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860 529-4167 Church

The Church Mouse

October 2014 Newsletter

RHCC e-mail address – office@rhccucc.org

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

Blessing of the Animals

Sunday, October 19th
2 PM

Rocky Hill Congregational Church, UCC

ALL pets are welcome
(*within reason*)

Certificate to be presented to your animal.
Snacks for animal (*and human alike!*)



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

Please call Joan Diaz (860-613-2889) if you wish to attend.



"Repair"

On YouTube, I recently saw a video of workers repairing the famous "Christ the Redeemer" statue that stands high over the city of Rio De Janeiro, Brazil. The Christ figure is almost 100 feet tall, not counting the pedestal, and the outstretched arms go for 92 feet. It was completed in 1931, a figure of blessing over a city that now numbers almost 6 million. Over the years, it has been damaged several times by lightning, including fairly recently, so that various restorations and repairs have been necessary. Kudos to those human beings who aren't afraid of heights and can do such work.



When I first saw the title of the video, "The Repair of Christ the Redeemer," it struck me as a metaphor. It reminded me that in a far larger sense than one statue, we in the contemporary church are engaged in what we might think of as "repair of Christ" work. That is, we are seeking to do the work of reinterpreting Jesus and his church and the God whom he makes known for a modern world that often has all the wrong idea about who and what they are. We are repairing an image that's been damaged, a theology misconstrued. The research keeps showing that the majority of younger people think churches – all of them – are narrow-minded, judgmental, self-righteous, homophobic, anti-science, and stuck in the past: unyielding places where a rigid moralism and a punitive God are preached. Such a Jesus, such a God and such a church are of no interest to those who have come of age in a pluralistic time that values openness, respect for otherness, a basic trust in science to tell us about the world, and a high regard for the authenticity of the individual conscience and the individual journey. None of which, for them, contradicts the basic outlines of community.

In the UCC, we would see ourselves (I think, I hope) as already being, on the whole, the kind of church in which people with the latter values (no matter their age) could be at home. We would say that a judgmental, narrow, exclusivist, you'll-burn-in-hell Jesus is a damaged-image Jesus -- that that's not who he really is or what he ever taught. That doesn't mean we don't wrestle with some of our

core theological values sometimes, in their particular applications. But generally speaking, we aim to be the kind of open, seeking church that many contemporary people say they would welcome. The thing is, they often just don't seem to know we're here, or what kind of Jesus we already proclaim. Jesus and Christianity have been so damaged by other portrayals and versions of them that now, for many it's easy to assume that all churches must be pretty much alike. Then they say "no thanks."

If we think that Jesus needs repairing in the modern world, then that would be our work. We need to become the work crew, doing what is necessary to restore a rightful and true understanding of the one we follow and his message for those who would live as though they know they are living in the Kingdom of God. So often, what one would hear in our church on any given Sunday morning, or at other times, is not what people who don't know us assume they would hear. But absent countering knowledge, assumptions live on. It's up to us to get our message and our identity more effectively known, more widely recognized. The very words "Jesus," "God," "church," "religion" stand damaged in our culture, and that is one reason why churches have fewer people attending them than they used to. A certain kind of religion is being rejected. More repair is needed.

It just so happens that RHCC is the only UCC church within the towns of Rocky Hill, Wethersfield and Cromwell. So this is the only congregation within that geographical pocket that sits poised to offer, share, interpret and cultivate the kind of theological ground that is particularly United Church of Christ. What might that mean for this church in the coming months and years? How could the reaching out be done? How could we let people know the kind of gospel ("good news") they would encounter here, and the kind they wouldn't? What repairing do we need to be about?

We won't have to climb up 100 feet to do that work....but we will have to make an effort. A lot is at stake.

Faithfully,

Rev. Brenda



OCTOBER WORSHIP

10:00 a.m., sanctuary. Child care provided.

