



The Reverend Donna K. Manocchio, Senior Pastor
donna@rhccucc.org
Meghan D. Young, Acting Associate Pastor
Minister for Faith Formation
meghan@rhccucc.org
Mary DeLibero, Minister of Music
mary@rhccucc.org



November 2012 Newsletter

Editor – Carol Harvey
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Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

7:00 PM

Tuesday, November 20th

at Rocky Hill Congregational Church, UCC

Join us in worship at the annual Rocky Hill Thanksgiving Service, as we give thanks and praise to God with our interfaith brothers and sisters. Raise up your voice with an ecumenical choir that will lead us in song.

Refreshments to follow.



“Go in pieces to see and feel your world.”

- Padriag O’ Tuama

My dear friends,

This month, our church will host Rocky Hill’s annual Thanksgiving Service. We will join in worship and song with our ecumenical brothers and sisters, and this year we are widening the circle to include our brothers and sisters of different faiths, for an interfaith service. Together we will give thanks and praise for our blessings – what we have been given, and what is ours to give.

As we begin to prepare to welcome our neighbors into our sacred home, I find myself reflecting on all the moments of Thanksgiving we have experienced this year – all the moments where God has invited us to go in peace, and in pieces, to see and feel our world. And, I find myself realizing that over the last month I have had the joy and privilege of gathering with this church community for several “thanksgivings”. There was our annual roast beef dinner, our church family gathering at long tables, giving thanks for a successful fair. Families explored what it meant to be a community of peace, over dinner, at S.P.I.R.I.T. spark, remembering to give thanks “to all our relations” – the wider community with which we are always connected. The Rupert Congregational Church extravagantly welcomed us into their home as we broke bread together, a community of disciples in mission (*be sure to read their letter of thanks*). And then there were the unexpected meals of celebratory ice cream following a family’s joyous news, and shared bags of popcorn as folks prepared for the church fair.

We have broken bread together, creating thanksgiving meals that invite us to see and feel our God more deeply. So this Thanksgiving season, I pray that we may continue to give thanks, to find community that invites us to share meals of thanks, experience our blessings, and go in pieces into our world.

In peace (and pieces),

Meghan

From the Moderator...

Thank you, O God, for our pastors who "...equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God..."—Ephesians 4.12-13

Giving Thanks: Pastor Meghan Young

At its meeting in September, the Church Council agreed to modify Pastor Meghan Young's title. Meghan's previous title was *Acting Associate Pastor* and *Acting Director of Christian Education*. Her new title is *Minister for Faith Formation* and *Acting Associate Pastor*.

Meghan came to our church community in September 2009 as the "Acting Director of Christian Education." It was a time of staff transitions—and the church committed (only) 10-12 hours per week to the position. Over a year later, Meghan's hours were expanded to 20 hours per week—permitting more time for her to work with church members to expand our offerings of fellowship opportunities for families, and to develop more substantial curriculum and Sunday morning programming for children and youth.

In October 2010, the Church Council and Board of Deacons agreed to establish the position of 'Acting Associate Pastor' to allow a period of transition following Donna's call to Senior Pastor (September 2010). Soon after, Meghan was offered and accepted the position of Acting Associate Pastor, in addition to maintaining her role as Acting Director of Christian Education. She has continued to serve our congregation in both positions to this day.

In December 2010, the Board of Deacons recommended to the Hartford Association Committee on Ministry that Meghan be received as a member in-care. This began a more formal process during which Meghan could discern her interest in a call to ministry in the United Church of Christ, and to begin the preparation necessary for ordination (Meghan is a "licensed minister" in our United Church of Christ). In recommending that she be received in care of the Association, our congregation committed itself to a supportive relationship with Meghan.

I hear regularly from members of our congregation who offer words of gratitude for Meghan Young's ministry among us during these past three years. The Church Council, Senior Pastor Donna Manocchio, the Board of Deacons and Board for Faith Formation (formerly the Board for Christian Education) are all committed to supporting and encouraging Meghan as she continues to serve important ministries in our congregation.

I am grateful that Meghan has made RHCC the place to share her gifts of ministry. As we reflect on all of our blessings during this month of thanksgivings, please join me in giving thanks to God for all the ways Meghan has chosen to walk with our community in Christian faith, service and love.

