



The Reverend Nada Sellers, Pastor  
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 860-529-4167 Church office

# The Church Mouse

## December 2019 Newsletter

RHCC e-mail address – [office@rhccucc.org](mailto:office@rhccucc.org)

Website: [www.RockyHillucc.org](http://www.RockyHillucc.org)

Office Hours: 9:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m., Monday-Thursday, closed Friday

Childcare Available/Handicap Accessible

### Worship Services: Sunday at 10:00 a.m.



#### ADVENT & CHRISTMAS SEASON - WORSHIP & EVENTS



Sunday, December 1, 10am – Worship with Communion & Consecration of Pledges. 5:30pm – Family Advent Gathering & Potluck Dinner

Sunday December 8, 10:00am – Worship, March of the Toys

Sunday, December 8, 4:00pm – Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols

Wednesday, December 11, 6:00pm – Blue Christmas Service



Sunday, December 15, 10:00am – Worship,

Covenant to Care gifts due; Christmas Poinsettia Flower orders due

Sunday, December 15, 1:00pm – Cookie Walk/Sale

Saturday, December 21, 4:00pm – Youth Solstice Walk

Sunday, December 22, 10:00am Worship

Sunday, December 22, 1:30pm – Christmas Caroling to Homebound



Tuesday, December 24, 5pm & 11pm – Christmas Eve Worship Services!

*Gift-giving to those in need through Covenant to Care, Mitten Tree, Toy Drive and Diaper Drive, and our food pantry offering at Lessons & Carols.*



December 2019  
From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Friends: The boxes are finally starting to be emptied, and this freshly painted office is beginning to function more like a place to gather and to work, rather than the receiving department at a delivery business! Slowly but surely, I am settling into this wonderful space, which Steve Smith, Dave Sageman and Steve Ware have worked so hard to prepare for me. Thank you! Myke Halpin even found a clothes tree and put together a new desk chair for me, so when you stop by and need a place to stash your coat, I have just the right solution. I'm right inside the parking lot entry, up the steps and to the right, just past the elevator. Come by and check it out!



Speaking of getting started, the process of learning about our household of faith and the church itself - an organization which individually is undergoing its own unique seasons of change - will continue to be a big part of my focus over the next several months. I am looking forward to participation in the events and gatherings of the Advent and Christmas season, where you and I may be able to connect.

I am also beginning to set up continuing meetings staff as a team and individually, with each of our four employees, so I can learn how to collaborate most effectively in the administrative and ministry aspects of our life together. I have begun attending the meetings of our devoted Ministry Teams and related committees, and I anticipate getting together with Council members sooner than later. These are rich settings with much to consider, and I am grateful for the ongoing service being offered by the leaders of our church. Thank you!

I am planning to offer regular office hours, starting in the month of December and moving forward: These will be **Monday 10:00am to 3:00pm, Tuesday 9:00am to 12noon, and Wednesday 3:00pm to 5:00pm.** Outside of these ten hours each week, I will be in and around the office working on the many aspects of worship and special holiday services, helping staff with projects, as well as linking up with ministry groups, participating in various association and regional events, and visiting with people who aren't able to participate in church life due to health or schedule. I am always willing to arrange a separate appointment time, if another time is more suitable for you, just give the office a call first, so I'm not out and about when you plan to swing by.

Please feel free to get in touch with me directly, so that we can start to get acquainted. I am at: [nsellers@rhccucc.org](mailto:nsellers@rhccucc.org) or extension x203 at the church office, 860-529-4167.

The rest of my weekly schedule looks like this: **Thursday** is my main sermon writing and reading day, away from the office, and **Friday** is my sabbath day off. **Saturdays** are a family day as well as other church activities and preparations, and finally, **Sundays**, well, you know something about how that day often shapes up for me! Once the busier times of this season subside, I will be looking to contact those of you who may still be new to me.