Listed below are the several lectionary texts for each Sunday. The lectionary is a three-year cycle of Scripture readings, shared in common by most major Christian denominations. (The preaching text for any given Sunday may or may not be taken from these.) Reading them and looking for thematic connections, as well as for how they speak to our own experience, is one way to use the lectionary for growth in Biblical understanding.

**Oct. 5 Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost;
World Communion Sunday
Intergenerational worship, with the Sacrament of
Communion**

Ex. 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20; Ps. 19 OR Isa. 5:1-7; Ps. 80:7-15;
Phil. 3:4b-14; Matt. 21:33-46

**Oct. 12 Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Worship and Church School**

Ex. 32:1-6; Ps. 106:1-6, 19-23 OR Psa. 25:1-9; Ps. 23; Phil. 4:1-9;
Matt. 22:1-14

**Oct. 19 Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Worship and Church School**

Ex. 33:12-23; Ps. 99 OR Isa. 45:1-7; Ps. 96:1-9, 10-13; 1 Thess. 1:10;
Matt. 22:15-22

**Oct. 26 Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost
Worship and Church School**

Deut. 34:1-12; Ps. 90:1-6, 13-17 OR Lev. 19:1-2, 15-18; Ps. 1;
1 Thess. 2:1-8; Matt 22:34-46

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 Stewardship 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 Church Council 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
Steward Committee Chairperson

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

Church School

We have started our new S.P.I.R.I.T. Church School model. We are enjoying our increased time together, worshipping, singing, and sharing together. We are learning to engage each other and work together in new ways. We know more changes are coming as this new model evolves, but we are excited to experiment. For the next 6 weeks of church school we will be learning about different heroes from the bible.

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

Gatherings

On Re-Covenanting Sunday we gathered for our first day of our new church school program. We sang songs, got to know each other, and kicked off 6 weeks of learning about the heroes of the bible by imagining what a super hero created by God might be like. We read *Harold and the Purple Crayon*, got purple crayons, and promised to imagine big together this year as we walk in faith with God. We also enjoyed a great ALL church block-party after worship!

Youth Group

Youth group has been kicking off the year by making dinner together and getting to know each other through games, sharing, and discussions of our faith. We already have great ideas for the year, and are looking forward to some fun times outdoors in October!

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. Noah’s Table now meets twice a month on Sunday evenings from 5 PM – 6:30 PM for dinner, fellowship, and faith formation. Schedule is subject to change based on activities determined by the Youth Group.

Children & Youth Leadership Programs at RHCC

The children and youth leadership programs at RHCC have launched. This program is for those between the ages of 2nd-12th grade. Get involved, be a leader, and be part of your church. For information and to sign-up, contact Meghan Young at Meghan@rhccucc.org.

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, October 5	Communion Sunday. Family worship.
Sunday, October 12	S.P.I.R.I.T. Church School: "Heroes of the Bible"
Sunday, October 19	S.P.I.R.I.T. Church School: "Heroes of the Bible"
Sunday, October 26	S.P.I.R.I.T. Church School: "Heroes of the Bible" <i>Come to church school dressed as your favorite biblical hero!</i>

Youth Group Calendar: October

Date	Fellowship Gatherings
Friday, October 3	Noah's Table (6 th -12 ^h Grade)➔ 5 PM – 9 PM <i>Back by popular demand, it's the moonlit corn maze! Bring a flashlight and \$10. Wear warm clothes. Dinner provided. Drivers and chaperone's needed.</i>
Sunday, October 12	Noah's Table (6 th -12 ^h Grade)➔ 1 PM –5 PM <i>Let's go explore God's beautiful creation. Wear warm clothes and hiking shoes. Don't forget to bring water and a snack. Drivers and chaperone's needed. Rain date is Sunday, November 9.</i>

****Please RSVP with Meghan Young for all youth group events, and to volunteer as a chaperone or driver for any youth group event.**

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

Try these at-home faith nurture activities!

