

RUMC Newsletter

*December 2016
Issue No. 092*



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MEET THE MARRI FAMILY

Our refugee family is from Syria; they have lived in a Turkish camp for the past four years. They speak Arabic and will need our help to get used to their new home country. Dad: Mohamed Marri (dob 1981), Mom: Alisha Altalib (1987) They have seven children, three boys (Mahmoud (2006), Suhaib (2011), and Ahmed (2016)) and four girls (Aamina (2007), Munna (2008), Ahid (2009), and Wiaam (2013)).

Due to unforeseen circumstances we will have a very short time to get the apartment ready for the Marri's. Please see Steve Yoder for the schedule. The Marri's will arrive in CT on Monday, December 5th.

Holiday Gift Fund

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 will be 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 18, 2016.** Checks can be made payable to **HOLIDAY GIFT FUND** and given to Amy Velasquez or Kathy Sunderland. Gifts will be delivered on December 19th.



Dear Church Family and Friends,

Hark! The Herald Angels sing, “Glory to the new born King; peace on earth and mercy mild, god and sinners reconciled! Joyful, all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies; with th’ angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem! Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the new born king!”



Charles Wesley’s words to “*Hark the Herald Angles Sing*” never get old. Each year as we sing them in the Advent and Christmas season, the message is new and fresh. It helps me to worship the baby who grew up to be our Savior.

We are in the midst of helping the Marri family from Syria get settled in the United States. It reminds me of how Joseph and Mary had no place to stay in Bethlehem, but gladly settled for a place in a stable. As a church we are helping a refugee family who does not speak English to become acclimated to our way of life. They are really depending on us to get their apartment ready, provide necessary transportation to required appointments, and help them to get started.

Amy Velasquez and Kathy Sunderland are spearheading this year’s Holiday Gift Fund for three needy families: Family #1-Dad & Mom and 2 boys. Family #2-Dad and Mom and boy and girl. Family #3-Mom and Dad and 3 boys. Any assistance will be greatly appreciated

I would like to invite you to some fun programs our church will sponsor in this special season:

- **Dec 4 Sunday Morning Worship** with Bishop Devadhar and our District Superintendent Calhoun followed by a light luncheon provided by the SPRC.
- **Dec 11 Sunday Morning Worship** “Children’s Pageant” followed by Roast Pork dinner.
- **Dec 18 Family Fun Night** to include Santa, video, gifts
- **Dec 24 Christmas Eve Service** at 4PM
- **Dec 25 Christmas Day Service** at 9 AM
- **Jan 1 New Years Day Service** at 10 AM

May God bless you and your family with peace and happiness this Advent and Christmas Season.

Pastor Paul

Don’t forget we are collecting labels for the final year of the Campbell’s Soup Labels for Education program. Lake Street Elementary School, in Vernon, is 5000 points from meeting their goal. We will collect labels until June to help them get the equipment they need. Leave your labels in the plastic bag on the bulletin board in the Narthex.



Sunday School:

The Christmas season offers many opportunities to worship, give thanks and praise our Lord. The holidays tend to bring us closer to others, more giving to others, and more appreciative of what we have.



Below is a schedule of Sunday School activities that are happening over the next several weeks.

Nov 20- Dec 4: our church is sponsoring a refugee family and we would like the children/youth to please help with some gently used toys and books for the children of the family. There are 7 children ages 3 yrs to 12 yrs, and the apartment they will be staying in is small. Look through your toys/books that are still in great shape that you might have outgrown to donate to them. Some suggestions are: multi-age toys-soccer balls, legos, coloring books (not used) crayons, markers, learning books-ABC, Shapes, Numbers, Fun Facts, etc. Drop off items in Director of Christian Education (Linda Shivers) office.

Dec 4: Children's Bells will be playing during worship service. After children's message we will go a classroom and practice for our Holiday Pageant on Dec 11.

Dec 11: Children's pageant during worship

Dec 18: Sunday school after children's message. Children's Christmas party 4:00 pm in Fellowship Hall

Dec 25: A movie will be shown in a classroom after children's message.

Any questions or if you would like more information, please contact me at:
home: 860-871-9164 or email: necsvga@aol.com

God Bless,
Linda Shivers, Director of Christian Education



Youth Bell Choir

4th Grade and up
performance

December 4, 2016

during service



Grove Street Music Project

Rehearsals are Sundays after Service.

Youth ages 10 and up.

Musicians, Singers, and Tech Crew
opportunities.

RUMW

Thanks to all the people who donated items, volunteered to work, and shopped our Holiday Bazaar. Thanks to you the Holiday Bazaar was a success!! The profit is just over \$5,500. \$5,000 of this amount is pledged to RUMC budget for 2017.

