

Christmas Eve Service
4 pm

Join us for a Christmas Eve Service at 4 pm before we separate to spend the holiday with family and friends.



Church Decorating Party - December 5th

The annual Church Decorating Party will be on Saturday, December 5th at 6:00pm. We will be hanging the greens, decorating the trees, and just enjoying the season of celebrating Jesus' birth.

If you are attending, please plan on bringing an appetizer to be shared, a re-gifted item for our Yankee Swap, and an unwrapped toy which will be for a mission project.

Please join us for this festive event.





Dear Church Family,

The Christian season of Advent is symbolic of waiting for Christ's coming into the world at Christmas. In a sense, Advent conveys a dual meaning of waiting and readiness.

Every Sunday during Advent, we will progressively light the Advent candles: three purple and one pink. The purple represents repentance and the pink symbolizes joy. On Christmas Eve, we will light the Christ Candle, which is the white candle in the center of the wreath. Every Sunday, a selected individual or family will read a scripture, recite a statement and light the candle in keeping with the season.

In addition to this, we will sing **#2090 Advent Song** in **The Faith We Sing** hymnbook. The first Sunday, we will sing the first verse. The second will be verses 1-2. The third week, verses 1-3, etc.

- Nov 29:** **Light the Advent candle one; Now the waiting has begun; we have started on our way, time to think of Christmas day. Refrain: Candle, candle, burning bright, shining in the cold winter night; candle, candle burning bright, fill our hearts with Christmas night.**
- Dec 6:** **Light the Advent candle two. Think of humble shepherds, who filled with wonder at the sight of the child of Christmas night.**
- Dec 13:** **Light the Advent candle three. Think of heavenly harmony; angels singing "Peace on earth" at the blessed Savior's birth.**
- Dec 20:** **Light the Advent Candle, four; Think of joy forever more; Christ Child in a stable born, gift of love that Christmas morn.**
- Dec 24:** **Light the Christmas candles, now; Sing of donkey, sheep, and cow; birthday candles for the King, let the alleluia's ring.**

As we light the candles of hope (week 1); peace (week 2); joy (week 3); love (week 4) and finally the Christ candle on Christmas Eve, we symbolically drive back the darkness and invite more of the light of God into our lives. If the message of the gospel does not burn anew within us, the burning of these candles will have little effect. But if we reflect upon the meaning behind the lighting of the candle, we encompass the message.

Christmas is a season of light; Christ came to bring light to the darkness. With Jesus in our hearts, our Lord has provided light for our souls. May the Lord provide us with inward hope for the season as we experience the many lights of Christmas.

Pastor Paul





Please join us on Dec 13 (Children's Christmas Pageant) as our Children's Choir, make their debut.

Sunday School News:

- **December 5:** please bring in the money that you have earned for our mission project that will be decided on in May.
- **December 12:** Parents enjoy a few hours out while we entertain your child (any age) with crafts, lunch, movie, and games. There is no cost but we would appreciate a donation of a snack /beverage to share.
- **December 13:** Christmas Pageant during worship service. If your child would like to participate (angels, animals, and shepherds are needed). Please contact Linda Shivers
- **December 20:**
- **December 27: No Sunday School-** movie will be available in a classroom for students
- **January 3: No Sunday School-** movie will be available in a classroom for students

Children's Music:

We will be adding a children's bell choir in January, directed by Noreen Veal. I will let you know the date and time we will start.



Many thanks to everyone who has volunteered so many hours with Sunday School, and Children's music. These first 4 months of our program year have been very successful. We hope to build on that success over the next six months. If you are interested in teaching or helping with music please contact me.

Please take a minute to read the poem I found:

**On Christmas Eve the other night
I saw the most amazing sight,
for there beneath the Christmas tree
was Santa kneeling on his knee.
His countenance was different than
that all-familiar, jolly grin;
his head was bowed, and hand to breast,
and slightly tucked into his vest.
For there in a Nativity
was Jesus and His family,
and as I heard him start to pray,
I listened close to what he'd say.
"Lord, You know that You're the reason
I take pleasure in this season.
I don't want to take Your place,
but just reflect Your wondrous grace.**

**I hope You'll help them understand
I'm just an ordinary man,
who found a way to do Your will
by finding kids with needs to fill.
But all those centuries ago,
There was no way for me to know,
that they would make so much of me,
and all the gifts beneath the tree.
They think I have some hidden power
granted at the midnight hour.
But it is my love for You
Inspiring all the things I do.
And they give You all the Glory,
For, 'You're the One True Christmas
Story.'**

**Original author
Alda Monteschio**



**Linda Shivers
Home: 860-871-9164
Cell: 860-558-7632
Email: necsvga@aol.com**

The Family Learning has a lot to be thankful for. Starting with a wonderful ESL teacher, welcoming childcare staff, 17 families and great space to be able to serve our students. In honor of Thanksgiving, we had a community pot-luck; we invited church trustees, program directors, teachers and families to attend. For some people it was their first opportunity to try traditional Thanksgiving treats and other culture food made by our families.



