

# ROCKY HILL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

*Established 1727 ~ An Open and Affirming Community*



**January 18, 2015 ~ 10:00 a.m.  
Second 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. Dr. Brenda Pelc-Faszczka

*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

## CALL TO WORSHIP

The Rev. Meghan D. Young

Come, people of God, and be gathered in faith;

**for it is God who gathers us.**

On this day, let our hearts be lifted and our lives renewed;

**for it is God who renews us.**

In this place, let us welcome the touch of the Spirit and its grace;

**for it is God's own grace that blesses us.**

From places of confusion and places of strength,

with hearts of fear and hearts of love,

let us come into worship again with our whole selves,

**for God makes all things new –**

**even us, even here, even now.**

## \*HYMN

“All Beautiful the March of Days”

New Century (Black) 434

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

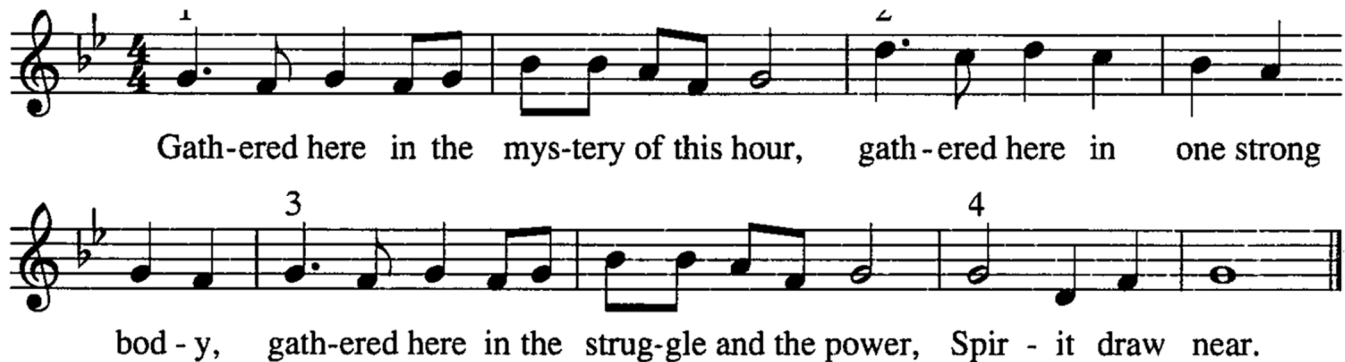
*\***Bold type denotes collective response.***

## **\*GATHERING PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER**

God of all creation,  
we give you thanks for the gift of this new day  
and we pray for wisdom to see your hand  
and hear your voice within it.  
We pray for courage to be merciful and just,  
as you are merciful and just with us.  
We pray for strength to heal the divisions of our world,  
as Christ teaches us to see the world whole.  
We pray for the awakening of our hearts,  
as the Spirit seeks to stir us alive.  
God of all creation,  
guide us in every new day and season,  
that as you call, we may respond.  
This we ask in Jesus' name and spirit,  
as we also pray together:

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**



Gath-ered here in the mys-tery of this hour, gath-ered here in one strong  
bod - y, gath-ered here in the strug-gle and the power, Spir - it draw near.

## **MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES**

## **THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM**

# 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

## "I Will Arise"

arr. Alice Parker and Robert Shaw

The Choir

*I will arise and go to Jesus,  
He will embrace me in His arms,  
In the arms of my dear Saviour,  
Oh! there are ten thousand charms.*

*Teach me some melodious sonnet  
Sung by flaming tongues above,  
Praise the mount, I'm fixed upon it,  
Mount of Thy redeeming love.*

*Come, thou fount of eve'ry blessing,  
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace,  
Steams of mercy never ceasing,  
Call for songs of loudest praise.*

*I will arise and go to Jesus,  
He will embrace me in His arms,  
In the arms of my dear Saviour,  
Oh! there are ten thousand charms*

SERMON

“You Called?”

