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## The Church Mouse

## May 2022 Newsletter

[office@rhccucc.org](mailto:office@rhccucc.org)

[www.RockyHillucc.org](http://www.RockyHillucc.org)

Sunday Worship Services– 10:00 a.m

# Green Expo & Plant Sale Saturday, May 7, 10am – 1pm

Rocky Hill Congregational Church, 805 Old Main Street

*Environmental exhibits and speakers*



*Plant Sale & Baked Goods Sale*

*Entertainment ~ Bring the family!*



Plants: Annuals, Perennials, Vegetables, Herbs, Flowers, Hanging Baskets  
Come buy your mom a beautiful plant and some delicious baked goods!

## ***From Where I Sit...***

April is National Poetry Month 2022! (What about May?)

April has slowly allowed New England's Spring to unfold (except the cold wind is making me wonder!), and with it, **National Poetry Month** is nearly complete for another year. Poetry ancient and into the present makes significant contributions to the messages found in our sacred Scriptures. From hymn and verse offered in snippets for generations of oral history, to complete works and sections in the Psalms and the Prophets and the New Testament, poetry offers beauty and insight on a spiritual plane that I deeply enjoy. If you've got a few minutes for some rest and renewal, I'd give a strong endorsement to exploring the wonderful resources offered by the Academy of American Poets at their website:

<https://poets.org/national-poetry-month>

One of the recommendations is the special day called "Poem in Your Pocket Day" which falls on Friday, April 29<sup>th</sup>, a day for sharing a favorite poem and letting others know about it. <https://poets.org/national-poetry-month/poem-your-pocket-day> By the time you're reading about this, the date will have passed but let me suggest we extend this celebration! A whole list of suggestions for activities can be explored, including the following...

- Select a poem and share it on social media using the hashtag #PocketPoem.
- Print a poem from the [Poem in Your Pocket Day PDF](#) and draw an image from the poem in the white space, or use the instructions on pages 57-58 of the PDF to make an origami swan.
- Record a video of yourself reading a poem, then share it on Instagram, Twitter, Facebook, Pinterest, or another social media platform you use.
- Email a poem to your friends, family, neighbors, or local government leaders.
- Schedule a video chat and read a poem to your loved ones.
- Add a poem to your email footer.
- Read a poem out loud from your porch, window, backyard or outdoor space.

Won't you join me in finding ways to share verse and beauty as we celebrate the season's changes and the Risen Christ? Here's one of the poems I've been reading (April 26, 2022 by Steve Garnass-Holmes, at *Unfolding Light*, [www.unfoldinglight.net](http://www.unfoldinglight.net)):

*Jesus came and took the bread  
and gave it to them,  
and did the same with the fish.  
—John 21.13*

The bread we share is not just the Last Supper;  
it's also the First Breakfast.  
Also the Great Lunch (for 5000).

The bread we break is the Risen One,  
morning, noon and night,  
awakening us, strengthening us,  
giving himself to us.

On the beach he might have said,  
"This is my body, risen in you."  
At Emmaus he could have said,  
"This is my body, transformed in you."  
Among the 5000,  
"This is my body, multiplied among you."

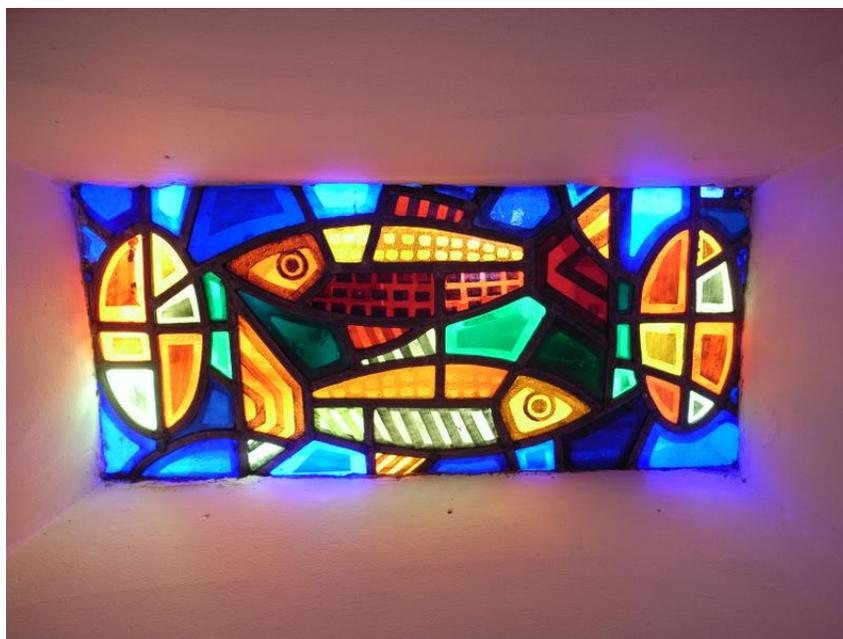
Christ breaks the fast of God's presence.  
Everything you eat is breakfast.  
Everything you drink is Christ.  
It's a new day.

