



The Reverend Nada Sellers, Pastor
nsellers@rhccucc.org
 Julie Hagen, Music Director
Jhagen@rhccucc.org
 Theresa Cleary, Office Manager
Tcleary@rhccucc.org

The Church Mouse

April 2022 Newsletter

office@rhccucc.org

www.RockyHillucc.org

Sunday Worship Services – 10:00 a.m

Holy Week Worship Services at RHCC



Palm Sunday April 10, 10:00 a.m.

Worship in the Sanctuary and by Zoom. Hosanna!
 Easter Flower orders due.



Maundy Thursday

Maundy Thursday April 14, 6:00 p.m.

Service of communion, readings, candlelight & reflection.



Easter Sunrise Service April 17, 6:00 a.m.

Held just before sunrise at Rose Hill Cemetery in Rocky Hill. **Please arrive at 5:45am.**
 Coffee & refreshments served at the church after the service.

Easter Sunday April 17, 10:00 a.m.

Joyous worship with scripture, live music, choir, and bells.
 Worship in the Sanctuary and by Zoom.



FROM WHERE I SIT

*Those who go out weeping,
bearing the seed for sowing,
shall come home with shouts of joy,
carrying their sheaves.*
—Psalm 126.6

*“She bought it so that she might keep it
for the day of my burial.”*
—John 12.7



ANOINTED by Lauren Wright Pittman. Inspired by John 12:1-8 | acrylic & ink on canvas

As we are preparing to leave behind the reflective season of Lent, and step into the suspense of Holy Week, some of the weightiest aspects of our faith are coming into focus, things like salvation (what Jesus offers us), and righteousness (being in right relationship with God), and resurrection (overcoming death with new life). “Cultivating and Letting Go” have become the pattern for our journey this year, and many of you have participated in worship activities such as marking origami sheets with your intentions, planting seeds, or folding cranes and butterflies as we decorate branches with flocks of these colorful symbols. I have lingered over many of the statements you’ve written, as I have folded and prayed at the office and while at home. Things like... *“I wish to let go of...”*

- ♥ negativity (or) being negative
- ♥ being judgmental
- ♥ criticizing others
- ♥ being cynical
- ♥ anger
- ♥ fear
- ♥ believing I need to be perfect to be loved
- ♥ resentment & expectations
- ♥ anxiety
- ♥ apathy
- ♥ seeing only two sides
- ♥ failure
- ♥ stress
- ♥ the desire to control outcomes
- ♥ regret
- ♥ waiting & procrastinating

What a thought-provoking list... The first 3 items of the list are far and away the ones most often identified, and this gives me pause. What sorrows or hurts are involved? How does fear or frustration feed perspectives that limit the ability to tap into patience or compassion? Which measures are being used, to decide what's "good" and what doesn't measure up?

Week 5 of Lent - the first Sunday of April - is nearly here and though I will be away for some rest time, the message and theme for worship will call listeners to remember the Spirit's power to see us through fearful times. Like Mary, Martha's sister, who anointed Jesus' feet with precious oils from her alabaster flask, letting go of negative perspectives and cultivating renewal is a costly exchange; sacrifices are likely if change is to be had. But it matters. And ultimately, it leads us back to God's hopes for joyful living, which is my prayer for all of us. (Psalm 126:6, as cited above)

Let me urge you to plan on joining the **Maundy Thursday** evening services planned for **April 14th starting at 6:00pm**. We will begin with a light Last Supper meal and Communion in the Chapel, followed by a Tenebrae service with readings, music and extinguished candles in the Sanctuary. Our usual first Sunday communion, will be shifted to this holy night due to schedule and Palm Sunday festivities on April 10th. I hope everyone can reserve this evening for prayerful worship – if you need a ride, please let me or the office or someone know so we can make arrangements.

The words of Steve Garnass-Holmes' poetry, remembering Mary and Martha at Bethany as they hosted a meal for Jesus, (John 12), are shared here for us to ponder.

In Service,

Pastor Nada

Steve Garnaas-Holmes
Unfolding Light for 3-30-22
www.unfoldinglight.net

The flower blooms only briefly,
but so sweetly.
True faith practices grief,
letting go and letting go
of letting go,
anointing our losses with
perfume and tears,
kneeling at the feet of the Beloved
we can't possess or cling to,
trusting that the love that aches
bears us through,
until grief becomes gratitude
and sorrow an open heart,
and loss becomes sowing.
And we behold the blossom.
Only the soul that seeks love
and not happiness
finds joy.

