the planning team carefully considered all the input we received as we discerned our way forward, leading to the unanimous votes by the three Boards in January 2017 to move forward in creating a new Conference together.

You can learn more about all that this process has entailed by reviewing the timeline at [www.macucc.org/timeline](http://www.macucc.org/timeline).

While staying true to the deep roots of our faith, we are inviting God's Spirit to guide and inspire us in creating a new thing—new patterns and structures that will enable us to make the extravagant love of God known in dynamic and innovative ways, both in Southern New England and beyond. We recognize that the world has changed in the 60 years since Conference boundaries were established at the creation of the United Church of Christ in 1957, and we believe that new ways of organizing ourselves to do ministry together will best serve our local churches as they serve the world in Christ's name.

I look forward to the debate in June, and I hope that a clear, articulated vision will inform how we proceed. I welcome any feedback on this subject, and would like to hear from our members how they feel about this proposed plan.

In Christ,  
Craig



The Icon of the Month for May is from the Monastery of St. Catherine at Mt. Sinai, which has the oldest collections of icons in the world. The original of this icon was probably painted in Constantinople around 550-600. It depicts Christ standing and giving a blessing.

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



Every now and then, I pull out my books on the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI), the most widely used tool for understanding normal personality differences. These differences can be the source of much misunderstanding and miscommunication. Understanding them instead as that which makes us unique, differentiated human beings can help us be more accepting of ourselves and others.

As an educator, it helps me to remember that children have these differences as well. For example,

- Some children prefer to get careful, complete instructions before they begin a new game or task.
- Some like to observe others playing with a toy before they try it themselves.
- Some like to plunge in right away and learn as they go along.

Appreciating these differences in children makes me appreciate the different gifts our church school teachers bring, and how having teams of teachers available for each class improves our chances for reaching each unique child.

Here are this year's teachers, to whom we owe a big "Thank you"!

Childcare: Liz Pulling, Jen Cordes, Marge Murk, Don Pagnucco, Steph Heneghan  
PreK to 1<sup>st</sup> grade: Jen Cordes, Sandy Gau, Candy Smith, Kristy Solie, Sherry Silkowski

2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grades: Kathy Morgan, Sue Speers, Kari McGaw, Sherry Silkowski

6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grades: Liz Reed-Swale, Christine Kainamura, Nancy Rolfe



If you would like to join any of these teams starting in the fall, please let Georgette or Steph Heneghan know.

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



Here is this month's schedule:

May 7-14 – Pre-K to 5<sup>th</sup> graders will continue their study of the “Road to Emmaus”, and from May 21 to June 4, all classes will be preparing for Children’s Sunday, which is June 11.

Grades 6-8 will be studying these topics:

May 7 – Healing Others

May 14 – Welcoming All

May 21 to June 4 – preparing for Children’s Sunday

All youth groups will attend the CT UCC Youth Revival on April 30, and will participate in the May 7 Walk Against Hunger in Hartford.

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### *Confirmation on June 4<sup>th</sup> on Pentecost Sunday*

Confirmation means affirmation of faith. It is an acknowledgement by both the individual and 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.



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### **Frank Roswell Fuller Scholarship**

This scholarship requires that you be a member of the UCC/Congregational Church. Applications are available in the church office. Frank Roswell Fuller was born in Hartford in 1873 and attended local public schools. He 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 in 1957. His will 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>**.

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



## **TriCon Annual Meeting – Hartford June 16-17**

### **Help Wanted: Greeters, Ushers, and “Smilers”**

Bob Inderbitzen is seeking volunteers from churches throughout the region to help welcome delegates and visitors to Hartford for the historic joint Annual Meeting of the Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island Conferences of the United Church of Christ. The Annual Meeting will be held June 16-17, 2017 at the Connecticut Convention Center. Bob has agreed to help chair the Hospitality Team, and is eager to find volunteers to help welcome over 1,000 people to Hartford!