Being and doing Church, together,

***Pastor Nada***

**#PocketPoem**

P.S. "April showers bring May flowers... what do May flowers bring!?" May is full of celebrations and activities of all sorts at RHCC! Things like our Green Expo, State of the Union Chili, Commissioning services in Worship and more. Don't be shy, we'd love to greet you soon! NS



*"Loaves and Fishes" Stained glass*

<https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-save-image.pl>

## From the Moderator

At long last it looks like spring is “busting out all over” which feels like a welcome change. May 1 is also the start of our fiscal year, so we are embarking on yet another trip around the sun in terms of our church year. A few weeks ago we each received a stewardship package from our Time Talent and Treasure Ministry, with a brochure illustrating all the wonderful things our church is doing and asking everyone to prayerfully consider whether they might be able to help us meet the challenge of increasing our on-going sustaining support by 15%. This would greatly lessen the burden on our Memorial Fund to underwrite our budget.

Some have already responded. THANK YOU(!!!) to those who have done so by increasing their support. If you have not yet had a chance to ponder this, we hope you can do so soon and respond as you are able.

By the time you get this we will already have had our “State of the Union Chili Party,” a fellowship event to celebrate all our ministries and also take a look into what future might hold for us. We are at an exciting time in the life of our church—we are closing in on being 300 years old, but we are firmly committed to adapting to changing times and thinking creatively about what that means for us. Our draft vision says that we are:

Serving God by:

- ✓ Growing in faith
- ✓ Working for justice and equity
- ✓ Building community

And we have identified some key strategies (pillars) that we feel are critical for our success. These are:

- ✓ **Widen** the circle (Invite/welcome/engage)
- ✓ **Justice** and **service**
- ✓ **Engage & nurture** the younger church
- ✓ **Build strong partnerships** in ministry
- ✓ Increase **communication and visibility**

With input from many, we hope to soon finalize this vision and, most importantly, identify some specific actions that will move us forward.

As we begin this new church year, I look forward to seeing what steps we take to face the future with courage and faith. May we continue to have the commitment to make a difference in an uncertain world.

Ruth Fitzgerald, Moderator

For the Council



## May 2022 Worship Ministry Article

Hello Everyone.

As we are enjoying the renewal of Eastertide and the blooms of spring, we in the Worship Ministry are working with Pastor Nada as she prepares our upcoming services.

Here's our schedule of services during May:

**Sunday, May 1<sup>st</sup>** – Third Sunday of Easter (with Communion) Rev. Isaac Lawson from SNECC to commission the Pastoral Search Committee

**Sunday, May 8<sup>th</sup>** – Forth Sunday of Easter (Mother's Day and Green Expo Weekend!)  
Commissioning for our Music Director – Julie Hagen

**Sunday, May 15<sup>th</sup>** – Fifth Sunday of Easter (Hygiene Kit Assembly for Church World Services)

**Sunday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>** – Sixth Sunday of Easter Sunday,

**Sunday, May 29<sup>th</sup>** – Seventh Sunday of Easter (Memorial Day service)

Look for updates in the weekly newsletter for any changes.

