

ROCKY HILL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Established 1727 ~ An Open and Affirming Community



January 5, 2020 ~ 10:00 a.m.

Epiphany

We welcome all and 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; and our members will be glad to answer your questions!

~ORDER OF WORSHIP~

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

One: Have you seen the star? Have you heard the good news?
God, who created all things, has come to earth.

**Many: We have heard of a baby born in Bethlehem.
We have seen evidence that God is with us.**

One: Have you allowed God to reign in your life?
Have you laid your gifts before the Holy Child?

**Many: We have noticed the generous travelers from the east.
They inspire in us a willingness to share.**

One: God's call to us is for justice, beyond generosity.
Are you ready for God's eternal purpose in Christ?

**Many: We have been afraid to trust God completely.
Yet we want to respond to God's dreams for us.**

HYMN

"Arise, Your Light Is Come"

NCH (black) 164

*Invocation and Lord's Prayer

Arise upon us, holy God,
and let your glory appear over us today.

**Come in the brightness of your dawn to bring light
to all the nations of earth.**

**Gather us together in such harmony that we may discern
your will for us and be led in your ways.**

**Fill us with that radiant joy
that allows us to reflect your goodness.**

Let all people praise you, O God.

Let our praise resound through all the world.

We ask 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**

He Came Down

Cameroon. Jane Holstein, arr.



Today the young people will present an Epiphany Pageant: a retelling and reenactment of the Christmas story. As witnessed to by the children, the gift of baby Jesus, also known as 'God with us', was not for a few people at a specific time in history, but for all the world and for all time. Let us all be reminded of God's love for you and for all creation!

PSALM 72 Responsive Reading

PH Psalter 85, pg 526

Give the king thy justice, O God, and thy righteousness to the royal son!

May he judge thy people with righteousness, and thy poor with justice!

Let the mountains bear prosperity for the people, and the hills, in righteousness!

May he defend the cause of the poor of the people, give deliverance to the needy, and crush the oppressor!

May he live while the sun endures, and as long as the moon, throughout all generations!

May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass, like showers that water the earth!

In his days may righteousness flourish, and peace abound, till the moon be no more!

May he have dominion from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth!

May all kings fall down before him, all nations serve him!

For he delivers the needy when he calls, the poor and him who has no helper.

He has pity on the weak and the needy, and saves the lives of the needy.

From oppression and violence he redeems their life; and precious is their blood in his sight.

May his name endure for ever, his fame continue as long as the sun!

May men bless themselves by him, all nations call him blessed!

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things.

Blessed be his glorious name for ever; may his glory fill the whole earth! Amen and Amen!

Gloria	“Angels We Have Heard on High”	NCH 125
Scripture Reading	Matthew 2:1-12	
Sermon	Epiphany Pageant	Church School children
Hymn	“Joy to the World”	NCH 132
	“We Three Kings of Orient Are”	PH 143

(Diaper donations may be brought forward at this time)

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 non-contact gesture of greeting.

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



*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

Joys & Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

Hymn

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

NCH 154

Benediction

Postlude

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THANKS to our worship participants today:

Pastor	Rev. Nada Sellers
Guest Organist/Pianist	Janet Schneider
Minister for Children & Youth	Georgette Huie
Ushers	Sue Chatfield, Steve & Wendy Ware
Greeter	Joan Tennyson
Hospitality	InReach

Join us for coffee and fellowship immediately following the service, in Chapin Hall.



PRAYER LIST

Prayers for the ongoing work of our Regional Minister, the Rev. Tamara Moreland, and of our partner churches throughout Connecticut, and the ongoing work of the wider UCC church, especially the work of Rev. John Dorhauer, General Minister and President, Rev. James Moos, Executive Minister, Co-executive of Global Ministries.

Serving our country in the military: God bless all men and women serving our country at home and overseas - and remembering those who have died.



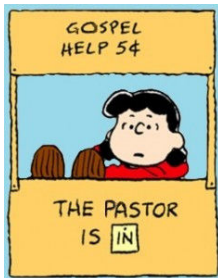
We'd like to stay in touch with you! Here's how...

