



The Church Mouse

The Reverend Craig L. Cowing, Pastor

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Georgette L. Huie, Minister of Children and Youth

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860-529-4167 Church

November 2015 Newsletter

RHCC e-mail address – office@rhccucc.org

Website: www.rhccucc.org

Office Hours – 9:00 a.m.–2:30 p.m. Monday-Thursday

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Friday

Sunday Worship Services – 10:00 a.m.

Childcare Available/Handicap Accessible



INTERESTED IN JOINING THE CHURCH?

NEW MEMBERS BEING RECEIVED SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15

The next opportunity for new members to join RHCC will be during worship **Sunday, November 15**, with a **preparatory session on November 8** following worship, 11:30 a.m. in the Parlor, with the pastor and Deacon(s). For that preparatory conversation, we welcome those interested in inquiring and exploring, as well as those who know they wish to join the church on November 15. If you'd like to be part of the process, please speak to Pastor Craig Cowing or any Deacon.



As we approach the beginning of November our minds naturally gravitate toward what has come to be called the “holiday season.” To a great extent this has always been driven by the retail market. The idea of a Christmas shopping season started in the late 1800’s in New York City as a way to bolster the bottom line at the end of the calendar year. This was ingrained in the American mind by the 1947 film “Miracle on 34th Street,” in which an elderly man, deemed insane, claims to be Santa Claus. This film did wonders for the Thanksgiving Day Macy’s Parade in New York. Since then we have grown accustomed to sales on “Black Friday,” the beginning of the shopping season.

This rush to shop has a negative effect on our society, however. I will never forget my older son telling me about an experience he had working in an upscale store in a mall on Black Friday. A customer brought up a jar of salsa that he had found on a clearance table and wanted the clearance discount. Jared calmly told him that item was not on sale. Despite his efforts to convince the customer that the item was not on sale, the customer insisted. He went to the trouble of taking a picture of the jar of salsa on the clearance table and demanded the email address of the corporate office. The manager finally gave him the discount, which amounted to two or three dollars.

This is an isolated instance but it highlights the emotional state induced by the perceived need to save money, even if it rises to the comic level of going ballistic over a jar of salsa.

I probably don’t have to say that Thanksgiving and Christmas are not about shopping, even though the retail world tells us it is. We are cajoled into feeling as though we have to spend money during this time in order to bolster the economy. More conservative Christian churches will proclaim that we need to put Christ back into Christmas, even though Jesus has never abandoned it. The secular nature of Christmas, totally devoid of Christ, is here to stay. If I want to observe Christmas as a Christian holiday then I have to do it myself, not expect society at large to make it easy for me.

Consider what having Christ in Christmas really means. It doesn’t mean buying expensive gifts. It means having the love of Christ in our hearts, a love that accepts people as valued children of God rather than targets for hatred. If we can do that then we have kept Christ in Christmas.

In Christ,

Craig



Consecration Sunday Is Coming

Congregations that approach financial stewardship from a biblical perspective do not view the money Christians give to their church merely as a way to pay its bills. Rather, such congregations see financial contributions as a way to help people grow spiritually in their relationship with God by supporting their church's mission and ministry with a percentage of their incomes.

Our congregation's finance committee has selected the *New Consecration Sunday Stewardship Program* as a way to teach the biblical and spiritual principles of generous giving

in our stewardship education emphasis this year.

New Consecration Sunday is based on the biblical philosophy of the need of the giver to give for his or her own spiritual development, rather than on the need of the church to receive. Instead of treating people like members of a social club who should pay dues, we will treat people like followers of Jesus Christ who want to give unselfishly as an act of discipleship. *New Consecration Sunday* encourages people toward proportionate and systematic giving in response to the question, "What percentage of my income is God calling me to give?"

During morning worship on Consecration Sunday, we are asking our attendees and members to make their financial commitments to our church's missionary, benevolent, and educational ministries in this community and around the world.

Every attendee and member who completes an *Estimate of Giving Card* does so voluntarily by attending morning worship on Consecration Sunday. We urge people to attend who feel strongly opposed to completing a card. The procedure is done in such a way that no one feels personal embarrassment if he or she chooses not to fill out a card.

We will do no home solicitation to ask people to complete cards. During morning worship our guest leader will conduct a brief period of instruction and inspiration, climaxed by members making their commitments as a confidential act of worship.

We will encourage participation in Consecration Sunday events through the Consecration Sunday team and governing board members. Since we will make no follow-up visits to ask people to complete their cards, we will make every effort to inform, inspire, and commit everyone to attend Consecration Sunday worship.

Thanks in advance for your enthusiastic participation in Consecration Sunday events.