### **RHCC Worship Ministry Team**

Michael Andonucci

Jake D'Addario

Rob Grandell

George Peterson

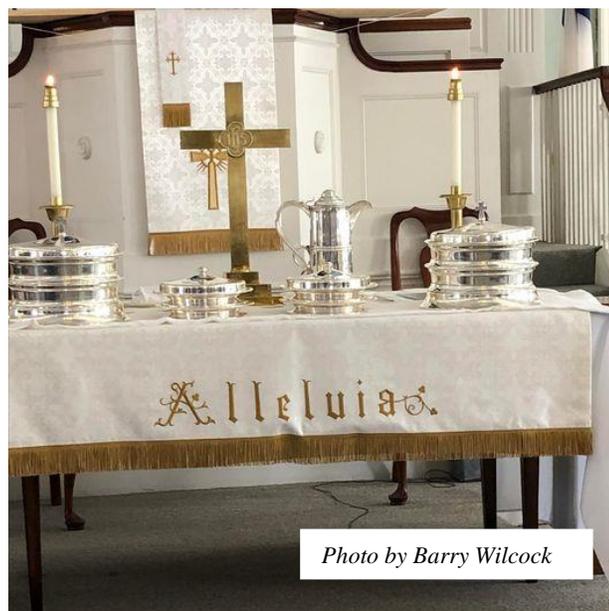
Michael Andonucci

[michael.andonucci@gmail.com](mailto:michael.andonucci@gmail.com)

860.670.5940

### **Liturgist Schedule**

May 1	Bob Carberry
May 8	Barry Wilcock
May 15	Sue Chatfield
May 22	Michael Andonucci
May 29	Jake D'Addario



*Photo by Barry Wilcock*



*Bring the family!*

# The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Green Expo Plant & Bake Sale

Saturday, May 7, 10am – 1pm  
Rocky Hill Congregational Church  
805 Main Street, Rocky Hill

## Plants

- Annuals
- Perennials
- Vegetables
- Herbs
- Flowers
- Hanging Baskets

## Environmental Exhibits

- Sustainable Rocky Hill
- RH High School Environmental Club
- Eco Warriors
- Rocky Hill Garden Club
- Intergenerational Food Pantry Garden
- CT Green Bank
- Electric Car
- Gilbert Farm Tractor
- Great Meadows Conservation Trust
- Green Product Alternatives
- Jason the Arborist
- Linda the Beekeeper
- Cora J. Belden Library
- Rocky Hill Historical Society
- Walk – Bike Rocky Hill

## Guest Speaker



Letecia Colon de Mejias  
Noon

## Live Music



Liz Reed Swale  
10:30

## Baked Goods & Plant Crafts

## Entertainment



Valentine the Clown 11-1:00

## The Green Team

*Caretakers of the Earth*  
Rocky Hill Congregational Church  
Environmental Justice Ministry  
Rocky Hill, CT



Ed Chiucarello  
& Mr Burns  
11:00

[greenteam@RHCCUCC.org](mailto:greenteam@RHCCUCC.org)

## Welcome Elisha Brady!



Elisha will join us in May as our new Faith Formation Coordinator.

Elisha, often called Ellie, was born and primarily raised in the Bay Area of California (she spent a few years in the Tampa Bay area of Florida). At the end of high school, she was ready to get as far away from California as possible, which landed her at the University of Hartford. After bouncing around the state a few times, she landed in Wethersfield, where she currently resides.

During the last 17 years, Elisha has worked as a nanny for various families, helping to raise over 30 children with varying support needs, socio-economic backgrounds, and family dynamics. She also worked with different organizations, such as Big Brothers Big Sisters and South Windsor Parks and Rec, to support children in the community. She is thrilled to be taking her experience and her passion for working with children into her role with Rocky Hill Congregational Church.

Outside of working with children, Elisha has many interests, including polyculture and other forms of sustainable agriculture (particularly in urban and suburban settings), playing tabletop roleplaying games (typically as the game master), LGBTQ+ and civil rights, cooking and baking, and exploring the world around her. She's a firm believer that to make the world better for everyone, we must first create a world for everyone.



### **Faith Formation Search Team**

Barry Wilcock  
Julie Burns  
Liz Pulling  
Nancy Rolfe

### **Faith Formation Ministry**

Candy Smith  
Julie Burns  
Liz Pulling  
Nancy Rolfe  
Ashely Stanley

## Green Tips for May

### Use Clover Instead of Grass for Your Lawn

Lawns are a ton of work. You have to mow and weed them all the time. Americans use more than 7 billion gallons of water a day on their lawns. Over half of that doesn't even help lawns. People overwater, which is bad for the grass. Some water just evaporates or runs into sewers, carrying pesticides with it.