Happy Thanksgiving & God bless you,

Bob Inderbitzen (rinderbitzen@cox.net, cell 860-418-9171)

The Church Council met September 11 and October 9.

The next Council meeting is Tuesday, November 13 at 7 PM.



It's official – Christmas season has begun. I know this because I saw Christmas decorations in the Rocky Hill Kohl's store last Thursday, October 18th.

We Christians know better. The Christmas season doesn't really begin for us until Advent (December 2nd this year) when we are asked to prepare our hearts and minds for the coming of the Christ child. Christmas season in the stores is a large, loud, colorful time. Advent in our churches is supposed to be a quiet, reflective time.

There will be a break between the end of election season and the beginning of Advent this year. Take advantage of scripture readings you hear in church or read at home. Listen carefully to our ministers' sermons and keep up to date on the reports of the ongoing ministries of our church. Maybe just a little increase in focus will help us to enter the season of Advent in the right frame of mind this time.

Bill Hoffman, for the Deacons

The Board of Deacons
Spiritual Welfare

Membership Vitality

Ministering

BIBLE DEVOTIONS

In her sermon on September 16, Pastor Donna encouraged all of us to delve into God's word found in Holy Scripture. She made the suggestion of receiving a daily Bible verse by email. Donna says she receives a daily verse from the UCC Still Speaking Devotional; you can subscribe at <http://www.ucc.org/feed-your-spirit/daily-devotional/>. Another suggestion is to commit some passages of the Bible to heart. Here is good place to get started: <http://www.ucc.org/feed-your-spirit/your-life-better/bible-passages-to-know-by-heart/>



ALL CHURCH CHORUS – December 2nd! – Singers and Ringers of all ages, please help our Choir and Bell Choir herald in the Advent season with a *simple* and *fun* anthem written especially for a multi-generational chorus, instruments, bells and chimes during our Sunday morning service on December 2nd. All music lovers are encouraged to participate and share in the joy of offering praises to the Lord! More information about rehearsals will follow. Please let Mary (mary@rhccucc.org) know if you are interested or if you have any questions. *Stay tuned for more details...*

LESSONS AND CAROLS – December 9th! – Please save the date, either to attend or to participate! Rehearsal schedules will be on Sundays at 11:30am (excluding November 11) and Wednesdays at 7:00pm. Please let Mary (mary@rhccucc.org) know if you have any questions.

Global and Local Mission News

Up and coming Sunday November 4th!

Don't miss this day – see more information below.

Deuteronomy 28:12

“The LORD will open the heavens, the storehouse of his bounty, to send rain on your land in season and to bless all the work of your hands. You will lend to many nations but will borrow from none.”

It is safe to say that many gardeners in our midst would take issue with the lack of rain this growing season. Many a garden, produce and floral, failed this season and the “bounty”, if any, was meager for the casual gardener. Thank goodness our area farmers are much more savvy with their watering and irrigation systems. Although our personal gardens may have failed, we are fortunate and able to find ample “bounty” at the markets, farmer stands, and grocery stores.

We were not able to give much to the food pantry in way of fresh produce, and in the interest of full disclosure, our first “Harvest Now” attempt was a “bust.” As we are blessed with resources beyond what many afford, our Congregation and the Board for Missions gave generously to Foodshare and the local food pantry in food and cash donations.

Proverbs 22:9

“He that hath a bountiful eye shall be blessed; for he giveth of his bread to the poor.”

As our effort for global awareness continues, we note that many Haitians struggle to make a living for their families. Parents who cannot feed their children often have no alternative but to give up their children to orphanages. Help Haitians to be self-sustainable and not have to face this terrible choice.

On November 4th, Global Missions Sunday, there will be a holiday shopping opportunity to purchase beautiful Haitian Jewelry made with beads crafted from cereal boxes. The proceeds from the sale go directly back to the artists who make the jewelry.

Events and Activities:

October 7th – November 3rd, Cereal Box Drive – to support Haitian artists.

