

December 2014
Issue No. 070



Our annual **Christmas Handbell Concert and Carol Sing** will be on
Sunday December 21, 2014 at 5 pm.

The Jr. Bell Choir will be performing at this family event. Refreshments will be served. The event is free; however free-will offerings will be accepted.

Mark your Calendars. The **Children's Christmas Pageant** will be **during the December 14th service.**

Immediately following the pageant, the Junior Bell Choir will rehearse for the Handbell Concert and Carol Sing.



On **December 14th**, immediately following service, we will have our traditional **Roast Beef Supper**. Roast beef, 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 beef). **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 by the men of the church to work the dinner, please see sheets on the bulletin board.)



Pastor's Corner

I love receiving my L.L. Bean Catalog especially at this time of year. I probably should qualify my statement...I love receiving the catalog but I rarely order from it. It's not that I don't like L.L. Bean. I had the pleasure of seeing the original store...yes, the one in Freeport, Maine. In the days when I visited the store there were two things you could count on: 1. All the products were USA made and 2. The company guaranteed satisfaction for every product it sold: if the consumer wasn't happy with the product, if there was defect or if you damaged the goods and wanted to return it, you could. It was a 100% money back guarantee or a brand new product replacement. No questions asked.

Life really doesn't work this way, does it? Nothing's guaranteed and in our multi-cultural world products come to us from many, many different places. What we wear, drive, read, watch on television and hear on the radio could come from many different countries and many different people. In our day and age, those we deal with on a regular basis may speak different languages, hold to different practices, wear different clothing, and have different skin colors. Perhaps, all this connects us worldwide to bring us closer to one another. I think it might be a good sign of the kind of peace we profess to hold to, especially as we welcome the Prince of Peace into our lives once again. You know, that's what Christmas is about – a time for welcoming the holy Christ into our lives. Christ came to redeem us and to point us to another way. In the earliest days of Christianity as referenced in the Book of Acts, our faith was referred to as “the Way”. Those who followed Jesus Christ walked the Way Christ walked.

As we move into this time of remembering and celebrating the birth of Christ, we also have an opportunity to recognize our own rebirths. We do have one guarantee in life: if we give our lives to Christ, Christ will free us from our human faults and sin and give us the peace which passes all understanding. It is a certainty, a promise from our God and though life can't give us the security of hope, faith or even, love, God through Christ has made all this possible. The true gift of Christmas lies in the realization: we are not our own; we belong to God. It is through Christ, our lives can be restored and we can be healed and made whole.

May God bless this holy time for you and for your family. May you have a joyous Christmas and a holy, happy New Year!

In Christ's peace,

Pastor Ricki

Confirmation Class to begin in January 2015

As we approach another new year, I look forward to beginning a class of students ready to be confirmed as full members of the church. This is an exciting time and one in which our young people explore their faith and engage with the Bible, the history and tradition of the United Methodist Church, and learn more about their God-given gifts and how to use them. This year I'd like to invite more involvement from the adults in our congregation. Specifically, I'm looking for individuals in the church who are full members of our congregation and who are willing to offer some time to mentor a young person as he or she moves through the experience of Confirmation. Specifically, the adult would, with the young person, select four activities outside the classroom instruction, i.e., attend a worship service together in another faith tradition; tour the Community Food Pantry or one of our local shelters, attend a funeral/memorial service or wedding service and write briefly on the differences and similarities to Sunday morning worship, etc. If you would be willing to serve as a mentor: please call the office at 860-875-6562 or email me at revricki@sbcglobal.net. Or, you can drop off or mail this form to the office by December 15th. ***[Please note: Not all willing volunteers may be chosen. The students will choose with whom they would be willing to work.]***

Confirmation Mentor

Yes, I would be willing to work with a Confirmation student as a Mentor.

Name: _____

Contact Information: _____

[Please note: Not all willing volunteers may be chosen. The students will choose with whom they would be willing to work.]



In November the kids collected 343 food items during the Ingathering. Wow! **A big thanks to everyone!** And a thanks to all the kids for helping bring all the food to the alter - adding to the cuteness of it all. The kids brought in \$20.50 for missions. Good Going!

