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## The RHCC Church Mouse

### July/August 2021 Newsletter

[office@rhccucc.org](mailto:office@rhccucc.org)  
[www.RockyHillucc.org](http://www.RockyHillucc.org)  
Sunday Worship Services – 10:00 a.m.

#### School Supply 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 having supplies for school makes that transition easier. This year we will be providing school supplies for approximately 15 children. See article in this newsletter for more information.



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

It's been a year – yes, a YEAR, June of 2020 – since we shaped this full-church resolution, concerning racism:

**RHCC Racial Justice Resolution - June 17, 2020**

At Rocky Hill Congregational Church, we condemn racism in all its blatant and insidious forms. In light of recent events in our country, and in order to address hurtful and destructive behaviors and attitudes within our own body, we resolve now to embark on a journey to examine the sin of racism in ourselves, in our church and community, and across our country.

We commit to equipping ourselves to fight racism by:

- Acknowledging white privilege
- Confronting white fragility
- Learning how to be true allies.

We pledge not only to learn, but to work to change the laws, methods and attitudes that have been used, and are **still** being used, to suppress the freedoms, opportunities and health of our siblings of color.

To be the church we want to be, we must turn our love for all God's people into actions that will create meaningful change. We invite others in our community and surrounding communities to join with us in working to end the scourge of racism.

My second summer as your designated term minister finds us preparing for ways to sing and make music together again, safely, as we regather in the church, to worship. Singers are eager to get going again, and our bell ringers have been rehearsing for weeks! On some level, it seems like we're getting to know the "new normal" involved with coming out of pandemic time (although in many places, illness from the virus is still very much a crisis). What will we need to continue this transition?

One of the tasks of transitional ministry includes the important work of exploring the question, “Who are we now?” How might you answer? Is there an identity that comes to mind, and if so, does it do justice to the growing edges of being Earth Caregivers and Racial Justice Advocates? What else helps you to describe who RHCC is when you’re sharing a conversation with someone else? Our new worship series, developing under the theme, “I’ve been meaning to ask..” is providing space for all of these sorts of questions. We’re talking about where we came from, and soon, about the hurts we carry and the things we need to move forward. A framework for envisioning the next chapter of RHCC’s future is underway and I look forward to your participation as we create spaces to meet up on these matters.

Look me up for my *Traveling Together* sessions (in person or by Zoom, weekly drop-by time with your pastor), the next of which is this **Weds. the 7<sup>th</sup>, from 4 to 5pm, by Zoom link**

Topic: RHCC Meetings's Personal Meeting Room – Traveling Together with Pastor Nada  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6825502414>  
Meeting ID: 682 550 2414

Together, in liminal space, sending summer greetings,

*Pastor Nada*



***Medical Miracle*** by Hannah Garrity

Inspired by Mark 5:21-43  
Paper lace

In this image, syringes, vaccine vials, masks, and Holy Spirit doves pour down the page from Jesus’ hem to the woman’s hand—a cacophony of biblical and medical miracles. During the global COVID-19 pandemic, scientists, doctors, and nurses have stepped into their roles with gusto. They had no other choice; they were called to the work by God as Her disciples. Millions of people have died this year of COVID-19. Residual epidemics of systemic colonialist oppression have become painfully apparent across the globe and in all of our localities. Where does it hurt? How can I help?

**From the Council:**

**Enjoying the Lazy, Hazy, Crazy Days of Summer**

While the work of the church doesn't really take a break—there is always much to do—it's also true that in summer we do tend to adopt a different pace. It's a chance to take time to kick back a little, enjoy the summer bounty, enjoy more family down time, and maybe take a vacation you couldn't take last year!

There are still many unknowns.....as there always are in life, come to think of it! And while we are so fortunate that the vaccines, masks and social distancing have brought us to a place that feels much closer to normal here in Connecticut, it's also true that there are new and dangerous COVID variants out there. Many areas continue to struggle with surging infections. The pandemic can't be over until it's over for all of us, worldwide.

As a church we have begun to launch ourselves into a brave new era of hybrid services—see schedule elsewhere in this Church Mouse. There are still many things to be worked out technically, but we have some great talent working on that. We'll all just need to have a little patience as we work out kinks over the coming months.

