



The Reverend Dr. Brenda Pelc-Faszczka, Interim Senior Pastor
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860 529-4167 Church – 860 257-9637 Fax

The Church Mouse

November 2013 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



Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service

7:00 PM

Tuesday, November 26th
at St Elizabeth Seton Church
280 Brook Street

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

Refreshments to follow.

From the Interim Senior Pastor



This is true joy in life, the being used for a purpose recognized by yourself as a mighty one; the being a force of nature instead of a feverish little clod of ailments and grievances, complaining that the world will not devote itself to making you happy. I want to be thoroughly used up when I die, for the harder I work, the more I live. I rejoice in life for its own sake. Life is no 'brief candle' to me. It is a sort of splendid torch which I have got hold of for the moment, and I want to make it burn as brightly as possible before handing it on to future generations.

-George Bernard Shaw

It's one of the great phrases of all time -- "a feverish little clod of ailments and grievances." Complaining that the world will not devote itself to making us happy. Ah, yes, who among us can't recognize ourselves there? We may not be feverish little clods all the time, but pretty much everybody is there some of the time. *The world is here for me, why isn't it doing/being exactly what I want?*

That's the way we think when we think like consumers. The assumption of a consumeristic mindset is that everything is here *for us*. For our use, for our enjoyment, for our benefit, for our desires. Looked at that way, it's easy to see how we can become those little clods of demand and complaint, since many things in the course of a day, and a lifetime, do not yield to our demands or wishes at all -- not things, not people, not circumstances. Hence the "grievances."

There is an antidote to consumeristic living and thinking. It is generosity. It is gratitude. It is faith. It is spirit. It is love. It is compassion. It is the gospel. It is living into the world as participants and contributors: as givers, instead of takers. It is, in George Bernard Shaw's words, "the being used for a purpose recognized...as a mighty one," the desire to live fully, abundantly, mindfully, and turned outward toward what is around us. Or, to put it another way, living as part of the web of God's creation, rather than living only in little worlds of our own making.

What if we saw thanksgiving (or Thanksgiving) as being not all about what we have accrued to ourselves, or what good fortune has fallen our way, but about living within the realm of God and *knowing* that we live within the realm of God, part of a large and sacred purpose, no matter what is happening... "rejoicing in life for its own sake"...? It would be hard to be clods, if we were seeing like that.

Faithfully, Rev. Brenda

Worship **SCHEDULE**

- November 3** **Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost**
All Saints' Sunday. Communion.
Children worship with the congregation.
The Rev. Brenda Pelc-Faszczka preaching.
- Nov. 10** **Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost**
Meghan Young preaching.
- Nov. 17** **Twenty-sixth Sunday after Pentecost**
The Rev. Brenda Pelc-Faszczka preaching.
- Nov. 24** **Thanksgiving Sunday**
The Rev. Brenda Pelc-Faszczka preaching.
- Tuesday**
Nov. 26 **Ecumenical Thanksgiving Worship**
for the Rocky Hill Community
7:00 p.m.
St. Elizabeth Seton Roman Catholic Church.



LOOKING AHEAD TO DECEMBER

- | | | |
|-----------------------|---|-------------|
| Sun., Dec. 1 | First Sunday of Advent
Advent Family Night, | 5 – 7 p.m. |
| Sun., Dec. 8 | Service of Lessons and Carols | 4 p.m. |
| Thurs. Dec. 12 | Service of Healing | 5 p.m. |
| Tues., Dec. 24 | Christmas Eve services | 5 & 11 p.m. |



S.P.I.R.I.T. Corner Check-in Church School

We completed the 1st unit, *Rainbow of Promise*, of our church school faith formation programming. All our curriculum units this year focus on the theme of “Moving with God”. This unit we learned how God’s love stays with us even as we move through times of re-creation in our individual and communal lives. Through rainbows, chalk drawings, games, and cookies, we learned the ways we continue to be part of God’s creation of love.

We are also kicking off our second faith formation unit in November, *Christmas Journeys*. *Christmas Journeys* connects some of the great stories of the Bible through the theme of family relocation. All our lives are journeys with many stops we do not expect. We will talk about the ways we journey today and compare and contrast these with the ways that Jesus journeyed in his early life.

We are also trying something new on November 10th. We will be having our first all S.P.I.R.I.T. Church School Mission project. All classes will participate together in a mission project in the Church School classrooms. We will be making holiday decorations for our friends at Apple Rehab in Rocky Hill, as well as holiday cards and care packages for deployed military personnel. If you would like to donate to a care package or find out ways you can get involved, please contact Meghan Young.

Check out the “What We’re Learning Now” box and learn with us!

