

**The Rocky Hill Congregational Church, United Church of Christ,
Senior Pastor Search Committee
is pleased to present**



The Rev. Donna Kathryn Manocchio

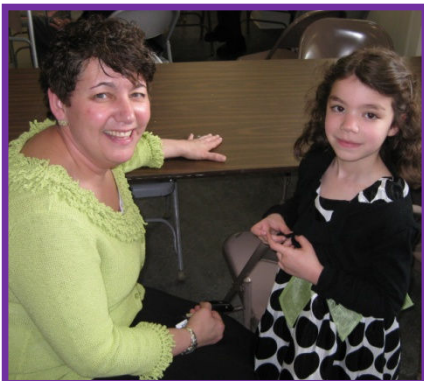
Since Donna has served among us these last six years as our Associate Pastor, many of us already know parts of her story and the experiences that have led her, as she says quoting from the Book of Esther, “to be called for such a time as this.” Donna was born in Hartford and grew up in neighboring Wethersfield, CT. Donna was raised in the church – the Roman Catholic Church. From a young age, she knew both the presence of God in worship and in a community of faith. Throughout the years, she learned and responded to the call to share God’s love with her family, her community, and the world – especially those most in need.

After marrying David Lewis and giving birth to their first child, Kathryn, Donna and her family first joined a Methodist church and then Asylum Hill Congregational Church, UCC. While at AHCC and after a time of deep discernment, Donna responded to the call to ordained ministry and began seminary on September 11, 2001. She spent three years making a weekly trip to Andover Newton Theological School for coursework.

While in seminary, Donna served as a chaplain at Avery Heights in Hartford, a student minister at AHCC and as Acting Christian Education Director at South Congregational Church in Hartford. Each of these settings allowed Donna to deepen her faith and further develop her gifts for ministry – teaching, preaching, worship, and pastoral care.

Donna was called as the Associate Minister of RHCC, UCC on May 2, 2004, and since that time she has been an active, engaged, and essential part of the pastoral staff. There is not

enough space here to list the many accomplishments that have marked Donna’s ministry and shaped us as a community of faith. She has walked with us in moments of joy and sorrow and in seasons of strength and vulnerability. She has preached God’s word with compassion, conviction, and connection to our daily lives.



Donna has encouraged and supported us in deepening our commitment to mission locally and nationally. She has broadened our understanding of interfaith communities and connections. She introduced us to new ways of worshipping God, including African drums and liturgical dance. She has journeyed with the young people in confirmation class, and led adult classes, programs and conversations. Over these last six years, and working with two Senior Pastors, Donna's presence, guidance, and leadership has been essential in many areas of church life.

But one only has to visit with Donna for a short while to feel the warmth, interest, and respect she has for every person, youngest to oldest. She is a woman of deep faith who finds great joy in the work of the church and sharing in that work with others.

Donna is an ardent reader and she loves theater and traveling. She relishes the time she spends with her family, whom we have also come to know over the last six years. Donna's husband, David Lewis and their two daughters, Kathryn and Rose, have shared their many gifts with us as church members, most especially in music and in the church school. David is a longtime employee of Aetna; Kathryn returns this fall as a junior at Lebanon Valley College, and Rose is ready to begin her junior year at Wethersfield High School. Together, the Manocchio-Lewis family enjoys many musical outings and vacationing and visiting friends and family around the country.



**Rose, Kathryn,
Donna and David,
2004**

**Rose, David and
Kathryn, 2010**



**Rose, David,
Donna and
Kathryn, 2010**

Dear friends,

It is an honor, privilege, and testimony to God's grace that I write to you as the candidate for Senior Pastor at Rocky Hill Congregational Church, United Church of Christ!

Over the last six years, it has been a joy and blessing to be in ministry with you as your Associate Pastor. My desire to continue the journey of faith and discipleship together as your Senior Pastor is the result of much prayer, conversation, and discernment. This desire also comes from knowing that RHCC is a church with many strengths and gifts. You are a people of faith, dedication, and love of the church and the wider community. RHCC is a church with a vision for the future and a church open to seeing how and where God will lead.

Dave, Kathryn, Rose and I look forward to candidating weekend, and as we gather for worship on September 12 in the historic sanctuary of RHCC, it will be – as it always is - a humbling and joyful task to preach the good news of Jesus Christ. The gospel passage for that Sunday focuses on Christ's "lost and found" parables and God's surprising and amazing grace. Together, we are invited to reflect on the meaning of this grace for our lives and for the life of the church.

Let us continue to ask for the Holy Spirit's guidance as we pray together in this time of discernment and decision.

*Peace,
Donna*