



The Church Mouse

The Reverend Craig L. Cowing, Pastor

ccowing@rhccucc.org

Georgette L. Huie, Minister of Children and Youth

ghuie@rhccucc.org

Mary DeLibero, Minister of Music

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860-529-4167 Church

October 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

WELCOME!!



On Sunday, September 13, 2015, the community at Rocky Hill Congregational Church, United Church of Christ welcomed Rev. Craig L. Cowing (center) as the church's new Pastor, and Georgette Huie (right) as the new Minister for Children and Youth. Also pictured is Craig's wife Anita Hawkins (left). Craig and Anita were welcomed as new church members during the morning's worship service.



What should I write about for my first article? I've got so much on my mind. At this writing we have one more load to bring down with a rental truck. My office is mostly set up. The house is getting better in places but some rooms are still nothing more than a stack of boxes and odd items.

Anita and I have appreciated the welcome that the congregation has extended. We are very fortunate to be a part of a caring, active community. As I think about it, there are many things I am thankful for as I begin my ministry here. I am thankful that Georgette and I have been able to start together and work together to minister to the congregation, both young and old. I am thankful for the lay leadership of this church who work hard at their various parts of the church's life. I am thankful for the rest of the staff who keep things going—Mitsey, Myke and Jeremy. I am thankful for having children around in the mornings in the nursery school.

I am also thankful for stories. I grew up in a home where telling stories was important. I learned how to tell stories by listening to my father and our pastor. We would hear stories about my father's experiences in World War II, and my mother's childhood in Illinois. We also heard stories from the past. I have many people from the past that populate my mind—my great great grandfather who died in the Civil War and left behind a young family, my maternal grandfather, a college professor in Illinois, who died just before I was born, and stories of the places where my parents grew up.

Stories can change with time. My father would tell us about how his grandfather described the great blizzard of 1888 that hit Connecticut so hard. He said that with each telling the snow got six inches deeper.

Telling stories is at the very heart of who we are as Christians. We start with the story of the people of God, the story of Jesus and his disciples, and the story of the Church since that time. And, we each have our own stories that inform who we are. I look forward to getting to know all of you and hearing your stories. You will hear many of mine through my sermons and in conversation. I'll look forward to hearing yours!

In Christ,

Rev. Craig Cowing



ReCovenanting Sunday

September 13 marked the first time the Rev. Craig Cowing led worship as our new Pastor. Craig and his spouse Anita were also welcomed as members of RHCC. Afterwards, all were treated to a light lunch in Chapin Hall and a cake to celebrate Craig's, Anita's, and Georgette's arrival. The tables were graced by centerpieces (duct tape flowers) made by the young people. All in all, it was a joyous way to kick off an exciting new year!

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

We will be offering three classes, by grade, each Sunday. After the Message for All Ages in worship, the children will be dismissed to their respective classrooms:

Pre-K to 1st grade: Room 25

Grades 2-5: Room 24

Grades 6-8: Room 23

We will be using curricula designed for each age group, each with plenty of hand-on activities. From September 20 through October 11, we will be studying the following:

Pre-K to 1st grade: Noah's Ark

Grades 2-5: Jesus and the Children (based on Mark 10:13-16)

- Hear the story of Jesus welcoming the children
- Experience being a valued part of the faith community
- See that we are all, young or old, children of God
- See that every person is someone of worth
- See that children have things to teach adults

Grades 6-8: Resolving Conflicts, Confronting Rivalries, Using Our Talents, Calling

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

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.

Youth Groups

Yes, instead of one youth group, there will be two! We will form a group for middle schoolers and one for high schoolers. Watch this space, as we will be organizing in October:

Middle School Youth Group (grades 6-8) – Sunday, Oct. 4 – 5 to 6:30pm – Organizing meeting

High School Youth Group (grades 9-12) – Sunday, Oct. 11 – 5 to 6:30pm – Organizing meeting

Make Music a
Part of Your Life



MUSIC, MUSIC EVERYWHERE

Calling musicians of all ages!! There are many opportunities at RHCC to express your faith through the joys of making music. The Adult Choir, Bell Choir, Children's Choir, and Drum circle would love to have new members. There are also opportunities for instrumentalists. If you love music and would like to participate in any way, please let Mary DeLibero know. There is a place for you!!

