

ROCKY HILL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Established 1727 ~ An Open and Affirming Community



Photo by Timothy Kolczak on Unsplash.com

March 8, 2020 ~ 10:00 a.m.
Second Sunday of Lent



WELCOME! We extend a special greeting to our guests; our service is enriched by your presence. Nursery care is offered during worship downstairs in Room 4. Hearing devices are available for worship; an usher will be glad to assist you when you ask.

Please join us for fellowship time after worship in Chapin Hall, which is located downstairs. The Welcome Table in Chapin Hall offers information about the church; someone will be glad to answer your questions.

~ORDER OF WORSHIP~

Quote for Reflection:

Finding your place in the world is more than just finding something “good” to do with your time and energy... It evolves, requiring an ongoing conversation between your body, soul, community of friends, loved ones, those you serve and the Spirit... Along the way, the temptation to do the wrong good is one of the greatest gifts you can receive, as it continually challenges you to discern between the good you are *called* to do, and the good you are specifically *not called* to do...

- Eric Elnes in *Gifts of the Dark Wood*

We usually know what we can do, but temptation shows us who we are.

- Thomas a Kempis

PRELUDE Voluntary on Jefferson Missouri Harmony, setting by Dale Wood

INTROIT Forty Days and Forty Nights
The Choir

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP Randy Pulling

Leader Temptation surrounds us at every turn, inviting us to take just a little more:

People **More food, more money, more power, more life!**

Leader “What could it hurt?” we hear, on television, from friends, in our own souls:

People **More suffering, more hunger, more need, more fear, more anger.**

Leader So we gather today in worship to hear the consequences of “more”:

People **And to celebrate that we do not need “more”
when we have everything in Christ.**

Leader Beloved of God, let us drink deeply from the wellspring of God’s Spirit –

The Unexpected Love - which has all we need to live fully,
love deeply, and serve faithfully.

ALL ***Thanks be to God!***

***OPENING HYMN** Softly and Tenderly Chalice #348

please rise in body or in spirit, **Bold denotes unison response*

INVOCATION and the Lord's Prayer *(responsively, people in bold)*

L O God our Creator, your kindness has given us a new morning.
Help us to leave yesterday,
not be anxious about tomorrow,
and appreciate the unique gift of today.

All **Open us to the movement of your Holy Spirit**
that we may desire to bring new order, new possibility,
and new hope in this land,
and new life in the depths of our being.
We ask this in the name of Jesus, who taught to pray like this...
Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever.
Amen.

*Sung Response

All is Wonder

Trisha Watts

Cm Fm/Ab Fm7 G

In this mo - ment, in this place, all is won - der, all is grace.

Cm Ab Bb Cm

In this mo - ment, in this place, we are one.
(si - lence waits.)

Sharing the Peace of Christ

You are invited to share a sign of the reconciling peace of Christ with those around you with a handshake, an embrace, or a greeting comfortable to you. **In light of medical instructions regarding the new virus**, you might consider a greeting using your elbows, or putting your hands together as in prayer toward your neighbor, acknowledging the presence of God in each and every person.

Song for Children:

We Will Keep a Place For You

John Corrado

(Children are invited to depart for Church School)

The image shows three staves of musical notation in treble clef, key of D major (two sharps), and common time (C). The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are written below the notes.

We will keep a place for you where - ev - er you may go.
We'll sus-tain this home of faith and love you've come to know. Go in peace, bring
hope to hearts that yearn. We will keep a place for you 'till you re-turn.

ANTHEM

Jesus, The Very Thought of Thee

Chant Mode I, arr. Arlene Clarke

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7 ~ Matthew 4:1-11

SERMON

“The Gift of Temptation”

Rev. Nada Sellers

***HYMN**

Where He Leads Me

Chalice #346

OFFERING OF GIFTS

After the ushers receive the offering, they will collect blue prayer request cards. For those who have already given their offering, Giving Cards are available in your pew so that all may participate in the act of the offering.

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory Solo

Jesus Paid it All
Gail Hall, clarinet

John Grape, arr. Richard Nichols

*The Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;

Praise God for all that love has done; Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen.

