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The Church Mouse

July/August 2022 Newsletter

office@rhccucc.org

www.RockyHillucc.org

Sunday Worship Services – 10:00 a.m.

JULY MAG (Monthly Abundance Gift) School Supplies Drive for Covenant to Care



Outreach & Witness is excited to announce that once again we will be working with Covenant to Care to provide school supplies to children in the care of DCF. Children removed from their home are often required to attend a new school as part of a placement process and have an increased need to feel like they belong. This year we will be providing school supplies for approximately 15 children (more details to follow).

Donations of Scrip cards are also welcome. They will be used to buy additional supplies and school uniforms. Collections from July's Monthly Abundance Gift will be used towards this effort.

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More details will follow about the school supply collection and assembly of the backpacks. Thank you for your continued support of our partnership with Covenant to Care.

From Where I Sit – **Church Mouse**

July-Aug 2022

Saying “Farewell” is never easy, yet it’s an oft repeated part of life. But this one is tough! Our departing Office Manager, Theresa Cleary, has been an essential and talented member of our staff since before my arrival in November, 2019. Her administrative and organizational abilities have contributed tremendously to developing and communicating the new opportunities our congregation is moving to embrace. There is so many ways that things “work” because – often behind the scenes - they have been supported in the process of reaching their final becoming with Theresa’s assistance. Her kindness and devotion and sense of humor have been such a blessing to all of us. She has been the capable constant in the midst of COVID-19a and so many other dynamics that have shaped us over the past 3 years. I am grateful and I know we will miss her terribly! (I already do!)

I have a request for your help in giving a gracious send-off to Theresa as she moves into the full-time work world with another organization: I propose that we shower Theresa with a massive and on-going stream of cards and letters, sharing a story or a greeting that offers your direct appreciation for her service with us.

I’ve checked in with Theresa on this for her approval; and she’s completing this last *Church Mouse* of her employment with us, so it’s not a secret! Please send your cards and letters to:

Theresa Cleary
11 Birch Tree Hill Road
Portland, CT 06480

We’ll take care of celebrating on Wednesday, June 29, which is Theresa’s last day. I’m counting on you, dear readers, to help with sharing your love and appreciation over the coming weeks. If you need additional assistance with completing your mailing(s), please advise? (I’m sure Theresa has extra postage in the office...)

Fondly,

Pastor Nada

A NEW WORSHIP SERIES BEGINS...

"Draw near to God, and [God] will draw near to you." - James 4:8a

“Practicing Spiritual Disciplines” is the title of this year’s summer worship series, drawn from the *Follow Me* all-church curriculum we’ve previously used over the past year. (See bit.ly/FMYouTubeGFR for video resources on each session). What’s a practice, you may be wondering, and what does it take for it to become a spiritual discipline? Does the Bible teach us specifically Christian disciplines? And what did Jesus himself do along the way in his own faith journey while on this earth?

Over the next 10 weeks, we’ll have the chance to learn more about a number of the traditional practices of the Christian spiritual tradition. More than this, we will be sharing activities and participating in ways that encourage these practices to become meaningful spiritual disciplines in your own life. Our Chapin Hall worship space will offer us lots of ways to gather and discuss and create. Whether you’re here all summer or coming and going with travel or visiting, I hope you’ll make space to explore what it means to draw closer to God with personal and communal practices of devotion.

Pastor Nada



July 2022 Worship Ministry Article

Hello Everyone, As we are enjoying midsummer and hopefully a bit of travel, we in the Worship Ministry are working with Pastor Nada to prepare for our upcoming services. After our service this past Sunday where Pastor Nada introduced us to being “Unplugged,” she will continue the Follow Me series “Practice Spiritual Disciplines” theme.

