

January 2016
Issue No. 082

thank you

A BIG THANK YOU to the congregation for their support. The Holiday Gift Fund had another successful year. We were able to assist 3 families with difficult circumstances. There were a total of 14 people; 6 adults and 8 children. All the gifts were dropped off at the local WIC office on Monday, December 21st for distribution. Everyone who either purchased gifts or made monetary donations played a big role in making Christmas brighter for these families.

Gratefully,

Amy and Kathy



In 2015 we delivered 1066 items to the Hockanum Valley Community Council. Thank you for generously donating food for our neighbors in need.

-Sue Bird

Dear Church Family,

January is often a time of renewal where most people set resolutions such as lose weight, quit smoking and exercise more. Why not try to set goals that would improve your relationship with God? Let me suggest 10 ways we can do that.



- **Improve Your Prayer Life**

This might sound simple but it is not that easy. Let me suggest you give five minutes of you time to God, and then add another five minutes. Soon you'll find that you'll start going to God more often and for more things. You'll be amazed by the results.

- **Read Your Bible in a Year**

This is a common New Year's resolution for Christians. If you need a Bible reading plan, I have some available in my office that will guide you through your reading.

- **Help Other People**

Helping others is still a part of a Christian walk. Our church has many outreach activities to choose from or to include volunteer opportunities in the community. There are many who just need a bit of assistance, and this is a great way to set a Christian example.

- **Attend a Study or Small Group at Church**

Small groups or studies are an effective way to develop friendships and provide a sense of community and family. Small groups help us grow in our spiritual walk.

- **Become a Better Steward**

One of the most challenging issues for Christians is the idea of stewardship. The way we handle our finances is an accurate reflection of our spiritual life. Where we put our money does tell a lot about ourselves.

- **Use a Daily Devotional**

A devotional takes the concepts in the Bible where we can apply the spiritual principles in our everyday life. In the church narthex, we have **The Upper Room** devotionals available for your use

- **Plant Some Seeds of Faith**

In this New Year, why not plant seeds of faith and see how they grow. If you were to speak to your friends or family about your faith in a gentle way, then perhaps that might be the catalyst to help them find faith in the Lord.

- **Get to Know Your Families**

2016 could be a time to improve relationships with our loved ones. Jesus said in Matthew 5:9 "Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called children of God."

- **Go On a Mission**

Short term mission trips are life changing experiences. If you have the time, resources and health, this is a wonderful way to expand the kingdom of God and discover a new spiritual family.

- **Bring Someone to Church**

It does take courage to ask a friend to come to church because it is often something very personal. Yet, many Christians would never have come to Christ without that one friend who asked them to come to church or talk about their beliefs. For every person who might turn down your invitation, there are two or three others who might be curious about why your faith is so important.

Pastor Paul



Sunday School News:

- **January 3: No Sunday School.**
- **January 10:** please bring in the money that you have earned for our mission project that will be decided on in May.
- **January 17: No Sunday School-** movie will be available in a classroom for students. We need a volunteer to run the movie and watch the kids on this day.
- **January 24:**
- **January 31:**

Children's Music:

Both Children's Choir and Children's Bell Choir need assistants. Please see Linda Shivers, Janet O, or Norine Veal if you can help.



Youth Basketball Fellowship:



Join us for some basketball pick-up games on Saturdays at Wapping Community Church (1790 Ellington Road, South Windsor) from 6 pm to 8 pm. This is open to any youth (and we have some parents join in) 4th grade to high school--younger if they don't mind playing with the big kids. You will need to wear "gym clothes" - shorts or sweatpants and non-marking sneakers. Everyone will be running around and getting hot. Parents can drop off the kids at Wapping Community church at 6 pm and pick them up at 8 pm. Parents are welcome to stay and play if they want.

Youth basketball will meet on 1/16, 1/30, 2/13, 2/27,

**3/12, and 3/26 from
6-8 pm.**

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



Don't forget to do extra chores to earn money for the children's mission donation.

You get to choose where to donate the money you have been working for all year.



Rockville United Methodist Church is proud to be the facilities of choice for these community associations. Below is a glimpse of the community services they offer.

Families Anonymous: ¹For relatives and friends concerned about the use of drugs or related behavioral problems.

Welcome! At one time or another we have all been in your shoes. We came to our first meeting angry, confused, frustrated, hopeless, and fed-up. In Families Anonymous we found a way to cope with our situation and learned a better way to live; a way that permitted us to live comfortably, in spite of the actions of the person who brought us here.

This is a Twelve-Step program, and there is much literature to read and absorb. We encourage you to study the program, ask questions and share experiences. Meetings are different every week, with different leaders, so we learn something new each time we attend. We also encourage you to talk to long-time members. As members share experiences, you may find someone with whom you feel comfortable enough to talk. Eventually you may form a comfortable relationship with a particular long-time member and may want to ask him or her to be your 'sponsor'. A sponsor will help you focus on the twelve steps and guide you through them.

