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The Church Mouse

July-August 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



Sound Healing Meditation with Tibetan Singing Bowls Friday July 21 and August 18 7pm in the Weil Chapel

The healing vibrations of the singing bowls can uplift the spirit, relax the body and quiet the mind. Join Rev. Craig Cowing in the Weil Chapel (located on the 2nd level in the Church building) on the third Friday of each month.

Come and see what it can do for you, and bring a friend!

Bring a yoga mat or small blanket.

Free-will food offerings support the Rocky Hill Food Bank.



During my week of study leave at Yale in June I took a class in the spirituality of the early church. The course was focused on three aspects spirituality—the world view of the early Christian church, the practice of personal transformation through prayer, and the possibility for the transformation of the world. I'd like to spend a minute here thinking about the latter.

We read sections of Augustine's *City of God*, a massive work written in the very early 400's. Augustine was originally a teacher of rhetoric in Milan, then the seat of the western Roman Empire. He belonged to a group known as Manichaeans, a religious order on the fringes of the church. He was eventually converted to Catholic Christianity and became a priest, and soon thereafter a bishop.

Augustine returned to his native north Africa and became the bishop in the city of Hippo, where he served until his death. He was involved in many of the theological debates of the time and wrote a large number of works addressing those issues. Many of Augustine's sermons have survived, and give scholars insight into the preaching of that time.

Augustine began to write *City of God* as the western Roman Empire began to unravel in the early fifth century. He distinguished between the city of God and the city of humanity. The city of God was the church, which exists imperfectly on earth. The city of humanity, of course, is human society. These two cities, in Augustine's view, coexist until the end of time. The city of God is characterized by love, the love of God and the love of neighbor. The city of humanity is characterized by greed and corruption, the acquisition of power.

Augustine knew that until the end of time, in whatever form that takes, the two cities coexist. He suggests that the world will never be a totally refined and redeemed place, and the role of the Church is to address the values of the world from the perspective of the city of God.

A few weeks ago I spoke in a sermon about a book entitled "The Benedict Option," in which the author suggests that evangelical Americans should withdraw from society and wait for the world to fall apart. Augustine would never advocate this. Instead, he saw it as imperative that the Church address issues of the day. The Church is not withdrawn from the world. For this epoch in human history, we are in the world and as disciples we are called to engage with the world on issues of importance.

This was a good reminder of what we are called to do as Christians. We are not called to sit by ourselves and allow the world to come crashing down around our ears. Instead, we are called to be advocates for change in a world that is bent on the accumulation of wealth and power at the expense of the poor.

In Christ,

Pastor Craig

ICONS OF THE MONTH – JULY & AUGUST

Visit anytime for prayer and contemplation in the Weil Chapel.



For the second half of July (July 11-31) the Icon of the Month is of Peter and Paul. 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. The icon of Peter and Paul dates from around 1050.

For the month of August the Icon of will be Christ enthroned as the Ancient of Days. The original was painted at the Monastery of St. Catherine at Mt. Sinai, and dates from around 600-700. This icon depicts Christ enthroned as the Ancient of Days, the mystical heavenly figure of the Book of Daniel. It is an early representation of Christ with the four beasts representing the four Evangelists. The Greek inscription is a prayer of dedication from the donor of the icon.



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



I recently attended a week-long series of youth ministry seminars at Yale Divinity School, entitled: *Why Youth Ministry? A Beacon of Joy in the Midst of Suffering*. I'm glad I went.

Most of us adults would probably look back on our teenage years and think, "if only I knew then what I know now," or "whew – glad those years are over!" Occasionally, I do run into that rare adult who considers his/her teen years the best years of his/her life. But for most of us, I think we can say that our teen years brought some insecurity, angst, and even unhappiness as we stepped out from the comforting, predictable world of childhood into the uncertain world of young adulthood. For teens who do not have a strong support system, this can be a very scary and anxious time.

Psychologists who work with youth seem to agree: one of the best places for a young person to be is in a church youth group – that is, in a church and youth group which are healthy. In a recent article from the Wall Street Journal ("The Teenage Spiritual Crisis" – June 14, 2017 – thanks, Jim Stevens for giving me a copy), one boy who believed in God and the Bible had these experiences:

His views started changing in his midteens. His youth group had cliques. He was in the social outcasts group, he says, and he encountered some hostility from certain church leadership against some of his friends who were gay.