Upcoming services will be focused on:

- *FAST* – Esther; Matthew 4:1-14; 6:16-18; Acts 13:2-3 7-3-22
- *PRAY* – Matt 6:9-13; Philippians 1:3-11
- *LISTEN TO GOD* – 1 Samuel 3:1-11; Mark 1:35-39
- *DRAW NEAR TO GOD* – Psalm 119:33-44
- *EMBRACE SIMPLICITY* – Matt 6:19-21; Phil 4:11-12

Be sure to look to the weekly newsletter for any updates or changes.

Happy Summer!

Michael Andonucci

michael.andonucci@gmail.com

860.670.5940



Faith Formation News

In June:

- We celebrated our youth on Children's School Sunday where we recognized our graduates and presented bibles to our third graders, thanked and celebrated all the volunteers that assisted our youth in the past year and enjoyed an intergenerational worship service.
- We also were active in worshipping, recognizing and celebrating together Pentecost, pride month and Juneteenth.
- Through the summer we will be learning together about practicing spiritual disciplines using the Follow Me curriculum through intergenerational worship and classroom activities. Over the summer the Faith Formation Ministry Team will be planning for upcoming late summer and fall activities working with Pastor Nada and our new Faith Formation Coordinator, Elisha Brady.

*Wishing our church family a safe and fun summer, your Faith Formation Ministry Team
Candy Smith, Liz Pulling, Nancy Rolfe, Ashley Stanley and Julie Burns*

From the Council

Thanks to all who attended the second hour program on Sunday, June 26 on our capital improvement “needs and wants”. We had a very good crowd attending, with good questions, comments and active engagement. Our list of capital improvements is a “work-in-process” and will likely continue to be in-process as we work toward setting priorities and adding and subtracting possible improvement projects. As the presentation also addressed, we will be continuing to consult with the UCC Building and Loan Fund to get further advice on starting a fundraising Capital Campaign. This will require congregational approval, so stay tuned for further information on all of the above. If you missed it, you can watch the second hour program as a zoom recording at <https://youtu.be/tZ99MVSvhgs>

Many wonderful things going on by ALL our ministries and ministry teams:

- Our Green Team applied for a grant. Fingers crossed!
- We have a table/booth at the RH Farmer’s Market this summer. Stop by!!
- Our Signage and Wayfinding team is looking into ways to improve our signage inside and out.
- Facilities will be giving our hallways a much-needed “refresh” this summer with lighter paint and a more up-to-date “look”. Want to help....stay tuned for a call for painting volunteers.
- Our Racial Justice Team continues to support justice work and education, collaborating with the Town on some activities.
- Our Vision 300 Team has started planning ways for us to recognize and celebrate, as we count down the next five years until our 300th birthday in 2027.
-and so much more. This is just a small sample of the work we are undertaking as a church family.

We wish everyone a blessed summer and some time to “unplug” so that we can listen to the sights and sounds of nature, our loved ones, and our own thoughts and feelings.

*In peace and hope,
Ruth Fitzgerald for the Council*



A Note from Facilities

We have been developing a list of possible capital projects for the next few years. Some of the projects are maintain or repair projects, and some are projects to update our building to fit with our vision for the future. On June 26th we held a 2nd hour information session to describe them. Here is a link to a YouTube recording of that info session

<https://youtu.be/tZ99MVSVhgs>.

One of our repair projects is to replace the parapets on the steeple. We have applied for and received a grant from the State Historic Preservation Office to help pay for the new parapets. We are currently preparing a package to ask for construction bids for the work.

We will also be looking for volunteers to help with some interior painting this summer and fall in hallways. If you have questions or comments about possible projects, or you are willing to help paint, please contact Dave Sageman, 860-985-5988 or dsageman@snet.net.

Facilities Announcement

Reminder-Chapin Hall is being used for worship including a new AV setup for full zoom access for our attendees from home. Contact facilities or the office to reserve any rooms in the building for ministry team meetings and events.

Congregational Care Ministry

Our church Spring season felt like the pre-Covid days and for that we are grateful! But change is a constant and wishing Theresa ‘goodbye’ is a huge change. She has been so very vital in keeping us connected. Please, keep Congregational ministry informed of all members and friends who are experiencing challenges that a visit or phone call could help – or a meal or a ride.