November 4th – Global Missions Sunday

Global Missions Church Designation to be presented by Shari Prestemon,

Refreshments afterward in Chapin Hall,

Holiday shopping opportunity – Haitian Artesian products – Jewelry Sale

Sunday Nov. 18th – Turkey and a \$20 or \$30 (30th anniversary of Foodshare).

A monetary donation of any amount is welcome.

December – Toy Drive for Covenant to Care – more information to follow.

Through May 2013 – please take the opportunity to meet and greet Zulu, a student of the International Peacemakers Program at the Hartford Seminary, and our guest congregant from India.

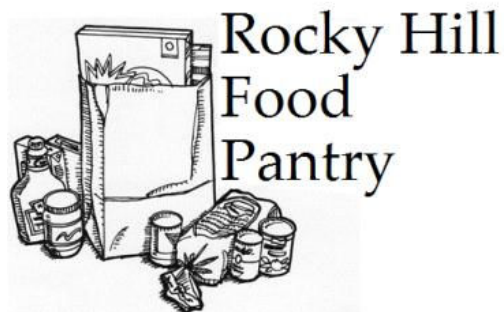
Since last month, ***your generosity has helped the following:***

Foodshare	\$1,750
Peter's Retreat	700
Mercy Housing and Shelter	800
Rocky Hill Food Pantry	500
Rocky Hill Human Services	1,100



Your Board For Missions Members

David Bell – Treasurer, Michael Bower, Linda Calcagni – Chair, Bob Carberry, Jim Day, Cindy Hunt, Thomas Kainamura, Meghan Montana – Vice-chair, Kari-McCaw-Blaise – Secretary, Sarah Mosure.



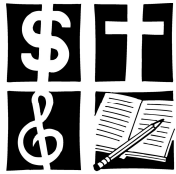
I thank you and the members of the RH Congregational Church for the recent donation of non-perishables to our town food pantry. Currently we have over 100 financially deprived households using the food pantry. As you know, we completely depend upon donations for our food supply.

Please extend my appreciation to all your members for their continued support and generosity.

Sincerely,

Mark Williams

Human Services Director



STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

.....A Stewardship Message

As you read this message, stop a moment, think about what was happening a year ago at this time ... the end of October... the heavy snowstorm on Fair Day ... then days and days of no power, broken trees, massive winter damage to clean up ... but the RHCC,UCC family responded in multiple ways – caring, helping, sharing. There were many instances of our faith in action...for example, food prepared for the Fair’s Roast Beef dinner was sent to the Town Hall to be shared at their shelter ... the church building was opened to provide warmth, food, activities and comfort conversations for children and adults as needed.

We were blessed with sufficient monetary funds and with many church members and friends who, led by our two pastors, were testimony to how we live and practice our faith in times of stress, in addition to all the other ministerial experiences and responsibilities we share in during the year.

The current *Fund Our Faith* campaign was planned to help us close the existing gap (\$20,000) in the Local Budget’s 2012-13 fiscal goal and to be completed by the end of October. But, we are not there yet! To date we have reached \$11,275. We are deeply grateful to all who have already shared their monetary gifts and participated in this essential endeavor.

This past summer was a very active one at RHCC.. “People programs” focused on the richness of the Koinonia family services, on the development of Faith Formation new directions. “Building programs” saw the completion of the new heating system, on redoing and refreshing the youth room. Looking ahead to coming months, new projects may appear but the core of our ministry is still on worship, memorial services, baptisms, weekly and special services, music, Christian education, fellowship, to name a few.

If you have yet to share and participate in the *Fund Our Faith* program, there is still time to do so! Gift donation cards are available in the narthex if you need one. Our faith is a gift from God. May we all show grateful appreciation for what has been ... and prayerfully anticipate what is yet to come.