We deserve the opportunity to take a deep breath and consider how far we've come in this past, totally weird, year. From Zoom to car parades, and from rain barrels to bingo, we have had a busy, active and generous year of fellowship (mostly by zoom) and ministry, and we look forward to more of the same in the coming program year. As a Council, we are grateful to all our church family and to all our partners in faith and justice.

So, happy summer. Take time to renew and refresh .....and get ready to embrace that burst of energy that comes in the fall. There is much to look forward to!

Ruth Fitzgerald for the Council

**Meet the Pre-School**

As part of our efforts to forge a stronger connection with our Little Scholars Preschool “tenant”, we are hoping to hold a “Meet the Preschool” reception in September when they are back in school. At that time, we will also present each student with the gift of a book from our Racial Justice book project which seeks to provide Rocky Hill children with more books featuring children of color, something sadly missing from most children's literature. The reception will be outdoors. While we don't have a date yet (stay tuned) we do hope many of you will turn out to welcome the students and share in the event..

### The Lord Working in Mysterious Ways???

On May 2<sup>nd</sup> a team of volunteers packed many hygiene kits provided by **YOUR** donations for delivery to Church World Service. But there turned out to be a hitch. The place we usually deliver them to in Meriden had a COVID incident and was closed indefinitely—and there was no other place to deliver them within hundreds of miles. This meant they would have to be shipped at some expense to one of only two shipping centers. Research revealed that the east coast shipping location is a tiny town in Maryland called New Windsor. Coincidentally, Dave Sageman and Ruth Fitzgerald were just about to drive to (you guessed it) New Windsor, MD for their niece’s high school graduation. So they packed up the car with ### hygiene kits and headed south for delivery! 😊 Hmmm.....a little heavenly intervention??



**The RHCC Little Free Library** dedication and celebration was held on Sunday, June 6th after worship.

*Be sure to stop by and take a book!*

Racial Justice Committee –Bill & Heather Collins, Deb Copes, Gael Curtin, Chris Kainamura, Liz Pulling, Steve Smith, Val Triblets, Nancy Wilcock





We've had an extremely busy June!

- We:
- Held in-person church school sessions on three of the four Sundays
  - Celebrated our youth on Children's Sunday where we recognized our graduates and presented bibles to our third graders and enjoyed an intergenerational worship service.
  - Recognized and celebrated Georgette Huie, our Minister of Children and Youth, retirement with gifts and a reception following our Children's Sunday worship.
  - Hosted Zoom Bingo with wonderful prizes which included homemade food items (Chris Sheehan's award winning chili, Church Fair Tea Room egg salad by Jen Cordes, and a choice of two food offerings from Marsha Hoffman) a jigsaw puzzle and a grand prize of a summer gift bag. A fun time was had by all.

We hosted a class reunion of the 2020 Confirmation class, Alyssa Gau, Emily Doten and Will McKenna. Due to Covid 19 we weren't able to hold the traditional confirmation class dinner with their families and their mentors so we invited them to gather this year now that all are vaccinated. Although not all were not able to attend those present had fun reminiscing and enjoyed being together again.



Also in June the search committee for our new Director of Children and Youth position was formally started. The committee is made up of Liz Pulling, Nancy Rolfe, Julie Burns, Sandy Gau and Barry Wilcock. The committee has begun the hard work of determining the next steps which will include coordinating with Conference staff, finalizing the job description, determining where and how to advertise, reviewing applications and interviewing candidates. We bless and thank this dedicated team.

## Faith Formation News

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Over the next few months the Faith Formation Ministry Team will be planning for upcoming activities and the new church school year as we patiently wait for our new Director of Children and Youth.

In the meantime - Volunteers Needed! Would you be willing to:

- Present the Message For All Ages that is part of our weekly worship service
- Lead a Sunday School lesson gathering this summer
- Suggest and/or lead a family fun outside gathering this summer

Please contact Candy Smith at 860-563-4498 or [Candacesmith91@gmail.com](mailto:Candacesmith91@gmail.com) if you are willing to help with any of these tasks.

Your Faith Formation Ministry Team

Candy Smith, Liz Pulling, Nancy Rolfe and Sue VanNess

Thank you, RHCC members and friends and families, for the wonderful reception on June 13. Your generosity and kind words (not to mention the cookies, cake and cupcakes) will leave a sweet remembrance of my six years with you all. When I hear the gorgeous sound of the wind chimes you gifted me, I will not only think of you but will say a prayer that the Holy Spirit be alive and move in and through you as you serve God together here in Rocky Hill.

