

**September 2016**  
**Issue No. 089**



Harvest Supper/Leap of Faith - page 6  
Church Council Minutes - page 7  
Community Bulletin Board - page 8  
Volunteer Opportunities - page 9  
Birthdays - page 10



**Pot Luck Supper**  
**9/7/2016**  
**6:00 pm**  
**Guest of honor: Dr. Belinda Forbes**

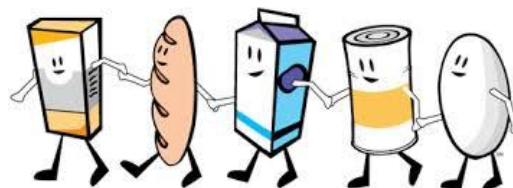
On Wednesday, September 7, 2016, 6:00 pm Dr. Belinda Forbes, our United Methodist Missionary serving in Nicaragua, will be joining us for a pot luck supper to update us on the progress of her mission. Please save the date and pass the word. All are welcome! A freewill offering will be taken to benefit Dr. Belinda's work in Nicaragua.

Read Dr. Forbes' newsletters and more information about ministry in Nicaragua at [www.belindagbgm.blogspot.com](http://www.belindagbgm.blogspot.com)

Last month, we delivered a total of **34** items to the Hockanum Valley Community Council Food Pantry. Many children sign up for Hockanum's before/after school snack program. The snack program can use cereal, crackers, fruit cups, boxed raisins, juice boxes and other snack-able items.

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

-Suzanne Bird





Dear Church Family,

I would like to bring you up to date on what has taken place in our denomination, the United Methodist church, these past four months. Significant events in the way our church governs itself have taken place at the General Conference, Annual Conference, Jurisdictional Conference levels and the Council of Bishops. I have tried to list them in chronological sequence. The issue at hand is same sex marriage/gay rights as it relates to the denomination's stance in the United Methodist Church's *Book of Discipline*.

**General Conference:** The delegates who gathered in Portland Oregon (May 10-20) voted by 428 to 405 to accept the recommendation of the Council of Bishops to delay a debate on homosexuality at this gathering and let a proposed commission study church regulations. The bishops asked the delegates permission to name a special commission that would completely examine and possibly recommend revisions of every paragraph in the *Book of Discipline* related to human sexuality.

**New England Annual Conference:** The clergy and lay delegates of the New England met at the Radisson Hotel in Manchester, NH (June 16-18) and decided that it would not wait for the UMC to change its position on homosexuality. Members voted 445/179 to support the resolution 16-220 Action of Non-conformity with the General Conference of the United Methodist Church. There were 17 abstentions and two blank ballots. The resolution stated that "**The NEAC will not conform or comply with provisions of the Discipline which discriminate against LGBTQIA persons**" and "**The NEAC and its members will not participate in or conduct judicial procedures related to the Discipline's prohibitions against LGBTQIA persons.**" The Desert Southwest, California Pacific and the Pacific Northwest Annual Conferences also voted similar Action of Non-conformity resolutions. These actions are equivalent to what we would call religious or ecclesiastical civil disobedience.

**Wesley Covenant Association:** Formed on or around June 30, this organization stands together as an alliance to advance vibrant, scriptural Christianity within Methodism. It is a coalition of congregations, clergy, and laity that promotes a high view of Scripture, Wesleyan vitality and orthodox theology. First meeting will be held in Chicago on October 7.

**Western Jurisdiction:** On July 15 at the Western Jurisdiction of the United Methodist Church (AK, AZ, CA, CO, HI, IA, MT, NV, OR, UT, WA and WY) quadrennial meeting in Scottsdale, Arizona, Rev. Karen Oliveto, the senior pastor of Glide Memorial Church in San Francisco, was elected as the first openly lesbian United Methodist bishop.

**South Central Jurisdiction:** Shortly after Oliveto's election on July 15, members of the South Central Jurisdiction (AL, FL, GA, KY, NC, SC, TN, VA,) voted to ask the *Judicial Council* for a declaratory decision regarding same-sex church leaders.