With faith and hope,

Your Stewardship Committee:

Louise Butts, Bill Bartley, Al Diaz, Michele Jokl, Dave Sageman, Barry Wilcock



- | | | | |
|----|----------------------|----|----------------------|
| 01 | Neal Cox | 13 | Kari McCaw-Blaise |
| | Bill Pierson | | David Rodriguez |
| | Kristin Rutigliano | 15 | Roland Lataille |
| | Lanaya Rupaka | 16 | Jim Griswold |
| 03 | Phil Swain | 17 | Mary-Ellen Lewis |
| 05 | Meghan Wilcock | 18 | Jacob Moot |
| 06 | Tom Matthias | 19 | Robert Simmons |
| | Mary DeLibero | | Sheila Elliot |
| 07 | Michael McKenna | | Kevin Fell |
| 08 | Rob Grandell | 20 | Mary-Edith Bowman |
| | Alyssa Somes | | Elijah Calderon |
| 09 | Lisa Taylor | | Hannah Fuller |
| | Jennifer Martin | 22 | Julia Pawlich |
| | Christopher Marshall | 23 | Robert Lane |
| 10 | Jon Morgan | 24 | Kim Batterson-Biglow |
| 11 | Paula Komar | 25 | William McKenna |
| | Dale Rowland | 26 | Evan Timrud |
| | Harry Blaise | 28 | Lisa Fell |
| | Brianna Stewart | | Kade Lamontagne |
| 12 | Diana Belliveau | 30 | Gael Curtin |
| 13 | Donna Rowland | | Ryan Pirre |

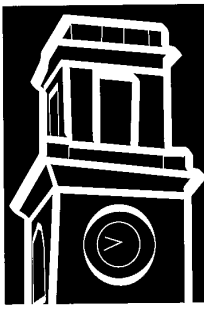


Joseph and Janet Kunzelman
were married on
November 3, 1958

Warren and Gladys Carpenter
were married on
November 5, 1955

Do you bury Christmas gifts?????

'Tis the season. Well, almost. Please think of using Scrip for your Christmas shopping. Hint: LLBean and Lands End return a very high 16% to the church. Bath and Body Works returns 13%. Other cards with very high return rates are occasionally available.



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



CHILD
care
 Provided



2012

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
4 Global Missions Sunday Scrip Pickup 11:30am Noah's Table 11:30pm Lessons & Carols 5:00pm Confirmation	5 5:30pm Yoga w/Lynn 7:00pm Women's AA 7:00pm RHCC Bowling 7:30pm Bell Choir	6 7:00pm Board and Committee Mtgs	7 9:00am Quilters 12:30pm Bible Study 7:00pm Lessons & Carols 7:00pm Adult Choir
11 11:30am Orchestra Rehearsal 11:30am Noah's Table 5:00pm Confirmation	12 2:00pm The Lodge Svc 5:30pm Yoga w/Lynn 7:00pm Women's AA 7:00pm RHCC Bowling 7:00pm RHCCNS Mtg 7:30pm Bell Choir	13 8:30am Breakfast Club 7:00pm Council	14 9:00am Quilters 12:30pm Bible Study 7:00pm Lessons & Carols 6:00pm Community Event 7:00pm Adult Choir
18 Thanksgiving Sunday "Turkey and A \$20" 11:30am Noah's Table 11:30pm Lessons & Carols	19 5:30pm Yoga w/Lynn 7:00pm Women's AA 7:00pm RHCC Bowling 7:30pm Bell Choir	20 7:00pm Interfaith Thanksgiving Svc	21 12:30pm Bible Study 7:00pm Lessons & Carols 7:00pm Adult Choir
25 Scrip Deadline 11:30am 2 nd Hour – "Love Wins" 11:30am Noah's Table 11:30pm Lessons & Carols	26 5:30pm Yoga w/Lynn 7:00pm Women's AA 7:00pm RHCC Bowling 7:30pm Bell Choir	27	28 9:00am Quilters 9:00am Community Meeting 12:30pm Bible Study 7:00pm Lessons & Carols 7:00pm Adult Choir

VOICE MAIL INSTRUCTIONS – If you call the church and the Voice Mail answers, you do not have to listen to the entire message. Anytime during the message you can have the call transferred directly to the person you are trying to reach by simply keying in the following numbers:

Donna Manocchio, Senior Pastor	202	Mary DeLibero, Minister of Music	207
Meghan Young, Acting Director CE and Minister for Faith Formation	204	Thomas Munger, Custodian	205
Carol Harvey, Office Secretary	201	RHCCNS (Nursery School)	208



THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 5:30pm TOPS 8:00pm Men's AA	2 4:00pm Wedding Rehearsal 5:00pm Youth Gathering	3 DON'T FORGET TO TURN CLOCKS BACK 8:30am Yoga w/Lynn 3:30pm Wedding
8 5:30pm TOPS 8:00pm Men's AA	9	10 8:30am Yoga w/Lynn 6:00pm Dinner/Movie
15 Newsletter Deadline 9:00am RHCCNS in Chapin Hall 5:30pm TOPS 8:00pm Men's AA	16 6:30pm RHCCNS Fun Night Out	17 8:30am Yoga w/Lynn
22 Thanksgiving Day OFFICE CLOSED 8:00pm Men's AA	23 OFFICE CLOSED	24 8:30am Yoga w/Lynn
29	30	



“SCRIP-SURE”
Order Schedule
 Scrip delivery is
 November 4
 Scrip deadline is
 November 25

ROCKY HILL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

United Church of Christ

805 Old Main Street – Rocky Hill, CT 06067

(860)529-4167 office • (860)257-9637 fax

office @ rhccucc.org • website: rhccucc.org • Visit us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/rhccucc

Office Hours 8am-2pm Monday– Thursday / 8am-noon Friday

The Reverend Donna K. Manocchio, Senior Pastor

Meghan Young, Acting Associate Pastor and Minister for Faith Formation

The Reverend Arthur C. Weil, Minister Emeritus

Mary DeLibero, Minister of Music



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

Church School

We completed our first faith formation unit of the year, *Communities of Peace*. Through peace posters, a cereal box project, games, drama, and peace cakes, we learned how to be disciples who live a life of Shalom, as peacemakers. We learned to live a life of shalom as a community of peace through prayer, sharing, and action.

On October 28, the Pre-K class, 2nd-3rd grade class, received their Bibles. The whole church school will take part in a two week unit, focusing getting to know our Bibles better, so that we might find strength, courage, and hope for our lives in the scriptures.

We are also kicking off our second faith formation unit in November, Mary & Elizabeth's First Christmas. We will listen to the stories of Elizabeth and Mary as family stories, that we are part of, as children in God's family. We will wait with anticipation for Jesus, and remember the gifts of hope, love, joy, and peace that come with him. We will hear how two babies, John and Jesus, grew to transform the world, and remember that we too as disciples can also change the world.

Be sure to learn along with us in the weekly bulletins!

Gatherings

On October 7th we met for our very first S.P.I.R.I.T. Spark. It was a great night of faith formation for the whole church family. We focused on what it meant to be a community of peace, sharing our stories, creating peace posters, and kindness books. It was an opportunity to renew and spark our faith through food, fun, fellowship, and faith formation.

Join us for our next S.P.I.R.I.T. Spark in December.

Youth Group

Youth Group kicked-off Noah's Table by viewing Evan Almighty. We're now focusing on the theme of Discipleship for November.

GET INVOLVED WITH S.P.I.R.I.T. – We Need You!

You've heard how much fun the RHCC S.P.I.R.I.T. program is. It's a place that values intergenerational relationships, growing in faith, and learning throughout our lives to be the disciples Christ calls us to be. You are invited to come join the circle and get involved. **We are currently in need of a Shepherd for the 4th-5th Grade and the 6th-8th Grade.** Shepherds stay with their particular age group during a whole unit (each time they teach throughout the year, they will stay with that same age group). The Shepherd knows the Bible story well, and helps the class and learning center guide connect the Bible story from week to week over the course of the unit. Additionally, there are several learning center guide openings throughout the year. If you are interested in teaching, shepherding, or sharing a gift or talent at a one-time class, please let us know by sending an email to Meghan at meghan@rhccucc.org.

NURSERY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Nursery Volunteers are needed for November & December. 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...

