

To the Friends and Members of Rocky Hill Congregational Church,

Thank you! Thank you for the privilege of calling me to serve as your next settled Pastor. Although my official start date is in September, I'm gearing up now for the new church program year and getting to know many of you. Witnessing the love in action that is Rocky Hill Congregational Church confirms for me that I am in the right place at the right time!

On my candidating Sunday, you heard me talk about our journeys of faith and the "stones in the road" that we leave for future generations. Joshua, following God's command, instructed the leaders of the tribes of Israel to pick up stones from the bed of the Jordan River. These stones were to form a memorial to God's faithfulness to God's people. But here's the catch – the Israelites had witnessed the miracle of the river parting. So, why the memorial? Joshua 4:6 answers that question, "...so when your children ask...". This act was about leaving a legacy to God's provision and faithfulness for those who were to follow.

VisionFund 300 is the capital campaign celebrating our church's 300th anniversary. We have inherited the legacy of God's faithfulness to this congregation for nearly 300 years and now it is time for us, in an act of gratitude, to ensure that future generations know how *we* have been blessed. During the pandemic, it was common to hear the words, "the church is not a building" – but I disagree. For certain, it is not JUST a building, but the building is a memorial given to us by those who have come before, and our stewardship of this gift will be our legacy to those who follow.

As Rocky Hill Congregational Church anticipates our 300th Anniversary, we have identified the need to equip ourselves for fresh, vibrant, welcoming ministry for the next 300 years! A key to this is making the building, itself, fresh, vibrant, and welcoming. How we "do ministry" has changed significantly over the last 300 years, and the updates planned to our building and systems will equip us to better serve our community and to meet the challenges of ministry in our time.

Rocky Hill Congregational Church is a strong and vibrant community of faith. And, you are invited to be a part of ensuring our future. Out of the abundance that we have been given, **I am asking you to join me in making a pledge to VisionFund300.** We will have the opportunity to make our commitments the first two Sundays in October and then celebrate our accomplishments on Celebration Sunday, October 22.

I know that this church has been an important part of your life: I invite you to be a part of ensuring its future! Please make a commitment to this very important effort. Every gift or pledge makes a difference and can be paid over a three-year period.

God is good, all the time...and all the time, God is good! Let us celebrate the goodness and generosity of our God by returning a portion of what we have been given to this vital ministry.

With gratitude,

Rev. David Figliuzzi