

Ash Wednesday Service

Lent begins each year with an observance of reconciliation and prayer. Our **Ash Wednesday service will be on March 5th at 7:00 p.m.** Ashes will be available for those who would like them. The service is intended to be contemplative and serve as a preparation for the 40 days of reflection leading to the glorious day of Easter and Christ's resurrection. You are invited to join us for this very special service.



For the 5 weeks of Lent, speakers will be joining us at Rockville United Methodist Church to give a presentation on their missions. 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.

Sunday, March 9....7:00 pm

Bryan Flint and Helen Syriac. Helen is the founder and executive director of Cornerstone Foundation in Rockville. Bryan is the director of Cornerstone Shelter.

Sunday, March 16.... 7:00 pm

Rev. Gary Richards, at New Covenant UMC in East Hartford, who has many Ghanaians in his church and has taken a work group to Ghana in 2012 in support of Dunwell Methodist Church in Ntonso.

Sunday, March 23.... 7:00 pm

Reverend John Mueller, at Trinity UMC in Springfield, MA, speaking about the Justice For Our Neighbors program (JFON) which offers high quality legal immigration services.

Monday, March 31... 7:00 pm

Dr. Saud Anwar, a pulmonologist from Vernon, will speak on missions projects to Haiti. Dr. Anwar takes medical groups to Haiti to support South Windsor Haiti Preschool.

Sunday, April 6... 7:00 pm

Peter Kenny, a Methodist at Wesley Memorial UMC in East Windsor, is a retired "head hunter" who has started a support group that provides job search support for unemployed workers at the church.

As I was about to write a pastor's column on the *Ides of March* and was searching the internet for information, this headline caught my attention. "Shirley Temple dies at age 85". Well, actually, I didn't see the tail end of this headline...*at age 85...* just the *Shirley Temple dies* part. My thought was "How's that possible?" With the quirks of brain synaptic confusion, I didn't think of a woman of 85, 75, 65 or even 25. I was seeing a child of 4 or 6 or 8...the little curly-topped dimpled moppet so many of us watched when we ourselves were ages 4, 6, or 8. In my mind, Shirley Temple will forever be the child actress, singer, dancer and all around incredible Hollywood legend...so much a part of my childhood, she simply couldn't have aged and, if she had, then of course so had I.

Shirley Temple's career launched many a wanna-be star to fame including Jane Withers, another child actress phenomenon in 1934 with the movie "Bright Eyes". She also danced her way into fame with the extraordinary toe tapping legend - Bill "Bojangles" Robinson, which broke down interracial taboos between white and black dance couples in two 1935 films. My childhood held the memories of such things as non-alcoholic "Shirley Temple" drinks and at least two toe tapping songs "Animal Crackers in my Soup" and "On the Good Ship Lollipop". Even President Franklin Roosevelt offered his praise to Shirley Temple with the assurance to the country that "*as long as our country has Shirley Temple, we will be all right.*"

By age 21, Temple had fallen off the grid in the eyes of her many movie going fans. But her life and her gifts were not lost to us. She was appointed by President Nixon in 1969 to the U.S. delegation of the United Nations General Assembly and in 1970 became a U.S. ambassador to Ghana and later U.S. chief of protocol. She also served for a time as the ambassador to Czechoslovakia before the collapse of the Iron curtain in 1989. Her life as wife, mother, and grandmother was truly amazing and I still, even after all these years, admire her extraordinary contributions to film, politics and family life. *(taken from an online resource)

I expect a person as gifted as Shirley Temple with her generosity of spirit, her insight and her undying love of home and family would encourage us to see and own our gifts. There are, of course, some among us whose lives seem to hold a special ray of brightness from God. I think such people are here among us to point us to our own gifts and to the ways in which God calls forth those gifts for the benefit of the world and for those who share it with us. Rather than feel dismay at the unique gifts we see in others, we would be better served and would better serve God if we set out to embrace what we have received and celebrate our own gifts. We are all unique and valued in God's eyes. The line, which strikes me as I think about God and God's gracious gifts and love, comes from a very old hymn:

"His Eye is on the Sparrow".

"His eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me.

I sing because I'm happy, I sing because I'm free,

For his eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me."

