

RUMC Newsletter

June 2016
Issue No. 087



2016 Strawberry Festival

June 18, 2016

5 pm - 6:30 pm

**Ham, Baked Beans, Potato Salad, and
Fresh Strawberry Shortcake**

Adults \$13; Kids 6-12 \$5

Children under 6 are free

Walk-Ins Welcome;

Reservations Recommended

860-875-6562

Don't forget to stop at our **Bake Sale** before you leave. Proceeds from the Strawberry Festival bake sale will go to the Christian Education Fund.





Dear Church Family,

This month I would like to bring everyone up to date on what took place at the recent **General Conference** from **May 10-20** at the **Oregon Convention Center**. The General Conference is the top policy making body of the United Methodist Church that is made up of **864 delegates** and meets every four years. The General Conference is like one big democracy that can revise church laws and adopt resolutions on current moral, social, public policy and economic issues. I will focus on the highlights.

Human Sexuality: Christian sexual ethics has been hotly debated at every General Conference since 1972. For the past forty-four years, delegates have voted on and affirmed traditional teachings as the Book of Discipline prohibits same sex rites. Clergy must be celibate if single and monogamous if married. This year's debate over the issues were intensified. On the first day of the Conference, over 100 clergy publicly announced their homosexuality.

The General Conference has long included protests against traditional sexual standards, but over the years, it has intensified. As a result of this year's debate, the Council of Bishops voted to establish a commission of 36 persons to study the issue of human sexuality and church regulations. This is an attempt to step back from attempts at legislative solutions and seek an amicable resolution. It is hoped that a recommendation will be voted on at the next General Conference in 2020. Those who have attended the New England Annual Conferences at Gordon College/Radisson Hotel in Manchester in recent years have seen the issue of inclusiveness debated with passion.

Central Conference Theological Education Fund: Delegates voted to give \$10 million to support United Methodist schools, pastors and pastors in training in Africa, Asia and Europe.

Summary of Passed Resolutions:

Protest against US embargo against Cuba affirmed.

Request drafted to the US government for support for the Puerto Rican island, Vieques, whose citizens suffer from a high rate of cancer due to its former use by the US Navy as a bombing range.

Request for liberation of Oscar Rivera, a Puerto Rican nationalist convicted of sedition.

Support for peace and reconciliation on the Korean peninsula.

Opposition of sports mascots that demean Native Americans.

Sandy Creek Massacre of 1864 with deep Methodist involvement was recalled and lamented.

Petition: This petition removes the United Methodist Church from membership in an organization called the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice. This organization actively promotes the legality of abortion in all circumstances and contradicts United Methodist Social Principles. The church does not support abortion for unborn children with possible handicaps.

Amendment: This amendment ends its membership in the "U.S. Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation" that targets Israel while it fails to address Palestinian and Arab violence.

A petition to divest from companies that have anything to do with fossil fuels failed.

Missionaries: The United Methodist Church sent 29 new missionaries to serve in 16 foreign countries. This commissioning was the first of its kind at a General Conference.

Deacons: Are now allowed to contact their resident bishop directly to ask permission to administer the sacraments. Previously the pastor in charge or the district superintendent had to make the request on the deacon's behalf.

Council of Bishops:

Bishop Bruce Ough was installed as the president of the Council of Bishops.

Africa will receive five more bishops before 2020. This resolution stipulates that annual conferences with fewer than 70,000 members share a bishop with another annual conference.

New central conferences in Rwanda and Southeast Asia/Mongolia will be established.

Celebrations:

6th Anniversary "Imagine No Malaria" (\$78 million raised)

25th Anniversary of Africa University

30th Anniversary of Disciple Bible Study

60th Anniversary of full clergy rights to women

150th Anniversary of United Methodist Women

200th Anniversary of Francis Asbury's death

New Relationships: "Full communion" agreement with Moravian Church and the Uniting Church in Sweden. Ecumenical Day will be May 17.