"Heroes of the Bible"

Heroes of the Bible. There is Daniel, Jonah, Joshua, Noah, David, Miriam and Moses, Esther, Jesus, Peter and John, Dorcas, Paul, Lydia, and many more. There are also those that don't even get a name, men and woman who have great faith, who ask difficult questions, who speak up for justice, and even a child who shares his lunch so 5000 can be fed. The heroes of the bible are never perfect people, they make mistakes, they are human, but when it matters they are brave, compassionate, giving, and have great faith. The heroes of the bible are often unexpected, teaching us that the ordinary can be extraordinary, and with God's love all things are possible.

Ordinary and Extraordinary Heroes. Over the next two months, talk about what it means to be a hero. Look for heroes during your daily routines. Look for heroes in news stories. Look for heroes in the Bible. Some might be obvious, but often heroes offering small acts of kindness, standing up for justice when no one will, or sharing their gifts, are over-looked. Discuss the challenges heroes face. Discuss what makes them heroes. As a goal, talk about one hero a day. List the qualities you think makes a hero. Then on October 26th, come to church school dressed as your favorite hero from the Bible.

A Prayer For The Unit. God of all, help us to be brave, heroic, humble and compassionate disciples. Help us to see you in unexpected heroes. May we more deeply know your love in the extraordinary ordinary. Amen.

Check out the weekly bulleting for faith nurture ideas you can use at home to learn with us!

GROW YOUR FAITH & GET INVOLVED WITH S.P.I.R.I.T.

The RHCC S.P.I.R.I.T. Church School is 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. For the 2014 church school we are looking for:

- 1) **Youth Group Advisor** – Regularly assists with youth group and coordinating events. Must be college age or older.
- 2) **S.P.I.R.I.T. Teachers** – Teachers commit to no more than 4 Sundays in a row. Teachers provide support and assistance to our children and youth during our chapel times. Programming is provided on days with individual classes break out for faith formation rotations. Training is provided. Ideally we are looking for 8 - 12 teachers willing to rotate throughout the year. Up to 4 teachers slots are available for high school students.
- 3) **S.P.I.R.I.T. Contributors** – Do you have a gift or skill, an ability to cook/bake, a love for crafts, a musical ability, an affinity for story-telling, a love of all things theater, a passion for organizing mission projects? Sign-up to be a S.P.I.R.I.T. Contributor. Join us for a one time class or chapel worship, and share you gift.

If you are interested in getting involved the S.P.I.R.I.T. Church School, please contact Meghan Young at Meghan@rhccucc.org to sign-up or to find out more information.

NURSERY VOLUNTEERS: Nursery Volunteers are needed for Fall. 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.

Small Group Ministry at RHCC: **Fall Faith Formation Opportunities**

Join a small group to explore and enrich your faith in new ways!

NOVEMBER:

Storytellers.

Sundays, November 16 & 23

11:30 AM – 12:30 PM, Church Parlor

Jesus was the ultimate story teller. Jesus also invited the disciples to tell stories. Come learn about what it means to share our stories of faith, practice the art of storytelling, and learn how to offer testimony.

COVENANT GROUPS:

On-Going

Covenant Groups provide an opportunity for church friends to share their faith in a more intimate setting. They are comprised of 6-12 people who “covenant” to meet regularly in homes for socializing, support, study, and prayer. The caring that comes from these small groups enriches both the individual and the church at large. For more information, contact Meghan Young at Meghan@rhccucc.org.

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.

Confirmation is open to all 9th and 10th graders who are interested in exploring who they are and what their faith means to them. Confirmation is a year of intentional faith formation that takes place through learning, discovering, and discerning within our faith community. At the end of that year, each Confirmand has the opportunity to make the choice to affirm their faith and join the membership of Rocky Hill Congregational Church, UCC. 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.

Confirmation classes will begin Sunday, October 19. If you would like more information about being part of 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	Times
Sunday, October 19	MEETING: Orientation - Parents & Confirmands CLASS: In the Beginning...	11:30 AM–12 PM 5 PM – 7 PM
Sunday, November 2	WORSHIP: Confirmation Dedication CLASS: Bible	10 AM 5 PM – 7 PM
Sunday, November 16	CLASS: Worship	5 PM – 7 PM
Tuesday, November 25	WORSHIP: Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service	7 PM Service Location TBD

SENIOR PASTOR SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE



Over the past month the Search Committee has continued to step forward in our process. We have conducted a mock interview with a test candidate in order to get ourselves acquainted with the interview process and to solidify the points and questions we want to ask of a potential candidate. It was a very helpful exercise for the group! We have continued to receive and review several varied candidate profiles, and we work towards determining the candidates we would like to look at further.

