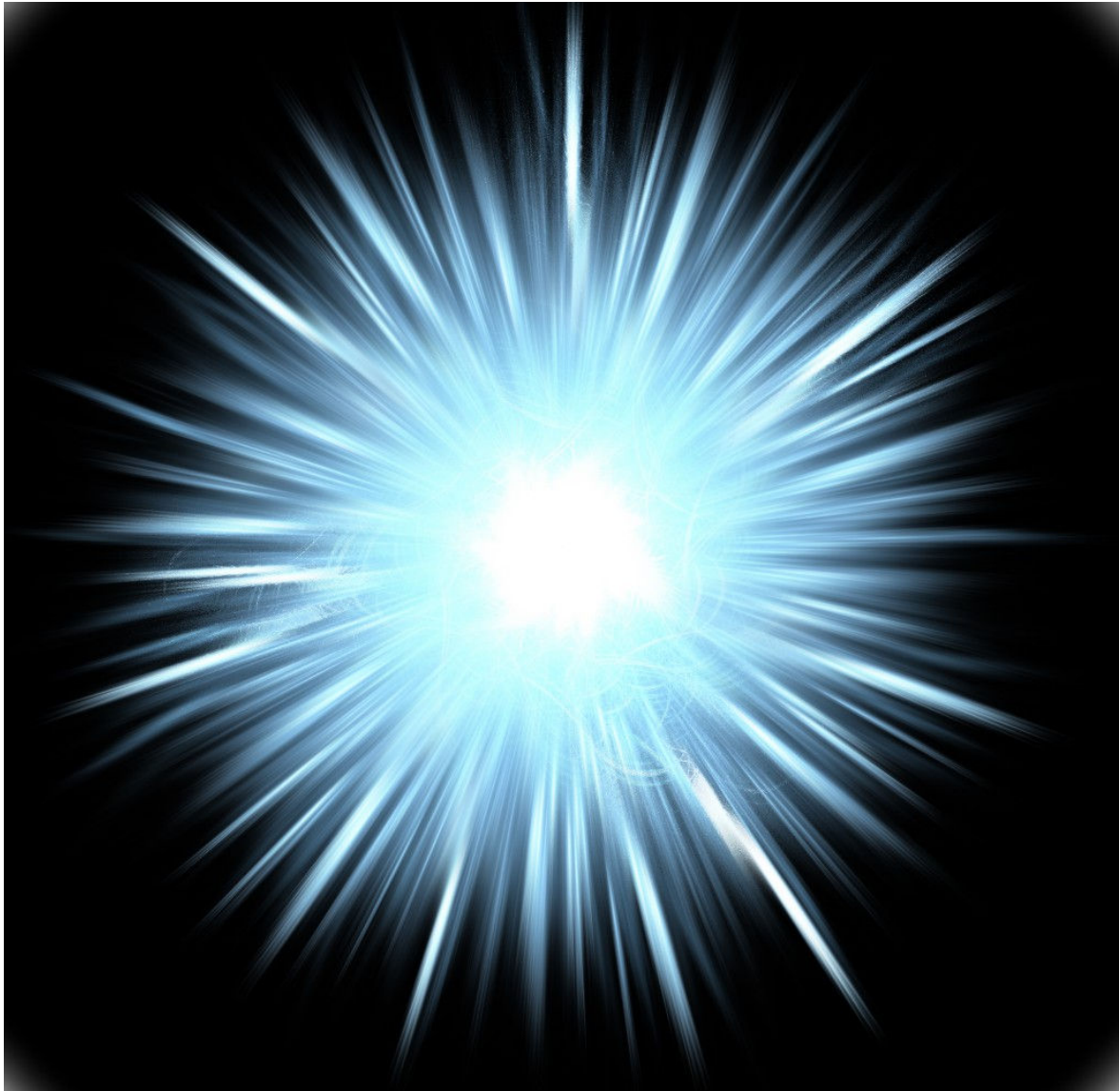


ROCKY HILL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Established 1727 ~ An Open and Affirming Community



**January 3, 2016 ~ 10:00 a.m.
Second Sunday after Christmas**

~ORDER OF WORSHIP~

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 and large-print bulletins** are available for worship—ask an usher. **Nursery care** is available down the hall in Room 4.*

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.

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

In the beginning,
there was the Word;

**the Word was in God's presence,
and the Word was God.**

The Word was present to God from the beginning.

Through the Word all things came into being... .

