



The Reverend Barbara Libby, Interim Pastor
 203 389-8946 – barlibby@rhccucc.org
 The Reverend Donna K. Manocchio, Assoc. Pastor
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October Newsletter

Editor – Carol Harvey
 RHCC e-mail address – office@rhccucc.org
 Website: www.rhccucc.org
 Office Hours – 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. M-F
 Sunday Worship Services – 10:00 a.m.

Childcare Available/Handicap Accessible



COUNTRY FAIR

Saturday, October 24th

at 9:00 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Rocky Hill Congregational Church
 805 Old Main St., Rocky Hill

- Indoor Tag Sale
- Country Store & Bakery
- Silent Auction
- Holiday House
- Tools/Optics
- Tea Room
- Jewelry
- Arts & Antiques
- Books
- The Divine Diner
- The Bird's Nest
- Quilt Raffle
- The Candy Shoppe

Roast Beef Dinner

5:30 p.m. / Tickets \$10/adults – \$ 5/children 5-12
 Children 4 yrs old and under free (reservations required)
 Call Church Office at (860) 529-4167

We are still looking for volunteers for set up, serving and clean up for Roast Beef Dinner beginning at 3:00pm on October 24th. You can sign up on the pink clipboard in Chapin Hall. Thanks.



*A View from the
Interim Pastor's Seat*

"Autumn is a second spring when every leaf is a flower." ~ Albert Camus

As I sit looking out the pastor's office windows I see that the dogwood leaves have already started to turn colors. Camus got it right – every leaf is a unique “flower” in autumn – a remarkable gift! It wasn't until I lived in Colorado that I came to appreciate growing up in New England. I was surprised to discover that there are only two “trees” that change colors in Colorado – the aspen (a birch-like tree with small leaves found up in the mountains) and the fire bush (which turns a dramatic deep red). Growing up in New Hampshire - with four distinctive seasons each year - I had not realized that other places didn't have the abundance of color and change that occurs there each fall and at other seasons as well. Returning to New England after a time away I appreciated anew the four seasons and recognized that my experience as a native New Englander had lulled me into taking for granted the seasonal variations. It was good for me to be “re-awakened” to what was particularly good about my “home turf” after living elsewhere for awhile.

There is a correlation here to what happens when an interim pastor serves in a “new” local church... As an interim pastor I have the luxury to observe and notice what is unique and different at every church I serve. Rocky Hill Congregational Church United Church of Christ has a remarkable facility, many resources, a rich variety of people, and an amazing history. For awhile upon coming into a system I have the vantage point of a “newby” who asks questions about the whys and the wherefores of how things are done at a church. Part of my task is to celebrate things that are really great and to nudge about things that might need changing in a congregation. Everyone likes to hear about what is great about their church! Not everyone is as enthusiastic about hearing about the flaws or weaknesses! My time among a congregation during a time of transition and change sometimes brings change without my even knowing it. Please understand that when I ask or question about how and why things are done in a certain way I am not trying to find fault, rather I am learning about how and why things work in a certain way – just as any new settled pastor will have to do when they come

aboard. Each church system works differently; no two churches that I have served over the past 20 years work entirely the same way... Things that I do or say may feel strange or different to you both because I do not always know the way things “have always been done”.

John O’Donohue has suggested that “Sometimes we need to re-arrange the furniture of our minds - our mental and emotional concepts-in order to walk with God more closely... Jesus invites us to let go of some furniture, to re-arrange things in different ways, to follow and to move down new pathways to see who we really are at the core. ”

Part of my responsibility among you as your interim pastor is to invite you during this interim time to try new things, to experience different ways of doing things, to re-arrange the furniture a bit... Part of my work as a “change agent” is to invite you into new places and to listen carefully to where God leads us... Of course we have differing opinions and views about many things, especially when it comes to church and worship and what makes us feel comfortable.

Perhaps one good rule of thumb for all of us might be to remember to find something to affirm first before moving on to critique or criticism. We are in this community of faith together; we are all on a journey of faith together. We each need to hear both affirmation and thoughtful critique on occasions. Let us find ways to be supporters of one another as we move through this time of change.

Barbara J. Libby, Interim Pastor

Pastor’s Weekly Bible Study

Wednesday afternoons from 12:30 – 1:30 pm in the Fiorilli Room. Pastor Barbara leads this lectionary Bible Study where we will read and examine the texts for the coming week’s worship. **All are welcome.** No experience necessary. Bring your favorite translation or pick one from the shelf. Brown bag lunch optional.

Pastor Barbara’s Weekly Book Study Begins

Wednesday evenings from 6:30 – 7:30 pm in the Fiorilli Room. For October 7th we will discuss Toni Morrison’s book, “A Mercy.”