The Rev. Dr. Brenda Pelc-Faszczka

\*HYMN

“God, Speak to Me, That I May Speak”

New Century (black) 531

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**

“Jesus Calls Us, O'er the Tumult”

Alexander/Jude

The Choir

*Jesus calls us, o'er the tumult Of our life's wild, restless sea.*

*Day by day his sweet voice soundeth, Saying, “Christian, follow me.”*

*As of old, Saint Andrew heard it By the Galilean lake,*

*Turned from home and toil and kindred, Leaving all for his dear sake.*

*Jesus calls us from the worship Of the vain world's golden store,*

*From each idol that would keep us, Saying, “Christian, love me more.”*

*In our joys and in our sorrows, Days of toil and hours of ease,*

*Still he calls, in cares and pleasures, “Christian, love me more than these.”*

*Jesus calls us; by thy mercies, Savior, may we hear thy call,*

*Give our hearts to thine obedience, Serve and love thee best of all. Amen”*

**\*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**

**\*HYMN**

"I, the Lord of Sea and Sky"

printed in bulletin

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*POSTLUDE**

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**LITURGIST**

Don Pagnucco

**ACOLYTES**

Louis DiRenzo and Tyleer Morgan

**USHERS**

Chris and Kathy Mosure, Marge Murk, and Wendy Ware

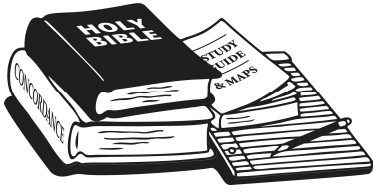
**The flowers are given by Tom and Liz Reed-Swale  
in honor of our parents.**

**The tower is lit this week in memory of Charles Pawlich Sr.  
By Rich, Mary and Rick.**

## UPCOMING SECOND HOURS

Sundays 11:30 to 12:30

*Be*  
**Nourished**



### Jan. 25 Images of God in the Modern World

What do we mean when we say the word “God” ?? What content do we have in mind? Do we mean a being? A spirit? A force? As our scientific and historical understandings of the universe have evolved, has this meant an evolution also in our image and understanding of God? In our conversation, we’ll be seeking not the “right” answer, but a way of talking with each other about our (probably different) perspectives on what we mean when we say “God” – and how our understanding may have shifted, or be shifting, over time.

### Feb. 1 A Civil Right for Adoptees – An important issue and a chance for our church to advocate within CT.

Church member Brian Donohue, adoptive parent and part of a grassroots organization called “Access CT,” that works on issues of legal rights for adoptees, is hoping that RHCC will want to learn about and then **advocate for the expansion of a current state law.** An expanded law would allow persons adopted between 1976 and 1983 to access their original birth certificates and thus information about their biological parentage and history – important for health care and other reasons. This access is not possible under current law. Brian hopes that RHCC will sponsor a resolution to come before the Annual Meeting of the CT Conference of the UCC, in October, 2015, so that the Conference might then become an advocating organization with the CT State Legislature for a revision of the law. The first step to our possibly becoming a sponsoring church is to become informed about the issue. **At our second hour on Feb. 1, our guest will be Karen Caffrey, an attorney and psychotherapist, and Director of Access CT.**

### Feb. 8, Literalism and the Bible

How do we read Scripture, so as to hear its true meanings? Reading it literally, taking everything at face value, generally creates more questions than answers (e.g, if Adam and Eve were the first two people on earth, and had sons, where did the sons find women to marry, as the Bible says they did? What about all the other things in the Bible that we would find it hard to believe, given what science teaches us about the way things work?). How do we understand these texts other than at a literal level?

