

Good Friday Walk results are on page 5.
Community events are on page 6.

We need your help!

One of the fastest and most inexpensive ways to attract new people is through the internet. RUMC is taking steps to reach out to those who don't know about us, but we need your help with the promotion. Below are some of the things you can do to help.

1. Follow us on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/RUMCVernon>. I post links to the Pastor's sermons on Twitter; re-tweet them. Better yet, start a conversation about the message; use the church's hashtag: #RUMCVernonCT. You don't need a Twitter account to read the tweets, but you do to join the conversation.

2. Like us on facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Rockville-United-Methodist-Church-116640285027645/>. Add photos, videos, and posts to our facebook page. Like or share posts from the RUMC facebook page. The more we share, the larger the number of people who see what we do.

3. Share your photos. I would love to update our facebook page and website with photos that capture the true family here at RUMC. Add them to our facebook page or email them to the office at rumcoffice@sbcglobal.net. If there are children in the photos, please make sure their parents are ok with them being posted online.

4. Amazon Smile has a Twitter promotion right now that could help us attract attention to the good we do. They will select tweets from charities to share with their 30 million social media followers. **Here's how it works:** Tweet a photo or video incorporating the #StartWithaSmile sign and the following text:

When you #StartWithaSmile we can _____ . #AmazonSmile
smile.amazon.com/ch/06-1283681

Continue on page 4.

Dear Church Family,

On Easter Sunday morning, I spoke about how President Thomas Jefferson was convinced that many of the stories of Jesus were filled with falsehoods and so he compiled his own version of the Bible. With quill in hand, he went through the four gospels and scratched out any references to the supernatural and miracles. According to Mr. Jefferson, Jesus was a great teacher of love, morals and service. Rejecting the resurrection of Jesus, the Jefferson Bible ends with these words:



"Now, in the place where He was crucified, there was a garden; and in the garden a new sepulchre, wherein was never man yet laid. There laid they Jesus. And rolled a great stone to the door of the sepulchre, and departed."

Jefferson is not the only one who holds these views. According to the latest Rasmussen poll, 36% of Americans do not believe that Jesus rose from the dead. In this Postmodern Age of Christianity, there is a trend to elevate Jesus' "humane" teachings and negate the supernatural. Many feel that if we accept the moral teachings of Jesus, then we can be "neutral" about who Jesus is. But if we were to acknowledge that Jesus is the Son of God, then we must accept Christ's divinity and the supernatural. With that knowledge and acceptance, comes an "accountability". In defense of the truthfulness or the accuracy of the accounts of the resurrection, there are two points I would like to make.

Proof #1 Eye Witnesses

Paul the Apostle wrote in 1 Cor 15:3-8

"For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve. After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep..."

The apostle reminds us that Christ had been seen by more than 500 people at one time and the majority of those people was still alive and could be questioned. In other words Paul is saying 'If you do not believe me, you can ask them.' That is strong evidence of a physical resurrection and should not be lightly dismissed.

Proof #2 The Disciples Lives

The most telling testimony of all must be the lives of those early Christians. What would cause them to go and tell the message of a risen Christ? If this were a hoax, why would anyone allow themselves to be imprisoned and tortured? Would anyone lay down their lives for something false? Then there is the testimony of hundreds of millions of transformed lives down through the ages that shows the power of the resurrection. These are the ones who have been delivered from addictions, those who have found hope, and broken lives that have been restored. This is conclusive proof that Jesus lives within believers today.

The resurrection sets Christianity apart -- no other religious leader has broken the power of death.

There are many other proofs, but time and space would not allow me to give the proper attention in this newsletter. There are 12 different appearances in the resurrection account that begin with Mary Magdalene and end with Paul the Apostle. These accounts were written by the gospel writers who were eye-witnesses to Christ's miracles. They recorded specific physical instances where Jesus ate, spoke, and allowed himself to be touched. It also appeared that Jesus' resurrected body was no longer subject to laws of nature, but he could transcend lock doors. John the Apostle wrote, "***This is the disciple who testifies to these things and who wrote them down. We know that his testimony is true.***" John 21:24.

