



The Herald

RUMC Newsletter

March 2021
Issue No. 1298



We are focused on Healing and Re-connecting to restore a positive spiritual and family focus and sense of community.

Dear Rockville Family and friends,

In this March Newsletter, I'd like to continue to post my poems in light of my sermon series on "The Spirit of Lent." This second poem is to echo the theme of "Challenge" that I spoke about in my sermon last week. The spirit of challenge is for both the worldly and the Christian spirit! The only difference is that the former is for one's own favor and the latter is a sacrificial spirit for the sake of God and others, which reminds us of Jesus saying on his way to the crucifixion: "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves, take up their cross, and follow me" (v. 34). This is the theme of Lent and the spirit of Lent – the spirit of challenge.

When I decided to obey God's call to ministry, I was like "a mustard seed" thrown into this great world. in order to serve God and many others. I had to grow bigger like "a tree" capable of providing "fruit" and "a nest" in its branches for "all sorts of creatures" (Luke 13:18-19). Certainly, this kind of serving life requires discipline to deepen one's heart, like the tree which is gnarled and bent, whiling and growing, so that one would become more "humble in fear" and "generous in love" before God and people. As a servant of God, I know that I have to live a life of constant challenges to respond to God's call to serve many others.

During this season of Lent, I hope you will take my poems as a devotional resource. I also hope you will take time to reflect on your daily life, asking yourself the question, "How much can I challenge my life for God and my neighbors?" Again, friends, the Christian spirit is all about the challenge to deny one's own favors and live for the sake of God and many others.

The Dream of a Mustard Seed

A mustard seed thrown in the midst of the wilderness,
Let it grow up high in the sky, looking at the majestic sun
And stretch far beyond the ground, following the tender cloud.

While growing, let its thirsty trunk
Be gnarled all over its back;
While stretching, let the lonely branches
Bend and twist at every node.

When its height reaches the North Star,
Let it be humble in fear;
When its blossoms cover all the earth,
Let it be generous in love.

So, let the trunk put on the clothing of caterpillars;
Every branch bring forth fruit for all creatures;
And under the wide shade of the tree
Let there be green grasses where wolf and lamb can roll together.

Only to be the nest for all sorts of beasts
The mustard seed hopes to grow up and stretch out
High up in the air and far away beyond the land.

The Things we are called to do together during the season of Lent:

Over the past week, our church was pretty busy with some of our Lenten programs. We will continue to gather together to participate in these programs.

"Online fellowship" – every Sunday morning at 11 am after our online worship service – via Zoom (Nat Woodruff will provide the link).

"Study group" -- every Tuesday night at 7 pm -- via Zoom – we will study the book of Jonah for four or five weeks.

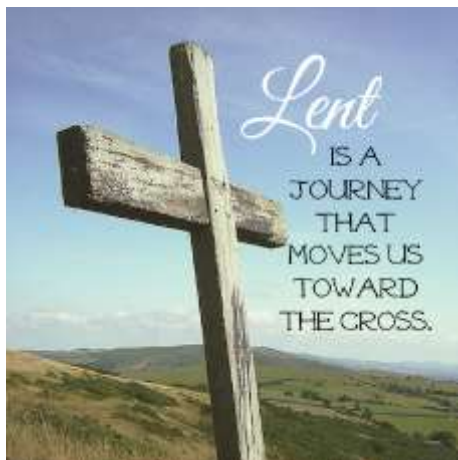
"In-person fellowship gathering" – every Wednesday at 1 pm at the church – feel free to come and talk! (Covid guidelines for safety will be strictly followed.).





What to Give Up for Lent:

- Give up complaining—focus on Gratitude
- Give up pessimism—become an Optimist
- Give up worry—trust Divine Providence
- Give up bitterness—turn to Forgiveness
- Give up hatred—return Good for evil
- Give up negativism—be Positive
- Give up anger—be More Patient
- Give up pettiness—become Mature
- Give up gloom—enjoy the Beauty all around you
- Give up jealousy—pray for Trust
- Give up gossiping—control your Tongue
- Give up sin—turn to Virtue
- Give up giving up—Hang in there!



