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CHURCH CHRISTMAS DINNER

December 10, 2017

11:30 am

Sign up to bring a side dish to share at our annual Christmas Dinner. Roast Pork and potatoes will be provided by the Men's Club. Bring your own plates, glasses, and silverware.

Workers are needed to prep, cook, serve and clean up after the meal.

Sign-up sheets are on the RUMC bulletin board in the Narthex.



**Our winter coat
box is by the
front doors.
Please bring your
new or gently
used coats for
the Cornerstone
Clothing Bank.**

Dear Church Family,



The Advent and Christmas season is upon us again. It is amazing how the birth of a child 2000 years ago in a remote corner of the earth, surrounded by humble circumstances should stand forth as the center of all recorded history. In the beginning Christ replaced a pagan celebration, and a postmodern world is trying to make it into a secular festival again.

Charlotte Carpenter captured the essence of Christmas when she wrote the poem, "Not in a Box."

"Not in a Box"
Christmas is the gift from heaven.
Of God's Son given for free;
If Christmas isn't found in your heart,
You won't find it in a tree.

Advent feels especially exceptional at RUMC thanks to the countless hours our volunteers spent decorating our church so beautifully. Visitors walk through our doors to a winter wonderland filled with trees and animals; in the sanctuary they are greeted by our Advent wreath, Holiday Fund Tree, and the special nativity banner over the altar. It only takes moments for the experience to bring you joy.

To me the highlight of the season is when we sing Silent Night by candle light at the Christmas Eve worship Service. In that moment it seems like heaven and earth are one and all is well, "peace on earth, goodwill to men."

May I invite you to attend the following events:

- Sunday Dec 10**, 10AM Children's Christmas Pageant/All Church Christmas Dinner
- Sunday Dec 17** 4PM A Family Christmas Party
- Sunday Dec 24** 10AM Christmas Eve Sunday Morning Worship
- Sunday Dec 24** 4PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Service

Merry Christmas

Pastor Paul

A FAMILY CHRISTMAS

Sunday, November 17th at 4pm

Join us for this fun-filled afternoon!
We will have a *Special Guest*
and music from our GSM
Praise Band and Bell Choir.

Refreshments will be served.

This fun event is open to the public. Plan to be there!



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS:

- Dec.3- children’s bells will practice after communion
- Dec. 10- children’s pageant Children should meet in fellowship hall at 9:30.
- Dec. 17- Sunday class after children’s message
- Dec. 24- no Sunday school class, a movie will be shown.
- Dec. 31- no Sunday school, New Years break.



CONFIRMATION:

We will not have confirmation class in December.

SUNDAYS BEYOND SUNDAY YOUTH GROUP:

We want to thank the congregation for their support of our “Bag of Warmth” (hats and gloves). Your generosity allowed us to put together over 300 bags; Hands on Hartford will be distributing the bags to the children in one of the elementary schools.

As far as meetings we are probably taking a hiatus for December. If your advisors can squeeze something in, we will send out a group email.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A BLESSED NEW YEAR!!

Director of Christian Education is Linda Shivers.

contact info: necsvga@aol.com, home- 860-871-9164, cell-860-558-7632



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 online at WFSB Channel 3 (<http://www.wfsb.com/category/211195/school-closings>) and on TV at NBC Channel 30 (WVIT). 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”.



Thank you for donating to this year's GSG Ingathering. Your generous donations help our neighbors in need.

