

# ROCKY HILL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

*Established 1727 ~ An Open and Affirming Community*



January 11, 2014 ~ 10:00 a.m.  
First Sunday after Epiphany

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

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## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Rev. Meghan D. Young

*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 pastors 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

"Descend, Celestial Dove"

by Michael Shea

## CALL TO WORSHIP

The Rev. Dr. Brenda Pelc-Faszczka

Let us praise the God who formed the mountains and created the wind.

**Let us sing to the One who made the stars,  
who turns deep darkness into morning and day into night.**

Let us turn to God, hating what is evil and loving what is just.

**So may justice roll down like waters,  
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.**

Blessings to God, who gives hope in the darkness of our lives.

**Blessings to Jesus Christ,  
who reveals God's love unto the world.**

Blessings to the Holy Spirit, who empowers us to be a light for others.

**Blessings, honor, and glory to God,  
today and forever. Amen.**

## \*HYMN

"Crashing Waters at Creation"

New Century (Black) 326

*\*Please rise in body or in spirit.*

*\***Bold type denotes collective response.***

## \*UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND RESTORATION

Creating, Calling, and Faithful God,  
we come to this time and place to be with you,  
to worship you, and to learn from you.  
May our time together  
be like your creation of light in the darkness  
that you called good.  
May it be that you would call us good  
while we respond to your call and as we listen to you.  
We hear your voice and we see the way of Jesus set before us.  
But it's hard, dear God, to try again and again  
to live up to our baptismal vows  
and maintain our resolve to be your people in the world.  
In repentance we ask you to forgive us.  
Set us once again on a holy path that leads to you.

## \*SILENT CONFESSION

*You are invited to make a silent prayer of confession to God in the community of God's people.*

## \*WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Sisters and Brothers,  
God hears our prayers and sets before us the way of Jesus.  
God calls us and gives us enough grace and mercy to follow the way.  
Thanks be to God.

## \*SUNG RESPONSE

Re - mem - ber me, re - mem - ber me,

O Je - sus, re - mem - ber me.

The musical notation consists of two systems, each with a treble and bass staff. The first system is for the phrase 'Re - mem - ber me, re - mem - ber me,' and the second system is for 'O Je - sus, re - mem - ber me.' The melody is primarily in the treble staff, with the bass staff providing harmonic support. The lyrics are written below the notes.

## 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 is written on three staves in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a common time signature (C). The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes. The lyrics are written below the notes.

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

“This Is My Beloved Son”

by Don McKeever

The Choir

*As Jesus knelt upon the ground,  
A dove, descending, circled 'round.  
A startling voice by all was heard,  
It floated downward as the bird.*

*This is my beloved Son,  
In whom I am well pleased.*

*As children of our earthly kin,  
We search for love without, within.  
For doves that to our shoulders float  
With words that sound a heav'nly note.*

*This is my beloved Son,  
In whom I am well pleased.*

## READING FROM THE SCRIPTURES

Genesis 1:1-5

Mark 1:4-11

## SERMON

“This is My Confession”

The Rev. Meghan D. Young

## RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL VOWS

### Introduction

### Vows of Renewal

Do you renew and affirm the promises made at your baptism?

**I Do.**

Do you recognize the call of God to be God’s people always?

**I Do.**

Do you embrace the way of Jesus in faith and ministry?

**I Do.**

Do you accept the nurture of the Holy Spirit who renews your spirit each day?

**I do.**

Do you accept and embrace others who seek a liberating faith in God?

**I do.**

In renewing your baptismal vows,  
remember your baptism as a mark of acceptance  
and welcome into the care of Christ's church  
where you may begin again your Christian faith and life.

### Unison Prayer

**O God,**

**we rejoice in your grace, given and received.**

**We thank you that you claim us,**

**that you wash us, strengthen us, and guide us,**

**that you empower us to live a life worthy of our calling.**

**In the way of Jesus, make us as water in a dry and thirsty world.**

**Establish us to be places of refreshment.**

**Root us and nurture us in love,**

**that with all your people, we may rightly and justly serve you.**

**Fill us with your fullness**

**that our lives may overflow in service and love. Amen.**

**\*HYMN**

**“O Radiant Christ, Incarnate Word”**

**New Century (black) 168**

## **OFFERING OF GIFTS**

*Following the receiving of offerings by the ushers, the pastor(s) will come to the center aisle to receive 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**

**“Sanctus”**

**by Franz Schubert**

The Choir

### **\*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 PEOPLE**

### **Joys & Concerns**

## Sung Call to Prayer



## Pastoral and Silent Prayer

### The Lord's Prayer

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.