From the Moderator

First, my apologies for missing the August deadline to have something in the September Churchmouse. I had good intentions, but failed to remember in the waning days of summer that September was just around the corner!! I know some are anxious to be sure that we are moving ahead on the steps that need to be taken to find a new “settled” pastor and I am sorry to have missed a September opportunity to share more information. Despite some anxiety on ALL our parts about the interim period, I note with pleasure that the work of the church is going strong--there is great energy, life and activity going on at the church. It has been great to see a number of new faces and great, also, to see a large group of kids headed to the first day of church school last Sunday.

As we close out September, the Council has much on its agenda. First and foremost is to take action to form a Search Committee to find a “settled” senior pastor. I know this has been in the hearts and on the minds of many and we are eager to do what needs to be done to move forward now with energy. Those of you who were able to attend Barbara’s potluck on September 19th, got a preview (or a reminder) of the process that we will be following. There will be two more potlucks this fall on the search process (see elsewhere in this Churchmouse for dates and topics).

To recap the process, the basic steps are as follows:

1. Accept resignation of departing pastor (*January*)
2. Go through a search process for an Interim Senior Pastor (*Barbara joined us just before Easter, just one week after Jonathan’s departure*)
3. **Welcome the new Interim and allow some time to pass for us to adjust to the new situation, for Barbara to learn about us and how we go about things, so that she can better know how to lead us in the interim period and for Barbara and Donna to work together to set up our church programming and activities for the coming year.** (*I know some may feel that this step has gone on long enough!! In some ways, that’s true, as our typical pattern of “nothing-much-happens-in-the-summer” caused this step to last a bit longer than it might have at a different time of year. However, I also know that we have been very busy with many other things and that our church activity has been strong. One very positive thing that has come out of this period is that Barbara has made it clear, based on her experience in many other interim situations, that we (in her words) have a “very healthy system” here. We have a healthy, active and engaged congregation. This is NOT to say that we don’t*

have “issues”, but it does mean that we have much to celebrate and much to embrace in our church family).

4. **Form a Search Committee for a new “settled” Senior Pastor.** *We are hoping that the Search Committee will be in place and starting to function before the end of October.*
5. **The Search Committee will go through a process of discernment** to determine what we are looking for in a Senior Pastor and develop a church profile to let prospective candidates know who we are at RHCC-UCC—this will hopefully be aided by the visioning process that we initiated last year.
6. **Review and interview candidates. Through ongoing conversation and discernment, the search committee will recommend one candidate to the congregation.**
7. **Make a call to the selected candidate.**
8. **Prepare for new Senior Pastor.**

This may seem like a long process, but it is intentionally long to give us time to both adjust to our changing situation and to evaluate ourselves in light of who we have been and who we want to be as a congregation and as a church family.

How does a Search Committee get formed? Our Constitution proscribes the make-up of a Search Committee for pastor—one member from each board, one member each from Music and Stewardship Committees, and three at-large members. By the time you read this, the Council will have held a retreat on Sunday, September 27, to work with Barbara to try to both discern the qualities and skills and gifts that we would be seeking in members of a Search Committee and to brainstorm on an initial list of possible candidates to be invited to be part of that committee. Since the Council represents the governing body of the church and since all of the boards and committees that need to be represented make up the Council (with the exception of the Music Committee, which will also be represented at the retreat), Barbara has strongly suggested that this would be an appropriate way for us to fulfill our obligation to begin the process of getting a Search Committee underway. The ultimate decision will be made by the congregation who will be asked to approve the Search Committee. If anyone has a strong desire to be on this Search Committee (I have heard from several) please let me know or let Barbara or Donna know. This doesn't guarantee a position on the committee, but we would be delighted to know that you are interested. Also, and most importantly, this is SUCH an important role that we hope that if you are asked to serve, you will prayerfully consider this and accept this role as a real ministry to our church. In addition, we invite church members and friends to keep the process in your prayers moving forward in this time

of planning and discernment. With God's help, we can and will move forward together into a new future at RHCC.

As a side note, we are grateful to have Barbara advising us in this process. Her success in helping churches through the interim process has been made clear to us both by the Connecticut Conference and her previous interim churches.

I have gone on long enough. Please call me if you have any concerns or opinions on this process. I can be reached at 860 232-2238 (home) or 860 543-1520 (cell).

Ruth Fitzgerald for the Council

ABIDE WITH ME
Planning Your Memorial Service

Monday, October 19
12:30 to 2:00 OR 6:30 to 8:00 PM

Many people make plans for end of life – wills, power of attorney, living wills. These plans allow for family members and friends to know your desires ahead of time, so they can work to ensure these desires are fulfilled. The same is true for your memorial service. Thinking about and planning for the service ahead of time enables family and friends to schedule a service that can reflect your faith and commitments. Come join together with other church members to discuss and plan your memorial service, including biblical selections and hymns.

Sign up in Chapin Hall or email or call Donna for further information.