Youth Group

Youth group gathered to set-up and help run the Toy Shoppe at this year’s church fair. We are looking forward to more gatherings throughout the year, working together, and continuing to fundraise for youth mission projects. All Youth Group events for the year will be open to 6th-12th graders, and when appropriate 6th-8th graders and 9th-12th graders will break off for separate discussion groups. We will meet several times throughout the year for Youth Group Night Out events and service projects. On Sundays following church, Noah’s Table will meet, to discuss current events, worship, and eat.

ALL S.P.I.R.I.T. Missions Project – How you can help!

The RHCC S.P.I.R.I.T. Church School is participating in a missions project during church school on November 10th. We are in need of:

- Holiday decorations and stickers to help us create cards and door decorations.
- Care package items for military personnel (small toiletries, snacks, magazines, gum, candy, jerky, etc.)

Items can be dropped off at the church office.

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

COME JOIN THE CIRCLE: Unit 2 – Christmas Journeys

Christmas Journeys emphasizes the early life of Jesus and the political powers that shaped and influenced his family's choices. Decrees, statements, and laws instigated each journey by Jesus' family. The circle returned Jesus to Nazareth where the story of his life continued. Through four journey stories we will learn about the life of Jesus from his birth through his early childhood. We will hear of the continuing love and protection offered by Jesus' family. We will explore this very human picture of a family, blessed by God, as we explore our own very human journeys. All our lives are journeys with many stops we do not expect.

A Prayer For The Unit. God, help us to explore the journey to Bethlehem, the journey of the magi, the journey to Egypt, and the journey to Nazareth. Open our eyes and our hearts to the journeys you made, and help us to know you are always with us. Amen.

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

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, November 3	All Saints Sunday , Communion Sunday, Family Worship
Sunday, November 10	ALL S.P.I.R.I.T. Missions Project
Sunday, November 17	Week 1: Christmas Journeys
Sunday, November 24	Week 2: Christmas Journeys
Tuesday, November 26	Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service, 7 PM St. Elizabeth Seton in Rocky Hill

Youth Group Calendar: November

Date	Lesson
Sunday, November 3	Noah's Table (6 th -12 ^h Grade) ➔ 11:30 AM – 1 PM
Sunday, November 10	Noah's Table (6 th -12 ^h Grade) ➔ 11:30 AM – 1 PM
Sunday, November 17	Noah's Table (6 th -12 ^h Grade) ➔ 11:30 AM – 1 PM
Sunday, November 24	Noah's Table (6 th -12 ^h Grade) ➔ 11:30 AM – 1 PM

NURSERY VOLUNTEERS: Nursery Volunteers are needed. If you are interested in volunteering in the Nursery during Sunday morning worship, please contact a member of the Childcare Committee (RHCCchildcare@gmail.com) for more information. You can also sign-up outside the Nursery.



FINANCIAL UPDATE

You've no doubt heard that our pledge campaign fell well short of its goal, both on the local and benevolence sides. I thought it was important to convey how this shortfall is impacting current church finances on the local side.

Our fiscal year began on May 1st. For the first five months of the fiscal year, we collected total income (pledge receipts, unpledged gifts, fundraising revenue, investment income, & building use fees) totaling \$116,600. That's about \$13,000 less than what we collected during the same period last year. Compared to our budget, essentially all of the shortfall is in pledged income.

For this same five month period, we've paid local operating expenses of \$129,400. That's a little below the pro-rata budget, mostly because we've had some shortages in custodial and administrative staff. But total spending is still well above what we've collected.

As Treasurer, I must manage the cash flow to make sure we have the cash available to pay our bills. And since we've collected about \$13,000 less than we've spent, I've turned to our fallback resource – the general Memorial Fund, which is our primary endowment. It still has a balance of about \$880,000 – so we are not in danger of going broke anytime soon. But the path we are on is not a sustainable one for the longer term, and we'll either need to find additional income, or else we'll need to cut expenses. Or both.

Our primary fundraising activities are the Fair and the Scrip-Sure program. By the time you read this, we'll know the Fair results for the current year. But there is still more potential to be realized from Scrip – both from additional purchases by current customers, and from getting more church members involved in this critical fundraising effort. We budgeted total fundraising revenue for the year of \$27,000. It's not yet clear whether we'll achieve that, fall short, or exceed it.

On the expense side, the Trustees are looking at possible ways to save, including energy, insurance, and information technology. But these savings are unlikely to yield much, at least relative to the size of our operating gap.