#### Clover

- 1) They grow easily, and they don't need as much water as grass.
- 2) They don't need fertilizer or herbicide. They reach a certain height and stop growing, so you don't have to cut them.
- 3) Clovers also make soil healthier. They grab nitrogen out of the air and put it in the soil, providing nutrition for more plants.
- 4) You don't have to worry about clumpy clovers sprouting pesky flowers. Nowadays, you can buy microclovers. They're smaller than white clovers, and they don't grow so many flowers. They also have soft stems, so you can walk on them comfortably. They even resist drought.

To learn more – visit:

[WS\\_factsheet\\_outdoor.qxp\(gswsa.com\)](http://WS_factsheet_outdoor.qxp(gswsa.com))



***Calling RHCC members to  
join the Memorial Garden Caretaking Crew!***  
Would you like to learn how to garden?  
Maybe you have a green thumb?  
Our Memorial Garden needs YOU!  
Everyone is welcome! Training included.  
Contact the church office for more information.





## Join RHCC at the Foodshare Walk Against Hunger! Saturday, May 21, 10:00 a.m.

(Park opens at 8:00 a.m.)

Dunkin Donuts Park, 1214 Main Street, Hartford.

The CT Foodshare Walk Against Hunger is coming soon - and we would love to see you there! Our church participates in the walk and raises funds to benefit *Hands On Hartford*. Your support helps ensure that folks will continue to benefit from the many Hands On Hartford MANNA Food programs. Help us to fight hunger and food insecurity right here in Hartford.

### For Walkers

- To register visit: [Ctfoodshare.org](http://Ctfoodshare.org), select 'join a team' at top of the page, input Rocky Hill Congregational Church. Link below:  
[Walk Against Hunger - Rocky Hill Congregational Church \(onecause.com\)](http://Walk Against Hunger - Rocky Hill Congregational Church (onecause.com))
- Team RHCC will meet at Dunkin Donuts Park, from 9:00a.m - 9:30 a.m, at the main entrance.
- If anyone would like to carpool to Hartford, contact Sue Chatfield at: [smchat999@att.net](mailto:smchat999@att.net)
- If you walked last year, don't forget to wear your RHCC t-shirt. If you are new to the walk, contact the office to get your shirt!
- There will be free parking available to event participants on a first come, first served basis at 58 Chapel Street and 300 Market Street.

### To Donate

To donate, Log into [Ctfoodshare.org](http://Ctfoodshare.org). Select join a team and input Rocky Hill Congregational Church.

[Walk Against Hunger - Hands On Hartford Friends and Family \(onecause.com\)](http://Walk Against Hunger - Hands On Hartford Friends and Family (onecause.com))



Contributions can be made directly to RHCC online – note 'foodshare' in the description. Scan QR code with phone, or visit:

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

Or send a check payable to RHCC (memo: foodshare) to:  
805 Old Main Street, RH, CT. 06067.

## Congregational Care Ministry

On May 8, Mother's Day 2022 we will honor the Great Grandmothers of our church family. A donation from the church will be made to Foodshare in their names.

I ♥ My  
Grandma

GRACE COLE

JEANNETTE DOANE

LOIS GRISWOLD

LEONA GRISWOLD

PAT HUGHES-WALWORTH

JANET KUNZELMAN

MARGE MURK

MARY SMITH

JOAN TENNYSON

DOROTHY WENZEL



**Coffee hours** seem to be enjoyed by many of us and help for it is growing. There is a sheet with instructions about the coffee maker and where to find equipment. It is most helpful to have 2 people available to prep and clean up. Remember, it does not have to be a buffet, it is not meant to be lunch. If you love to bake and decorate it is certainly appreciated but Fellowship time is the goal! Folks have signed up for the next 3 Sundays so see you there.

*As always, please keep the office aware of anyone who needs a visit or a call.*

Congregational Care

## Calling All Graduates

It's not too early to be thinking of Baccalaureate Sunday in June!

If you are an upcoming graduate (or the parent of a graduate) from high school, college, technical program or graduate school, please contact the church office at: [office@rhccucc.org](mailto:office@rhccucc.org) 860-529-4167 with name of graduate and school/program they are graduating from.