Prayer of Dedication *(together)*

God of all good gifts,
May these gifts indicate our gratitude for our many blessings.
May the spiritual nourishment we receive today
strengthen us for continued service. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Sharing Our Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

*Sung Response

Come, O Lord, and Set Us Free

John Bell

Sing and repeat – twice total

Come, O Lord, and set us free; give your peo - ple peace. _____

9
Come, O Lord, and set us free; Come, Lord Je - sus, come. _____

BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

POSTLUDE



*Today's Altar Flowers are given by Marsha and Bill Hoffman
In Loving Memory of all Our Dear Ones.*

The Tower is dedicated this week to Betty Sieniuc by Gail and Natalie Tine

THANK YOU to our worship participants today:

Ministers	You, the people of God
Pastor	Rev. Nada Sellers
Liturgist	Randy Pulling
Minister of Music	Mary DeLiberio
Minister for Children/Youth	Georgette Huie
Ushers	Steph Heneghan, Marge Murk, Steve Smith
Greeter	Joan Tennyson
Hospitality	Sue VanNess, Cheryl Hummel



We'd like to stay in touch with you! Here's how...Please include your full address, phone number and email as you sign our friendship registration pads.

If you have a prayer request you would like read aloud for today's prayers, please fill out one of the prayer cards found in the friendship registration pads (your name is optional) and be prepared to pass it to the aisles at the time of the offering, when the cards will be collected. If you have announcements, please write them down and give them to the ushers or pastor prior to worship.

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Where He Leads Me – Words E.W. Blandy Music John S. Norris 1890. Chalice Hymnal

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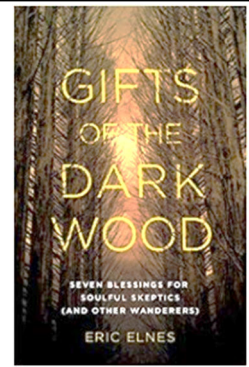
LENTEN SECOND HOUR DISCUSSION SERIES

Sunday March 1 – Sunday March 29

Held every Sunday after worship at 11:30am in the Chapel

Rev. Nada Sellers will offer a Second Hour discussion series that will relate to the sermon series she will share during Lenten Worship.

She will be using the book: Gifts of the Dark Wood; Seven Blessings for Soulful Skeptics (And Other Wanderers), by Rev. Eric Elnes, Ph.D.



Elnes is a UCC pastor, author, speaker and host of Darkwood Brew, an amazing online spiritual gathering place for exploring aspects of Christian faith. We will be reflecting about how times of bewilderment in Christian spirituality can yield insight; how getting lost might even be part of helping us find our way. We'll plan to gather in the Chapel starting at 11:30am each Sunday of Lent – some books will be available for purchase from the office and they are widely available for on-line ordering as well. The gathering will include a light soup lunch in the Chapel for all who participate – crockpots of soup!



Date	Soup - meat	Soup -veggie & gluten free	Salad	Bread
March 8	Deb C.	Stephanie	Mary Dean	Joan T.
March 15	Hiliare	Stephanie	Suzanne T	
March 22	Ruth F.	Nada		
March 29		Hiliare		



BRING IN A CROSS FOR DISPLAY DURING LENT

The display case in the hallway outside of the office will be used to display crosses for the Lenten and Easter season. Please, bring in any you would like to loan for the next couple months. Be sure they are marked so they can be returned to you. Joan Tennyson will be arranging them with her usual artistry. They can be left in the office.

March 8th Information Session

This morning we held a RHCC information session – *Who We Are and What We Believe* – in the Fiorilli Room. This session was given for anyone interested in more information about our church – who we are, our vision/mission, our governance and other interesting facts about us. If you are interested and were unable to attend, please see Pastor Nada or Deb Copes during coffee hour for more information. As we say each and every Sunday, all are welcome here.



March 15 New Member Sunday

We will be welcoming new members next Sunday, March 15, during our service. We are thrilled to hear from folks who are interested in joining our church. If we have not heard from you and if you are considering joining, please let Pastor Nada know. We would also welcome talking to you individually and answering any questions you may have about our community of faith.

CALL TO THE ANNUAL BUDGET AND ELECTIONS MEETING

Sunday, March 22, 2020

The Budget and Elections Meeting of the Rocky Hill Congregational Church, United Church of Christ is called for Sunday, March 22, 2020 immediately following worship in the sanctuary for the following items of business:

1. Presentation and approval of the proposed budget for the fiscal year beginning May 1, 2020,
2. Ratification of the recommendations of the Nominating Committee for Officers, Core Ministries, and Elected Committees for terms commencing on May 1, 2020, and
3. To conduct any additional business proper to come before the congregation.

Respectfully submitted, Hilaire Leavitt, Clerk



Budget &
Congregational
Meeting

Dear Friends:

We are sad to announce that our beloved Minister of Music, Mary DeLiberio, has decided that the time has come to retire. Mary would like a little more time to smell the roses, spend more time with her children and grandchildren, (and maybe even a bit more time at the beach)! Mary has been with us for almost eight years, leading the adult choir, the bell choir, drum choir, the children's choir and organizing and leading our services of Nine Lessons and Carols during that entire period, as well as a number of special services and concerts.