SPECIAL EVENT: *You do not want to miss this!*

Date	Scripture/Lesson
Tuesday, November 20 at 7 PM	Interfaith Thanksgiving Service <i>See details in newsletter announcement.</i>

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

Date	Scripture/Lesson
Sunday, November 4	Global Missions Sunday, Family Worship <i>Cereal Box Project - Celebration</i>
Sunday, November 11	Week 2: Getting to Know your Bible
Sunday, November 18	Week 1: Mary & Elizabeth's First Christmas <i>Thanksgiving Sunday, Turkey & A Twenty</i>
Sunday, November 25	Week 2: Mary & Elizabeth's First Christmas

Youth Group Calendar: *November*

Date	Fellowship Gatherings
Friday, November 2	Youth Group Gathering (6 th -12 ^h Grade) → 5 – 9 PM
Sunday, November 4	Noah's Table (6 th -12 ^h Grade) → 11:30 AM – 1 PM
Sunday, November 11	Noah's Table (6 th -12 ^h Grade) → 11:30 AM – 1 PM
Sunday, November 18	Noah's Table (6 th -12 ^h Grade) → 11:30 AM – 1 PM
Sunday, November 25	Noah's Table (6 th -12 ^h Grade) → 11:30 AM – 1 PM



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.

On Sunday, October 28th, there was a confirmation dedication during worship, as the confirmation class began their year of learning, discovering, and discerning within our faith community. Participation in confirmation means regular attendance in Sunday worship, acolyte responsibilities, participating in the life of the church, organizing a mission project, engaging with mentors, and attending class twice a month.

If you would like more information about being part of the Confirmation class (9TH & 10TH graders), or if you are interested in being a mentor for the confirmation class please contact Meghan Young at Meghan@rhccucc.org.

October – November Schedule:

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

Date	Class/Event	
Sunday, October 28	WORSHIP: Confirmation Dedication CLASS: Parent's Meeting & Orientation	10 AM Service 11:45AM–12:45PM
Sunday, November 4	CLASS: The Bible	5 PM – 7 PM
Sunday, November 18	SERVICE: Turkey & A Twenty CLASS: Worship	9:15 AM - 11:30 AM 5 PM – 7 PM
Tuesday, November 20	WORSHIP: Interfaith Thanksgiving Service	7 PM Service



Christian Activities Council

Adventures in the City: This program served a great need in the City of Hartford. A heartfelt thanks to Rev. Ed Ayala, Ms. Berry our Program Coordinator, and staff person, Charmaine Simpson. A total of 899 kids and youth participated in several programs offered this summer, such as Academic Art Camp and Counselors in Training.

Structure and Sustainability Committee: In April we contracted with Transition Guides to consult on some of the following:

- Support the committee in reviewing current services, sources of revenue, organizational purpose and goals.
- Work with leadership to develop a 12-18 month action plan to increase organizational sustainability.
- Create emergency backup plans for the Executive Director, the Associate Director, the Office Manager and Director of Marketing and Redevelopment.

These are just three highlights of a very in depth report.

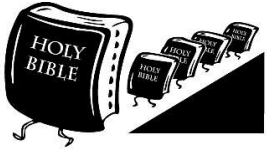
Financial and Accounting Principles: In the summer we hired Premier Accounting Group to study our way of conducting our accounting practices. Robert Cappelucci, Vice President, has helped us to better control our accounting of spending and revenues. This will assist the CAC to have a clearer understanding of proceeding in the future.

God Bless,

Rich Pawlich-Pagliccio
Delegate, member Board of Directors

Accept the challenge!!!

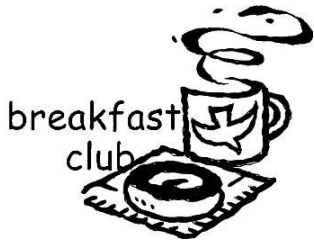
Over half of our Scrip profits of over \$12,000/year come from just seven (yes, just seven) families. Are YOU willing to take on the challenge of using scrip for many of your purchases?? We'd love you to "think Scrip"!



Pastor's Bible Study

Wednesdays, 12:30 to 1:30 PM in the Fiorilli Room

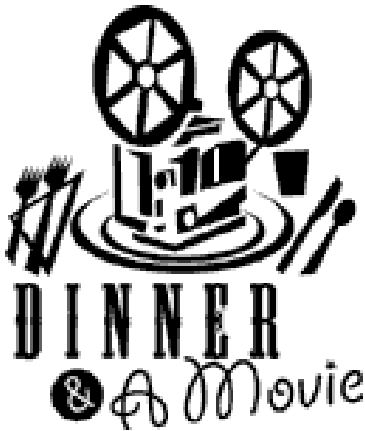
Each week, we gather to read and explore the Scriptures to be used in an upcoming worship service. All are welcome. No experience necessary. Bring your favorite translation or pick one up from the shelf. Brown bag lunch is optional.



