

The Herald

RUMC Newsletter



December 2019
Issue No. 125



Youth Information	Page 3
Holiday Gift Fund	Page 4
Church Council Minutes	Page 5
Covenant for All	Page 6
Altar Christmas Plants	Page 9

Advent Bible Study

Wednesdays at 6:30 pm or Thursdays at 10 am

Led by Pastor Cheol and David Saunders - discussing
"Not A Silent Night" by **Adam Hamilton**.

December 4, 11, and 18 at 6:30 pm

December 5, 12, & 19 at 10 am



Christmas Eve Service
Join us for a Candlelight
Christmas Eve Service at
6 pm.

Everyone is welcome!

Dear Rockville Family,

Finally, we begin our Christian year anew as we take our first step into the season of Advent-**Christmas**. **How's your Christmas preparation?** Already finish putting up the Christmas decorations, bought all the Christmas gifts, sent Christmas cards to friends? Are you ready to welcome visiting family or preparing to travel to visit them?



In this busiest and exciting season, I hope you to take time to appreciate the great gift that God has given you in Jesus Christ, the Savior of all creations in the world. His **incarnation to the world has brought us “cosmic reconciliation” with God and all humanity**. His abiding presence in our lives has allowed us to taste the joy and peace of **heaven**. **Yet we know we must not remain on our personal salvation**. **As God's children or servants, we are called to share God's grace and love in the name of Jesus Christ** with many others living around us.

As we ponder on our blessings this Christmas we are encouraged by God's love to share gifts with others. With your generous support during the past months, we have served our communities as we continue to get involved in supporting a Syrian Refugee family, the Cornerstone Foundation, and Local Food Pantries. Especially, I deeply **appreciate your loving gifts that have been collected during our “Food Ingathering Service” on November 10th**. With your support and prayers, Rockville UMC has been and will be a more dynamic community of faith in the city of Rockville-Vernon.

Christmas is also a time of gathering in remembrance of the humble incarnation of **Christ**. **If you have not been frequenting our Sunday services but feeling God's tender call within your hearts**, this is your opportunity to make a return to God and to share fellowship with us. For this special season, our Sunday school kids will perform a **Christmas Pageant on December 15 at 10:00 am**, you are invited to our **“Family Christmas service with Santa Claus” on December 22 at 4 pm**, and our congregation will celebrate Christmas Eve on December 24 at 6:00 pm. In our special worships, we **will joyfully sing Christmas carols, listen to God's love story and share our fellowship as we remember God's priceless gift to us in Jesus Christ**.

In this joyful season, I have a special “thanks” to the members who have been working hard to create the new “Covenant.” Some of you may be still wondering what it is all about: simply put, this Covenant is an invitation for all members in the congregation **to support and carry on Jesus Christ's ministry of “tolerance and inclusion” for all human races in the world**. Upon our agreement with this Covenant, we can clarify our Christian identity, restore our fellowship in unity, and stand open wide to welcome all our neighbors. I am so thankful that we close our year and start a new year with this new vision and mission purpose written in the Covenant. (Our brother Geoff Gerow **put together the detailed letters and articles concerning the “Covenant” and our future plan**. Feel free to come and ask us if you need more information about it).

I hope that you will take the time to honor God's great gift to you in Jesus Christ, the Savior of all, and be inspired to share His gift with many others.

Hope, Peace, Joy and Love
Pastor Cheol

Hello,

Sunday School:

- ◆ December 8th: rehearsal for the Christmas Pageant
- ◆ December 15th: Christmas Pageant



Don't forget to sign up for the Roast Pork lunch so the men know how much food to purchase. Please bring a side dish to share and your own place settings.

Youth Group:

- ◆ The Youth Group Christmas Party is December 20th at 7 pm.

GSM:

- ◆ Family Night is December 22nd at 4 pm. We will have a Carol Sing and performances by the GSM Praise Band and Bell Choir. Family Night is open to the community, so bring a friend.

Director of Christian Education is Linda Shivers.

contact info: necsvga@aol.com, home- 860-871-9164, cell-860-558-7632

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Church Decorating Party
December 7, 2019
9 am

Christmas Pageant/Roast
Port Lunch
December 15, 2019
10 am

Finance Committee
December 16, 2019
7 pm

Youth Group Christmas Party
December 20, 2019
7 pm

Family Night
December 22, 2019
4 pm

Christmas Eve Service
December 24, 2019
6 pm



Join the choir...
You'll Be Glad
You Did!



