



Guide to Rockville United Church

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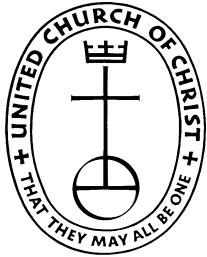


Rockville United Church (RUC) is a compassionate, mission-oriented congregation where everyone is known on a first-name basis and life is celebrated through worship and a wide spectrum of programs for people of all ages. We come from diverse faith backgrounds and we honor the tradition of a free pulpit where a variety of voices and perspectives are heard. Through precept and example, we nurture our children and youth in the Judeo-Christian faith so that they may live more freely, responsibly and fully. We welcome all who want to grow in love and assist in making our world a better place for all.

RUC is a member of the Presbyterian Church, U.S. A., and the United Church of Christ. We are an Open and Affirming/More Light Church. We are a Just Peace Church.

Our Denominations

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



The United Church of Christ traces its beginning back to the Protestant Reformation in Europe. Liberal German immigrants came to the United States and formed the German Reformed Church of the US, following the Calvinists, and the German Evangelical Synod of North America following the Lutherans.

Other Calvinists and Puritans, later joined by Methodists and Evangelical Protestants formed the Congregational Churches. Still others became part of the Christian churches. The first two joined together to form the Evangelical and Reformed Church and the latter two became Congregational Christian Churches. In 1957 they united with other interested churches to become the United Church of Christ, fulfilling the great prayer of Jesus Christ, "That they may all be one." Currently bridges are being built with the Disciples of Christ, by sharing annual conferences and consultations, and are in correspondence with the Presbyterians and Evangelical Lutheran Church of America.

Each UCC congregation is self-governing and makes its own decisions on pastoral leadership, worship style, property, and priorities. But it is linked in a "covenant relationship" to other congregations through the Association and Conference, and ultimately the national body called General Synod, which meets every two years. Like the Presbyterians, the UCC has a long history of concern for mission and for social justice. It celebrates an unusually diverse membership, including strong representation of Native American, Asian American, Black, and Hispanic groups that keep us aware of rich traditions outside the European pattern.

Along with its sister churches it shares the fundamental tenets of faith: that God is sovereign, Jesus Christ is head of the church, Scripture is the authoritative word of God, there is a priesthood of all believers. Valuing freedom the UCC asserts "in essential unity, in non-essentials diversity, in all things charity" and prizes "testimonies of faith rather than tests of faith."

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THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)

The Presbyterian Church is, uniquely, one of the newest and one of the oldest denominations in America. It is new, because on June 10, 1983, the two largest Presbyterian groups in the U.S. reunited after a 122-year split following the Civil War. It is old, because its roots go back to the very first American settlers, with the first American Presbytery being organized in 1706. During the American Revolution, the Presbyterian belief in democracy and freedom and their understanding of representative government put them solidly on the patriots' side.

Some English leaders even referred to the struggle as “the Presbyterian rebellion”.

But our roots are even older than our country, for we are part of the “Reformed” movement growing out of the Protestant Reformation as understood by religious leaders like John Calvin in the early 16th century. From the beginning, Presbyterians have based belief on the Scriptures (as the most authoritative source for faith and practice) and the creeds and confessions of the church (such as the Apostles and Nicene Creeds and the Westminster Confession). Our theology is essentially the same as other Protestant denominations but special stress is put on the sovereignty of God (one who is a totally loving ruler and protector of creation.) Two sacraments are recognized, Baptism and Holy Communion (also called the Lord's Supper or Eucharist).

Presbyterian comes from “presbuteros”, a Greek word meaning “elder”. Elders are chosen for leadership in the local churches and, with clergy, they represent us at Presbytery, Synod and on the national level at the annual meeting of the General Assembly. This makes us a “connectional” church. At all levels, Presbyterians have a long history of concern for social justice and its members are used to taking forthright positions, after careful study, on the controversial issues of the day.

Serving the needs of others through mission efforts takes us around the world with food, education, and medical care to schools, hospitals and community centers, many staffed by local leaders. Our offering dollars make this possible.