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, they should be written down and given to the ushers or pastor prior to worship.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Diaper Drive – Today, January 5. We will collect diapers during the Epiphany Pageant for the Connecticut Diaper Bank. The Diaper Bank distributes free diapers to families, food pantries, soup kitchens, day care centers and shelters throughout Connecticut. All sizes are needed.

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



Pastor Nada's Office Hours:

Monday 9:30am – 3:30pm

Tuesday 10:00am – 12:00pm

Wednesday 3:00pm – 5:00pm

And by appointment; please feel free to contact me if you'd like to find a different time that works better for you. Thank you!

Pledge Drive Update

Friends: Consecration Sunday was December 8, and it is time to begin taking stock of what we will be able to accomplish in 2020. In 2019, the Congregation pledged \$201,293. As of December 16, the Congregation has pledged \$182,231. This includes 8 first-time pledgers! We are so grateful for that commitment and the momentum it creates.

faith and
finances

Thank you to everyone who has already pledged! If you have not yet pledged, we ask that you prayerfully consider pledging an amount that is meaningful to you. We will rely on pledges to plan and budget for our church life for the upcoming year, so please send your pledge as soon as possible.

If you need a pledging card, we would be happy to provide one. Please either email Jarod Taylor at jarodglenntaylor@gmail.com, call him at 646-531-1644, or catch him or Deb Copes at Coffee Hour. If you are comfortable doing so, we ask that you fulfill your pledge using an automatic recurring transfer via Vanco's electronic funds transfer (EFT). One-time transfers are also possible. If you are interested, reach out to Jarod and he will walk you through it. Instructions are also on the pledging card. It is a very easy process.

Sincerely, Deb Copes, Jarod Taylor, and Sue Chatfield - Pledging committee

A new sign-up portal for Liturgists, Ushers and Sunday building opening, can be found on our website: RockyHillUCC.org
Contact Steve Smith or Michael Andonucci with questions.

**VISIT OUR
WEBSITE**



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: Bonfish 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 **January 26** (with delivery on February 2). 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

January 5

10:00am **Worship/Pageant**
9:30am **Childcare**
11:00am **Coffee Hour**

January 6

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

January 7

January 8

9am **Breakfast Club**

January 9

7:00pm **Son's of Italy**
7:30pm **Men's AA**

January 11

Office Closed

Sunday

Sanctuary
Room 4
Chapin Hall

Monday

Chapin Hall

Tuesday

Wednesday

Bob's Coffee Shop

Thursday

Fiorilli
Chapin Hall

Friday



1	Gladys Kitchens
3	Fred Nashold
4	Jack Malespini
8	Brian Silkowski
9	Debra Peterson
9	Melody Hall
10	Natalie Tine
10	Nicolis Alessi
11	Gregory Pickett
11	Suzanne Thompson

**COMFORT FOOD
DINNER**

Saturday, January 25,
5:30 PM.in Chapin Hall



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

All are invited to InReach's COMFORT FOOD DINNER!
Entertainment provided by singer Frank Critelli.

Tickets: \$10 adults, \$5 ages 4-12, free under 4 years, Family cap of \$35.
Tickets will be on sale after worship during January Coffee Hours.

Snow date: Sunday, January 26th, 5:30pm

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: www.RockyHillUCC.org

Visit us on Facebook & Instagram at: [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	nsellers@rhccucc.org
Minister for Children & Youth:	Georgette Huie	ghuie@rhccucc.org
Minister of Music:	Mary DeLibero	mary@rhccucc.org
Office Manager:	Theresa E. Cleary	office@rhccucc.org
Webmaster:	Steve Smith	admin@rhccucc.org
Childcare	Jennifer Madley and Kaedryn Pulling	

WEATHER CANCELLATION POLICY - In the event of bad winter weather predicted for a Sunday morning, our priority is to ensure the safety of our church members & friends. If worship is canceled, a notice will be posted Saturday evening or early Sunday morning on the following media outlets:

- Channel 3 WFSB-TV
- Our facebook page – facebook.com/rhccucc
- Our website – RockyHillUCC.org