Have you made your will?
Have you remembered
your church?

“The Christmas Story”



Church School Christmas
Program
December 15th During Worship

Followed by the Roast Pork Luncheon.
(Please bring a side dish to share and your own place setting.)

Sign-up sheets are on the bulletin board for both attending the lunch and to help cook the roast and potatoes.

Holiday Gift Fund

The Holiday Gift Fund is working with the Cornerstone Shelter this year. The board is up, we have received one family in addition to some shelter gift ideas. If you choose a family gift tag, pull the post it and write your name on the line. Wrap the gift and put the post it on the wrapped gift and place under the tree in the Sanctuary. If you choose a shelter need, just purchase and place in the box under the tree in the Sanctuary, do not wrap. Ideas for the shelter are \$10 gift cards for Dunkin Donuts, McDonalds, CVS; movie passes, puzzle books, thermal socks, thermal gloves, candy, chocolate, games, small umbrellas, but even more importantly, warm notes wishing them joy for the holidays. Please bring everything in to church by December 15 so it can be delivered in time for Christmas.

Thank you,
Kathy and Amy



All Church Council Meeting November 10, 2019 Minutes

In attendance: Chairperson Judie Culy, Geoff Gerow, George Klingman, Karen Stearns, Linda Shivers, Sandy Gallup, Michelle Gerow, Pastor Cheol, Ann Chisenhall, Steve Chisenhall, Wayne Badstuebner, Nat Woodruff, Dave Saunders, Dave Joy, Stan Culy, Candy Sunderland, and Janice Klingman.

Judie Culy called the meeting to order at 11:40, and Pastor Cheol led the group in prayer.

The church treasurer, Wayne Badstuebner had a brief report, stating that the bank account is “OK for November”, with \$7,900 currently in the checking account. The credit card balance is being “whittled down” slowly and has a balance of between \$2,000 and \$3,000. George Klingman mentioned that the Finance Committee will be meeting with conference financial consultant, Bonnie Marden again in December. Church School Superintendent Linda Shivers reported that the Christmas Pageant will be on December 15th. There were no additional committee reports as this meeting was called primarily for the purpose of discussing the RUMC Covenant For All.

Geoff Gerow presented the RUMC Covenant For All – (see attached). The Covenant for All is a document whose rough draft was created following a meeting of eight members of our church family and Conference Consultant Bonnie Marden on October 27th. (This meeting followed the All Church Meeting earlier that day). **The group began by attempting to define “inclusiveness” at RUMC and to move forward with the goal of welcoming all people to our church.**

Some of the points in the Discussion which followed:

- We can move forward even with diversity of opinion. Moving forward and signing the Covenant would not be a requirement of being at RUMC.
- You could choose to sign or not. (We should have 25 signatures or more). Seeing signatures on the Covenant (which could be signed and posted inside the church) will be significant to newcomers. Anyone who is a member of the church may sign the Covenant (including youth who have been through Confirmation).
- **We need to be clear about what the covenant “is” and what it “isn’t”. Consensus on the definition of inclusiveness is not realistic but we can still express support for full inclusiveness via the covenant.**
- Our goal should be to include, invite and respect all.

Significant discussion occurred with the group deciding to move forward with the Covenant with one objection noted.

Closing thoughts from Pastor Cheol:

We need to move on. Pray for no division, move forward and pray for leadership. Be united with this issue.

The upcoming Advent Series will be December 4, 11, and 18th.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 1:30.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice Klingman, Recording Secretary

Family Night - open to the Community

December 22, 2019

4 pm

Carol Sing, Praise Band, Bell Choir and a Special Guest!

Join us for this fun-filled afternoon! We will have a *Special Guest*, a Carol Sing, Refreshments, and Music from our own GSM Praise Band and Bell Choir.

