

# ROCKY HILL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

*Established 1727 ~ An Open and Affirming Community*



Photo by [Arisa Chattasa](#) on [Unsplash](#)

**March 15, 2020 ~ 10:00 a.m.**

**Third Sunday of Lent**

**New Member Sunday**



**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~

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## Quotes for Reflection:

Oh, feed me this day, Holy Spirit, with  
the fragrance of the fields and the  
freshness of the oceans which you have  
made, and help me to hear and to hold  
in all dearness those exacting and wonderful  
words of our Lord Christ Jesus, saying:  
*Follow me.*

- Mary Oliver, *Six Recognitions...* in *Devotions*

For those who want to save their life will lose it,  
and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.

- Jesus, Matthew 16:25

## PRELUDE

Chanson Triste  
Dave Hall, cello

Tschaikowsky

## INTROIT

Jesus Calls Us

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## \*CALL TO WORSHIP *(Based on Ps 95)*

Sue Chatfield

L O come, let us sing to our GOD;  
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

**P Let us come into God's presence with thanksgiving,  
singing joyful songs of praise!**

Our God is great, Sovereign above all powers and principalities.

**The sea, the depths of the earth, the heights of the mountains,  
indeed all of creation were made by God and belong to God.**

O come, let us worship and bow down,  
let us kneel before the HOLY ONE, our Maker!

**Yes! God is our God, and we are God's people:  
O that today we would listen for the Lord's voice!**

Let us not harden our hearts, as they did in the wilderness,

**When our ancestors tested our Liberator,  
requiring proof of God's faithfulness,  
even though they had witnessed miracles!**

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

For forty years God contended with that generation and said,  
"They are a people whose hearts go astray, and they do not regard my  
ways."

**Today, Holy One, we are remembering their struggles.  
Today, we re-dedicate our hearts to you  
and strain our ears to hear your voice.  
Speak now, Still-Speaking God, for we are listening!**

**\*OPENING HYMN**

Tu Has Venido a la Orilla  
Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore

**CHALICE (342)**

## INVOCATION and the Lord's Prayer *(together)*

Heavenly Parent, who created us and all that is,  
We gather into your sanctuary to be reminded of your loving  
presence in our lives.  
With Jesus, our Teacher and Redeemer,  
we listen to hear again Christ's call to follow him  
in the ways of mercy and kindness and love.  
Inspired by the Spirit-Wind,  
let us experience your revealing power and your grace.  
We ask this in the name of Jesus, who taught us  
to pray like this, saying...  
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

*Twice through, second time with alternate words for last phrase.*

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 (si - are lence one. waits.)

## RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

*See Bulletin Insert*

*Julie Burns*  
*Sean Burns*  
*MaryAnn Libera*  
*Suzanne Thompson*

## Greeting our New Members and 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, a “fist bump” or putting your hands together as in prayer toward your neighbor, acknowledging the presence of God in each and every person.*

### A Message for All Ages

Georgette Huie

### Song for Children:

We Will Keep a Place For You

John Corrado

*(Children are invited to depart for Church School)*



### ANTHEM

Agnus Dei  
Choir

Percy Hall

### SCRIPTURE READINGS

Proverbs 9:9-10  
Matthew 16:24-26

### SERMON

“The Gift of Emptiness”

Rev. Nada Sellers

### \*HYMN

How Lovely Is Your Dwelling

NCH #600

## 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 Anthem

Love Which Understands      Banchory, arr. John Bell  
Choir, Michael Andonucci, chimes

#### \*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)*

Great Provider, bless these offerings  
and multiply them according to your will.  
May they restore hope and wholeness  
to those who benefit from them.  
In Christ's name, we pray. 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.\_\_\_\_  
Come, O Lord, and set us free; Come, Lord Je - sus, come.\_\_\_\_

## BENEDICTION

## BENEDICTION RESPONSE

## POSTLUDE

O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High

Deo Gracias, setting by Carl Schalk

THANK YOU to our worship participants today:

Ministers	You, the people of God
Pastor	Rev. Nada Sellers
Liturgist	Sue Chatfield
Minister of Music	Mary DeLiberio
Minister for Children/Youth	Georgette Huie
Ushers	Steve Ware
Greeter	Joan Tennyson
Hospitality	Ruth Jensen, Nancy Harlow



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.

