

# ROCKY HILL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

*Established 1727 ~ An Open and Affirming Community*



**January 25, 2015 ~ 10:00 a.m.  
Third 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

"Here's One"

Spiritual arr. Mark Hayes

## CALL TO WORSHIP

The Rev. Meghan D. Young

In the cold of winter,  
**the warmth of God.**

In nature's beauty,  
**the power of God.**

In the dark of night,  
**the light of God.**

In the everyday,  
**the call of God.**

In everything everywhere,  
**the love of God.**

Friends, let us be at worship,  
for here, now, within us and among us,  
**the presence of God.**

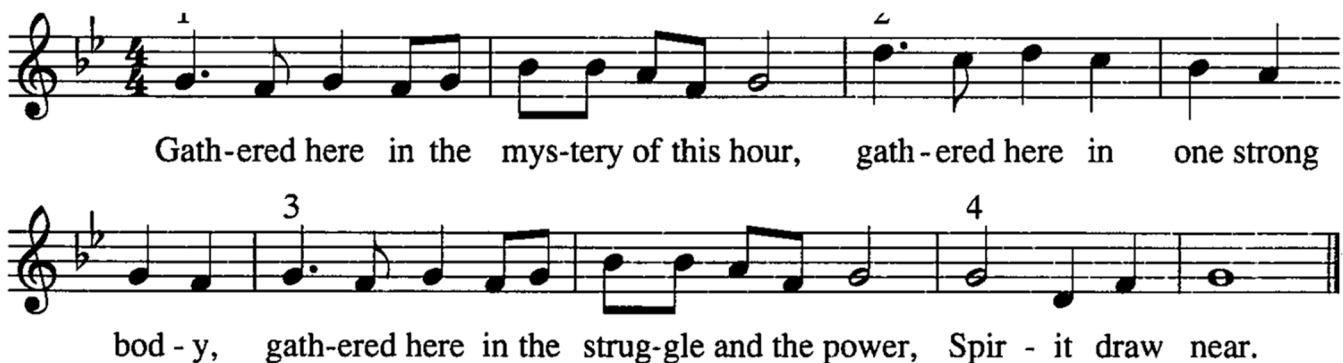
*\*Please rise in body or in spirit.*

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

**\*GATHERING PRAYER AND THE LORD’S PRAYER**

Ever-present God,  
working in us, through us, and for our sakes,  
your love is a summons to all things --  
to arise, to become, to love, to serve.  
As we gather today, may we see,  
and as we see, may we may follow  
the way upon which you call us.  
May the unfolding of our faith  
bless the unfolding of our lives,  
as step by step, and day by day,  
we follow Jesus into your kingdom.  
In his name and spirit we pray, as we also say 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**

# 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



**ANTHEM**

“Hush, Somebody’s Callin’ My Name”

arr. Rollo Dilworth

The Choir

Traditional Spiritual

*Hush! hush! Sombodys callin' my name.  
Oh my Lord, oh my Lord, what shall I do?*

*One mornin' I went to the river to pray,  
My soul got so happy that I stayed there all day.  
All I could do is sing and rejoice,  
And out from the sky above,  
I could hear a gentle voice singin' to me.*

*Hush! hush! Sombodys callin' my name.  
Oh my Lord, oh my Lord, what shall I do?*

**READING FROM THE GOSPELS**

Mark 1:14-20

**SERMON**

“The Second Lesson”

The Rev. Dr. Brenda Pelc-Faszczka

**\*HYMN**

“You Walk Along Our Shoreline”

New Century (black) 504

## 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 Solo

“Precious Lord”

Tommy Dorrsey

Val Triplets, soloist

### \*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



Hear our prayer, O God, hear our prayer, O God; in -  
cline your ear to us, and grant us your peace.

# Pastoral and Silent Prayer

## The Lord's Prayer

**\*HYMN**                      “O Savior, Let Me Walk With You”                      New Century (black) 503

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*POSTLUDE**                      “Fanfare for Believers”                      Don McKeever

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<b>LITURGIST</b>	Bob Inderbitzen
<b>ACOLYTES</b>	Victoria Bower and Louis DiRenzo
<b>USHERS</b>	Linda Grillo, Deb Copes, Steve Smith, Dave Sageman, and Wendy Ware
<b>GREETERS</b>	Jay Jensen and Sue Starr
<b>HOSPITALITY</b>	Ruth Jensen and Jen Hernandez

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**JOIN US TODAY AT 11:30**

### **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.

## **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.

**Make Stories Concrete.** Storytelling may be inspired by a holiday meal, a piece of clothing, a song, or reading. Encourage it with a "Remember when..." question to a storyteller as listeners gather. Probe for more information about a recipe or the history of an item of jewelry. Encourage children to touch, smell, and taste – sensory experiences make memories. Express pride in stories and lives that are part of who you all are.