Our biggest expense is staffing. Budgeted salaries and benefits total almost \$250,000 annually. That's a little more than 75% of our total local operating budget. In order to make ends meet, staffing cutbacks will need to be "on the table". I don't mean to suggest that anything is imminent, of course. But as the Council begins to plan for the next budgeting cycle, it's unlikely that we can continue our usual practice of simply forecasting the status quo.

There's work to be done!

Dave Hall, Treasurer

UPDATE ON CHURCH OFFICE STAFFING

Most of the congregation is probably aware that for several months, RHCC has been looking to hire an Administrative Assistant/Office Manager for the church office, with interviews having been conducted over a period of time. We've been blessed and grateful that Mitsey Baker has been in that role in the meantime. And we're extremely pleased to share the news that Mitsey will be staying with us in that position for the foreseeable future, at least through the duration of the interim period. Her warm and capable presence is an asset to the church on a daily basis, and we are delighted that she will continue to be among us as our Office Manager.

CONNECTICUT CONFERENCE, UCC ANNUAL MEETING

It was my privilege to attend the UCC Annual Meeting on October 18 and 19. The only unfortunate thing was that I was not able to attend the Church Fair. Everything else was wonderful. The delegates voted to support labeling of genetically modified foods, universal preschool and expanding the ONA to include gender identity and expression. I met with individuals over lunch and learned about Green churches and how that can save money. There was a great keynote speaker who enlivened the assembly with his talk on reviving churches. And the liturgy was awesome. All in all, it was a wonderful experience and I can't wait to share it with this community. Thanks for allowing me to represent you.

Lisa Eleck

DEACONS

Count Your Blessings, written in 1897, is the best known of the over 5000 hymns written by J. Oatman Jr. The refrain encourages us to bring our thanks to God just as we do our problems.

*Count your blessings, name them one by one,
Count your blessings, see what God hath done!
Count your blessings, name them one by one,
And it will surprise you what the Lord hath done.*

November is a wonderful time to show gratitude for all we have received and will receive. We can start counting our blessing by writing down people we are grateful to have in our lives, talents and skills that we have, memories of travels, depending on the season air conditioning or a snow blower and our spiritual blessings.

Most of us have probably said at some time, "I'd be happy if only I had....." By saying that, happiness may never come. But if we are grateful for what we have, we invite happiness to come to us. If we send a thank you note to someone that helped us or made an impression on us, that feeling of happiness and gratitude stays with us. If we write down what went well each day, we will remember our blessings much easier. Being grateful is in our control. God has blessed us with everything we have. Sometime during each day, take a quiet, private moment to offer God your own personal prayer of thanks.

The Board of Deacons will once again be collecting a Special Offering in November. We decided the impact of the offering should be local. You will receive a letter in November with an opportunity to show your generosity to local food and fuel needs.

Gail Tine for the Board of Deacons

Altar Flowers Needed

There is an opening for **December 1, 15, and 29** for anyone who would like to put flowers on the altar. Please check the Flower Calendar in Chapin Hall or contact Mitsey in the office 860-529-4167 or office@rhccucc.org.

MUSIC MINISTRY AT RHCC

**Lessons and Carols will be held on Sunday
December 8 at 4:00p.m.**



Children and Youth Music

The Children and Youth music programs are underway with rehearsals each Monday evening at, Children, through grade 5, - 6:00-6:40pm, and Youth grades 6-12, 6:45 to 7:20pm.. We are preparing some beautiful songs with chimes to present at the Lessons and Carols service. If your child would like to participate but cannot attend rehearsals, please contact Mary at Mary@RHCCUCC.org, or call the office and leave a message so that an alternate time can be arranged.

The Adult Choir – Lessons and Carols

The Adult Choir rehearsals for Lessons and Carols are held every Wednesday evening from 7:00 - 7:45pm, and Sunday from 11:30-12:30. New members are welcome. Please come and experience the joy of singing the beautiful music of the Advent and Christmas seasons. Please contact Mary at Mary@RHCCUCC.org with any questions.

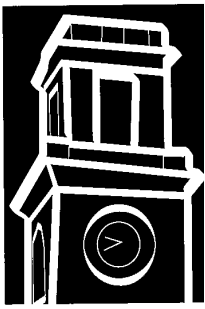
The Handbell Choir

Rehearsal are held every Monday evening at 7:30-8:45 pm with preparations for Lessons and Carols underway. New members are always welcome. Please contact Mary at Mary@RHCCUCC.org with any questions.

BRAIN TEASE

Do you liketo learn new things?play computer games?help feed the hungry?keep the ole thinkin' cap in working order? If you said "yes" to these, go to: <http://freerice.com>

For each correct answer, 10 grains of rice will be sent to a needy country through the World Food Programme. There are many different levels and subjects covered; and it can be played in a variety of languages. It is surprising how quickly 10 grains of rice add up! This is truly fun for all ages try it!