**Why would I want to volunteer?** This is a very special and historic gathering of our wider church family to Hartford. We want to welcome our sisters and brothers of the United Church of Christ, delegates and visitors, to our “backyard.” Please help!

**What will volunteers do?** Volunteers will be assigned a short 3-hour shift on Friday and/or Saturday, to help greet convention attendees throughout the beautiful Connecticut Convention Center and the adjoining Marriott Hotel. Some volunteers will help direct people to activities. Others will serve as ushers during the huge worship services. Most importantly, you’ll be a smiling face of WELCOME to all who attend this historic meeting. Volunteers will receive training (easy) and information to help you.

**What do I have to do to volunteer?** (1) Contact Bob Inderbitzen, telephone 860-418-9171 or email [rinderbitzen@cox.net](mailto:rinderbitzen@cox.net) with your interest to volunteer on Friday and/or Saturday. (2) All volunteers must complete an online registration to attend the Annual Meeting: [www.ctucc.org/TriConAm](http://www.ctucc.org/TriConAm). The registration fee is \$85 and includes entry to the event on both days, and access to all of the exhibits, worship events, presentations and keynote speaker, and lunch on Saturday. You’ll want to enjoy the event too! It will be amazing and inspiring!



Many, many thanks to all who **hosted**, all who **attended** and all who **supported** the recent visit of the Hofstra University Chamber Choir. It was a wonderful and lively concert by a group of talented and delightful students. We are delighted to report that we raised \$600 at the concert for IRIS in New Haven (Integrated Refugee and Immigrant Services). Our Missions Board added \$400 to that total, so we were able to donate \$1000 to this charity which does important work in Connecticut.

Your Music Committee



### **Save the date!!!**

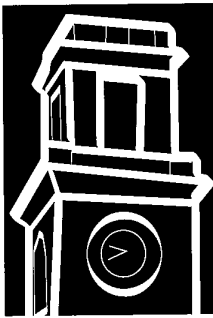
We are delighted that on Saturday, June 17, we will host the Shoreline Ringers, a community handbell choir from southeastern Connecticut. Please plan to join us at 7:00 p.m. to hear this delightful handbell concert. Reception to follow.

Your Music Committee



### **May 9<sup>th</sup>, Bonsai Demonstration at 10:30am.**

The Rocky Hill Garden Club invites you to join us for a display and presentation of Bonsai plants with Craig Cowing, May 9<sup>th</sup> in Chapin Hall at 10:30 am. Craig will give a demonstration of styling a tree. For more information, contact Steph Heneghan.



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
	<b>1</b> <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>  7:00pm Women's AA 7:30pm <b>Bell Choir</b>	<b>2</b>  7:00pm <b>Boards and Committees Mtgs</b> 7:00pm Hearing Voices	<b>3</b>  6:00pm Pilates 7:30pm <b>Choir</b>
<b>7</b> Communion Sunday 10:00am <b>Worship</b> 11:30am <b>Walk Against Hunger</b>  4:00pm Tamil School	<b>8</b>  7:00pm Women's AA 7:30pm <b>Bell Choir</b>	<b>9</b>  7:00pm <b>Council Mtg</b>  7:00pm Hearing Voices	<b>10</b> 9:00am <b>Breakfast Club at Bob's Café</b>  6:00pm Pilates 7:30pm <b>Choir</b>
<b>14</b> Happy Mother's Day 10:00am <b>Worship</b> 11:00am <b>In Reach Mom's Day Strawberry Shortcake</b>  4:00pm Tamil School	<b>15</b> <b>NEWSLETTER DUE</b>  Noon – Bonsai Group 7:00pm Women's AA 7:30pm <b>Bell Choir</b>	<b>16</b>  10:30am Retired Clergy  7:00pm Hearing Voices	<b>17</b> <b>Annual Reports Due</b>  6:00pm Pilates 7:30pm <b>Choir</b>
<b>21</b>  10:00am <b>Worship</b>  4:00pm Tamil School	<b>22</b>  7:00pm Women's AA 7:30pm <b>Bell Choir</b>	<b>23</b>  7:00pm Hearing Voices	<b>24</b>  6:00pm Pilates 7:30pm <b>Choir</b>
<b>28</b>  10:00am <b>Worship</b>  4:00pm Tamil School	<b>29 Memorial Day</b> 9:30am PARADE  <b>Office Closed</b> 7:00pm Women's AA 7:30pm <b>Bell Choir</b>	<b>30</b> <b>Newsletter Mailing</b>  7:00pm Hearing Voices	<b>31</b>  6:00pm Pilates 7:30pm <b>Choir</b>