Advent is a deeply meaningful season of new beginnings and profound endings; a time of growing expectations and gathering Light. Traditions will certainly guide us as we light candles in the advent wreath and sing of Christ's arrival, right up through Christmas Eve, and there will be some new and creative elements offered as well. Stay awake; watch for how God is leading us... I am praying that the energy and excitement you've extended in welcoming me, will also emanate outward as we share gifts, and greet friends and guests in the weeks to come. O come, O come, Emmanuel!

Fondly,  
**Pastor Nada**

Christmas Eve Worship  
Tuesday, December 24 at  
5pm & 11pm

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.  
Romans 15:13



## *Moderator's Moment*

We are one month into our new Reboot and going strong. Rev. Nada Sellers began her pastorate with us on November 2<sup>nd</sup> and things have been busy ever since. Nada generates energy in every setting and is working hard to get to know us and this is certainly a busy time of year to do that. Reboot Sunday appeared to be a great success. We were pleased to welcome familiar faces and all enjoyed the fellowship of chili lunch on a cold Sunday that felt like snow but never materialized. Someone mentioned that we should do that once a month but I have to admit that at the time of the comment I wasn't sure that was a good idea- maybe once a quarter. I hope that we continue to feel that kind of fellowship as we go forth in this new direction. I also can not wait to hear some of the testimonies that go with the reverse offering from the worship service as well.

The month of December is shaping up to be one of many opportunities for service and giving including gifts for the Veteran's Home, Warm Heart tree, March of Toys, Christmas Offering and then ending with Epiphany service with diaper collection. Please see further explanations elsewhere in the ChurchMouse. Lessons and Carols service is scheduled for December 8<sup>th</sup>, Blue Christmas Service December 11<sup>th</sup>, Christmas Caroling for Shut-ins for December 22<sup>nd</sup> in addition to our regular worship services.

As Nada mentioned during worship on the 17<sup>th</sup> there will be some gentle tweaks to worship as she becomes more familiar with "what we have done in the past" and interjects new ways for participation and meditation. Please bring any feedback to Council or to her so we can be sensitive to the pulse of the congregation going forward.

Wishes for a contemplative Advent season, blessed holidays and healthy New Year.

Marsha Hoffman, Moderator, RHCC Council

### **Congregational Care Ministry**



- Please, remember to sign up to help Inreach with coffee hours. There will be a sign-up sheet available.
- In addition, Lessons and Carols concert is in need of volunteers to set up the goodies for a reception after the music. (Music ministry will clean up.)
- Christmas Caroling group is hoping for lovely weather and many cheerful voices on Dec. 22nd in the afternoon to bring the sounds of the seasons to shut-ins in our community.
- Poinsettias will be delivered to church members who are unable to attend worship. There is an opportunity to sign up and bring a flower and a smile to someone during this season of joy.
- As always, please, let the church office know if someone is hospitalized or ill and in need of a cheerful note or visit.
- *Don Pagnucco, Wendy Ware, Steph Heneghan with questions or to sign up*

## How will your pledge contribute?



### **PREPARE THE WAY FOR THE LORD**

*We are called...*

*... to prepare  
the Way for God  
to come and use  
this Church.*

*We have a plan.*

*But we need  
your help.*

*What does it  
take?*

*Pledges are the primary way our Church funds all aspects of its work—from weekly worship, to disaster relief, to social justice initiatives in our own backyard and nationwide. Here are some of the initiatives your pledge will help fund in 2020:*

#### **\$180,000 for Congregational Worship**

From the hand-bell choir at Christmas, to the organ accompanying our weekly hymns, to our new pastor, to ongoing faith formation for our children, your pledge will enable the worship we rely on for spiritual nourishment throughout the year.

#### **\$8,500 in Direct Aid to Local Residents**

RHCC provides necessary funds for those in need in our own community. We partner with Covenant to Care to provide assistance to children served by DCF. We support the work of the Christian Activities Council in their fight against slumlords and exploitative housing in Hartford. We contribute to Operation Fuel to ensure that no one is without heat in our dangerous New England winters. Local veterans, soup kitchens, LGBTQ youth—the list of people who depend on your help is long.

