

**ROCKY HILL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

*Established 1727 ~ An Open and Affirming Community*



**January 1 ~ 10:00 a.m.  
First Sunday after Christmas**

# ~ORDER OF WORSHIP~

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*We welcome all and extend a special greeting to our guests; our service is enriched by your presence! Please join us in Chapin Hall for fellowship time after worship. **The Welcome Table** in Chapin Hall offers information about the church and members who can answer your questions. **Hearing devices** are available for worship—ask an usher. **Nursery care** is available down the hall in Room 4.*

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## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Please include your full address and phone number as you sign our friendship registration pads, and please wear your nametags. All announcements should be written down and given to the ushers or pastor prior to worship. **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.*

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## PRELUDE

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Michael Bower

Leader: Let us worship our God.

**All: Let us worship the One  
who spoke in the beginning  
and created something out of nothing.**

Leader: Let us worship our God.

**All: Let us worship the One  
who took on the clothing of humanity  
to set those who were oppressed free.**

Leader: Let us worship our God.

**All: Let us worship the One  
whose Spirit rests continually upon us,  
calling us from sorrow-filled endings  
to bright new beginnings.**

\*Please rise in body or in spirit.

**Bold type denotes collective response**

\*INVOCATION AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

Our God, the beginning of the new year is upon us and we gather  
to offer the strides as well as the struggles of this past year to you.  
We gather to give to you both our hopes and our fears.  
Holy Spirit, fill our hearts and our lives as we worship.  
Grant us each the strength to sing our sing,  
to pray our prayer,  
and to listen for the Word that will drive our fears away  
and move us to offer praise and thanksgiving.  
Inspire us we pray, in Jesus name, as he taught us to pray, 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

Be still and know that I am God. Be still and know that

I am God. Be still and know that I am God.

## MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES

### CHILDREN'S RECESSIONAL

*(Children are invited to depart for S.P.I.R.I.T. Church School)*

“We Will Keep a Place For You”

by John Corrado



The musical notation consists of three staves of music in G major (one sharp) and common time (C). The melody is simple and suitable for children. The lyrics are: "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

#### SCRIPTURE READING

Revelation 21:1-7

NT Pew Bible p259

#### SERMON

“A New Start”

Rev. Craig L. Cowing

#### \*HYMN

“Angels, from the Realms of Glory”

NC (black) 126

### OFFERING OF GIFTS

*Following the receiving of offerings by the ushers, they will collect the prayer request cards.*

#### Invitation to the Offering

*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.*

#### Offertory Anthem

## \*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

### PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

#### Joys & Concerns

#### Sung Call to Prayer “Behold Us, Lord, a Little Space” (verse 1) PH 395



1 Be - hold us, Lord, a lit - tle space From dai - ly tasks set free,  
2 A - round us rolls the cease - less tide Of busi - ness, toil, and care,  
3 Yet these are not the on - ly walls Where - in thou mayst be sought;  
4 Thine are the loom, the forge, the mart, The wealth of land and sea,



And met with - in thy ho - ly place To rest a - while with thee.  
And scarce - ly can we turn a - side For one brief hour of prayer.  
On home - liest work thy bless - ing falls, In truth and pa - tience wrought.  
The worlds of sci - ence and of art, Re - vealed and ruled by thee. A - men.



#### Pastoral Prayer

## **Prayer of Confession**

Merciful God, we know that you love us and that you call us to fullness of life, but around us and within us we see the brokenness of the world and of our ways. We put ourselves first instead of others, and we neglect your children in need. Forgive our willful neglect of your word, our insensitivity to the needs of others, and our failure to feed the spirit that is within us; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer we pray. Amen.

## **Silent Prayer**

## **Assurance of God's Love**

**Leader:** Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

**All:** **Through Jesus Christ we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in our hope of sharing the glory of God.**

## **THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

*This church practices open Communion. All are welcome to participate, including children, and regardless of denominational affiliation or church membership.*

*This morning, the congregation will be seated for Communion; the elements (bread and non-alcoholic grape juice) will be brought to each pew. Please wait until all have been served so that we may take the elements together. As you pass the trays to your neighbor, you may use the words "The bread of life" and "The cup of blessing." If you would like to receive gluten-free bread, please raise your hand so that a Deacon may serve you.*

## **Invitation**

## **Recalling the Story: The Words of Institution**

## **Sharing the Bread and the Cup**

## **Prayer of Thanksgiving:**

Eternal God, you have called your people from east and west, from north and south to feast at the table of Jesus Christ. We thank you for Jesus' presence and for the spiritual food of Christ's body and blood. By the power of your Holy Spirit, keep us faithful to your will. Go with us to the streets, to our homes, and wherever we are, that whether we are gathered or scattered, we may be the servant church of the servant Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

## **Sharing the Peace of Christ**

Now let us share among us a sign of God's peace.

*You are invited to share a sign of the reconciling peace of Christ with those around you  
(a handshake, an embrace, or a non-contact gesture).*

**\*HYMN**

“Brightest and Best”

NC (black) 156

## **BENEDICTION**

## **\*POSTLUDE**

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**LITURGIST**

Michael Bower

**USHERS**

Rich Pawlich-Pagliccio, Lois & Jim Stevens

**HOSPITALITY**

Jackie Little

Looking Ahead

**Sunday, January 8 - Worship at 10am  
and Epiphany Pageant**

Our Faith Formation Epiphany Pageant will be held during  
Worship on Sunday, January 8. (Dress rehearsal for the Pageant will  
be on Saturday, January 7.)