Office messages will be monitored or call one of us, maybe 2 of us as so many vacations are planned. Hilaire will relay any responses to her.

Coffee hours are going well and with the usual Sunday attendees reduced during the summer amounts of snacks can be accordingly reduced if that helps you to feel more comfortable to volunteer.

Please, suggest opportunities for fellowship over there summer months, Chapin Hall is available for gatherings just not movies because of the intricate cable network to support Zoom.

Steph Heneghan

Wendy Ware

Marsha Hoffman

Kim Burghoff

Green Team - Summer Green Tips:

Did you know?

30 to 60% of domestic drinking water is used to water yards and gardens, and often large portions are wasted by over-watering, evaporation, and misdirected sprinklers that water sidewalks and driveways. Tip to conserve water:

- Never pour water down the drain when there may be another use for it-such as watering a plant or garden.
- Keep drinking water in the refrigerator instead of letting the faucet run until the water is cool.
- Wash fruits and vegetables in a basin. Use a vegetable brush.
- Do not use water to defrost frozen foods, thaw in the refrigerator overnight.
- Scrape, rather than rinse, dishes before loading into the dishwasher.
- Sweep driveways, sidewalks and steps rather than hosing off.
- Repair all leaks.
- Water the lawn or garden during the coolest part of the day (early morning is best). Do not water on windy days.
- Water trees and shrubs, which have deep root systems, longer and less frequently than shallow-rooted plants which require smaller amounts of water more often.
- Set sprinklers to water the lawn or garden only - not the street or sidewalk.
- Use soaker hoses.



Save the date! **Green Expo** will be held on Saturday, September 10th! More details to follow soon.

Check out our Green Team page on RHCC website!

<https://www.rockyhillucc.org/gt>

Congregational Meeting for Vote

On September 18th, we will have a brief meeting after church to vote on a change to the constitution. In the existing constitution, when an amendment or revision is proposed, the congregation must be notified 90 days in advance of a vote. Further, changes to certain Articles must be approved twice, at meetings that are at least 90 days apart. We are in the process of changing the advance notice periods from 90 days to 60 days. This change was voted on for the first time, and approved, at the Annual Meeting on June 5th. The second vote will take place on September 18th.

Heather Wolfe-Taylor, vice moderator

Help Make Our Dreams Come True

We are dreaming big!

In April, the Generosity Team within Time, Talent and Treasure mailed packages to members of our church family. Each package included a brochure with photographs of just some of what Rocky Hill Congregational Church members and friends have done in the past year. We are a church in action!

The package also included a letter asking each of us to prayerfully consider what feels best to give to our church. Our church has big plans and dreams for the coming year: to be a blessing in our community, region, and globe; to build a vibrant spiritual home for our children and youth; and to become a more welcoming, inclusive, and visible light in the world. All of this work relies on your generous giving.

We don't have a star to wish on, or a magic wand to wave, to make our dreams come true. We have something even better. We have a body of faithful, passionate, and committed members and friends.

If you have increased your ongoing sustaining giving in 2022, thank you! If you meant to increase your giving or switch over to online giving, there is still time. If you need suggestions on how to give to Rocky Hill Congregational Church, the members of our Generosity Team are here to help.

Thank you for helping be the church in action.

With grateful hearts,

The Generosity Team

Liz Reed-Swale, Jarod Taylor, Ruth Fitzgerald and Doretta Andonucci



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Please consider donating the following items to help children stay in school.

- pencil boxes/bags
- #2 pencils
- erasers
- pencil sharpeners
- pens
- highlighters
- notebooks
- paper
- crayons
- colored pencils
- washable markers
- glue sticks
- blunt scissors
- folders
- rulers
- tissues (small packages)



Donations of Scrip cards are also welcome. They will be used to buy additional supplies and school uniforms. Collections from July's Monthly Abundance Gift will be used towards this effort.