NAME TAGS

Your Name Here

Contact the office if you need a new Name Tag

[office@rhccucc.org](mailto:office@rhccucc.org)

860-529-4167

**May 27 – Little Scholars Preschool Graduation – sending prayerful good wishes for the 4 year old class heading to Kindergarten in the fall!**

At Little Scholars Preschool, we provide an enriched themed, play-based curriculum that is developed by the needs, skills, and interests of our children. Our day consists of free choice and teacher planned activities that are designed to foster social, emotional, cognitive, literacy, language, and physical developments.

Kimberly Bogert Director/Head Teacher

Phone: 860-882-2353

805 Old Main Street, Rocky Hill, CT 06067

Email: [littlescholarsct@gmail.com](mailto:littlescholarsct@gmail.com)

<https://www.littlescholarsct.com/>



## Outreach & Witness Ministry

### Church World Service Hygiene Kits – May 15 during Worship

Thanks to our volunteers who are now shopping for supplies to assemble hygiene kits for Church World Service! We will be assembling and blessing the hygiene kits during our worship service on May 15th.

The kits will be distributed where they are most needed in the U.S. or worldwide. They bring relief, comfort and hope to those affected by famine, natural disasters and epidemics as well as to welcome refugees and asylum seekers. The funds for this project were budgeted for previously and no additional funding is needed.

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 to where the need is the greatest.



### Calling all bakers continued...

Hands on Hartford's community meals program serves dinner every Monday night to about 80 people. RHCC has been providing a tasty desert of cookies or brownies every few months. Our next delivery date will be **May 16**. Bring your deserts to the church on Sunday, May 15.

Contact Sue Chatfield [smchat999@att.net](mailto:smchat999@att.net) with any questions. Thanks to all our bakers!



## STATE OF THE UNION CHILI SUPPER – REPEAT PRESENTATION ON ZOOM

On behalf of the Council and our Time, Talent, Treasure Core Ministry, many, many thanks to all who made chili, set up, cleaned up, provided other food and help, and to all who attended the State-of-the-Union Chili Party on Sunday, May 1. We had about 50 in attendance for food, fixin's, fun, fellowship and a glimpse into our future.

.....

**“State of the Union” message to be repeated on zoom.** For those who were unable to attend in person, we are going to REPEAT the State of the Union presentation on zoom on Sunday, **May 15 at 4 p.m.** If you have not seen this presentation, please come!! Also, if you want to see it, but can't attend that date, we will record the session and you can view it later.

Topic: RHCC State of the Union

Time: May 15, 2022 04:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

(this link will also be sent out to all members & friends by email)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81830064061?pwd=MUJhREJCTTlId3RCdGdSamNNSjkhZz09>

Meeting ID: 818 3006 4061

Passcode: 012295

Annual Meeting Reports  
are due to the office  
by **Wednesday, May 18.**  
Our Annual Meeting  
will be held on June 5.



### Rocky Hill Congregational Church, United Church of Christ

*An Open and Affirming Community of Faith*

805 Old Main Street, Rocky Hill, CT

860-529-4167      [office@rhccucc.org](mailto:office@rhccucc.org)

Visit us online at: [www.RockyHillucc.org](http://www.RockyHillucc.org)

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# HAPPY MAY BIRTHDAY!



2	Jeanne Timrud	15	Jay Jensen
2	Liam Flynn	15	Mark Pawlich
3	Cynthia Sweezy	16	Hilaire Leavitt
4	Chris Sheehan	20	Judy Milles
6	Joan Tennyson	21	Karen Hoffman
6	Kit Bachman	21	Emily Grandell
9	Christine Mullins	21	Megan Grandell
9	Kimberly Rutigliano	22	Louise Butts
14	Steve Smith	24	Jackson McNally
14	Randy Pulling	25	Lisa Eleck
14	Christine Kainamura	28	Don Pagnucco
14	Bob Furman	28	Stephanie Kelley
14	Nada Sellers	29	Jim DeGiovanni
		30	Robin Welch



*Bill and Janet Pierson, May 4, 1963*

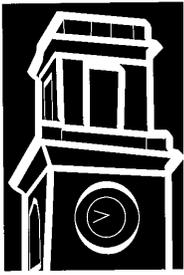
*Al and Joan Diaz, May 16, 1964*

*Dick and Lynn Webster, May 17, 1969*

*Steve and Wendy Ware, May 24, 1975*

**PRAYERS**  
FOR OUR MILITARY  
And Their Families

*Wishing you a beautiful Memorial Day weekend; during which time we remember and honor our country's brave men and women in the military, as well as the many veterans who have served.*



**WORSHIP SCHEDULE**  
 Sunday Morning Worship  
 Communion 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday  
 10:00 a.m.