#### **\$2500 for Childcare in Our Nursery**

This is the single most important factor in making our church accessible to young families. Our Safe Church Policy requires two adults in our nursery every week. Our congregation does not have the capacity to fulfill this requirement—but your pledge will ensure that we can retain the two childcare workers we recently hired!

#### **\$75,000: Office and Facilities**

To hear our pastor, we need a sound system; for our children to participate in faith formation, we need lights; for us to enjoy our beautiful building, we must maintain compliance with fire and other safety regulations. This requires substantial expenditures, but your pledge will allow us to keep and use our spiritual home week in and week out.

#### **\$12,000: Our Church's Wider Mission**

OCWM is the outreach initiative of the United Church of Christ. We support OCWM financially with a contribution from our pledges each year. The UCC provides advocacy training for social justice issues, gives scholarships for medical and theological students from developing nations, trains staff in ministry and in charitable organizations, and many other projects. Visit [www.ucc.org/ocwm](http://www.ucc.org/ocwm) to learn more about where this money goes.

#### **\$4,000: Other National and International Relief**

In addition to special collections taken for specific purposes throughout the year, your pledge will help provide assistance to marginalized communities across the nation and world, as well as disaster relief and meeting other needs. For example, this year, pledge money provided materials to create “Sole Care Kits” for shoes to help prevent crippling parasites in Uganda!

## Faith Formation Reflection



For my Doctor of Ministry studies at Hartford Seminary, I just finished reading a book called *The Soul of Money* by Lynne Twist. It is a life-enhancing, if not life-changing book and I highly recommend it to any and all. It is an easy read filled with stories and reflections from Twist's experience as a fundraiser extraordinaire and leader of the internationally known Hunger Project. In a nutshell, she begins by pointing out that those of us who live in money cultures (there are cultures which do not use currency), naturally wonder if we have enough money, and naturally want more. What this leads to is what she calls a scarcity mindset, which often leads to negative things. Instead, she encourages a sufficiency mindset – the realization and acceptance of the fact that if we relaxed and thought about it, we'd see that we all possess a wealth of inner resources which when applied toward that which is true to our soul's calling, will result in amazing and positive things. It certainly feels different (and better, I think) to start out with the thought that what we have is good enough versus the thought that what we have is not enough.

Because children don't usually have large bank accounts, they often are dismissed as not being valuable resources. Instead, Twist shares this quote from Buckminster Fuller: "Remember, your children are your elders in universe time. They have come into a more complete, more evolved universe than you or I can know. We can only see that universe through their eyes." Indeed, many of us have already experienced how the young among us are more likely to be tolerant of human differences, or to care deeply about nature, and certainly to be fluent in the language of technology. Twist further reflects on how this changed her perspectives when thinking about her own children: "To listen to them newly was to affirm their natural instincts and honor their natural knowing, appreciating it such that it could expand and contribute...The legacy they needed from us was not money itself but a way of being that would enable them to be creative, resilient, and fully expressed in the world with whatever money or other resources flowed through their lives."

It was with great joy that Sandy Gau, Candy Smith, and I sat down with three children in church school and marveled as they each deployed their imaginations and creativity to take the random shapes we gave them and draw pictures incorporating those shapes. In no time at all, 5-year-old Tommy turned the letter "K" into a train, 9-year-old Anna turned a weird squiggle into a cat, and 9-year-old Charlotte turned her hole-punched paper into a stencil for creating colorful circles. Their natural instincts and resources were on full display. This activity was in support of the lesson on David and Goliath, where young David had to rely on his quick thinking and creativity to take down his foe.

I am hopeful that here at RHCC, we can be respecters of children, for they are the ones who will be inheriting the world we are leaving, a world which will demand of them confidence in their inner abilities, their creativity, and resiliency.