Do you know anyone with needs their GED or improve their English skills and have young children? Please contact: Svetlana Grishtaev program coordinator at (860) 836-0514 for more information and registration.

We are currently looking for ESL volunteers, please let us know if you would like to work with our students.

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 12/17/2015; 1/21/2016; 2/18; 3/17; 4/20; & 5/19. Call Christine Vincent (860) 870-3703 to schedule an appointment.

CHRISTMAS SHOPPING TIME IS NOW!



Give the PERFECT gift – a gift card to your loved ones for a Christmas present. They not only get what they want, but they can take advantage of after-Christmas sales. It will be a double blessing! A blessing to the receiver and a blessing to the church. How? The company will give RUMC a percentage for your purchase. You always receive 100% value of the card. What could be better? For over 600 participating retailers go to <http://www.rockumchurch.com/gift-card-program/>. For more information see Janet O. at joneil2@comcast.net or 860-875-3935.

December 13 is the deadline to order to ensure that the gift cards arrive in time for Christmas!

After you have received your Amazon gift cards, don't forget to use **Amazon Smile** to purchase that special gift or treat for yourself. 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.



On **December 13th**, immediately following service, we will have a **Roast Pork Supper**. Roast pork, mashed potatoes, gravy, rolls and beverage are provided. The men's club offers this meal to anyone who wishes to stay and enjoy the fellowship (with a small donation to offset the cost of the roast pork).

Please sign up on the bulletin board to bring a dish to share and so we can have an accurate head count. Also bring your own place settings for your family: plates, silverware, cups etc. Thank you. (Help is also needed to work the dinner, please see sheets on the bulletin board.)



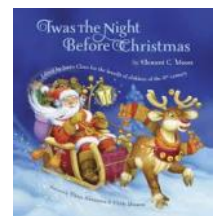
The **Children's Christmas Pageant** will be on Sunday December 13th during service. Follow the story of Christ's birth through scripture reading and hymns in this dramatic presentation by our Sunday School classes and Children's Choir.



Rehearsal Sunday December 6th

Rehearsal for **the Children's Christmas Pageant** will be on Sunday December 6th following service. Children and youths participating in the Christmas Pageant in the youth choir, doing a reading or dressing in a part need to attend.

Sunday, December 20th at 4 pm. Join us for a **Family and Friends Fun Day**. Refreshments will be provided as we gather for some relaxed family fun. You don't want to miss our special reading of **The Night Before Christmas**.



Parents Day Out Saturday December 12, 2015

The Christian Education Committee is sponsoring a parents day out/kids fun day on **Saturday Dec 12, 2015** from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm. This event is open to any age children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews etc. Adults can enjoy a few hours of Holiday Shopping as the children are playing games, doing crafts, eating, and watching movies.

There is no monetary cost but we are asking for snack/beverage donations to share with everyone. A sign-up sheet is located on the RUMC bulletin board in the hallway; this will give us an idea on how many to expect. Any questions contact Bridget Joy or Linda Shivers.

Volunteer Opportunities

Through the Church:

Serving, Clean up, Prep, and Cooking volunteers are needed for our Roast Pork Supper. The sign-up sheets are on the bulletin board.

Music program leaders are needed on Sunday's from 9-9:45 am. Please see Linda Shivers to coordinate when you are available to help.

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.

Sunday School Substitute Teachers needed! Training and Curriculum are provided. Contact Linda Shivers if you are interested: necsvga@aol.com (860) 871-9164

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

In the Community:

The Vernon Regional Adult Based Education Family Learning Center here at RUMC is looking for **tutors** for our ESL students. These students need practice with conversation, writing and grammar in English. The hours are below:

Tuesday 12:30-1:30

Wednesday 1:00-2:45

Thursday 1:00-2:45

Do you have a free hour a week? The Visiting Nurse and Health Services of Connecticut, Inc. is looking for volunteers who will spend some time **providing companionship and/or respite for their terminally ill patients.** Please see the Community bulletin board for more information. The volunteer coordinator can be reached by phone at 860-872-9163 x2423.