#### **Negative Reactions to Bishop Oliveto's election:**

The Rev. Rob Renfroe, president of Good News, said "**Instead, these conferences have moved ahead with legislative enactments pledging non-conformity with the Book of Discipline, culminating in the election of a practicing homosexual as bishop. If the Western Jurisdiction wanted to push the church to the brink of schism, they could not have found a more certain way of doing so.**"

The Rev. Thomas Lambrecht, vice president of Good News, said "**If our covenant is no longer in force, we will be forced to live into a new reality in our denomination.**"

## **Positive Reactions to Bishop Oliveto's election:**

Lynn Magnuson, lay delegate from the Pacific Northwest Conference. ***"We just blew the socks off the denomination."***

Wesley Hingano, United Methodist clergy said, ***"It is a beautiful day. I want to see gay and lesbian people walk freely," he said.***

Rev. Jeremy Smith, minister of Discipleship at First United Methodist Church, Portland, Oregon, said, ***"All I have heard today are messages full of hope. I have two girls under the age of 4 and I am excited they will grow up in [a] United Methodist Church that tells them whatever they are, they can follow God's call at every level of our beloved church,"***

Reconciling Ministries Network, ***"This is an historic moment in the movement of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer (LGBTQ) persons for spiritual and civil equality both in the church and the public square."***

**Council of Bishops Executive Committee:** This council met in Chicago July 19-20 and approved a framework for implementing the Commission on a Way Forward with and took a step toward a called session of the General Conference in 2018. Council President Bishop Bruce Ough said ***"The reported declarations of non-compliance from several annual conferences, the intention to convene a Wesleyan Covenant Association and the election of the Rev. Karen Oliveto as bishop of the church have opened deep wounds and fissures within The United Methodist Church and fanned fears of schism. The church finds itself in an extremely fragile, highly contested season." The statement further reads, "We affirm that, as disciples of Jesus, we are all called to maintain unity in the bond of peace. As a Council, we re-affirm our commitment to lead the church in discerning and charting a way forward. We intend to do so with prayerful attention to both urgency and thoughtful preparation."***

The Council decided that the Commission on the Way Forward will be composed of 20-25 members to be identified by August 31 with a target of October for an initial meeting. Updates on the Commission's actions will be provided through regular press releases every 4-6 weeks. The Council further voted to urge the Judicial Council to rule on the election of Bishop Oliveto.

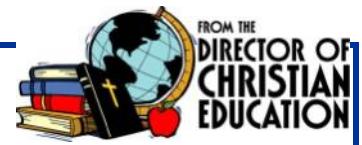
**Summary:** As you can see, the United Methodist Church is in a state of flux and many issues will be decided upon in the very near future. There is a lot that we agree on and hopefully those who have been charged with guiding our denomination will be able to lead us forward. More information will be coming and I will keep you all informed.

God Bless Pastor Paul



**Bible Devotional** - Fridays at 10 am: Join us for a deeper discussion of the coming Sunday's lectionary reading.

**Pastor's Prayer Meeting**- Saturdays, 9 am to 11 am: Join Pastor Paul and a group of United Methodist from Guyana as we pray for the United States, the united Methodist church, and our local church.



Instead of a welcome back—(church and Sunday school ran all summer) I want to say a big Hello to the start of our Christian Education program year which runs this year from Sept 11, 2016 to June 11, 2016. Christian Education has added and expanded many programs for this upcoming year.

**Children: 3yrs-3<sup>rd</sup> grade:**

Children's choir

(a director is needed to keep this program)

Children's bells

(last Sunday of the month from 9:00 am to 9:45 am; contact Jacob Gerow with any questions)

Bibles offered to those in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and older

(contact; Linda Shivers, as soon as possible, if your child is in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade or above and does not have a Bible)

Vacation Bible School in the summer up to 5<sup>th</sup> grade

**Youth: 4<sup>th</sup> grade- high school:**

Grove Street Music Program- for singers, musicians, and behind the scenes opportunities.

Sunday School Beyond Sunday's Youth group

Mission work

Youth Bells

Vacation Bible School – 6<sup>th</sup> grade and up, can volunteer to help

**\*Confirmation- offered every year to youth 8<sup>th</sup> grade or older**

(please contact Pastor Paul or RUMC office if your child is in 8<sup>th</sup> grade or older and will be attending Confirmation class this year)

We offer many opportunities in Fellowship for adults, families and children: \*Rally Sunday picnic, Trunk or Treat, Christmas pageant, Valentines breakfast, Easter Egg Hunt, Earth Day, Children's Sunday, Youth Sunday and other opportunities in fellowship. \* September 11, is Rally Sunday, where we celebrate the start of our program year and offer a family picnic, games, fun activities. (please bring a dessert or salad to share, we provide the beverages and hamburgers and hot dogs)

Teachers are still needed for the classes so if you have a preference for a certain age to teach, classes will be divided:

- 3 yrs, 4yrs, 5yrs
- Kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>
- 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>
- And 6<sup>th</sup> grade and up;



Our Sunday School Curriculum for:

**Children-** 3yrs to 5<sup>th</sup> grade is **"Deep Blue"**- offers exciting stories, science experiments, arts and crafts, video storytelling, and active games- all combined into a faith experience that helps children discover what it means to be a disciple of Christ!