New Hymnal: The UMC will issue its first new hymnal since 1989. This will be Internet-cloud based and print on demand. This will be the first high tech hymnal for a mainline denomination.

Budget: Church budget for 2017-2020 is now \$604 million a slight increase over the 2012 budget of \$603 million.

Upcoming General Conferences

Minneapolis, Minnesota 2020; Manila, Philippines 2024; Harare, Zimbabwe 2028

Summary: The General Conference in Portland will be remembered for the establishment of a commission to study United Methodist Church policies on inclusiveness when it comes LGBTQI (lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, transgender, questioning and intersex) issues. The running theme of the conference was to **"Stay humble, serve others and be the church that Christ wants us to be."** We have a strong worldwide church that continues to make disciples for Jesus Christ and bless the world. I would urge prayers for all those in leadership as they lead us forward.

Pastor Paul

**Happy
Father's Day**



To the people of The United Methodist Church:

The Council of Bishops brings you greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ who has called us to be servant leaders of the church. In 1812, Bishop Francis Asbury, Bishop William McKendree and General Conference Secretary Daniel Hitt sent the first letter to churches following General Conference. This letter seeks to revive that tradition. Many bishops will also be communicating individually with their own areas.

Hundreds of lay and clergy delegates from around the world gathered in Portland, Oregon, along with bishops and pastors, church members and staff, volunteers and visitors, to engage in Christian conferencing, to make decisions for our church's future, to affirm our global connection, to worship and to celebrate God's faithfulness.

We celebrated the success of our Imagine No Malaria initiative, which seeks to raise \$75 million in the fight against malaria, a disease that takes the life of a child in Africa every two minutes. We celebrated our ecumenical partnerships as we move into full Communion with the Uniting Church in Sweden and toward full Communion with the Moravian church. We celebrated our heritage: the 250th anniversary of our oldest church, John Street United Methodist Church, the 200th anniversary of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, the 150th anniversary of United Methodist women, the 25th anniversary of Africa University and others.

We continued in our acts of repentance with a presentation from the Cheyenne and Arapaho tribes about the Methodist involvement in the 1864 Sand Creek massacre. We shared in the consecration of deaconesses and home missionaries and the commissioning of missionaries. We moved toward a global Book of Discipline and global Social Principles. We voted to add five new bishops in Africa after 2020, and approved a churchwide study on our ecclesiology.

The Episcopal address set the tone for the event, focusing on humility and lifting up our accomplishments. We heard from our laity an invitation to members to be more involved in making disciples and getting involved in ministries to bring the love of Christ to others. We heard our young people say they "are engaged in Christ's journey with energy and love." We also heard them say clearly that they do not want a divided church and urged us to "be in unity even if we do not have unanimity." They give us hope for our future.

The body had difficult and challenging work before it as we acknowledged our differences over human sexuality. Amidst those differences, the delegates affirmed they want their bishops to lead and we found ourselves with an opportunity for a holy moment. We spoke candidly about what divides us and what our church might look like in the future if we dared to consider new possibilities. We offered a way forward, postponing decisions about sexuality matters and committing to having a different kind of global conversation that allows all voices to be heard.

Our differences do not keep us from being the body of Christ. They do not keep us from doing good in the world. They do not keep us from making a difference – and so we set forth bold new goals: to make a million new disciples of Jesus Christ; to engage 3 million new people to make a difference in the world; to transform 400 communities for vital abundant living; to reach a million children with lifesaving health interventions; and to double the number of vital congregations.

Most importantly, we affirmed our commitment to stay united. We proved that we are more than debates and divisions, more than rules and resolutions. We stood together as the body of Christ. As we reflect on our time in Portland, our prayer is for unity in the church for the advancement of our mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

As John Wesley reminded us, "Best of all, God is with us."

Signed on behalf of the Council of Bishops,

Sunday School:

June 5: Rehearsing for Children's Sunday.

