

Lenten Series

For the 5 weeks of Lent, speakers will be joining us at Rockville United Methodist Church to give a presentation on their mission. These presentations will be 20-25 minutes long followed by a question and answer period. Light refreshments will be served. Please join us for what will be informative and inspirational evenings. You don't want to miss these great evenings.

Sunday, February 22.... 7:00 pm

Betty Rousseau from Center Congregational Church, Manchester and Karen Fedorchak from St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Manchester will be speaking about NAMI, National Alliance on Mental Illness. NAMI is the nation's largest non-profit grassroots mental health education, advocacy and support organization dedicated to building better lives for Americans affected by mental illness.

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Valentine's Breakfast

The men of Rockville United Methodist Church cordially invite the ladies of RUMC to a Valentine's Breakfast on Sunday February 15, 2015 at 8 am. The men will be preparing the breakfast that will be served by singing waiters. If you will be attending, please sign up on the bulletin board so the men will know how much food to purchase.

Anniversary Recognition Sunday

The Service following the Valentine's breakfast will include our recognition of the couples celebrating a "by five" (5, 10, 25, etc) anniversary in 2015. Participating couples are encouraged to bring in Wedding Photos to be scanned for an online presentation during the service. Please drop off the photos at the church no later than Sunday February 1, 2015.

The sign-up for Anniversary Recognition Sunday is on page 4 in the newsletter.



Pastor's Corner

Dear Friends:

By now, most of you have heard about my upcoming retirement at the end of June. While I shall miss the church and the people within the church, I must admit I am looking forward to some down time. After 27 years of active ministry, a little slower pace and more time to curl up with a good book is very appealing.

The word “retire” intrigues me. It can be used in a variety of ways most of which suggest resting from one’s labor in some manner or, in one case, retreating in an orderly manner. For example, Jesus retired to a quiet place to rest from his work with the many that had grave needs and wanted his healing presence and touch. When we’re tired and we decide to go to bed to rest, we could use the phrase “I am retiring to my bedroom to sleep” though the phrase sounds like a character from Downton Abbey spoke it. And, there is the other more military reference, which indicates a unit falling back or retreating in an orderly fashion and according to plan, as from battle, an untenable position, or perhaps from some danger.

We use the terms *retire* and *retirement* somewhat freely but in the world of United Methodism retirement is considered an *appointment change*. Clergy in our denomination put themselves at the behest of the presiding Bishop and accept the condition of itineracy as a part of the covenantal relationship they assume at ordination. In our active years, we’re moved from one charge/church to another when the Bishop and cabinet determine the change will best meet both the church’s needs and the pastor’s. When we decide to go inactive in full time ministry and retire, we’re required to request permission to do so. The action is followed by a full vote at the executive session of Annual Conference. Once retirement sets in we are obligated to choose a church as our “charge conference” and annually submit a report of our ministerial activities. We are not permitted to make a church we served at some point in our lives our chosen charge conference.

Retirement is a time to look forward but it allows for moments of reflection on the past as well. For those of us who have been called to ministry, our call to serve never really ends. We just have to find a way to ethically follow God’s leading into a new phase of commitment and service. Certainly, we know Jesus never retired from ministry. In fact, he gave his life even unto death. Since we follow Jesus, we must also follow his example and give our own lives - all of our lives. I look forward to finding the new path laid out for me and look forward, in anticipation yet from a distance, to the great plans God has in mind for all of you and for this church.

Gratefully,

Pastor Ricki



February 8, 2015: Sunday School Food Drive & Souper Bowl Sundae

February 15, 2015 No Sunday School

A great big **Thank You** to everyone who helped our Sunday School food donation collection on January 18, 2015; **we collected 107 items** for the local food pantry.

Don't forget **Souper Bowl Sundae** will be Sunday February 8th. Bring in a non-perishable food item and an empty bowl; donate the food item and receive ice cream and toppings to make your own sundae in your bowl.

