

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 and Karen Fedorchak gave a very interesting presentation about NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness). They shared their personal stories about trying to find help for loved ones with mental illness. The NAMI-Manchester support group meets the third Thursday of every month from 7 pm to 8:30 pm at the Center Congregational Church, Manchester. The support meetings are open to friends and families of people with mental illness and focuses on sharing experiences and information.

<http://www.nami-manchester.org/>

(continued on Page 6)



Corned Beef Supper **Saturday, March 14, 2015** **5:00pm to 6:30pm**



Adults: \$12 Children 6-12: \$5 Children under 6: Free
Tickets are now Available



Volunteers are needed to help make and serve the food; please look for volunteer sign-up sheets on the bulletin. Please consider making a monetary donation toward the cost of food; this way we can purchase exactly what is needed for the expected crowd.

We will have a **baked sale** during the Corned Beef Supper; proceeds will benefit this year's Stop Hunger Now. Baked goods need to be at the church by 4:00 pm Saturday, March 14th. Please let Sylvia Yoder know if you are bringing baked goods or if you can help with the sale.





Dear Friends:

It's been a wild winter; snow falling every other day it seems and very little rise in temperature. But, by March, I begin to see the world somewhat differently. Even if the snow hasn't passed, even if the temperatures are still chilly, I find my spirits lifting... spring is coming. There is an inevitability in the passing of seasons, one into another. I like the feeling of certainty...it is something I can count on. We all can.

I think the way to get through the difficult times in our lives is to focus not just on the stresses –far too easy to succumb to those stressors – but to look for the hidden blessings. I was struck the other day, when my mother, never an admirer of nature, mentioned the tree outside her window and how beautiful it looked with its boughs hanging heavy with snow. Two blessings: my mother had found something beautiful in her day and outside her window and for me, well, I had the blessing of hearing her tell me about what she saw and how it made her feel. That's kind of nice, isn't it?

The beginning of March isn't usually much better than the middle of February but we see it differently. There is the possibility of a better end result than the circumstances leading up to the moment might have indicated. The season of Lent is much like this. There is a solemn service of ashes, which ultimately reminds us of our earthly life and its eventual end but later, in the season, we begin to feel the hope of new life, eternal life, a life promised by Christ's willingness to die our death so we can live in God's eternal presence forever. I have to admit: I do like Lent. I like what it means, where it leads, and how it calls us all into a time of reflection and prayer. It holds its own hidden blessings.

As we continue to move through the Lenten season – a season, which will be re-deemed by the witness of the empty cross and tomb, I hope you will find some time to search out the hidden blessings of your faith. Just as we can count on spring and the warming sun, we can count on Easter and the risen Son. We have much for which to be grateful.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Ricki



Pretzel Dough Recipe

1 pkg. dry yeast
1½ cups warm water
1 tsp. salt
1 tsp. sugar
4 cups flour



Dissolve yeast in warm water. Stir in sugar and salt. Add 2 cups flour, and work in remainder. Knead until smooth. Let rise for at least one hour.

March 22, 2015: Sunday School Food Drive & Pretzel Sunday

The children of Sunday School will be making pretzels for Pretzel Sunday on **March 22nd** for your yummy consumption following the service. We need donations of pretzel dough! **Please use the recipe below, and bring your dough to church by 9:00 am the 22nd, along with a cookie sheet to borrow.** We appreciate your help!

A great big **Thank You** to everyone who helped our Sunday School food donation collection on February 8, 2015; **we collected 100 items** for the local food pantry. Our next food drive will be on Pretzel Sunday March 22, 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!!

Now Hiring: Director of Christian Education

SPRC is accepting applications for the position of Director of Christian Education. Eileen Gay will be stepping down as of May 17, 2015. Anyone interested in the position can get a copy of the job description in the church office. If you are interested, please contact Terri Goldich by Sunday, March 15, 2015.

“Discovering the Possibilities”

The congregation is invited to a sit-down luncheon **May 3rd** at noon followed by an afternoon of open discussion about our church’s ministries and possibilities.

Led by Rev. Rick McKinley, we will be taking stock of how things are going, how our current ministries are serving people and what potential ministries may be out there in the community.

