



The RHCC Church Mouse

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September 2021 Newsletter

office@rhccucc.org
www.RockyHillucc.org
Sunday Worship Services – 10:00 a.m.

Walk Against Hunger Join or Support Our Walk Team!

Outreach and Witness invites you to support or join our team! Battling hunger is a team effort. This year is the first ever statewide walk against hunger. The Foodshare Walk Against Hunger is the largest anti-hunger event of its kind in Connecticut. The walk is 1.5 miles long, making it fun for people of all ages. The walk is a fun-filled event with live entertainment and giveaways, hosted by local media personalities.



Please sign up online to join our team: www.foodsharewalk.org
Team name- Rocky Hill Congregational Church

Saturday, September 18, 2021 - Foodshare Walk Against Hunger
9:30 a.m. Dunkin Donuts Park 1214 Main Street, Hartford.

You can also support our team through our Virtual Offering Plate during the months of August and September or send a check to the church office, payable to RHCC
Rocky Hill Congregational Church UCC, 805 Old Main Street, Rocky Hill, CT 06067

www.foodsharewalk.org

From Where I Sit...

For those of you who haven't been able to join in our summer worship services, you've been missing something special: In the style of "conversation church" gatherings, we've been asking ourselves some really good questions ("...where are you from?" and "...where does it hurt?" and "...what do you need?") and providing time within the worship services themselves, for caring conversations... This has been a rich experience for many of you, and people have been sharing some of their own "ah-ha's" with me over the last several weeks. Our final service of the series, is planned for this weekend, Sept. 5th, in Chapin Hall @ 10am, with a sermon reflection entitled, "*Courageous Conversations.*"

If you've been noticing that you have become newly aware of someone or something in the context of worship, please consider letting me or one of our church leaders know. I believe that God is actively pressing us forward into the decision-making process of discerning our new directions in ministry. Much of this is called a "visioning" process. You can expect some clear, focused agreements and decisions about what comes next. This is a full-church effort; it must be so if it is to shift us forward together! Let me encourage everyone to tune your hearts and your ears for a Fall season that promises provide many ways to participate, and to learn, and to give.

While our denomination, the UCC, emphasizes that God is still speaking, we're also charged with listening and responding to that guidance. On multiple levels, our congregation has spaces and gatherings for this on-going conversation: You will find many up-coming opportunities featured in this edition of *The Church Mouse*, including **Rally Day** kick-offs on Sunday the 12th for worship and a luncheon; **an all-church potluck** on the 17th at 5:30pm, the all-church **Country Fair** on for Oct. 16th, and the re-gathering of multiple ministry teams and working groups. The next **Traveling Together** office hours I offer (digital, via Zoom) happens this coming Friday from 4:00 to 5:00pm. (Look for the link below*, in Theresa's weekly email, and my all-church follow-up within 24 hours of that time slot). Let me know if you'd like a phone call or to visit for come time to reconnect... COVID-19 protocols are in effect with masks and distancing, providing additional protection alongside the vaccination.

As your Designated Term Pastor, entering year #3 of my three-year commitment to the transitional needs of our church, this promises to be an exciting and challenging process! What is God calling you, and me and us together, to be doing as to the possibilities for Rocky Hill Congregational Church?

There is another layer of participation for which I am seeking your prayerful consideration: we will be arranging Circle groups for discussion and prayer as we set in motion a formal strategic planning process to confirm the vision God is placing before us. Some will be gathered in homes and retirement communities, others at the church or a local spot with coffee or for lunch. More specifics to come very shortly. Let's commit to praying regularly for the courage and energy and focus that leads us to the holy direction of the Spirit. Please keep your eyes open – we are eager to move forward, together!

"...Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, says the Lord of hosts."