## Faith Formation News

Here is our upcoming faith formation schedule:



### Church School

The children will be learning about “David, the King.” They will recognize the stories of King David come from the Old Testament of the Bible;

- the Old Testament tells us about ordinary men and women who did extraordinary things with God’s help;
- King David is the same person as the harp-playing shepherd boy anointed by Samuel;
- David brought the ark of the covenant to Jerusalem as a symbol of God’s presence with the new nation;
- David trusted God and asked God to help him know how to lead the people of Israel;
- like King David, we need to ask for and follow God’s guidance;
- David made many mistakes. When he asked for forgiveness, God forgave him and continued to use David for God’s purposes;
- God forgives us and uses us, in spite of our mistakes, for God’s purposes;
- God is with us all the time.

### Youth Groups

If you have a child in 9th or 10th grade who has not been confirmed, and you/she/he is interested in being part of a confirmation class this year, please contact Georgette. No schedule has been set yet, but we will try to make it happen.

In the meantime, we will start to gear up for the UCC National Youth Event (NYE) scheduled for July 22-25, 2020 at Purdue University in Indiana. This will be a gathering of around 3,000 UCC youth from around the world – absolutely loved by Victoria, Brian, and Julia who attended in 2016. Not to be missed!

I will also be starting an online youth group – stay tuned for more info and an invitation.

*Georgette Huie*

*Join us as we*  
**Celebrate Advent**



### **Sunday, December 1, 5:30pm – 7pm Advent Family Night**

Join us for a pot-luck dinner, crafts, and a carol-sing, as during this season of Advent we wait in anticipation for the birth of

Jesus Christ. Bring a salad, a main dish, or a dessert. This is an intergenerational event for the entire church family and friends.





**Wednesday, December 11, at 6:00 p.m.**

Our Blue Christmas service is held to acknowledge that the holiday season is difficult for many who suffer from depression or who have experienced loss. December is the darkest month of the year, and the coinciding with a joyous holiday season can be difficult. This will be a meditative service of music, prayer and readings, held in the Chapel.



**Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols ~Sunday, December 8, 2019, 4:00 p.m.**

We hope you will attend our Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols on Sunday, December 8 at 4:00 p.m. A free-will offering will be collected for the Rocky Hill Food Pantry. A reception follows the service. We encourage you to share the peace and hope of this moving service with others. Please share the event on Facebook, by phone, in person, or with our postcard invitations.

**19th Annual Cookie Walk & Sale: Sunday, December 15, 1:00pm – 3:30pm**, in Chapin Hall. Come fill a tin with homemade cookies and treats! We are looking for people who can bake for the Cookie Walk. Sign up Chapin Hall or call Marsha Hoffman. Be sure to come to on the day of the walk; bring a friend, and buy a tin of your choice and fill it up!



**Sunday, December 22 – 1:30pm– Carol Sing! All are welcome!**

Join us for an afternoon of singing everyone’s favorite Christmas carols. We will be visiting several nursing houses and our church family shut-ins and sharing our gifts. All ages welcome. We will meet at the church and car pool and come back to the church afterward for light refreshments.



**Thursday, December 5: 4:15pm to 5:30pm – a Magic Eraser party!**

RHCC families are invited to help clean the backs of the pews using Magic Erasers (provided). Pizza will be served afterwards. RSVP to Georgette for dinner, and contact Liz Reed-Swale if you have questions.

**Thursday, December 12: 5:30pm to 6:45pm – Young mothers’ group**

We will meet in Room 6 (Crafters’ Room, next to the Nursery) for dinner and socializing. Children are welcome. Come to relax, be fed, and to exchange information and great ideas. RSVP to Georgette for dinner.



Our Faith Formation **Epiphany Pageant** will be held during Worship on Sunday, January 5. (Dress rehearsal on Saturday, January 4, at 10am.)

## **Facilities News**

We have hired a new snow removal contractor this year; his name is Doug Miller, and he owns the Grounds Guys franchise in Newington.

We have approved a project to replace the video doorbell and door lock on the rear door; the current lock release has been broken for a long time. When the new system is installed, Theresa will be able to see clearly who is ringing the doorbell and unlock the door from the Office.