In addition, Associate Pastor Rev. Meghan Young has relayed to the Search Committee that she will not be pursuing the position of Senior Pastor. We are very grateful to Meghan for her willingness to share that information with us at this important time in our process, and are so fortunate to have been able to utilize her leadership, experience, and in depth understanding of our community during this interim time.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact any of the committee members.

Senior Pastor Search Committee: Liz Reed-Swale - Co-Chair, Gregson Curtin -Co-Chair, Stephanie Heneghan - Chaplin, Hilaire Leavitt - Secretary, Meghan Montana - Communications, Neal Cox, Diana Hellyar, Michele Jokl, Rhody Triplets

A REMINDER FROM THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Thank you for your ongoing financial support. Please continue to make your offering in the amount that you pledged for fiscal year 2013/2014.

We have a new stewardship program coming this fall and then our new pledge year will run from January to December. Keep your eyes open for announcements coming from the Stewardship Committee! We are looking forward to a new way of considering how we share our gifts.

If you have any questions feel welcome to contact the members of the Stewardship Committee.



DEACONS NEWSLETTER



September has come and gone! I hope that the summer was relaxing for you but also one full of new memories. The new church year began with a time of renewal, celebrations, and fresh starts.

Last fall, I wrote about an essay I read in one of my many Southern magazines by Rick Bragg. Growing up, he believed the new school year was a blank notebook giving him endless possibilities of dreams and promise. I hope you will consider fall as an opportunity to volunteer your talents, enjoy worship services, join small group studies, or grow in your personal ministry by volunteering as a liturgist.

Our lives are made up of small events and everyday things. I am always surprised when they turn into a special moment and memory. Come join us and find your special moment.

Gail Tine for the Board of Deacons

THE TOWER IS LIT!

Our long-standing tradition of lighting our tower at night in honor or memory of a loved one was interrupted due to electrical problems. The problem has been located and beginning on the first Sunday in October you will have the opportunity to once again light the tower in memory or recognition of someone. A spreadsheet will be located in Chapin Hall for sign-up. The suggested donation remains at \$10 to have the tower lit for the designated week from Sunday through Saturday.





WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday Morning Worship

Communion 1st Sunday

10:00 a.m. with childcare



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
			1 9:30am Quilters 5:00pm Fair Baking 6:00pm Kaplan 7:30pm Adult Choir
5 10:00am Worship Communion 4:00 Tamil Sangam	6 10:30pm Apple Rehab Svc 7:00pm Women's AA 7:00pm Bowling 7:30pm Bell Choir	7 7:00pm Board/ Committee Mtgs	8 9:00am Quilters 6:00pm Kaplan 7:30pm Adult Choir
12 10:00am Worship/S.P.I.R.I.T. 11:30am Small Group 1:00pm Noah's Table 4:00 Tamil Sangam	13 OFFICE CLOSED 7:00pm Women's AA 7:00pm Bowling 7:30pm Bell Choir	14 8:30am Breakfast Club 5:30pm Mission \ Vision 7:00pm Organization\ Governance	15 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 9:00am Quilters 6:00pm Community Mtg 7:30pm Adult Choir
19 10:00am Worship/S.P.I.R.I.T 11:30am Confirmation 12:00pm Small Group 2:00pm Blessing of the Animals 4:00 Tamil Sangam 5:00pm Confirmation	20 7:00pm Women's AA 7:00pm Bowling 7:30pm Bell Choir	21 11:00am Retired Clergy 4:00pm Lodge Service	22 9:00am Quilters 7:30pm Adult Choir
26 10:00am Worship/S.P.I.R.I.T 4:00 Tamil Sangam	27 NEWSLETTER MAILING 7:00pm Women's AA 7:00pm Bowling 7:30pm Bell Choir	28	29 9:00am Quilters 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 Pastor	202	Mary DeLibero, Minister of Music	207
Meghan Young, Acting Assoc. Pastor	203	Little Scholars (Nursery School)	208
Mitsey Baker, Office Manager	201		