**Youth-** 6<sup>th</sup> grade and older is **LinC**, Living in Christ-helps pre-teens and teens examine faith and life issues using the latest music, movies, news, current events and engaging in Bible study.



Our fabulous curriculum and fellowship opportunities cannot compete with all the instant gratification they get from the entertainment being offered to our children; TV -with over 100 channels, iPods, ipads, DVDs, computers , etc. For faith and the WORD of God to be relevant to our kids, is a job of working together; parents, church and teachers, ALL of us working together. The church does not replace the parents/family talking and praying with your children about faith at home. If you're not applying faith at home, church will seem irrelevant for the children.

We also need to attend church as often as possible and join together in worship with other Christians.

Going to church won't get you into heaven; that is by Gods' Grace; and not going won't send you to "hell", and we all know a person becomes a Christian by faith- believing in Christ- not by doing good deeds. *John 14:6, "Jesus said unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, **but by me.**"* But it is important to get together with others who follow Christ. *Matthew 18:20, For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them."*

Church is our Christian family, offers us a chance to be there for each other, to encourage each other and support each other.

Attending church together as a family- I know all the reasons why we don't want to go: a day "off", it's too hectic to get everyone ready, working on the house, catching up on chores, the kids complain (refer to the paragraph on instant gratification) etc.. But as parents we know our children don't always like what we, the parents, make them do for their own good: go to the Drs. for shots, make them eat right, go to school, get exercise, etc. Simply put it doesn't matter, as parents we know what's best for them and us. Attending church as a family (even when you don't feel like it), you are allowing a particular area of your child's life to grow- their faith.

I can let you know what is going on in Christian Education at Rockville United Methodist Church and why I think Christian Education is important to you and your family. All my letters and emails are going to continue to encourage you to attend church/Sunday school on a regular basis, but you are the one that has to make church a priority for your family and children.

I also want to share with you what my family is doing on Sunday mornings; we will be attending church and joining our Christian community.

Any questions or if you would like more information, please contact me at:  
home: 860-871-9164 or email: [necsvga@aol.com](mailto:necsvga@aol.com)

God Bless,  
Linda Shivers, Director of Christian Education

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### **SUNDAY'S AT 9 AM**

**JITTER'S CAFÉ, JOIN US FOR COFFEE.**

**ADULT STUDY:** ADULT STUDY WILL RESUME STARTING SEPTEMBER 4, 2016. NEW TOPICS WILL BE DISCUSSED EACH WEEK COVERING BOTH THE OLD AND NEW TESTEMENT.

## **Harvest Supper & Leap of Faith Concert**

**Saturday, October 22nd**

Dinner 5:00-6:30 pm

Concert 7:00pm.

Dinner prices to be determined next month.

A free-will offering will be accepted at the concert.

Please plan to join us and invite your friends! A turkey dinner with all the trimmings will be served from 5-6:30 pm. The evening continues with our 7th Annual Leap of Faith concert at 7pm.

Our choir is being directed once again by Jereme Martineau, Director of Choral Studies at South Windsor High School. The concert features contemporary, faith-filled music. There is no charge for the concert; a free-will offering will be taken.

### **TWO GREAT ACTIVITIES IN ONE EVENING!**

There are many opportunities for fellowship and service during these events. If you would be able to help with the dinner, please contact Carol Robbins at 860-212-9757. If you would like to participate in our Leap of Faith Concert, please contact Karen Stearns at 644-5729 or at [rumcmusic2009@gmail.com](mailto:rumcmusic2009@gmail.com). The first choir meeting will be Thursday September 1, 2016. The entire choir meets every Thursday with additional sectional practice on Tuesdays.

The Family Learning Program is pleased to be returning to Rockville United Methodist Church on Tuesday, September 6<sup>th</sup>. The program is delivered on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from September to May. Last year we were able to serve 30 families and we are anticipating the same for this year.

If you know anyone who needs their GED or improve their English skills and have young children please contact: Svetlana Grishtaev, Program Coordinator at (860) 836-0514 for more information and registration. We are looking forward to another successful year!



Church Council Meeting

June 5, 2016

Meeting began at 11:30 am.

Janet O'Neil-Savers donation drive: cellar and garage are filled.  $\frac{3}{4}$  in cellar in boxes; looking for antiques prices. Sandy is helping with antiques; help still needed n packing boxes and getting them to Savers. Janet is waiting for some dates, she left a sign up sheet for help. She is waiting for dates from Savers.

