



The Church Mouse

The Reverend Craig L. Cowing, Pastor
ccowing@rhccucc.org

Georgette L. Huie, Minister for Children and Youth
ghuie@rhccucc.org

Mary DeLibero, Minister of Music
mary@rhccucc.org

860-529-4167 Church

September 2017 Newsletter

RHCC e-mail address – office@rhccucc.org
Website: www.rhccucc.org

Office Hours – 9:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m. Monday-Thursday
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Friday
Sunday Worship Services – 10:00 a.m.

Childcare Available/Handicap Accessible

RHCC Golf Tournament - Sunday, September 17th



This year's Fall RHCC golf tournament is scheduled for Sunday, September 17, at the Wethersfield Country Club. We are planning for (6) foursomes and tee times will start about 12:30 PM. Details of cost and tournament format will be available soon.

Wethersfield Country Club is a private club, and they have a dress code for members and guests. This dress code prohibits the wearing of jeans, cargo shorts, sweat pants, tank tops and gym shorts by male golfers. Likewise, their starter will ask male golfers to tuck in their golf shirts when they arrive on the first tee. We will be guests at the Country Club for this tournament, please respect their dress code.

A sign-up sheet will be available in Chapin Hall in September, or you can contact Bill Hoffman (860-563-1367) to reserve your spot.

Don't miss out on this fun event!



Recently John Dorhauer, the President and General Minister of the United Church of Christ, announced a new initiative for the next two years leading up to General Synod 2019: The Three Great Loves”:

Love of Neighbor
Love of Children
Love of Creation

These three aspects of love are not new. They are rooted in Scripture and especially the teachings of Jesus. One love is noticeably absent: love of self. Our culture often emphasizes the importance of our loving ourselves, sometimes at the expense of others. It is clear that Jesus believed it to be important that we love ourselves, but he also taught that it was more important to love others.

The United Church of Christ has a vision of a just world for all. In this world all are welcomed, everyone is loved and justice is inherent. The 3 Great Loves is the denomination’s opportunity to express how our Love of Neighbor, Love of Children, and Love of Creation work together to address the inequities in our current world.

Beginning at Synod 2017 and ending at Synod 2019, through the lens of the 3 Great Loves, the United Church of Christ in its many settings of ministry will discern and lift up how we act upon these 3 Great Loves. As we do so, we will tell the story of how we are impacting and transforming the world, as covenantal partners united in common purpose and mission.

During these upcoming two years, there will be moments of special invitation to participate in this denomination-wide undertaking. One by one we will focus on each of the 3 Great Loves in service to our communities.

The UCC’s General Minister and President, the Rev. Dr. John Dorhauer, recently wrote, “The world is in need of our great love. And our love for the world can transform it.”

Where is your heart? Where are you already responding to the love of Children, Neighbor, and Creation in your own life and witness?

God is still speaking,
**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**





Where is your heart leading you to deepen your commitment to one of these Great Loves?

Who else is being led in the same direction?

Consider how our congregation is already expressing its commitment to the 3 Great Loves or where there has been recent energy or momentum to take on a new commitment. We can ask ourselves these questions among others:

What is a need in our community?

Can we be a part of filling that need?

What do we need to do in order to help meet that need?

Let's work on what we can do to express these three Great Loves in our community today!

Pastor Craig

SECOND HOUR PRESENTATION

Join Rev. Craig on Sunday, September 24 after Worship for his continuing series on the protestant reformation. This Second Hour program will be on the Anglican and reformed movements which are the background of our own tradition.

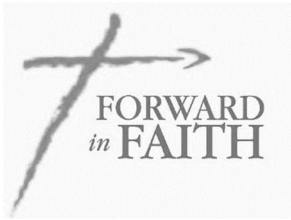


ICON OF THE MONTH – SEPTEMBER

The Icon of the Month for September dates from around 1050 and was painted in Novgorod, Russia.

It depicts Saints Paul and Peter. The original is almost eight feet high. It is in poor condition, with little of the original paint remaining. Peter and Paul represent two aspects of the church: Peter representing the mystical, inward-looking aspect of the church, and Paul representing the outward and forward looking aspect of the church.

Visit anytime for prayer and contemplation in the Weil Chapel.