Would you like to participate in our online worship service? We can (safely) record you reading the scriptures and insert it into the service.

Let us know if you would like to participate by emailing our Worship Chairman, Nat Woodruff at woodruff983@gmail.com or Pastor Cheol at starcheol@gmail.com.



Lenten Bible Study—

Pastor Cheol will be leading a Bible Study during this Lenten Season. We will be studying the book of Jonah, via Zoom, Tuesdays at 7pm. For more information, call or email Pastor Cheol. We hope you will join us.



In-Person Fellowship Time !

For those of you who are comfortable with an in-person fellowship hour at the church, we will be meeting Wednesdays at 1pm. We will follow Covid Guidelines with social distancing, including taking temperatures on entering the building and using hand sanitizer. We would love to have you join us if you feel comfortable in this setting.

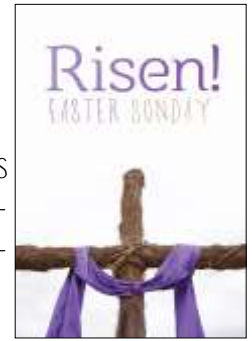


Navigating the process for getting your Covid 19 vaccine can be tricky. If you would like some help setting up your appointments, Karen (Stearns) is ready and happy to help. Call her at 860-916-5832.



CELEBRATING EASTER

Special (modified) in-person activities on Palm Sunday and Easter are being discussed. Watch your email for announcements and more news about these activities.



How We Can Make a Difference during the Corona Virus:

Monetary donations would be greatly appreciated at the following Food Banks:

Food Share
450 Woodland Avenue
Bloomfield, CT 06002

Hockanum Valley Food Pantry
29 Naek Rd. Suite 5A
Vernon, CT 06066

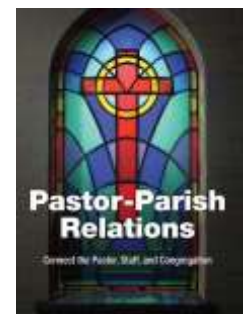
Cornerstone Food Cupboard
3 Prospect Street
Vernon, CT 06066



As we enter the season of Lent this year, we know many are still struggling from the events of the past year. Looking forward, our vision and mission is simple: to help one another *Heal and Reconnect*.

Please consider taking advantage of our Lenten programs and let us know if you have any ideas or would like to help us develop and coordinate new ways to heal and reconnect with one another.

Whether it's having time to volunteer or to simply having the courage to raise your hand for support, there is much we can do together.



All my very best, Geoff



Ten people joined together for our first in-person Fellowship Time last week (using Covid 19 Guidelines). We will be meeting each Wednesday at 1pm. It felt wonderful to catch up with some of our Church Family!

We hope you will join us if you feel comfortable in this environment.



Dana and Cathy Robertson
March 16

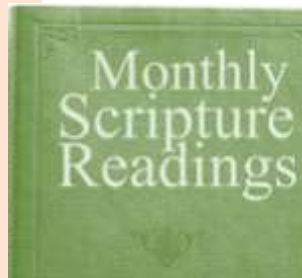


Carol Ross	March 2	Ginny Hickton	March 17
Candy Sunderland	March 5	Vic Retynsky	March 20
Pauline Cheveriea	March 7	Emily Matthews Rushton	March 21
Linda Furnas	March 9	Jerrie Kirby	March 28
David Martin	March 12	Mat Mlodzinski	March 29
Barbara Hoskins	March 13	Angelica Tyler	March 29
Sara Stenger	March 15		

March 7
Exodus 20:1-7; Psalm 19
1 Corinthians 1:18-25
John 2:13-22

March 14
Numbers 21:4-9
Psalms 107:1-3, 17-22
Ephesians 2:1-10
John 3:14

March 21
Jeremiah 31:31-34
Psalms 51:1-12
Hebrews 5:5-10
John 12:20-33



March 28
Matthew 21:1-11; Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29
Isiah 50:4-9a; Psalms 31:9-16
Philippians 2:5-11; Matthew 26:14-27:66 or Matthew 27:11-54