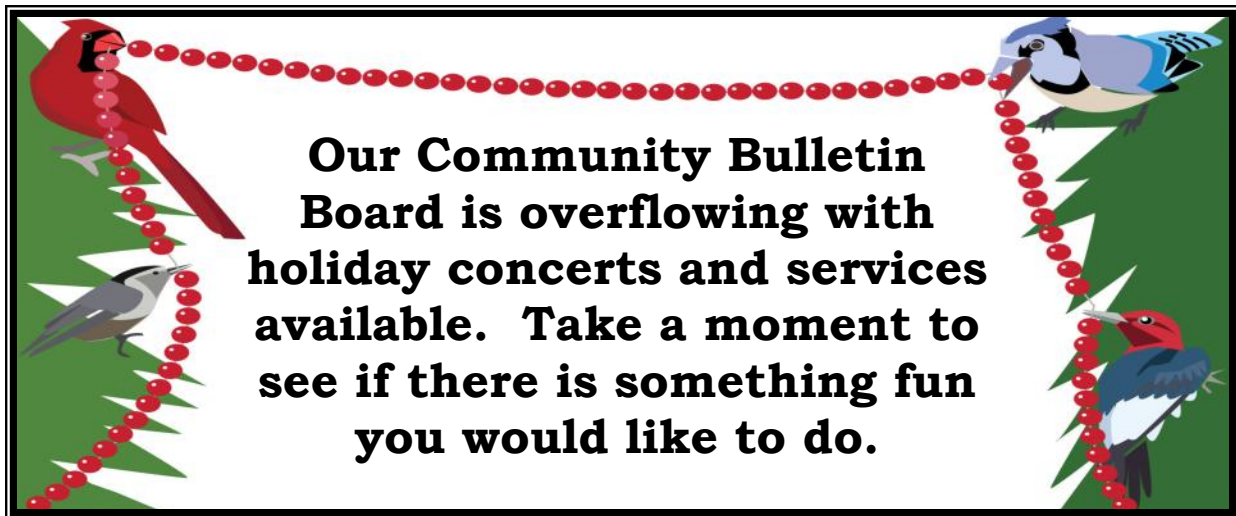




HOLIDAY GIFT FUND

Once again we are partnering with WIC (Women, Infant, & Children Service) to help local families enjoy a more pleasant Christmas. The list of names, ages, and requested gifts are 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 17. Checks can be made payable to HOLIDAY GIFT FUND and given to Amy Velasquez or Kathy Sunderland. Gifts will be delivered on Dec 18, 2017.



Our Community Bulletin Board is overflowing with holiday concerts and services available. Take a moment to see if there is something fun you would like to do.

GIFT CARDS CHRISTMAS CAMPAIGN

The deadline for ordering Christmas gift cards is fast approaching. Please submit all Christmas Gift Card Orders by December 17th. The gift card program includes cards from restaurants, gas stations, grocery stores, department stores, and travel expenses. The cards cost their face value; you always received 100% of your purchase. The retailers donated a percent of your purchase back to RUMC. The order form and more information is on our website.

As always, we will have some cards on hand for your last minute shopping after the ordering deadline. Presently, we have on hand Big Y, CVS, Walmart, Lowe's, Dunkin Donuts, Staples, and Home Depot.

Please let your family and friends know about our program and give them a business-like card with the relevant information. The cards will be available at church. All profits go to the general church fund. Thank you for your participation.

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

Volunteer Opportunities

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

Through the Church:

Church Dinner: Sign up sheets are on the RUMC bulletin board for people to help cook the Roast Pork and set up Fellowship Hall for our annual Church Dinner on December 10, 2017.

Church Maintenance: The GOM's need your help! Since our Grumpy Old Men are getting even older, there are many things they did without fanfare on Wednesday mornings that they can no longer do. We will start posting in the bulletin, on Facebook, and on the website activities where we need help; these are activities octogenarians should no longer be doing. Please keep an eye out for these opportunities, and help where you can.

Leaf Clean Up: We need some volunteers to help clear the leaves from the church yard. The schedule is flexible, please see Don Ross for details.

Altar Flowers: Set up the altar with the correct color linens and the week's altar arrangement. This is a 13-week commitment: one week a month with an additional week once-a-year.

Refugee Program: Please talk to Steve Yoder if you would like to help the Marri family. Transportation and English lessons/practice are two of the opportunities available.

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

Lay Ministries: We have several lay ministry openings. The duties vary; we are sure to find a service that fits your skill set. Please see Pastor O'Neil for details.

In the Community:

Cornerstone Foundation: Volunteers needed for their Youth Outreach Program: homework help, music, art, team building skills, substance abuse education, employment skills, self-care and sports classes. Email Paula Plante for information or to volunteer: PPPLANTE10@HOTMAIL.COM.

MARRI FAMILY UPDATE

Sandy Gallup made two beautiful quilts for the Marri Family. They were given to them on Wednesday November 8th.

On Saturday, November 4, Steve Yoder, Stan and Judie Culy, Nat Woodruff and two of the Culy neighbors gathered at the house of Kathryn Leenhouts to move three beautiful dressers she had donated to our Syrian refugee family. First, they were stored in the church until Wednesday, November 8, when Pastor Paul walked two of these dressers from the Fellowship Hall to the Culy van. When the van arrived in New Britain, the men carried the dressers into the house. From there, Pastor Paul once again walked the dressers to the back bedroom. Walking a dresser requires the mover to grip the sides of a dresser, lifting one side forward at a time, balancing on one leg of the dresser. To see it is to believe it. Our thanks go to Kathy for this wonderful gift and to all the men for moving these gifts to the refugee home.