"When you see people behave in wrongful, hurtful, hypocritical ways, it's kind of hard to believe that God cares," he says.

Just because a church has a youth group doesn't mean it is automatically a welcoming place for naturally insecure and questioning young people. If we adults haven't completely wiped our own teenage years from our minds, it could help us to think back to those times and reflect on what would have made our lives easier then. We don't necessarily need professionals to teach us what today's youth need: the answers may lie already within our own experiences.

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



There is growing concern though, for increases in depression and anxiety in young people. Each day in the United States, 5,240 7th-12th graders make a suicide attempt. Of those, 80% are by kids who consider themselves LGBTQI. And so, it was wonderful that our church collected a free will offering during the Shoreline Ringers concert on June 17, with the money going towards True Colors, an organization in Hartford working to support LGBTQI young people.

As our own youth groups begin to take shape and form, I will do all I can (and hopefully, with all of your help) to ensure that young people feel welcome here. It means that even as our usual youth deal with their own teenage angst, that they find a way to step through it to be a welcoming presence to other youth. It means that our older folk find a way to appreciate that RHCC has any young people at all, and to resist the urge to change them to fit old images of how young people should dress and behave. It means that our church lives into its commitment to be Open and Affirming – and to seek more ways to support LGBTQI youth. I personally will be exploring the True Colors mentorship program. May it become so that youth ministry at RHCC be a true “beacon of joy in the midst of suffering.”

Summer Sunday School

All ages (Pre-K to 8th grade) will gather for a one-room class every other Sunday during the summer. The dates are: June 25, July 9, July 23, August 6, August 20, and September 3.

We will be learning about “Courageous Bible People” and “Speakers for God.”

High School Youth Group Mission Trip

Six youth and one adult (me) will be joining with sixteen youth and four adults from First Church in West Hartford to do home repair in and around New Orleans, July 9-15. Your prayers for safe travels and an awesome time will be most welcome.

-Georgette

Minister for Children and Youth



IN HISTORIC VOTE, THREE CONFERENCES VOTE TO MOVE TOWARD JOINING TOGETHER

HARTFORD, CT - The Connecticut, Massachusetts and Rhode Island Conferences of the United Church of Christ voted decisively on Saturday to move ahead toward forming a new combined Conference, so that they may have a stronger voice speaking for justice and may more effectively carry out mission and ministry together.

The votes, taken at the first-ever joint annual meeting of the three bodies, mean that Conference leaders will now develop a formal proposal for a new Conference which will be brought before a second joint Annual Meeting a year from now in Springfield, MA.

"I am proud of you," United Church of Christ General Minister and President The Rev. John Dorhauer told those gathered following the votes. "Your yes today matters, and your yes today casts a vision for the future that was not otherwise available to you. And, my covenant promise to you is that the entire denomination will walk side-by-side with you on whatever journey unfolds."

The votes were taken at separate, simultaneous Conference plenary sessions on the afternoon of Saturday, June 17, at the Connecticut Convention Center in Hartford. More than 1,000 people - lay and clergy from the three Conferences - gathered for the two-day meeting, with most of their time spent together in worship, joint plenary, hearings and shared meals. The Massachusetts and Connecticut votes were nearly unanimous; Rhode Island delegates approved the measure by a wide margin.

"I believe that the impact of the United Church of Christ in Southern New England was enhanced today by the affirmative votes of our three conferences," said The Rev. Barbara Libby, Interim Conference Minister of the Rhode Island Conference. "Now that we know, we can move ahead to put flesh on the bones of this imagined new conference. What a unique and awesome opportunity we have as we move into the future together."

After the vote, several staff and board members said much work lies ahead in working out what the new Conference would look like. "Let us together, as one, respond with the Gospel of Jesus Christ to face the challenges that lie ahead," said Connecticut Conference Minister The Rev. Kent Siladi. "Come, Holy Spirit, come."

By Tiffany Vail, Associate Conference Minister for Communications. 6/17/2017

RHCC FOOD PANTRY BASKET

Clean out your pantry! Or buy 1 extra item while shopping. Our member volunteers make weekly deliveries to the Rocky Hill Human Services Food Pantry. All food donations are appreciated but there is a special need for non- food items especially paper products, including: paper towels, tissues, bathroom tissue, napkins foil, wax paper, soap, laundry detergent and dish soap.