**Include Stories of Faith.** What part has faith played in your family's stories? Is there a missionary or minister in your family tree? Has church been a steady grounding or a saving intervention in a crisis? Introduce children to stories that demonstrate God's presence.

**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.*



## **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.*

Today is the ordering deadline for scrip from our primary broker, Great Lakes Scrip Co. Order forms may be turned in at the scrip table this morning, or emailed to [treasurer@rhccucc.org](mailto:treasurer@rhccucc.org) by the end of today. Cards ordered today will be available for pickup next Sunday, February 1.

We also 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**



## **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.

### **NEWSLETTER MAILING**

The February **CHURCH MOUSE** will be mailed this **Monday, January 26** - Join a terrific speedy group of mailers in the Fiorilli Room beginning around 9:30am.

Come any time in the morning,  
for a half hour,  
an hour, or however long you can.

Refreshments are served.

**ALL WELCOME!**

### **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.**

## THIS WEEK AT RHCC

### January 25

10:00am **Worship**

11:30am Second Hour

11:45am **Search Committee**

2:30pm **Confirmation**

4:00pm Tamil Sangam

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

### Sunday

Sanctuary

Chapin Hall

Fiorilli Room

Rm 22, 23, 24, 25

### January 26

#### **NEWSLETTER MAILING**

7:00pm **Search Committee**

7:00pm Women's AA

7:00pm Bowling

7:30pm **Bell Choir**

### Monday

Fiorilli Room

Chapel

Loft

### January 27

6:00pm Community event

6:30pm Personnel Committee

### Tuesday

Room 25

Fiorilli Room

### January 28

9:30am **Quilters**

12:00pm **Bible Study**

7:30pm **Adult Choir**

### Wednesday

Rm. 6.

Fiorilli Room

### January 29

8:00pm Men's AA

### Thursday

Chapin Hall

### January 30

12:00pm Comfort Food Dinner

### Friday

Chapin Hall

### January 31

5:30pm Comfort Food Dinner

### Saturday

Chapin Hall



Jan 25	Sylvia Steucek
	John Engel II
26	Spencer Rupaka
27	Judy Graham
	Emma Vann
28	Laura Pandolfo
29	Toryn Pulling
30	Jason Montana
31	Laurel Cole

### **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.

## UPCOMING SECOND HOURS

Sundays 11:30 to 12:30

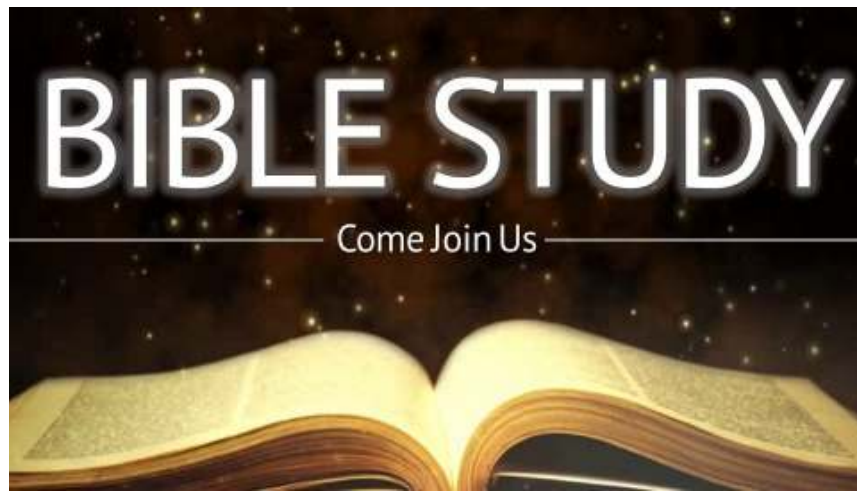
**Feb. 1 A Civil Right for Adoptees – An important issue and a chance for our church to advocate within CT.** Our guest will be Karen Caffrey, an attorney and psychotherapist, and President of Access CT. Church member Brian Donohue, adoptive parent and part of a grassroots organization called “Access 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 before 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.

### **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?



**Sunday February 22  
Celebrating  
Black History Month Conversation**



### **MEN'S BIBLE STUDY**



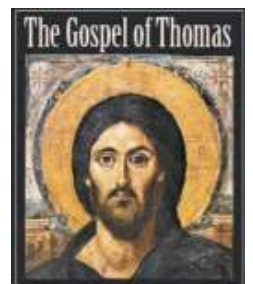
The group meets the first and third Saturdays in the church parlor, 8:30-9:30am. For the next several months we will be addressing the subject of "forgiveness". Come join your Christian brothers as we pursue and try to understand God's words.

For more details please contact Jim Stevens . 860-632-5810

### **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.



**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)