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New -- Memorial Garden and Church Grounds Team

The initial tasks for the team are:

1. Review the history of the Memorial Garden and update the plan for the Garden. As part of this task, make a recommendation to Facilities on whether the practice of allowing cremains to be interred in the garden should continue. Also make a recommendation on how cremains shall be placed in the garden, i.e. scattered or buried if the practice is continued. Last make a recommendation on whether plantings can occur in places where cremains were interred.

2. Review all Church planting areas and landscapes and establish a plan for ongoing maintenance.



Ed Chiucarello is the chair of the committee. Voting membership of the committee is 5 which includes the Chair. Members can be Church members and additional current facility members can be on the committee. In addition to the 5 members, others are encouraged to volunteer their help and expertise. Preference for membership on the Team will be for those who can work on the grounds and for people who have experience with gardening and planning gardens. If interested, contact Steve Smith at: steve.smith@smopes.net

WEDNESDAYS
ELM RIDGE PARK
MORE INFO CALL 860-258-2772

4:00 PM - 7:00 PM
6/22 - 7/27
8/10 - 8/24 - 9/7

Farmers Market

RHCC will have an informational table/booth at the Rocky Hill Farmers Market on the dates below – contact Marsha Hoffman if you would like to assist in helping out. Held at Elm Ridge Park in Rocky Hill.

Rocky Hill Town Events

<https://rhparksrecprograms.info/summer-2022/mobile/index.html>

Our de-cluttering/organizing team has been hard at work!

After a long pandemic, there are many areas of our church that have accumulated treasures. We are going through closets, hallways, and cabinets and deciding what to keep and what to pass on. We invite you to see our progress in:

Library/parlor: We are in the process of getting rid of outdated items and replacing them with high-interest books. We want this room to become an open and welcoming place for people to sit and read, or to select a book to borrow and take home. We will have books for both children and adults.

Nursery: If you haven't seen our updated nursery, please stop by! We have new flooring, paint, and curtains, and have selected our favorite toys to share with our youngest visitors.

Resource Room: An upstairs room that has long been used for storage of Faith Formation supplies and materials. This is a big job, but we are working on discarding un-usable items; donating extra supplies to local recipients; and organizing what remains so that it can be found and used.

Costumes: Our church owns many, many costumes for children and adults, mostly from Epiphany pageants. We are moving these to a central location as we find them, and this summer, a team will be sorting through them, repairing those that need it, and making an inventory so that our children will be beautifully outfitted for any upcoming dramatic events.



If you want to help with these or any other de-cluttering initiatives, please contact Heather Wolfe-Taylor at oulinguist@gmail.com or (347) 821-1288



WALK AGAINST HUNGER - THANK YOU!

We want to thank our members and friends who supported our walkers in the Foodshare Walk Against Hunger! Our RHCC team total now stands at \$2,546 which ranks #13 among all teams. These funds will go to Hands On Hartford and their many food programs in Hartford. Shout out to our Walkers and all who donated!



Farewell from Theresa

*Dear members and friends of RHCC:
As I leave for a new professional opportunity
I'd like to say that I have enjoyed working with you
all, very much. I have gotten to know you all so well!
I will stay in touch and I wish you health and
happiness in your lives.
-Theresa*



Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,
And sorry I could not travel both
And be one traveler, long I stood
And looked down one as far as I could
To where it bent in the undergrowth;

Then took the other, as just as fair,
And having perhaps the better claim,
Because it was grassy and wanted wear;
Though as for that the passing there
Had worn them really about the same,

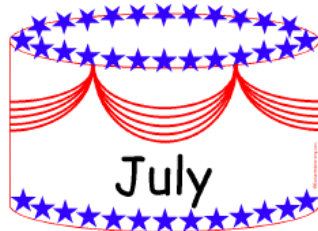
And both that morning equally lay
In leaves no step had trodden black.
Oh, I kept the first for another day!
Yet knowing how way leads on to way,
I doubted if I should ever come back.

I shall be telling this with a sigh
Somewhere ages and ages hence:
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—
I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference.