God sends us constant reminders of his love – some in the form of extraordinary people like Shirley Temple, some in the simple ways we are invited to be extraordinary for someone else. What a blessing each life is and what a gift we have in Christ – a most extraordinary reminder of how much we are loved by our God.

Many Blessings,

Pastor Ricki



Pretzel Sunday is March 2nd!

The children of Sunday School will be making pretzels for Pretzel Sunday on **March 2nd** 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 2nd, along with a cookie sheet to borrow.** We appreciate your help!



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.

UPCOMING SCHEDULE

March 2—Pretzel Sunday (during Sunday school)
March 9—Sunday school class
March 16—Sunday school class
March 23—Sunday school class
March 30—Sunday school class

“You are braver than you believe, stronger than you seem, and smarter than you think.”

Christopher Robin, *Winnie The Pooh*

-Eileen



Corned Beef Supper
March 15, 2014

Continuous serving from 5-6:30pm. Come and enjoy a corned beef and cabbage dinner. Menu includes: potatoes, vegetables, homemade Irish soda bread, beverages and Grasshopper pie. Adults: \$12, Children 6-12: \$5, children under 6 are free.

Help is needed in the kitchen and dining room and food donations would be welcome as well. Please see the sign up sheets on the bulletin board. Please call the church office for reservations.

Prayer Requests

Our Church Family

Charlie & Lucy Maupin
Pat Brandt & Juli Watrous
Tim Arzt
Corrine Pinney-Woodlake
Harry & Barbara Milanese

Staci Rizner-daughter of
Tami Rizner
Bill Summers-Shirley
Edward's nephew

Bereavements

Special Needs

Joe DellaGrotte-cancer-friend of the
Klingmans
BettyAnn Oppelt-health issues-Ginny
Hickton's sister
Nadine Skoglund-health issues-Ginny
Hickton's sister
Jean Benner-J. Klingman's mother
Roger & Alice LaChance-serious health
issues-Pauline Cheveriea's
brother & sister-in-law
Janice Klingman-rotator cuff surgery

Special Events

Alpha project in March

Those in nursing homes, Assisted Living and with limited mobility

Margaret Parker-Welles Village
Merrilee Thomas-home
June Latkofsky-home
Esther Harris-home
Marilyn Barton-Woodlake
Natalie Robertson-home
Warren & Eleanor Schreiber-
Crestfield
Shirley Edwards-Emeritus
Rose Rowe-Woodlake
Ken & June Guillow-home

Those in Service

Pastor Lorena & El Jabillo,
our sister church in Nicaragua

*If you would like a candle
lit for a prayer concern,
please contact Lucy
Maupin at 860-454-7798.
Thank you.*

**To make a change to this
prayer list, please contact the
church office at
875-6562 or
rumcoffice@sbcglobal.net**



Happy Birthday

Carol Ross	March 2	Vic Retynsky	March 20
Kathy Kentfield	March 5	Emily Matthews	March 21
Candace Sunderland	March 5	Joseph King	March 25
Pauline Cheveriea	March 7	Jerrie Kirby	March 28
Linda Furnas	March 9	Lou Furnas	March 29
Jim Mlodzinski	March 10	Brian Kentfield	March 29
Pete Schilling	March 13	Mat Mlodzinski	March 29
Sara Stenger	March 15	Sherry Pearson	March 30
Ginny Hickton	March 17	Ayliana Branon	March 31

Quote of the Month

“In between goals is a thing called life, that has to be lived and enjoyed.”

-Sid Ceasar



March 2

Exodus 24:12-18
Psalm 99 (UMH)
2 Peter 1:16-21
Matthew 17:1-9

March 5

Ash Wednesday
Joel 2:1-2, 12-17
Psalm 51:1-17 (UMH)
2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

March 9

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7
Psalm 32 (UMH)
Romans 5:12-19
Matthew 4:1-11

March 16

Genesis 12:1-4a
Psalm 121 (UMH)
Romans 4:1-5, 13-17
John 3:1-17

March 23

Exodus 17:1-7
Psalm 95 (UMH)
Romans 5:1-11
John 4:5-42

March 30

1 Samuel 16:1-13
Psalm 23 (UMH)
Ephesians 5:8-14
John 9:1-41

March Worship Attendants

Greeters

March 2 Mel Bacha
March 9 Mike Faiaz
March 16 Available
March 23 Available
March 30 Available