RUMC 2016 Mission Programs

1. Rally Day Picnic (Sept)-donation is given to Mission Shares
2. Leap of Faith Concert-discussion to separate Leap of Faith Concert from Harvest Supper to be discussed by Geoff, Karen, Judie and Paul.
3. Harvest Supper (Nov)-UMW then give to RUMC (\$1000)
4. Harvest Bazaar (Nov)-UMW then give to RUMC (\$5000)
5. Thanksgiving Ingathering (Nov)-collected food given to Hockanum Food Pantry
6. Roast Beef Supper (Dec)-sponsored by Men's Club. Donation offsets costs.
7. Holiday Gift Fund (Dec) -gifts are donated and given to support WIC families.
8. Holiday Mitten Tree (Dec)-mittens, scarves and hats are given to Hockanum Valley Community Council.
9. Winter Coat Collection (winter)-coats donated are given to Cornerstone Clothing Bank.
10. Souper Bowl Sunday (Feb) - donations are given to Sunday school.
11. Valentine's Breakfast (Feb)-free to women, paid for by Men's Club.
12. Corned Beef Supper (March)-Men's Club give to RUMC (\$3000)
13. Good Friday Walk (March/April)-2/3 goes to Sharing, Inc.; 1/3 will go to a local cause.
14. Mother's Day (May)-donations go to CWS (Church World Service)
15. Father's Day (June)-donations go to CWS
16. Strawberry Festival (June)-admission goes towards Roast Beef/Valentine's Breakfast, Men's Club and RUMC budget.
17. Vacation Bible School (June)-goes back into the VBS account.
18. Peach Festival (August)-goes to Men's Club
19. Adopt-A-Child (August)-donations go towards clothes and school supplies for children in need from Vernon.
20. Belinda Forbes Reception (Sept 7<sup>th</sup>) Pot luck at 6:30 pm.)

NEW

Immigrant Relief-Catholic Charities-Sue made a motion to partner with Catholic Charities. Judie seconded.

Savers Collection-donations haven't dropped off.

SPECIAL

Memorial Garden-Sunday, meeting of the Trustees

Carpet Fund-need another \$3000; after July 4<sup>th</sup> installation

ONGOING

Weekly Offerings

Hockanum Food Pantry

Coffee Hour

Cornerstone Soup Kitchen

SPAGHETTI SUPPER

Youth Group Mission Trip proceeds. A motion was made for Linda Shivers to set up a Spaghetti Supper with date TBD. Motion was seconded.

Council Meeting was adjourned at 12:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bridget Joy

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

**FREE DENTAL CARE!**  
**For Children and Adults**  
September 16-17, 2016  
6 am

Cleanings, Extractions, Fillings,  
Fluoride Treatments, X-rays

**No Eligibility or Income Requirements**  
First Come, First Served



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**HVCC Senior Food Program.** Free food assistance available to Vernon residents age 60 and older. Sign up in person; bring positive id and proof of income. Form more information call 860-872-7727 x2910.

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September 24, 2016 is the next **Household Hazardous Waste Collection** in Manchester for the towns of Glastonbury, Hebron, Manchester, Marlborough, Somers, South Windsor, Stafford, and Vernon.

**8 am to 1 pm**  
**September 24th & October 29th**



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**Rockville Fest**  
**September 17, 2016**  
**10 am to 3 pm**

**Central Park, Rockville, CT**

Rain Date September 18, 2016 11 am to 4 pm

**Visit our meditation garden.**

The Meditation Garden Committee and the GOM's have been working hard on the meditation garden this spring and summer, and the garden is really taking shape. The garden's dedication will be on Sunday October 16, 2016 at 10 am.





## Volunteer Opportunities

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

### **Through the Church:**

**Sunday School Teachers needed:** Two volunteers needed to teach kindergarten to second grade Sunday school. Please see Linda Shivers if you are interested.

**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.

**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:**

**Santa House Fundraiser:** Collect Tickets, Monitor Games, etc. on Saturday 9/10/2016. Volunteers should contact Darcy Desmond at [ddesmond@coca-cola.com](mailto:ddesmond@coca-cola.com).

## Refugee Assistance Collection

We are collecting household goods needed to furnish a two bedroom apartment for an incoming refugee family. The list of items we need are on the Refugee Relief page on our website.