Our next **Sunday School food drive** is Sunday February 8, 2015.

Eileen

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

Cell: 860-841-1433

Home: 860-875-7641

Email: eileengay1928@gmail.com

Vacation Bible School is coming to RUMC.

Look for more information in months ahead and registration forms will be available April 5. We are looking for volunteers 6th grade to adult. If you cannot work the whole week- volunteer for a day or two or just family night- we would love to have you anytime!!

Something New: Summer Sunday School

To: Parents, Grandparents, and Guardians

I am looking to see if there is a need and want for a summer Sunday School program. I would like to ask volunteers (good opportunity to help out short term) to sign up to teach a one week group Sunday school. The children 3yrs-5th grade would gather for a one room Sunday School class after children's message (about 30-40 minute class). Curriculum would be provided and we will ask our Confirmed youth from this year's confirmation class to assist. I want our children to know that church is open all year and I think it is important for our guests and "parents" to concentrate on worship, knowing their children are also getting the word of God.

Talk to me at church or email or phone:

Linda Shivers

necsvga@aol.com

860-871-9164

Anniversary Recognition Sunday

On February 15th we will have a time of recognition during the service for couples who are celebrating an anniversary in 2015 that is divisible by 5. (Example: 5th, 10th, 15th, etc.) If you would like to participate in this celebration, please fill out the form below; place the completed form in the offering plate or office manager's mailbox.

Anniversary Recognition Sunday

_____ Yes, we would like to participate in Anniversary Recognition Sunday.

_____ No, we won't be able to participate, but would like our anniversary mentioned in the bulletin.



Our Names are _____

Our Anniversary Date is _____

(Please return by February 8th)



Scholarship Opportunities

College scholarships are available for the 2015-16 school year. The Fellowship of United Methodists in Music and Worship Arts has three scholarships available for students planning a career in church music and/or worship arts. The applications can be downloaded from UMFellowship.org; application deadline is March 15, 2015.

The UM General Board of Higher Education and Ministry has other scholarships available. Visit the <http://www.gbhem.org/loans-and-scholarships> website for information on the loans and scholarships offered.



GOOD FRIDAY WALK, APRIL 3, 2015

The Good Friday Walk planning committee meeting is rescheduled due to snow; details will follow as soon as they are set. Present with us will be representatives from several area churches as well as Pieter Nijssen, from the Tri-Town Shelter, and Kay Doherty, of Sharing, Inc.

We need additional members on the committee and we invite you to become part of this group. Several "Work and then Walk." Any questions, call Steve Yoder 860 644-2663 or Judie Culy 860 872-3122.

We will complete updating our website information early in February.

<http://www.rockumchurch.com/home/>



Wow! Here we are almost through January and I want to take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year for 2015! I anticipated that my writing days were over as I was ending in my role as Lay Leader of the church. Or so

I thought....but, so many of you spoke to me about my articles each month, and how much you enjoyed reading them, even learning things from them. One person in particular, made it a point, to come up to me personally last month and requested that whatever I may be giving up in 2015, to "please don't give up writing my articles." Now, this is someone I deeply admire and respect, so how could I say No! This same person also asked me to reconsider staying on as Lay Leader. I wasn't as quick to answer on that topic. It wasn't until my buddy, Mel asked me to work with him! How could I say No! So, I'm baaack....and excited to be back. I will be sharing the role of Co-Lay Leaders with Mel Bacha. Together, we hope to bring you new stories, new prospective, and involve all of you in the life of our church, while listening to your ideas and concerns.

As many of you know by now, our Pastor Ricki will be retiring the end of June and we have already gotten word of our new minister. He will be joining us on July 1st.