Schedule:

Adult Choir - Wednesdays, 7:30 -9:00pm

Bell Choir - Mondays, 7:30-8:45pm

**Children's Choir - will begin in October - rehearsal
schedule TBD**

Drum Circle - as scheduled

SCRIP-SURE: The Real Update



Last month's newsletter included an update on the results of the Scrip-Sure program. Unfortunately, it was an inadvertent reproduction of an announcement that was published one year ago. So while the information was accurate per se, it was also a full year out of date.

So here's the latest. During the summer months of June-August 2015, you all purchased a little more than \$65,000 in scrip, generating earnings for RHCC of approximately \$4,600. Those results reflect a 20% increase over the earnings from the summer of 2014. Nice job, everyone! We have now achieved monthly earnings in excess of \$1,000 for 24 consecutive months – two full years.

Scrip continues to be sold every Sunday in Chapin Hall following the morning worship service. Our typical inventory includes cards from about 35 retailers, so there is always a variety to choose from. Cards not in inventory can be ordered at the end of each month, with delivery on the following Sunday. The next ordering deadlines are September 27 (delivery Oct 4) and October 25 (delivery Nov 1). Orders can be turned in at the scrip table in Chapin Hall, or emailed to treasurer@rhccucc.org.

See the church web site and/or the weekly bulletin for more information on our Scrip-Sure program and the variety of retailers offered. Thanks to all for your continued support of this vital fundraising program.

Dave Hall, Treasurer

BIRTHDAYS

4 Stacy Veley
Sandra Mason
7 Irene Moore
Devon Gagnon
Emily Doten
9 Elaine Vicino
Anne Louise Griswold
10 Diana Hellyar
Joseph Malespini
11 Matthew Gagnon
12 Katie Hoffman-Fulda
14 Brian Wilcock
15 Peter Graham
16 Lisa Benson
17 Lisa Gilbert
Christina Engel
Jillian Fulda Maynard



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



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 Steph Heneghan

On September 9 Mike died peacefully at home. He accepted his disease and death with courage and was blessed with little or no pain. He will be greatly missed by family and friends for his love of fun, his loud happy presence, his loyalty and an ability to meet each person as a unique and valued individual.

The cards, emails and prayers were a great source of support for me during the intense time Mike battled his cancer. Thanks to all!



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday Morning Worship

Communion 1st Sunday

10:00 a.m. with childcare



CHILD
care
Provided



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
4 10:00am Worship/ Communion 11:00am Congregational Mtg Heritage Sunday 4:00pm SiraguTamil 5:00pm Middle School Youth	5 7:00pm Women's AA 7:30pm Bell Choir	6 7:00pm Board/ Committee Mtgs 7:00pm Hearing Voices	7 5:15pm Pilates w/Caroline 7:30pm Adult Choir
11 10:00am Worship 4:00pm SiraguTamil 5:00pm High School Youth	12 OFFICE CLOSED 7:00pm Little Scholars Preschool 7:00pm Women's AA 7:30pm Bell Choir	13 7:00pm Council 7:00pm Hearing Voices	14 8:30am Breakfast Club 5:15pm Pilates w/Caroline 7:30pm Adult Choir
18 10:00am Worship 4:00pm SiraguTamil	19 7:00pm Women's AA 7:30pm Bell Choir	20 11:00am Retired Clergy 7:00pm Hearing Voices	21 5:15pm Pilates w/Caroline 7:30pm Race Discussion 7:30pm Adult Choir
25 10:00am Worship 4:00pm SiraguTamil	26 NEWSLETTER MAILING 7:00pm Women's AA 7:30pm Bell Choir	27 6:00pm Community Mtg 7:00pm Hearing Voices	28 5:15pm Pilates w/Caroline 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:

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

Help Support Little Scholars Preschool
 Order Little Caesar's Pizza kits
 Different varieties of
 pizza, bread, or cookies
 Profits support the classroom
 Order from the office by Thursday, October 15
 Delivery is on Monday October 26 at 11:30am



THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 7:30pm Men's AA	2	3
8 7:30pm Men's AA	9	10
15 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 7:30pm Men's AA	16	17 12:00pm Wedding
22 Fair Set Up	23 CT Conference Annual Mtg Fair Set Up	24 CT Conference Annual Mtg CHURCH FAIR 9:00am to 2:00pm
29 7:30pm Men's AA	30	31

Please note!
 The Tuesday Morning
BREAKFAST CLUB
 has been changed
 to the
SECOND
WEDNESDAY
 of each month
 at Bob's Coffee Shop
 33 New Britain Ave,
 Rocky Hill
 at **9:00am.**



ALL WELCOME!

Dear Members of RHUCC

On behalf of our family, please accept our thank you for the donation you made in honor of my mother Shirley Gagliano.

My mother was a woman of deep and unwavering faith. Her greatest legacy was sharing her faith and giving the gift of faith.

My mother's faith was tested most by my younger sister Dawn's death. Dawn was treated at and ultimately lost her battle with cancer at New York Hospital. Your gift not only honors my mother, but also a sweet 3 year old whose brief but meaningful life changed us all.

Thank you, Dona Young

Global and Local Mission News



Autumn and spring are polar opposites, literally. Spring IS traditionally the time of awakening and new beginnings. I feel like this Autumn is also a time for awakening as we stagger from the beach, feeling rested, renewed and ready to do the work of the church. The missions board has continued to function through the summer. Notably, we were able to send donations to the earthquake effort in Nepal and the Hands on Hartford building fund. We will be busy this fall with several projects so look for news from us.

Several years ago, the Board of Mission voted to provide a scholarship for a young lady through the Inyana league for Rwandan children and youth. Clemence has continued her studies and has been kind enough to send a letter updating us about her life. Please see her letter of gratitude.

Dear lovely Parents,

First of all I greet you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, our King and Savior, how are you doing? On my side, I'm doing well and I thank God for his protection on me and my family. I'm also doing well at school and I'm about to end the Second Year as we are in its last Semester and is about to end. Then comes the holidays for one month, then after I will start with an internship of 3 months. So, as I'm studying "Hotel Management and Restaurant" the internship what I have learn theoretically/or with few practices. This internship will be a great opportunity for me to ameliorate and improve my knowledge and skills. I'm also grateful, thanking you for how you are caring and helping me and I always pray that God keep on blessing you in whatever you do. I also thank you for the computer you gave me, I really appreciate and I like it very much. Next year will be my last year before getting a Bachelor Degree and I will never forget your love and kindness to me and my family. By ending, I trying to get an own Business work that I can do, as I like Business works or working in Business area and will be a great thing as I'm about to end my studies. I thank you once again may God the almighty bless and protect you. Greet everyone for me in your families and friends. Thank you very much.

ROCKY HILL FOOD PANTRY

The seasons are changing but the need for donations to our local food bank keeps increasing. When you are shopping, please consider adding one item to your basket for a Rocky Hill neighbor. The number of families dependent on the Rocky Hill Food Pantry is growing. Clients may receive 1 bag (single person) every 21 days. The current need is protein items (**tuna, canned chicken, Spam, canned ham, Chef Boyardee canned pasta, Vienna Sausage, hash, stew**). Additionally, **coffee, tea, crackers, and breakfast items** are in short supply. **Laundry detergent, toilet tissue, paper towels and shampoos** are always needed.

Prayers this month for our Global Ministry partners in Hong Kong
Prayer written by Global Missionary Judy Chan.

O, Lord, you have said that whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all. But who among us is willing to be last of all? Who among us truly wants to be servant of all? Yet your Son taught us that those who seek to be great in the Kingdom of God must follow a different path. Let us therefore not seek glory and honor for ourselves, but instead the dignity and empowerment of all through faithful service in your name. As we lift up Hong Kong today, we pray that the city's churches may be effective instruments of peace and reconciliation in an increasingly polarized society. May Hong Kong Christians learn how to be a bridge between persons with strongly different opinions both within the church and outside in the community. We pray also for the Hong Kong Christian Council as it promotes a united witness and outreach to the whole society with new programs for ecumenical formation, gender justice, and creation care. May your Holy Spirit continually bless Hong Kong and China that we might understand the teachings of our Savior and never be afraid to ask for more wisdom. In Christ's name, Amen.