- Zechariah 4:6

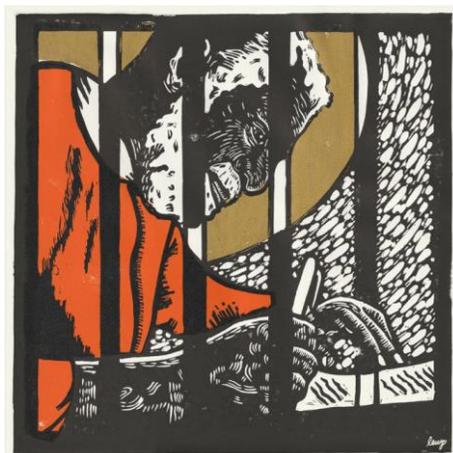
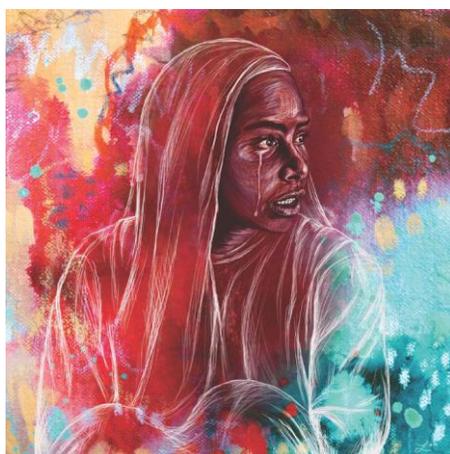
*The angel,
speaking to the prophet Zechariah,
in the 5th vision*

*Traveling Together with Pastor Nada

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6825502414>

Meeting ID: 682 550 2414

Art from the summer Worship series "I've been meaning to ask...."



"A Sacred Art" series, "I've been meaning to ask..." | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.



From the Council

For me, September feels like the “real” new year. School starting, things cranking up, renewed energy, new beginnings. The pandemic still presents us with many unknowns, but one thing we DO know is that there is A LOT going on in our church community!! The work and ministries of our church continue in full swing because of the energy and commitment of so many of you.

Just page through this Church Mouse to “read all about it” and see a picture of activity and involvement.

- Back to the sanctuary in September (masked) with zoom option.
- Racial Justice Steering Committee has been developing an action plan.
- Little Scholars Pre-School Reception on October 1.
- Rally Sunday on September 12
- Faith Formation Search Committee hard at work
- Walk Against Hunger on September 18 at Dunkin’ Donuts Park
- Potluck Dinner on Friday, September 17 at 5:30.
- Church Fair (it’s baaaack!!) on October 16
- RHCC Annual Golf Tournament (it’s baaaack also!!) on Sunday, September 26.
- Hands on Work for Hands on Hartfordand so much through our Outreach and Witness ministry
- Choir starting up again
-and so many more active ministries possible though the support of YOUR Time Talent and Treasure.

.....And don’t forget that in just a little over five years, we will start celebrating the 300th (yes, 300th!!!) anniversary of the founding of our church. Stay tuned for more on this, as it’s never too early to start thinking about it. If you’d like to be part of our preparations for that, please let me know!

Ruth Fitzgerald, Moderator
For the Council

September 2021 Worship Ministry Article



Hello Everyone. We hope everyone enjoyed their summer and stayed safe during our recent stormy weather. As we've been enjoying services in Chapin Hall this summer, we're making plans to be back in the Sanctuary (with Zoom for those who are unable to meet in person) beginning September 12th.

Pastor Nada will be wrapping up her "I've been meaning to ask ..." series by Labor Day weekend and will start a new series titled "Follow Me: Biblical Practices for Faithful Living" in early September. This series includes a "... curriculum is based on practices Jesus did and taught us to do as faithful followers." Written for people of all ages who wish to live out their faith, this new curriculum examines where these practices are found in the Bible and how they have been used in Christian faith then and now."

We're excited to help bring you this series:

- A living faith is so much more than simply believing in God. Jesus called all sorts of people to follow him to God, showing concrete ways to love God and one another. When we do these actions together, faith develops, lives change, and communities transform."

We look forward to seeing you all (in person or virtually) at our upcoming services.

Michael Andonucci

michael.andonucci@gmail.com

860.670.5940

Sending Virtual Hugs: The Prayer Shawl Ministry Team



One of the things we could always count on at church was a warm hug, at least until COVID struck. When we were not able to share actual hugs, we did send virtual hugs through our Prayer Shawl Ministry. Members, friends, and neighbors far and wide have benefitted from receiving a shawl through the Congregational Care ministry. COVID was also a productive time for our faithful knitters and crocheters. Our supply of shawls never wavered!

If you or someone you know could benefit from a virtual hug through a prayer shawl, please contact the church office or any member of the Congregational Care ministry.

If you find yourself with time on your hands and you'd like to knit or crochet with us (using acrylic yarn, please), feel free to contact Doretta Andonucci at doretta.andonucci@gmail.com (Free patterns and other instructions are available at shawlministry.com .)