It is more than with faith we believe; to quote the hymn, ***He Lives***, "***You ask me how I know he lives. He lives within my heart.***"

Hope you had a happy Easter,
Pastor Paul



We had a wonderful turnout for Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday this year. I made 15 pails and 34 bags for a total of 49 items for our Easter Bag Hunt. Fifteen children watched an Easter video during service; they had lots of questions about the resurrection.

I have heard wonderful feedback about our Sunday School and the children and youth music programs. I am so very thrilled to have so many wonderful volunteers.

Sunday School:

April 3: Offering collected in Sunday School (Don't forget to do those extra chores.). Communion will be served right after Children's message allowing the children to stay with their parents, then go to Sunday school. Changing the time allows the teachers to teach the lesson without having to stop and then start up again and causes less of a disruption to the congregation. Families with children participating in communion should sit toward the front, so the kids can maximize their time in Sunday school.

April 10: No Sunday School. A movie will be shown in one of the classrooms for the kids who cannot sit through service.

April 17: Sunday School

April 24: Earth Day Celebration. The children will celebrate God's gift of nature by helping to beautify the church grounds. All children are asked to bring in cell packs of flowers to the Children's message before we head out to plant them. We will also help with winter cleanup--picking up sticks, raking leaves, etc. ***Please wear play clothes and shoes and bring shovels, rakes, and watering cans you have from home.***

Vacation Bible School:

Vacation Bible School will be the week of June 20-24 9:00 am- 12 noon. Family Night will be Thursday the 23rd. Our theme this year is **Surf Shack: Catch the Wave of God's Amazing Love.** Whatever you can do to help us out during the week or in the weeks leading up to VBS, we would love to have you! Contact Linda Shivers for information. Registration forms are available online or in the office. All are invited (friends, cousins etc.) Let your friends and family know it is open to all. Spread the word!

Summer Sunday School:

Last year's Summer Sunday program was super successful and we are planning to run it again this year. Children's Sunday is June 12 and we will start our Summer Sunday school June 19. We hope to get enough teachers to have 2 classes, split by ages; last year we had one classroom with anywhere from 12-30 kids. I will be putting up a signup sheet in May to ask parents, grandparents and teens if they would like to rotate throughout the summer to teach. Please consider "getting your feet wet" and signing up for a week or two. Our yearly Sunday school teachers can really use the time off this summer. Curriculum and teaching help will be provided.

Children's Music: (bells and choir) - all at 9 am

- **April 3:** Children's Choir
- **April 10:** Children's Choir
- **April 24:** Children's Bells

Youth Updates:-

Basketball: The Youth Basketball program is over for the season. I hope everyone enjoyed it.

Grove Street Music Program: Rehearsals will be after church on: 4/10, 4/24, 5/8, 5/22, 6/5, 6/12 after church and then 6/18 is our concert. We were treated with a taste of what to expect on Easter Sunday that had people talking.

Youth Fellowship:

School ends early this year June 29- but Don Corne and I would like to squeeze in one more sleepover before the summer vacations start. Don and I will get together and discuss some date possibilities and let everyone know.

Any questions, suggestions, opinions, I would love to hear from you

Contact: Linda Shivers, necsvga@aol.com, or 860-871-9164

Help! - cont.

The example they used was a humane society saying, "When you #StartWithaSmile we can provide food and shelter to abandoned pets. #AmazonSmile" The point is to show the good we can do with the money raised through the Amazon Smile program.

I have copies of the #StartWithaSmile sign in the office. Take a photo or video with the sign showing one of the good things we do here at RUMC. Be creative! Send your idea to me at rumcoffice@sbcglobal.net and I will tweet it from the church's Twitter account.