Worship and Music

Worship services at RUC are Bible-centered and creative, featuring different speakers, activities and themes. We strive to make services meaningful for all ages. We are united in our willingness to share the pulpit and let all voices be heard. We are united in our openness to change, while respecting our strong and diverse worship tradition. Music is an integral aspect of worship and we use a variety of styles, voices and instruments in the praise of God.

Sanctuary Choir rehearses on Thursdays at 7:30pm – 9:30pm. All adults who enjoy singing are welcome. In addition to its ministry of music on Sunday morning, the choir participates with other churches in several interfaith events during the year.

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Christian Education

RUC offers educational and spiritual opportunities to couples, single members, youth and families. Adult Seminars combine Bible study with theology and church history, as participants explore ways to be faithful in today's world. Outside speakers offer new perspectives for discussion. Our nursery offers a nurturing, safe environment for children and babies who are not yet ready for Sunday School. Children and Youth Sunday School classes use the Cornerstones curriculum, a multi-intelligence approach to Christian Education. Children learn through music and arts activities that bring their Bible study alive, in a rotation model that allows children to choose activities that best suit their learning style. Children who enjoy expressing themselves with music can participate in "Jamming with Jim," where our Church Music Director Jim Levy, a professor of music, helps them bring hymns alive with instruments. From planning a pageant, creating bulletin boards, making cards for shut-ins, to creating puppets for a spiritual themed puppet show, our youth learn to make decisions and be creative. They learn to take on leadership roles, as active participants in church activities, mission and worship. Confirmation/Commissioning classes for 9th graders and older prepare youth for full membership in RUC.



RUC offers opportunities to grow in faith, from rotation Sunday School classes for school age youth, to nurturing care for the youngest children. Teens join in activities where they draw strength from fellowship with one another as well as with adult leaders. RUC youth are encouraged to take initiative, show leadership and engage in mission activities within our church and our wider community. Adult Seminars engage members and our older youth.

Our Christian Education classes are held September to June, 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., prior to the church service.

Adult Seminars are offered on a variety of topics, meeting from 9:30 to 10:20 a.m. on Sunday mornings throughout the school year.

Youth Fellowship (NOISY): RUC Middle and High School Youth meet twice a month from 12:30-2:00 after church on Sundays. Programs range from Bible Study to making videos, and include an occasional trip for fun. The youth are encouraged to develop ideas for mission and take leadership in executing these projects. NOISY stands for Nuclear, Outstanding, Ironic, Super Youth.

Confirmation and Commissioning prepares those in 9th grade and older for full church membership. Depending on numbers of youth, Commissioning takes place every other year.

Youth Music Praise Team

Interested youth of all ages are invited to practice and perform during the church service.

Children's Experience

A mini children's sermon is often incorporated into our services.

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Church and Society

One of the most important functions at RUC is our commitment to mission work to our community. We are integrally connected to Community Ministries of Rockville (CMR). CMR oversees many programs including shelters for women and men, group homes, and Latino outreach. Our congregation—adult and youth—is actively involved with CMR and with many of the social programs in the area. RUC participates each year in a Habitat for Humanity construction project as well as local projects to provide rehabilitation work for those in need. Our Church in Society Committee provides regular meals for shelters in Rockville, raises money and contributes gifts of supplies each year for area group homes and shelters. As part of our mission, RUC also donates to our parent denominations for national and international mission, and responds generously to special needs in times of disaster.

Volunteer Opportunities within RUC

- ▶ Pastoral Caregivers provide both emergency care and oversight of those with special pastoral needs. Contact: Church Office 301-424-6733.
- ▶ Sanctuary Choir (see Worship and Music section)
- ▶ Teaching in Church School - Church School is from September to mid-June. Training and support is provided.
- ▶ Committees (see Organization and Governance) These meet once a month and are not all work, but provide face-to-face contact with fellow members as they plan, share, and take responsibility for our common life. Included is a list of current committee chair's.
- ▶ Youth Activities - In addition to adult advisors, we also need drivers, chaperons and extra "Hands" for projects. Role models are very important at this age. Contact: The Church Office, 301-424-6733.
- ▶ Newsletter Flap-tuckers prepare the newsletter for mailing. Gather in the conference room the 4th Wednesday of each month.
- ▶ Creative Crew is a group of shutterbugs who record all church events. Contact Joan Hartranft 301-840-8417.
- ▶ Habitat for Humanity Yard Sale. Held each spring to raise money to send 40 volunteers from RUC and Bethesda United Church to Garrett County to build Habitat houses for a week in July.