SAVE THE DATE!

September 12th – Rally Sunday



Please plan to join us as for a fun intergenerational worship service where we will celebrate the start of our church year. Plans are still being finalized but look forward to time together, activities for all and fellowship time following worship. Stay tuned to the weekly news bulletins for more information as plans are finalized.

Director of Children and Youth Search Committee Update:

The work of the search committee for the new Director of Children and Youth position continued through the summer. In July the search committee (Liz Pulling, Nancy Rolfe, Julie Burns, Sandy Gau and Barry Wilcock) met with Debbie Gline Allen, Minister of Faith Formation, SNEUCC, who shared information from the conference and answered the committees questions. The committee is currently working to complete final updates to the job description and then will work with the conference to identify where and how to post the open position.

Faith Formation Ministry Team Update:

Over the next few months the Faith Formation Ministry Team will be planning for upcoming activities and the church year as we patiently wait for our new Director of Children and Youth to assist us. In the meantime we are working with Nada to find resources that may be able to assist us through this interim time.

Volunteers are still Needed! Would you be willing to:

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

Please contact Candy Smith at 860-563-4498 or 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





From Congregational Care

And so, the summer comes to a close! It is, again, an uncertain time because of the Covid numbers and restrictions but I think we need to plan with optimism and pray that we will be able to come together safely this year. Therefore, please, save the date:

Friday, September 17 for a “What’s On Your Mind?” potluck supper!
5:30 p.m. Chapin Hall

It is time to get back together and chat about how we navigated Covid or what we want our church to focus on in the months ahead or just chat.

Remember to let the office know if you or another member is unwell and needs a visit or call.

Church Fair Help Needed

There is a Church Fair planned for October 16th this year. This the biggest fund raiser of the year! Please consider volunteering to run, or work in, the following booths:

- ❖ Tea Room
- ❖ Kids Corner
- ❖ Sew Country
- ❖ Jewelry Booth – with help from Sue Vanness
- ❖ Snack Bar – with help from Jean Goff



Please contact Jean Goff, Ruth Jensen or Nancy Harlow if you have any questions or need more information. Thank you!

Coffee Hour Request for Help and Baked Goods



Inreach has lost several members in the last few years. In order to maintain the hospitality that this church is known for, we are asking that you consider joining Inreach or volunteering to help serve with an Inreach member on Sundays. We are also requesting that church members consider donating baked goods for coffee hours, either home baked or purchased. There is a sign-up sheet on the food table a Chapin Hall for helping to serve and baked good donations. Please see Jean Goff, Ruth Jensen or Nancy Harlow for more information. Thanks.



We believe that this year's graduation of the Little Scholars Preschool was the 72nd class of children to attend the preschool, which we have hosted since 1948. How cool is that!

Mark your Calendars for Little Scholars Preschool Reception on October 1

On Friday, October 1 at 5:30 p.m., we will be hosting the children, parents and staff of Little Scholars Preschool at a reception to honor our long history together. LSP and its predecessors have been hosted by our church for a VERY long time—since 1948, we believe!! We have been working to document our long relationship in anticipation of this reception and to gather photos of the early years of kindergarten (originally) then preschool. In response to our request, we have heard so many interesting stories from many of you, including some who attended kindergarten or pre-school here in the early 1950s.

At our reception on October 1, our Racial Justice Steering Committee will also present each child enrolled at the preschool with the gift of a book from our racial justice book initiative—which, along with our Little Free Library, is part of our effort to provide more inclusive literature for children in Rocky Hill.

The program will be a very short outdoor program with a few refreshments. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend, **ESPECIALLY** if you or your family members have a personal history with the pre-school.

If you have any questions, have information about the preschool, or would like to help with the reception, please contact Ruth Fitzgerald (860) 543-1520 / rfitzgerald@fhiplan.com or Theresa in the church office (860) 529-4167 / tcleary@rhccucc.org.

Service of remembrance for Eleanor Mahar



A service of remembrance and celebration for the life of Eleanor Mahar will be held at the church at 11 a.m. on Friday, September 10 (on what would have been her 93rd birthday). All are invited to attend to celebrate Ellie's life as a long time member of our church and the choir. A light reception will follow the service.