Part-time Employment Opportunity! As many of you know, Frank Vann will be traveling to Florida for an indefinite length of time; the Trustees plan to hire someone to replace him in mid October. The position would be about six hours per week and consists of cleaning the Sanctuary, offices and rooms each week. In compliance with our Personnel Policy we are asking if anyone has an interest or has questions about the position. If so, he or she should contact Todd Doten as soon as possible at

twdoten@snet.net or 860-257-1884.



Board of Missions

Neighbors in Need

The Neighbors in Need Special Mission Offering will be held on Sunday, October 4. Through the Neighbors in Need offering, our greater church expresses a common commitment to justice and compassion throughout the United States and Puerto Rico. One-third of the offering undergirds the work of the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM), including much-needed financial support for 20 American Indian congregations in the UCC. Two-thirds of the offering supports justice advocacy and direct service projects such as just-peace programs and community grants.

Back Bay Mission

October 2nd to the 4th, Back Bay Mission will host a celebration of the new campus buildings, which are nearly complete! Donna Manocchio and Jim Day will attend this dedication and report back to the congregation. We look forward to hearing the news from Back Bay, and seeing photos of the new buildings!!

Ongoing Missions Projects

Your Missions Board is working on a lot of exciting mission projects this year. We will be participating in the Christmas Toy Drive, the 2010 Foodshare Walk against Hunger, and hope to participate in a Turkey Drive this fall. In addition, we will be looking at other opportunities this year for folks to join in the important mission work of our church, both locally and globally! Keep checking the “Missions Board” in Chapin Hall for updates, and watch for news in the Mouse.

Where Did Your Money Go?

In September, your Missions Board decided to disperse funds to the following:

- **Dues**
 - Hartford Association UCC \$900.00
 - CT Conference Dues \$3000.00
- **Hunger Relief**
 - Foodshare \$3000.00
- **Local Assistance**
 - Pastoral Counseling Center \$2000.00
- **Missionary Support**
 - Our Church’s Wider Mission \$5000.00
- **Support for Organizations**
 - Christian Activities Council \$2000.00

Hartford Seminary 250 Club \$250.00
Veterans of the Cross \$700.00

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, October 6, 2009 @ 7:00 p.m.

Your Board for Missions are: Dave Bell (Treasurer), Michael Bower, Linda Calcagni, Bob Carberry, Dave Edwards, Diana Gengenbach, Marge Murk (Secretary), Rich Pawlich-Pagliccio, Chris Palazzolo, Steve Smith (Chair)



“Breaker Breaker!”

During the glory days of CB radio, the slang “breaker breaker” was a term used by a radio operator to “break” into a conversation already in progress on a channel. The operator would sit waiting for someone to stop talking, and then interject “breaker breaker!” If they were fast enough, they would hear “We got a ‘breaker.’ Go ahead ‘breaker.’” And, if they were not heard, one might complain that the other operators were “hogging the channel.”

It’s a silly analogy, but try to think of this in terms of our spiritual life together. Who is trying to break in? What is being discussed? Where are conversations already in progress?

Last month, Jennifer Martin shared her skill of Sign Language by signing an entire worship service. I enjoyed the experience as both a reminder of how beautiful the language is—with movements and gestures that ‘look’ like music. But it also made me think...are there people with hearing impairments in our church, and in our community? For whom might this experience contribute to their ‘hearing’ of Christ’s life, teachings, death, resurrection and living presence in our lives? How does the experience enrich the lives of those without impaired hearing?

In October, our Connecticut conference of churches will collect in Middletown for Sacred Conversations on Race. The conference will include a time for small group conversations on race with specially trained facilitators and a session for youth. These promise to be informative, challenging and difficult conversations. The Keynote Speaker will be the Rev. Geoffrey Black, the new General Minister and President of

(Diaconate continued...)

the United Church of Christ. Rev. Donna Manocchio has been invited to help facilitate the small group sessions. Please contact me if you are interested in participating (Oct 24, Middletown High School, 220 LaRosa Lane, Middletown). And, watch for future opportunities to participate in these sacred conversations at RHCCUCC.

Your Board of Deacons, working with our pastors, promise to find ways to enrich our spiritual journeys and worship times together. These experiences may be familiar—or unfamiliar. We will try things to help others “break in,” to encourage meaningful conversations, to celebrate those traditions that are uniquely our own, and to make new traditions. As always, your suggestions and feedback are most welcome.

Whether race, physical or mental ability, or any of the (long) list of similarities and differences that make us uniquely God’s children—Jesus invites us to knit the largest fishing net. Make it larger still. And then cast it far and wide.