Sincerely,
Barry Wilcock
Chair, Stewardship Committee



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

Church school is successfully underway; many thanks to all who have stepped up to teach, and thanks to parents and grandparents for getting your kids to class! The children have been actively engaged in their studies; they have been attentive and their insights have at times been quite inspiring.

On Communion Sundays, the children will be dismissed as usual to class, and then brought back to the sanctuary to partake of communion with their families (and the whole church family). As with every Sunday, church school is optional for the young people. If they choose instead to be in worship, they are more than welcome to so choose.

Here are the topics for October 18 through November 8:

Pre-K to 1st grade: Ruth

Grades 2-5: Ruth

- The Bible teaches about love and loyalty to others
- God loves and cares for us and we can show love and care to others
- Ruth and Naomi's relationship reflects our relationship with God
- Ruth, Naomi, and Boaz's family model for us the family of God

Grades 6-8: Courage, Trusting God, Listening to God, Following God's Will

For November 15 through December 6:

Pre-K to 1st grade: Hannah and Samuel

Grades 2-5: Who Is Jesus?

- Discover the meaning of the word *Messiah*
- Recognize that Jesus was not the Messiah people expected
- Explore who Jesus is to us

Grades 6-8: Seeking God's Help, Choosing Our Actions, God's Promise, Faith

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.

Middle School Youth Group

On October 16, the Middle School Youth Group (grades 6-8) met first for sandwiches and then took off to the Foster Family Farm Corn Maze in South Windsor, at night! A good time was had by all, and it was capped by hot chocolate and warm apple cider. Eight youth attended, including two invited friends.

The group will generally meet on the 1st and 3rd Sundays from 6pm to 7:30pm. In late April or early May, we will go on an overnight trip to Heifer International's Overlook Farm in Rutland, MA, and will be planning and preparing for that trip as the months go on. Here is our schedule:

Sunday, November 1 – 5pm to 6:45pm – Reverse Trick-or-Treat at Emeritus
nursing home

Sunday, November 15 – 6pm to 7:30pm – Baking cookies for the Cookie Walk

Sunday, December 6 – 5pm to 7pm – Advent Workshop

Sunday, December 20 – 6pm to 7:30pm – Christmas Party

High School Youth Group

The group will generally meet on the 2nd and 4th Sundays from 5pm to 7pm. On July 26-29, 2016, we will attend the UCC's National Youth Event in Orlando, FL at Disney World! Needless to say, we will be engaged in fundraising and planning for this awesome experience.

Here is our schedule:

Sunday, October 25 – 4pm to 6:30pm – Corn Maze

Sunday, November 8 – 5pm to 7pm – Take Georgette on a tour of Rocky Hill

Sunday, November 22 – TBD – possible fundraiser

Sunday, December 13 – 11:30am to 1:30pm – Baking cookies for the Cookie Walk

Sunday, January 10 – 5pm to 7pm – after Christmas party

01 Neal Cox
Bill Pierson
Lanaya Rupaka
03 Phil Swain
05 Meghan Wilcock
06 Tom Matthias
Mary DeLibero
07 Michael McKenna
08 Rob Grandell
Alyssa Somes Kellogg
09 Lisa Taylor
Jennifer Martin
10 Jon Morgan
11 Dale Rowland
Harry Blaise



BIRTHDAYS

12 Diana Belliveau
13 Donna Rowland
Kari McCaw
15 Roland Lataille
19 Robert Simmons
Sheila Elliot
20 Mary-Edith Bowman
Hannah Fuller
22 Julia Pawlich
24 Kim Batterson-Biglow
25 Jeannie Alessi
25 Will McKenna
30 Gael Curtin