5. If you have information you wish to share with the world or corrections that need to be made to the information on the website, please email the church office at RUMCoffice@sbcglobal.net. Help me keep people informed by keeping our website up-to-date.

There are many other social media platforms we aren't using. If there is one you think would work well to promote our church, please let me know. If you have any creative ideas about how we can share our message, let's work together to initiate it.

Thank you,

Diane Lajoie

Catholic Charities of Hartford will join us at our service on Sunday April 17th to discuss how our church can help immigrants who relocate in our area.

Adult Studies

BIBLE DEVOTIONALS: Friday mornings at 10 am.

COFFEE AND CONVERSATION: Sunday mornings (9 am to 9:45 am)

Come join the conversation!



Tea and Text

Our Tea and Text book club is reading the book **Gift From the Sea** by Anne Morrow Lindbergh. Please contact Judie Culy if you have any questions.

Vernon Regional Adult Based Education (VRABE) is offering ½ hour appointments for **one-to-one career coaching** and job search assistance including resume and cover letter critique, interview coaching, and labor market information. The ½ hour sessions are available on Thursdays from 9am to 1pm on 4/20; & 5/19. Call Christine Vincent (860) 870-3703 to schedule an appointment.

GOOD FRIDAY WALK 2016

ROCKVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

One hundred twelve walkers gathered on Good Friday morning to sign in, greet one another and pray before starting out on this year's twenty mile walk: individuals, families, friends—all walking to raise money for Sharing, Inc. and the Tri-Town Shelter. All walking because Jesus Walked so many, many years ago. 1/3 of money raised goes to Tri-Town Shelter; 2/3 to Sharing, Inc.

AWARDS were given on Easter Sunday to Beth Stearns, Lauren Stearns and Matt Stearns for completing 200 miles. Sherry Pearson was given a beautiful sphere for completing 700 miles!! Kay Doherty was with us to make these presentations and she expressed her heartfelt appreciation to all of us for supporting her and Sharing, Inc. for decades!!

- * 112 Walkers, including 35 First Timers and 36 from RUMC
- * Walkers and workers came from at least 29 Churches and Agencies.
- * \$10, 355 Pledged; \$4,622 turned in on Good Friday
- * Workers: 68
- * Youngest: 9 years old
- * Oldest: 82
- * 83 Walked the whole 20 miles;
- * 29 Did the very best they could!!

Pastor Paul and Janet participated for the first time this year and we hope for many years to come. We are thankful and grateful for the law enforcement support from the three towns we walk in—Vernon, Ellington and East Windsor. Radio spots, newspaper articles, posters and other publicity made our efforts more visible to willing walkers and workers. Sign putter uppers, stop workers, crossing guards, drivers, registrars, walkers, cookie bakers, cleaner uppers, statistic compilers, pledgers, prayers and others—all together make our Walk one of the very best!! Many hands make light work!!

So, on behalf of the 2016 Good Friday Walk Committee: Steve and Sylvia Yoder, Joy and Bill Pikor, Bob Lyle, Larry Meehan, Claudia Steele, Kay Doherty, Pieter Nijssen, Pastor Paul O'Neil and Judie Culy—we truly thank you for your support and prayers all these many years.

Remember the Walk isn't over until all the pledges are sent in. We have copies of the Walk sheets in case you have misplaced yours.

Jesus walked on Good Friday and continues to Walk with us each day. Praise God!!

**Here is a sample of the events you can find on our
Community Bulletin Board.**



Ellington Singers Present: Spring Musicale 2016
Thursday April 14th, 1 pm
Ellington Senior Center, 40 Maple Street
860-870-3133

Please bring a donation for the food pantry.

Joy Pikor, Norine Veal, and Lin Arzt are part of the program.