Mary selected a wonderful variety of music and engaged us in vocal workshops and training to continue to raise the bar of excellence for worship. Mary has let us know that she is happy and willing to stay through Easter (for which we are MOST grateful) and most probably until June 21. While it may be true that "all good things must come to an end," and we will miss Mary more than she even realizes, we also know that we will continue to move forward to ascertain our music leadership needs and seek to fill whatever needs emerge from that process. In the meantime, we may retain a temporary replacement to span the period of our discernment and search process. All will be communicated to you as it is revealed.

Mary was very clear with us when she arrived that she felt called to come to Rocky Hill Congregational Church and that this was a ministry opportunity for her. One of her great strengths, in addition to her desire for excellence, is her ability to select choir music each Sunday that reinforces the biblical text and message, as she deeply believes that music in church is not just entertainment, but an integral part of worship. We will, of course, have a celebration of her time with us before she leaves.

We will miss Mary deeply, and we hope that you all join with us in wishing her well and celebrating her time with us.

Sincerely,
Marsha Hoffman, Moderator
Rev. Nada Sellers, Pastor



Remember or honor loved ones with Easter Flowers. The flowers will adorn the sanctuary for worship on Easter Sunday, April 12. Flowers will include: Easter Lily, Hyacinth, or Tulips. Order forms are available in Chapin Hall. Orders will be due **by March 31st**. Questions? See Bobbie Hawkins or Kim Burghoff after worship.

From the RHCC Green Team:



Did you know Rocky Hill Congregational Church is taking steps toward becoming a more energy efficient and environmentally friendly church. We have a Green Team, we have preached an environmental sermon, have a green column in Church Mouse, and recycle paper/plastic. We may be doing more that we are not aware of. We would like to take further steps to becoming more environmentally friendly/energy efficient and there are a number of action steps that can be done in order to be recognized a “Green Congregation.” If you would like to help out, know how we are green/energy efficient, or want to share what your ministry might be doing already, please contact us elaines7963@yahoo.com or gtine@cox.net. Thanks, Elaine Sellenberg and Gail Tine.

GREEN TIPS

During Lent commit to adding and maintaining at least one green lifestyle item to your life:

- Buy local. Your support of small businesses will eliminate the packing and supplies that shipping online purchases requires.
- Cars - fill under inflated tires and remove extra weight from trunk.
- Water -Turn off the tap water when you brush your teeth. This can save up to 200 gallons of water per month.
- Use the car wash -while it may seem like the greener option to wash your car in your driveway, it’s actually one of the most environmentally unfriendly things you can do.

The water that runs off your car — usually loaded with gasoline, oil and exhaust residue — goes straight into storm drains, eventually making its way into rivers, streams and wetlands, where it damages the ecosystem. However, commercial car washes are required by law to drain their wastewater into sewer systems, where it gets treated before being sent back into our waterways.

Young Mothers’ group continues monthly gatherings

If you know of any young mothers who could use a break now and then, a time to be with other moms and their children, then let them know of this social group which meets once a month. The next date is tentatively set for Thursday, March 19, from 5:30pm – 6:45pm. A gluten-free vegetarian dinner is always served. Older moms are welcome too. Please just let Georgette know if you are coming for dinner.



Thanks to all who are helping with the coffee hours! Gathering for fellowship after worship is what fills our hearts but a few snacks, juice and coffee helps too! Please check the signup sheet on the board in Chapin Hall under Congregational Care to sign up to help on a Sunday.

SCRIP-SURE



What is it? Scrip-sure is a **fundraising program** for our church, which allows the regular shopping we do at a variety of retailers to generate income for the church. *How?* Participating retailers sell gift certificates or gift cards to our church at a discount. Church members buy the certificates for full face value and redeem them for full face value, and our church keeps the difference as revenue. Everybody wins! The retailers get our business, and our church gets a regular source of revenue that involves nothing other than what we would all be doing anyway – shopping/spending at grocery stores, drugstores, restaurants, gas stations, and many other businesses, including online retailers.