Joseph and Janet Kunzelman
were married on
November 3, 1958

Warren and Gladys Carpenter
were married on
November 5, 1955

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

CHILD
care
 Provided



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
1 All Saints Day 10:00am Worship 11:20am Children's Choir 11:40am Lessons/Carols Adult Choir 4:00pm Siragu Tamil TBD pm Middle School Youth	2 7:00pm Women's AA 7:30pm Bell Choir	3 7:00pm Board and Committee Mtgs 7:00pm Hearing Voices	4 4:30pm Pie Making 5:15pm Pilates w/Caroline 7:00pm Lessons/Carols Adult Choir 7:30pm Adult Choir
8 10:00am Worship 11:20am Children's Choir 11:40am Lessons/Carols Adult Choir 2:00pm Race Relations Discussion 4:00pm Siragu Tamil	9 7:00pm Little Scholars Preschool 7:00pm Women's AA 7:30pm Bell Choir	10 7:00pm Council 7:00pm Hearing Voices	11 9:00am Breakfast Club 5:15pm Pilates w/Caroline 7:00pm Lessons/Carols Adult Choir 7:30pm Adult Choir
15 10:00am Worship New Members join 11:20am Children's Choir 11:40am Lessons/Carols Adult Choir 12:00pm Consecration Sunday 4:00pm Siragu Tamil 6:00pm Middle School Youth	16 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 7:00pm Women's AA 7:30pm Bell Choir	17 10:30pm Retired Clergy 7:00pm Hearing Voices	18 5:15pm Pilates w/Caroline 7:00pm Lessons/Carols Adult Choir 7:30pm Adult Choir
22 Thanksgiving Sunday 10:00am Worship 11:20am Children's Choir 11:40am Lessons/Carols Adult Choir 2:30pm Wedding	23 7:00pm Women's AA 7:30pm Bell Choir	24 6:00pm Community Group 7:00pm Hearing Voices	25 5:15pm Pilates w/Caroline 7:00pm Lessons/Carols Adult Choir 7:30pm Adult Choir
29 10:00am Worship First Sunday of Advent 11:20am Children's Choir 11:40am Lessons/Carols Adult Choir 4:00pm Siragu Tamil	30 NEWSLETTER MAILING 7:00pm Women's AA 7:30pm Bell 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:

Craig L. Cowing, Pastor	203	Mary DeLibero, Minister of Music	207
Georgette Huie, Minister of Children/Youth	202	Little Scholars (Nursery School)	208
Mitsey Baker, Office Manager	201		

2015

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		31 DON'T FORGET TO TURN CLOCKS BACK
5 7:30pm Men's AA	6 8:00am Pie Making	7 8:30am Men's Bible Study 5:00pm Roast Beef Dinner Quilt Raffle
12 7:30pm Men's AA	13	14 10:30am Baby Shower
19 7:30pm Men's AA	20	21 8:30am Men's Bible Study 11:00am Memorial Service 12:00pm Reception
26 Thanksgiving Day OFFICE CLOSED 7:30pm Men's AA	27 OFFICE CLOSED	28



NOVEMBER



WORSHIP RECORDINGS AVAILABLE

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

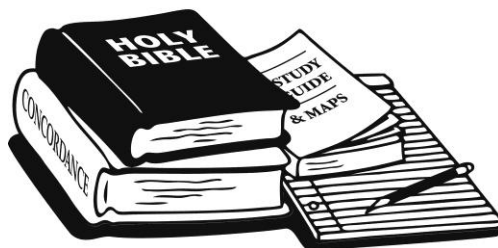


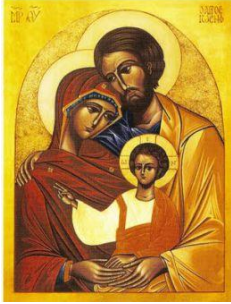
LOOKING AHEAD TO DECEMBER

Sun. Nov. 29	First Sunday of Advent	
Wed. Dec. 2	Advent Bible Study	1:00 p.m.
Sat. Dec.5	Men's Christian Fellowship	8:30 a.m.
Sun. Dec.6	Advent Family Night	5 – 7 p.m.
Tues. Dec. 8	"Images of Christmas, East and West"	1:00 p.m.
Wed. Dec. 9	Advent Bible Study	1:00 p.m.
Thurs. Dec. 10	Blue Christmas Service	7:00 p.m.
Sun. Dec. 13	Service of Lessons and Carols	4 p.m.
Tues. Dec. 15	"Images of Christmas, East and West"	7:00 p.m.
Wed. Dec. 16	Advent Bible Study	1:00 p.m.
Sat. Dec.19	Men's Christian Fellowship	8:30 a.m.
Thurs. Dec. 24	Christmas Eve Services	5 & 11 p.m.



Be
Nourished





Tuesday December 8 at 1 PM and Tuesday December 15 at 7 PM the Rev. Craig Cowing will give a presentation on **"Images of Christmas, East and West,"** in which he will display copies he has painted of Orthodox icons and Renaissance paintings with a Christmas theme. He will talk about the significance of Christmas in the Eastern and Western traditions and how that reflects on images of Christmas.

On Thursday, December 10 at 7 PM we will have a **Blue Christmas service.** The purpose of the service is to acknowledge that the holiday season is difficult for many who suffer from depression or who have experienced loss. December is the darkest month of the year, and the coinciding with a joyous holiday season can be difficult. This will be a meditative service of music, prayer and readings.



Rev. Craig Cowing will lead an **Advent Bible Study** on three Wednesdays, December 2, 9, and 16 at 1 PM in the Fiorilli Room. Each week we will look at the texts from the Revised Common Lectionary for the upcoming Sunday.