I am looking forward to Christmas, but we have some work to do first. We will be practicing for the pageant on December 7th; this will take the whole class. The pageant will be December 14th during service. Make sure you tell family members to come and watch. (It will be very cute.) On December 21st we will collect food and baby items. Also on the 14th, any kids who wanted to be in the bell concert will practice with Mrs. Veal and Mrs. Klingman. All other kids will go to class. There will be no class on December 28th.

"Each of us will one day be judged by our standard of life, not by our standard of living; by our measure of giving, not by our measure of wealth; by our simple goodness, not by our seeming greatness."

-William Arthur Ward

May you have Peace and Love for your Christmas.

Eileen

December 7: Pageant rehearsal

December 14: Christmas Pageant

Jr. Bell Concert Rehearsal

December 21: Baby Item and Food Collection

December 28: No Sunday School



If you have any questions, my contact information is below:

Cell: 860-841-1433

Home: 860-875-7641

Email: eileengay1928@gmail.com

Holiday Gift Fund: The congregation is again participating in the Holiday Gift Fund, a program that helps struggling local families enjoy a more pleasant Christmas. The names are provided by 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 21.** Checks can be made payable to **HOLIDAY GIFT FUND** and given to Amy Velasquez or Kathy Sunderland.



Gifts will be delivered to the families on Dec 22, 2014.



Well, I'm not even sure where to start. The year has flown by and we are entering the season of advent with some very special services in December. We just experienced our 5th annual Leap of Faith concert and the always popular Harvest dinner with turkey and all

the fixin's. The concert and dinner were a huge success. I was fortunate enough to be a part of the choir again this year under the direction of the very talented and gifted Music director, Karen Stearns and Jereme Martineau, Guest Choral director from South Windsor High School. There was never a dull moment with him in the room. The concert is over, the Annual Holiday bazaar was another great success under the leadership of Judie Culy as chair. Another huge thank you to all for making this year's bazaar such a success.

And now... The weather is cooler. Dare I say it, winter is just around the corner. It's just a beautiful season of change all around us. After all, isn't change what keeps us young? Lately, I've been thinking a lot about change and the potential for changes in my life. We are all faced with change in our lives and well.... Let's face it.... We accept it and adapt, or change happens without us on board. Recently, I've had to make some tough decisions that will prompt change. The decisions I have made, not only affect me, but others as well. I was faced with a very difficult decision; one I didn't take lightly. I've been torn between where the heart leads me and where my head leads me. And they were on two very different paths. I've always been that person who puts others first, before myself. I am a people pleaser. What can I say....I'm a Pisces. I don't really follow astrology or the stars, but when it comes to my zodiac sign. Well....I wear it to a T. We are caring, giving, compassionate, sensitive creatures. Loyal, almost to a fault. The older I get, the more obvious it becomes.

This past year has been one filled with so many new experiences of which I am very grateful. I had the opportunity to serve as the Lay Leader of our church and I was excited and honored to serve in this role. We should all be pleased with the things we accomplished together. The one that comes to mind is "Stop Hunger Now", when we packaged 14,000 meals to those in need in Panama. Another is the Holiday Gift Fund, when we purchase gifts for needy families. I am proud to be a Methodist. We are always there to help others in need. What a great feeling that is. As this year comes to a close, I would like to say thank you for your support and your encouragement throughout the year. Be kind to others, and may you have a very Merry Christmas .

Candy Sunderland

Lay Leader

Finding Bethlehem in the midst of Bedlam

Yes, that is the name of our Advent study book this year! In it are Christmas scriptures and stories. The author uses Muhammad Ali as an example of a man who changes from fighting for himself to fighting for others. In his hometown of Lexington, Kentucky, he started a youth center with this motto: "confidence, conviction, dedication, giving, respect and spirituality."

We will meet at two different times at church: The first four Monday nights of December at 7:00 and Sunday mornings at 9:30 beginning Nov. 30. The books are \$9.50 and will be available in the narthex; please pay Stan Culy.