Eleanor Mahar 1928-2021

Eleanor Mahar died peacefully on June 2, 2021, in Yarmouth, Maine. She was born in Maine in 1928, the sixth of seven children. She had one sister and five brothers, all of whom pre-deceased her. She grew up in the Portland area and attended the public schools of South Portland. Eleanor earned her B.S. from Farmington Teachers College, a branch of the University of Maine, and did post-graduate work at the University of Maine and at the University of Connecticut. She also worked on her master's degree at the University of Hartford and the University of Portland, Oregon.

Teaching was her life's work for forty years, thirty-two of which were in Rocky Hill, Connecticut, teaching Home Economics. Many of her students remember her fondly as "Miss Mahar" and some of her friends at church dubbed her "Miss Ellie". For fifty years she was an active member of the Rocky Hill Congregational Church, serving in a variety of roles and singing in the choir with her beautiful soprano voice.

Eleanor was a quiet person, yet she was also game for anything. In her younger years she drove across country from coast to coast several times to sightsee and visit family. On her 84th birthday, she fulfilled a long-time wish of riding on a motorcycle, which she did courtesy of church friends. She and her best friend Helen Griswold loved to travel and enjoyed trips to Switzerland, Norway, Austria, Sweden, England, the Netherlands and across the USA, including Hawaii and Alaska.

Ellie will be deeply missed by those who loved her including her church family in Rocky Hill and her nieces and nephews.

September Facilities Church Mouse Article

We are continuing to develop projects to repair and restore the church steeple and the windows in the sanctuary. Both projects should qualify for grants from the State Office of Historic Preservation; the state grants would cover 50% of the cost, but these will be expensive projects, probably about \$250,000 for the two projects. We expect to launch a fund-raising effort soon for these and other projects that we want to do before our 300-year anniversary.

This summer we upgraded the program that is used to manage heat in the church and Chapin Hall air conditioning. This fall we will upgrading Internet bandwidth by switching to a fiber optic cable.

RHCC Golf Tournament -- Sunday, September 26th



This year's fall RHCC golf tournament is scheduled for Sunday, September 26, 2021, at the Indian Springs Golf Club in Middlefield, CT. Indian Springs is a 9-hole course, the tournament will be 9 holes only. We are planning for (7) foursomes, tee times will start at 1 PM. Details of cost and tournament format will be available soon.

A sign-up sheet will be available in Chapin Hall in September, or you can contact Bill Hoffman (860-563-1367) to reserve your spot. Don't miss out on this fun event!

Let Yourself Bloom

Mine is the church where everybody's welcome.

I know it's true 'cause I got through the door.

We are a dazzling bouquet of every kind of flower.

Jump in the vase, 'cause we've got space for more.

--Dazzling Bouquet, Copyright © 1995 Bret Hesla

If you've been to church in person or online in the past few months, you've heard Liz Reed-Swale sing this delightful song. While I normally think of spring as the time of flowers, listening to Liz has reminded me fall is a great time for flowers such as zinnias, asters and mums.

There is a time and place for every flower, just as there is a time and place for each of us to support our church family. Our church is blessed to hold many different people with many different talents. We each bloom when we serve in our own way.

- On September 17, Congregational Care is hosting a potluck dinner where you can tell us "What's On Your Mind."
- On September 18, we're walking to benefit Hands on Hartford in the annual Walk Against Hunger.
- October 16 is the date for our next Church Fair.

If you are curious about supporting your church family, take a look through the pages of this month's Church Mouse, reach out to myself or contact Theresa in the church office. We truly do have space for more.

--Doretta Andonucci, Time Talent and Treasure

P.S. If you haven't heard the song, you can find it online at <https://www.brethesla.com/downloads/dazzling-bouquet/>

From Racial Justice Steering Committee...

The Little Free Library (LFL) opened less than 3 months ago. It has been well received and well used since its opening. More than 50 books have been borrowed from the LFL. Every week books are borrowed and other books are added to the library. Look for these books on your next visit to the LFL:

- ***My Mother's Sari* by Sandhya Rao** This children's book is meant for children 4-8. It is a story about wonder and imagination as a little girl plays with her mother's saris.
- ***Who Are Venus & Serena Williams?* by James Buckley Jr.** This book from a popular series is written for children ages 8-12. It is all about the sisters and their journey to become successful tennis players.
- ***They Called Us Enemies* by George Takei** This graphic novel is recommended for children ages 12-17 but anyone would enjoy it. This a memoir of Takei's childhood while he was imprisoned within American concentration camps during World. War II. It's a story of courage, country, loyalty and love.
- ***Code Talker: The First and Only Memoir by One of the Original Navajo Code Talkers of WWII* by Chester Nez** This adult nonfiction book is for anyone who loves to learn about history. Readers will be captivated by stories of Nez's childhood and his days as a Marine.
- ***Why Not Me?* by Mindy Kaling** This book is a collection of essays about Mindy's ongoing journey to find happiness and excitement in her life. Anybody who is a fan of *The Office* will remember Mindy as Kelly Kapur. If you like to laugh, you will enjoy this book.