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



"The Neighbors in Need (NIN) offering of the UCC supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry(CAIM). Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries(JWM) to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants. It is collected on the first Sunday in October. This year it will be **collected on Sunday October 4, 2015.**" An envelope is enclosed for your convenience. In addition to financial support for the Council of American Indian Ministry we are called to respond to the injustice done to our native Americans. The enclosed letter describes other ways to respond and how to find background educational materials.

HISTORIAN NOTES - OCTOBER 2015

Change is nothing new. It is constant and never ending. Pastoral search committees? New pastors? Been there. Done that. Guess what was happening in September 63 years ago? Exactly what is happening this September...



In 1949, Rev. Hubert S. Beckwith accepted the call to be the minister at Rocky Hill Congregational. Rev. Beckwith was born in Haverhill, MA but came from 1st Congregational in Washington, D.C. to Rocky Hill. Rev. Beckwith came to Rocky Hill recommended for his ability as a preacher and success as a pastor and youth leader. He was single when called to preach but married Miss Elizabeth Bushong of Arlington, VA before moving to Rocky Hill on August 25th. He became pastor on September 1st and preached his first sermon September 11th.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4

Join us as we celebrate our 50 year members, and our long history as RHCC! Please feel free to bring photos, mementos, and any historical items related to the church, and place them on the table in Chapin Hall that morning.



The Silent Auction



Shhhhhhhhhhhhh!!!!!! The **Silent Auction** is coming (10/24) and we want to make it bigger and better this year than it has ever been! To do that, we definitely **need everyone's help**. The Silent Auction committee (Gail Tine, Linda Grillo, Neal Cox and me – Deb Copes) need donations.

If you are uncertain whether a donation is suitable for the auction, please call me (860-257-1099) or feel free to find me on Sunday mornings. We are happy to make donation suggestions or, if you have something in mind already, I am happy to pick items up. Donations of Scrip are always welcome – we get a double benefit when folks donate Scrip! We also need empty baskets and volunteers to help us on Friday evening, 10/23, and the day of the Fair, 10/24. Thanks so much!!

2015 COUNTRY FAIR

It takes all of us to have a successful fair and dinner!



OCTOBER 24TH



9:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M.

It takes all of us to have a successful fair and dinner.

Do you want to help out in a booth? Can you donate to a booth?

Farmers Market & Bake Shoppe – Ruth Jensen - Looking for small empty jars or a few filled with jelly or jam. Baked goods.

Sew Country – Nancy Rolfe - looking for material, yarn, crochet kits, etc.

Snack Shack – Jeanne Goff & family- Looking for hamburgers, hot dogs, chili, soda, water, chips

Candy Shoppe – Candy Smith – Looking for fudge of various flavors

Mainly Media – Elaine Somes – videos, cds & cd & dvd players in good condition



Watch your Sunday Bulletins for more to come...

We are putting a **suggestion box** in Chapin Hall all summer. If you have an idea for a booth or want to suggest something you want to see, let us know. You can remain anonymous!



Remember and Pass It On



**COUNTRY FAIR DINNER & QUILT RAFFLE
NOVEMBER 7, 2015**

LOOK FOR ANNOUNCEMENTS OF PIE MAKING AND SIGN UP

THANKS FROM YOUR FAIR COMMITTEE

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

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Hartford, CT 06101

Permit #7

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED
TIME VALUE MAIL

Mailed September 28, 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.



CALL TO SPECIAL CHURCH MEETING

A special congregational meeting of the Rocky Hill Congregational Church, United Church of Christ is called for Sunday, October 4, 2015 immediately following worship in the sanctuary for the following item of business:

To receive and act upon a recommendation from the Board of Trustees for expenditure of funds to reroof the church building.

There will be no other business transacted at this meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Marsha G. Hoffman, Clerk