Minutes from Church Council Meeting November 16, 2014

Attending: Don Ross, Janice Klingman, Karen Stearns (acting secretary), Rev. Ricki, Sherry Pearson, Sue Lesoff, Joy Pikor, Bill Pikor, Mel Bacha, Geoff Gerow, Karen Schilling, Allison Corne, Judi Culy, Stan Culy, George Klingman, Terri Goldich, Pete Schilling

Absent: Candy Sunderland, Carol Robbins, Eileen Gay, David Joy

OLD BUSINESS:

-- Is new Sunday School time working for everyone? -- discussion around ages 6 and up not having enough time to do lesson; should we change where sermon is in service?; Ricki talked about placement of sermon -- not sure how to work it in earlier; Mel acknowledged there's still logistics to work out; Janice brought up doing children's bell choir before concert; Allison reports her time with younger kids is working, due to shorter attention spans!; Sherri brought up concerns re: children not getting a time for music; George suggested if we are going to change times again, wait until September; may even consider changing time of service

-- new Bell Choir Director?? No such luck!! Questions around advertising for the position -- maybe we should look around for a proper place to look for people; Karen will follow up

REPORTS:

-- Please refer to written reports available

-- Joy asked about moving the decorating party; no can do, because Carol Robbins out of town and worship chose 12/12.

Question of the Christmas tree -- where are we going to get one? George and Janice are going to donate their 7ft tree.

Allison asked about where children sit for children's message -- discussion seems to settle on the idea that the kids are fine where they are... questions around having the message up on the chancel (disagreement around this idea due to sanctity of chancel)

-- Treasurer: ahead on income; expenses close to budget; on budget for mission shares; church operating expenses exceeding budget; leaving budget details in a folder in the office for transparency -

-
feel free to make copies of what you want; suggestion for budget next year -- remove church substitute budget next year and rely on volunteers

-- Trustee report made by Don -- on file in office

-- Pastor report made by Ricki: NEC contest for history of church -- Dave White's book has been submitted. Committee on Lay Leadership submitted to council -- if anyone would like to be a liturgist, they can volunteer and let Candy know.

-- SPRC: report from Sherri -- talked about Ricki's consideration re: retirement. Discussed salary increases for cost of living for paid staff -- report attached -- discussion: Don doesn't agree with COL increases; Karen S. "it all happens in the wrong sequence", worried the church can't afford increases; Bill P. voice agreement with Don and Karen; Geoff presented another view -- sending message of appreciation to staff; Don made point our salaries are above the private sector; other comments around needing solid numbers to assess further, questions re: the process. Agreed to table for now until Finance can meet to get numbers.

Minutes from Church Council Meeting November 16, 2014 (continued)

REPORTS: (continued)

- Stewardship/Finance -- Geoff -- refer to report
- Advent Study - Joy reported -- they need another teacher for the 3rd week -- if interested, call Joy or Stan