Bible Devotional - Fridays at 10 am: We are showing a video on the Gospel of Matthew followed by discussion of what we watched.

Pastor's Prayer Meeting- Saturdays, 9 am to 11 am: Join Pastor Paul and a group of United Methodist from Ghana as we pray for the United States, the United Methodist Church, and our local church.

CHURCH REPORTING AND OTHER BORING TOPICS

Throughout the year I record data provided to me for compilation. Some of this data is reported to the district superintendant at our annual charge conference; other data I use when ordering supplies or printing bulletins. Still more data is updated so we can see a tangible record of the good we have done throughout the year. However a lack of information skews our results. Please take a minute to review below some of the items I need for accurate reporting.

Birthdates: Month, Day and Year. The district asks for reporting on the age ranges of our members. For many people, I do not have a year they were born and, therefore, don't have their age to report properly.

Classroom Attendance: I record the class attendance in Servant Keeper; to do this I need a first and last name. I enter the attendance by person, not a total number. First name, Last name, birth date, and grade (for kids) are the minimum I need to enter the attendance properly. Ideally we would also receive address, phone, and email from new people. Please let me know which people are together as members of the same family; these relationships are especially difficult to guess when there are multiple last names in a family.

Worship Attendance: I record our worship attendance by total number, not individual names. The head usher for the service should please count or assign someone to count the number of people in attendance and leave me a note on my desk.

Food Collection: We record the weekly collection of the food items donated. Please leave the quantity of items donated in a note on my desk.

Event Results: Please remember to include me when you have totaled the amount collected at your fundraising events.

Upcoming Events: There are many places I can advertise--newspaper, radio, social media, web calendars, etc. Please send me the details about your upcoming events so I can advertise them. The earlier we get the word out, the more press we will receive. Please let me help you.

I am going to review servant keeper for some of the data I am missing and send notes to the relevant people. Please help me update our records.

Thank you,

Diane Lajoie

Office Manager



Thank you to everyone who volunteered and participated in our Harvest Supper and Holiday Bazaar. We will have a full report in January after the UMW meeting.



Amazon Smile for Christmas

We received a \$5.25 donation from Amazon Smile in November. Don't forget to visit our Amazon Smile landing page (<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/06-1283681>) before you log into your Amazon account, and RUMC will receive .5% of the price of the eligible purchases; make your purchases as you normally do.



POINSETTIAS FOR THE HOLIDAY



*Poinsettias will be displayed in the sanctuary on Sunday, December 17 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 10** 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 9:00 am on **Saturday, December 16**, please fill out this form with the details for the gift or memorial and return it to the church office mailbox by **Sunday, December 10**.*

All poinsettias may be picked up after the evening service on Christmas Eve. The cost of the poinsettias will be \$10.50 for single size, \$19.75 for double size, and \$26.50 for a triple size. (Prices are subject to change)

Christmas Poinsettias

(White or Red)

NAME(S) OF DONORS: _____

PHONE: _____ **# ORDERED/SIZE:** Single Double Triple

GIVEN IN MEMORY OF: _____

GIVEN IN HONOR OF: _____

_____ I will be responsible for purchasing the poinsettia myself and getting it to the church by 9:00 am on Saturday, December 16.

_____ I would like the committee to purchase the poinsettia.

Enclosed is my payment in the amount of \$ _____

STEWARDSHIP THANKS:

Thanks to all from your Finance Committee for joining us in providing the funds to keep things going at Rockville United Methodist Church for the 2018 year. Whether you pledged for the first time or the fiftieth time, whether you stayed the same or raised your pledge, whether you have committed to give as able—we appreciate your faithfulness.

The campaign is almost over and we have an increase of at least \$5,000 more pledged than the 2017 year. We will be working on a budget and will have more information for the January newsletter. We hope to be able to give more to Mission Shares than we did this year. And, yes, there will be fundraisers along the way.

Giving is such a privilege, the amount does not matter so much as the warm feeling of doing the very best for the Lord through our personnel and programs, such as our Youth Ministries. We've seen our youth of all ages grow in their faith this year. They inspire us with their enthusiasm while leading us in praise songs on Sunday mornings. "Your Faith is Enough" challenges us to do our very best, to trust in God and to move forward!!