Liturgists

March 2 Joy Pikor
March 9 Candy Sunderland
March 16 Sue Lessoff
March 23 Emily Sunderland
March 30 Nat Woodruff

Children's Message

March 2 Karen Stearns
March 9 Pastor Ricki
March 16 Kathy Sunderland & Billy Spivey
March 23 Pastor Ricki
March 30 Mel Bacha

Acolytes

March 2 Patrick Chapman
March 9 Andrew Velasquez
March 16 Available
March 23 Available
March 30 Available

Fellowship Time/Coffee Hour

March 2 Sunday school
March 9 Judie Culy & Felecia Gerardi
March 16 Kathy Sunderland
March 23 Carol Macri
March 30 Karen Perras & Mel Bacha

Altar Flowers

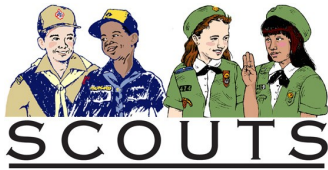
March 2 Available
March 9 Available
March 16 Weller
March 23 Available
March 30 King

Food Donations



A total of 58 items were donated to the Tri-Town Pantry since the February Newsletter was published. The "Greatest Needed Foods" for the month of March are: cans of pork and beans or baked beans, instant oatmeal and cereal and boxes of macaroni and cheese.

-Suzanne Bird



We will celebrate both Boy Scout and Girl Scout Sunday on March 9th. If your son or daughter plans on attending church that day and will be in uniform, please let the church office know. Pastor Ricki will be acknowledging any Scouts in service that day.



Many thanks to the volunteers who helped with the Blood Drive. Despite the weather and parking lot conditions, the American Red Cross received 46 productive units of blood, including several double red collections.



Jude Mattias Barnes
February 23, 2014

Parents:
Tamika Brock
& Joseph Barnes



Wow! Hard to believe another month has almost passed us by. So....that means it's time again for some words from me. This time my write up came easily to me, as I'm fresh off finishing the video study series of "Not a Fan", by Kyle Idleman. I felt compelled to share some of my thoughts on the series. For those who are not familiar with the study, a small group of us led by Pete Schilling met weekly for six weeks starting in mid January on Wednesdays to share a light meal of soup, bread and dessert. We began our evening at 6 o'clock with the meal, followed by a short 30 minute video, and then followed up with discussion as a group. Kyle Idleman is a teaching minister and preaches to thousands each week at his church in the south. This was an introspective study, allowing me, along with others, to explore the meaning of discipleship and our faith. We were a small group of anywhere from 8 to 15 people each week (which was much more comfortable for many). We laughed together, engaged in meaningful discussions, and even cried as we watched the videos together. We followed a story (through these videos) of a man, probably in his early 40's named Eric, who would suffer a heart attack in the first episode. The subsequent videos would look more closely at relationships Eric had, focusing on a different character each week as we jumped from present day to the past 5 years of his life. Each video left me wanting to know more, to learn more about that character, wanting to know more about how their lives turned out. Would they come to have a closer relationship with God? Would they become committed followers of Jesus? Eric had decided to make some life-changing decisions that not only affected him, but all those close to him. Kyle played the role of pastor in the series and asked some very thought provoking questions. What does it mean to deny one's self, take up the cross, and truly follow Jesus? What does it mean to become a completely committed follower? In Kyle's words, to be completely committed means we turn over all areas of our lives, not just the ones we chose, or the ones we are most comfortable with, allowing Jesus into our lives. We are asked to give all of ourselves. I suppose each of us has our own thoughts on this. Every one of us is at a different point as we embark on our faith journey in our lives. I'm sure no two of us are exactly alike. This study challenged us..... challenged me... to look inward at my life. What does God call me to do with my life. What changes have I made? What changes can I make to affect the lives of others? God calls us to be true disciples of Jesus. A random act of kindness goes a long, long way in sharing God's message of Love.

Candy Sunderland



Vacation Bible School is coming

on June 23—27!