Change is never easy and some may adapt better than others, but we have so much to accomplish. 2015 promises to be a year of great things to come! We were challenged with the question... What is MOST important to us? Based on the responses, we (each committee), along with support of church council and the congregation, have clear goals and a commitment to ***Make it Happen, whatever IT is! I hope you get involved.*** Share a faith witness... Share your story. Whether it's OutReach, Missions, Music, Education and Our Children, Young Parents Support, Worship, Nurture and Visitation, Greeting, becoming Liturgist, helping with dinners; being involved is the best feeling you can have-- Knowing that YOU are making a difference. There will be so many opportunities for each of us to participate in many different ways throughout the year. Challenge yourself, challenge each other.

This year, once again, we have invited various speakers to come join us for our Lenten Series. Some great topics such as NAMI, Stop Hunger Now, KIDSAFE CT, and moreyou won't want to miss it. (see Lenten Series article). Another opportunity to be involved!

God calls us to be true disciples of Jesus Christ. Take that Leap of Faith!

Candy Sunderland - Co-Lay Leader



Corned Beef Supper



We will hold our Corned Beef Supper on **Saturday, March 14th** from 5-6:30 pm. Prices will remain the same as last year. Volunteers are needed to help make and serve the food; please look for volunteer sign-up sheets on the bulletin boards and more information in the next few weeks. Please consider making a monetary donation toward the cost of food; this way we can purchase exactly what is needed for the expected crowd.

Lenten Series—cont.

Sunday, March 1...7:00 pm

Bonnie Marden, Conference Coordinator, will speak about the humanitarian arm of UMCORs global mission of “Imagine No Malaria”. “Imagine No Malaria” outreach mission is run by The United Methodist Church and is an extraordinary effort of the United Methodist Church putting Faith into action to end Malaria and prevent deaths in Africa, especially deaths of a child or mother. Malaria is 100% preventable and 100% of all donations goes to work to end Malaria. The initiative to Stop Malaria includes providing malaria nets to every family and empowering the people of Africa by educating them as to the cause and prevention of Malaria.

Sunday, March 8....7:00 pm

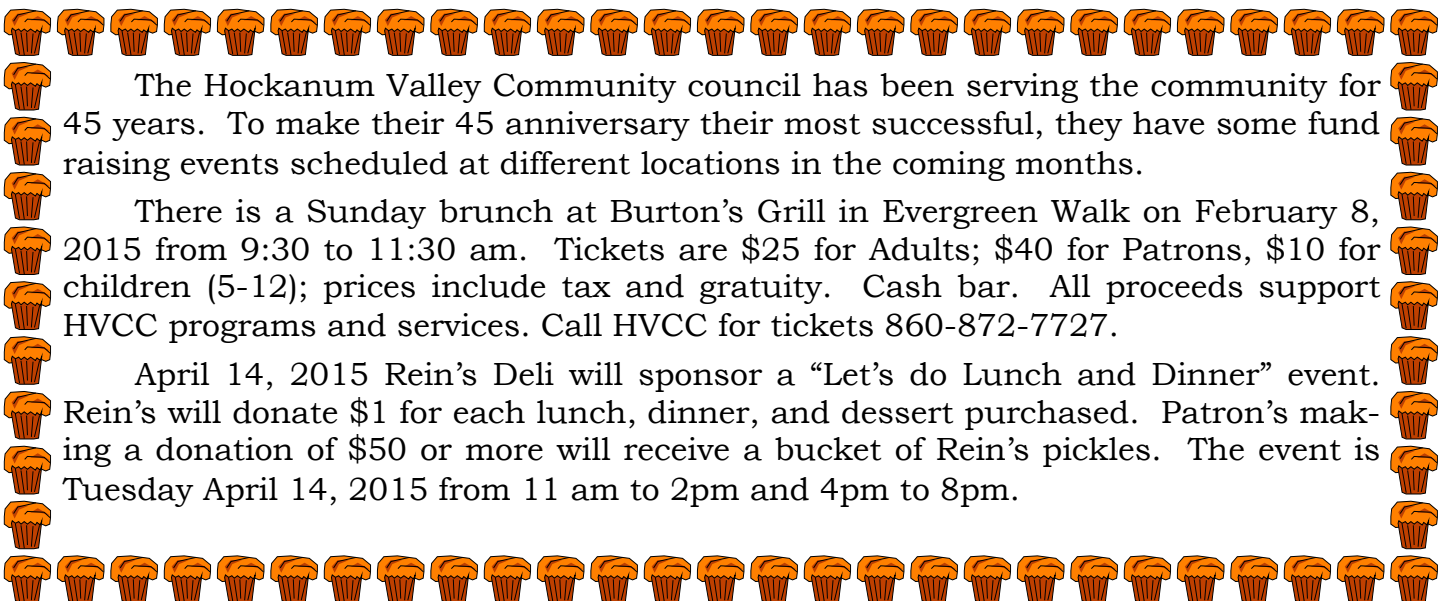
Paula Plante, Youth Programs Coordinator at KIDSAFE CT will be speaking on Human Trafficking in our area locally in CT and what is being done about it.