If the road ahead seems daunting, please visit us for one meeting. Healing begins by taking that first step.

Families Anonymous meets 7:30 pm on Tuesdays at Rockville United Methodist Church.

Narcotics Anonymous:

Narcotics Anonymous offers recovery from the effects of addiction through the twelve-step program. The group atmosphere provides help from peers and offers an ongoing support network for addicts who wish to pursue and maintain a drug-free lifestyle. Our name, Narcotics Anonymous, is not meant to imply a focus on any particular drug; NA's approach makes no distinction between drugs, including alcohol. Through all our efforts and our cooperation with others, we strive to provide a message of recovery.

Narcotics Anonymous meets 7 pm on Thursdays at Rockville United Methodist Church.

Vernon Regional Adult Based Education:² Serving fourteen towns east of Hartford, VRABE offers a variety of opportunities for adults age 17 and over to obtain and enhance their education and career growth.

The Family Learning Center of VRABE is dedicated to helping parents with young children learn English and study for their GED or Citizenship tests. Weekly lectures on a variety of subjects-- including CPR training, breast cancer awareness, birth to three child care, domestic violence, financial planning, career planning, music together, and Lutz museum visitors--are provided in addition to the traditional classes for grammar, history, math, and science. While the parents are learning, their young children are preparing for pre-school in a safe, fun environment. Many lasting friendships are made in these classrooms.

The Family Learning Center meets at Rockville United Methodist Church Tuesday-Thursday 11:45-2:45 from September to May. Please contact program coordinator, Svetlana Grishtaev, at 860-836-0514 for more information and registration.

Vernon Garden Club:³ Established in the year 2000 to stimulate an interest in horticulture, aid in the protection of native trees, birds, wildflowers, and promote community spirit, beautification and civic betterment.

If you love to garden, check out our website at <http://vernongardenclub.org/> or just attend one of our meetings. Guests are always welcome at no charge.

Vernon Garden Club meetings are held the third Monday of every month, September thru June, at 7 pm at Rockville United Methodist Church.

¹paraphrased from the Families Anonymous welcome letter.

² from <https://www.vrabe.com>

³ paraphrased from the <http://vernongardenclub.org/>

Vernon Regional Adult Based Education (VRABE) is offering ½ hour appointments for **one-to-one career coaching** and job search assistance including resume and cover letter critique, interview coaching, and labor market information. The ½ hour sessions are available on Thursdays from 9am to 1pm on 1/21/2016; 2/18; 3/17; 4/20; & 5/19. Call Christine Vincent (860) 870-3703 to schedule an appointment.

Emergency Response Team Training

Are you ready to help your community or others in the event of a disaster? Those with training in the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR)'s Early Response Team (ERT) process are a valuable community resource and you could be one of them! UMCOR is offering an 7-hour training session: Saturday, January 16, 2016 9 am to 4:30 pm. Wesley United Methodist Church, 80 Beacon Street, Framingham, MA 01701. Information and online reservations are available on the New England Conference website <http://www.neumc.org/eventdetail/emergency-response-team-ert-training-framingham-ma-2945886?month=1&year=2016&day=1&display=m>. The course costs \$30.

Looking for a different way to donate to the church? IRA Rollover Incentives*

- The IRA rollover allows donors 70½ or older to transfer up to \$100,000 directly from their IRA to charity each year.
- An IRA rollover gift is a tax-exempt distribution. Qualifying individuals can make charitable gifts using pre-tax IRA assets rather than taking a distribution, paying income taxes and using after-tax assets to make a charitable gift.
- An IRA rollover gift can be used to meet all or part of an IRA required minimum distribution.
- A permanent IRA rollover will give qualifying individuals certainty, allowing them to better manage their income, taxes and charitable giving.
- The bill is retroactive to December 31, 2014. If you made a gift directly from your IRA to us at any point during 2015, your gift will qualify as a rollover gift.

We would be happy to talk to you more about this wonderful gift opportunity. Please call Gary Melville at 1-800-595-4347 x103 with any questions or for more information. As always, the best practice is to consult your tax advisor before transferring funds from your IRA account.

*Information from the United Methodist Foundation of New England info.neumc@brtapp.com

Volunteer Opportunities

Through the Church:

Sunday School Movie Coverage: We need someone to run the movie and watch the kids during service when we do not have Sunday School: **January 3rd and January 17th.**

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

Soup Kitchen Team 1 needs a new volunteer. The two-person teams meet at the soup kitchen at 10:30 am once every five weeks. Please see Don Ross if you want to be part of the team.