We expect to upgrade the phone system early next year. The new system will have many features that aren't available with our current system, which was installed in 2003. The new system is based on Voice over the Internet Protocol (VoIP). In addition to more phone features, the new system will cost less than our current telephone costs. For five years the new cost will be just slightly less than now while we are paying an equipment charge; after five years, our phone charges will be less than half of our current phone charges.

Now that the cold weather has started it is important to let Theresa know when you are holding a meeting at church; we use the church calendar in the Office for scheduling heat. If your meeting is not on the calendar, you will need to contact Dave Sageman at dsageman@snet.net or 860-985-5988.

## **Signage and Wayfinding Team News**

We have formed a Ministry Team to review signage and wayfinding for the church. As the Agile Church report pointed out, the location of and directions to the Pastor's Office, the Church Office, the Sanctuary or other rooms it is not clear to visitors as they enter our church. Also, we think that many people who pass by the church on the street or sidewalk think of our church as just a nice historic building near the town center rather than an active Congregational Church engaged in many ministries. Our plan is to develop recommendations to improve both interior and exterior signage. A member of our team has held discussions with the town Zoning Enforcement Officers on using banners attached to the outside of the church building; we can have one banner attached to the exterior walls, up to a maximum of 80 square feet, and we can choose the message that we want to display. We have recommended to Council that we buy a banner and submit an application to the town; Council has approved our recommendation unanimously. In addition, we can have smaller temporary banners for events such as Lessons and Carols. We think that this is one part of making our church and our message more visible to the community. If you have any questions, contact Dave Sageman.

Throughout the holidays, Outreach and Witness Ministry has several opportunities to help create a special holiday season for community members in need.

### *Covenant to Care for Children*



Help us to make the holidays special for children in need. If you are interested in supporting one of the children on our social worker's caseload with a Christmas gift, we will have cards available with children's ages and wishes. Please bring in wrapped gifts by December 15th so they may be delivered in time for Christmas.

Our congregation supports the children through the Covenant to Care Adopt a Social Worker program throughout the year. Scrip donations are collected year round and will go toward needs as they arise for the children. For more information, please contact Heather Collins at: [heathercollins2004@gmail.com](mailto:heathercollins2004@gmail.com)



### *March of the Toys! – Sunday, December 8*

We will collect unwrapped toys on Sunday, December 8. The toys collected will be brought to the Hartford Seminary where they will be distributed to Hartford area families in need. Many social workers in the area 'shop' at the Hartford Seminary for the families they support. If you are unable to attend worship on December 8th, please contact Heather Collins [heathercollins2004@gmail.com](mailto:heathercollins2004@gmail.com) to arrange toy delivery.



### **Tom and Doris Schreier Warm Heart Tree**

Help us decorate the Warm Heart Tree in Chapin Hall with new, donated hats, gloves, mittens, and scarves for all ages. In addition, tube socks for men are also very much needed. Again, the tree is named in memory of Tom and Doris Schreier, who started the tradition over 40 years ago. Donations will be collected from November 30 to January 5. The donated items will benefit the Foster Children's Association of Rocky Hill, VA Hospital in Newington, St Elizabeth Shelter and Friendship Center and WAIM (Windham Area Interfaith Ministries) an organization that provides clothing and other assistance to families in the Windham area. For questions, please contact Gail Tine.

*Thank you from Witness and Outreach: Heather Collins, Marge Murk, Elaine Sellenberg and Sue Speers.*

## **Report of Connecticut Conference Delegate, Jackie Little**

CT/MA/RI Conference Together as One - Southern New England Conferences Annual Meeting on November 1 - 2, 2019, held in Worcester, MA: I'd like to share with you my summary of the Meeting. On Friday afternoon, Nov. 1, Frank Vann and I attended a story-telling session about "Making God's Love and Justice Real." Five churches told their story of how they did it.