Look for these upcoming RUMW activities:

- RUMW Bazaar Evaluation and 2017 Budget Meeting: date TBD
- Good Friday Organizational Meeting: Tuesday January 31, 2017 - 7pm
- Good Friday Walk: April 14, 2017 - save the date



Hello RUMC family,

We would like to thank everyone for your wonderful support and helping hands with our recent spaghetti supper for Rena Schwarz. Because of you, this was extremely successful; the profit was just over \$3000.

In addition to being able to help our friend, donations were made to the Cornerstone, our incoming refugee family, and the Christmas bazaar.

Many blessings to all. With gratitude, we thank you,

Gary, Jeri-Lin, and Lisa

Stop Hunger Now

RUMC would like to host a Stop Hunger Now event on Saturday, April 1, 2017 at 3 pm. We'll need at least \$2,900 and over 50 volunteers for a 2 hour packaging event right here at RUMC. Each meal costs 29 cents, and we can expect to package at least 10,000 meals in April.

We are well on our way towards the funding. Please consider making a contribution either by volunteering and/or making a monetary gift. Checks can be made out to Rockville United Methodist Church in any amount, memo: STOP HUNGER NOW. We will have our own donation page set up on the Stop Hunger Now website soon.

So, mark your calendars and invite friends and family to sign up (young and old, are welcome). Come prepared for a hands-on opportunity to change lives!! A Sign up sheet will be on the bulletin board after the first of the year.



FOOD DONATIONS NEEDED

Last month, we collected a total of **246** food items. The food was distributed to the Hockanum Valley Community Council Food Pantry, the Cornerstone Food Pantry, and some staples were kept aside for the Marri family.

Thank you for helping your local community.

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

-Suzanne Bird

RUMC Church Council meeting November 20, 2016

Minutes

Chair: Susan Lessoff

Recording secretary: Terri J. Goldich (et al)

Attending members: Linda Shivers, Judie and Stan Culy, Pastor O'Neil, Steve Yoder, Don Ross, Janice and George Klingman, Mel Bacha, Sandy Gallup, Candy Sunderland, Geoff Gerow, Karen Stearns

1. Pastor: The pastoral compensation form is due by December 8. Pastor Paul is participating in five church meetings prior to charge conference.
2. Christian Education: Report attached.
3. Lay Leaders: Candy Sunderland and Mel Bacha will continue as lay leaders for 2017.
4. Trustees: Report attached.
5. Finance, Treasurer and Financial Secretary: The draft budget for 2017 is attached. Other income is from the gift card program, building use, etc. All contingency monies will be spent in 2016. The Finance committee will request mission share relief in 2017. Action steps are: 1) mission share relief; 2) follow up with pledges; 3) initiate a financial brain-storming session action group to develop fundraising ideas by December 15. A suggestion from the chair was to send out an informational letter about the budget to the congregation as soon as possible. Geoff will draft a letter. George reported that he wishes to merge the operating and trustees budgets, which was approved.
6. SPRC: The church profile has been completed and delivered to the district superintendent. SPRC met with David Calhoun for the annual meeting prior to the charge conference on December 8. The paperwork to renew Pastor Paul's assignment for another year has been completed.
7. Lay Leadership
8. Missions: No report.
9. Visitation and Nurture: Visits are ongoing.
10. Worship: No report.



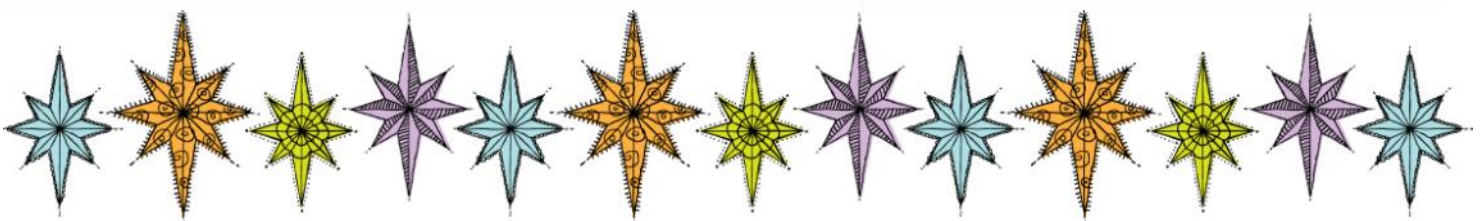
11. Music: Programs for Advent and Christmas are in preparation. Karen wants to include the congregation in singing praise hymns. Grove Street Music Project is working with Allison Corne on chimes. Karen met with Advanced Sound Systems. Their consultant informed us that our handheld mikes will be extinct because of frequencies soon. It is estimated to cost between \$3,000 - \$4,000 to replace them. Sometime in the future we will need to do this – just something to think about at present. On December 4 the Grove Street Music group will be doing some extra music for the Bishop's visit during the service. On December 18 the Family Christmas celebration will be held. GSM meets every Sunday morning.
- 12.
13. UMW: A motion to sign up for Stop Hunger Now at a cost of \$2900 was passed with 11 ayes, 4 nays and one abstention. Tea and Text meetings are continuing.
14. Men' Club: Proceeds from the roast pork dinner following the pageant on Dec. 11 will go toward supporting the Stop Hunger Now program. There is a signup sheet on the bulletin board to give the club an idea of attendance and who is bringing what.
15. Vernon community groups: Vernon Community Network has become a 501(c)3. Its representatives are David Taft and Judie Culy. If anyone is interested in joining this group please see Judie.
16. Small groups: Phyllis reports that there was no meeting in November, and will start again in December. The group membership may grow.
17. Refugee Committee report: Due to the condition of the apartment provided by Catholic Charities, the Monday workday is cancelled. Steve Yoder hopes to meet with Catholic Charities staff.
18. Publicity: Report attached.
19. Council Chair: Sue Lessoff will continue as chair for 2017.
20. Old Business: none
21. New Business: none