Crystal Lake UMC
8th Annual Spring Fling, Open Mic & Sing
Saturday, April 16, 2016
Free Dinner 4:30PM - 5:30PM
Jaxsn's Jam Session: 5-6PM
Musician, Bring Your Instruments
Open-Mic: 6:00PM
Praise & Worship - Part 1
10 Minute Intermission
Praise & Worship Part II



City Singers of Hartford concert to benefit Habitat for Humanity

Saturday, April 23, 2016

4:00 pm

St. John's Episcopal Church

679 Farmington Avenue, West Hartford

860-523-5201

Benefit for Hartford Habitat for Humanity



The Willimantic Orchestra
Sunday April 17, at 3:00 pm
Fine Arts Instructional Center on the ECSU campus
Conductor David Vaughan's swan song.
Admission is free!



The program for the Spring Concert includes: Les Preludes by Franz Liszt; Pavanne by Gabriel Faure; Violin Concerto in C Op. 48, Mvt. 1, performed by Kayla De Caprio, winner of Windham Regional Arts Council Competition; and the Symphonic Metamorphosis by Paul Hindemith.

This concert will be David Vaughan's final concert as conductor of the Willimantic Orchestra; friends, admirers, followers, co-musicians are encouraged to attend this special performance. Following the concert there will be a reception to honor Mr Vaughan. Come celebrate 25 years of association with the Willimantic Orchestra. www.willimanticorchestra.org

The Willimantic Orchestra is a not-for-profit community orchestra, providing access to free live classical music. The casual, friendly atmosphere, encourages families, adults and children, to "come as you are", fancy dress is not required.

Vacation Bible School 2016 Rockville United Methodist Church

Date: June 20 to June 24, 2016

Cost: \$20.00 per child; (\$40 Maximum per family)

Time: 9:00am-12:00pm

Place: Rockville United Methodist Church, 142 Grove Street, Vernon, CT 06066

Who: Children from age 3 (*toilet trained) to 5th grade (just finished as of June 2016)

Special needs children are welcome and do not need to be toilet trained.

The theme of this year's Vacation Bible School is "Surf Shack: Catch the Wave of God's Amazing Love". This week long program is a community effort sponsored by Rockville United Methodist Church. Vacation Bible School (VBS) includes Bible study, recreation, crafts, music, storytelling, science, puppet shows, bells, and a fun Family Night on Thursday June 23 at 6:30 pm at RUMC.

There is a limited space for enrollment so please enroll as soon as possible. Registration will close on June 1, 2016. Registration forms are available in the church office or you can download them on-line at www.rockumchurch.com. If lack of funds is preventing your child from attending, please feel free to call or contact Linda Shivers. There are discretionary funds available that we can use to send your child to VBS. All are welcome to our program and we look forward to meeting you! Please return one (1) form per family to Rockville United Methodist Church, with a check made payable to RUMC.

God Bless You,

Director: Linda Shivers, church- 860-875-6562. Home -860871-9164, or necsvga@aol.com

Co-Director: Don Corne

Student's Name(s)

1. _____ Age ____ Grade Completed _____ Allergies we should know about? _____ *Friend they would like to be with? _____ 2. _____ Age ____ Grade Completed _____ Allergies we should know about? _____ *Friend they would like to be with? _____
--

3. _____ Age ____ Grade Completed _____ Allergies we should know about? _____ *Friend they would like to be with? _____ 4. _____ Age ____ Grade Completed _____ Allergies we should know about? _____ *Friend they would like to be with? _____
--

**Please note that we may not be able to place all children with the Friends they request to be with, but we will try.*

Parent/Guardian's Name _____ Home Phone# _____

Cell Phone# _____ Email address _____

Address _____

Town/Zip Code _____

To keep costs down, we will provide one music CD per family. If you would like additional CDs, please enclose \$4.00 for each.

of children registered ____ at \$20.00 each (or \$40 family cap) = _____

Amount enclosed for **additional** music CD _____

I would like to make an additional donation of _____. Total amount enclosed _____

Check # _____

Volunteer Opportunities

Through the Church:

Sunday Morning opportunities: Sign up sheets are in fellowship hall for the attendants needed on Sunday mornings.