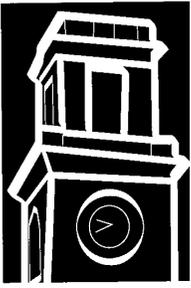
Friday evening's session included worship with the theme "Unbound," based on the scripture of Jesus telling Lazarus to "come out." The beneficiary of the offering taken was Green Valley Sahuarita Samaritans and Church of the Good Shepherd UCC in Sahuarita, AZ. Rev. Timoth Sylvia (the Senior Minister at Newman Congregational Church UCC in Rumford, RI) offered his reflection on what being unbound means to him. Rev. Kent Siladi noted that we should honor our ancestors and their work on our foundation. Listen to each other. Be gentle with each other.

Over 700 people attended this Meeting: over 300 from MA, over 200 from CT, and over 70 from RI. Each of the three historic conferences attended each other's annual meeting, but each voted at their own. Actions voted at the CT Conference Annual Meeting were to dissolve the CT Conference upon the incorporation of the new Southern New England ("SNE") Conference and that the Missionary Society of CT ("MSC") would be the successor to the CT Conference's property, rights, functions and obligations. We also voted to amend the MSC bylaws and the Trustees of the Fund for Ministers bylaws as presented.

On Saturday, Nov. 2, the Meeting began with worship, continuing the theme "Unbound." Following worship an inspiring and "wonder" filled keynote address was delivered by Valarie Kaur. Rev. Kent Siladi noted that her core message aligns with the vision of the SNE Conferences. She brought our theme "Unbound" to life! Valarie Kaur is a Sikh racial justice activist, the founder of the Revolutionary Love Project, author of Revolutionary Love, and wife and mother, along with many other gifts and talents.

On Saturday afternoon the SNE Conferences Plenary Session included voting on the new conference name, Southern New England Conference of the United Church of Christ; foundational justice commitments, passed as amended with nine commitments; revisions to bylaws, passed unanimously; and election of SNE Conference Board Members and Officers, passed with technical changes. The heads of the three historical conferences will focus as follows: Rev. Marilyn Hendrix, making disciples of Jesus; Rev. Kent Siladi, making God's love and justice real; Rev. Don Remick, innovation, bringing new life as agents of change. We talked a lot about love and justice. They do not compete. Love and justice are both gifts from God, and someone quoted that "justice is what love looks like in public."

Nine people have been selected for the Executive Search Committee of the SNE Conference. The next Annual Meeting (the first of the SNE Conference) is June 2020 at Bryant University in Smithfield, Rhode Island.



**WORSHIP SCHEDULE**  
**Sunday Morning Worship**  
**Communion 1st Sunday**  
**10:00 a.m. with childcare**



**CHILD**  
**care**  
 Provided



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Childcare and Church School are held every Sunday during worship.			
<b>1</b> 10am Worship Communion Consecration Sunday <b>Advent Potluck Dinner, 5:30pm</b>	<b>2</b>  7:00pm Women's AA 7:30pm Bell Choir	<b>3</b>  7pm Ministry Teams	<b>4</b>  7:00pm L&C Choir 7:30pm Adult Choir
<b>8</b> 10am Worship <b>TOY DRIVE</b> <b>4PM LESSONS &amp; CAROLS</b>	<b>9</b>  7:00pm Women's AA 7:30pm Bell Choir	<b>10</b> <i>Baking for Cookie Walk -&gt;</i>	<b>11</b> 9am Breakfast Club, Bob's Coffee Shop  Blue Christmas, 6:00pm 7:30pm Choir
<b>15</b> 10am Worship <b>COVENANT TO CARE GIFTS DUE</b>  <b>COOKIE WALK 1pm-3:30pm</b>	<b>16</b> <b>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</b>  5:30pm Bonsai Group 7:00pm Women's AA 7:30pm Bell Choir	<b>17</b>  7pm Cedar Hollow	<b>18</b>  7:30pm Choir
<b>22</b> 10am Worship  <b>Poinsettia pick up 1:30pm CAROLING</b>	<b>23</b> OFFICE CLOSED  7:00pm Women's AA	<b>24</b>  <b>CHRISTMAS EVE</b> <b>5pm Family Service</b> <b>11pm Candlelight Service</b>	<b>25</b> OFFICE CLOSED  <b>Merry Christmas!</b>
<b>29</b> 10am Worship	<b>30</b> Office open 9am-1pm	<b>31</b> Office open 9am-1pm	<i>Happy New Year! 2020</i>