Respectfully submitted,



Terri J. Goldich

November 29, 2016





Our Winter Coat box is out by the front door just in time for the cold weather and snow.

Donations are taken to the Cornerstone Clothing bank for our neighbors in need.

Last year we made four trips to Cornerstone thanks to the generous people here at RUMC.

Get your Camera Ready!

Wearing a new holiday outfit? Having a good hair day? Now is the perfect time to take an updated photo to send to the church. We can store your photo in our new Servant Keeper program to create an informal directory.



Please take individual and/or family photos in front of a neutral background. Email the photos to the office at rumcoffice@sbcglobal.net.

We have new faces since the last directory was done and the kids have changed tremendously. Please take a few minutes to send me an updated photo. I will create a photo directory with the photos I receive.

Thank you,
Diane



Shop to Help a Good Cause!

Gift Cards Available Now!



Christmas presents, holiday meals, home decorating or improvements... there's a gift card for every need. Be sure to get your Gift Card order in as soon as possible! **December 18th is the last day to order gift cards for Christmas.** However, as always, we will have cards on hand for last minute shopping. Information and order forms are on our website:

<http://www.rockumchurch.com/gift-card-program/>. Remember you will always receive 100% of your gift card order; the donation comes from the card issuing company. Thank you for supporting the gift card program! Merry Christmas from your Gift Card team!

Shopping on Amazon? Don't forget to use our Amazon Smile page. The church will receive .5% of the price of the eligible purchases. 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.



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

THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS
Support for families who have lost a child.

Union Church
3 Elm Street, Rockville

**Meetings on the First Tuesday of every
month at 7 pm.**



HVCC Senior Food Program. Free food assistance available to Vernon residents age 60 and older. Sign up in person; bring positive id and proof of income. Form more information call 860-872-7727 x2910.



Holiday Handbell Concert
Saturday, December 10, 2016
Somers Congregational Church
www.shorelineringers.org



Life Line Screening
Monday December 12, 2016
four tests for \$139
Pre-registration is required: 1-888-653-6450

SUNDAY'S AT 9 AM

JITTER'S CAFÉ, JOIN US FOR COFFEE.

ADULT STUDY: ADULT STUDY IS BACK. NEW TOPICS WILL BE DISCUSSED EACH WEEK COVERING BOTH THE OLD AND NEW TESTEMENT.

Volunteer Opportunities

Check out the Mission/Outreach bulletin board in Fellowship Hall for volunteer opportunities in our community.

Through the Church:

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

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

Roast Pork Lunch: Sign up sheets are on the RUMC bulletin board for volunteers to help cook and serve the Roast Pork Lunch.

In the Community:

Cornerstone Food Cupboard: Cornerstone has added a food cupboard to help the community in addition to the Hockanum Valley Community Council Food Pantry. Monetary donations can be made through FoodShare with a notation in the memo space "for account #21605;" this will ensure the money will go to help in the tri-town area.

Church Closings

If our church has to cancel a class, activity or event (examples: worship service, Sunday school, choir practice, dinner event) due to inclement weather, etc., we will post the cancellation notice on WFSB Channel 3. This will be our way of communicating cancellations throughout the winter season. Likely notices are: "No religious ed." (Sunday school canceled), "Event cancelled" or "Closed".