Volunteer Opportunities in the Community

The RUC Church and Society Committee has designed a booklet describing these in more detail. Please check the literature rack or Church Office if you would like more information.

- ▶ Community Ministries of Rockville (CMR) – 301-637-0730
- ▶ Chase Partnership Shelter – Contact :Lynn Ardnt, 301-637-0705
- ▶ FISH - Contact: 301-564-0800
- ▶ Interfaith Clothing Center - Contact: Arneis Leon, 301-424-3796
- ▶ Literacy Council - Contact: 301-610-0030
- ▶ Manna - Agency Contact: Angie Whitmal, 301-424-1130
- ▶ Meals on Wheels - Contact: Sue Pletcher, 301-598-3829



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- ▶ Rainbow Place - Contact: Kathy Michaelian, 301-340-7618
- ▶ St. Luke's House - Contact: Diane Wagner, 301-493-4200 x215
- ▶ Soup Kitchens - Lord's Table, Contact: Diane Silhanek, 301-831-7656
- ▶ Habitat for Humanity - Contact: Diane Silhanek, 301-831-7656
- ▶ Helping Hands Shelter - Agency Contact: Ann Chapman, 301-340-2796
- ▶ Montgomery Hospice Society - Agency Contact 301-921-4400
- ▶ Red Cross - Contact: Pat Ameling, 301-933-7940

Our Mission



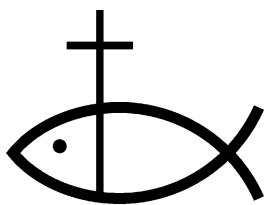
COMMUNITY MINISTRIES OF ROCKVILLE

For over 25 years, CMR has been the church in action. Founded in 1967 at a time of great social upheaval, what was then called the United Church Center for Community Ministries enabled the newly merged Faith United Church of Christ and St. Andrews U.P. Church to respond to community needs. Its first director, The Reverend Donald Maccallum, helped establish youth programs in the city, founded a coffee house, and guided the creation of a Drug Education and Counseling Department for Montgomery County.

The Reverend Alfred Winham, a veteran of the civil rights struggles with the Delta Ministry of Mississippi, took over as Community Minister in 1972. His focus was justice for the oppressed. He helped establish the City's Human Rights Commission and sought adequate housing and equal access to jobs and educations. The Reverend Mansfield M. Kaseman succeeded Al Winham in 1979. Mansfield Kaseman has strengthened the ecumenical base of Community Ministries and expanded its programs of advocacy to involve direct service. CMR is now headed by Executive Director Mark Poletunow.

CMR provides a range of services for the community:

Advocacy - helping establish shelters, centers like Manna Food Center and Montgomery Habitat for Humanity, networking in coalitions like the Caregivers' Coalition, sharing resources such as office space with groups like Affiliated Community Counselors.



Direct Services - REAP (Rockville Emergency Assistance Program) assists in paying rent, keeping heat on, and providing medicine. Elderly Ministries Program serves needs of the frail elderly.

Education - CMR provides resources on key issues such as the need for low/moderate income housing, and makes needs visible in its annual Good Friday Pilgrimage through Rockville's streets.

Latino Outreach Program – provides English, as a second language, classes to Hispanic adults and tutoring for their children. LOP also offers a naturalization health promotion program.

The Kaseman Health Clinic - Health Initiative – CMR in partnership with Capital Technology Information Services and Mobile Medical Care provide health services to uninsured adults in Montgomery County.

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Stewardship

Our annual stewardship drive for pledge commitments provides the basis for our budget.