Outreach & Witness Ministry – April Monthly Abundance Gift and Easter Offering

April 2022

Dear Friends,

Our April Abundance Gift and Easter offering will be directed toward the current Ukrainian refugee crisis. We have chosen ShelterBox USA as our recipient, based on their active involvement in Poland at the Ukrainian border and directly in Eastern Ukraine. They are providing basic supplies such as hygiene items, blankets, jackets, food, and shelter on the border, and sleeping mats, mattresses, and repair kits for people in Eastern Ukraine who have been displaced from their homes. We will direct all funds collected to the 2022 Crisis in Ukraine.

For those of you who have not heard of ShelterBox USA, here is some information and history: ShelterBox is led by a team of people who believe in shelter as a human right – that shelter from the chaos of disaster and conflict is vital. Their mission is to build awareness of global displacement and to facilitate providing families with life-saving shelter and essential tools and supplies that will enable them to rebuild homes and transform their lives after disaster.

ShelterBox <https://www.shelterboxusa.org/> was founded in April 2000 when the Rotary Club of Helston-Lizard in Cornwall England adopted it as its millennial project. It became the largest Rotary Club project in the world, with affiliates around the globe. In 2002, ShelterBox's American affiliate was adopted as a project of the Rotary Club of Lakewood Ranch Sarasota Fl and ShelterBox USA was officially established as a 501(c) (3) nonprofit organization. ShelterBox is 4-star rated by *Charity Navigator* and has emerged as a major player in the field of international disaster relief, responding to earthquakes, tsunamis, floods, typhoons, hurricanes, volcanoes, and conflict.

At this reflective time of Easter, when we have time to feel gratitude for our many blessings, it seems timely and necessary to assist those who are fleeing for their lives, leaving behind their homes, belongings, and families. More than seven million people may be displaced by this fast-moving and escalating disaster.

You may donate either online through the church website or by sending a check payable to RHCC with “Easter offering” or “Ukraine” in the memo field. Thank you kindly for your support and may you have a blessed Easter.

Sincerely,

Sue

Sue Chatfield, chair of the
RHCC Outreach & Witness Ministry



State-of-the-Union Chili Party!!!



Don't miss this!! Please mark your calendars for our all-church **State-of-the-Union Chili Party** to be held on **Sunday, May 1** in the early evening.

A fun evening of great chili with all the “fixin’s,” as well as some catching up with each other on what’s happening. Jointly sponsored by the Council and our Time Talent and Treasure ministry, we will celebrate the great things we’ve been doing over the past couple of years and look ahead toward our 300th birthday in just five short years. (Um, we’re also seeking chili maker volunteers.) 😊

If you can make chili for this event, please email Ruth Fitzgerald rfitzgerald@fhiplan.com or Deb Copes deb.copes@gmail.com.





Easter Flowers-Remember Your Loved Ones

Orders due Sunday, April 10

The flowers will adorn the sanctuary for worship on Easter Sunday, April 17. Order forms are available in the Narthex and the church office. The Deadline for orders is Palm Sunday, April 10. Make your checks payable to: Rocky Hill Congregational Church with “Easter flowers” in memo line and mail to: Kim Burghoff, 204 Gray Fox Lane, Rocky Hill CT 06067. You may call Kim with questions at 860 563-3287. *Help us make the Sanctuary look beautiful for Easter!*



De-Cluttering Team - As you can see, our organizing and de-cluttering team has been hard at work! There are still many areas of the church that need to be sorted. We want our building and our resources to be as accessible and usable as possible! If you're interested in being a part of this work, please get in touch with Heather at oulinguist@gmail.com

We're joining the 21st Century!

To make it easier to donate to the church, we have created a new QR code. Just scan with your smartphone and follow the prompts. Look for it on all our church publications.





OUTREACH & WITNESS

MAY EVENTS

Shoppers needed!

Church World Service Hygiene Kits

We are looking for volunteers to help shop for supplies to assemble hygiene kits for Church World Service. We plan to purchase specific hygiene items requested by CWS and assemble hygiene kits during our worship service on May 15th. The kits will be distributed where they are most needed. The funds for this project were budgeted for previously and no additional funding is needed.