Sunday, March 15....7:00 pm

Mark, from the New England branch will be speaking on a global humanitarian mission, Stop Hunger Now. Their vision: A world without hunger. Their mission: to end hunger in our lifetime by providing food and lifesaving aid to the world’s most vulnerable and by creating a global commitment to mobilize the necessary resources.

Sunday, March 22....7:00 pm

Judith (Judy) Clarke from KIDSAFE CT in Rockville will be speaking about the programs’ services for individuals and families. KIDSAFE CT’s mission is to develop and provide programs that address early intervention, prevention and the treatment of child abuse and neglect.

 The Hockanum Valley Community council has been serving the community for 45 years. To make their 45 anniversary their most successful, they have some fund raising events scheduled at different locations in the coming months.

There is a Sunday brunch at Burton’s Grill in Evergreen Walk on February 8, 2015 from 9:30 to 11:30 am. Tickets are \$25 for Adults; \$40 for Patrons, \$10 for children (5-12); prices include tax and gratuity. Cash bar. All proceeds support HVCC programs and services. Call HVCC for tickets 860-872-7727.

April 14, 2015 Rein’s Deli will sponsor a “Let’s do Lunch and Dinner” event. Rein’s will donate \$1 for each lunch, dinner, and dessert purchased. Patron’s making a donation of \$50 or more will receive a bucket of Rein’s pickles. The event is Tuesday April 14, 2015 from 11 am to 2pm and 4pm to 8pm.

One of the office goals for 2015 is to update our records in Servant Keeper. Keeping these records complete and accurate helps make our year-end statistical reporting to the district easier to obtain. One very important thing we noticed is we do not have emergency contact information for most of our members. In some cases we may know who to contact but not how to reach them. Please take a few minutes to fill out the information below and on the next page--even if you think I already have your information. I would like to verify that we have correct information for our records.

Thank you for your help.

-Diane Lajoie

Head of Household:

First Name: _____
Last Name: _____
Gender: _____
Birth Date: _____
Personal Cell phone: _____
Personal Work phone: _____
Personal Email Address: _____

Additional Family Member:

Relationship: _____
First Name: _____
Last Name: _____
Gender: _____
Birth Date: _____
Personal Cell phone: _____
Personal Work phone: _____
Personal Email Address: _____

Space for additional family members' information is on the next page.

Family Information:

Street 1 Address: _____
Street 2 Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____
Zip Code: _____ Home Phone: _____
Family Email Address: _____

Emergency Contact Information:

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____
Gender: _____ Relationship: _____
Phone Number: _____

Alternate Address and Phone Number:

Street 1 Address: _____
Street 2 Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____
Zip Code: _____ Phone Number: _____
Dates effective: Start Date: _____ End Date: _____

Please indicate your preferred contact information with an asterisk (*). (Ex. Cell phone, work, email, etc.)