## **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.

**Family Treasures.** A loving family is a wonderful gift. Families know us at our best and worst. They meet our needs and teach us to meet those needs for ourselves. Families also care for family stories, preserving them in photo albums, tape recordings, videos, and scrapbooks. Family storytellers also have a role. Who are your family storytellers – those folks whose voices stop all conversation? They may be older with a good sense of humor and a taste for adventure. They are likely to be careful observers whose voices have a way of engaging listeners' imaginations. As these storytellers repeat familiar incidents they remind everyone of family traditions, jokes, shared joys, and sorrows. Their words and gestures capture personalities and events that should be handed carefully from one generation to the next. Be deliberate about teaching your children to listen to these human treasures who tend to treasure your family's stories.

**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) – Winterfest!**

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

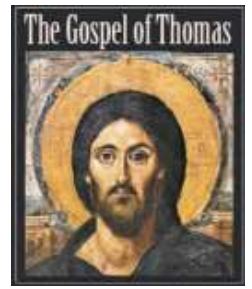
Join us for a night of outdoor winter fun and ice skating at Hartford's Winterfest! The city of Hartford provides free skate rentals and access to the ice skating rink. However they are accepting monetary donations through Crowdrise, as well as donations of mittens and hats for residents in need throughout 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

**Wednesdays, 12:00 – 1:00, Fiorilli Room**

We are currently reading **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. 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.



## Global and Local Mission News



### *PRAYERS FOR LEBANON:*

God, you remind us that even Jesus came from a negatively stereotyped town, so we should not disparage, judge, or discriminate against others based on their background.

Please help us recognize that our busy lives result in dangerous ignorance of our sisters and brothers, from the inner-cities of the United States to the mountains of Lebanon. Open our minds to our neighbors' unique experiences and give us faith in their intentions. Motivate us to support organizations working towards reconciliation among Middle Eastern political, religious, and ethnic factions. Empower us to advocate with our legislators to adopt selfless foreign policy so that we may slowly build trust in spite of our shameful history. Please give us compassion for the people in Lebanon, a third of whom are refugees from Syria, Palestine, and Iraq. You say "blessed are the peacemakers," so please give us faith in your words so that we may be worthy of your blessing. Amen.





## 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.

The next ordering deadline will be the last Sunday in January (Jan 25). Cards ordered by that date will be available for delivery on February 1.

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 Gail Hall 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 a real winter storm on a Sunday morning, our first priority is to ensure the safety of church members. If snow and ice are a real danger worship is cancelled. 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. 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.**

**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:

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

Call Joan Tennyson for reservations 860-529-8789;

**Tickets on sale during Coffee Hours**

Snow date is February 1, 2015.

## THIS WEEK AT RHCC

### January 18

10:00am **Worship**  
4:00pm Tamil Sangam  
5:00pm **Confirmation**

### Sunday

Sanctuary  
Rm 22, 23, 24, 25

### January 19

#### OFFICE CLOSED

7:00pm **Search Committee**  
7:00pm Women's AA  
7:00pm Bowling  
7:30pm **Bell Choir**

### Monday

Fiorilli Room  
Chapel  
  
Loft

### January 20

11:00am Retired Clergy

### Tuesday

Parlor

### January 21

9:30am **Quilters**  
12:00pm **Bible Study**  
7:30pm **Adult Choir**

### Wednesday

Rm. 6.  
Fiorilli Room

### January 22

8:00pm Men's AA

### Thursday

Chapin Hall



Jan 18 Grace Cole  
Daphne Donahue  
19 Anne King  
20 Lois Stevens  
Nancy Flynn  
21 Isabel Vann  
William Cordes  
Matthew Fulda  
Quincy McNeil  
22 Elizabeth McKinney  
Charlotte Bacon  
24 Doris Hick  
Joseph Tokarski  
Candace Smith

### **NEWSLETTER MAILING**

**Monday January 26  
9:30 until done**

### NOTICE

Thanks to Travelers, we have copies of their lovely Currier and Ives calendar for 2015. If you are interested in having one, you may pick it up from the office.

### **WORSHIP RECORDINGS AVAILABLE**

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

**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)