God's peace be with you all. *-Georgette*



## From the RHCC Green Team: JULY-AUGUST TIPS

Environmental Cookout Ideas:



A cookout celebrates the natural world, so it's sort of pointless to have a cookout that destroys that world. Some ways to keep your cookout green:

- Use reusable plates, cups and utensils. Plastic utensils allow you to avoid washing up, but their utility ends there. It's cheaper (and greener) to bring metal utensils from home. Toss the dirty ones into a used dish, so you can take them home for easy washing.
- Choose cloth napkins, not paper. Ditto for the dishtowels.
- Buy local produce from farmers' markets. In general, the less your food has traveled, the less pollution it has created.
- Try for an all-vegetarian spread. Modern mass production of meat has high energy costs and creates a lot of pollution -- more global-warming emissions than all oil-based forms of transportation put together.
- Instead of driving, bike or walk to the park. Or, if your city offers it, take mass transit or use a car-share program.
- It should go without saying, but pick up all your trash. Abide by the camper's tradition of leaving the cookout site cleaner than it was when you found it. Better still, try not to create any trash at all. Don't use disposable containers. Recycle whatever you can, and collect food scraps for composting.
- Don't set off fireworks such as bottle rockets, which create litter that you can't always find.

-RHCC Green Team

*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.*



## Getting Personal about Redlining in Rocky Hill



White people often struggle when asked about racism and its impact on America. Their responses range from complete denial that it exists (regardless of data and facts that counter that position), personal claims of never being racist (confusing personal attacks with systemic issues), claiming that white people are victims of racism (despite the fact that white people are in positions of power), stories of their own struggles and a belief that it is only a matter of everyone just “getting along”.

Today we refer to these reactions as white fragility, a desire to ease the discomfort and struggle white people feel when they are confronted with the realities of system racism. They are natural responses when our belief system is challenged and it often takes time, education and prayerful consideration to begin to understand life in America for people of color.

The following is an opportunity for us to hear a story from someone we know and respect, church member, Rudy Burgess, and to consider the challenges he faced as a Black man in America. The interview includes stories about racism Rudy and his sister Gladys experienced, particularly in regard to purchasing homes in Rocky Hill and attempts to prevent them from living here based on the racist policy of redlining.

Redlining was a discriminatory practice mandated by the Federal Housing Authority as part of the New Deal. In addressing the housing shortage in America during the 1930s, the FHA established policies and guidelines which resulted in segregating people of color in urban neighborhoods. The policy was based on the racist and false belief that people of color were higher risk applicants and diminished the property values of neighborhoods they lived in. Developers and lending companies were provided maps with high risk neighborhoods that would not qualify for FHA mortgage insurance, labeled in red. The official policy ended in 1968 with the passage of the Fair Housing Act; but, the history of redlining is reflected today in disparities in Black home ownership and continued segregation of people of color in our cities. The racist ideas it was based upon continue to impact the value of homes, availability of mortgages for people of color and resistance to affordable housing and zoning changes which will increase Black home ownership and diversity in the suburbs.

The following is an excerpt from the interview in 2018:

*BOB - Hello and good evening. I'm Bob Herron, the Town Historian, and I'm doing an oral history on Rudy Burgess, and his sister, Gladys Burgess Kitchens. I like to do this chronologically. So, my first question is, as always, when did you get to Rocky Hill, and why?*

*GLADYS – I moved here in 1951, and because I had 2 little children, and was expecting a baby, and I wanted my own home, and this was the only place that they would sell me. Not that they were anxious for me to buy it, but this was the only place they were willing to show me.*

*BOB – Okay, you were also talking about having to, kind of, breaking the color barrier with the town.*

*GLADYS – Oh, most definitely. There were petitions to keep me from getting here. Oh yeah, a lot of petitions, and the scariest thing was the first day I was here. I heard this Southern voice in my backyard. She'd come to pick up her little girl, because my kids were in my backyard, and I said, "What in the world have I moved into?" and she turned out to be one of my very best friends (a blonde from Alabama).*