Soup Kitchen Team 1 needs a new volunteer. The two-person teams meet at the soup kitchen at 10:30 am once every five weeks. Please see Don Ross if you want to be part of the team.

Vacation Bible School Needs You! June 20-24 Volunteer for the week or one or two days. Contact Linda Shivers if you are interested: necsvga@aol.com (860) 871-9164

Prayer Chain: If anyone is interested in joining the prayer chain and would prefer contact via telephone, please call Phyllis King at (860) 454-5127



Thank you

Thank you to everyone who donated a new or gently used winter coat this season. Because of your generosity, four trips to the Cornerstone Clothing Bank were made this winter, helping your neighbors stay warm.

The United Methodist **Interpreter Magazine** invites people to share your stories about your churches ministries and outreach. <http://www.interpretermagazine.org/topics/share-your-story>. They also seek 50-75 word responses to specific questions. This month the question is "What do you do to show appreciation of our created world?" <http://www.interpretermagazine.org/departments/we-asked-you-said>.

Shop to Help a Good Cause!

Gift Card Program: Whether you are shopping for necessities or making a special purchase, gift cards are always a valuable tool. Purchase your gift cards through our church gift card program, and the company will give RUMC a percentage of the purchase.

We have the following gift cards on hand:

Big Y at \$25, \$50 and \$100. (Special 6% profit); Stop and Shop at \$25, \$50 and \$100; CVS \$100; Kohls 2@ \$25.00 (can be used to pay off bill); Ninety-Nine 1@ \$25; Shell \$25 and \$50; Subway 1@ \$10; Gerry's Donuts \$10; Walmart \$100. Dunkin Donuts \$10 and \$50. (Do you buy DD coffee? Those \$50 DD would be perfect!) **Remember that this is at NO added costs to you. You always get 100% value of your cards.** This is good stewardship. Let us know how we can serve you better as we can order over 600 additional cards. For a list of the participating retailers visit our website:

<http://www.rockumchurch.com/gift-card-program/>.

Shopping on Amazon? Don't forget to use **Amazon Smile** to purchase that special gift or item you need. Through the Amazon Smile program, Amazon donates .5% of the price of eligible purchases to RUMC. **Log into Amazon through our RUMC Amazon smile page: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/06-1283681> and then make your purchases as you normally do.** There is an Amazon Smile link at the bottom of the RUMC home page.

Computer slow? Jake Gerow has a school fund raiser providing **Computer Tune Ups** and/or **viral removal**. The fee is \$30 if the problem is fixed. Details are on the Community Bulletin Board.

Special Needs

Emily Robbins - healthy pregnancy
Pat Paskowitz, - medical
Baby Lily- medical
Reverend Edward Goetz - medical
Donna Brodin - medical
Don Milanese - medical
Adrienne Baxter - medical
Ed Lapore - medical
Cory - medical
Ann Hirts - medical
Chelsea, Mike, Isabella and Gabriella St. Pierre - babies medical

Prayer Requests

Our Church Family

Al White -medical
Charlie Maupin - medical
June Guillow - medical

Those in nursing homes, Assisted Living and with limited mobility

Merrilee & Harry Thomas-home
June Latkofsky-home
Esther Harris-home
Earl & Natalie Robertson-home
Eleanor Schreiber-Crestfield
Shirley Edwards-Brookdale SW
Vita Aiello-Fox Hill
June Guillow-home
Jean Benner—Residence at SW Farms
Pat Brandt—Paradigm
Steve & Kay Lyke—home
Annette Welton—home
Irene Surette—home
Barbara Tourtelotte - home
James White- Vernon Manor

If you would like a candle lit for a prayer concern or to make a change to this prayer list, please contact the church office at 860-875-6562 or rumcoffice@sbcglobal.net. Thank you.