2014



THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
2 9:30am Fair Baking Fair set up	3 5:00pm Noah's Table	4 8:00am Country Fair
9 7:30pm Men's AA	10	11
16 5:30pm Personnel Committe 7:30pm Men's AA	17 CT Conference	18 CT Conference
23 7:30pm Men's AA	24	25
30 7:30pm Men's AA	31	

BIRTHDAYS

2 Sophia Cardello
 4 Stacy Veley
 Sandra Mason
 7 Irene Moore
 Emily Doten
 9 Elaine Vicino
 Anne Louise Griswold
 10 Susan Lexa
 Lindsey Wainwright
 Diana Hellyar
 Joseph Malespini
 12 Katie Hoffman-Fulda
 14 Brian Wilcock
 15 Peter Graham
 16 Lisa Benson
 17 Lisa Gilbert
 Christina Engel
 Jillian Fulda



18 Mary Dean
 21 Tom Schreier
 22 Max Kainamura
 Alexandra Birdsall
 23 Albert Griswold
 Rachel Meisterling
 Joshua Bell
 24 John Sword
 Pat Howland
 Nancy Harlow
 Tim Bengston
 27 Kathy Mosure
 28 Bob Hansen
 Jean Goff
 29 Janet Pierson
 30 James Pickett
 31 Nancy Rolfe
 Carrie Laporte



Martin and Jean Sudell
 were married on
October 10, 1964

Doug and Nancy Robbins
 were married on
October 20, 1956

Tom and Doris Schreier
 were married on
October 22, 1949

Ralph and Priscilla Lexa
 were married on
October 29, 1949

Don and Anita Watson
 were married on
October 25, 1947



From the Treasurer: How to Request an Expense Reimbursement

Each year, a number of you spend your own money on church related items – typically related to board or committee work – and then seek reimbursement. That's fine, as it's often the most expedient way to get things done. If you need to be reimbursed for a church expense, here's my preferred list of ways to go about it:

Preferred approach: Send an email to treasurer@rhccucc.org, and if applicable, copy your board or committee chairperson – just to keep him or her in the loop. In your email, include the amount, the payee name, and the mailing address. Typically, the amounts in these requests are modest, and if so, I really don't need a copy of your receipt. If you want to include a scanned receipt, though, that's fine. Or you can follow up by leaving a receipt in my church office mailbox. But usually, I won't need it. And if I do want it, I can always ask.

Second choice: Leave a written note in my church office mailbox. (If you can't get into the church office, you can leave an envelope marked to Dave Hall in the wall box just to the right of the office door.) Again, please indicate who the payment should go to, and provide a mailing address.

Least preferred option: Hand your request to me when you see me. But be warned, *I'll probably look annoyed if you do this* – as this is the best way to have your request lost or misplaced. Your request may go through the laundry, or get lost in the clutter on the top of my dresser at home. Regardless, if you insist on doing this, please be sure to indicate who I should pay, and provide a mailing address. Every now and then I'll find a receipt in my pocket that leaves me puzzled about who gave it to me, or what I'm supposed to do with it. You should assume that I'll forget anything you say to me when you hand it to me – because I probably will.

Regardless of how you request it, a reimbursement check is typically sent directly from Webster Bank, so if you are expecting a reimbursement and you get an envelope from Webster Bank, please don't assume it's junk mail and discard it unopened. (It's happened more than once!).

Thanks for your understanding and cooperation.