## OPERATION DIAPER DRIVE

It's a cause you can really get behind



## DIAPER DRIVE DURING THE EPIPHANY PAGEANT Sunday, JANUARY 8, 10:00AM

We are collecting diapers to be donated to The Diaper Bank who distributes free diapers to poor families, food pantries, soup kitchens, day care centers and shelters throughout CT. In poor and low-income families, a baby can spend a day or longer in one diaper, leading to potential health and abuse risks. The greatest need for diapers is size 5 & 6.

### 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 – [www.facebook.com/rhccucc](http://www.facebook.com/rhccucc)
- Our website – [rhccucc.org](http://rhccucc.org)

*All Are Invited to InReach's*

## **COMFORT FOOD DINNER**

**Saturday, January 28, 5:30 pm**

Menu: Meat Loaf, Mashed Potato & Gravy,  
Ham, Macaroni & Cheese, Tossed Salad & Rolls,  
Hot Vegetables and a Variety of Desserts, Coffee, Tea, Soda

**Entertainment – Magic of Michael Michaels**

**“Magic for all occasions”**

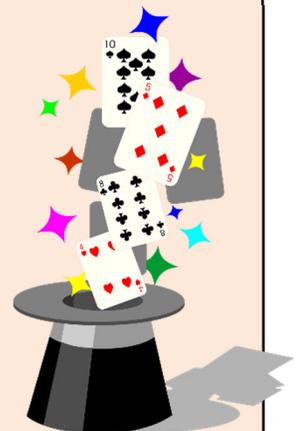
\$10.00 – Adults; \$5.00 – 4 to 12 years;

Free – Children under 4 years old. Family cap \$35.00

*Please reserve tickets: Jeannie Alessi 860/839-1321*

*Tickets on sale during January Coffee Hours*

*Snow date: January 29, 2017*



# CHURCH COUNCIL



**All members of RHCC:**

**PLEASE JOIN US FOR LUNCH!**

Calling all adults, youth and children  
The Council invites EVERYONE to a special  
"What are our Ministries?" luncheon on  
**Sunday, January 22, 2017, immediately following worship.**

Please mark your calendars and plan to attend this special event in the life of our church. During this fun and fast paced lunch session, we'll explore who we are NOW as a church and who we want to be. We'll also discuss how a revised governance structure (how we are organized) may help us become the church we want to be.

*Your participation is important! Please join us.*

Please RSVP using the sign-up sheets in Chapin Hall, or contact the church office at [office@rhccucc.org](mailto:office@rhccucc.org) or 860-529-4167. We will also be issuing personal invitations in the coming weeks. Please share any dietary needs.



# 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
- Fast food: Boston Market, Chipotle, McDonalds, Panera, Subway, Wendy's
- Gas: Exxon/Mobil, Shell, Sunoco
- Grocery: Big Y, Stop & Shop, Trader Joe's, Westside Marketplace, Whole Foods
- Pharmacy: CVS, Walgreens
- Restaurants: Bertucci's, Bonefish Grill, Buffalo Wild Wings, Denny's, Olive Garden, On the Border, Outback Steakhouse, Red Lobster
- Shopping: Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Bed Bath & Beyond, Home Depot, Kohl's, iTunes, L.L. Bean, Lowes, Michaels, Payless Shoes, Target, Toys R Us, Walmart

The next ordering deadline for cards not kept in inventory will be next Sunday, January 8.

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. You may donate at the scrip table in Chapin Hall.

Stop by the scrip table in Chapin Hall this morning for a complete listing of available cards, or to have all of your questions answered. Think SCRIP!

## THIS WEEK AT RHCC

### January 1

10:00am **Worship**

9:30am **Childcare**

10:00am **Church School**

4:00pm **Tamil School**

### January 2

7:00pm **Women's AA**

7:30pm **Bell Choir**

### January 3

**NEWSLETTER MAILING**

7:00pm **Hearing Voices**

### January 4

10:00am **Music Together**

6:00pm **Pilates**

7:30pm **Choir**

### January 5

7:30pm **Men's AA**

### January 6

### January 7

**Pageant Rehearsal**

### Sunday

Sanctuary

Room 4

Rms 24,25,26

Rms 22,23,25,26,27

### Monday

Chapin Hall

Sanctuary

### Tuesday

Fiorilli

Room 22

### Wednesday

Room 22

Chapin Hall

Sanctuary

### Thursday

Chapin Hall

### Friday

### Saturday

Sanctuary



1	Gladys Kitchens
1	Samantha Dion
2	Amy Dion
3	Fred Nashold
4	Jack Malespini
5	Babs Wheeler
5	Matt Fulda
6	Joan-Marie Schaefer

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Worship on Sunday, January 8.  
(Dress rehearsal for the Pageant will be on Saturday, January 7)*



# 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: [rhccucc.org](http://rhccucc.org)

Visit us on Facebook at: [www.facebook.com/rhccucc](http://www.facebook.com/rhccucc)

## Office Hours

Monday – Thursday 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Friday – 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

## 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: The Rev. Craig L. Cowing [ccowing@rhccucc.org](mailto:ccowing@rhccucc.org)

Minister for Children and Youth: Georgette L. Huie [ghuie@rhccucc.org](mailto:ghuie@rhccucc.org)

Minister of Music: Mary DeLibero [mary@rhccucc.org](mailto:mary@rhccucc.org)

Office Manager: Theresa E. Cleary [office@rhccucc.org](mailto:office@rhccucc.org)

Webmaster: Dave Hall [webmaster@rhccucc.org](mailto:webmaster@rhccucc.org)

Child Care Provider: Liz Pulling