Background of the Covenant For All

As many of you remember, a few weeks ago our Church Council began working with a consultant and one of the very first things that the leadership team was asked was “**what is your #1 concern.**” Of course, the discussion started in a few places: growth, stewardship, leadership, but it quickly focused on where we stand when it comes to Inclusiveness. **We know that it’s difficult to invite new people to church or be passionate about our mission when you’re not sure is who is really welcome.**

So a small team got together to work on trying to clearly articulate RUMCs position. As we worked, we realized that it was simply unrealistic to expect consensus on a single view of what Inclusiveness means. Therefore, we instead decided to find a way to show the level of support our Church community has for full Inclusiveness.

The Covenant For All represents a way for our church community to clearly and openly support full Inclusiveness while still recognizing that a diverse set of opinions still exist within our church on this topic. For many, the Covenant provides a simple way to show what their heart has been screaming out - a promise of support for All to worship, marry and experience **God’s grace and love here at RUMC, without** regard to race, color, ethnicity, national origin, social status, gender, sexual orientation or LGBTQ status, age, economic condition, or disability. It is an open and affirming promise with the full weight of the Covenant and its supporters behind it.

With that said, we fully understand that some are at a different place and the invitation is just that – an invitation. If you are uncomfortable or at a different place in your journey then please do not feel pressured to sign the Covenant. Like a rainbow that can mean many things but still be bright and beautiful to all, members of a diverse and welcoming family can have differing views on many topics and still be at home.

So here’s your invitation - please consider if you’re ready to join me and many others in signing the Covenant. The Covenant has already collected more than 30 signatures. Signers of the Covenant must be members of our church, but you can still share it with others who you think may be touched by its meaning.

In addition, below is an image of a new sign that we plan to hang this December in reflection of this important message.

New Sign

ROCKVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

We are a diverse family, open to All
and wholly centered in our devotion
to Faith, Hope and Love.

You are Home
For This Is God’s House
For All.

Introduction of the Covenant For All

One of the most critical challenges we face as a Congregation is the lack of a clear position on Inclusiveness, specifically with regards to the LGBTQ community. The lack of a clear understanding of who we welcome has made it difficult to project a warm and welcoming spirit into our community. It has caused members on all parts of the spectrum to leave out of concern that our view is either too liberal, too conservative or simply unclear.

The Covenant For All represents a way for our church community to clearly and openly support full inclusiveness while still recognizing that a diverse set of opinions still exist within our church on this topic.

Signers and supporters of the Covenant For ALL provide a promise of support for FULL inclusion for ALL (including members of the LGBTQ community). It provides the promise of support for All to worship, **marry and experience God's grace and love here at RUMC**. This includes positions of leadership and ministry if they so choose, without regard to race, color, ethnicity, national origin, social status, gender, sexual orientation or LGBTQ status, age, economic condition, or disability.

With this said, signing the RUMC Covenant For ALL is an invitation not an expectation. If you are not comfortable signing and supporting the Covenant, please do not feel pressured to do so. Members of a diverse and welcoming community will have different views and opinions on many topics.

The Covenant For All will be available for members to sign for an indefinite period of time. It will continue to be accessible for signing after it is moved into an enclosed but accessible bulletin board on December 7th.

Covenant For All Rockville United Methodist Church

Welcome to
Rockville United Methodist Church

We Welcome All

A diverse family and faith community that is Open to All races, genders, colors, ethnicities, national origins, social status, sexual orientation or LGBTQ status, economic condition or disability. We welcome All.

Wholly centered in our devotion to Faith, Hope and Love.

You are a precious child of God.

Made in God's Image.

From Holy light.

If you hope to

Find God,

Learn about God's Love

Follow God

Help Others

Be baptized

Receive communion

Discover your talents

Lead in the Holy Spirit

Connect in Fellowship

Marry

Or simply Rest.

**You are home. For this is God's House For All.
Amen.**

"For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus Our Lord". (Romans 8:38-39)

The RUMC Reverse Advent Calendar

Sign up to bring an item for our Advent Box in preparation for Christmas. As the box gets fuller, Christmas gets closer. The donations will go to our local food pantry.