In addition, four “off-budget” Special Offerings are received each year:

- Peace/World Wide Communion in October
- Joy Gift during Advent
- One Great Hour of Sharing during Lent
- Winham Memorial in the spring

We not only use our building for worship, fellowship and education, but we make space available on the regular basis to special community groups:

- ▶ Homeless Coalition
- ▶ Mothers Offering Maternal Support (MOMS Program) - Mental Health Association
- ▶ NARFE – National Association Retired Federal Employees
- ▶ LOP – Latino Outreach Program

Fellowship

RUC believes in having fun together in a caring, loving atmosphere. We are an active church, with many social opportunities throughout the year. Following Sunday services we meet in the Fellowship Hall for light refreshments, good conversation, and sometimes entertainment. In addition, formal social activities include:

Men's Breakfast: Meets the 3rd Saturday of each month at 8:30am at I HOP on the Pike.

RUCus for Women: Meets for breakfast and fellowship the 2nd Saturday, monthly at 8:30am at the Mosaic Café in Rockville.

Camp Pecometh: Annual all-church retreat. Each fall, about 100 people gather on the Chester River to worship, rest, study, and enjoy nature's offerings together.

All-Church Picnic in September: A kick-off to the church year, this meal is shared after services.

Advent Decorating Night: Held the first Saturday in December, this is a festive gathering where church members of all ages decorate the church for the Christmas season and share a light supper.

Jazz-e-Que Festival: A summer tradition, this Sunday afternoon gathering features BBQ, followed by a jazz performance by our choir director Jim Levy and an eclectic group of musicians.

Habitat Dinner: Held each spring, this is a fund-raising dinner for the group of members from RUC and Bethesda United Church of Christ who go each year to Garrett County, Maryland to work on Habitat houses.

Regular Congregational Dinners: Featured in the winter months and have included line dancing, rock and roll dancing or just a social night out with a shared meal.

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Movie Nights – a potluck dinner including the viewing of a family movie.

GROUPS WITH SPECIAL FOCUS

Newsletter Flap-tuckers are those faithful folders of the newsletter who meet, talk, and work the 4th Wednesday of each month.

Creative Crew are RUC's roving photographers, who snap us at work and play and display their handiwork on the Narthex bulletin boards.

LGBTQ Outreach Group (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, transgender, Questioning) –the LGBTQ is a sub committee of Membership and has increased the congregations efforts to be intentionally welcoming to all. They meet the first Sunday of the month after worship for lunch, discussion and planning activities. All members and friends are welcome to attend the meetings and activities.

Greening Committee – Is a group of members of the RUC community who are seek to usher RUC into a greater witness of creation stewardship.

Our History

Rockville United Church entered into a Covenant of Union on June 25, 1967. This Congregation was born from the merger of Faith United Church of Christ and St. Andrew United Presbyterian Church.

This union culminated from informal discussions by the pastors, The Reverend Donald J. Maccallum, and The Reverend Dr. J. Wiley Prugh. A proposal prepared by Pastor Maccallum for a move towards a union congregation and into community ministry, resulted in the two congregations joining in a Covenant of Union.

A new congregational structure was developed for a union congregation that would be affiliated with both the Presbyterian Church US (now USA) and the United Church of Christ. The official board of the united congregations was called the Senate; now it is called the Council. A Co-Pastor arrangement was approved in which Dr. Prugh would serve as the Parish Minister and Pastor Maccallum would serve as the Community Minister.

The church building, which was built by the St. Andrews Congregation in 1962, became the home of Rockville United Church. The church building, which had been built by the Faith United Church of Christ Congregation in 1956 was leased to Montgomery County for offices until it was sold in May 1976.

Thus, two congregations gave up their individual identities and placed their faith and trust in exploring new paths in a creative, imaginative experiment, which reached beyond the walls of Rockville United Church, in a ministry for the community. This ministry was called the United Church Center for Community Ministry and became an advocate for the disadvantaged in our society.. It is now called Community Ministries of Rockville (CMR) became an advocate for the disadvantaged in our society.

An important part of RUC's history is that we pioneered "community ministry" in the Washington metropolitan area. Following the guidelines of CMR, within five years, two offspring of this pioneering venture were the Community Ministry of Northern Virginia and the Community Ministry of Montgomery County.