(date tentative based on snow days)

VBS will be held at RUMC this year and registration forms will be available in April on our bulletin board. Children 3 years old (potty trained) to completed 5th grade are eligible to attend.

Alpha is Coming

March 19th



Here's your opportunity to try out our introductory session of **Alpha** on **Wednesday March 19th at 6:30 pm**. Join us for a meal presented by our own Mike Gay, follow by live Christian music performed by Danny Petrozza with sing-a-longs for all. Then stay to see our introductory video with Nicky Gumbel called "Is There More to Life than This?"

Future sessions will cover subjects such as:

"Why Did Jesus Die?"

"How Can I Be Sure of My Faith?"

"How Does God Guide Us?"

"What Does the Holy Spirit Do?"

"Does God Heal Today?"

Alpha provides the opportunity to explore the Christian faith in a relaxed, non-threatening setting through weekly thought-provoking questions.

Alpha - Good food! Good videos! Good Questions! Good fellowship!



STOP HUNGER NOW.

330,156
MEALS PACKAGED THIS WEEK

132,822,771
TOTAL MEALS PACKAGED

65
COUNTRIES SERVED

It is official!!

Save the Date: May 17th, 2014 3:00PM

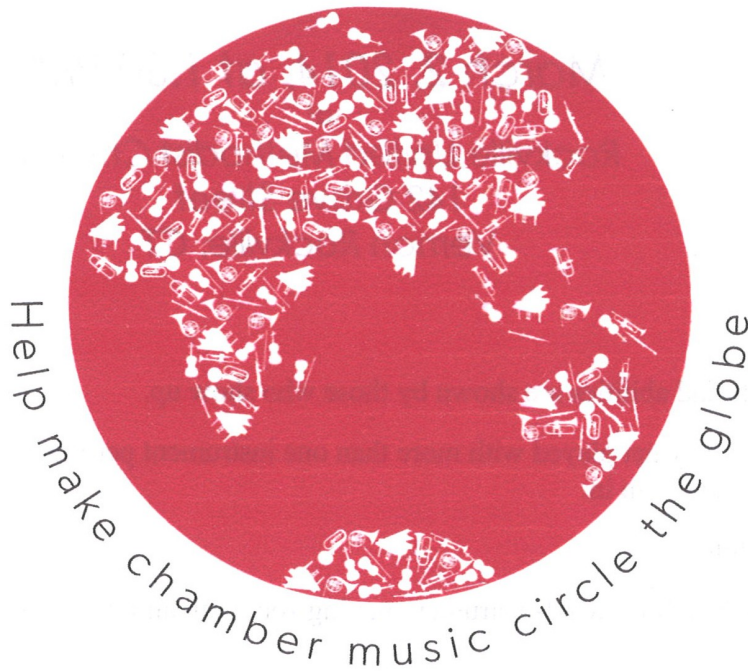
The RUMC Missions committee has committed to hosting our very own Stop Hunger Now meal packaging event at RUMC on the afternoon of May 17th, with setup beginning at 2:00 pm and the event starting at 3:00 PM.

We are very excited to be able to bring this special event to our church. Bridget, Daniel, Kady, and I had the opportunity to participate in the event at South UMC last year, and I cannot convey just how meaningful the experience was. Over 50 volunteers rolled up their sleeves and worked together to package 11,000 meals! These meals are then distributed around the world where they are most needed.

As we finalize the details, I wanted to share the following. (Obviously more information will be shared as it is available.) Keep checking the RUMC home page (www.rockumchurch.com) for the latest information, and check out www.stophungernow.com for more information on this fantastic organization.

- 50 Volunteers will be required. This is an event not to be missed!
- We will need to raise \$2500 in support of this event. If you would like to contribute, please make sure "Stop Hunger Now" is listed in the memo field. Our first fundraiser will be a bake sale during the Corned Beef Supper. Please consider baking to support this missions event.
- New Covenant UMC in East Hartford will be participating with us, and I will also be reaching out to Community UMC (Crystal Lake) to see if they would like to participate as well.





ACMP Worldwide Play-In Weekend

March 2, 2014, at 1:30 PM
at
Rockville United Methodist Church
142 Grove Street
Vernon Rockville, CT

- ♪ Emphasis on classical music played in small groups.
- ♪ Informal, jam-session environment for playing and/or listening.
- ♪ Light refreshments.
- ♪ Bring any melody instrument.
- ♪ Participation open for wide range of abilities.