Breakfast Club

Tuesday, November 13 at 8:30 AM

We meet at BOB'S COFFEE SHOP, 33 New Britain Avenue in Rocky Hill. Come join us for coffee, conversation, and community!



Come Join us for Dinner and a Movie

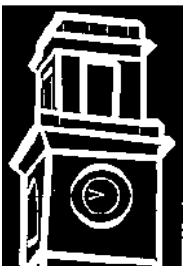
Saturday, November 10, 2012

at 6:00 pm in Chapin Hall.

The film showing is "Dick"

The year is 1972, and, like most high school students, Betsy Jobs (Kirsten Dunst) and Arlene Lorenzo (Michelle Williams) just want to have a good time. But when, during a class field trip to the White House, they cluelessly wander into a behind closed doors, top secret shedding session, it's time to wag both the dog and walk it. Seeking to uncover just how much the witless duo discovered, the Commander-in-Chief appoints them "Official White House Dog Walkers" and it isn't long before the girls go from taking out Checkers to taking out Tricky Dick in this fun-raising comedy of historic distortions.

See preview for December – *The King's Speech*



TOWER LIGHTING

Light the Tower! This is a special way to honor or memorialize your loved ones. The tower lights are on overnight and add to the electric bill. Your contribution of \$10 helps defray the cost. The names of your loved ones will be noted in the bulletin. You can email me at office@rhccucc.org or call the church office at 529-4167 and I will write it on the signup sheet which is

located on the bulletin board in Chapin Hall.—Carol Harvey



**Welcome to Our Rocky Hill, CT
Sisters and Brothers in Christ.**

Thank You!

Your mission work in Rupert has been so very welcome, encouraging and inspiring! Some days, even the smallest project feels too much for us to tackle. Your willingness to labor for and with us brings to us something that is beyond what is visible to the eye. Your discipleship, love of Christ and your hearts are showing! What a wonderful sight!! Every single person in our congregation has – many times – been the servant of others – and while it is less comfortable for all of us to be the ones being served, You've done it with grace and compassion, making it easier for us to accept your gifts. Thank you for serving us!

DON'T FORGET TO



NOVEMBER 4

Sacred Time

In scripture, so many of our favorite characters find themselves in-between, moving from innocence to knowing, foolishness to wisdom, following to leading, suffering to new life. In many ways, these mysterious and often challenging intervals define the human experience. I believe that it is in these times that we have the greatest opportunity to grow. In-between time is sacred time.

Both Donna and Meghan, your wonderful pastors, are, in a sense, in-between. Donna's sabbatical is providing her with an all-important pause that will give her new energy, knowledge, and perspective for her ministry with you. I cannot emphasize strongly enough the importance of the sabbatical leave in the lives of pastors and congregations. Even brief sabbaticals can be the difference in a community of faith blossoming.

And although her expanded job description is temporary, Meghan is getting a taste of leadership she otherwise would not have had the opportunity to experience. And you? You are being given the chance to reflect on your identity as a congregation both with and without your Senior Pastor, who you are in and of yourselves and who you might become upon Donna's return.

It's true, my time with you is very brief, but I feel so honored to play a small role in supporting Donna, Meghan, and all of you as you move from what has been to an even richer experience of community in the Spirit of Christ. Thank you so much for your warm welcome and hospitality.

Peace,

Pete





November 2012: The Character Tree

They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream.—Jeremiah 17:8

Rawdat El-Zuhur (Garden of Flowers) is a non-governmental non-profit elementary school and kindergarten for Palestinian children in East Jerusalem. It was established by Palestinian Christians and today is in partnership with Global Ministries. Rawdat el Zuhur aims to bring up a generation of young people that practice good citizenship, have concern for the environment; are capable of thinking creatively, and analyzing logically; and who are equipped with the necessary knowledge, skills and attitudes to assume leadership in a democratic society which they would develop and preserve. Imagine, this vision becoming a reality in Jerusalem!