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

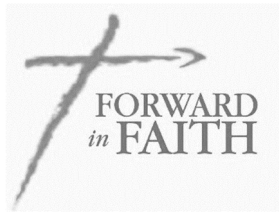
As we begin a new academic year here at RHCC, I'd like to make available for you the inspiring faith statements from this past year's Confirmation Class. Four high schoolers: Frank DiRenzo, Emily McKenna, Julia O'Connor, and Kaedryn Pulling, attended the sessions led by Pastor Craig, who also invited me to lead two of the sessions: one on Interfaith matters and one on Sin and Grace. Faithfully and actively accompanying the youth were their adult mentors: Jim Stevens, Candy Smith, Sarah DiGiovanni, and Liz Reed-Swale. I find in the youth's words hope and inspiration, and affirmation for all our efforts in Faith Formation.

Julia's was the first to reach my Inbox, so here it is (with her permission). What I find significant in her statement is her expressed intentionality about participating in church activities and in being curious and open to learning more about her faith, resulting in new insights and benefits. May her words lead us to choose likewise, and may we be as open as she to all that God has in store.

“During confirmation classes over the past 7 months, we discussed a number of topics, and I have come to understand valuable principles of the United Church of Christ, one mainly being the act of discipleship. I learned that true discipleship is living life to the fullest with love for others and myself, seeking ways to act with integrity under the grace of God, and reaching out to all people of different cultures and life experiences with love. During this time, we were exploring who we are and what our faith means to us. Often, that meant that many of our questions went unanswered, and the bottom line was a need to have faith.

During these past few months, I worked to make my faith real through conscious actions and choices. One of the ways I worked to accomplish this was by involving myself in church worship and youth activities, such as being a speaker on Maundy Thursday, contributing to the music ministry on Easter Sunday, giving to the church through the offering and ushering, donating to the Walk for Hunger, participating in the youth group trips to the soup kitchen at Center Church in Hartford, and helping my father deliver Easter flowers to homebound members of the church. These actions helped me along a path to becoming a follower of Christ, and allowed me to think more about and become closer to God. In many ways, I learned throughout this journey that believing in God means to have hope and love, and to want what is best for yourself and others as a community.

(cont.)



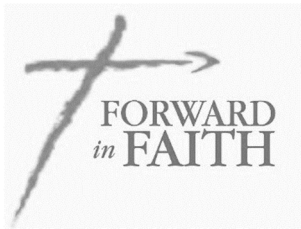
S.P.I.R.I.T. Church School News

I grew up here in this church, and my life experiences, including the time taken during the confirmation process, have helped me understand that believing in God can provide a sense of comfort, protection, and strength. As long as you have faith, you are never truly alone. One of the questions I often asked myself throughout this journey was “What would Jesus do?” In many ways, it would be easy to choose to be negligent towards other people’s needs or to be selfish in using my time for pleasure rather than aid. But, in asking myself this question, it shed a new light on situations and helped me to become a better person. For example, on several occasions, I visited the Berlin mosque to attend interfaith youth hangouts and learn more about the Islamic faith. This was especially beneficial to me because a fear of many people in our country is that all Muslims are to blame for the violent actions of minority extremist groups who commit crimes in the name of their faith. I learned through meeting members of the Islamic community, that they are a peaceful people and share many of the compassionate qualities that Christianity focuses on.

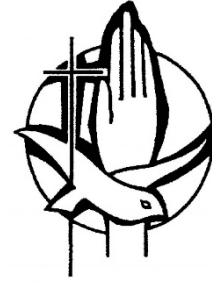
As a result of the Confirmation journey, I have learned not to be so judgmental of others based on my first impression of them. I came to better understand that God has graced us all with individual and unique gifts, and that what a person looks like, wears, or owns doesn’t make them any better or worse in God’s eyes - so who am I to judge them? One of the subjects we focused on throughout our studies was forgiveness. One of the ways people can demonstrate their faith and discipleship is by following the example of Christ. Christ offers forgiveness and the chance to accept it again and again, and reaches out to people with love. The inability to accept God’s forgiveness can result in missed opportunities to welcome the love of God into your life. I learned that in being a believer of God, you have to recognize and be appreciative of every opportunity and gift that comes your way, and that people who do this seem more contented in the quality of their lives. I am beyond grateful for this church community, the dedication of our confirmation mentors, and the opportunities the confirmation process has given me to affirm my faith and become more of a disciple.”