Peace be with you,
Bob Inderbitzen, Senior Deacon
bobmike@cox.net

Diaconate News and Notes:

- Reach-out calls are being made to church members that have not been seen in a long while (in some instances, for years!). We are encouraged by the opportunity to reconnect!
- During Sunday worship on Oct. 25, we will celebrate a Hymn Festival with favorite hymns and perhaps some instrumentalists.
- Saturday Oct 24: CT Conference Annual Meeting, Middletown (and our church fair and dinner). More information at ctucc.org.
- Bible Study with Pastor Barbara, 12:30-1:30 PM on Wednesdays in the Fiorilli Room.
- Parish Care: please let members of the Diaconate or our ministers know if there is someone who would like a visit from our parish care volunteers or would like a ride to and from church. And, let us know if you’re interested in volunteering.

Your Sisters and Brothers of the Diaconate: Laurel Cole, Deb Copes, Julie Dostie, Tom Fulda, Stephanie Heneghan, Bill Hoffman, Cheryl Hummel, Bob Inderbitzen, Julia Pickett and Gail Tine



Dear Church Family Members,

Kim, Laura and I would like to take this opportunity to thank each of you for your prayers and concerns regarding our son Ryan's safe return from Afghanistan. He returned to Ft. Benning, Georgia on September 1st and we will be making a short trip down to Ft. Benning to spend a little time with him. His tentative plans are to return home for a few months in November.

A personal "huge thank you" to JoDee Lupacchino, and her mom and dad, Cindy and Tony for their donations and organizing the care packages that were sent out to our son in Afghanistan. Also a thank you to JoDee's grandparents and the rest of our church family for their donations as well.

The 75th Ranger Regiment he is serving with was stationed in very primitive locations without electricity or running water for 4 months. You can imagine how much your donations were appreciated.

My husband, Kim, is now at Ft. Hood, Texas and will be leaving for Iraq for one year sometime in the middle of September. I ask that you please remember him as well in your prayers for his safe return home to us.

With Sincere Appreciation and Gratitude,

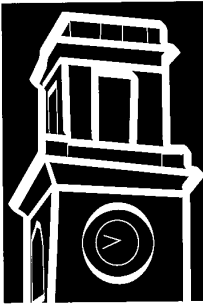
Gail D. Walker



WE NEED YOUR HELP!!
Thursday, October 22, 2009
In Chapin Hall
9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Bring your peelers, rolling pins, energy and appetite (you get to sample a piece of pie when we are finished!) The more volunteers we get the sooner we get done. These pies will be served as dessert at the Roast Beef Dinner on Saturday night, October 24 and some of them will be sold at the Country Fair during the day.

Please come!! If interested in helping please speak to Marsha Hoffman, 563-1367 or Grace Cole, 529-4215 or just simply be there!



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

2009

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
4 World Communion Sunday Neighbor's in Need Offering 11:00am VNA Flu Clinic 6:00pm Jazz Concert	5 5:30pm Yoga with Lynn 7:00pm Women's AA 7:30pm Bell Choir	6 7:00pm Board and Committee Mtgs	7 9:00am Quilters 12:30pm Bible Study 6:00pm Yoga with Pam 6:30pm Book Study 7:30pm Adult Choir
11 10:00am Baptism	12 5:30pm Yoga with Lynn 7:00pm Women's AA 7:00pm RHCCNS Mtg 7:30pm Bell Choir	13 7:00pm Council	14 9:00am Quilters 12:30pm Bible Study 6:00pm Yoga with Pam 6:30pm Book Study 7:30pm Adult Choir
18 New Member Sunday 11:30am 2 nd Hour – "How do we Get to a Settled Pastor?" 1:30pm Blessing of the Animals	19 12:30pm "Abide with Me" 5:30pm Yoga with Lynn 6:30pm "Abide with Me" 7:00pm Women's AA 7:00pm RHCCNS Mtg 7:30pm Bell Choir	20	21 7:30pm Adult Choir
25 Hymn Festival Sunday	26 5:30pm Yoga with Lynn 7:00pm Women's AA 7:30pm Bell Choir	27 10:30am Genesis Healthcare Svc	28 9:00am Quilters 9:00am VNA Flu Clinic 12:30pm Bible Study 6:00pm Yoga with Pam 6:30pm Book 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:

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------|-----|--------------------------------|-----|
| Barbara Libby, Interim Pastor | 202 | Meghan Young, Acting Dir of CE | 204 |
| Donna Manocchio, Assoc. Pastor | 203 | Will Kanute, Dir. of Music | 207 |
| Carol Harvey, Office Secretary | 201 | Dick Webster, Sexton | 205 |