In the Word was life, and that life was humanity's light- -

And the Word became flesh

and stayed for a little while among us;

we saw the Word's glory—

the favor and position a parent gives an only child—

filled with grace, filled with truth.

Let us rejoice in the Word!

**Please rise in body or in spirit.*

**Bold type denotes collective response*

*INVOCATION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

O Word made Flesh,

You have come into our midst as light and wisdom,
desiring to be known to us in our lives
and to be found in the world around us.

Open our eyes and our ears and our hearts to recognize you
where you dwell—in our midst—

Challenging, heartening, lighting the way
to truth, peace, justice. We thank you for being our light.

We pray this in Jesus' name, who 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

The musical notation for the Sung Response consists of two systems, each with a treble and bass staff. The first system has the lyrics "Glo - - - - - ri - a" under the treble staff. The second system has the lyrics "in ex - cel - sis De - o, Glo - - - - -" under the treble staff. The music is written in a simple, melodic style with a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a common time signature (C).

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE



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



SCRIPTURE READING

John 1:1-18

N.T. p. 79 pew Bible

SERMON

“God’s Light”

The Rev. Craig L. Cowing

OFFERING OF GIFTS

During the time of offering, your prayers can be offered using the blue prayer request cards and placed in the offering plate. The pastor will read the prayers aloud during the Joys and Concerns.

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.

Liz Reed Swale

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

When I feel afraid, think I've lost my way, still, you're there right beside me.

Nothing will I fear, as long as you are near; please be near me to the end.

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

I will not forget your love for me and yet, my heart forever is wandering.

Jesus, be my guide, hold me to your side and I will love you to the end.

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

***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

Hear our prayer, O God, hear our prayer, O God; in -

cline your ear to us, and grant us your peace.

Pastoral Prayer

Prayer of Confession

When we close our eyes to the Light of the World
Struggling to shine light on the lives of all who are poor and oppressed:
Lord, have mercy.

When we close our ears to the Wisdom of God,
Struggling to be heard above hate-filled words and fear-filled rhetoric:
Christ, have mercy.

When we close our hearts to the Glory of God,
Which is known fully only in a world of peace where all creation thrives,
Lord, have mercy.

Assurance of Pardon:

In Christ, the Light, the Word, the Glory of God's love
shines in our hearts,
and we are forgiven and given strength to go forward into a new future.
Let us give thanks that in Jesus, Emmanuel,
God is truly with us.

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

**Our God, we thank you for your light which fills our hearts and we are gathered around your table. Help us to bring this light to all whom we encounter, that we might be the bearers of your light.
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**

"Go Tell It on the Mountain"

New Century (black) 154

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

LITURGISTS

Michael Bower

COMMUNION SERVERS

Victoria Bower, Michael Bower, Cheryl Hummel
Barry Wilcock, Val Triblets, Tom Fulda

USHERS

Lois and Jim Stevens, Bev Schmidt, and Elaine Somes

We welcome our guest organist, Janet Schneider this morning.

DIAPER DRIVE DURING THE EPIPHANY PAGEANT

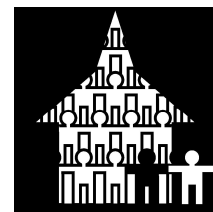
SUNDAY, JANUARY 10 - 10:00AM



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.

INTERESTED IN JOINING THE CHURCH?

Join us **Sunday** for a **preparatory session** following worship, 11:30 a.m. in the Parlor **next Sunday January 10** with the pastor and Deacon(s). We welcome those interested in inquiring and exploring, as well as those who know they wish to join the church. If you'd like to be part of the process, but cannot attend, please speak to Pastor Craig Cowing or any Deacon.



**Become
Part of
Our
Church
Family**

LOOKING AHEAD

Sun. Jan 10 10:00am **EPIPHANY PAGEANT**

Sun. Jan 17 11:00am **Second Hour**

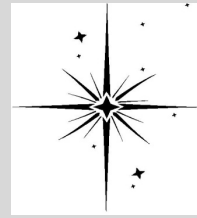
WHAT IT MEANS FOR THE CHURCH TO BE VISIBLE IN THE COMMUNITY

Come explore what it means to be an open and affirming community of faith in the community and our visibility in the community.