June 12: Children's Sunday. The children will be participating in the worship service. Children's Sunday

Does not end our program- we will be offering classes for the children and youth throughout the summer

Summer Sunday School:

June 19: KICK OFF for the summer. Come join us for summer Sunday school. We have some exciting activities planned that will get you learning the Bible, outside for some fun and of course, we will work food into our class. We will meet every Sunday. July 3rd and Sept 4th we will show a movie. **A signup sheet will be posted on the Sunday School bulletin board for parents/adults to volunteer a week (or more) to teach or assist. Curriculum will be provided. I will be taking several Sundays off for vacation with the family.**

There is going to be an exciting program for Junior and Senior High students! Janet O will lead a class directed study into an area of the class' choice! She is going to empower the students to plunge deeper into the Word in areas that interest them. The first class will determine the flow of the summer so it is important that you come and be part of the decision making process. If you can't come that first week, please let her know.

Youth Fellowship:

June 3-4: sleepover, 7:00 pm-9:00 am. We will be discussing fundraisers (so we can expand our youth fellowship get-togethers.) mission project (hopefully, Kid Safe will let me know what is needed) and a movie or games possibly both. Please bring in a snack to share.

Vacation Bible School:

June 12: Following children's Sunday, we will be decorating early for VBS and our Summer Kick-off program.

June 20-24: We still have openings for 3 yrs to finishing 5th grade to participate. **Youth in 6th grade and up, we encourage you to volunteer. Adults are needed to lead in Crafts, Music, and 4th & 5th grade chaperones. One day or the whole week we could use your help.**

Any questions, suggestions, opinions, I would love to hear from you

Contact: Linda Shivers, necsvga@aol.com, or 860-871-9164



Don't forget to do extra chores to earn money for the children's mission donation on June 5th.

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



THE **ELLINGTON SENIOR CENTER (ESC) PRESENTS** a unique opportunity for those of us that have been wanting to see the **9/11 MEMORIAL and MUSEUM** in New York City.

Date: Tuesday, September 6, 2016

Depart: 8 am Ellington Town Hall parking lot, 55 Main Street.

Return: 8 pm Ellington

Included: Entry to 9/11 Memorial Museum and Memorial. Prior to visiting the Memorial and Museum we will have an included lunch at Ryan Maguire's, a

popular restaurant on Wall Street. (*entre choice in advance*) — Sautéed Chicken in Lemon Herb Sauce, Tricolor Fusilli, Shepherd's Pie or Sole Française



Cost: \$103 per person based on 40-50 passengers (we would be part of a trip sponsored by ESC.)

To register: Go to Ellington Senior Center (860 870-3133), fill out registration forms, choose your lunch entre and pay in full. **Deadline:** *July 29th, unless sold out.*

NOTE: THERE IS A MODERATE AMOUNT OF WALKING ON THIS TRIP

For more information, see the flyer on the bulletin board.

Adult Studies

BIBLE DEVOTIONALS: Friday mornings at 10 am.

COFFEE AND CONVERSATION: Sunday mornings (9 am to 9:45 am)

Come join the conversation!



Tea and Text

We have chosen another book by Robin Jones Gunn for Spring/Summer reading and discussion. The title is Gardenias for Breakfast!! We have plenty of books!. If you would like to join us, see or email Judie Culy at judie.culy@gmail.com. Cost of book: \$5.

First discussion will be on Friday, June 3rd at 1:30 at Ginny Wehrli's home.

Some comments on the book from Publishers Weekly: "...an entertaining foray into the South and an intriguing look at the intergenerational relationships of women...one of Gunn's best offerings to date."

From author Robin Lee Hatcher: "Settle into your favorite chair and indulge yourself with Gardenias for Breakfast, a warm and gentle novel about grandmothers, mothers, and daughters. You'll glad you did!"