Portions of service adapted from materials by Rev. Dr. Renee C. Jackson, Minister for Ministerial Formation, UCC  
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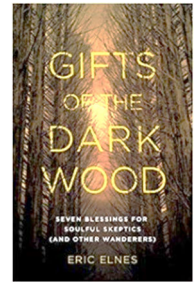
**Come, O Lord, and Set us Free** - John Bell. Words and Music - ©2008 Iona Community & WGRG1 Service  
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## LENTEN SECOND HOUR DISCUSSION SERIES

Sunday March 1 – Sunday March 29

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



Rev. Nada Sellers is facilitating a Second Hour discussion series related to the sermon series she is offering during Sunday Worship in Lent. Each “gift” explored during worship is our topic for discussion in the gathering that follows. We are 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. Several copies of the book will be available for purchase from the office and they are widely available for on-line ordering and perhaps your local library 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 15	Hiliare	Stephanie	Suzanne T	
March 22	Ruth F.	Hiliare		
March 29		Nada		

### 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 15 New Member Sunday**

Today we will welcome these new members during our service.  
We are thrilled that they are interested in joining our church!

**Suzanne Thompson:** Suzanne has done a few things besides being Liz Reed-Swale's Mom. After 62 years in Northeast Connecticut and a career in Information Technology, she retired with her husband (Liz's stepfather) to southwest New Mexico eleven years ago. They enjoyed life there at the edge of the desert, until her husband became ill. After Dick died, she spent a year selling-up and arranging to move to Rocky Hill to be near Liz and her family. She immediately came to church and looked into joining the choir. During retirement she has enjoyed volunteering with a New Mexico thrift store and doing their bookkeeping. Currently she is volunteering with AARP Tax Counselors in Rocky Hill. When weather permits, you might find her hiking the trails at Dividend Pond or the Meadows. She is also an avid reader -- no TV, lots of books!

**Sean, Julie & Tommy Burns:** Julie and Sean are both from West Hartford, They graduated high school together in '99 but never dated until years later. Julie went to Georgetown and is an RN. She currently works at Manchester High School but has spent most of her career working in the NICU, including locally at CCMC (and once upon a time, UConn). She is studying for her DNP (doctor of nursing practice) at Regis College with about a year and a half to go to graduation. Sean went to school in Baltimore. Graduated with a BA in Communications from Loyola University and then got a masters in liberal arts at Johns Hopkins (yes that's a thing). He works at TicketNetwork in South Windsor as their director of Communications. Prior life he was a sports reporter at a couple newspapers and magazines in Maryland. Their hobbies currently are mostly keeping up with work and Tommy, but we also both like trying to stay fit (Sean is attempting a marathon in April and regretting it with every long run) and are in our second year of being season ticket holders for UConn men's hoops. They like going to concerts when time allows too, and attempt to get out to restaurants when possible despite Tommy being super picky about food.

**MaryAnn Libera** - MaryAnn went to Middlesex community college and then attended Central CT University. Before retiring, she worked as an English tutor at Middlesex Community college for 30 years. MaryAnn loves to garden – she has 8 perennial gardens in her yard. She also knits, does pottery, reads, sews and watches her grandchildren. In fact, she is teaching her grandchildren how to quilt! MaryAnn and her husband love to travel and go antiquing. In the summer, they vacation in Rhode Island quite a bit. They love spending time with their children and grandchildren.

## 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



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 31<sup>st</sup>**. Questions? See Bobbie Hawkins or Kim Burghoff after worship.

### STAY IN TOUCH WITH US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

[www.facebook.com/rhccucc](https://www.facebook.com/rhccucc)

<https://www.instagram.com/rhcc>

Visit our website:

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

#### SOCIAL MEDIA



APRIL NEWSLETTER – ARTICLES DUE BY MARCH 18<sup>TH</sup>! Please submit your article to [office@rhccucc.org](mailto:office@rhccucc.org) The newsletter will be printed on March 26. The mailing will be on Monday, March 30<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am in the Fiorilli Room. All are welcome.

## 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](mailto:elaines7963@yahoo.com) or [gtine@cox.net](mailto: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:*

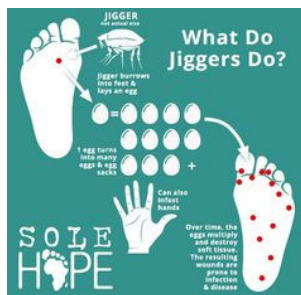
- Buy local. Your support of small businesses will eliminate the packing and supplies that shipping online purchases requires.
- Cars - fill under inflated tires and remove extra weight from trunk.
- Water -Turn off the tap water when you brush your teeth. This can save up to 200 gallons of water per 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.*



## Want to Make a Difference?

### Move Your Feet and Join us for a Sole Hope Shoe Party!

**Sunday, April 5, 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. in Chapin Hall**

Rocky Hill Congregational Church, 805 Old Main Street, Rocky Hill, CT.