Items accepted:

- Home cleaning (laundry, paper towels, dish soap, napkins)
- Personal Hygiene products (toothpaste, soap, feminine products, shampoo, toilet paper) Hotel sizes accepted.
- Non perishable food (canned goods, cereals, rice)
- Scrip Gift Cards can be donated, or you can use them to buy your donation items!

All donations are gratefully accepted!

FLOWER COMMITTEE



In the coming months, we have many Sundays available for memorial flowers or to mark a special occasion such as graduation, an anniversary, or special birthday.

They need not be a formal flower arrangement but could be flowers from your garden, or a flowering plant.

There are sign-up sheets on the bulletin board in Chapin Hall if you would like to reserve a date.

Breakfast Club at Bob's Café, Rocky Hill
Meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 9:00am.
Join us on Wed. July 12 and Wed. Aug 9.



AUDITOR REPORT



The Audit Committee has reviewed the Rocky Hill Congregational Church reports of financial position as of April 30, 2017. As well as the Church reports of financial transactions for the year-ended April 30, 2017. The Committee conducted such tests and independent confirmations as we felt necessary to conclude that the financial reports contained in the 2017 RHCC Annual Report fairly present the church's financial position as of April 30, 2017 as well as its financial activities for the year-ended April 30, 2017.



Congratulations to Lisa Eleck and Gregg Wyman, winners from the Father's Day Raffle of tickets to Connecticut baseball games at the Tigers and New Britain Bees.

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.

The submission deadline for the SEPTEMBER issue of The Church Mouse will be Tuesday, August 15 and the mailing date will be Tuesday, August 29. We want to hear from you! Send your articles and photos to: office@rhccucc.org.



Dear Good People of Rocky Hill Congregational Church,



Thank you. Thank you for the encouragement you gave me from the start of my journey toward ordination, for the prayers, hugs and words of encouragement. Thank you for the positive feedback you gave me after the times I have preached at the church. Thank you for being the welcoming community that you are. And thank you for everything you did for my ecclesiastical council.

For everyone who told me they could not be present but would keep me in prayer, I am grateful. For everyone who took the time to be in the pews during my council, it was so good to see you there supporting me. For all the members of inreach and others who prepared the reception for our guests, it was a marvelous feast. If I have forgotten anyone, please forgive me. Please know that when I reflect on my council and my time at Rocky Hill Congregational Church, I see faces of so many people who have been there for me. I have much to be grateful for!

Reverend Bridget Fidler, at my ecclesiastical council, stated that this congregation played a large part in my process toward ordination. How right she is! You have been an essential part of my journey! I am truly blessed!

*With heartfelt gratitude,
Lisa Eleck*

Reverend. Lisa Eleck will lead our Worship Service on Sunday, July 9th.



Scrip-Sure: Summary, Summer Schedule, and ScripNow

For the fiscal year ended 4/30/17, we booked almost \$17,000 in earnings from the scrip program. While that's down about 15% from the prior year, it is on par with our results from two and three years ago. Since the program's inception in November, 2009, more than \$1.6 million of scrip has been sold, producing income to RHCC of more than \$110,000. Thanks to everyone who continues to support this vital program to "fund our faith."

At this point, I expect that scrip will be available for sale each week during the summer months. We'll also resume our regular schedule of placing special orders on the last Sunday of each month – July 30 and August 27. Those are the opportunities to order cards that we don't usually keep in inventory. Cards ordered by those dates will be available for pickup on the first Sunday of the following month. A complete listing of participating retailers is available at the scrip table in Chapin Hall, or you can request a current list by email from me at treasurer@rhccucc.org.

If you will be away this summer, scrip is still an option for many retailers who offer "electronic scrip" - which our scrip provider calls "ScripNow." These are digital gift cards that can be emailed to you in the form of a printable pdf, and are used exactly like any traditional gift card. Popular retailers offering ScripNow include Amazon, Home Depot, Lowes, Walmart, CVS, Barnes & Noble, Lands End, Bed Bath & Beyond, Hotels.com, Best Buy, Kohl's, and many participating restaurants. You can order electronic scrip by sending me an email (treasurer@rhccucc.org) and then either paying online or mailing in a check.