- *Julia O’Connor*





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



This year....

- There will be a Confirmation Class for 9th graders (and any 8th or 10th graders who may wish to join in).
- The Middle School Youth Group will begin with an organizing meeting on September 10.
- The High School Youth Group will begin with an organizing meeting on September 17.
- Church School classes will be at the same grade levels: 6-8 (middle school), 2-5, and Pre-K to 1st and will meet in the same rooms, beginning September 17.
- All children and families are encouraged to attend the Re-Covenanting Sunday worship on September 10: the high schoolers will be reflecting on the mission trip during the sermon time.

From September 17 to October 8:

Pre-K to 5th graders will be learning about Moses in a unit called “Out of Egypt”. They will:

- identify the Exodus as the defining event in the lives of the Hebrew people;
- discover that God wants all people to be free, to be treated with respect, justice, and kindness;
- recognize that, like person of Bible times, they are called by God and can respond to God’s call in many different ways;
- be assured that they can trust God’s guidance and God’s care and know that God is always with them;
- be shown how God can work through people to accomplish God’s work on earth;
- discuss how God is present with people in the world today, even where there is suffering and trouble;
- be reminded that they can turn to God when they are troubled or afraid, and know that God hears and cares.

•
6th-8th graders will be discussing the following topics:

Trusting God, Forgiveness, Reconciliation, and God Providing.

-Georgette Huie, Minister for Children and Youth

Our Board for Faith Formation: Sandy Gau, Sherry Silkowski, Kathy Morgan, Kristie Fuller, Steph Heneghan, Nancy Rolfe and Jennifer Cordes.



Christian Activities Council September Report

Freedom Schools – Adventures in the City:

Once again, the Christian Activities Council and our staff made a profound impression on children from Kindergarten through Third Grade in North Hartford. Thurman Milner, the first African American Mayor in Hartford read to the children. This outstanding program enables children to advance their skills in reading or maintain their current levels. I would like to personally thank all the wonderful people who are dedicated to the children and Freedom Schools' curriculum. The following was written by Pastor Craig Cowing:

On Thursday August 3rd, I attended the Finale for the Christian Activities Council-sponsored "Adventures in the City." This school is based on the Freedom School model, which affirms children of color. The children who took part were from families who could not otherwise afford a summer literacy program. Our church's donation of \$3500 helped make this happen. Literacy programs such as this help keep kids from backsliding in their reading skills, a common occurrence. The finale program gave the kids an opportunity to do some dance routines, to read out loud, and to talk about the fun they had while learning more about the joys of reading. I am proud that our congregation is committed to this program, and hope that we will continue to support it in the future.

Clay Arsenal Apartments:

"HUD finds mold, rodent infestation" -*Hartford Courant*. After it was reported that a young child was bitten by a mouse, CAC staff member AJ Johnson went into action. The tenants of those apartments were subjected to mice, mice droppings and other safety hazards. After several meetings, the absentee landlord Emmanuel Ku agreed to make substantial changes, after HUD issued him strict orders. As was noted in several *Hartford Courant* articles, and on Channel 30 news; the city of Hartford and HUD gave Ku the abatements and other monetary subsidies.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. School:

Thanks to the efforts of parents, teachers and the Christian Activities Council - the new superintendent of schools Dr. Leslie Torres-Rodriguez and members of her staff have agreed to renovate the building. The proposal is to have MLK become a magnet and middle school. This community effort has paid big dividends to the children and their families.

The above reports indicate when all the people from different backgrounds come together, we can make a profound effect on people's lives!

Prayerfully,

Rich Pawlich-Pagliccio

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!



Here at Rocky Hill Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, we are an Open and Affirming Christian community, actively expressing Jesus' inclusive embrace of all people. Rev. Craig will lead a New Member Orientation after worship on Sunday, September 10th at 11:15am in the Parlor. We will welcome new members into our church during worship on Sunday, September 17th.