<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>WEDNESDAY</b>
Worship at 10am in The Sanctuary & by Zoom. Followed by fellowship in Chapin Hall.			
<b>1</b> COMMUNION 10:00 a.m. Worship Rev. Isaac Lawson for commissioning of pastoral search committee  5:30pm: State of the Union Chili Supper, Chapin Hall	<b>2</b>  5pm Pastoral search committee (every Monday)  7pm Women's AA Chapin Hall	<b>3</b>  Office open 10a-1pm Every Tuesday  5:30pm Worship ministry mtg	<b>4</b>  <b>Little Scholars Preschool</b> Student Art Show 5:30-8:30pm  Bells & Choir rehearsal 6:30pm & 7pm
<b>8</b> MOTHER'S DAY 10am Worship 11am Coffee hour  11am – Scholarship Committee mtg, Fiorilli	<b>9</b>  7pm Women's AA Chapin Hall	<b>10</b> 11am Staff mtg  7pm Council mtg Fiorilli	<b>11</b>  Bells & Choir rehearsal 6:30pm & 7pm
<b>15</b> 10am Worship <b>Hygiene Kit Assembly</b> 11am – Second Hour pastoral search 11am – GHIA (Fiorilli) Dessert drop off 4pm – State of Union (zoom)	<b>16</b> Dessert delivery to Hands On Hartford  7pm Women's AA Chapin Hall	<b>17</b>  7pm Facilities	<b>18</b>  Bells & Choir rehearsal 6:30pm & 7pm
<b>22</b> 10am Worship 11am Coffee hour	<b>23</b>  7pm Women's AA Chapin Hall	<b>24</b> June newsletter articles due to office	<b>25</b> Bells & Choir rehearsal 6:30pm & 7pm 6:30pm Outreach & Witness (Sue's house)
<b>29</b> 10am Worship 11am Coffee hour	<b>30</b> MEMORIAL DAY   7pm Women's AA	<b>31</b>	June 1  Bells & Choir rehearsal 6:30pm & 7pm



**2022**

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>5</b>  7pm Men's AA Chapin Hall	<b>6</b>  Office open 11a-2pm Every Friday	<b>7</b> <b>Green Expo &amp; Plant Sale!</b> <b>10:00am-1pm</b>  11 am – Indian dance class
<b>12</b>  7pm Men's AA	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>  11 am-Indian dance class
<b>19</b>  7pm Men's AA	<b>20</b>  Annual reports due	<b>21</b> <b>Walk Against Hunger</b> <b>9am</b>  11 am-Indian dance class
<b>26</b> 7pm Men's AA	<b>27</b> <i>Little Scholars Preschool Graduation, Noon – 1pm, Chapin Hall</i>	<b>28</b>  11 am-Indian dance class

*Environmental exhibits!*

*Plants & baked goods for sale!*

*Live music & entertainment!*

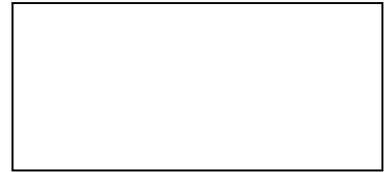
**THE GREEN TEAM**  
**Rocky Hill  
 Congregational  
 Church**



♻️ *Advocates for the Environment*  
 ♻️ *Caretakers of our Earth*

**Green Expo & Plant Sale ~ Saturday, May 7, 10am – 1pm**  
 Environmental exhibits and speakers  
*Plant Sale & Baked Goods Sale*  
*Annuals, Perennials, Vegetables, Herbs, Flowers, Hanging Baskets.*  
*Come buy your mom a beautiful plant and some delicious baked goods!*

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



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED  
TIME VALUE MAIL

Mailed May 4, 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.

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**WELCOME GUESTS!**

Welcome! If you have been joining us at worship services, or keep in touch on facebook – we'd love to say hello and get to know you better. If you'd like to learn more about our church community; please email us at: [nsellers@rhccucc.org](mailto:nsellers@rhccucc.org) and leave your contact information, so Pastor Nada or a church leader can get in touch with you. We are an Open and Affirming Christian community, actively expressing Jesus' inclusive embrace of all people.