Enjoy your summer. But please continue to "Think SCRIP!"

Dave Hall, Treasurer

THINK SCRIP



Silver Lake's 60th Anniversary

August 26, 11am-5pm

Sharon, Connecticut



Happy Birthday, Silver Lake!

By Lara Edmondson

Sixty years is a pretty long time to hang on to something, whether it be a home, a job, a marriage, a friendship, or our beloved Silver Lake Conference Center. It's not always easy, and it takes dedication, team work, faith, and hope.

In the past 60 years, Silver Lake has offered more than 2,100 summer conferences, ministering to approximately 67,000 campers. As we approach our 60th Anniversary Celebration in August, let us not only reminisce about the past, but envision a future. A future for Silver Lake that continues to invite, welcome, and empower all of God's children. A future for Silver Lake that is financially sound, environmentally responsible, open and affirming, and demonstrates progressive Christian values. A future for Silver Lake that will instill hope and always remind us to Love God, Love Our Neighbors, and Love Ourselves.

Please join us on Saturday, August 26, 2017, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. for the 60th Anniversary Celebration. Tickets are \$15 per person with a family maximum of \$60. Commemorative 60th T-shirts are available to purchase at the time of registration for an additional \$10. A cookout lunch will be provided, as well as time to participate in traditional Silver Lake activities, explore on your own, take a group decade photo, and join in worship.

Save the date for the Church Fair!

Saturday, October 21, 2017

9:00 am – 3:00 pm

Featuring:

-  Face Painting by Catalina
-  Music by Liz Reed
-  Halloween Costume Parade
-  Shops galore

Holiday House
Snack Shack
Antiques & Collectibles
White Elephant
Baked Goods
Sew Country

Farm Market
Tea Room
Kid's Corner
Jewelry
Candy
Silent Auction





**“Regaining our Centers
Listening for the Still Voice of Love”**

Annual Retreat

Sponsored by Connecticut Women of the UCC
Rev. Lee Ireland & Rev. Cheryl Caronna, leaders

Silver Lake Conference Center

September 29 – 30, 2017

4 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Cost \$135

Join us for an exploration of meditation practices that can help us when life throws us curve balls and we're wrestling with our relationship with God and others, hoping to regain our centers or health and well-being.

We will listen to some stories of Jesus' life experiences and learn how to listen for the 'still, small voice' that's in each of us.

We will work on spiritual practices together, hoping that each of us will recognize those that speak to her, and can practice on her own when life seems out of balance.

On Friday night, we will watch the movie, *"The Shack"*, about a man who goes through many trials and regains his center through an interaction with God.

Saturday will include discussion, art, quiet time, worship and communion.

Come and be renewed as Christ's servants to share God's peace, grace and love

Registration fee, **\$135.00** includes 3 delicious meals, a bed for the night & endless walks in the beauty of this place. Deadline is **September 20th** to register for retreat. Detach the registration form below and mail with check made payable to: **CT Women of the UCC to Liz Longacre, 115 Cook Hill Rd, Griswold, CT 06351** (You may copy forms as many times as necessary for friends!)

For additional information contact: Liz Longacre, jemlongacre@netzero.net or 860-376-5837.

Name: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____

Church & Town: _____

Emergency Contact: _____ Phone #: _____



Peter and Holly Alessi were married on July 2, 1977

1	Russell Sheathelm	15	Anna Gau
3	Rich Pawlich-Pagliccio		Heather Lizotte
	Maxwell Rowe		Dave Sageman
4	Anthony Marcucci	16	Maley Hunt
5	Janice Rousseau		Doug Robbins
	Thomas Reed-Swale	19	Lynn McKenna
6	Scott Gau	21	Francis DiRenzo, Jr
	Frank Vann	22	Holli Bacon
7	Ray Gagnon	24	Janet Hansen
8	Glen Schultz	27	C J Mason
	Tom Rolfe	30	Mark Biglow
9	Betty Schako		Chris Palazzolo
	Nancy Wilcock		Jaclyn Elliot
10	Ruth Jensen		Sarah McGowan
	Sean Mullins	31	Douglas Graham
12	Scott Benson		
	Paul Laporte		