We have most of the usual cards in inventory for immediate purchase this morning. Here is a partial list of cards typically available:

- Coffee: Dunkin Donuts, Starbucks
- Gas: Exxon/Mobil
- Pharmacy: CVS, Walgreens
- Fast food: Burger King, Boston Market, Chipotle, McDonalds, Panera, Subway, Wendy's.
- Restaurants: Bonefish Grill, Outback Steakhouse, Red Lobster
- Shopping: Ace Hardware, Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Bed Bath & Beyond, Home Depot, Jo-Ann Fabrics, Kohl's, iTunes, L.L. Bean, Lowes, Michaels, Target, Total Wine, Walmart.
- Grocery: ShopRite, Big Y, Stop & Shop, Trader Joe's, WholeFoods, Westside Market.

The next order for physical cards not stocked in inventory will be placed on **March 22** (with delivery on March 29). E-cards may be ordered anytime. A complete listing of all retailers available through our program can be picked up at the scrip table in Chapin Hall.

Did you know that you can donate to the Rocky Hill Food Pantry and "Covenant-to-Care for Children" through our scrip program? Your cash/check donations are used to buy gift cards to local groceries (food pantry) or other retail stores (CC). For these donations, we do not retain any profit, so a \$1.00 donation effectively buys about \$1.07 in groceries or clothing.

Think SCRIP!

THIS WEEK AT RHCC



March 8

9:00am Information Session
10:00am Worship
9:30am Childcare
10:00am Church School
11:00am Coffee Hour
11:30am 2nd Hour Lenten Series
5:00pm Confirmation Class

Sunday

Fiorilli
Sanctuary
Room 4
Rms 24,25,26
Chapin Hall
Chapel
Room 2

March 9

Preschool Closed
7:00pm Women's AA

Monday

Room 6

March 10

7:00pm Council

Tuesday

Fiorilli

March 11

9:00am Breakfast Club
9:00am Preschool Program
6:00pm Bell Choir
7:30pm Choir

Wednesday

Bob's Coffee Shop
Chapin Hall
Choir Room
Choir Room

March 12

7:00pm Sons of Italy
7:30pm Men's AA

Thursday

Fiorilli
Chapin Hall

March 13

Office closed on Fridays

Friday



8	Kevin Sudell
9	Colleen Schultz
9	Jason Hall
10	Jennifer Knight
11	Sharon Calvo
11	Ryan Tuohy
11	Cheryl Robbins
12	Tim Dostie
12	Todd Doten
12	Suzanne Speers
13	Jackie Little
14	David Bell

Pastor Nada's Office Hours:

Monday 9:30am–3:30pm

Tuesday 10:00am – 12:00pm

Wednesday 3:00pm – 5:00pm



The One Great Hour Of Sharing offering is one of the four special missions offerings of the United Church of Christ (UCC). This Lenten offering supports the disaster, refugee and development ministries of the UCC. Their positive message is "Invest in Futures". One Great Hour of Sharing is but one concrete way we can show that we can reach out beyond what we can see and help brothers and sisters in

Rocky Hill Congregational Church, United Church of Christ

805 Old Main Street, Rocky Hill, CT 06067

Church Office: office@rhccucc.org / 860 529-4167

Church Website: www.RockyHillUCC.org

Visit us on Facebook & Instagram at: [RHCCUCC](#)

Office Hours: Open Monday – Thursday 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Friday – Closed

Open and Affirming Statement

Because we believe that all people are created in God's image and thus are blessed and loved equally by God, and because love is a unifying and strengthening force within our Christian Faith, we, the members of the Rocky Hill Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, hereby declare ourselves an Open and Affirming Christian community, actively expressing Jesus' inclusive embrace of all people.

We welcome all who seek to follow Jesus, including persons of every age, gender, race, national origin, faith background, marital status and family structure, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, mental and physical ability, economic and social status, and educational background, to share in the life, leadership, ministry, fellowship, worship, sacraments, responsibilities, blessings and joys of our church family.

Jesus teaches us to welcome all God's children into God's covenantal community. As we grow together in faith and love, we will strive to celebrate the diversity in which God has created us.

Approved by congregational vote June 2009

Ministry Team

Ministers:	All the members of the church	
Pastor:	Rev. Nada Sellers	nsellers@rhccucc.org
Minister for Children & Youth:	Georgette Huie	ghuie@rhccucc.org
Minister of Music:	Mary DeLibero	mary@rhccucc.org
Office Manager:	Theresa E. Cleary	office@rhccucc.org
Webmaster:	Steve Smith	admin@rhccucc.org

WEATHER CANCELLATION POLICY - In the event of bad winter weather predicted for a Sunday morning, our priority is to ensure the safety of our church members & friends. If worship is canceled, a notice will be posted Saturday evening or early Sunday morning on the following media outlets:

- Channel 3 WFSB-TV
- Our facebook page – facebook.com/rhccucc
- Our website – RockyHillUCC.org