Rocky Hill Memorial Day Parade – 9:30 a.m.  
 All are invited to watch the parade from the church grounds. Plan to arrive from 8:30am – 9:00am.



# WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday Morning Worship

Communion 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday

10:00 a.m. with childcare

**2017**



**CHILD  
care**  
Provided

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>4</b> 9:30am Music Together  7:30pm Men's AA	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>11</b> 9:30am Music Together  7:30pm Men's AA	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>18</b> 9:30am Music Together  7:00pm <b>Church Fair Meeting</b> 7:30pm Men's AA	<b>19</b>  7:00pm <b>Harmonic Healing Tibetan Singing Bowls</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>25</b> 9:30am Music Together  7:30pm Men's AA	<b>26</b>	<b>27</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!



We invite you to join us at our 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Craft Fair  
**Saturday, June 10, 2017**, 9:00am to 2:00 pm  
Rocky Hill Congregational Church, 805 Old Main Street.



This Craft Fair offers limited tables inside for \$25.00 a table. Outside table lots will be \$20.00 per 18x18 section. Vendors outside must supply their own tables and tents. Limited electrical hook ups. Set-up time will start at 7:30 a.m. Payment must be made prior to set-up on the day of the Fair. For more info, contact: [office@rhccucc.org](mailto:office@rhccucc.org)



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). Don't forget to follow us on facebook for updates about worship and event



The Men's Bible Study Group will not meet again until Saturday June 10<sup>th</sup>, 8:30-9:30am in the Fiorilli room. If you enjoy fellowship and want to learn more about scripture and other faith topics, please join us. If you would like further information, please see Jim Stevens at church or call 860-632-5810. Thanks be to God.



### Church Directories/Change of Address

New Church Directories are available in the office after worship or during weekday office hours. Contact the office if you would like one mailed to you. Also, contact the office if you have any **changes** to your contact information (address, phone or email) at: 860-529-4167 or [office@rhccucc.org](mailto:office@rhccucc.org). Thank you.



***Sound Healing Meditation with Tibetan Singing Bowls***  
***Friday May 19, 7pm, Weil Chapel***

Singing bowls developed in the region of Tibet a long time ago. 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. The healing vibrations of the singing bowls can uplift the spirit, relax the body and quiet the mind. Come and see what it can do for you, and bring a friend! Free-will food offerings support the Rocky Hill Food Bank.

**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 fish, canned chicken, applesauce, peanut butter and jelly. Paper towels, toilet paper, feminine hygiene products, detergents, toothpaste, shampoo and conditioners are always needed. The pantry also accepts hotel size containers. All donations are gratefully accepted!



**RESCHEDULED FOR JULY –**  
**RE-MAKER'S FAIR AND FESTIVAL**

Date to be announced. The Re-Maker's Fair will feature creatively hand-crafted items made from re-used or up-cycled materials, saved from the waste stream to become beautiful or useful objects. Information on local recycling and other environmental efforts will also be available. For more information or to sign up for a table to sell items, please contact Anita Hawkins at church or leave a message with the church office 860-529-4167 OR [office@rhccucc.org](mailto:office@rhccucc.org)



Submission deadline for the June issue of The Church Mouse will be Monday, May 15 and the mailing date will be Tues. May 30.

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)



Reminder to all Council Members and Board and Committee Chairs. Annual Reports are due May 17<sup>th</sup>. Please submit your report to the church office at [office@rhccucc.org](mailto:office@rhccucc.org)  
The Annual Report will be distributed on June 4<sup>th</sup>.