Those in Service

Dr. Belinda Forbes, Nicaragua
Pastor Kristin White, Augusta, ME

Mariah Shivers	April 2	Doreen Ward	April 21
Sandie Halm	April 4	June Guillow	April 21
Judie Culy	April 14	Michelle Gerow	April 24
Matthew Yoder	April 16	Brandan Walters	April 28
Analese Branon	April 16	Kevin Chen	April 29
Don Ross	April 17	Sandra Spivey	April 30
Rebecca Bacha	April 20		

Quote of the Month

"The soul should always stand ajar,
ready to welcome the ecstatic experience."

-Emily Dickinson



April 3

Acts 5: 27-32
Psalm 150 (UMH)
Revelation 1: 4-8
John 20: 19-31

April 10

Acts 9: 1-6 (7-20)
Psalm 30 (UMH)
Revelation 5: 11-14
John 21: 1-19

April 17

Acts 9: 36-43
Psalm 23 (UMH)
Revelation 7: 9-17
John 10: 22-30

April 24

Acts 11: 1-18
Psalm 148 (UMH)
Revelation 21: 1-6
John 13: 31-35

April Worship Attendants

Sign up sheets to help in these areas on Sunday morning are in Fellowship Hall.

Greeters

Please see Mike Faiaz for dates available.

Liturgists

April 3	Mel Bacha
April 10	Joy Pikor
April 17	Sue Lessoff
April 24	Sandy Spivey

Acolytes

Please see Sherry Pearson for dates available.

Fellowship Time/Coffee Hour

April 3	Lisa Williams
April 10	Karen and Eileen
April 17	available
April 24	Rebecca Bacha

Altar Flowers

The sign up sheet is on the RUMC bulletin board. Please fill out a blue form and turn it in to the office manager.

April 3	Lisa Williams
April 10	Eileen gay
April 17	Janet McKercher
April 24	Rebecca Bacha

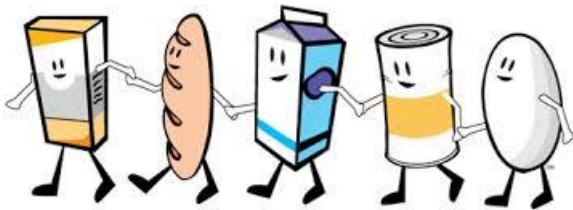
Food Donations



Last month, we delivered a total of **68** items to the Hockanum Valley Community Council Food Pantry. Thank you for helping our neighbors.

Peanut butter, jelly, canned pasta, fruit cups, tuna, soup and juice boxes are always needed.

-Suzanne Bird



Official choir and music emails now have their own email address:
RUMCmusic2009@gmail.com.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

**Discussion on Helping Relocating Immigrants
April 17, 2016**

**Sunday School Earth Day
April 24, 2016**

Return Service

Requested

Rockville United Methodist Church



Adult Study — 9:00 am
Sunday School 10:00 am
Worship Service 10:00 am



Coffee & Fellowship follow the worship service
Nursery Care is available for children 4 and under.

Office Hours 9am-2pm Tuesday-Friday

Our Mission Statement

Rockville United Methodist Church is a people seeking to be faithful to God; by reaching out to all, inviting each to a relationship with God, nurturing each in the love of Jesus Christ and sending everyone back into the world to minister in God's name.



To update address information or to be removed from the mailing list, please call or e-mail the church office.

Phone: 860-875-6562

E-mail: rumcoffice@sbcglobal.net

pastorpaul0202@gmail.com

Website: www.rockumchurch.com

Rev. Paul R. O'Neil, Pastor

Karen Stearns, Music Director

Diane Lajoie, Office Manager

Linda Shivers, Director of Christian Education

Don Ross, Church Custodian

Rev. Stan Culy (Retired)

Dr. Belinda Forbes, Missionary to Nicaragua