December 1	Box of Cereal	December 13	Canned Beans
December 2	Peanut Butter	December 14	Box of Crackers
December 3	Stuffing Mix	December 15	Rice
December 4	Boxed Potatoes	December 16	Oatmeal
December 5	Macaroni & Cheese	December 17	Pasta
December 6	Canned Fruit	December 18	Spaghetti Sauce
December 7	Canned Tomatoes	December 19	Chicken Noodle Soup
December 8	Canned Tuna	December 20	Tomato Soup
December 9	Dessert Mix	December 21	Canned Corn
December 10	Applesauce	December 22	Canned Mixed Vegetables
December 11	Canned Sweet Potatoes	December 23	Canned Carrots
December 12	Cranberry Sauce	December 24	Canned Green Beans

The sign-up sheet is in the back of the sanctuary.

Volunteer Opportunities

Through the Church:

Roast Pork Lunch: December 15, 2019: Help is needed to cook the pork and potatoes and help with clean up for our Roast Pork Lunch.

Worship Attendants: There are many opportunities to serve the church on Sundays: greeters, ushers, liturgists, hosting fellowship, or bringing the food donations to the pantry. The sign-up sheet is in Fellowship Hall.

Families are needed to light the 3rd and 4th advent candles (December 15th and 22nd).

Church Maintenance: **The GOM's need your help! Since our Grumpy Old Men are getting even older there are many things they did without fanfare on Wednesday mornings that they can no longer do.** We will start posting in the bulletin, on Facebook, and on the website activities where we need help; these are activities octogenarians should no longer be doing. Please keep an eye out for these opportunities, and help where you can.

Refugee Program: Please talk to Steve Yoder if you would like to help the Marri family.

Prayer Chain: If anyone is interested in joining the prayer chain, please contact the church office.

Food Collection: Volunteers are needed to bring the nonperishable food items in our donation box to one of the food pantries in town. The sign up sheet is on the volunteer bulletin board.

In the Community:

Cornerstone Soup Kitchen: Cornerstone Soup Kitchen is looking for volunteers who ServSafe Certified; they are the only volunteers who can cook the Soup Kitchen meals. Non-certified volunteers can serve the food or clean-up, but not prepare the food. Contact Sharon Redfern or Bryan Flint to volunteer. Sharon.Redfern@cornerstone-cares.org or Bryan.Flint@Cornerstone-cares.org

Making an Impact

Altar Christmas Plants

This year, you can order Christmas Plants, or you may provide your plant, in Memory, Honor or Celebration of someone you love. Complete the attached form and return it to the church by Tuesday December 17. If you are providing your own plant, please have it at the church by Friday, December 20. Plants can be picked up after the Christmas Eve service or remain at the church for the last Sunday in December.

Name: _____ phone: _____

I wish to order the following:

Item	Cost	Qty	Total
4" Poinsettias	\$4	_____	_____
6" Poinsettias (single)	\$10.50	_____	_____
7" Poinsettias (double)	\$19.50	_____	_____
8" Poinsettias (triple)	\$26.50	_____	_____
4" Cyclamen	\$5	_____	_____
6" Cyclamen	\$10.50	_____	_____
4" Christmas Cactus	\$5.75	_____	_____
6" Christmas Cactus	\$15	_____	_____
Rosemary Tree	\$22.75	_____	_____
	Total:	_____	_____

____ I will provide a Christmas plant of my own:
 Amaryllis, Christmas Cactus, Cyclamen, Mini Evergreen Tree, Holly, Hydrangea, Ivy, Orchids, Paperwhites, Poinsettias, or Rosemary Tree.

GIVEN IN MEMORY OF: _____

GIVEN IN HONOR OF: _____

GIVEN IN CELEBRATION OF: _____

GIVEN BY: _____

Garden Barn is having a 40% off sale on indoor plants.



Bring new or gently used winter coats and clothing to the church for the Cornerstone Foundation Clothing Bank. The donation box is by the church's front door.