The Annual Meeting will take place after worship on **June 11<sup>th</sup>**.



### HONOR YOUR LOVED ONES

Dedicating flowers or lighting the tower is a lovely way to honor the memory or special events of family and friends. Sign up on the calendar in Chapin Hall, email [office@rhccucc.org](mailto:office@rhccucc.org) or call the church office (860-529-4167)

# HAPPY MAY BIRTHDAY!



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

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*John Engel III and Christina Engel, May 3, 2004*

*Bill and Janet Pierson, May 4, 1963*

*Jim and Lois Stevens, May 14, 1955*

*Al and Joan Diaz, May 16, 1964*

*Dick and Lynn Webster, May 17, 1969*

*Steve and Wendy Ware, May 24, 1975*

*Tim and Julie Dostie, May 24, 1982*



## Happy Mother's Day!

We extend an invitation to all **great-grandmothers** to worship with us on Mother's Day, May 14. 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!

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  
Sue Starr  
Sylvia Steucek  
Midge Sword  
Joyce Toft  
Dot Wenzel

**In honor of Mother's Day  
InReach is sponsoring a special coffee hour  
May 14<sup>th</sup>, following worship  
with Strawberry Shortcake for all.**



## Walk Against Hunger: Sunday May 7, 2017

Team: Rocky Hill Congregational Church

Our Board for Missions invites you to Join our team! Battling hunger in any community requires a team effort. Here in Greater Hartford more than 137,000 people struggle with food insecurity.

Sunday, May 7, 2017: Foodshare Walk Against Hunger

11:30 AM - FREE Lunch at the church (after worship)

12:15 PM - Carpool to WALK, Liam E. McGee Memorial Park (formerly Hartbeat Park)

140 Garden Street, Hartford; FREE Parking at 690 Asylum Avenue

12:30 PM - Check-in at WALK

2:00 PM - WALK steps off; a gentle 2-mile route takes walkers through Bushnell Park and Hartford's West End. This event is family-friendly and tons of fun!

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Walkers \_\_\_\_\_ x Foodshare Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_ = **TOTAL ENCLOSED \$** \_\_\_\_\_  
or donate by searching for team "Rocky Hill Congregational Church" at  
**www.FoodshareWalk.org**

**Make checks payable to RHCC**, and give completed forms and payments

to Bob Inderbitzen or the Church Office, or mail to:

Rocky Hill Congregational Church UCC, 805 Old Main Street, Rocky Hill CT 06067

You may call Bob Inderbitzen with questions at 860-418-9171.



*Wishing you a beautiful Memorial Day weekend; during which time we remember and honor our country's brave men and women in the military, as well as the many veterans who have served.*

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

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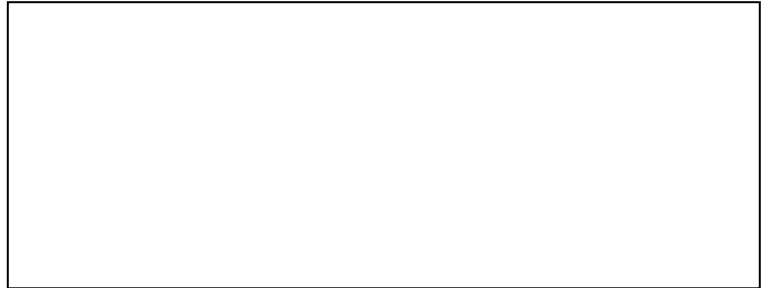
Permit #7

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED  
TIME VALUE MAIL

Mailed April 24, 2017



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.



CELEBRATE SPRING AT OUR MAY  
BREAKFAST & PLANT SALE  
Saturday, May 13, 8am-10:30am



Adults \$7.00, Kids (4-12yrs) \$5.00, under 4yrs – free  
Egg Strata ≈ Pancakes ≈ French ≈ Toast Cereal ≈  
Bacon ≈ Sausage ≈ Juice ≈ Milk ≈ Coffee