At the end of May, Rick will return to present a summary of his analysis along with recommendation on opportunities for greater ministries. We believe that this report will be of great benefit to both our congregation and Rev. Paul O’Neil as he joins us July 1st.

Please circle **the May 3rd** date on your home calendars now.

Pete Schilling
Council Chair

Mel Bacha and Candy Sunderland
Lay Leaders

St. John’s Episcopal Church, 523 Hartford Turnpike, Vernon is hosting the area adult **choir festival** concert on Sunday, March 15, at 7:00 P.M. Hear the massed choirs from 8 area churches, about 70 people participating, under the direction of the various Directors of Music, in a concert of sacred music. The concert is free and the public is cordially invited to attend. A freewill offering will be taken.

Part of the **Vernon Regional Adult Based Education** ESL classes includes a lecture series. The lecture series has included everything from the health benefits of good hygiene to parenting skills to creating a living will. This year the students are taking over as lecturers. The students are paired off and selected a different topic. Each week one pair of students presents their topic to the rest of the class. The students work on their research skills, organize the presentation and practice their public speaking in English. So far the students have embraced becoming the teachers and are excited about the project.

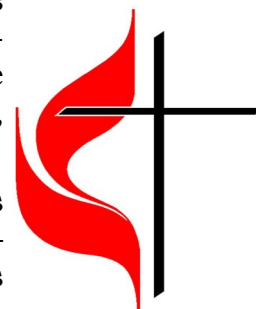
Two of our families who have been part of VRABE for two years are moving back to Japan. Jamierose, the children’s head teacher has found full-time employment in phlebotomy at St. Francis Hospital. Ryan is stepping into the children’s head teacher position. Thursday March 5th is the last day for both students and teacher; we wish them all the best.

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.





Wow, is this winter ever going to end? I'm sure you're asking that same question. As I am quickly approaching another year older, and would like to think another year wiser; I searched the recesses of my brain for a newsletter article to write.... I kept coming back to our confirmation class of 2015.

Beginning on January 4th, Pastor Ricki and Linda Shivers met with the upcoming "potential" confirmation candidates and their parents to lay out "Orientation" and a schedule of classes ...what to expect in confirmation class. I was most interested and excited about the various topics (hoping to possibly learn something new) and the many potential "field trips" that our youth would be participating in. At that moment, I decided to join in, not only as a parent of one of the class members, but also as a possible mentor to someone else.

Linda didn't waste any time getting the youth involved, and we hit the ground running with our first "field trip" to the soup kitchen in downtown Rockville. Our youth planned, prepped and served a hot meal to all that came through the door that day. *It was one of their biggest days for serving meals. I think we served well over 60 people on a Saturday for lunch time, including children.* I was the first contact in line as I handed out the plates; each person there that day I greeted with kind words and a smile. It was such a humbling and rewarding experience to sit down at the tables and listen to *their* stories. I feel blessed to have been part of the experience. I know the class loved it too, as they were already asking to do it again soon!

Our next venture was a trip to First Cathedral in Bloomfield. I was in awe as we stepped through the doors of a Cathedral that can seat 5,000 people. We were greeted by a member and given a tour of the facility. Then an Associate Pastor continued the tour with us and we were able to sit, actually make that **STAND** through part of their worship service and take communion together as a group. The service was uplifting and loud, filled with music and a large praise band and a choir of 60-70 people. (When they are in full choir, they have over 200 members.) Can you imagine a choir so big?! I walked away with an appreciation for a different type of service than certainly what we Methodists are used to. Once again, I think our youth were excited too. We followed up our trip with a sit down Q & A to hear what the kids had to say about the service and the experience.

And last to this point...our trip to a Mosque in Ellington one Sunday afternoon. Dr. Saud Anwar and his lovely wife sat down to talk to us about their Muslim faith, their mosque and what it means to them. Again, I walked away feeling blessed to have been part of the experience with our youth and to have gained a better understanding and appreciation for their faith.

God calls us to be true disciples of Jesus Christ.

Be kind to others. And stay tuned for more information on our confirmation class!