Dave Hall, Treasurer



SCRIP-SURE: UPDATE AND UPCOMING SCHEDULE

Summertime can be a tough period to generate momentum in many church activities, and our Scrip-Sure program is no exception. Yet we still managed to exceed \$1000 in profits for each of the summer months. Fifty members and friends bought almost \$53,000 of scrip (face value) during the summer. And through the first four months of the fiscal year, we've booked \$5000 in income, which is about 9% better than the same period for the year before. Thanks to all who have persisted in supporting this important fundraiser.

If you are one of those who tends to order scrip at the end of each month – which is the only time you can get scrip from retailers that we don't typically keep in inventory – then please note a slight shift in our upcoming schedule. The end of September ordering deadline is on September 28, as usual. But the "end of October" order will be deferred until November 1st. Cards ordered by November 1 will be available for pickup on November 8.

Think SCRIP!

Dave Hall



MIDDLESEX HOSPICE NEEDS VOLUNTEERS



At Middlesex Hospice and Palliative Care, volunteers are an integral part of our interdisciplinary team, reaching out to patients and families as they cope with the challenges of terminal illness. Volunteers can choose to work in homecare, on the Weiss

Hospice Unit or in bereavement support after completing 40 hours of classes and a 12-hour mentorship. Our annual training runs from early February to mid-April 2015, and is held on four Saturdays and one evening. The program welcomes both male and female volunteers. To begin our fall application process, please contact Barbara Standke, Hospice Volunteer Coordinator, at 860-358-6955 or barbara.standke@midhosp.org, at your earliest convenience.

MUSIC, MUSIC EVERYWHERE



Our music program has cranked up to full speed again after a relaxing summer. One difference you will note is that we now have a baby grand piano in the sanctuary. We anticipate using this piano to enrich our music program in a variety of ways. The Music Committee will be supporting the activities of **ALL** our choirs and musical groups, as well as arranging some upcoming special music programs in the fall and throughout the rest of the program year.

As we begin rehearsals again this fall for all of our choirs and music groups, we welcome all who wish to join in. Many opportunities are available for **YOU** to get involved:

- We have had several rehearsals already of our **Adult Choir** which have been very well attended. It's so good to have a great turnout. If you would like to join the choir, you are very welcome. Please see Mary on Sunday or contact her at mary@rhccucc.org.
- **Bell choir** rehearsals started on **September 22nd** at 7:30pm in the Loft. We'd love to have more ringers! Please contact Mary.
- **Children's Choir** rehearsals started on **September 21st** at 11:30am in the Choir Room.
- Our **African drumming circle** participated in the Re-covenanting Sunday on September 14, and we hope to participate in other services or events. Contact Ruth Fitzgerald or Tom Rolfe for more information.
- If you play a musical instrument, the **Church Orchestra** needs you. Please contact Dave Hall for more information. Even if you haven't played since high school.....it's just like riding a bike, right???

Whatever your talent, please join with us, regularly or as your schedule permits, to share in the honor of providing music to enhance our worship experience.



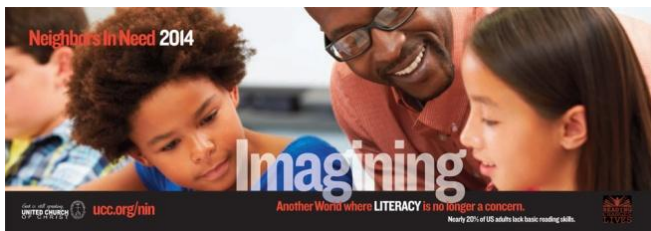
Global and Local Mission News



"Jesus is my fun" – Anonymous

I was recently at a meeting where, when discussing what he did for fun, a minister loudly laughed and said "Jesus is my fun!". We all laughed along with him, but afterward, I couldn't help but think of how true that statement really needs to be for those of us in a church community. Why would we continue to return here if it wasn't fun on some level? In keeping church on the list of things we want to do instead of things we have to do, we find how uplifting and exciting it can be to be on a faith journey with others. Come to a Mission event, stay for a second hour, or share yourself with our children at church school. There is much joy to be shared here and all we need to do is walk through the doors to be a part of it. Take a look at the church calendar and see where you might make Jesus YOUR fun!