Again, thanks for being part of the RUMC team.

DECEMBER IS NATIONAL SAFE TOYS AND GIFTS MONTH

The Consumer Product Safety Commission (<https://www.cpsc.gov/>) reports 28 toy recalls in 2017. They provide these tips for safe gift buying:

- Check the label: Choose age appropriate toys by reading the age label on the toy. Children younger than 3 should not have access to toys with small parts, which can cause choking. Also avoid marbles and small balls for children under 3.
 - Get safety gear. With scooters and other riding toys, supervision is key along with proper safety gear that includes helmets. Helmets should be worn properly at all times and they should be sized to fit. Avoid riding a scooter on a street or roadway with other motor vehicles.
 - Hoverboards: Although not considered a toy, hoverboards should be compliant with UL 2272 safety standard.
 - Be careful with magnets: High powered magnet sets are dangerous and should be kept away from children under 14. Building and play sets with small magnets should also be kept away from small children.
-

W.A.T.C.H. (World Against Toys Causing Harm, Inc) puts out a yearly “10 Worst Toys” list; it can be found on their website <https://toysafety.org/>.

Here are some General Toy Safety Tips from <https://www.playsafe.org>, a safety organization formed by the trade association of toy designers, producers, and licensing, The Toy Association.

No matter how old they are or where they're playing, we know your little one's safety is your top concern. Here are a few things to keep in mind to help make sure playtime for kids of all ages is fun and safe.

- Parents or adults should always supervise play, especially for younger children.
- Dispose of all unnecessary toy packaging and gift-wrap as soon as possible (piles of discarded gift-wrap can conceal sharp objects and the edges of hard plastic packaging that can cut small fingers).
- Read instructions carefully. Save directions, warranties and assembly hardware.
- Get on the floor and play with your kids! Demonstrating the correct way to use a toy or game is the best way to make sure your child understands how to properly and safely enjoy it.
- At parties and other festive events, be sure to supervise children around latex balloons. Un-inflated balloons and broken pieces can pose a choking hazard.
- Store toys safely in an easily accessible storage bin. Lidded toy storage should be non-locking and have special safety features like air holes, spring-loaded hinges and clearances at the hinges to make sure little fingers won't get caught.
- Organize and store toys to prevent slips, trips and falls.
- Keep a separate toy chest for older kids whose toys may contain small parts. Enlist their help in keeping their toys out of the hands of younger siblings.
- Regularly sort through the toy box to discard broken toys.
- Speak to grandparents and other caregivers about the importance of choosing appropriate toys and supervising play!



Special Needs

Michael Svenson - medical
 Barbara Sweeney - medical
 Nick - medical
 Lindsay - medical
 Victor - medical
 The Marri Family
 Chester Chase - medical
 Julie - special needs
 Madison Kanneman - emotional support & medical recovery
 Jodi - medical
 Paul Doucette - medical
 Melina - health
 Joe DelRio - medical
 Bruce Rieder - medical
 Lynn & Mom - emotional support
 Kate and family and all displaced by natural disasters
 Lynn - medical



Those in Christian Service

Dr. Belinda Forbes
 Accion Medica Christiana,
 Managua, Nicaragua
Pastor Kristin White,
 Green Street UMC,
 Augusta, ME

Our Church Family

Virginia Wehrli - medical
 Ray Clark - medical
 Bob King - medical

Those in nursing homes, Assisted Living and with limited mobility

Merrilee & Harry Thomas-home
 June Latkofsky-home
 Esther Harris-home
 Eleanor Schreiber-Crestfield
 Shirley Edwards-Brookdale SW
 Vita Aiello-Fox Hill
 June Guillow-home
 Pat Brandt—Pennsylvania
 Kay Lyke - Crestfield Manor
 Annette Welton—Brookdale SW
 Irene Surette—home
 Leonard Aronson - Vernon Manor
 Tom Rider - Fox Hill
 Ray Clark - home
 Earl Robertson - Vernon Manor
 Bob King - Fox Hill

*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 rum-coffice@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

“In the old days, it was not called the Holiday Season; the Christians called it ‘Christmas’ and went to church; the Jews called it ‘Hanukkah’ and went to synagogue; the atheists went to parties and drank. People passing each other on the street would say ‘Merry Christmas!’ or ‘Happy Hanukkah!’ or (to the atheists) ‘Look out for the wall!’”