-Robert Frost

Office Manager Search

The Personnel Team continues to search for a permanent Office Manager. We are interviewing several qualified applicants, and are targeting mid-July to early August to finalize filling the position. If you have questions about this, please contact the Personnel Team (Deb Copes, Steve Ware, Barry Wilcock, and Suzanne Thompson).



1	Russell Sheathelm	16	Maley Hunt
3	Rich Pawlich-Pagliccio	16	Doug Robbins
5	Janice Rousseau	17	Linda Berry
5	Thomas Reed-Swale	18	Kari Cary
6	Scott Gau	19	Lynn McKenna
6	Frank Vann	21	Francis DiRenzo, Jr
7	Ray Gagnon	22	Holli Bacon
8	Tom Rolfe	23	Mark Gengenbach
9	Betty Schako	24	Janet Hansen
9	Nancy Wilcock	27	C J Mason
10	Ruth Jensen	30	Chris Palazzolo
10	Oliver Bachman	30	Mark Biglow
12	Scott Benson	30	Sarah McGowan
15	Anna Gau	31	Douglas Graham
15	Dave Sageman	31	Trinity Collins



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

1	Jeannette Doane	14	Carol Baran
2	Lynne Lataille	14	Rhody Triblets
6	Ed Bacon	15	Tia Sheathelm
7	Linda Tokarski	17	Denise Carberry
7	Noah Dion	17	Molly Morgan
8	Galen Deming	20	Laura Pawlich
11	Julia Pickett	23	Emily McKenna
12	Deb Copes	24	Thompson Hunt
13	Steph Heneghan	25	Lee Shippy
13	Gary King	25	Wendy Cowan
27	Persephone Blaise	29	Larry Gilbert
13	Taylor McLean	31	Barry Wilcock
13	Kim Walker		


JULY 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
<i>Worship held in Chapin Hall. Coffee hour follows worship.</i>	7:00pm Women's AA		
3 10:00am Worship Communion Chapin Hall	4 7:00pm Women's AA	5	6
10 10:00am Worship Chapin Hall	11 7:00pm Women's AA	12	13
17 10:00am Worship Chapin Hall	18 7:00pm Women's AA	19	20
24 10:00am Worship Chapin Hall	25 7:00pm Women's AA	26	27
31			

AUGUST 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
	1 7:00pm Women's AA	2	3
7 10:00am Worship Chapin Hall	8 7:00pm Women's AA	9	10
14 10:00am Worship Chapin Hall	15 7:00pm Women's AA	16	17
21 10:00am Worship Chapin Hall	22 7:00pm Women's AA	23	24
28 10:00am Worship Chapin Hall	29 7:00pm Women's AA	30	31

JULY 2022

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
7pm Men's AA	1 	2 Indian dance 11a-1pm Every Saturday
7pm Men's AA	8	9
7pm Men's AA	15	16
7pm Men's AA	22	23
7pm Men's AA	29	30

Happy
Fourth
of July!



SUMMER WORSHIP

will be held in air-conditioned Chapin Hall with fully functional Zoom access for those at home.

See Steph or Ruth J. to sign up to help with coffee hour. Thank you.

AUGUST 2022

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
7pm Men's AA	5	6 Indian dance 11a-1pm Every Saturday
7pm Men's AA	12	13
7pm Men's AA	19	20
7pm Men's AA	26	27

ROCKY HILL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
805 Old Main Street, Rocky Hill CT 06067
Telephone # 860 529-4167

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED
TIME VALUE MAIL

Mailed June 29, 2022



Jesus didn't turn people away. Neither do we.
The United Church of Christ:
No matter who you are,
Or where you are on life's journey...
You're welcome here.

VISIT OUR
WEBSITE



Stay in touch with us on Facebook, Instagram and with our Weekly News Email. Contact the office if you are not receiving the weekly email and would like to get signed up.

www.rockyhillucc.org

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youtube.com/channel/rhccucc

SOCIAL MEDIA