ROCKY HILL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

805 Old Main Street – Rocky Hill, CT 06067

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

office @ rhccucc.org • website: rhccucc.org

Office Hours 8 am – 2 pm – Monday – Friday

The Reverend Barbara J. Libby, Senior Pastor

The Reverend Donna K. Manocchio, Associate Pastor

The Reverend Arthur C. Weil, Minister Emeritus

Will Kanute, Director of Music

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 9:15am Yoga with Lynn 5:30pm TOPS 8:00pm Men's AA	2	3 8:00am Yoga with Lynn 9:15am Yoga with Lynn
8 9:15am Yoga with Lynn 5:30pm TOPS 7:00pm Drum Choir 8:00pm Men's AA	9	10 8:00am Yoga with Lynn 8:30am Men's Bible Study 9:15am Yoga with Lynn 6:30pm Dinner/Movie
15 9:15am Yoga with Lynn 5:30pm TOPS 8:00pm Men's AA	16 7:00pm Community Event	17 8:00am Yoga with Lynn 9:15am Yoga with Lynn 6:00pm Interim Process & Pot Luck
22 9:00am Apple Pie Workshop	23	24 9:30am Church Fair 5:30pm Roast Beef Meeting CT UCC Conf. Meeting
29 9:15am Yoga with Lynn 5:30pm TOPS 7:00pm Women's Fellowship 8:00pm Men's AA	30	31 8:00am Yoga with Lynn 9:15am Yoga with Lynn Set Clocks Back!



RHCC DRUM CHOIR Thursday, October 8 7:00 PM

The drum choir is starting up its monthly gatherings again in October. We'll also be playing for the Ecumenical Thanksgiving service in November at St. Elizabeth Seton.

If you enjoy making music and would like to join us, please come on October 8th! Extra drums are available, and no experience is necessary – just a desire to “make a joyful noise unto the Lord!” If you have questions, please contact Linda Tokarski (ltokarski1947@aol.com).



Happy Birthday!

- | | | | |
|----|----------------------|----|----------------------|
| 4 | Charles Friday | 18 | Mary Dean |
| | Stacy Veley | 19 | Will Kanute |
| | Sandra Mason | | Christopher Young |
| 5 | Edward Day | 21 | Thomas Schreier |
| 6 | Robin Davis | | William Marsh |
| | David Fandetti | 22 | Diana Gengenbach |
| | Steven Durgin | 23 | Albert Griswold |
| 7 | Irene Moore | | Joshua Bell |
| | Devin Gagnon | 24 | John Sword |
| 8 | Whitney Pirre | | Pat Howland |
| 9 | Elaine Vicino | 26 | Nancy Harlow |
| | Anne Louise Griswold | | Tim Bengston |
| | Matthew Behlman | | Alicia Stewart |
| | Rebecca-Lee Molina | | Elton (Budge) Harvey |
| 10 | Lindsey Wainwright | 27 | Kathleen Mosure |
| 11 | Matthew Gagnon | 28 | Robert Hansen |
| | Karen Jensen | | Karen Keeney |
| 12 | William Knight | | Jean Goff |
| | Katie Hoffman-Fulda | | Bret LaPorte |
| | Phillip Coleman | 29 | Janet Pierson |
| 13 | Barbara Libby | | Donna Roberts |
| 14 | Brian Wilcock | 30 | James Pickett |
| 15 | Peter Graham | 31 | Nancy Rolfe |
| 16 | Darrell Peterson | | Carrie LaPorte |
| | Phylis Dexter | | |
| | Lisa Benson | | |
| 17 | Cindy Tennyson | | |
| | John Molina | | |
| | John Day | | |
| | Lisa Gilbert | | |
| | Dawn Alger | | |
| | Christina Engel | | |
| | Jillian Fulda | | |
| | Nate Robbins | | |



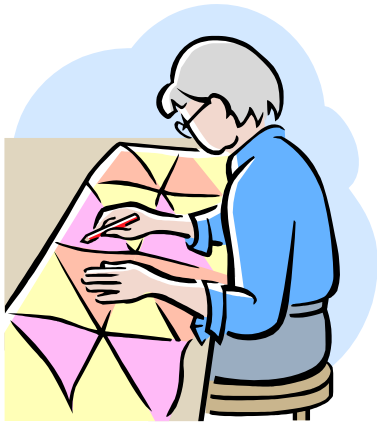
Martin and Jean Sudell
were married on
October 10, 1964

Tom and Doris Schreier
were married on
October 22, 1949

Donald and Anita Watson
were married on
October 25, 1947

Ralph and Priscilla Lexa
were married on
October 29, 1949

Congratulations!



The Quilters Corner

The Quilters worked very hard this summer to make sure the quilt was completed for the raffle at the Country Fair in October. It is just beautiful! It is hand stitched and the pattern they chose to quilt is intricate and beautiful. It would be wonderful if they can count on your support to purchase raffle tickets or even a whole book to support the church fair and most of all as a way of saying to the

quilters, 'we appreciate you'. You can help them by signing out a book. They sell for \$1 each or \$10 for a book of ten tickets. You can pick up a book in the church office during the week or see one of the quilters on Sunday morning in Chapin Hall.

Sharing a Surprise Gift

A grand donation of multi-colored fabrics, batting and yards of material for backings was given anonymously to the quilting group. It was very much greater than what we could readily use.