Father's Day Smiles

Does remembering Dad make you smile? Growing up was there something special you would do that always made Dad laugh or smile? Honor Dad by helping keep someone else's smile healthy.

Dr. Belinda Forbes
Accion Medica Christiana

On **Father's Day, June 19**, we invite you to remember a father, grandfather, uncle, brother, or son by giving a gift of at least \$5.00. These special men will be listed in a bulletin insert on **Father's Day, June 19th**. Orders will be accepted from **Sunday, May 29 through Sunday, June 12**.

Your gift given to Accion Medica Christiana makes a difference in the lives of children and adults in Nicaragua. Dr. Forbes works in Nicaragua where there is only 1 dentist for every 50,000 people. She provides direct dental care, trains "health leaders" from remote parts of Nicaragua, and provides workshops providing toothbrushes and teaching basic dental care to local children and adults.

Please return this to the church office no later than June 12.

Father's Day Smiles

Enclosed is my check for \$_____ payable to
Rockville United Methodist Church

In Honor of _____

In Memory of _____

Signed _____

(Orders will be accepted through June 12)

“If a child is to keep alive his inborn sense of wonder, he needs the companionship of at least one adult who can share it, rediscovering with him the joy, excitement and mystery of the world we live in.”

-Rachel Carson

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

The **Hockanum Valley Ringers Spring Concert** Series has a number of shows in area towns. Please see the Community Bulletin Board for dates and times.



**South Windsor Community Chorus
Spring Concert.**

Saturday
June 4, 2016
7pm

at South Windsor High School.

June 4, 2016 is the next **Household Hazardous Waste Collection** in Manchester for the towns of Glastonbury, Hebron, Manchester, Marlborough, Somers, South Windsor, Stafford, and Vernon.



Rehearsals: 11 am
June 5th and 12th.

PERFORMANCES:

Saturday June 18, 2016 in conjunction
with the **Strawberry Festival**
Sunday June 19, 2016 during our
Father's Day Service.

Good Friday Walk Update

As of May 22, 2016 we have collected \$10,796 with \$298 of pledged money still outstanding. Please turn in any outstanding pledges you have remaining.

Our new total when everything is collected will be \$11,094. We have given the Tri-Town Shelter a check for \$3,573 for their share of the donations. Thank you to everyone who helped with the walk this year.

**Memorial Garden 2016
ROCKVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

The deadline for the 2016 memorial garden summer planting has been extended to June 12th. Forms are available in the sanctuary.

Volunteer Opportunities

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

Through the Church:

Strawberry Festival (6-18-2016): Helpers are needed Friday morning, Friday afternoon, Saturday afternoon, and Saturday evening. **Sign up sheet is on the bulletin board.**

Bake Sale (6-18-2016): baked goods and salespeople needed.

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

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.

Vacation Bible School Needs You! June 20-24 There are still a few volunteer positions that need filling for our Vacation Bible School. Contact Linda Shivers if you are interested: necsvga@aol.com (860) 871-9164

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

In the Community:

Habitat for Humanity Family Service: Habitat for Humanity Family Services is looking for volunteers to help mentor perspective homeowners. They will have an open house the week of June 11th. 860-541-2208 ext. 2210 for details.

VITAS Healthcare has many volunteer opportunities from administrative or sewing help to working with veterans or those in assisted living. **Free training is provided.** For more information contact Michelle Tremblay at 860-494-4638 or Michelle.Tremblay@VITAS.com.

Shop to Help a Good Cause!

Shopping for Father's Day? How about that special graduate? Don't forget to use our Amazon Smile page to find great deals online. The church will receive .5% of the price of the eligible purchases. Perhaps you need a gift card for that impossible-to-shop-for person in your life. Remember our gift card program has access to over 600 retailers. Check the RUMC website for the complete list. <http://www.rockumchurch.com/gift-card-program/>.

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. **Don't forget you can get an Amazon Gift Card to use to pay your purchase.**

Going On Vacation?