ATTENTION ALL MEN OF RHCCUCC:

The RHCC men's Christian fellowship study group(aka men's bible study) meets on the first and third Saturday of each month starting November 7, 2015. 8:30- 9:30am. Please join us as we start our new season pursuing God's word and living a Christian life. If you have questions, please contact Jim Stevens 860-632-5810, or email js8961@me.com



**RHCC MENS
CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP**



Global and Local Mission News

Fall has arrived and with it, the Board for Missions is in full swing. In October, we collected the **Neighbors in Need** offering and so far we have collected over \$820 which is up 40% from last year. Thank you to everyone who gave in support of justice and compassion throughout the United States and support for the Council for American Indian Ministry. November brings us Thanksgiving and this year we are sponsoring a clothing drive for our **Covenant to Care** partner. Covenant to Care is the program where we, the church, is paired with a social worker (Allison) to meet the needs of the kids she works with. We will accept new and gently used clothing and gift cards for the teens that our social worker serves. Sizes most needed are kids 14-16 and all adult sizes XS-XL. What to buy? Anything; pants, shirts, coats, dresses, t-shirts. Hats, gloves and socks are also needed. We will be collecting items beginning November 8th and continuing through November 22nd. There will be a basket in the front of the sanctuary where clothes can be dropped off. They can also be dropped off in the Missions office; the Missions board in Chapin Hall or speak with Kari McCaw 860-803-4852 kariblaise@hotmail.com.

Please Note: For those of you who still want to donate to **Foodshare's Turkey and a Thirty program** (formally Turkey and a Twenty), drop off locations in town include West Side Market Place (Rocky Hill), Wethersfield Stop and Shop, Wethersfield Volunteer Ambulance or visit www.foodshare.org for more locations.

Global Prayers this Month for our Global Ministry Partners in South Africa **Prayer written by Global Missionary Jayanthi Wilson**

Caring and loving God,

Help us as your people, to gain greater clarity of what it means to be your children; servants in the manner that our Lord Jesus taught, to put aside the doing of things because we might think that we will get "double in return".....putting aside thoughts of "you scratch-my-back and I will scratch-your-back." Help us to glorify you, O Lord, help us to be thy servants. Help us to use our time and energy to be a good friend to others in need; and to understand that commitment to you means not only words, but also doing things with our whole heart, mind....and everything that is in us.

We pray especially today for the people of South Africa and those groups and organizations trying to make a difference for the better - Ons Plek, South African Council of Churches, the United Congregational Church of Southern Africa (UCCSA) - both the South Africa Synod as well as the regional body and Theological Education by Extension (TEE) College.

Lord Jesus, we give thanks and praise to you as a source of our strength, that keeps us on a steady path and who lifts us up when we stumble and sometimes lose our way.

The Board for Missions is Kari McCaw - chair, Wendy Ware - secretary, Bob Inderbitzen, Marge Murk, Cindy Hunt, Lisa Eleck



SCRIP-SURE: November-December Schedule

November and December are the two busiest months for scrip sales. Some of that is because many of us buy gift cards to give as Christmas gifts. But an even bigger opportunity is to use scrip to fund some of your own Christmas shopping. If you'll be shopping at Walmart, or Toys R Us, or Macy's, or J.C. Penney, or L.L. Bean, or Amazon, or Home Depot, or Lowes, or Kohl's, or any of the other hundreds of retailers available through our scrip program, then you can buy scrip for those retailers and use it to pay for your Christmas shopping.

Over the past three years, we earned 60% more in the months of November and December than in the other months of the year. Of course, we'll continue to stock the usual cards in inventory. But if prior years are an indication, you'll be ordering a lot of cards that we don't usually stock. Therefore, to support your extra shopping needs, we'll be placing scrip orders on the following dates:

Place your order by	Pick up your cards on
November 15	November 22
November 29	December 6
December 13	December 20

Order forms and listings of participating retailers are available at the scrip table in Chapin Hall and on the church web site.

Think SCRIP!

Dave Hall, Treasurer

HISTORIAN NOTES - NOVEMBER 2015

In December of 1896, the Meriden Daily Republican printed a story titled "Another Hersey Case. Rocky Hill Congregational Church members are indignant. Rev. Mr. Chunn the cause. Council meeting held this afternoon at the church." Apparently, the Rev. Mr. Chunn had a desire to preach a doctrine which many of the parishioners at the time felt was against the Congregationalists' beliefs. In other words, he was accused of heresy. Several prominent clergy men of the Connecticut Conference formed a council to hear the church committee's complaints against Rev. Mr. Chunn, who claimed that members of the church were trying to "run things". What were these scandalous sermons that Rev. Mr. Chunn wished to preach? Read the December church mouse to find out.

Church Historian - Kari McCaw



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Non-Profit Organization
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Hartford, CT 06101

Permit #7

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED
TIME VALUE MAIL



Mailed October 26, 2015

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.



IT'S
COMING!!!
NOVEMBER 15