Community Event:
 Life Line Screening
 January 4, 2020
 9:00 am to 5 pm
 RUMC Fellowship Hall



Can and Bottle Collection

Stan Culy is collecting redeemable cans and bottles for the Marri Family; Mohamed brings them to the store to be redeemed. We have a container in the front entry of our church. Thank you for helping the Marri Family

IN OUR Thoughts and Prayers

Special Needs

Nick - medical
 Madison Kanneman - emotional support & medical recovery
 Kate and family and all displaced by natural disasters
 Colin Thorn - medical
 Vetta - family tragedy
 Bob Hornbecker
 Rob Cook—medical
 Domanik—healing
 Anonymous—sobriety
 Betty Ann Oppelt—medical & spiritual
 Tami Rizner—medical
 Staci Rizner - medical
 Jade - medical
 Paige - medical
 Brandon Holder - medical

Our Church Family

Marie Pierce—medical
 Lucy Maupin – medical
 Norine Veal—medical
 Finn Halladay—medical
 Linda Thouin—medical
 Ginny Hickton—medical
 Judy Wilkie—medical
 Ray Clark—medical
 John Ward - medical
 Susan Lessoff - medical

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

Esther Harris-home
 Eleanor Schreiber-Crestfield Manor
 Shirley Edwards-Brookdale SW
 Vita Aiello-Fox Hill
 Pat Brandt—Pennsylvania
 Kay Lyke - Crestfield Manor
 Irene Surette—home
 Harry Thomas - Woodlake
 Janet McKercher—White Oaks
 Norine Veal—Woodlake
 Phyllis King—Vernon Manor
 Ray Clark - home
 Jane Thomas-home
 John Ward - Fox Hill
 June Latkofsky - home
 Sue Lessoff - St Francis



Amy Conyers	December 2	Barbara Milanese	December 13
George Klingman	December 4	Stanly Culy	December 14
Jadalyse St. John	December 7	Heather McPeck	December 15
Anna Gerow	December 8	Leah Corne	December 28
Dottie Stronberg	December 10	Roger LaChance	December 29
Donna Badstuebner	December 13	Carol Aronson	December 30



December 1

Isaiah 2: 1-5 Psalm 122 (UMH)
 Romans 13: 11-14 Matthew 24: 36-44

December 8

Isaiah 11: 1-10 Psalm 72: 1-7, 18-19
 (UMH)

Romans 15: 4-13 Matthew 3: 1-12

December 15

Isaiah 35: 1-10 Luke 1: 46-55
 James 5: 7-10 Matthew 11: 2-11

December 22

Isaiah 7: 10-16 Psalm 80: 1-7, 17-19 (UMH)
 Romans 1: 1-7 Matthew 1: 18-25

December 24

Isaiah 9: 2-7 Psalm 96 (UMH)
 Titus 2: 11-14 Luke 2: 1-20

December 29

Isaiah 63: 7-9 Psalm 148 (UMH)
 Hebrews 2: 10-18 Matthew 2: 13-23

December 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Worship Service Sunday School	2	3 Vernon Adult Education Families Anonymous	4 GOM – Grumpy Old Men Vernon Adult Education Advent Bible Study	5 Advent Bible Study Narcotics Anonymous	6	7 Church Decorating Day
8 Worship Service Sunday School	9	10 Vernon Adult Education Families Anonymous	11 GOM – Grumpy Old Men Vernon Adult Education Advent Bible Study	12 Advent Bible Study Vernon Adult Education Narcotics Anonymous	13	14
15 Worship Service Children's Christmas Pageant Roast Pork Lunch	16 Finance Committee	17 Vernon Adult Education Families Anonymous	18 GOM – Grumpy Old Men Vernon Adult Education Circle of Moms Advent Bible Study	19 Advent Bible Study Vernon Adult Education Narcotics Anonymous	20 Private Party Youth Group Christmas Party	21
22 Worship Service Family Christmas Party – Open to the Public	23	24 Christmas Eve Service Families Anonymous	25 GOM – Grumpy Old Men	26 Narcotics Anonymous	27	28
29 Worship Service	30	31 Families Anonymous	1	2	3	4

Quote of the Month

“Remember this December, that love weighs more than gold!”

~Josephine Dodge Daskam Bacon



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 10am-2pm Tuesday-Friday

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

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.



December 2019

Phone: 860-875-6562
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starcheol@gmail.com
Website: www.rockumchurch.com

Rev. SeokCheol Shin, Pastor
Karen Stearns, Music Director
Diane Lajoie, Office Manager
Linda Shivers, Director of Christian Education
Diane Lajoie, Church Custodian
Rev. Stan Culy (Retired)
Dr. Belinda Forbes, Missionary to Nicaragua