<http://www.rockumchurch.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/Refugee-Household-Items-Needed-8-30-2016.pdf>

## Shop to Help a Good Cause!

Shopping on Amazon? Don't forget to use our Amazon Smile page. The church will receive .5% of the price of the eligible purchases. 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 use our gift card program to get an Amazon Gift Card to use to pay for your purchase.**

Back to School Shopping? **Think RUMC gift cards for all your shopping needs.** This is a great opportunity to have businesses give to RUMC. Remember, you always get 100%; it's the company that gives to us! Companies give a certain percentage to non-profits so this is like "standing in line" to get our share! If you haven't participated and would like to start, it's as simple as buying a gift card and then use it when you shop. Everyone has to eat, why not allow RUMC to get back a portion of your food budget as Big Y and Stop and Shop and others will do. Pharmacies participate also. Gardening, yard work, back to school, whatever, please visit us at

<http://www.rockumchurch.com/home/> or each Sunday after services.

# Prayer Requests

## Special Needs

Rushton Family - special needs  
 Baby Lily- medical  
 Raya Thorington - medical, age 9  
 Leanna- medical, age 17  
 Dianne McLaughlin - medical  
 Rose- infant daughter, medical  
 Paul Doucette - medical  
 Al Boulais - medical  
 Ross Middleton - medical  
 Bill Kayba - medical  
 Jody- medical

## Our Church Family

William Spivey, Jr. - medical  
 Lin Arzt - healing

## Those in Christian Service

### **Dr. Belinda Forbes**

Accion Medica Christiana,  
 Managua, Nicaragua

### **Pastor Kristin White,**

Green Street UMC,  
 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  
 Pat Brandt—Pennsylvania  
 Steve & Kay Lyke—home  
 Annette Welton—Brookdale SW  
 Irene Surette—home  
 Leonard Aronson - Vernon Manor  
 Barbara Tourtelotte - 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](mailto:rumcoffice@sbcglobal.net). Thank you.*



Tami Rizner	September 4	Andalaysia Cortes	September 16
Sylvie Lanz-Matthews	September 4	Kristin White	September 17
Nicolas Velasquez	September 6	Matthew Stearns	September 22
Andrew Velasquez	September 6	Sharon Robbins	September 24
Janet McKercher	September 6	Joy Pikor	September 25
Emma Parnell	September 8	Giada Shivers	September 25
Caleb McPeck	September 10	Elyse Nordell	September 25
Allison Corne	September 10	Jacob Gerow	September 26
Rose Goldich	September 12	Phyllis King	September 29

## Quote of the Month

"Tarry a moment to watch the chaos of a playground, crayola-colored shirts of running children, all trying out their wings." - Dr. Sun Wolf



**September 4**

Jeremiah 18: 1-11  
Psalm 139: 1-6, 13-18 (UMH)  
Philemon 1-21  
Luke 14: 25-33

**September 11**

Jeremiah 4: 11-12, 22-28  
Psalm 14 (UMH)  
1 Timothy 1: 12-17  
Luke 15: 1-10

**September 18**

Jeremiah 8: 18-9:1  
Psalm 79: 1-9 or 4 (UMH)  
1 Timothy 2: 1-7  
Luke 16: 1-13

**September 25**

Jeremiah 32: 1-3, 6-15  
Psalm 91: 1-6, 14-16 (UMH)  
1 Timothy 6: 6-19  
Luke 16: 19-31

**September Worship Attendants**

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

**Greeters**

Please see Mike Faiaz for dates available.

**Liturgists**

Please see Candy Sunderland for dates available.

September 4	Sandra Spivey
September 11	Rally Sunday
September 18	Jerri-Lynne Tyler
September 25	Gary Tyler

**Acolytes**

Please see Sherry Pearson for dates available.

**Fellowship Time/Coffee Hour**

Please see Candy Sunderland for dates 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.

September 4	Doreen Ward
September 11	Phyllis King
September 18	Lin Arzt
September 25	Phyllis King

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

**Dr. Belinda Forbes**  
**September 7, 2016**

**Rally Sunday**  
**September 11, 2016**

**Youth Spaghetti Dinner**  
**October 9, 2016**

**Meditation Garden Dedication**  
**October 16, 2016**

**Harvest Supper/Leap of Faith**  
**Concert**  
**October 22, 2016**

**Holiday Bazaar**  
**November 19, 2016**

RUMC will have a booth to sell yard sale items at the Rockville Fest on Saturday September 17, 2016. Please see Janet O if you would like to help or have items to donate.

Items include Red Sox and Patriot blankets, port-a-cribs, hamster cage, toddler bed, Christmas ornaments, Precious Moments items, etc.

**Peach Festival Update**

The Men's Club made about \$1450 on the Peach Festival having just enough Peach Shortcake for everyone (very efficient production).

Thank you to everyone who volunteered to work and attended our Peach Festival. It would not have been a success without you.

-Steve & Don

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.



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*

To update address information or to be removed from the mailing list, please call or e-mail the church office.