Candy Sunderland - Co-Lay Leader

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 Connecticut and what is being done about it. Joining Ms. Plante will be students from the Metropolitan Learning Center’s Student Abolitionists Stopping Slavery, a nationally recognized student-created organization created to educate, raise funds, and advocate public action against modern slavery.

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.

GOOD FRIDAY WALK, APRIL 3, 2015

It's not too early to start thinking about getting ready for the WALK. Sponsor sheets have arrived; visit our information table in Fellowship Hall after Church for sponsor sheets, to volunteer to work, and getting general information about our Rockville Walk. Feel free to check out the Sharing, Inc. website at <http://www.walkingongoodfriday.org>. Great website!! Also, check out <http://www.rockumchurch.com/good-friday-walk/> for more information.

Sponsors can pay via check made out to Sharing Inc. or make \$20 or greater donations using credit card or PayPal. For credit card and PayPal donations, go to <http://www.walkingongoodfriday.org/walk-on-good-friday-your-walk.html> and click on the PayPal button; enter your payment information then continue to specify the person you are sponsoring.

Maundy Thursday...What is That?

Maundy Thursday, also known as “Holy Thursday”, is the name given to the day on which Jesus celebrated the Passover with His disciples, known as the Last Supper.

The night before Jesus was crucified, he had supper with his disciples. Jesus realized that this last meal would be his final opportunity to guide his disciples before his crucifixion. Before the meal, he washed his disciples’ feet as an act of humility and service, thereby setting an example that we should love and serve one another in humility (John 13:3-17). During supper he spoke at length about his purposes, what his followers should do, and the promise of the Holy Spirit to come. He broke bread into pieces, giving it to his disciples saying “This is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me”. He then took the cup of wine, shared it with his disciples and said, “This wine is the token of God’s new covenant to save you, an agreement sealed with the blood I will pour out for you” (Luke 22:19-20). This is the biblical basis for the practice of Communion.

Maundy Thursday is observed on the Thursday of Passion Week, one day before Good Friday. Once again, we will be holding a special service that evening (April 2nd - 7:00). A re-enactment of the Last Supper while reading the Passion Story will take place, including a special communion. We hope you can join us in observing Maundy Thursday in a way that truly honors what happened at the Last Supper.

Carol Robbins
Worship Committee Chairperson



Stan Culy was inspired to write these comments following the February 8, 2015 service:

There were so many nice things in worship last Sunday that I wanted to write them all down. The first thing that was special about the service was a flute-voice duet of a beautiful piece by Johann Sebastian Bach called “Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring.” Nat Woodruff played the lively flute part and Terri Goldich gave a lovely rendition of the melody.

Pastor Ricki dedicated the rest of the service to Black History Month and we sang ten Negro Spirituals, most of them with interesting historical backgrounds, often with hidden messages for the slaves.

Stan Culy told a Christ Story about seeing God in nature as in sunrises and sunsets. He said that in those times and when he sees the stars at night, millions and millions of miles away, he feels close to God.

Pastor Ricki had a very inspiring benediction at the end of the service. She asked everyone to move out of the pews, stand against the wall and hold the hand of the person next to them. While doing that she recounted her last visit with Lou Furnas this week before he died. She saw how beautiful his hands were and helped us to realize how special were all of our hands, especially holding them together.

After the service, we brought canned goods to the Fellowship Hall for the Community Pantry and were served tasty “sundaes” by Eileen Gay!

Stan Culy shares his experience of **“God Moments in Nature”**
as he shared in church on February 8, 2015.

There have been several times in the past year when the church council was doing some planning ahead and repeatedly asked the question: “How can we make our morning worship time more meaningful?” One of the suggestions was that we invite people to tell about moments of inspiration in their life. We are calling these “Christ Stories”, when we feel the spirit of Christ around us or in us.