March 29
Isiah 42:1-9, Psalms 36:5-11
Hebrews 9:11-15; John 12:1-11
March 30
Isiah 49:1-7; Psalms 71:1-14
1 Corinthians 1:18-31; John 12:20-36

March 31
Isiah 50:4-9a; Psalms 70
Hebrews 12:1-3
John 13:21-32

Our Church Family

Beth Stearns—minor injuries from being hit by car while crossing the street

David Saunders—healing from emotional struggles

Sara Stenger—death of her dad

Tom & Anne Steed—Covid 19

Jane Thomas—physical and emotional health

Ann Chisenhall



Other Concerns:

- Family and friends of Peter Stenger
- Paula Herlihy and Family on the death of her mother, Rosemary Ostafi
- Corinne Peterson—medical issues
- Earl Robertson—recovery from stroke
- Lois Wood—healing from complications of foot surgery
- Karen Thomas—recovery from stroke (coworker of Dave Joy)
- Jane Lange— **11 year old daughter of Nat Woodruff's niece**—leukemia
- Cassity Kerstetter— military (niece of Dave Saunders)
- **Peter McCarthy (Wayne Badstuebner's nephew)**
- Rev. Herbert Chisenhall—**Steve's Dad/Recovery from stroke**
- Emily Rushton, Don Corne, Chelsea Whitney, Glen Stambo, Alyssa Walters, Craig Stearns, Scott Gay, Al Laflamme Nancy Beimler, Margaret Wilkie and all medical professionals and healthcare workers affected by the virus.
- **Lorna (Emily Rushton's aunt) cancer**
- Teachers and students

In Nursing Homes, Assisted Living and Limited Mobility

Barbara Hoskins—Vanderman Place

Amy Baron—Char-Laine Manor

Shirley Edwards—Brookdale SW

Ruth Garrott—Concord, NH

Janet McKercher—White Oaks

Norine Veal—Woodlake

Phyllis King—Vernon Manor

June Latkofsky

Esther Harris

Irene Surette

Ray Clark

Those in Christian Service

Dr. Belinda Forbes

Accion Medica Christiana,
Managua, Nicaragua

Pastor Kristin White,
Green Street UMC,
Augusta, ME



Rockville United Methodist Church
142 Grove Street
Rockville Vernon, CT 06066

RETURN SERVICE
REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

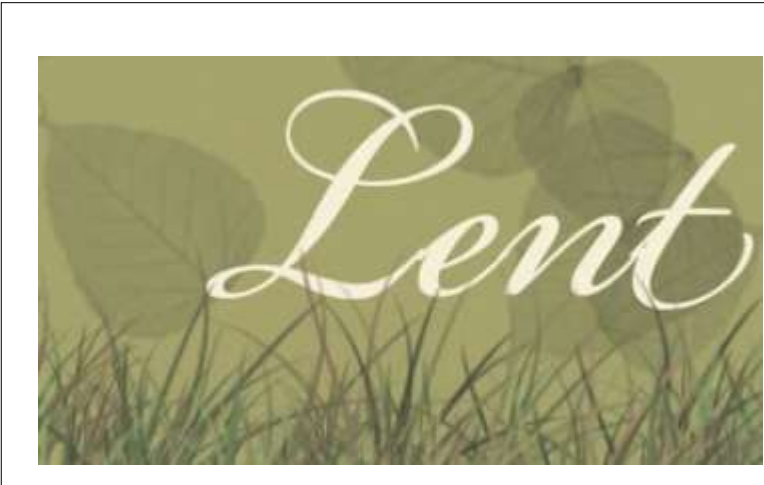
US POSTAGE PAID
VERNON, CT
PERMIT NO. 112

Dated Material—Please Deliver Promptly

	<p>Rockville United Methodist Church</p> <p>Services provided on YouTube and Facebook only, due to Covid 19. (If you would like to receive a link to the service, please call the church office.)</p> <p>Office Hours 10am-2pm Tuesday-Friday</p>	
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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.**



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starcheol@gmail.com
Website: www.rockumchurch.com

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