Sun. Jan 24 11:00am **Second Hour**

SACRED CONVERSATION ON RACE

Sat. Jan.30 5:30pm **COMFORT FOOD DINNER**

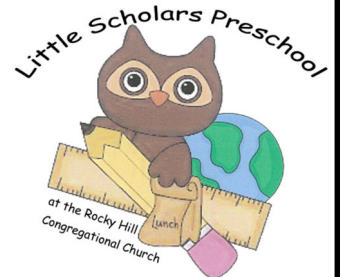


LITTLE SCHOLARS PRESCHOOL at the Rocky Hill Congregational Church PRIORITY REGISTRATION



The priority period for church members to register their children for Little Scholars Preschool at the Rocky Hill Congregational Church for the 2016-2017 school year is upon us. Church members will be offered priority registration from **January 11 to January 24**. Informational brochures and registration forms are available in the Church Office.

The Pre-K 3 Program will be held Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9AM – Noon. The Pre-K 4 Program will run 5 days/week, also from 9 AM – Noon. If you have questions or would like a brochure or registration form mailed to you, please contact Gaetana Ferreira at 860-372-4932.



WELCOME OUR NEW OFFICE MANAGER

The Personnel Committee and Church Council are pleased to welcome Theresa Eldredge Cleary as our church's new Office Manager. **Theresa will begin tomorrow, January 4th.** She lives in Portland, and has most recently worked as the parish administrator at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in South Glastonbury. She has a significant background in church office administration and communications. Theresa is committed to being a warm and welcoming presence to all who have contact with our church.

Bob Inderbitzen, Chair, Personnel Committee



***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 will be placing a scrip order this weekend. Order forms may be turned in at the scrip table in Chapin Hall this morning, or you may email your order to treasurer@rhccucc.org by the end of today. Orders placed today will be available for pickup next Sunday, January 10.

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.

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
On the Border, TGI Fridays, Outback Steakhouse

Shopping: Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Bed Bath & Beyond,
Home Depot, Kohl's, iTunes, L. L. Bean, Lowes, Payless Shoes, Target,
Toys R Us, Walmart

See Gail Hall at 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 3

10:00am **Worship**

4:00pm Siragu Tamil School

6:00pm **Middle School Youth Group** Chapin Hall

Sunday

Sanctuary

Rm 22, 23, 24,
25, 27

January 4

7:00pm Women's AA

7:30PM **Bell Choir**

Monday

Chapin Hall

Loft

January 5

6:00pm Kickboxing w/Caroline

6:00pm Community Event

7:00pm **Boards & Committees**

7:00pm Hearing Voices

Tuesday

Chapin Hall

Room 23

Room 25

January 6

6:00pm Pilates w/Caroline

7:30pm **Adult Choir**

Wednesday

Chapin Hall

Choir Room

January 7

9:30am Little Hands in Harmony

7:30pm Men's AA

Thursday

Room 25

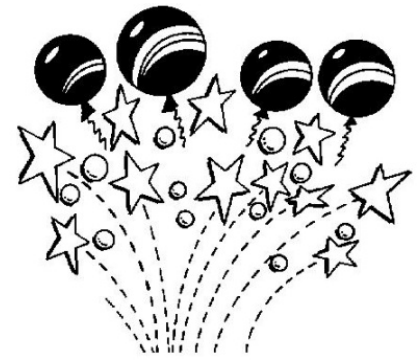
Chapin Hall

January 9

9:30am **Pageant Rehearsal**

Saturday

Sanctuary



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Jan. 3 Fred Nashold
Marc Fritzer
4 Jack Malespini
5 Babs Wheeler
6 Joan-Marie Schaefer
8 Brian Silkowski
9 Debra Peterson
Melody Hall

CALENDARS

Thanks to Travelers Insurance, we have copies of their lovely Currier and Ives calendar for 2016. If you are interested in having one, you may pick it up from the office.

LESSONS & CAROLS

Recordings are now posted on the church web site:

[http://rhccucc.org/new_design/build.php?choir/Lessons and Carols 2015/index.html](http://rhccucc.org/new_design/build.php?choir/Lessons%20and%20Carols%202015/index.html)

There is also a link on that page to a photo gallery on Facebook.

Thanks to Steve Smith for taking most of the photos



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: rhccucc.org

Visit us on Facebook at: 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

Minister for Children and Youth: Georgette L. Huie ghuie@rhccucc.org

Minister of Music: Mary DeLibero mary@rhccucc.org

Office Manager: Mitsey Baker office@rhccucc.org

Webmaster: Dave Hall webmaster@rhccucc.org