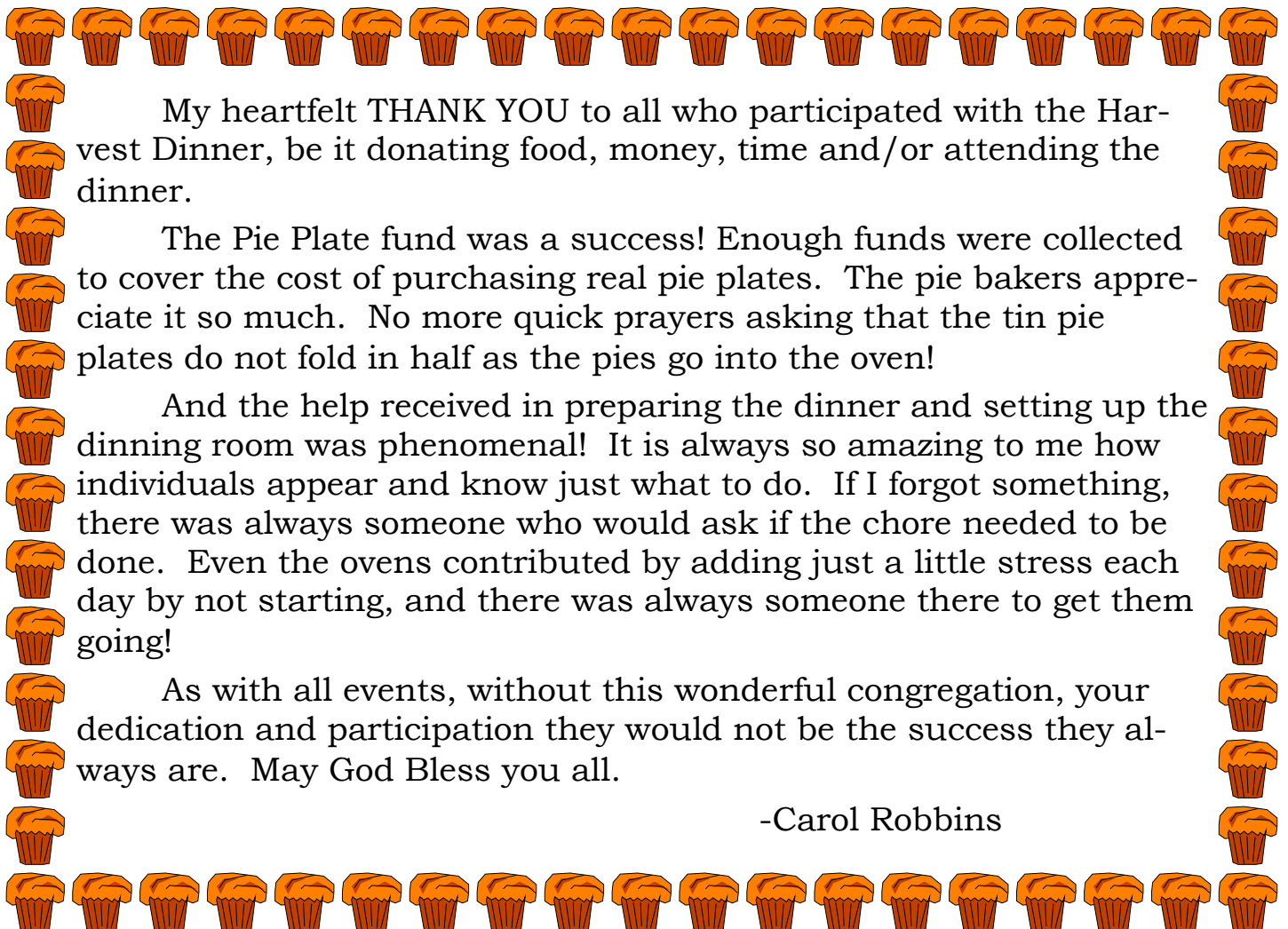
OTHER BUSINESS:

- Mel asked about having announcements towards end of service -- conversation ensued about it; reminder that there are slides before service with announcements

Karen Stearns
Acting secretary

Pete Schilling
Chair

Note: Written reports from Trustees, SPPRC, Pastor, Worship, Church School, Church Treasurer and Finance on file.



My heartfelt THANK YOU to all who participated with the Harvest Dinner, be it donating food, money, time and/or attending the dinner.

The Pie Plate fund was a success! Enough funds were collected to cover the cost of purchasing real pie plates. The pie bakers appreciate it so much. No more quick prayers asking that the tin pie plates do not fold in half as the pies go into the oven!

And the help received in preparing the dinner and setting up the dinning room was phenomenal! It is always so amazing to me how individuals appear and know just what to do. If I forgot something, there was always someone who would ask if the chore needed to be done. Even the ovens contributed by adding just a little stress each day by not starting, and there was always someone there to get them going!

As with all events, without this wonderful congregation, your dedication and participation they would not be the success they always are. May God Bless you all.

-Carol Robbins

The Christmas Tapestry

The idea for the Christmas Quilt came to Carol Ross while observing the Christmas banners hanging over the altar. It occurred to Carol that it would be extra festive to cover more of the brick wall behind the altar with scenes from the season.