Please provide complete information including month, day, and year for dates.

Additional Family Member:

Relationship: _____
First Name: _____
Last Name: _____
Gender: _____
Birth Date: _____
Personal Cell phone: _____
Personal Work phone: _____
Personal Email Address: _____

Additional Family Member:

Relationship: _____
First Name: _____
Last Name: _____
Gender: _____
Birth Date: _____
Personal Cell phone: _____
Personal Work phone: _____
Personal Email Address: _____

Additional Family Member:

Relationship: _____
First Name: _____
Last Name: _____
Gender: _____
Birth Date: _____
Personal Cell phone: _____
Personal Work phone: _____
Personal Email Address: _____

Additional Family Member:

Relationship: _____
First Name: _____
Last Name: _____
Gender: _____
Birth Date: _____
Personal Cell phone: _____
Personal Work phone: _____
Personal Email Address: _____

The **parsonage phone number** (860) 875-3935 is now showing on caller id as Kevin Dinsdale. This is still the parsonage number. Pastor Ricki's son, Kevin, works for Comcast and receives an employee discount if the phone number is in his name.



At the January 4 leadership planning meeting, we further discussed the idea of a **Christ Story** which was first used in December when Karen Stearns told the story of a youth's thoughts on faith which gave her the Spirit of Christ. We were asked to write down some incident of feeling Christ's presence in our own life in the past few months which could eventually be shared in worship. Geoff Gerow shared his Christ Story, the first of this series, during our January 25th service. Stan Culy is coordinating the Christ Story series; if you have a story to share, please speak with Stan.

Spring classes for the **Vernon Regional Adult Based Education** began on January 13, 2015. One of their newest students was a recipient of our Holiday Gift Fund. The family attended our 6 pm Christmas Eve service so they could express their gratitude for the gifts. Stan Culy welcomed the family, and they have since attended other services. Since she doesn't drive, members of RUMC are volunteering to drive to and from the classes. While mommy is in English class, the two children are enjoying their new day-care activities. The VRABE currently has room for more GED students. If you know anyone with small children looking to get a high school diploma equivalency (GED), please contact the program coordinator Svetlana Grishtaev at (860) 8836-0514.

Ash Wednesday Music and Prayers

This year we want to make our traditional service more upbeat by a bigger emphasis on music and scripture and prayers. For instance, we will be singing the following hymns:

- *“Surely the Presence of the Lord is in This Place”*
- *“Turn Your Eyes upon Jesus”* (Flute Solo by Nat Woodruff)
- *“I Surrender All”*
- *“Breathe on Me , Breath of God”*

Here is our closing prayer:

Your breath fills us, O God, and then returns to you,
but in between is the gracious wonder that we are.
For that gift so precious, we praise you,
even as we pray for the wisdom to acknowledge it,
the courage to learn from it,
the faith to live it as you own people of bold and grateful love.
In Christ we pray. Amen

As usual, at the end of the service, the ashes we offer are optional and everyone will leave in silence.

On Wednesday evening, February 18, the service begins at 7:00 and will last less

Ash Wednesday -- It's not just for Catholics

Growing up as a Methodist, I don't recall ever going to an Ash Wednesday service let alone receiving ashes. I knew Ash Wednesday was the beginning of Lent, but In my eyes, receiving ashes on Ash Wednesday was a Catholic thing, Methodists didn't do that.

I noticed in the past few years, we are having Ash Wednesday services and you could receive ashes if you so desired. Hmmm, I thought, interesting; but didn't go to the service...well because that's what the Catholic's do and I didn't know why it was done.

This year, I decided to research Methodists' receiving ashes on Ash Wednesday. I discovered, receiving ashes is fairly new to the Methodists. In 1979, the United Methodist Church, provided resources to include the imposition of ashes into their services. In 1992, the practice of receiving ashes became part of our official service. This was done in keeping with a growing recognition that people have multiple ways of learning and praying.