Please contact Heather Collins, heathercollins2004@gmail.com if you are interested in shopping! We will split the list amongst the volunteers.

Tens of thousands of hygiene kits are shipped around the world each year. They bring comfort and hope to those who receive them. They are shipped throughout the U.S. and worldwide to provide relief and comfort for those affected by famine, natural disasters and epidemics as well as to welcome refugees and asylum seekers. Once we pack and deliver the kits, they will be ready for shipment when and where the need is the greatest.

SAVE THE DATE!

The Foodshare Walk, Saturday, May 21, 2022

The CT Foodshare Walk Against Hunger is coming soon - Saturday, May 21 at 10:00am, and we would love to see you there! Your support in the Walk helps ensure that folks can continue to benefit from all of our MANNA Food programs. And it's so much fun to join with the whole community to fight hunger and food insecurity right here in Hartford. PS: Contact the office to order your RHCC tee-shirt!



Green Expo & Plant Sale

Saturday, May 7, 10am – 1pm

Rocky Hill Congregational Church

805 Old Main Street, Rocky Hill



Environmental exhibits and speakers
Plant Sale & Baked Goods Sale
Entertainment ~ Bring the family!

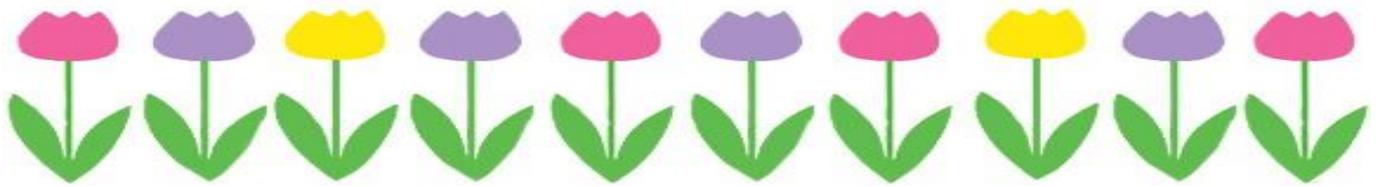
Exhibitors

CT Green Bank
Rocky Hill Recycling Consultant
Great Meadows Conservation Trust
Intergenerational Food Pantry Garden
Walk - Bike Rocky Hill
Garden Club: Pollinators & Beekeeper
Rocky Hill Historical Society
Cora J. Belden Library
RHHS Environmental Club
Green Alternative Products
Gilbert Farms: Support Local Farmers

Live Music: Environmental Songs
by Liz Reed-Swale and Ed Chiucarello

The Green Team of RHCC works on environmental issues here, near, and far. We aim to educate, organize, and advocate by practicing environmentally sustainable habits, conserving natural resources, and supporting environmentally friendly activities and products, so that future generations can continue to enjoy the beauty and bounty of our beautiful planet.