Please extend a warm welcome to our new members:

Jennifer Chatfield, Doretta H. Andonucci, Michael C. Andonucci, Heather Wolfe-Taylor

Doretta H. Andonucci

Born and raised in Bloomfield, Conn., Doretta graduated from Gordon College with a BA in Economics and Business Administration and from the University of Hartford with an MBA in Finance. After nearly 25 years as a marketing professional in insurance and financial services, Doretta transitioned to the nonprofit space as a Communications Manager at the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving. She shares her life with her husband of 19 years, Michael, her daughter Caralyn, and their dog Emmitt. She is a volunteer with the Friends of Cora J. Belden Library, the Greater Hartford League of Women Voters, and SEWN (Senior Executive Women's Network). Doretta loves baking, crochet, playing handbells, cheering for Hartford City FC, and is learning to enjoy the benefits of exercise.

Michael C. Andonucci

Born in Rahway, New Jersey, Michael spent his early years in upstate New York before moving with his family to New Port Richey, Florida. After serving in the U.S. Air Force and living in Delaware, Texas, Italy and Germany, Michael returned to the U.S. to graduate from SUNY New Palz. Michael moved to Rocky Hill in 1989 for a job with Aetna. He earned his MS in Information Technology from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, and has gone on to work for IBM, CSC, Travelers and now Capgemini as a Director IT Workforce Management. Michael met his wife Doretta while taking ballroom dancing lessons. Michael is a certified soccer referee, and coached his daughter's team with Rocky Hill Parks & Rec. In his free time, you can find Michael in the garden, enjoying a glass of wine, longing for a warm beach, or watching English Premiere League Soccer. While the Tampa Bay Rowdies will always be his favorite team, he is a member of the Agents of Hale fan club for the Hartford City FC.

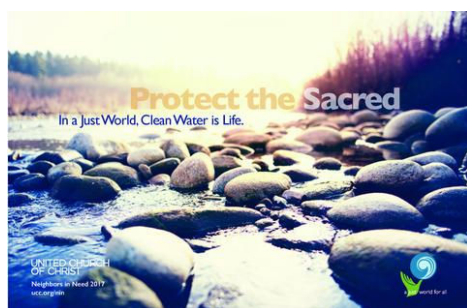
WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Heather Wolfe-Taylor

I was born and raised in Alabama, and I met my husband at the University of Oklahoma. I earned a Master's degree in education in Arlington, Virginia, and taught school for three years-- one in Arlington, and two in Yokohama, Japan. It was in Japan that Jarod and I married and had our son, Alexander. When we returned to the US, we lived in Manhattan for two years before settling in Rocky Hill in 2015. Since Alexander was born, I have been a stay-at-home parent-- he is now six and attends Myrtle Stevens School. The three of us have spent this summer fishing local ponds from our new canoe. In January, I will be starting an accelerated RN program at UConn's Waterbury campus. I am moving my membership to RHCC from Asylum Hill Congregational Church in Hartford.

BACKPACK DRIVE!

Thank you to everyone for your help and support with the backpack collection! We were able to donate 22 backpacks filled with supplies! Ten are for elementary aged children and each includes all supplies needed with a lunch box and water bottle. Twelve are for middle/high school aged children and include all supplies needed with a water bottle for each. All will be given to our Covenant for Care liaison for for children and teens in DCF care.



Neighbors in Need offering will be collected on Sunday October 1, 2017 on World Communion Sunday.

This offering (NIN) is a special missions offering of the United Church of Christ. It supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States.

One third supports the Council for American Indian Ministries (CAIM). Two thirds are grants awarded to churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities. For more information, pick up a brochures in Chapin Hall from the Missions Board, or visit www.ucc.org

We will hold this collection on Sunday, October 1st during our worship service.

Thank you for your generosity.



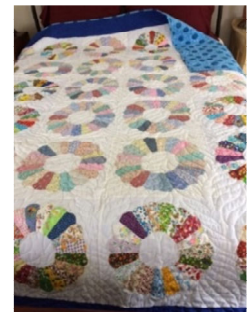
Country Fair News

The Rocky Hill Congregational Church Country Fair will be held on October 21 from 9am to 3pm.

It's almost time for the fair! We are getting excited! This year we will have our "Kids Corner", operated by Holly Alessi, Catalina's Amazing Face Art, a costume contest for the categories of scariest, prettiest and most original, plus a parade led by Liz Reed Swale. We will also again have the pleasure of having Liz Reed sing in Chapin Hall.