## Getting Personal about Redlining in Rocky Hill

*BOB – How about you, Rudy?*

*RUDY – Well I came out here in 1958, and they didn't want to sell me anywhere I was interested. I was living in Hartford in a third floor attic apartment, and my wife said she wasn't going to spend another summer in that hot place. We had a youngster that was 6 months old, and we finally found a place out here that they consented to sell us. They only showed it to us at night, and after they had taken our deposit, and they met us and saw that I was someone of color, and they decided they had another deposit, and yet, my lawyer checked into that and found out there was no deposit, went through the Civil Rights Commission, and that's how I got out here.*

*BOB – So they were basically 'redlining'?*

*RUDY – Oh yeah.*

*GLADYS – Oh yeah, and I got that nasty phone call.*

*RUDY – There were quite a few phone calls; nasty phone calls when we first got out here.*

*BOB – Then that's the '50's, which were not great.*

*RUDY – There were a lot of good people out here.*

*GLADYS – Oh yes, and a lot of the people who weren't friendly at first, became very friendly, once they found out we didn't swing through trees with our tails; that we were humans.*

I hope that Rudy and Gladys' story will cause us all to pause and consider how systemic racism impacts us. If you would like to learn more about redlining and how it affects present day America, there are many resources and articles available. Consider the following:

A 'Forgotten History' Of How The U.S. Government Segregated America

<https://www.npr.org/2017/05/03/526655831/a-forgotten-history-of-how-the-u-s-government-segregated-america>

Race: The Power of an Illusion, episode 3 Redlining

<https://www.racepowerofanillusion.org/videos/redlining>

Housing Segregation and Redlining in America: A Short History | Code Switch | NPR

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O5FBjyqfoLM>. (NOTE: contains some explicit language)

How the Fair Housing Act Failed Black Homeowners

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2018-04-11/50-years-after-the-fair-housing-act-redlining-persists>

The entire interview is available at <http://www.rhhistory.org/oral-histories.html>

Burgess, R and Kitchens, G. (2018) Interviewed by Bob Herron for the Rocky Hill Historical Society, 11 June.

Written by Val Triblets for RJSC – Rocky Hill Congregational Church

## CONGREGATIONAL CARE



Worship services in the late Spring have brought us together in the sanctuary and outside. At the Children's Sunday service held outside there were 70 of us to worship, sing and celebrate Georgette's years of ministry with us. During the summer, we will gather in air-conditioned Chapin Hall. (Can coffee hours be next?)

As the pre-covid life returns, please remember that Congregational Care has several members who can visit, offer a ride to church or help with an occasional task. Contact us if you could use a visit or ride. ~ Steph Heneghan, Wendy Ware, Don Pagnucco or Kim Burghoff.

### DID YOU KNOW?

We have John Sword to thank for the shade of trees on the west lawn that we enjoy during our outside services. Fifty years ago (or so) he planted 2 Dogwoods, a Crimson King and a Radiant Crab and we are grateful these many years later. Who knew?!

### *In Loving Memory ~ Ellie Mahar*



With sadness, we announce the death of our long-time church member, Eleanor (Ellie) Mahar, who passed peacefully on June 2, 2021 at Coastal Manor in Yarmouth, Maine. Ellie was an active and involved member of our congregation for many years. During most of that time, she sang in the choir and was loved by many. Prior to retirement, she was a home economics teacher at Rocky Hill High School. She is survived by various nieces and nephews and by her many friends at Rocky Hill Congregational Church and in the town of Rocky Hill. A memorial service is being planned for a later date which will include a time for friends to gather and share remembrances. That date will be announced at a later time.

## 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).

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 Offering Plate will be used towards this effort.

\*\*\*New this Year: Outreach & Witness will buy the backpacks for the children. If anyone, is interested in filling a backpack for a specific child, please let us know.

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.

To donate, visit: <https://www.rockyhillucc.org/contributions>

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



## July-August Scrip Schedule

Since the start of the pandemic-driven shutdown of the church building, I've been delivering scrip every two weeks for drive-by pickup behind the church. Although regular Sunday morning worship services have now reopened to all, the biweekly process has been working well, so I'll continue to do this through at least the summer months. In the fall, I'll reconsider whether Saturday deliveries should be continued. Scrip may also be available for sale after some Sunday services during the summer – but not necessarily every week.

If you have email access, you will continue to receive regular updates in advance of each delivery date. (Let me know if you are not receiving these.) If you do not have access to email, then you should call me at 860-561-0182 when you need scrip so that I can prepackage your order and confirm the next delivery date. All pickup orders must be communicated to me in advance of the delivery date. Payments can be made online, or by check when you pick up your order.