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

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

In the Community:

The Vernon Regional Adult Based Education Family Learning Center here at RUMC is looking for **tutors** for our ESL students. These students need practice with conversation, writing and grammar in English. Please contact Svetlana Grishtaev, program coordinator, at (860) 836-0514 for more information The hours are below:

Tuesday 12:30-1:30

Wednesday 1:00-2:45

Thursday 1:00-2:45

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



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

Shop to Help Your Church!

Purchase a gift card through the church, and the company will give RUMC a percentage for your purchase. You always receive 100% value of the card. What could be better? For more information see Janet O. at joneail2@comcast.net or 860-875-3935. To see the over 600 participating retailers visit our website: <http://www.rockumchurch.com/gift-card-program/>.

After you have received your Amazon gift cards, don't forget to use **Amazon Smile** to purchase that special gift or treat for yourself. Through the Amazon Smile program, Amazon donates .5% of the price of eligible purchases to RUMC.

Log into Amazon through our RUMC Amazon smile page:
<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/06-1283681> and then make your purchases as you normally do. There is an Amazon Smile link at the bottom of the RUMC home page.



Special Needs

The Stenger’s friend Kendra—to carry her baby to at least 35 weeks
Kori Kentfield-Durham’s friend Valerie--her son was born at 24 weeks 1 lb 4 oz.
David Toolan - health issues
The Margotta Family - bereavement
Judy Wilkie -- medical
Peggy Smith - healing
Emily Robbins - healthy pregnancy
Edgar Jackson - heart attack

Prayer Requests

Our Church Family

William Spivey Jr.
Virginia Wehrli
Ernest Pearson
Norine Veal

Bereavements

Those in nursing homes, Assisted Living and with limited mobility

Merrilee & Harry Thomas-home
June Latkofsky-home
Esther Harris-home
Earl & Natalie Robertson-home
Eleanor Schreiber-Crestfield
Shirley Edwards-Brookdale SW
Vita Aiello-Fox Hill
June Guillow-home
Jean Benner—Residence at SW Farms
Pat Brandt—Paradigm
Steve & Kay Lyke—home
Annette Welton—home
Dorothy Willis—home
Irene Surette—home
Fred Nowsch - Fox Hill

Those in Service

Pastor Lorena & El Jabillo, our sister church in Nicaragua

If you would like a candle lit for a prayer concern or to make a change to this prayer list, please contact the church office at 860-875-6562 or rumcoffice@sbcglobal.net. Thank you.



Alyson Stearns	January 1	Lucas Velasquez	January 23
Judith Wilkie	January 7	Zachary Velasquez	January 23
Brenda Mlodzinski	January 8	Craig Thompson	January 25
Eileen Gay	January 8	Nancy St. John	January 25
Regina Spivey	January 12	Mel Bacha	January 27
Amanda Klingman	January 14	Sienna Spicer	January 27
Xavier Rodriguez	January 19	Karen Perras	January 29
Bily Spivey	January 21	Thomas Shivers	January 29

Quote of the Month

"The flowers of late winter and early spring occupy places in our hearts well out of proportion to their size."

- Gertrude S. Wister

January 3

Isaiah 60: 1-6
 Psalm 72: 1-7, 10-14 (UMH)
 Ephesians 3: 1-12
 Matthew 2: 1-12

January 10

Isaiah 43: 1-7
 Psalm 29 (UMH)
 Acts 8: 14-17
 Luke 3: 15-17, 21-22

January 17

Isaiah 62: 1-5
 Psalm 36: 5-10 (UMH)
 1 Corinthians 12: 1-11
 John 2: 1-11

**January 24**

Nehemiah 8: 1-3, 5-6, 8-10
 Psalm 19 (UMH)
 1 Corinthians 12: 12-31a
 Luke 4: 14-21

January 31

Jeremiah 1: 4-10
 Psalm 71: 1-6 (UMH)
 1 Corinthians 13: 1-13
 Luke 4: 21-30

January Worship Attendants**Greeters**

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

January 3	Sue Lessoff & Phyllis King
January 10	available
January 17	available
January 24	available
January 31	available

Liturgists

Please see Candy Sunderland for dates available.

Acolytes

Please see Sherry Pearson for dates available.

Fellowship Time/Coffee Hour

January 3	Rebecca Bacha
January 10	Judie Culy & Marie Pierce
January 17	Candy Sunderland
January 24	Mike Faiaz
January 31	Lisa Williams & Janet O'Neil

Altar Flowers

The sign up sheet is on the bulletin board. Please fill out a blue form and turn it in to the office manager.



Thank you for filling our Mitten Tree in the Narthex. The new mittens, hats, scarves, and gloves will be donated to and distributed by the Hockanum Valley Community Service Council.

MARK YOUR
CALENDARS

**Annual Church
 Conference
 Tuesday
 January 5, 2016
 7 pm
 All are welcome!**

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