In Faith,
Meghan Montana
Chair – Board for Missions



SPECIAL OFFERING OCTOBER 5TH **NEIGHBORS IN NEED**

Don't forget our neighbors in need. The Neighbors in Need (NIN) offering will be collected on Sunday October 5, 2014. It is a special mission offering of the UCC that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. An envelope is enclosed for your convenience.

HARVEST SUPPER AND SCREEN OF "THE LINE"

Thursday October 23rd 5:30 pm

Aetna Auditorium, Hartford CT



Hands on Hartford is hosting a dinner and screening of "The Line", a documentary depicting the struggles of people across the country living at or below the poverty line.

The Missions Board would like to host a full table of 8 people!

To join us, or for more information, please contact Meghan Montana at 203-640-2386 or meghan.montana1105@gmail.com, or call the RHCC office.

GLOBAL PRAYER THIS MONTH

Prayers for Israel/Palestine

Brought to us by Global Missionaries Victor and Sara Makari who are in the midst of the tragic and devastating war in the Israel/Palestine region.

Almighty and living God, in whom we live and move and have our being, who has loved us and, in your Son Jesus, has adopted us and called us to be the extension of his reconciling work: we thank you for your church who, by the power of your Spirit, continues in the land called holy to witness to your love for all people. We confess that we are angered and often despairing in the face of unrelenting hostilities; we behold terror flying by day and by night; we view untold destruction and devastation with no end in sight; we see the innocent suffer and die; we cry out: "how long, O Lord?"

Yet you have commanded us never to lose heart; for you are a God of justice and peace, and remain sovereign over all nations. You bring down the arrogant and the powerful from their thrones, and lift up the lowly. Your hand is not too short to save.

Have mercy on us. Forgive our complicity in the face of injustice. Speak sense to those who rage with vengeance. Help us to proclaim peace amid conflict, to live love amid hate and violence and, with our prayers and action, to mediate your reconciling grace. In Christ's name, Amen.

www.globalministries.org

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



Christian Activities Council

Council and Board Meeting: At Cori Mackey's first meeting as Executive Director ideas were exchanged verbally and each of us wrote down our rankings of programs. The meeting was well attended and productive.

Cori is meeting with each individual council and board member, staff and other people to gain a perspective on our ideas and what will be the future Christian Activities Council programs.

Unfortunately, it was brought to the Board member's attention that one particular condo on Edgewood Street has significant problems. We are going to be asking people with expertise in the building trades to analyze the problems and correct any deficiency. Some of you may recall the nightmares on Edgewood Street. It seems that they are now continuing.

Adventures in the City: This program continues to impact Hartford children and youth. Liberty Christian Church, Grace Lutheran Church, Rawson Elementary and Maria Sanchez Elementary Schools were sites utilized this year plus several programs.

The Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, our largest funder at \$45,500, requested we offer a special program for children and youth in East Hartford. 84 children were served.

Total children and youth served were 959. Educational components including math and reading were conducted in the morning. Enrichment programs in the afternoon consisted of drama, music, and various sports.

I would like to thank our Mission Board, Pastors, and church members as well as the foundations, churches and individuals who contributed to this most worthy program. Also a thank you to CAC's Charmaine Simpson, Roxanne Chukwurah, Senita Brown, Lisa Sykes and Doris Ayala for making this program a huge success.

God bless,
Rich Pawlich-Pagliccio
Delegate, Board of Directors Member



CONNECTICUT CONFERENCE ANNUAL MEETING

Cheshire High School
525 South Main Street, Cheshire, CT
Friday & Saturday: October 17 & 18, 2014

All sessions are open to registered visitors as well as delegates.

"Can't Make it Without You"

Our Shared Vision "That They May All Be One"

Registration and Agenda

Registration is available on-line at <http://www.regonline.com/ctuccam2014>. Please register and pay by October 12, 2014. Note on the registration form that there is a cost savings if you register before October 12th. **Meal reservations WILL NOT be accepted after Thursday, October 09, 2014.** On site Registration will begin at 5 pm on Friday and again at 8 am on Saturday morning.