**Here is the tentative schedule of July scrip delivery dates:**

**Saturday, July 3, 1:00-1:15pm (Deb Copes will coordinate)**

**Saturday, July 17, 1:00-1:15pm**

**Saturday, July 31, 1:00-1:15pm**

**Saturday, August 14, 1:00-1:15pm (Copes)**

**Saturday, August 28, 1:00-1:15pm**

Many retailers also offer e-cards that can be ordered and delivered at any time via email. (An e-card is simply a gift card that can be emailed to you, which you can then print on paper if needed.) Many of you are already taking advantage of these. Unfortunately, e-cards are generally not available for groceries.

Thanks to all of you who have continued to faithfully buy scrip during the past year.

Dave Hall, Treasurer  
treasurer@rhccucc.org



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	27	Persephone Blaise
13	Taylor McLean	29	Larry Gilbert
13	Kim Walker	31	Barry Wilcock

# JULY 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
<p><i>Worship held in Chapin Hall. Coffee hour follows worship.</i></p>	<p>1</p> <p>7:00pm Women's AA</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>
<p>4</p> <p>10:00am Worship (zoom)</p>	<p>5</p> <p>7:00pm Women's AA</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Travelling Together w/ Pastor Nada 4pm zoom</p>
<p>11</p> <p>10:00am Worship Communion Chapin Hall</p>	<p>12</p> <p>7:00pm Women's AA</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p> <p>6pm O&amp;W Meeting (Sue's house)</p>
<p>18</p> <p>10:00am Worship Chapin Hall</p>	<p>19</p> <p><b>Dessert delivery to HOH</b></p> <p>7:00pm Women's AA</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>25</p> <p>10:00am Worship Chapin Hall</p>	<p>26</p> <p>7:00pm Women's AA</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>

# AUGUST 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
<p>1</p> <p>10:00am Worship Communion Chapin Hall</p>	<p>2</p> <p>7:00pm Women's AA</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Worship ministry 6:30pm zoom</p>
<p>8</p> <p>10:00am Worship Chapin Hall</p>	<p>9</p> <p>7:00pm Women's AA</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p> <p>6pm O&amp;W Meeting (Sue's house)</p>
<p>15</p> <p>10:00am Worship Chapin Hall</p>	<p>16</p> <p>7:00pm Women's AA</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>
<p>22</p> <p>10:00am Worship Chapin Hall</p>	<p>23</p> <p>7:00pm Women's AA</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>
<p>29</p> <p>10:00am Worship Chapin Hall</p>	<p>30</p> <p>7:00pm Women's AA</p>	<p>31</p>	

# JULY 2021

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 7pm Men's AA	2 	3 Scrip 1pm
8 7pm Men's AA	9	10
15 7pm Men's AA	16	17 Scrip 1pm
22 7pm Men's AA	23	24
29 7pm Men's AA	30	31 Scrip 1pm



# AUGUST 2021

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
5 7pm Men's AA	6	7
12 7pm Men's AA	13	14 Scrip 1pm
19 7pm Men's AA	20	21
26 7pm Men's AA	27	28 Scrip 1pm

**SUMMER WORSHIP** will be held in air-conditioned Chapin Hall – in person!

If you can volunteer as a greeter or liturgist, please do sign up on Breeze or see Michael Andonucci. We will return to the Sanctuary in September which will include a live zoom link during the service.

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



Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
Hartford, CT 06101

Permit #7

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED  
TIME VALUE MAIL

Mailed July 7, 2021

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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### Thank You, Bakers!

I would like to offer heartfelt thanks to all of you who have made folks lives happier by providing a delicious assortment of cookies and bars to support the community meals program at Hands on Hartford. Because of the continuing interest in this program, I have added bimonthly dates for the remainder of this year.

These are:

- July 19th
- Sept 20th
- Nov 15th

We need enough dessert bags to feed 70 people and any leftovers are used for their lunch program so there really aren't too many bakers for any date!

Contact me via the office if you can bake.

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

*Sue Chatfield*

Chair, Outreach & Witness Ministry



Sue Chatfield delivering donations  
from RHCC to Hands On Hartford

Hands On Hartford is committed to increasing food security and nutrition, improving health and providing housing while engaging volunteers and connecting communities.