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday Morning Worship

Communion 1st Sunday

10:00 a.m. with childcare



CHILD
care
Provided



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
3 All Saints Sunday 11:30am Noah's Table 12:00am Back Bay Mission Shrimp Boil	4 10:30am Apple Rehab Svr 5:30pm Yoga w/Lynn 7:00pm Women's AA 7:00pm RHCC Bowling 7:30pm Bell Choir	5 7:00pm Board and Committee Mtgs	6 9:30am Quilters 12:00pm Bible Study 7:30pm Adult Choir
10 11:30am Noah's Table	11 5:30pm Yoga w/Lynn 7:00pm Women's AA 7:00pm RHCC Bowling 7:00pm RHCCNS Mtg 7:30pm Bell Choir	12 8:30am Breakfast Club 7:00pm Council	13 9:30am Quilters 12:00pm Bible Study 7:30pm Adult Choir
17 11:30am Noah's Table	18 5:30pm Yoga w/Lynn 7:00pm Women's AA 7:00pm RHCC Bowling 7:30pm Bell Choir	19 4:00pm The Lodge Svr.	20 9:30am Quilters 12:00pm Bible Study 6:00pm Community Event 7:30pm Adult Choir
24 Thanksgiving Sunday 11:30am Noah's Table	25 5:30pm Yoga w/Lynn 7:00pm Women's AA 7:00pm RHCC Bowling 7:30pm Bell Choir	26 7:00pm Interfaith Thanksgiving Svc (St Elizabeth Seton)	27 9:30am Quilters 12:00pm Bible Study 7:30pm 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:

Brenda Pelc-Faszczka, Interim Senior Pastor	202	Mary DeLibero, Minister of Music	207
Meghan Young, Acting Associate Pastor	203	Mike Halpin, Custodian	205
Mitsey Baker, Office Manager	201	RHCCNS (Nursery School)	208

2013



THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2 DON'T FORGET TO TURN CLOCKS BACK 8:30am Yoga w/Lynn
7 5:30pm TOPS 8:00pm Men's AA	8	9 8:30am Yoga w/Lynn 6:00pm Dinner/Movie
14 Newsletter Deadline 5:30pm TOPS 7:00pm Book Study 8:00pm Men's AA	15	16 8:30am Yoga w/Lynn 3:00pm Fundraiser
21 5:30pm TOPS 7:00pm Book Study 8:00pm Men's AA	22	23 8:30am Yoga w/Lynn
28 Thanksgiving Day OFFICE CLOSED 8:00pm Men's AA	29 OFFICE CLOSED	30 8:30am Yoga w/Lynn

Change your clocks?

Remember to move
your clocks
back one
hour.



November

01 Neal Cox
 Bill Pierson
 Kristin Rutigliano
 Lanaya Rupaka
 03 Phil Swain
 05 Meghan Wilcock
 06 Tom Matthias
 Mary DeLibero
 07 Michael McKenna
 08 Rob Grandell
 Alyssa Somes
 09 Lisa Taylor
 Jennifer Martin
 Christopher Marshall
 10 Jon Morgan
 11 Dale Rowland
 Harry Blaise
 Brianna Stewart
 12 Diana Belliveau
 13 Donna Rowland
 Kari McCaw-Blaise
 David Rodriguez



15 Roland Lataille
 Elke Pierson
 16 Jim Griswold
 17 Mary-Ellen Lewis
 18 Jacob Moot
 19 Robert Simmons
 Sheila Elliot
 Kevin Fell
 20 Mary-Edith Bowman
 Elijah Calderon
 Hannah Fuller
 22 Julia Pawlich
 23 Bob Lane
 24 Kim Batterson-Biglow
 25 Jeannie Alessi
 25 William McKenna
 26 Evan Timrud
 28 Lisa Fell
 Kade Lamontagne
 30 Gael Curtin
 Ryan Pirre



Joseph and Janet Kunzelman
 were married on
November 3, 1958

Warren and Gladys Carpenter
 were married on
November 5, 1955

Do you buy 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.



Global and Local Mission News

"We can't help everyone, but everyone can help someone."