POINSETTIAS FOR THE HOLIDAY

*Poinsettias will be displayed in the sanctuary on Sunday, December 18 and also at the Christmas Eve and Christmas services. Please fill out this form, attach a check, and return it to the church office mailbox by **Sunday, December 11** if you want the flower committee to order your poinsettias. If you wish to order the poinsettias yourself, they must be at the church by 10:00 am on **Saturday, December 17**, please fill out this form with the details for the gift or memorial and return it to the church office mailbox by **Sunday, December 11**.*

All poinsettias may be picked up after the service on Christmas Day. The cost of the poinsettias will be \$10.50 for single size and \$19.75 for double size. (Prices are subject to change)

Christmas Poinsettias

NAME (S) OF DONORS: _____

TELEPHONE: _____

NUMBER OF POINSETTIAS DONATED _____

GIVEN IN MEMORY OF: _____

GIVEN IN HONOR OF: _____

_____ I will be responsible for purchasing the poinsettia myself and getting it to the church by 10:00 pm on Saturday, December 17.

_____ I would like the committee to purchase the poinsettia.

Enclosed is my payment in the amount of \$ _____

Our **MITTEN TREE** is up and ready to be filled with hats, gloves, scarves, and **especially mittens** so kids can play outside this winter. **All sizes are needed.** The donations will be distributed by the Hockanum Valley Community Council. Thank you for your help.



Prayer Requests

Special Needs

Baby Lily- medical
 Raya Thorington - medical, age 9
 Leanna- medical, age 17
 Dianne McLaughlin - medical
 Rose- infant daughter, medical
 Paul Doucette - medical
 Al Boulais - medical
 Ross Middleton - medical
 Bill Kayba - medical
 Jody- medical
 Barbara Doyle - medical
 Scott Stubbs - medical
 Michael Svenson - medical
 Lincoln Gottier - medical
 Barbara Sweeney - medical
 Don Milanese - medical
 Rev. Ron Adcock - medical
 Pat - employment
 Jane and Bill - grief
 Geraldine Cyr - 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
 Pat Brandt—Pennsylvania
 Steve & Kay Lyke—home
 Annette Welton—Brookdale SW
 Irene Surette—home
 Leonard Aronson - Vernon Manor
 Barbara Tourtelotte - Woodlake

Those in Christian Service

Dr. Belinda Forbes

Accion Medica Christiana,
 Managua, Nicaragua

Pastor Kristin White,

Green Street UMC,
 Augusta, ME

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

"If you haven't time to respond to a tug at your pants leg, your schedule is too crowded."

~Robert Brault



December Worship Attendants
Sign-up sheets are in Fellowship Hall.

December 4

Isaiah 11: 1-10
Psalm 72: 1-7, 18-19 (UMH)
Romans 15: 4-13
Matthew 3: 1-12

December 11

Isaiah 35: 1-10
Luke 1: 47-55 (UMH)
James 5: 7-10
Matthew 11: 2-11

December 18

Isaiah 7: 10-16
Psalm 80: 1-7, 17-19 (UMH)
Romans 1: 1-7
Matthew 1: 18-25

December 25

Isaiah 52: 7-10
Psalm 98 (UMH)
Hebrews 1: 1-14 (5-10)
John 1: 1-14

Greeters

Mike Faiaz, coordinator.
December 4 Candy Sunderland
December 11 Rick Bacha
December 18 Ginny Hickton & Lois Wood
December 25 available

Liturgists

Candy Sunderland, coordinator
December 4 Paul O'Neil
December 11 Christmas Pageant
December 18 Rick Bacha
December 25 available

Acolytes

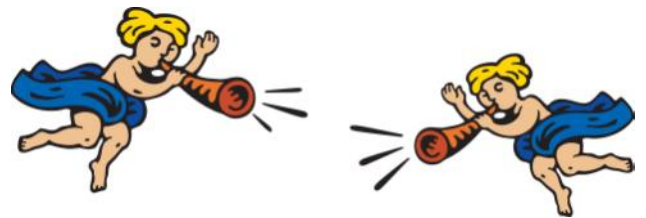
Sherry Pearson, coordinator.

Fellowship Time/Coffee Hour

Candy Sunderland, coordinator.
December 4 SPRC
December 11 Men's Club
December 18 Carol Robbins
December 25 available

Altar Flowers

The sign up sheet is on the fellowship Hall bulletin board. Please fill out a blue form and turn it in to the office manager.
December 4 Janet McKercher
December 11 Carol Robbins
December 18 Helen Perrault
December 25 Lutz Fund



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

**Annual Church Conference
December 8, 2016**

7 pm

**Children's Christmas Pageant
December 11, 2016 10 am**

**Roast Pork Lunch
December 11, 2016 11 am**

**Christmas Eve Service
4 pm**

**Christmas Service
9 am**

**Good Friday Organizational
Meeting
January 31, 2017 - 7 pm**

Roast Pork Lunch

Sunday, **December 11th**, immediately following service, we will have a **Roast Pork Lunch**: 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.

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