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In 1972, Pastor Maccallum resigned to become the Director of Drug Abuse Control for Montgomery County, and the Reverend Alfred Winham was called by RUC to fill the Community Ministry vacancy. In August 1974, Pastor Prugh took a position in Tennessee, and the Reverend Frank H. Poole was called to fill the Parish Minister's vacancy. Pastor Winham retired in July 1978.

The Reverend Mansfield M. Kaseman was called in February 1979 as Co-Pastor of RUC and Executive Director of the United Church Center for Community Ministries. Pastor Kaseman served in this capacity until September 1982 when, upon the departure of Pastor Poole, the church adopted a Long-range Plan for Professional Leadership. This plan called for one full-time pastor to serve in a dual role as Chief Executive Officer and Moderator of Rockville United Church and as Executive Director of the United Church Center for Community Ministries. The Plan called for additional professional services to be obtained as needed. Pastor Kaseman was called to serve as Pastor and Community Minister and continues to serve in this capacity.

In June 1984, The Reverend Margaret Lucy Dodds was called to a half-time position as an Associate Pastor of Rockville United Church and continued to serve in this capacity until May 1993.

In August 1993, The Reverend Dr. Jean Crist Thompson was called as a half-time Associate Pastor in to be responsible for Christian Education at Rockville United Church. She continued in this position until October 1994. Jackie M. Smith served as the Interim Director of Christian Education until August 1995.

In August, 1995, Amy S.W. Parker was called as a three-quarter time Director of Christian Formation to direct all Christian Education programs. She served in this position until her resignation in February 1998.

Beverly Bailey, a Certified Christian Educator, became the part-time Director of Christian Education in February 2001. She retired in June 2004.

In November 2004, Louisa Davis became the part-time Director of Christian Education.

In April 2005, the Rev. Mansfield Kaseman retired after 26 1/2 years as pastor and Executive director of CMR. Following the Interim Minister, the Rev. Suzanne Rudiselle, RUC called the Rev. Dr. Duncan Newcomer to be its full time minister in April 2007.

In August of 2006, Margo Williams became the part time Director of Christian Education.

In September 2009, Rev. Nancy Clark became the Interim Minister of RUC.

In 1986, RUC built a major addition to the existing structure consisting of the Fellowship Hall, offices and rest rooms. The Narthex and the kitchen were enlarged and new chairs, lights and fans were added to the Sanctuary. The parking lot was also enlarged at the time of this addition. In 1999, an addition to the office area created one additional office as well as a conference room. In 2002, air conditioning was installed in the sanctuary and downstairs classrooms.

In October, 2012, Rev. Dr. E. Scott Winnette was called as the Pastor.

A COMMUNITY IN COVENANT WITH EACH OTHER

When RUC was formed in 1967, its members pledged:

COVENANT

In the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

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We, the members of St. Andrews United Presbyterian Church and of Faith United Church of Christ of Rockville, Maryland, knowing our unity in Christ and desiring to testify to that unity in our ministries and mission, do hereby covenant together to function as one congregation of the Church of Jesus Christ: And we rely on the guidance of the Holy Spirit and on our mutual Christian Love to lead us into such relationships with each other and such forms of common life as shall make our congregation, Rockville United Church, in fellowship with the United Presbyterian Church and the United Church of Christ, a faithful member of the body of Christ.

When new members join today, they unite with all the current members to affirm a common faith:

STATEMENT OF FAITH

We covenant with God and with each other to be a congregation of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and the United Church of Christ. Grateful for our particular traditions within the larger body of Christ, we are working for a coming church that will be truly catholic, truly reformed, and truly evangelical. We are open to and affirming of all people of faith, regardless of race, gender, age, class, ability, or sexual orientation. We will order our common life according to the insights of the Gospel as we have received it through the witness of scripture and church tradition, and as we experience its unfolding truth in our time. We seek to be a reconciling and caring community working for the liberation of all persons and striving to foster among everyone, patterns of individual and corporate responsibility. In our coming and going together, we will dedicate our efforts to increase the love of God and neighbor among men, women and children.