Ronald Reagan

As the Missions Board Chair, one of your more glamorous jobs is to filter through the mail that comes into the Missions mailbox here at church. Mitsey can attest, I'm not the best at remembering to retrieve it, and often times when I do, there is a substantial amount. This last pickup was no different and I found myself sitting at the table in the Missions room reading through what seemed like an insurmountable pile of need. I'm not sure if it was the gloomy day outside, the hard week at work, or the fact that I was a little sleep deprived, but I was sad. Sad that we couldn't help every single one of the very worthy causes I was reading. Sad that we couldn't do more in the world, make a bigger difference, touch more lives, save humanity and bring back the unicorns. Small goals, I know! But then in the midst of it all there was a small envelope. A thank you note. A hand written, heartfelt few sentences on how we had changed the lives of several children who received emergency bags RHCC donated. It lifted me up and reminded me that we do great work here. There will always be more opportunities than we can respond "yes" to, both here at RHCC and in our lives at home. However, let's not dwell on where we can't be but rather on where we can. During this time of thanksgiving, I'm deeply grateful that we get the chance to not help everyone, but help someone.

In Faith,
Meghan Montana

Chair – Board for Missions



Since last month
your generosity has helped the following:

Hartford Association Dues	\$882
Volunteer Care Teams of Rocky Hill	\$500
Interval House	\$600
Families in Crisis	\$700

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

November 3

Back Bay Mission Shrimp Boil!
See cover for details

12:00 noon

November 10

Second Hour Speaker

11:30 a.m.

Join us in Chapin Hall where Rochelle Ripley will tell us about the hawkwing Organization that she founded in 1996 as a Native American non-profit agency. Hawkwing is a Native American Federal non-profit 501(c)3 organization created to offer cross-cultural education while assisting the people of the Lakota (Sioux) Cheyenne River Indian Reservation in South Dakota meet their basic human needs. With permission from her Elders, she is a Native Storyteller. Through hawkwing, Rochelle is fulfilling a promise to her Lakota Grandmother "to go home and help the people." Each year, hawkwing conducts a major collection drive in order to bring basic need items to some 3,000 children and 500 Elders on the Cheyenne River. Rocky Hill Congregational has contributed to this effort and last year sent a check to help build a food pantry at the reservation.

COVENANT TO CARE

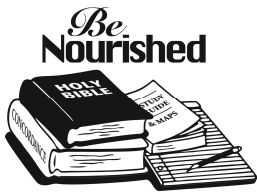
This is an exciting time for our relationship with Covenant to Care. We are waiting for a new case worker to be assigned to us. In the meantime, please do remember that SCRIP-sure gift cards can be donated to Covenant to Care through the "Adopt a Social Worker Program" line on the order form. We recently were able to donate \$100 of Stop & Shop gift cards for 3 families in need to fill up their gas tanks so their children could make it to critical Dr. appointments. We will also be partnering with our new social worker to provide Christmas Gifts for DCF children in the Hartford area. SCRIP-sure gift cards can be used as gifts for the older children or to purchase gifts once we receive the individual lists.

Kari McCaw-Blaise, Covenant to Care liaison

Amazing, but true!

If just 25 more families would purchase most of their groceries using Scrip, the church would get an extra \$7,000/year. Could **YOU** be one of those families??

Think Scrip!



BIBLE STUDY

Wednesdays, 12:00 to 1:00 PM in the Fiorilli Room

Each week, we gather with the Pastor 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.

ADULT FAITH ENRICHMENT **Fall Book Study**

Two-Part Book Discussion: Thursdays, Nov. 14 and 21, 7 p.m.
with the Rev. Brenda Pelc-Faszczka

Richard Rohr,

Falling Upward: A Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life

Approximately half the book will be discussed each time. All welcome.



Come Join us for Dinner and a Movie
Saturday, November 9, 2013
at 6:00 pm in Chapin Hall.

The film showing is "The Trip"
starring Steve Coogan and Rob Brydon.

If you can't make dinner, the movie starts
about 6:45 - 7:00.

When Steve Coogan is asked by The Observer to tour the country's finest restaurants, he envisions it as the perfect getaway with his beautiful girlfriend. But, when she backs out on him, he has no one to accompany him but his best friend and source of eternal aggravation, Rob Bryden. As the brilliant comic duo, freestyling with flair, drive each other mad with constant competition and showdowns of competing impressions of famous celebrities, the ultimate odd couple realizes in the end a rich amount about not only good food, but the nature of fame, relationships, and their own lives.

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

Non-Profit Organization
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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED
TIME VALUE MAIL



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.



November 3rd
Back Bay Mission Shrimp Boil!

12:00 noon

Second Hour Shrimp Boil:

with a special visit from some members of the Back Bay Mission!

Please come to share

a good old fashioned southern shrimp boil lunch with us,
complete with newspaper on the tables...

While we eat, we will hear about the great work that the Back Bay Mission does.

You won't want to miss it!

PLEASE RSVP

(so we know how much shrimp to buy) to Meghan Montana at
203-640-2386 or sign up on the Missions Board in Chapin Hall.