A telephone call to a member of the sewing group at St. James Church solved our dilemma. This sewing group assembles quilts to be given to the homeless shelters. Yes, they would be pleased to have and use this material. A supply of "fat quarters" and batting were given to our Thursday evening quilting group for baby quilts.

We still kept a grand collection for our own use in making the quilts for our church fair and lap robes to be given to nursing and rehabilitation centers here in town.

It's a privilege and pleasure to share such a generous gift!

Thank you "anonymous Lady."

Grace Cole—Quilters Group

More Fair Committee News:

The committee has established a drop-off schedule for those who would like to bring their donations for the October 24th fair. Sunday 10/18 after worship to 12 p.m., 10/19 6-8 p.m., 10/20 6-8 p.m., 10/21 6-8 p.m., 10/22 6-8 p.m.

We are also going to be selling Roast Beef Dinner tickets and Quilt Raffle tickets after worship starting on 9/27.



Musical Notes

from the Music Committee

Like many of you, the Music Committee was deeply saddened by Will Kanute's announcement that he is moving to Dallas. Will's leadership has resulted in a tremendous growth in our music program. But he has also become a dear friend to many of us. We will miss him.

We appreciate the significant notice that Will has given us. His shoes are large and will be challenging to fill. Add to this the fact that, based on our own research, it will be very challenging to fill a permanent Music Director position while the Senior Pastor position is still open. We have thus concluded that our best course of action is to seek one or more long-term Acting Music Directors. Will is providing very valuable advice in this regard. Our search process has begun and we will keep you posted.

The Music Committee will be hosting a concert on Sunday, October 4 at 6 pm featuring the music of the Hot Cat Jazz Band. Led by Ross Tucker, this highly energetic and talented group has played at our church several times in the past, both in worship and in special concert. Please join us for an evening of the only exclusively American style of music. A free will offering will be taken, and light refreshments will be served afterward in Chapin Hall. For more information about the band, you may check their website at <http://www.hotcatjazz.com/>.

Your Pastors are planning a "Hymn Festival Sunday" for October 25. This service will feature stories about some of our congregation's favorite hymns. We already have a list of favorites that members have submitted over the years, but we want to make sure that no one is left out. If you have some favorites that you would like to be considered for this service, please leave the slip below in the Music Committee mailbox in the church office.



Name: _____

My favorite hymns:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____



From the Financial Secretary

Time does fly – Not only is October 31 Halloween; it marks the end of the 2nd quarter of the current financial year. With Stewardships’ concurrence, I will be sending to all of you who pledged

this year an accounting of your pledge versus contributions. It will include contributions received and recorded by me from 5/1/09 through 10/31/09. Your pledge amount and contributions will be summed for first & second quarter of our 2009-2010 financial year. In addition, the same mailing will include Chapin Hall pledges and collections received to date. Everyone who pledged, whether paid-in-full, up-to-date on collections or overdue, will receive a letter from me. If you see any discrepancies between what I have recorded in the letter I send to you and what you feel you have contributed or pledged, please let me know as soon as possible.

And at any time you decide you want to be “green” and receive only e-mail communications from me, you can call me at 860-257-1099 or e-mail me at finsecrhcc@gmail.com.

Thanks!

Deb Copes, Financial Secretary

Emergency Numbers

REASON FOR CALL

CALL

When you feel down and out	Romans 8:31
When you want peace and rest	Mat.11:25-30
When the world seems bigger than God	Psalms 90
When you want Christian assurance	Romans 8:1-30
When you leave home for labor or travel	Psalms 121
When your prayers grow narrow or selfish	Psalms 67
If you are depressed	Psalms 27
If your pocketbook is empty	Psalms 37
If you are losing confidence in people	I Cor.13
If people seem unkind	John 15
If discouraged about your work	Psalms 126
For dealing with fear	Psalms 34:7
For security	Psalms 121:3
For assurance	Mark 8:35
For reassurance	Psalms 145:18

NOTE: All lines to Heaven are open 24 hours a day!

Sunday, October 4th at 6:00 p.m.



The Music Committee will be hosting a concert on Sunday, October 4 at 6 pm featuring the music of the Hot Cat Jazz Band. Led by Ross Tucker, this highly energetic and talented group has played at our church several times in the past, both in worship and in special concert.

Their repertoire includes Swing Standards of George Gershwin, Cole Porter and Duke Ellington such as Take The A Train, All Of Me and Satin Doll; Big Band hits of Benny Goodman, Glenn Miller and Tommy Dorsey such as Chattanooga Choo Choo, Sentimental Journey and In The Mood; Popular Songs from the 1920's such as Ain't She Sweet, Bill Bailey and Bye Bye Blackbird; New Orleans and Dixieland favorites such as Muskrat Ramble, When The Saints Go Marching In and Tiger Rag.