The fair will be on 3 floors, the 3rd floor will have a White Elephant room, Antiques & Collectables and Sew Country (which will have all things sewing, knitting, etc.). On the 2nd floor will be the Tea Room, The bottom floor will have the Silent Auction, Kid's Corner, Holiday Shop and Jewelry. In Chapin Hall will be the Candy Shop, Bake Shop, Farmer's Market and the Snack Shop.

The quilt will be on display and tickets will be available to purchase for a chance to win the quilt. The Quilt drawing will be held the same night as the Country Fair Dinner on October 28th at 5:30pm. Tickets for the dinner will be available during the fair and also by contacting the church office at (860) 529-4167.



The next meeting of the Fair and Events Committee will be on September 14th at 7:00pm. All members of the church are welcome to attend. For the September and October meetings we would like to have all Booth Chair Persons attend both meetings so that we can discuss the plans for the fair.

If you would like to donate something for one of the booths or make something for the bake shop it would be greatly appreciated. For donations for the White Elephant or Kid's Corner we ask that it be clean and in good shape. I am sorry but we will not come and pick up.

Country Fair News
The Rocky Hill Congregational Church Country Fair
will be held on October 21 from 9am to 3pm.

Being a volunteer is a great way to see the fair, if you want to volunteer but can't stay the whole day that is not a problem. We would love to have you help no matter how long you can stay.

Booth Chairpersons:

Silent Auction: Elaine Somes & Deb Copes

Kid's Corner: Holly Alessi 680-3163

Holiday Shop: Lynn McKenna 836-0961

Jewelry: Sue Van Ness & Jen Martin 666-1900 & 897-7623

Candy Shop: Candy Smith 563-4498

Bake Shop: Don & Polly Pagnucco 563-3233

Farmers Market: Ruth Jensen 563-4617

Tea Room: Sue Starr & Jenn & Bill Cordes... 529-3150 & 436-6403

Sew Country: Anita Hawkins

Antiques & Collectables: Hilaire Leavitt.... 529-3814

White Elephant: Nancy Harlow 529-4214

Snack Shack: Jean & John Goff & Jeannie Alessi ... 529-3652

QUILT RAFFLE – Tickets available in September

Everyone thought the Rocky Hill Quilters had retired - well, we are back with a quilt for 2017! Thanks to a generous donation by Stephanie Heneghan, we have vintage quilt blocks that will be the focal point of the quilt. These blocks were completed by her Grandmother, Brownie. For this year's Quilt Raffle, tickets will be available for sale in early

September. The drawing will be held at the Roast Beef Dinner on Saturday October 28, 2017. For more info, contact Kim Batterson Biglow, Stephanie Heneghan or Gail Tine. All proceeds will be donated, in cooperation with our Board for Missions, to support school children in Hartford.



Save the Date!
The Roast Beef Dinner and Quilt Raffle
Saturday, October 28, 5:30pm





Hello all, I thought you might find this article interesting. The Historical Society published it late last Spring in the Rocky Hill Life. (I have lightly edited it for space considerations).
Enjoy... from your Church Historian – Steve Ware

A Really Grand Old Flag
Bob Herron – Town Historian
March 2017

Last spring Lisa Zerio (Parks and Recreation) contacted the Rocky Hill Historical Society about an old flag that had been stored at Parks & Recreation for many years. The flag is Civil War vintage. It has 34 stars arranged in a star pattern and measures 30 by 20 feet and research shows it to be very rare.



The flag was flown on a 100 foot high flag pole erected on the triangle in front of the Congregational Church. It flew daily at this site for ten years after the end of the Civil War until the flag

pole was struck by lightning and destroyed. The town postmaster took custody of the flag and when he died, Benjamin Smith took charge of it. Smith's daughter, Adeline gave it to the Order of American United Mechanics. When this group ceased to exist, a member of the Griswold family took the flag and ultimately gave it to the Town Clerk about 1931. It has been stored there ever since.

We know that a Griswold family member took custody of the flag but there are conflicting reports about which one. A 1912 article in the Hartford Courant says that Roger Griswold, apparently Rufus Griswold's son, took custody of the flag. A 1931 article says the flag went to William S. Griswold, proprietor of Sunnycrest Farm. According to the 1931 article, Mrs. Margaret Griswold wrote a history of the flag.

The Historical Society would like to encourage anyone who can increase our knowledge of this flag and its history to get in contact with Bob Herron. For example, they would love to find a copy of Mrs. Griswold's paper.