Bring God with you! Find a good church on Sunday. Remember God does not forget you! Also, wherever you go, please remember that we have gift cards for some resort areas and most major hotels and restaurants. We will mail them if you need. If you are like me and staying home, we hope to see you at RUMC and remember we have cards for over 600 national chains. If you frequent a certain store for your medications or foods and you would like us to hold certain denominations for you, that is a possibility. Hope you have a wonderful summer!

Prayer Requests

Special Needs

Emily Rushton - healthy pregnancy
 Baby Lily- medical
 Raya Thorington - medical, age 9
 Leanna- medical, age 17
 Ross Middleton - medical, age 18
 Dianne McLaughlin - medical
 Donna Brodin - medical
 Rose Many- infant daughter, medical
 Paul Doucette - medical

Our Church Family

Bill Spivey Sr. - medical
 Tamika Brock - medical

Those in Christian Service

Dr. Belinda Forbes, Nicaragua
 Pastor Kristin White, Augusta, ME

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
 Irene Surette—home
 Ernest Pearson - home
 Janet McKercher - home

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.



JUNE
BIRTHDAYS



JUNE
BIRTHDAYS

John Wilkie	June 1	Helen Stambo	June 12
Mike Gay	June 1	Joanne Stenger	June 13
Subhash Nayi	June 1	Wayne Badstuebner	June 20
Annette Welton	June 3	Craig Stearns	June 20
Arielle Shivers	June 3	Ricki Aiello	June 20
Lucas Beloff	June 4	Stephen Yoder	June 21
Ernest Pearson	June 5	Rayana Culvey	June 23
Camden McPeck	June 8	Sean Chapman	June 29

Quote of the Month

"Prayer is the Key to heaven, but faith unlocks the door."



June Worship Attendants

Sign up sheets to help in these areas on Sunday morning are in Fellowship Hall.

June 5

1 Kings 17: 8-24
Psalm 146 (UMH)
Galatians 1: 11-24
Luke 7: 11-17

June 12

1 Kings 21: 1-21a
Psalm 5: 1-8 (UMH)
Galatians 2: 15-21
Luke 7:36 - 8:3

June 19

1 Kings 19: 1-15a
Psalm 42 (UMH)
Galatians 3: 23-29
Luke 8: 26-39

June 26

2 Kings 2: 1-2, 6-14
Psalm 77: 1-2, 11-20 (UMH)
Galatians 5:1, 13-25
Luke 9: 51-62

Greeters

Please see Mike Faiaz for dates available.

Liturgists

Please see Candy Sunderland for dates available.

Acolytes

Please see Sherry Pearson for dates available.

Fellowship Time/Coffee Hour

June 5	Rebecca Bacha
June 12	available
June 19	Carol Ross
June 26	available

Altar Flowers

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

June 5	Joy and Bill Pikor
June 12	available
June 19	available
June 26	Sue Lessoff

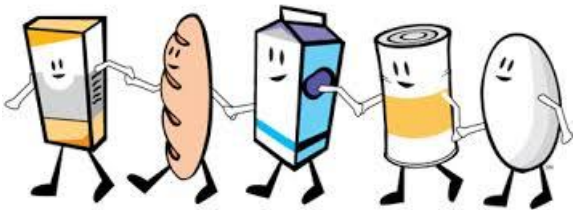
Food Donations



Last month, we delivered a total of **45** items to the Hockanum Valley Community Council Food Pantry. Thank you for helping our neighbors. Please remember food pantry needs increase in the summer when children are not receiving school lunch.

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

-Suzanne Bird



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

**Ad Council 11 am
June 5, 2016**

**Trustees 11:30 am
June 12, 2016**

**Strawberry Festival &
Grove Street Music Project
Concert
June 18, 2016**

**Vacation Bible School
June 20-24, 2016**



Official choir and music emails now have their own email address:
RUMCmusic2009@gmail.com.

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