Well aware of the importance of trees for shade and food, Rawdat el Zuhur created the “Character Tree” project to challenge young students to bear the fruits of practicing good values. The image of the tree includes many branches representing various values that children can choose to live by. In this season of harvest, the school year has borne fruits in character-building. Two students received special recognition for living up to some of those values.

Shihab came to school on a Friday morning to participate in the huge fundraising event that the school was holding that day. Seeing the playground filled with dry leaves and garbage from the storm of the previous night, his commitment to the value branch of public welfare urged him to do something about it. Working like a storm himself he got busy cleaning up the playground so that when the guests arrived the area was spick-and-span.

Forgiveness and humility are other values hanging on the Character Tree. Mohammad’s classroom “friends” committed a grave offense against him, yet he so humbly forgave them that the offending children were embarrassed realizing how wrong they had been.

The name of the school challenges each of us to work hard to reflect a budding and flourishing spirit, while radiating the odor and colors of the Garden.

Let us pray for Rawdat el Zuhur and their continuing work toward reconciliation of a nation through character building of young people. We share the prayer of the school, “May God bless your days and nights, while also blessing this ministry to children.”



Christmas Bazaar – You’re all invited!! Thursday, November 15 from 9:30am to 1:30pm in the Fireside Lounge – Handcrafts, Jewelry, Gifts, Bake Sale, Christmas Cards, Paper Goods, Resale Shop Treasures – Covenant Village of Cromwell, 52 Missionary Rd, Cromwell – follow the signs for “The Commons” Look for “Event Parking” signs.

Kids and Keyboards – A free event for kids of all ages!, sponsored by CONCORA’S Friends of Bach. Saturday, November 17 – 10:00am to Noon at St Mark the Evangelist Church, South Quaker Lane, West Hartford. **A wonderful opportunity for kids ages 9 and older** to explore various keyboard instruments popular in the 17th and 18th centuries, including the harpsichord, clavichord, portative organ, lautenwerk, and grand organ. The fun-filled, hands-on session is led by musicians Edward Clark, Christa Rakich, and Jacqueline Nappi.



Always Welcome! – Hunger never takes a holiday... Food Pantries need our help to meet the food demands...Please consider bringing a non-perishable food item, laundry detergent, or baby items to worship every time you come. The large basket in the front foyer of the church welcomes all food donations. Pew Crew members have been taking your donations to the food pantry. Mark Williams sends a thank you note every month in gratitude for your generosity.

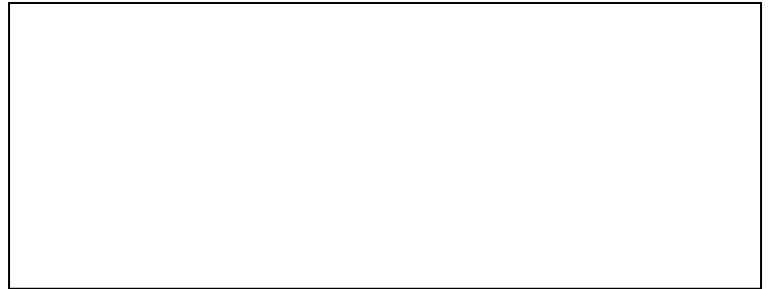
Yoga classes offered in Chapin Hall

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

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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



Blessed are You!
Advent Ecumenical Women's Retreat

Monday, December 3, 2012
5:30 to 8:30 pm

Rocky Hill Congregational Church, United Church of Christ
805 Old Main Street, Rocky Hill, CT

Join with other women of faith in prayer, conversation, and creative expression during the season of waiting and expectation. The evening program includes a light meal. Cost: \$15 and please bring a baby item (food, formula, diapers, clothing) to be donated to local charities. To register, send name, address, and church along with a check to 805 Old Main Street, Rocky Hill, CT 06067, attention Women's Retreat. If you would like to help hostess please call Stephanie Heneghan at 860 529-4672.