**\*HYMN**                      "I'm Pressing on the Upward Way"                      New Century (black) 442

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*POSTLUDE**                      "Fountain Reverie"                      by Percy Fletcher

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<b>ACOLYTES</b>	Brian Speers and Victoria Bower
<b>USHERS</b>	Bob and Denise Carberry, Julia O'Connor, Wendy Ware
<b>GREETERS</b>	Janet Hansen and Jeannie Alessi
<b>HOSPITALITY</b>	Jean Goff

## **S.P.I.R.I.T. Corner**

*Serve, Pray, Invite, Receive, Ignite, Tell*

### **S.P.I.R.I.T. Faith Nurture Ideas**

**(Parents: Pick-Up your child in Chapin Hall)**

*These faith nurture ideas coordinate with the weekly session plans for church school.*

*We hope you will join us in learning, teaching, and growing together!*

### **Here's what we're learning about this week...**

#### **LESSON → Jesus, the Storyteller**

Jesus was a wonderful storyteller – a teller of theological stories. Jesus crafted word pictures about familiar objects and situations to tell the good news of God's love for all people. This unit we will hear, dramatize, investigate, and live into several of Jesus' stories called parables. We will explore Jesus' parable of the sower, the parable of the yeast, the parable of the bridesmaids, and the parable of the talents.

Take time for discussions – about being prepared, making brave voices, and farming techniques. Set aside a few moments regularly for telling and listening to family stories. Name the values and priorities your choices and actions express. Recall the experiences you have lived through together – both enjoyable and difficult.

**Prayer For The Week.** Author of all stories, give us ears to hear and voices to spread your good news of life and love for all. *Amen.*

### **NOAH'S TABLE (6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade) – A Night of Giving - TONIGHT**

*January 11, 5 PM – 6:30 PM*

Join us for a meal and a night of giving to others. Please RSVP Meghan Young at [Meghan@rhccucc.org](mailto:Meghan@rhccucc.org). 1 Adult volunteer is needed for this gathering.

### **NOAH'S TABLE (6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade) – Winterfest!**

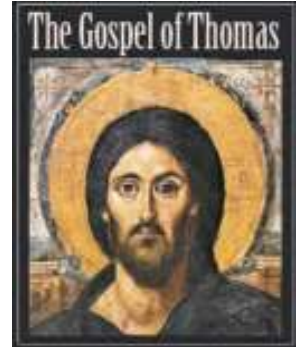
*January 25, 5 PM – 8 PM (Please note time and event change)*

Join us for a night of outdoor winter fun and ice skating at Hartford's Winterfest! The city of Hartford provides free skate rentals and access to the ice skating rink. However they are accepting monetary donations through Crowdrise, as well as donations of mittens and hats for residents in need throughout the season at the rink. Dress warmly, and bring your own skates if you have them. Dinner will be provided before we go ice skating. Please RSVP by Wednesday, January 21, with Meghan Young at [Meghan@rhccucc.org](mailto:Meghan@rhccucc.org). 3 Adult chaperones/drivers are needed for this gathering.



**WEDNESDAY SCRIPTURE STUDY**  
**will resume with the Gospel of Thomas**

Weekly Scripture study will resume on **Wednesdays, 12:00 – 1:00**, beginning on **January 14**. The first text we will look at will be **The Gospel of Thomas**. Discovered in 1945, it is one of the several gospels we now know existed in early Christian times but was not included in the canon of the New Testament. Copies of the text will be made available at the first session. No need for any particular background, come and explore what the Gospel of Thomas says that Jesus taught... and see how it compares with what we are familiar with from the gospels we know.



**MEN'S BIBLE STUDY**

*January 17, 2015, 8:30 AM – 9:30 AM, Church Parlor*



Men's Bible Study will meet once a month on Saturday morning in the church parlor room. Join us to learn more about the Bible, faith building, and the power of prayer with men of our church.

PLEASE CONTACT JIM STEVENS AT 860-633-5810  
OR SEE HIM AT CHURCH FOR MORE INFORMATION.