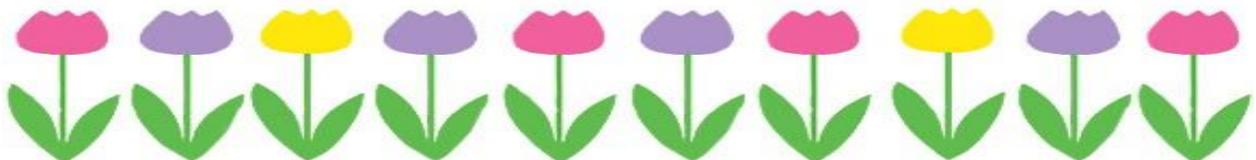


**Green Expo
Outdoor Spring Plant and
Baked Goods Sale**

**Rocky Hill Congregational Church
805 Old Main St.
Saturday May 7, 2022
10:00 am – 1:00 pm**

**Plants: Annuals, Perennials, Vegetables, Herbs,
Flowers, Hanging Baskets**

**Come buy your Mom a beautiful plant and some
delicious baked goods!**





BIRTHDAYS

1	Dick Webster	13	Sara Lataille
1	Donna Gagnon	13	Maya Donahue
1	Lynn Macri	14	Carolyn Furman
2	Gregson Curtin	16	Joan Diaz
4	Bobbie Hawkins	17	Jake D'Addario
4	Marsha Hoffman	18	Sarah DeGiovanni
4	Sherry Silkowski	18	Dawn McLean
4	Ashley Stanley	18	Grace Triplets
7	Grace Hoffman	19	Lois Griswold
7	Susan Chatfield	19	Wendy Ware
8	Meghan Montana	20	John Goff IV
8	Isabel Donahue	21	Linda Gilbert
9	Sam DeGiovanni	21	Elaine Malespini
9	Kathy Kunzelman	22	Elaine Sellenberg
11	Brian Donahue	23	John McNeil Jr.
11	Kaedryn Pulling	24	Alexander Lataille
12	Steve Ware	25	Jane Yorgensen
12	Skyler Dean-Lee	28	Nadine Bell
13	Alan Wind	29	Liz Reed-Swale
13	David Hawkins	30	Polly Pagnucco
13	Ruth Fitzgerald		

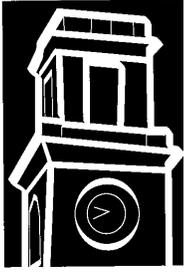
Jay and Jeannie Alessi, April 20th

Louis and Candace Smith, April 27th

Mark and Pat Walworth, April 21st

Dale and Donna Rowland, April 29th





WORSHIP SCHEDULE
 Sunday Morning Worship
 Communion 1st Sunday
 10:00 a.m.



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
3 10am Worship Budget & Elections Congregational Meeting	4 Women's AA 7:00pm Every Monday	5 11am Staff meeting	6 6:30pm Bell Choir 7:00pm Choir Every Wednesday
10 PALM SUNDAY 10am Worship 	11 Little Scholars preschool closed this week →	12 <div style="text-align: center;"> HOLY WEEK  WORSHIP SCHEDULE </div>	13
17 EASTER! 10am Worship 6:00 a.m. Sunrise Service at Rose Hill Cemetery 10:00 a.m. Worship	18 	19 Office closed This week ->	20 6:30pm Bell Choir 7:00pm Choir Every Wednesday
24 10am Worship	25	26	27



2022

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Men's AA – 7pm Every Thursday Chapin Hall	1	2 Indian Dance Group 11am Every Saturday
7 Men's AA – 7pm Chapin Hall	8	9 Indian Dance Group 11am Every Saturday
14 Maundy Thursday Service 6:00pm 	15  GOOD FRIDAY	16 Indian Dance Group 11am Every Saturday
21 Men's AA – 7pm	22 	23 Indian Dance Group 11am Every Saturday
28 Men's AA – 7pm	29	30 Indian Dance Group 11am Every Saturday

From the RHCC Green Team: GREEN TIPS for April

- Buy in bulk and in concentrated form--it saves you money and uses less packaging material.
- Avoid disposables--they're almost always unnecessary.
- Avoid over-packaged products.
- Borrow or rent things you seldom use, such as power tools.
- Give preference to items made from recycled materials or to those which are recyclable--then to be sure to recycle them!
- Write to manufacturers and to your elected officials and express your concern for our environment.



Coffee hours are a great way to connect and enjoy fellowship in Chapin Hall after worship. On the first Sunday of each month, the In-Reach team will host coffee hour. We are in need of a few volunteers for the remaining Sundays during the month. It involves arriving at 9:30 a.m. to make the coffee and set out the cups, etc. and serve any simple snacks then stand and pour and smile! Of course, there is the clean-up which is minimal but important. Cheese and crackers, animal crackers and coffee creamer will be provided every week. Any folks – all genders and ages can form a team - be creative someone come early, someone else stay for clean-up. Thank you to the volunteers who have already offering to help! Contact Stephanie Heneghan with any questions.

High school seniors and college students; it's time to apply for scholarships!

Graduating high school seniors and returning college undergraduates who are seeking a RHCC scholarship for the 2022-2023 academic year are invited to complete and return an application prior to **April 15**. Scholarship awards will be announced in June. Applications are available in the office, or at: www.rockyhillucc.org/scholarship-program. Submit completed applications to: scholarships@rhccucc.org, or to the Church office.