Last December, Karen Stearns told the story of a student talking deeply about his faith that inspired her. She felt the Spirit of Christ through his words. Two weeks ago, Geoff Gerow told the story of trying to find a person to help pay their cleaning bill and got the clerk engaged with the search as well. The simple truth is that we often find the Spirit of Christ with us when we are helping people. Last Sunday, we heard Mel Bacha talking about his journey of faith beginning when he felt so welcomed when he first came to our church

I would like to talk about a couple of what I call “God Moments “ in nature when I feel God’s presence in its wonder and its beauty. I love going out at night when I can see the stars, knowing they are millions and millions of miles away. It makes me feel the bigness of God and I feel part of the universe. The Hebrew people who wrote the Old Testament of our Bible thought that the stars were pin-holes of light in a giant ceiling of sky they called the firmament. Through these holes they believed the rain came down! Even this pre-scientific understanding of space deepens my appreciation of creation.

Other God-moments I have had are at sunrise and sunset and I have beautiful pictures taken when Judie and I were at the right place at the right time. Sometimes the whole sky is lit up in pink or orange or red or yellow. Sometimes there are clouds with a silver lining. Sometimes there are shafts of light coming down from the heavens like a spot-light on earth. The verse of a hymn comes to mind, “The heavens are telling the glory of God.” In moments like these, I feel close to God.

There are so many, many different ways we experience God that we are hoping that many of you will share the moments when this awareness has come to you. Perhaps you can write it down or talk with me and between the two of us we can find a way to present it. When we hear one person’s expression of faith, it enriches our own faith. This is one of the benefits of coming to worship together.



Our Church Family

Pat Brandt & Juli Watrous
Tim Arzt
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

Kathy Kentfield
3-5-1933 to 2-1-2015
Lou Furnas
3-29-1944 to 2-6-2015

*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
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

Logan Paulson	March 1	Vic Retynski	March 20
Carol Ross	March 2	Emily Matthews	March 21
Candy Sunderland	March 5	Vita Aiello	March 24
Pauline Cheveriea	March 7	Jerri Kirby	March 28
Linda Furnas	March 9	Mat Mlodzinski	March 29
Jim Mlodzinski	March 10	Angelica Tyler	March 29
Pete Schilling	March 13	Sherry Pearson	March 30
Saara Stenger	March 15	Aylana Branon	March 31
Ginny Hickton	March 17		

Quote of the Month

"Keep your faith in beautiful things;
in the sun when it is hidden,
in the Spring when it is gone."
- Roy R. Gibson



March Worship Attendants

Greeters

Please see Jerrie Kirby for dates available.

Liturgists

March 1 Joy Pikor
March 8 Candy Sunderland
March 15 Emily Sunderland
March 22 Pete Schilling
March 29 Linda Shivers

Children's Message

March 1 Rebecca Bacha
March 8 Pastor Ricki
March 15 Joy Pikor
March 22 Kathy Sunderland
March 29 Jen Chapman

Acolytes

March 1 Jacob Gerow
March 8 Charlotte Gerow
March 15 Amy Conyers & Arielle Shivers
March 22 Mariah Shivers & Jack Longo
March 29 Gabby Spicer & Arielle Shivers

Fellowship Time/Coffee Hour

March 1 Ginny Wehrli
March 8 The Wilkies
March 15 Jen Chapman
March 22 Tom Farrish
March 29 The Joys

Altar Flowers

March 1 Jane Thomas
March 8 Janet McKercher
March 15 Weller Fund
March 22 Sandie
March 29 Mlodzinski

March 1

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16
Psalm 22:23-31 (UMH)
Romans 4:13-25
Mark 8:31-38

March 8

Exodus 20:1-17
Psalm 19 (UMH)
1 Corinthians 1:18-25
John 2:13-22

March 15

Numbers 21:4-9
Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22 (UMH)
Ephesians 2:1-10
John 3:14-21

March 22

Jeremiah 31:31-34
Psalm 51:1-12 (UMH)
Hebrews 5:5-10
John 12:20-33

March 29

Mark 11:1-11
Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 (UMH)
Isaiah 50:4-9a
Psalm 31:9-16 (UMH)
Philippians 2: 5-11
Mark 14:1-15:47
Mark 15:1-39 (40-47)

Food Donations



We delivered a total of **115** items to the Tri-Town Pantry in February. 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".



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

**Scout Sunday
March 8, 2015**

**Stop Hunger Now
Saturday April 18th**

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.

March



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

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: _____