On your next visit to the LFL you will notice the QR code. Use your smart phone and it will link you to our website. It will also allow you to send us an email. Feel free to tell us about the books you are reading. You may even make suggestions about books and/or authors you would like us to include.

Thank you for your support of the Little Free Library. Remember to return any books you have read so that others may enjoy them too. Keep on reading!



Greetings, RHCC Community:

I am extending the invitation for you to join our Bells and Choir ensembles at RHCC. We will be resuming our rehearsals for both Bells and Choir starting Wednesday, September 8. Bells will rehearse from 6:15-7:30 and Choir will immediately follow from 7:30-9:00. All abilities and levels of experience are welcome!

To align with COVID protocols, we will all be wearing masks while in rehearsal. Bells will continue rehearsing in the balcony, which allows for some space between each other. With choir, we need to be a bit more careful given the nature of singing. As such, we will be rehearsing in the chapel. This will allow for more distancing and better ventilation. Additionally, I have ordered singers' masks that each choir member will receive at our first rehearsal (they will be yours to keep).

Our plan is for the choir to sing at Rally Sunday on Sunday, September 12. I have picked a familiar and relatively easy tune with SAB voicing that I am confident we can learn in one rehearsal. I'm sure we're all feeling a bit out of shape vocally, let alone singing as part of an ensemble; to this end, I am planning to ease us back into singing during services. I know the congregation will be thrilled to have us back!

Looking forward to our time together!

Warmly,

Julie



Covid-19 Safety Guidelines for RHCC (as of June 2021)



- Those who are fully vaccinated may choose not to wear a mask and may sing, whether indoors or outdoors.
 - When indoors, those who are not fully vaccinated, including children, must wear a mask, keep a greater distance from non-family members and sing more softly.
 - For outdoor events, unvaccinated people, including children, must wear a mask.
 - The front doors and some side windows will be opened before and throughout services and meetings in the Sanctuary to improve air circulation.
 - Offering plates will be available on your way in or out of the Sanctuary, or you may send offerings by mail or via our online option.
 - On a Communion Sunday, please pick up pre-packaged bread and juice cups on your way in.
 - Children are welcome to come to the front, or stay in a pew, for the Message for All Ages. Whenever possible, church school will be held outdoors. Unvaccinated children should remain masked.
 - Please be mindful of people who prefer to maintain a greater physical distance.
-

Fall 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. This process has worked well, and I thank those of you who faithfully stopped by every two weeks to update your scrip supply.

As I write this message (in early August – during the aggressive advancement of the covid delta variant), I have made no decision as to whether I will continue these Saturday deliveries into the fall. Much of the decision depends on whether or not our Sunday morning worship continues unabated. If you are on my scrip email distribution, I will keep you all informed as circumstances clarify. Meanwhile, assume that scrip will be available for sale each week after Sunday morning worship – just like the “olden days.”

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.

Dave Hall, Treasurer

From the RHCC Green Team: SEPTEMBER TIPS



- You can save by recycling your a spare refrigerator or freezer and save over \$125 in energy every year. Schedule your no-cost pickup appointment with Eversource today by calling 888-997-8892 or eversource.com/appliance-recycling. You could be eligible for a \$30 rebate.
- Battery Recycling - Nickel cadmium batteries are labeled with the chemical symbol Ni-Cd and are mandatory recyclable in CT. Call2Recycle website at www.call2recycle.org. Alkaline and zinc carbon batteries Can be disposed in the trash.
- Think about recycling before you use anything. For example, use old newspaper to wrap things for the mail instead of bubble wrap. Use a reusable tape dispenser, and use paper clips instead of staples.
- Are you receiving catalogues you never order from? Call the company and request to be removed from their list.
- Christmas is 4 months away - plan ahead to recycle if you use cut trees. Several goat farms in Connecticut accept donated trees for their goats to snack on! Farm locations will be provided in December.
- The Rocky Hill Recycling Center reports that NO BLACK PLASTIC can be recycled regardless of stamped code. Black plastic is commonly used for hot take out food.