*Sponsored by Faith Formation Ministry Team*

We will start with a simple (provided) meal of soup, salad, and bread, along with mac & cheese for the kids. If anyone cares to make a traditional Ugandan dish, please feel free to bring it. We will then use patterns provided by Sole Hope to cut out pieces from our old jeans that will be turned into shoes by Sole Hope shoemakers in Uganda.

#### What to bring:

1. One or two pairs of old jeans -adult sized, regular denim is recommended. Denim with stretch is not recommended. If children want to donate their jeans, we will find a use for them.
2. Fabric scissors, if you have or can borrow some.
3. Sole Hope asks that with each pair of shoe tops, we donate \$10, which covers the costs of completing the shoes and transporting them to the children who will wear them. We will take a free will offering at the Shoe Party to help with this donation and then cover the rest from church funds.

Since the scissors will be sharp, we will ask the children to help assemble Soul Hope Care Kits, similar to First Aid kits, which will also be shipped to Uganda.

Further info can be found at [www.solehope.org](http://www.solehope.org).



## 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 15

10:00am Worship  
9:30am Childcare  
10:00am Church School  
11:00am Coffee Hour  
11:30am 2<sup>nd</sup> Hour Lenten Series  
5:00pm Confirmation Class

### March 16

*Office closed this week*

7:00pm Bonsai Group  
7:00pm Women's AA

### March 17

7:00pm Cedar Hollow

### March 18

6:30pm LSP Board  
6:00pm Bell Choir  
7:30pm Choir

### March 19

5:00pm Mother's Group  
7:30pm Men's AA

### March 20

### March 20

RHCC member event  
10:00am ACOA

### Sunday

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

### Monday

Chapin Hall  
Room 6

### Tuesday

Fiorilli

### Wednesday

Fiorilli  
Choir Loft  
Choir Room

### Thursday

Room 6  
Chapin Hall

### Friday

### Saturday

Fiorilli/Parlor  
Chapin Hall

## March



17	Kathryn Morgan
20	Susan VanNess
20	Charlotte Reed-Swale
20	Elaine Somes
21	Ryan Bengston
22	Gladys Carpenter
23	Marilyn Van Doran
24	Bea Donahue
24	Sarah Mosure
26	Todd Pender
27	Richard Sweezy, Jr
28	Gail Fu
28	Nicole Graham
29	Kim Burghoff
30	Jayson Veley
31	Mark Walworth
31	Pat Hughes-Walworth

#### **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 need worldwide. This offering will be collected on **Sunday March 22, 2020.**



Rocky Hill Congregational Church, United Church of Christ  
805 Old Main Street, Rocky Hill, CT 06067

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

Church Website: [www.RockyHillUCC.org](http://www.RockyHillUCC.org)

Visit us on Facebook & Instagram at: [RHCCUCC](https://www.facebook.com/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	<a href="mailto:nsellers@rhccucc.org">nsellers@rhccucc.org</a>
Minister for Children & Youth:	Georgette Huie	<a href="mailto:ghuie@rhccucc.org">ghuie@rhccucc.org</a>
Minister of Music:	Mary DeLibero	<a href="mailto:mary@rhccucc.org">mary@rhccucc.org</a>
Office Manager:	Theresa E. Cleary	<a href="mailto:office@rhccucc.org">office@rhccucc.org</a>
Webmaster:	Steve Smith	<a href="mailto:admin@rhccucc.org">admin@rhccucc.org</a>



## REMEMBER OR HONOR LOVED ONES WITH EASTER FLOWERS



The flowers will adorn the sanctuary for worship on  
**Easter Sunday, April 12**

The three choices this year are:  
Easter Lily in 6-inch pot (\$12.00)  
Hyacinth 6-inch pot (\$8.00)  
Tulip 6-inch pot (\$8.00)

**The Deadline for orders is Tuesday, March 31**

Please fill out the information below

Given by: \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Dedication ("in loving memory of...", "in honor of...", etc.):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

	<u>Number ordered</u>		<u>Dollar Amount</u>
Lily	_____	x\$12.00 =	_____
Hyacinth	_____	x \$8.00 =	_____
Tulip	_____	x \$8.00 =	_____

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please select:

☐ I will pick up my plant after worship on Easter Sunday, April 12.

☐ The flowers may remain in church to decorate the sanctuary

Make your checks payable to: Rocky Hill Congregational Church with "Easter flowers" in memo line and mail to: Kim Burghoff, 204 Gray Fox Lane, Rocky Hill CT 06067. You may call Kim with questions at 860 563-3287.