Join the Cookie Walk & Sale! Help by baking, or bring a friend and buy a tin on Sunday, December 15, 1:00-3:30pm



# 2019



**FEED THE HUNGRY**

*Free-will food donations will be collected at the Festival of Lessons & Carols on December 8*

Rev. Nada Seller's office hours:  
 Monday 10:00am to 3:00pm  
 Tuesday 9:00am to 12noon  
 Wednesday 3:00pm to 5:00pm

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>5</b>  7:30pm Men's AA	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>  Lessons & Carols Rehearsal In Sanctuary 9am-6pm
<b>12</b>  7:30pm Men's AA	<b>13</b>  <i>Cookie Walk baking</i>	<b>14</b>  <b>Poinsettia order deadline</b> <i>(Dec 14 &amp; 15)</i>
<b>19</b>  7:30pm Men's AA	<b>20</b>  <b>Poinsettia delivery</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>26</b>  OFFICE CLOSED  7:30pm Men's AA	<b>27</b>  OFFICE CLOSED	<b>28</b>

**CHRISTMAS EVE  
 WORSHIP SERVICES  
 5:00 PM & 11:00 PM**



Join us on Thursday, January 2<sup>nd</sup> for the mailing of the Church Mouse. 9:30am in the Fiorilli Room.

RHCC Newsletter  
 Submission deadline for the January issue of The Church Mouse will be Monday, December 16. We want to hear from you! Send your articles and photos to: [office@rhccucc.org](mailto:office@rhccucc.org).

## December - Happy Birthday!

1 John Hoffman	15	Linda Grillo
2 Joe Kunzelman	19	Mildred Sword
3 Jennifer Cordes	20	Nicholas Jokl
4 John Hummel	24	Nancy Edwards
6 Marty Rowe	25	Jonathan Rutigliano
7 Robert Mullins	26	Janet Kunzelman
9 Amy Murk	28	Nathan Vann
14 Dave Hall	30	Krista Pender
14 David Bradstreet		

### WEATHER CANCELLATION POLICY

In the event of winter weather on a Sunday morning, our first priority is to ensure the safety of church members. If worship is canceled, a notice will be posted either Saturday evening or early Sunday morning on the following media outlets:

Channel 3 WFSB-TV

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

Our website – [RockyHillUCC.org](http://RockyHillUCC.org)



Additionally, an email will alert church leaders of the cancellation. You should also note that if the town of Rocky Hill has a parking ban due to snow, then worship is automatically cancelled as well. As always, call the church office and leave a message with your phone number for any pastoral concerns, and your call will be returned as soon as possible.

### December Green Tips

Consider making these changes or gift giving ideas to help Mother Earth:

- 1) Shop for used/gently used items at thrift stores and consignment stores
- 2) Reusable bottles, stainless steel bottle's and mugs for beverages
- 3) Cloth shopping bags and reusable produce bags
- 4) Reusable European dish cloths and microfiber cloths for cleaning
- 5) Bamboo cutlery instead of plastic utensils



from our Green Ministry Team, Thank-you, Elaine Sellenberg



*Remember to Honor your Loved Ones  
With Christmas Poinsettias*



The plants will adorn the sanctuary for worship on  
Sunday, December 22 through the New Year.

The cost is \$12 per plant. Ordering deadline is Sunday, December 15.

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

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

*Dedication (“in loving memory of...” or “in honor of...”)*

1. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please select one:

I will pick-up my plant after worship on Sunday, December 22

OR

Use my plant to decorate the church through Christmas and the New Year.

Make your checks payable to:

Rocky Hill Congregational Church with “Poinsettia” 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.

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 November 25, 2019



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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*Rocky Hill Congregational Church Presents*  
**A Festival of  
Nine Lessons and Carols  
Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, at 4:00 p.m.**

*A free-will offering for the Rocky Hill Food Bank  
will be collected. Reception follows the service.*



**All Are Welcome!**