OPEN AND AFFIRMING/MORE LIGHT STATEMENT

Adopted by the Congregation April 29, 2001

Rockville United Church has demonstrated that people of different faith backgrounds and persuasions can join together as a strong, united congregation committed to praising God and seeking justice for all. Openness has been the signature of RUC. Our openness brings us a new challenge. In our statement of faith we commit ourselves to “seek to be a reconciling and caring community, working for the liberation of all persons and striving to foster among everyone patterns of individual and corporate responsibility.” In keeping with that pledge, we now declare ourselves open to and affirming of all people of faith, regardless of race, gender, age, class, ability, or sexual orientation. We oppose the intimidation, harassment, rejection or violence against any group, thinking especially of those who have been victims because of their race, gender, age, nationality, mental or physical condition, or sexual orientation. We advocate the basic civil rights of all persons in such areas as employment, housing, and legal protection.

*UCC congregations use the term “Open and Affirming” to declare that they are accepting of homosexuals as members and leaders; Presbyterian congregations use the words “More Light” to identify themselves as members of a Presbyterian association advocating full recognition of homosexual members.

This declaration grows out of fundamental beliefs:

- We believe that each human being is a child of God.
- We accept God’s mandate that we love one another as God has loved us.
- We recognize all Christians as sisters and brothers in Christ.
- We welcome into our community anyone who believes in God and strives to follow the teachings of Jesus Christ.

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- We seek to help all people grow in their faith, discover and use their gifts for ministry, and join us in promoting healing, human justice, and world peace.
- We yearn for and celebrate all loving, committed relationships based on mutual respect, support, responsibility, and trust.
- Relying on God's abiding love and grace and knowing that we sometimes hold different understandings of the Bible and church tradition, we seek to encourage and affirm, rather than judge, one another's faith journey.

LGBTQ Mission Statement – this group was formed in 2009 and has increased the congregation's efforts to be intentionally welcoming to all. As members of an Open and Affirming, More Light congregation called by God to love one another, the LGBTQ Outreach Group of Rockville United church strives through advocacy, education, words, visible signs and actions to welcome all into a place of sanctuary and community celebrating differences in sexual orientation and gender identity.

Organization and Governance

Rockville United Church was incorporated in 1970 to establish, maintain and operate a pastoral and community ministry.

The Congregation is governed in accordance with By-Laws approved by the Congregation. The parish Minister is the Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation and the Church Council is the Board of Trustees.



The affairs and business of RUC are managed by the Church Council who are elected to office by the Congregation for 3-year terms of office.

The Church Council consists of 13 elected Elders and meets monthly. The Council elects a President from the Elders to preside at the meetings and a Secretary to maintain and coordinate with others the official records of the church. One Elder is elected to be the Church representative to the Community Ministries of Rockville and the remaining Elders head the 10 major program committees of RUC. These are: *Administrative, Building & Grounds, Christian Education, Church in Society, Congregational Care, Fellowship, Finance, Membership, Stewardship, and Worship and Music.*

These Committees meet monthly to plan and carry out the programs of the church. The pastor is an ex-officio member of all committees. Three regular Congregational Meetings are scheduled each year with the major items of business being:

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| January: | Financial and membership reports, approval of budget for the new year and election of the Nominating Committee. |
| Spring: | Program reports received and election of Elders. |
| Fall: | Establish financial goals on which to base the fall Stewardship Drive. |

Copies of the By-Laws and Council Rules of Operation are available in the office.

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Serving You at RUC

Position	Name
Pastor	Scott Winnette
Youth Leader	Jessica Harris
Children's Choir Director	Elizabeth Day Robinson
Church Administrator	Devin Jeffers
Director of Music and Organist	James Levy
Associate Director of Music	Kathleen Meredith
Sexton	Stephen Cooper

The Church Office is open Monday through Friday from 9:30am to 4:30pm except for July and August when the hours are from 9am to 2pm. Please leave a message on the answering machine when the office is closed 301-424-6733 or visit our web site at www.rockvilleunitedchurch.org which is updated weekly.