Please join us for an evening of the only exclusively American style of music. A free will offering will be taken, and light refreshments will be served afterward in Chapin Hall. For more information about the band, you may check their website at <http://www.hotcatjazz.com/>.




Your “At Large” Council Members Are All Ears!

We are ready to hear your ideas and comments.
We are the voice of the congregation to the Council.

Just contact:

Wendy Ware, 563-5631 (sware@snet.net) Jan LaCava, 529-2192 (janetyl@aol.com)





Sunday, October 18th at 1:30 p.m.

- **All pets are welcome (within reason!)**
- **Brief service on church grounds**
- **Certificate to be presented to your animal**
- **Snacks for animal (and human alike!)**

Please call Joan Diaz (613-2889) if you wish to attend.

Francis of Assisi was known for his love of animals, and it has been a tradition in many Christian churches to offer a blessing to those pets who are our companions, comforters, and beloved family members. You are invited to bring your family pets to the side yard of the church to receive a blessing and to join in celebrating God's gift of animals in our lives. The blessing will begin at 1:30 p.m., giving you time to go home after worship, have a bite of lunch, and get back to church with your pet. There will be refreshments for our guests of honor afterward.



Recycle Your Eye Glasses

The Rocky Hill Lions Club has collection boxes in the town library and in the Big Y store on Elm St., Rocky Hill. They are also collecting them at Stop n Shop and the Town Hall in Wethersfield. We will no longer have the gray box in the church.

“Bad” Girls of the Bible
A Bible Study for Women
Thursday, October 29 and Thursday, November 5
7:00 – 8:30 PM

Come and explore some of the lesser-known women in the Scripture, whose lives are filled with jealousy, deceit, and rejection. Yet within these stories are words and deeds of courage and determination, commitment and faith. The first session will focus on some women in the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament), including Eve, Rahab, and Jezebel, and the second session will include women from the New Testament, including Mary Magdalene, the Syrophonecian woman, and the Samaritan Women at the Well. Come to one or both sessions! Sign up in Chapin Hall or leave a message with Donna at the church or via email at associate@rhccucc.org.



The Saturday Men’s Bible Study Group As always they are seeking additional members. If you are interested in studying scripture, discussing how it relates to our daily lives, engaging in open religious and spiritual discussions, the Men’s Bible Study Group may be just what you have

been looking for. The group meets on the 2nd and 4th Saturday of each month from 8:30 – 9:30 a.m. in the church parlor.



“Around the world coffee and fellowship come together where we share community. A warm pot of coffee is often the centerpiece of fellowship hour and other gatherings.”

Every Sunday, the coffee served after our church service supports The United Church of Christ (UCC) Coffee Project which helps small farmers and their families gain control over their lives, earn a fairer share of income, have access to credit and technical support, and gain a trading partner they can trust, a fair trade organization called Equal Exchange.

Consider making all of your coffee and tea purchases at church and you’ll be helping small coffee farmers to build better lives for themselves and their families.

During fellowship time in Chapin Hall, the Inreach Committee has available for purchase: Gourmet coffee - \$6.25/bag Tea - \$3/box Hot cocoa mix \$5/can

For more information about the UCC Coffee Project: www.ucc.org/justice/coffee-project



Women's Fellowship

Quilters/Crafters

Women meet once a month on Tuesdays at 7 pm to work on baby quilts and/or your own project of choice. This is a great fellowship time for all. I even hear sometimes there is dessert!! If you have not been attending, please come and leave your name and email address on the sign up sheet provided and Kim will send you reminders each month.

LOOK ing Ahead!

Please mark your calendars now for these upcoming events in November. Further details to follow in the next Church Mouse!

Sunday, November 1 - 11:45 AM - "For All the Saints"

An intergenerational tour of the Center Cemetery with Ms. Beverly Matthews, cemetery tour guide. Beverly will lead us in learning more about some of the "saints" of RHCC, including early church ministers and church leaders and members.

3:00 PM - Hartford Association Annual Meeting

First Church, West Hartford

Rev. Patricia Bjorling, CT Conference Associate Conference Minister for Generosity Ministries

Join members of the Hartford Association churches for worship, conversation and learning as we celebrate our covenantal relationships!

Sunday, November 8 - "Daughters of Abraham"

A Trialogue Sermon with Rev. Donna Manocchio, Rabbi Debra Cantor of Temple Beth Torah, and Marwa Aly, Muslim Chaplain at Trinity College. A second hour session will follow the service.

Tuesday, November 24 - Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service

St. Elizabeth Seton Roman Catholic Community, Brook Street

Join our ecumenical sisters and brothers in giving thanks to God in word, song, and melody. RHCC Drum Choir will participate in worship.

Are You or Someone You Love Considering Baptism?

The Sacrament of Baptism is open to persons of any age.

If you are considering baptism for yourself or for someone in your family please contact either of the Pastors. We are available to meet with you and your family for conversation about this decision.



Save the date!