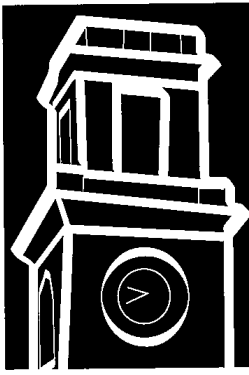
HAPPY BIRTHDAY

01	Marge Murk	17	Phyllis Carlo
02	Michael Fitzgerald	19	Lori Benito
02	Maya McNally	20	Gabrielle Pierson
03	Carolyn Taylor	21	Sandra Gau
03	Tom Fulda	22	Gayle McGowan
03	Phyllis Wilkey	23	Steven Sudell
03	Bob Inderbitzen	24	Michele Jokl
04	Liz Pulling	24	Christina Peterson
06	Richard Starr	25	Al Diaz
08	Mollie Engel	26	Diane Bengston
09	Tom Schreier	28	James Ussery Jr
10	Eleanor Mahar	28	Kirsten Timrud
11	Katherine Flynn	29	Eric Jokl
12	James Rolfe		
15	Gail Walker		

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

*Dave and Bobbie Hawkins
were married on
September 24, 1960*

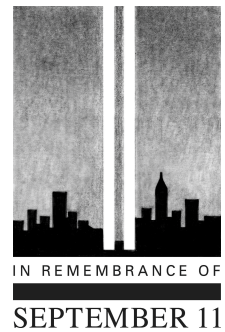
*Jay and Ruth
Jensen
were married on
September 10, 1971*



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



CHILD
care
 Provided



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
3 10:00am Worship in Sanctuary Communion Sunday	4 Labor Day OFFICE CLOSED 7:00pm Women's AA	5 9:00am Little Scholars Preschool begins 7:00pm Boards/Committees 7:00pm Hearing Voices	6
10 Rally Day 10:00am Worship Church School Begins	11 7:00pm Women's AA	12 7:00pm Council 7:00pm Hearing Voices	13 9:00am Breakfast Club 7:30pm Choir
17 10:00am Worship Church School Child Care 12:30pm RHCC Golf Tournament	18 7:00pm Bonsai Group 7:00pm Women's AA 7:30pm Bell Choir	19 10:30am Retired Clergy 7:00pm Hearing Voices	20 7:00pm LSP Board 7:30pm Choir
24 10:00am Worship Church School Child Care	25 NEWSLETTER MAILING 7:00pm Women's AA 7:30pm Bell Choir	26 6:00pm Cedar Hollow 7:00pm Hearing Voices	27 7:30pm Choir

Breakfast Club at Bob's Café, Rocky Hill
 Meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 9am.
 Join us this month on Wednesday, September 13th at 9am.

September

2017

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 <u>Office Closed</u> <i>Quilt Raffle Tickets go on sale!-></i>	2
7 7:30pm Men's AA	8 6pm -8:30pm Tamil Indian Language School Rms 22,23,24,25,27	9
14 7:00pm Fair & Events Committee 7:30pm Men's AA	15 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 6pm -8:30pm Tamil School Rms 22,23,24,25,27	16
21 9:30am Music Together 5pm Music Together 7:30pm Men's AA	22 6pm -8:30pm Tamil School Rms 22,23,24,25,27	23
28 9:30am Music Together 7:30pm Men's AA	29 6pm -8:30pm Tamil School Rms 22,23,24,25,27	30



Every Sunday: Child Care provided during worship in Room 4 (ground floor), 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM.



Harmonic Healing with Tibetan Singing Bowls
Date to be announced.



RHCC Music Ministry

We are gearing up for the fall! The adult choir, bell choir, children's choir and drum choir will be starting rehearsals soon. If you are interested in joining any of the groups, or if you play an instrument and would like to play in church, please contact Mary at mary@rhccucc.org or 860-529-4167.

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 August 29, 2017



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.



Rally Day/Re-Covenanting Sunday September 10 – 10:00 A.M.

Join us as we celebrate the beginning of the church year! During the sermon time, the high school youth will be reporting back and reflecting on their Mission Trip to Louisiana.

After service, parents may sign up their Pre-K to 8th grade children for the coming year's church school program! And join us in Chapin Hall for a special lunch, sponsored by the Board for Faith Formation.