The idea remained an idea for a few years. Carol and Lorraine White contemplated different depictions that could go into the new hanging. Once the decision was made, it took a few months to construct the project from design to completion.

Using the illustrations found in a children's Christmas story book, Lorraine White designed the quilt. The patterns and fabric were laid on the floor of the fellowship hall--it was the only area with enough room for such large pieces. Carol Ross did the machine sewing of the pieces, and volunteers helped with the hand stitching: Sylvia Yoder, Joy Pikor, Carol Aronson, and Pat Feeney.

The result of their inspiration and hard work is the beautiful tapestry shown below.



The hanging consists of five panels, one to be hung each Sunday of Advent and the final one on Christmas Eve, telling the Christmas Story.



ADVENT SERVICES

Advent is the name given by the church to the four weeks leading up to Jesus' birth. It is the beginning of the church year and marks a new beginning in our lives, as we join the faithful through the centuries in waiting, hoping, and praying for the coming of a Savior.

Advent is also a season of preparation. We look forward to the coming of the Christ child, the promise of peace for the world.

Where will your focus be as we prepare for Christmas?

This year, our Advent services are full of readings, carols, first person Bible characters. See John the Baptist proclaim the coming of the Lord. Share Mary's joy as she discovers she will bring the Messiah into the world. There will be our traditional Children's pageant and roast beef dinner on December 14.

Our "Ring and a Prayer" bell choir brings a musical Christmas celebration on December 21st. Christmas Eve will be full of the many traditional Christmas carols.



Vernon Regional Adult Based Education

Family Learning Program Quilt

The Vernon Regional Adult Based Education, Family Learning Program has been serving the community since 2008. Parents and their children come to school to improve their English skills and/or acquire their high school diploma. At the same time their children develop their social, emotional, and early literacy skills. Each year the participants illustrate what the program means to them and their family. The quilt hanging in the classroom hall is a symbol of the program's goals and values.

Don and Wayne came in on a Thursday to hang the quilt in time for the Family Learning Program's Thanksgiving pot luck. The pot luck was held in the Fellowship Hall on Tuesday November 25th. Family members were invited to enjoy the food and company. For some, it was their first traditional Thanksgiving meal.



Rockville UM Women News from a very grateful coordinator, Judie Culy

Thanks to all—men, women and children--who made our Holiday Bazaar such a success. Profit is over \$5,000 and we couldn't have achieved that without you. As most of you know, a great portion of that money goes as income to our general church budget for 2015, along with giving to community groups both near and far, the District UMW, Belinda Forbes, and getting a new bazaar sign. We wish each and every one of you a glorious Christmas season. Go out and share your love of Christ with others!! It's been a great year, with many events and accomplishments—Retreat to Willimantic Camp Grounds, Conference UMW meeting in East Hartford discussing Human Trafficking, providing funeral receptions for beloved persons, working on dinners, lunch bunch gatherings, the Bazaar, and our book discussion group (Tea and Text) completed two books!!

On Tuesday, December 16th at 1 pm, we will be visiting Sue Bird's home to view her inspiring collection of nativity scenes and fellowshiping together. Sign up sheet is on the bulletin board.

There will be a **UMW meeting at 11:30am** to discuss the results of the 2014 bazaar, the budget for 2015 and plans for next year's events. Bring a sandwich for a working lunch. Financial information for 2014 and a proposed budget will be printed before the meeting for your consideration. See me or get a copy in the church office prior to the meeting.

Immediately following the meeting at **12:30pm**, we will **carpool from the church** to Sue Bird's home in Ellington for the nativity scene viewing and fellowship. Attendance to the meeting is not mandatory, but encouraged.

Church Decorating Party - December 12th



The annual **Church Decorating Party** will be on Friday, December 12th at 6:00pm. We will be hanging the greens, decorating the trees, and just enjoying the season of celebrating Jesus's birth.

If you are attending, please plan on bringing an appetizer to be shared, a Yankee Swap gift (value between \$5 - \$10), and an unwrapped toy which will be for a mission project.



Please join us for this festive event.