Sock-Hop Dance! Saturday, February 6, 2010

Sponsored by InReach

Sounds by Jim Hogan's Music Mix!



TOGETHER BUILDING BRIDGES™ U.C.C. New England Women's CELEBRATION VIII March 12, 13, 14, 2010 Sheraton Hotel & Conference Center, Burlington, VT

Sponsored by the UCC Women Leaders of New England, this conference will be held **March 12, 13 & 14, 2010**. It may seem like a long way away, but plans are being worked on now! Celebrations are gatherings of over 1,000 New England women who join for worship, workshops and fellowship. Consider attending.

Please login onto: www.uccwomenscelebration.org for more info and register and make room reservations at one of the hotels provided on the site. See Cheryl Hummel, Denise Carberry or Grace Cole for more information.



A Reminder from your Pastors: If possible please alert us in advance when you are going into the hospital. If a sudden or unexpected hospitalization occurs to someone from the church please let us know! Your phone call is invaluable to us as we try to reach out to those who may need us. Remember please, hospitals no longer call or advise us of a church member's presence in a hospital facility.



COMMUNITY EVENTS

Food Bank – October 6 Please continue your efforts in offering the donation of non-perishable food items, laundry detergent and baby items on the first Sunday of each month. We thank Bill McKinney for his prompt response in delivering our donations.

Benefit Car Show for the Rocky Hill Food Pantry – Sunday, October 11 from 11:00am -3:00pm at Michel Angelo's Plaza, 825 Cromwell Ave., Rocky Hill / **The Cupboard Is Bare! We Need Your Help!**

Support Our Local Farmers! A Farmer's Market will take place from now until October 22nd EVERY Thursday (rain or shine) from 4pm – 7pm at Keeney Memorial Cultural Center Grounds, 200 Main Street, Wethersfield CT.

Covenant Village will hold their "autumn Gala" on Sunday, October 11 at 5pm at the Crowne Plaza in Cromwell. Silent Auction and social hour will be held prior to dinner. GLAD will present a program after dinner of contemporary Christian music; this group places a strong emphasis on complex vocals with classical and jazz overtones. Tickets are \$60 for the evening. For tickets or information, call Janet Carlson at (860) 754-3045. Reservation deadline October 6th.

Asylum Hill Cong'l Church kicks off its sanctuary series with a Tribute to Stan Getz—"Focus" featuring Joel Frahm on tenor sax. Friday, October 16 @ 8pm.

Celebrate Recovery – Thursday nights at First Church in Wethersfield. The purpose of this ministry is to fellowship and celebrate God's healing power in our lives through the 8 Recovery Principles. This experience allows us to be changed. By working and applying these Biblical principles, we begin to grow spiritually. 6:00-6:45 Dinner (\$4.00 donation), 7:00-8:00 Large group meeting, 8:00-9:00 Safe, supportive gender-specific small groups, 9:00-9:30 Coffee and Dessert / Crosstalk Café. For more information call 860 529-1575 x210 or email care@firstchurch.org

Yoga classes offered in Chapin Hall

Yoga with Pam – Quiet the mind, increase flexibility, reduce stress and promote health and wellness. Wednesday evenings at 6:00-7:30pm with Pamela Clark, R.N. The fee is \$12 or \$80 for 8 classes. Beginner and advanced beginner students welcome! Gift certificates available.

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! The new Fall schedule is: Monday evenings from 5:30-6:30pm, Thursdays mornings from 9:15-10:15am and Saturday mornings in from 8:00-9:00am (Yin Therapeutic Yoga) and 9:15-10:15am (All Level Yoga). The drop-in fee is \$10.00 or 10 class cards for \$60.00 or 5 class cards for \$35.00 – Lynn MacDonald / Please contact 860-550-4660 to register – Water bottle, yoga mat, and a friend!!

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

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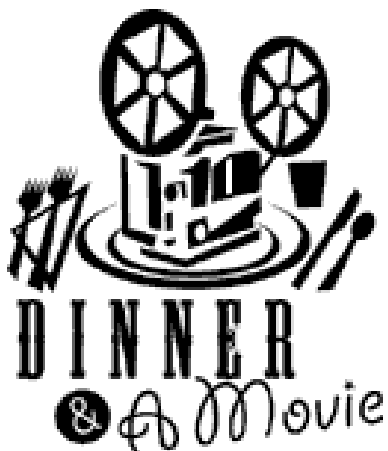
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Jesus didn't turn people away. Neither do we.
The United Church of Christ:
No matter who you are,
Or where you are on life's journey...
You're welcome here.

**DEADLINE FOR NOVEMBER
NEWSLETTER ARTICLES
October 15**



Due to a scheduling issue last month,
the Dinner and Movie
has been rescheduled for:

Saturday, October 10
at 6:30 pm in Chapin Hall

Pot Luck Dinner
Followed by the film
"Bend It Like Beckham"