Thanks, The Green Team

Dedication of Neal Cox Memorial Bench



August 5 was a solemn, yet celebratory, day for several members of the Wethersfield-Rocky Hill Rotary Club as they gathered together in front of the historic Rocky Hill Congregational Church to unveil a bench they purchased in memory of Neal W. Cox, Jr., who passed away last year.

A former Rotary club member and officer, Cox joined Rotary in 1967 and rose through the ranks to become Governor of District 7890 for 1992-93. He had also served as a Rotary volunteer going overseas to developing countries as a consultant in the foundry industry, countries including Morocco, the Ukraine, and Thailand.

Rotarians felt it was fitting to place a memorial on site at the church where Cox was an active worshipper and served as a trustee. Following a private prayer service on the church grounds for family members and friends conducted by church pastor, the Rev. Nada Sellers, Rotarians removed the red satin cloth where they had put inspirational stones that all those in attendance could place around the bench. Cox's children spoke about their father's love for all things Rotary and how he devoted his time to the three most precious things in life: family, church and Rotary.

I, personally, as the district's Assistant Governor assigned to the Wethersfield-Rocky Hill club, commend Club President Kim Beale and her members who worked hard to raise funds for this memorial project. What better tribute to Cox than to welcome someone to "Come Sit With Me" and reflect on the many ways we all can adhere to the Rotary theme of Serve to Change Lives.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

01	Marge Murk	17	Phyllis Carlo
02	Michael Fitzgerald	18	Neal Jensen
02	Maya McNally	19	Lori Benito
03	Carolyn Taylor	20	Gabrielle Pierson
03	Tom Fulda	21	Sandra Gau
03	Phyllis Wilkey	22	Gayle McGowan
04	Jared Maynard	23	Steven Sudell
04	Liz Pulling	24	Michele Jokl
05	Frank Chatfield	24	Christina Peterson
07	Doretta Andonucci	25	Al Diaz
08	Mollie Engel	26	Caralyn Andonucci
11	Katherine Flynn	26	Diane Bengston
12	James Rolfe	28	Kirsten Timrud
15	Gail Walker	29	George Moore III
		29	Eric Jokl

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

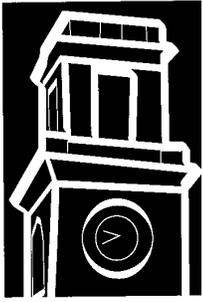
Heather and Bill Collins ~ September 4

Rich & Mary Pawlich-Pagliccio ~ September 7

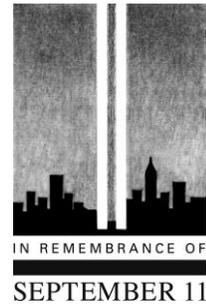
Jay and Ruth Jensen ~ September 10, 1971

Sarah and Jim DeGiovanni ~September 12, 1981

Dave and Bobbie Hawkins ~ September 24, 1960



WORSHIP SCHEDULE
Sunday Morning Worship
 10:00 a.m. in Sanctuary & Zoom



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
			1
5 Communion Sunday 10am Worship <i>Chapin Hall</i>	6 Labor Day OFFICE CLOSED	7 Little Scholars Preschool begins->	8 5pm Worship Ministry Mtg on zoom Choir Rehearsal
12 Rally Day! 10am Worship Sanctuary w/zoom	13 7pm Outreach & Witness Ministry Mtg on zoom	14	15 October newsletter articles due Choir Rehearsal
19 10am Worship Sanctuary w/zoom	20	21	22 Choir Rehearsal
26 10am Worship Sanctuary w/zoom Golf Tournament	27	28	29 Choir Rehearsal



RALLY DAY
 SUNDAY SEPT 12!



goodbye, august

hello, september

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
2	3	4
9	10	11
16	17 Potluck dinner	18 9:30am FoodShare Walk
23	24	25
30		



JOIN US SUNDAYS AT 10:00 AM FOR WORSHIP – In the Sanctuary and via Zoom

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.

ROCKY HILL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
 805 Old Main Street, Rocky Hill CT 06067