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Bob and Janet Hansen were married on August 21, 1954

Dick and Sue Starr were married on August 31, 1957



1	Jeannette Doane	14	Jim Stevens
2	Lynne Lataille		Carol Baran
	Kathy Mosure		Rhody Triblets
3	Jennifer Kelley	15	Tia Sheathelm
6	Ed Bacon	17	Joyce Toft
	Samantha Behlman		Denise Carberry
7	Linda Tokarski		Molly Morgan
	Noah Dion	20	Laura Pawlich
8	Betty Mooney	23	Emily McKenna
	Galen Deming	24	Thompson Hunt
11	Julia Pickett	25	Lee Shippy
12	Deb Copes	26	Michael Bower
13	Steph Heneghan	27	Persephone Blaise
	Kim Walker	29	Larry Gilbert
	Gary King	31	Lily Hill
	Taylor McLean		Barry Wilcock
			Doug Elliot

JULY 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
<i>Childcare available during worship in Room 4, Every Sunday</i>			
2 10:00am Worship Communion	3 OFFICE CLOSED 7:00pm Women's AA	4 OFFICE CLOSED <i>Craig vacation this week ></i> 7:00pm Hearing Voices	5 6:00pm Pilates
9 10:00am Worship Summer Church School	10 <i>Mission Trip to New Orleans</i> 7:00pm Women's AA	11 7:00pm Hearing Voices	12 9:00am Breakfast Club at Bob's Coffee Shop 6:00pm Pilates
16 10:00am Worship	17 7:00pm Bonsai Group 7:00pm Women's AA	18 10:30am Retired Clergy 7:00pm Hearing Voices	19 6:00pm Pilates
23 10:00am Worship Summer Church School	24 7:00pm Women's AA	25 7:00pm Hearing Voices	26 6:00pm Pilates
30 10:00am Worship	31 7:00pm Women's AA		

AUGUST 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
<i>Childcare available during worship in Room 4, Every Sunday</i>		1 7:00pm Hearing Voices	2 6:00pm Pilates
6 10:00am Worship Communion Summer Church School	7 7:00pm Women's AA	8 7:00pm Hearing Voices	9 9:00am Breakfast Club at Bob's Cafe 6:00pm Pilates
13 10:00am Worship	14 7:00pm Women's AA	15 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 7:00pm Hearing Voices	16 6pm Pilates
20 10:00am Worship with Rev. Pat Summer Church School	21 Office Closed 7:00pm Women's AA	22 Craig vacation this week 6:00pm Cedar Hollow 7:00pm Hearing Voices	23 Craig vacation -> 6:00pm Pilates
27 10:00am Worship with Rev. Pat	28 Craig vacation this week-> 7:00pm Women's AA	29 NEWSLETTER MAILING 7:00pm Hearing Voices	30 Craig vacation this week-> 6:00pm Pilates

JULY 2017

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1
6 9:30am Music Together 7:30pm Men's AA	7 CHAPIN HALL SET UP FOR SUNDAY WORSHIP EVERY FRIDAY	8
13 9:30am Music Together 7:30pm Men's AA	14	15
20 9:30am Music Together 7:30pm Men's AA	21 7:00pm <i>Harmonic Healing with Tibetan Singing Bowls</i>	22
27 9:30am Music Together 7:30pm Men's AA	28	29



Office Hours

Monday – Thursday:

9am-2pm

Friday: 9am-Noon

AUGUST 2017

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
3 9:30am Music Together 7:30pm Men's AA	4	5
10 9:30am Music Together 7:30pm Men's AA	11	12
17 7:30pm Men's AA	18 7:00pm <i>Harmonic Healing with Tibetan Singing Bowls</i>	19
24 7:30pm Men's AA	25	26
31 7:30pm Men's AA		



Rev. Craig will be on vacation
from Aug 20 to Sept 1.

For pastoral needs,
call the church office
to be connected to a
covering minister.

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

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Mailed June 27, 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.



Rocky Hill Congregational Church
July-August Church Mouse

Enjoy worship in air conditioned Chapin Hall this summer!
Bring a friend to church!

Summer Youth Church School July 9, 23, Aug 6, 20.

Daycare provided during the service.
Coffee and fellowship after worship at 11am.