So why ashes and in the sign of the cross on the forehead, or if preferred, the hand? Simply put, Ash Wednesday is a day to stare death in the face, to acknowledge our mortality. All of us will die. Getting ashes “imposed” on our foreheads, while the pastor says, “You have come from dust, and to dust you will return” is a reminder of this. The emotional result of Ash Wednesday observance isn't depression or gloom, but gratitude and new energy for living. And when we recognize that life doesn't go on forever, then we find new passion to delight in the gifts of each and every day, and to take none of them for granted.

On February 18th, an Ash Wednesday service will be held at 7:00pm. Join us for a new beginning in the faith, and a time for returning to the Lord. Receive ashes as a sign of mourning, symbolize your sorrow over sin and your ache for a new direction. Or, if you wish, just pray silently at the rail.

Carol Robbins - Worship Committee

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
Paul McKercher

Bereavements

Violet Wilson
4-1-1942 to 1-21- 2015

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

Prayer Requests

Special Needs

Buckingham family—health
concerns
Sandra Bradley—health issues—Bill
Pikor’s sister
Samuel Gustafson—eye cancer—
Linda Shiver’s friend’s
infant
son
Lin Arzt—car accident
Ron DuBois—stroke—Kay
Doherty’s husband
Ken Guillow—Leukemia
Kathy Kentfield—St. Francis
Hospital
Marilyn Barton—hospitalized

**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

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



**Happy
Birthday**

Gabrielle Spicer	February 2	Charlotte Gerow	February 17
Pat Feeney	February 5	Austin Tyler	February 18
Eleanor Schreiber	February 5	Lee McPeck	February 19
Jenna Sunderland	February 8	Robert Joy	February 22
Kathy Sunderland	February 9	Wayne Cheveriea	February 23
Geoff Gerow	February 15	Aidon Cortes	February 25
Dalton Sunderland	February 15	Virginia Wehrli	February 28
Samuel Velasquez	February 16		

Quote of the Month

“Surely as cometh the Winter, I know...there are
Spring violets under the snow.”

— R. H. Newell



February Worship Attendants

Greeters

February 1 Jerrie Kirby
February 8 Carol Macri
February 15 Candy Sunderland
February 22 available

Liturgists

February 1 Candy Sunderland
February 8 Linda Shivers
February 15 Emily Sunderland
February 22 Pete Schilling

Children's Message

February 1 Jen Chapman
February 8 Pastor Ricki
February 15 Dalton Sunderland
February 22 Bridget Joy

Acolytes

February 1 Maria Shivers & Gabby Spicer
February 8 Ayliana Branon
February 15 available
February 22 Anna Gerow

Fellowship Time/Coffee Hour

February 1 Greg Tyler
February 8 Souper Bowl Sunday
February 15 Valentine's Breakfast
February 22 available

Altar Flowers

February 1 available
February 8 Kathy Sunderland
February 15 Kathy Sunderland
February 22 McKercher

February 1

Deuteronomy 18: 15-20
Psalm 111 (UMH)
1 Corinthians 8: 1-13
Mark 1: 21-28

February 15

2 Kings 2: 1-12
Psalm 50: 1-6 (UMH)
2 Corinthians 4: 3-6
Mark 9: 2-9

February 8

Isaiah 40: 21-31
Psalm 147: 1-11, 20c (UMH)
1 Corinthians 9: 16-23
Mark 1: 29-39

February 22

Genesis 9: 8-17
Psalm 25: 1-10 (UMH)
1 Peter 3: 18-22
Mark 1: 9-15

Food Donations



We delivered a total of **142** items to the Tri-Town Pantry in January. 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

Tea and Text

A Lantern In Her Hand by Bess Streeter Aldrich
2-12-2015 1pm
Norine Veal's home

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".



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Senior Choir

Wednesday Feb. 4th

7 PM

SPRC

Thursday Feb. 5th

7 PM

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