For more information and/or to receive copies:
Write nat.tooter@gmail.com or call 860-798-6658

Likely Activities:

Assorted Duets
Simplified Orchestral Greats
Chamber Music,
(i.e., Haydn's London Trios)



ACMP-The Chamber Music Network
1133 Broadway, Suite 810
New York, NY 10010

www.acmp.net Play-in@acmp.net

CT/WMA Leadership Academy

Saturday, March 29, 2014

**New Covenant United Methodist Church
16 Church Street
East Hartford, CT**

“Aligning Faith with Action”

*Mark your calendar!
Tell your friends! Spread the word!*

**Early Bird Registration is \$12
After March 17th or at the door \$15
(lunch provided)**

8:15AM - 9:00AM Registration and Fellowship

9:00AM – 3:30PM Leadership Academy

Detailed workshop schedule available soon on district website

www.neumc.org/districts/detail/5

PLEASE EMAIL or CALL DISTRICT OFFICE TO REGISTER

cwmumc@neumc.org

860-871-7149 office

860-871-1714 (fax)

Worship and the Altar

Some morning after you get yourself seated quite comfortably in your pew, look up front to see the three most important symbols of our Christian faith. These being the cross, the Holy Bible on the lectern and the altar.

Our cross is quite different from those one would see in the Roman Catholic Church or home. Theirs is called a crucifix which has the body of Christ displayed. Ours is an empty cross representing Christ risen. Being plain, it also represents the cross which Jesus wants us to "take up".

The Holy Bible is God's Word revealed to us over the ages. Creation, laws, prophecies, songs, poetry, prayers, promises and salvation brought through Jesus, His Son.

The altar is that wood table-like structure directly in front of the cross. We often refer to the whole front area as the altar which really is called the chancel area; only the table is the altar with its immediate surround. Its significance is rooted in the Old Testament where various times the nomadic leaders would "build an altar" to God wherever they wandered. In the Old Testament, this phrase appears 265 times. Placed on our altar are candles which symbolize the presence of Christ – the light of the world.

Altars were built as a place where man would meet God. Often we read in the Old Testament that man would sacrifice animals to God to atone for his sins.

In the New Testament, Jesus is referred to as the Lamb of God, meaning that Jesus was the perfect one-time sacrifice for our sins. So, altars take on a newer way to meet our God. Revelations 8:3-4 tells us:

"Then another angel with a gold incense burner came and stood at the altar. And a great amount of incense was given to him to mix with the *prayers of God's people* as an offering on the gold altar before the throne. The smoke of the incense, mixed with the *prayers of God's holy people*, ascended up to God from the altar where the angel had poured them out." NLT (*Italic mine*)

So instead of offering sacrifices at the altar, we can come and offer the *prayers of God's people*. Of course, it's not the only place where you can pray, but it is a special place to go to talk to God.

Community Outreach

Our outing on Valentine's Day was postponed due to bad weather and a tractor-trailer rollover on Route 31.

Instead, we went out on Presidents' Day to the Park and Ride lot off Route 31 to pass out free coffee. Starting at 6:30 AM, we met five (5) commuter buses and handed out hot coffee to many passengers as they boarded the CT Express bus.

Along with the coffee was a packet with sugar, creamers, Valentine candy and a *Sharing God's Love* calling card with our church information. It was a good outing, but cold at 11 degrees.

We plan to try a different outreach in April.

Candy Sunderland

Steve Yoder

Pete Schilling



Return Service

Requested

Rockville United Methodist Church

Adult Study 9:15 am

Sunday School 9:30 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.



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

Phone: 860-875-6562 Fax/Phone: 860-871-9977

E-mail: rumcoffice@sbcglobal.net

Website: www.rockumchurch.com

Rev. Dr. Henrietta "Ricki" Aiello, Pastor

Karen Stearns, Music Director

Bridget Joy, Office Manager

Eileen Gay, Church School Superintendent

Roger LaChance, Church Custodian

Rev. Stan Culy (Retired)

Dr. Belinda Forbes, Missionary to Nicaragua