Our Church Family

Pat Brandt & Juli Watrous
Tim Arzt
Lou Furnas
Lucy Maupin
Annette Welton

Staci Rizner-daughter of
Tami Rizner
Bill Summers-Shirley
Edward's nephew
Sue Brannon and Family
Joyce Pike

Bereavements

Prayer Requests

Special Needs

Buckingham family-health
concerns
Sandra Bradley-uterine cancer-
Bill Pikor's sister
Samuel Gustafson—eye cancer—
Linda Shiver's friend's
infant son

Those in nursing homes, Assisted Living and with limited mobility

Margaret Parker-Avery Heights
Merrilee Thomas-home
June Latkofsky-home
Esther Harris-home
Marilyn Barton-Woodlake
Natalie Robertson-home
Eleanor Schreiber-Crestfield
Shirley Edwards-Emeritus
Vita Aiello-Fox Hill
Ken & June Guillow-home

Those in Service

Pastor Lorena & El Jabillo,
our sister church in Nicaragua

*If you would like a candle
lit for a prayer concern,
please contact Lucy
Maupin at 860-454-8689.
Thank you.*

**To make a change to this prayer
list, please contact the church
office at 875-6562 or
rumcoffice@sbcglobal.net**



Amy Conyers	December 2	Stan Culy	December 14
George Klingman	December 4	Heather McPeck	December 15
Charlie Maupin	December 4	Alexis Delisle	December 17
Jadalyse St. John	December 7	Leah Corne	December 28
Anna Gerow	December 8	Roger LaChance	December 29
Barbara Milanese	December 13	Carol Aronson	December 30

Quote of the Month

"Never worry about the size of
your Christmas tree. In the
eyes of children, they are all
30 feet tall."

— Larry Wilde

Our books of
daily Advent
readings from the
Society of St. An-
drew are avail-
able on the table
at the entrance to
the sanctuary.

Copies are pro-
vided free for
your inspirational reading.



And he will
be called...
Prince of Peace.
Isaiah 9:6

**December 7**

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

December 14

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

December 21

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16
Luke 1:47-55 (UMH)
Romans 16:25-27
Luke 1:26-38

December 28

Isaiah 61:10-62:3
Psalm 148 (UMH)
Galatians 4:4-7
Luke 2:22-40

Food Donations

Wow! We delivered a total of **400** items to the Tri-Town Pantry in November. Thank you for your generosity helping those in need. Please remember *peanut butter, jelly, canned tuna, canned or dry soup, canned vegetables, canned fruit and juice boxes are always needed.*

-Suzanne Bird

Church Closings

If our church has to cancel a class, activity or event (examples: 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".

**December Worship Attendants****Greeters**

Please see Jerrie Kirby for dates available.

Liturgists

December 7	Pete Schilling
December 14	available
December 21	Sue Lessoff
December 24	Joy Pikor
December 28	available

Children's Message

December 7	No Children's Message
December 14	Christmas Pageant
December 21	Pastor Ricki
December 28	Available

Acolytes

December 7	Nicholas Velasquez
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Dates are available for your child to participate as an acolyte. Please contact Sherry Pearson to schedule an available day.

Fellowship Time/Coffee Hour

December 7	Wilkie
December 14	Church Dinner
December 21	Gary Tyler
December 28	Eileen Gay

Altar Flowers

December 7	McKercher
December 14	Chapman
December 21	Lutz Fund
December 28	Joy and Bill Pikor

**MARK YOUR
CALENDARS**

Bishop's Day
Saturday December 13
9 am Clergy
12:30 pm Laity

Return Service
Requested

Rockville United Methodist Church

Adult Study 9:30 am
Sunday School 10:45 am
Worship Service 10:45 am
Office Hours 9am-2pm Tuesday-Friday

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

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

Website: www.rockumchurch.com

Rev. Dr. Henrietta "Ricki" Aiello, Pastor
Karen Stearns, Music Director
Diane Lajoie, Office Manager
Eileen Gay, Church School Superintendent
Roger LaChance, Church Custodian
Rev. Stan Culy (Retired)
Dr. Belinda Forbes, Missionary to Nicaragua