~Dave Barry, *Christmas Shopping: A Survivor’s Guide*



December Worship Attendants

Greeters

Phyllis King, coordinator
 December 3 Alan & Norma Ogren
 December 10 available
 December 17 available
 December 24 available
 December 31 available

Liturgists

Candy Sunderland, coordinator
 December 3 George Klingman
 December 10 Children's Pageant
 December 17 Rick Bacha
 December 24 (10am) Laurie Bacha
 December 24 (4pm) David Joy
 December 31 Mike Faiaz

Acolytes

Don Ross, coordinator.

Fellowship Time/Coffee Hour

Candy Sunderland, coordinator.
 December 3 Candy Sunderland
 December 10 O'Neil
 December 17 Charlie & Lucy
 December 24 Ross
 December 31 available

Altar Flowers

Please fill out a blue form and turn it in to the office manager.
 December 3 available
 December 10 available
 December 17 Lesoff
 December 24 Lutz Fund
 December 31 available

December 3
 Isaiah 64: 1-9
 Psalm 80: 1-7, 17-19 (UMH)
 1 Corinthians 1: 3-9
 Mark 13: 24-37

December 10
 Isaiah 40: 1-11
 Psalm 85: 1-2, 8-13 (UMH)
 2 Peter 3: 8-15a
 Mark 1: 1-8

December 17
 Isaiah 61: 1-4, 8-11
 Psalm 126 (UMH)
 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
 John 1: 6-87, 19-28

December 24
 2 Samuel 7: 1-11, 16
 Luke 1: 47-55
 Romans 16: 25-27
 Luke 1:26-38
 Isaiah 9: 2-7
 Psalm 96 (UMH)
 Titus 2: 11-14
 Luke 2: 1-20

December 31
 Isaiah 61:10- 62:3
 Psalm 148 (UMH)
 Galatians 4: 4-7
 Luke 2: 22-40
 Ecclesiastes 3: 1-13
 Psalm 8 (UMH)
 Revelation 21: 1-6a
 Matthew 25: 31-46

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Christmas Pageant & Church Lunch
December 10, 2017
10am

A Family Christmas
December 17, 2017
4 pm

Christmas Eve
December 24, 2017
10 am & 4 pm

Dinner Church
January 14, 2018
6 pm



Charge Conference
Tuesday
January 2, 2018
7 pm
Please attend this important meeting.



**Have you made your will?
 Have you remembered
 your church?**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
26 Sunday School Sunday Service GSM – Grove Street Music GSM – Grove Street Music Sunday School Teachers Meeting	27	28 Vernon Adult Education FA – Families Anonymous	29 GOM – Grumpy Old Men Vernon Adult Education	30 Vernon Adult Education Senior Choir NA- Narcotics Anonymous	1 Bible Devotional	2 Pastor's Prayer Meeting
3 Sunday School Sunday Service GSM – Grove Street Music	4	5 Vernon Adult Education FA – Families Anonymous	6 GOM – Grumpy Old Men Vernon Adult Education	7 Vernon Adult Education Senior Choir NA- Narcotics Anonymous	8 Bible Devotional	9 Pastor's Prayer Meeting
10 Sunday School Sunday Service Christmas Pageant GSM – Grove Street Music Church Dinner	11	12 Vernon Adult Education FA – Families Anonymous	13 GOM – Grumpy Old Men Vernon Adult Education	14 Vernon Adult Education Senior Choir NA- Narcotics Anonymous	15 Bible Devotional	16 Pastor's Prayer Meeting
17 Sunday School Sunday Service GSM – Grove Street Music Church Council A Family Christmas	18	19 Vernon Adult Education FA – Families Anonymous	20 GOM – Grumpy Old Men Vernon Adult Education	21 Vernon Adult Education Senior Choir NA- Narcotics Anonymous	22 Bible Devotional	23 Pastor's Prayer Meeting
24 Sunday Service GSM – Grove Street Music Church Council A Family Christmas	25	26 Church Office Closed FA – Families Anonymous	27 GOM – Grumpy Old Men	28 Senior Choir NA- Narcotics Anonymous	29 Bible Devotional	30 Pastor's Prayer Meeting
31 Sunday Service GSM – Grove Street Music	1	2 SPRC Church Conference	3	4	5	6

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 10am-2pm Tuesday-Friday

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

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.



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