The **Winter Coat Collection Box** is in the church entrance. New and gently used winter coats will be donated to the Cornerstone Clothing Bank. All sizes are appreciated.

The congregation is again participating in the Holiday Gift Fund, a program that helps local families enjoy a more joyous Christmas. The deserving families are selected through our local WIC (Women, Infant & Children services).

The list of names, ages, and requested gifts is posted on the bulletin board. You can help by either purchasing a requested gift or making a monetary donation. All gifts must be wrapped and returned by **DECEMBER 20th**. Checks can be made payable to **HOLIDAY GIFT FUND** and given to Amy Velasquez or Kathy Sunderland.

Gifts will be delivered on Dec 21, 2015



Our Mitten Tree is in the Narthex and waiting to be warmed by new mittens, hats, scarves, and gloves.

Items will be donated to and distributed by the Hockanum Valley Community Service Council.



Our Church Family

Phyllis King
William Spivey Jr.
Virginia Wehrli
Ernest Pearson

Prayer Requests

Special Needs

Basset family—health issues
Jack Kentfield—rehab
Tom LaMountain—back surgery recovery
The Stenger’s friend Kendra—to carry her baby to at least 35 weeks
Kori Kentfield-Durham’s friend Valerie--her son was born at 24 weeks 1 lb 4 oz.
David Toolan - health issues

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
Dorothy Willis—home
Irene Surette—home
Fred Nowsch - Fox Hill

Bereavements

Those in Service

Pastor Lorena & El Jabillo, our sister church in Nicaragua

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.



Amy Conyers	December 2	Stanly Culy	December 14
George Klingman	December 4	Heather McPeck	December 15
Jadalyse St. John	December 7	Leah Corne	December 28
Anna Gerow	December 8	Roger LaChance	December 29
Donna Badstuebner	December 13	Carol Aronson	December 30
Barbara Milanese	December 13		

Quote of the Month

"When we recall Christmas past, we usually find that the simplest things give off the greatest glow of happiness."

- Bob Hope



December 6

Malachi 3: 1-4
Luke 1: 68-79
Philippians 1: 3-11
Luke 3: 1-6

December 13

Zephaniah 3: 14-20
Isaiah 12: 2-6
Philippians 4: 4-7
Luke 3: 7-18

December 20

Micha 5: 2-5
Luke 1: 47-55
Hebrews 10: 5-10
Luke 1: 39-45

December 27

1 Samuel 2: 18-20, 26
Psalm 148 (UMH)
Colossians 3: 12-17
Luke 2: 41-52

December Worship Attendants

Greeters

Please see Phyllis King if you would like to be a greeter.

December 6	Joanne & Sara Stenger
December 13	Carol Macri
December 20	available
December 24	available
December 27	available

Liturgists

December 6	Sue Lessoff
December 13	available
December 20	Rebecca Bacha
December 24	available
December 27	available

Acolytes

Please see Sherry Pearson for dates available.

Fellowship Time/Coffee Hour

December 6	Tom Farrish
December 13	Mike Faiaz
December 20	Amy Klingman
December 24	available
December 27	Ginny Hickton & Tami Rizner

Altar Flowers

December 6	Milanese
December 13	Candy Sunderland
December 20	Lutz
December 27	available

Food Donations



We delivered a total of **273** items to the Hockanum Valley Community Council Food Pantry in November. Thank you for donating to help those in need, especially during this holiday season.

As you purchase the items you need for your holiday dinner, consider donating the extra can, box, or bottle purchased with your coupons: pumpkin pie filling, boxed stuffing, juice, sugar, pie crusts, pudding, etc. This is the time of year when an extra treat is appreciated.

Thank you for your continued help feeding the people in our neighborhood.

-Suzanne Bird

Thank You

Our Harvest Supper , Leap of Faith Concert, and Holiday Bazaar were all successful thanks to our many volunteers. Your diligent efforts and support helped us raise over \$5000. Thank you very much.

-Judy Culy

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Poinsettia order forms are due by Sunday December 6th.

The church office will be closed on Friday December 25th and

Friday January 1st.

Safe holidays to all!

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.



December

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
Now Hiring, Church Custodian
Rev. Stan Culy (Retired)
Dr. Belinda Forbes, Missionary to Nicaragua