**COMFORT FOOD DINNER**

sponsored by InReach –

**Sat., Jan. 31, 5:30 PM**, Chapin Hall,

Featuring Meat Loaf, Mac & Cheese, Ham; entertainment featuring  
Steve Taylor, Magician and Puppeteer, for a great price:

\$10 for adults; \$5 ages 4-12; free for children under 4 years; family cap \$35.

Please call Joan Tennyson for reservations 860-529-8789;

**Tickets on sale during Coffee Hours**

Snow date is February 1, 2015.



## 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.

Orders placed last weekend may be picked up at the scrip table this morning. The next ordering deadline will be the last Sunday in January (January 25). Order forms may be turned in at the scrip table in Chapin Hall this morning, or emailed to [treasurer@rhccucc.org](mailto:treasurer@rhccucc.org).

Meanwhile, we have most of the usual cards in inventory for immediate purchase this morning. Here is a partial list of cards available:

**Coffee:** Dunkin Donuts, Starbucks

**Fast food:** Boston Market, Chipotle, McDonalds, Panera, Subway

**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

**Shopping:** Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Bed Bath & Beyond,  
Home Depot, Kohl's, iTunes, Lowes, Marshall's, Target,  
Walmart

See Deb Copes at the scrip table this morning for a complete listing of available cards, or to have all of your questions answered.

**THINK SCRIP**



**LITTLE SCHOLARS PRESCHOOL**  
**at the ROCKY HILL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**  
**Preschool Registration**

Church members' priority registration period for Little Scholars Preschool at the Rocky Hill Congregational Church (formerly Rocky Hill Congregational Cooperative Nursery School) is from January 11 until January 24. Church

members receive a 10% tuition discount. Brochures in the church office describe days and times and other information for the **three and four-year-old programs**. If you have questions you may call Julie Dostie at 860-563-5663.

**WEATHER CANCELLATION POLICY**

In the event of winter weather on a Sunday morning, our first priority is to ensure the safety of church members. Some winters the snow and ice are a real danger, and so worship is cancelled for the day. If such a storm happens, please know that a system is in place to make as many of our members and friends aware as possible. If and when worship is canceled, notice will be posted on **Channel 3 WFSB-TV**, and the voice mail greeting on the church phone will be updated with the cancellation if you choose to phone the main number. Additionally, an email and phone tree will alert church leaders to the same information. It takes a real storm to disrupt our worship, but if that happens, we want to be ready. Cancellations will also be posted on the church website: [www.rhccucc.org](http://www.rhccucc.org).

On weekdays, if schools are closed in Rocky Hill, the church office will also be closed.

**Please note that if Rocky Hill posts a parking ban, the church will be closed. However, check on Sunday morning to see if a Saturday ban has been lifted.**

## THIS WEEK AT RHCC

### January 11

10:00am **Worship**

4:00pm Tamil Sangam

5:00pm **Noah's Table**

### January 12

7:00pm Women's AA

7:00pm Bowling

7:30pm **Bell Choir**

### January 13

8:30am Breakfast Club

7:00pm **Council**

### January 14

9:30am **Quilters**

12:00pm **Bible Study**

7:30pm **Adult Choir**

### January 15

#### NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

8:00pm Men's AA

### Sunday

Sanctuary

Rm 22, 23, 24, 25

### Monday

Chapel

Loft

### Tuesday

Bob's Cafe

Fiorilli Room

### Wednesday

Rm. 6.

Fiorilli Room

### Thursday

Chapin Hall



Jan 11	Gregory Pickett
12	David Dean
13	Rob Speers
	Louis DiRenzo
15	Mark Sheehan
16	Doris Schreier
	Martin Sudell
	Kathryn Eichner
17	Kenneth Rousseau

### **WORSHIP RECORDINGS AVAILABLE**

Audio recordings, written sermons and bulletins for many of our Sunday worship services are available on the church website, **rhccucc.org** (See **WORSHIP BULLETINS**) or you may contact the office to request an audio CD or printed sermon.

### **DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER ARTICLES**

**Submit your articles  
by Thursday January 15  
for the February  
newsletter.**

**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 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Friday 8:30 to 12:00

**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

Interim Senior Pastor: The Rev. Dr. Brenda Pelc-Faszczka [brenda@rhccucc.org](mailto:brenda@rhccucc.org)

Acting Associate Pastor for Faith Formation: Meghan D. Young [meghan@rhccucc.org](mailto:meghan@rhccucc.org)

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

Office Manager: Mitsey Baker [office@rhccucc.org](mailto:office@rhccucc.org)

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