On Friday night we will worship and conduct the major portion of the business of the Conference. This will include consideration of the 2015 Budget and deliberation on Resolutions. On Saturday we invite you to participate in a conversation about our Vision of the Connecticut Conference which will be presented in the morning. Worship will be a key component of the day. The Living Waters award will be presented and we will pay special recognition to the 20th Anniversary of our partnership with the PROK of South Korea. Mary Luti will serve as our theological reflector of our gathering to keep us grounded and aware of God's presence in our time together. Our theme, "Can't Make it Without You" reminds us that we need one another and that our witness and ministry is strengthened when we are together.

Join us!

HISTORIAN NOTES: August 2014

Saturday, August 9, youth from Noah's Table served breakfast at Center Church in Hartford to homeless and and low-income people.

Sunday, August 24, during a second-hour presentation, Sarah Mosure shared experiences from her medical mission trip to the Dominican Republic in July. With other volunteers from the organization Arm2Arm, she helped provide supplies and basic medical care to Haitian immigrants forced to live in encampments known as 'bateyes' by the Dominican government.

Our on-going Scrip-Sure fund-raising program raised \$1,304 in August.



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST CONNECTICUT CONFERENCE CHOIR

Presents in Concert:

SACRED SONGS WE SING

With guest choral conductors:

Dr. Kenneth DuBose

Dr. Craig Scott Symons

Dr. Pamela Perry

Guest Appearance by The Bridgeport Boys Choir

Saturday, October 11, 2014 - 7 PM

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF NORWALK

Corner of Park St. & Lewis St, Norwalk, CT

Free will offering

This event is made possible by the UCC Connecticut Conference



SACRED CONVERSATION ON RACE MINISTRY (SCRM)

This event is made possible by the Connecticut Conference
SACRED CONVERSATION ON RACE MINISTRY



THE COUNTRY FAIR
Saturday, October 4th, 2014
from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

- | | |
|------------------|---------------------------------|
| ★ Farmers Market | Ruth Jensen |
| ★ Bake Shop | Don and Polly Pagnucco |
| ★ Candy Shop | Candy Smith |
| ★ Diner | The Goff Family |
| ★ Silent Auction | Deb Copes and Ruth Fitzgerald |
| ★ Quilt Raffle | Gail Tine |
| ★ Kitchen Shop | Elaine Somes and Judy Graham |
| ★ Sew Country | Nancy Rolfe |
| ★ Tea Room | Sue Starr |
| ★ Holiday House | Lynn McKenna and Bobbie Hawkins |

★ Roast Beef Dinner
5:30pm Marsha Hoffman

We could use your help with time, donations, and most of all support the day of the fair.
If you can help, please talk to anyone listed above.

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

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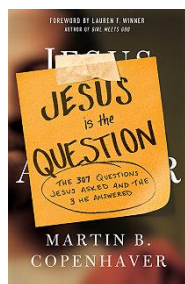
Jesus didn't turn people away. Neither do we.
The United Church of Christ:
No matter who you are,
Or where you are on life's journey...
You're welcome here.



Small Group Ministry at RHCC: **Fall Faith Formation Opportunity**

Join a small group to explore and enrich your faith in new ways!

OCTOBER:



Jesus is the Question: The 307 questions Jesus Asked and the 3 He Answered

Sunday, October 12, 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM

Sunday, October 19, 12 PM – 1 PM

Church Parlor

Contrary to some common assumptions, Jesus is not the ultimate Answer Man, but more like the Great Questioner. In the Gospels Jesus asks many more questions than he answers. Asking questions was central to Jesus' life and teachings. *Jesus is the Question* considers the questions Jesus asks – what they tell us about Jesus and, more importantly, what our responses might say about what it means to follow Jesus.

Come with your questions, as we discuss this game-changer of a book by Martin Copenhagen.

Books are available to check-out from the church office.