Frank Roswell Fuller Scholarship - This scholarship requires that you be a member of the UCC/Congregational Church. Applications are available in the church office. The deadline for submitting your application and other documents is May 15.



SCRIP sales after worship

Gift cards from our Scrip-Sure fundraising program will be sold immediately after each Sunday morning worship service, either in the main hallway or in Chapin Hall. Advance orders are encouraged and can be emailed to Dave Hall

at treasurer@rhccucc.org.

And for those of you who aren't regular participants, are there opportunities for you to increase your use of scrip for some of your everyday needs? Give it some thought. A complete listing of all retailers available through our program is available at <https://www.rockyhillucc.org/scrip>

Dave Hall, Treasurer

RHCC IN THE NEWS!

[Silver Lake: Silver Lake Camp and Retreat Center Adds All-Gender Cabins \(silverlakeect.org\)](https://silverlakeect.org)

March 15, 2022

By Drew Page

Silver Lake Camp and Retreat Center (SLCRC) is offering all-gender cabin options for the 2022 Summer Camp Season. The new all-gender cabins will feature a private changing area to provide comfort for all campers in the cabin. Silver Lake has a long history of working to offer campers the experience of being loved for who they are, affirming and celebrating all gender identities and expressions. Through staff and volunteer training and honoring cabin assignment requests, the retreat center has been intentional in widening their welcome.

But some families have expressed that they did not feel fully welcomed by the practice of separating campers by genders in sleeping accommodations. "We ended up creating an environment that is not fully welcoming of campers who aren't either male or female," said Jennifer Kronholm Clark, Program Director for Silver Lake. "The all-gender cabin option is intended to include ALL genders -- male, female, nonbinary, trans -- and gives every camper a space where they can fully belong."



The specific details of what the all-gender cabins will look like are still being planned, but Kronholm Clark says the camp is considering both prefabricated pop-up changing tents, custom built privacy stalls, or a combination of the two. The plan is to offer at least one all-gender cabin in each conference during the summer. With two changing areas per cabin group, the camp will be creating at least 8 new changing spaces.

Some of the cost of the new changing spaces has been covered by a generous donation from the **Rocky Hill Congregational Church** in Rocky Hill, CT. The church donated \$1500 to be used for the changing stalls. In addition, the church has promised another \$1500 to support a Pride Family Day to be held at Silver Lake at a future date. These gifts were part of an ongoing discussion at Rocky Hill on ways they can share God's love to make a difference in the world.

Rev. Nada Sellers is the pastor of the Rocky Hill church. She says this partnership sends an important message. "For Rocky Hill, in partnership, to seize this opportunity and make a commitment to on-going, dedicated resource development for rainbow community at Silver Lake means we are hoping to send a strong message about how God's extravagant love is poured out on all people, for every sort of person, and most especially all our children and youth. Our denomination as well as our camp ministry shares this message, and we feel an urgent desire to help Silver Lake develop programs which further this holy work," she said.

RHCC IN THE NEWS!

Amber Dawn Novotney recently attended the Silver Lake Dean's Retreat where the summer deans learned about the new cabin options. "In a world where growing up is already so difficult, the feeling of not fitting in or finding a safe space causes distress," said Novotney. "This shift in cabin offerings provides a needed respite to our youth, and fully embraces our UCC values and Open & Affirming covenants. Kids should not have to hide who they are, especially not while exploring who they are. This is the first step into making a safer world for all gender identities: campers, staff and volunteers."

On March 11-12, a group of Counselors in Training were able to experience the first all-gender cabin arrangement as a trial run of the concept during their training retreat at Silver Lake. According to some of the feedback received from the CITs, the experience was a good one. "I really enjoyed having an all-gender cabin, and hope Silver Lake continues it," wrote Sydney Young.

Another camper, who remained anonymous, said the experience was better than they expected because it "wasn't uncomfortable because of the fact that we didn't change in the cabin."

Kronholm Clark stated the camp is still offering the traditional single-gender cabin options for those who want that experience.

"It can also be an empowering experience to be able to opt-in to a single-gendered space that matches your gender identity. As we approach the summer, I encourage any families with questions or concerns to reach out to me. We really do want every camper to feel fully welcomed at Silver Lake."



ROCKY HILL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

805 Old Main Street, Rocky Hill CT 06067

860 529-4167

office@rhccucc.org