

**ROCKY HILL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

Established 1727 ~ An Open and Affirming Community



**February 1, 2015 ~ 10:00 a.m.
Fourth Sunday after Epiphany**

~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 always available down the hall in Room 4.*

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

“Traumerei”

Robert Schumann

Dave Hall, cello

CALL TO WORSHIP

The Rev. Meghan D. Young

On this morning of a new day,
we open our hearts to new grace.
In this place of faith seeking understanding,
we open our hearts to new truth.
In this community of brothers and sisters,
we hold one another in compassion.
In this time of worship,
we share the bread of life.
Sisters and brothers, let us hold open our hearts for God,
and let the spirit of God move us,
the peace of God assure us,
the love of God hold us.

**Please rise in body or in spirit.*

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

*GATHERING PRAYER

Gather us in, God of all creation,
 and awaken us...
 awaken us again to the grace that makes us new.
 Call us today from our separateness
 and remind us of our oneness.
 Call us from where we are wounded
 and touch us with the hope that heals.
 Call us from our fears and divisions
 and restore us as the one body of Christ,
 so that we may live in this world
 in love, in peace, in hope.
 This we ask in Christ’s name and spirit, Amen.

*SUNG RESPONSE

Al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia,
 al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia! *(Last time, end.)*

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES

READING FROM SCRIPTURE

2 Kings 5:1-14
 Mark 1:40-45

SERMON

The Rev. Dr. Brenda Pelc-Faszczka

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

“A Communion Invitation”

words Mary Martin
music Joseph Martin

The Choir

*Gentle pilgrim, come and eat,
All who hunger, all who need.
Bread is broken for the feast,
Come and all will be received,*

*Come ye trav'ler in the night.
All who thirst for life divine.
Jesus bids you come and dine.
Fill your cup with heaven's wine.*

*Bread of comfort, hope of glory,
Wine of promise, come fill our empty hearts.*

*Come ye weary to the Lord.
Bread is served and wine is poured.
All your strength will be restored,
One in Christ forevermore.*

*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.

The image shows a musical score for a 'Sung Call to Prayer'. It consists of two systems of music, each with a treble and bass staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: 'Hear our prayer, O God, hear our prayer, O God; in -' on the first system, and 'cline your ear to us, and grant us your peace.' on the second system. The music is written in a simple, hymn-like style with block chords and some moving lines.

Pastoral and Silent Prayer

*HYMN

“As We Gather at Your Table”

New Century (black) 332

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

When Jesus was among the people, he fed them from his own fullness: from him they received the Word of God and the hope of the different world, the bread of compassion and the wine of forgiveness.

He gathered them in at the table of God,
taught them that they had a place, no matter who they were,
that through them, God was renewing the world.

When Jesus was among the people, they received through him the Bread of Life – all they needed to be fully alive.

And when he was no longer among the people in body,

he remained among them forever in spirit.

“Remember me,” he said.

“Whenever you share this meal together, remember me.”

For now they would become his body in the world,
witnesses to his risen life. . . . all who would follow him, then and now.

This is our remembering and our witnessing:

This is the table of the Lord, and we are the body of Christ.

Prayer of Preparation and the Lord’s 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.

The Words of Institution: Recalling the Story:

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

Communion Music

Dave Hall Cello

“Chanson Triste”

“Consolation”

Tschaikowsky

Mendelssohn

Prayer of Thanksgiving

**We give thanks to you, O God, for your blessings freely given,
for love that heals, forgives and redeems the world.**

**Now send us out to be bread for each other and light for the world,
as we follow Jesus into your kingdom. Amen.**

The Practice Of 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** "Amazing Grace" New Century (black) 547

***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE** "Bachianas" by Gordon Young

ACOLYTES Tyler Morgan and Brian Speers
SERVING DEACONS Deb Copes, Lois Griswold, Bill Hoffman, Marge Murk
Candy Smith, Elaine Somes

SECOND HOUR TODAY

Following Worship

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.

S.P.I.R.I.T. Corner

Serve, Pray, Invite, Receive, Ignite, Tell

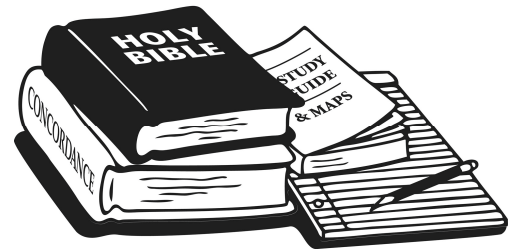
*Children are invited to remain in worship today,
following along with the children and youth bulletins.*

S.P.I.R.I.T. Church School will resume on February 8 with "Jesus: The Storyteller"

UPCOMING SECOND HOURS

Sundays 11:30 to 12:30

Be
Nourished



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?

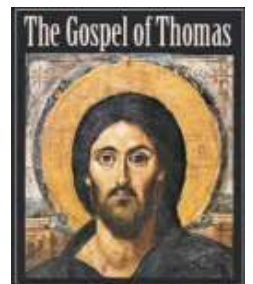


Sunday February 22
Join us for a Sacred Conversation on race
Celebrating
Black History Month

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.





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

CARING MINISTRIES at RHCC

We are a church of ministers. We are disciples who seek to love God, and love our neighbor. Caring Ministries provides opportunities for us as a congregation to share God's love with one another, and provide care for our community. Prayerfully consider how you can be part of this important ministry.

Pastoral Visitors. Visit church members and friends who are homebound, hospitalized, or who have recently experienced a loss. Offer prayer, bring communion with the pastors, and share in fellowship. Your visitation extends the welcoming hand of the church and brings joy to our members and friends. *No experience necessary. On-going training and support around issues of pastoral care provided.*

Heavenly Hosts. Heavenly hosts provide food, support, and reception set-up for families of RHCC members, who want to host a reception at RHCC for their loved ones following memorial and funeral services.

Funeral Ushers. Provide care to families in their times of grief. Funeral Ushers assist with seating, distributing bulletins, and welcoming at memorial and funeral services.

Wedding Coordinators. Lend a helping hand to couples as they celebrate their wedding. Wedding coordinators assist pastors with wedding rehearsals and ceremonies, as well as answer couples questions about weddings at RHCC.

Prayer Shawl Ministry. Do you love knitting or do you want to learn? The prayer shawl ministry knits prayer shawls that are given to church members and friends in times of grief or illness. We also donate prayer shawls to local hospitals. *No knitting experience required, just ask and we'll teach you.*

Agape Feast. Sometimes we are unexpectedly faced with illness or the loss of a loved one. Members of Agape Feast cook and deliver fresh meals for church members and friends as needed, to ease the burden of families when they face the unexpected. *This is an especially great way for families with children to be part Caring Ministries and cook a meal together. Recipes provided.*

Please contact Meghan Young at meghan@rhccucc.org for more information and to sign-up. Look for additional information and opportunities in the coming months.



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 can be picked up at the scrip table this morning. Over \$14,000 of scrip was sold in January, producing a net profit for RHCC of \$1017. This marks our 17th consecutive month of \$1000 or more in earnings from the scrip program.

We have restocked 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.

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.

DISPLAY CASE

We have enjoyed Nancy Edward's beautiful hand painted Christmas cards in the hall display case for the Christmas season. Now it is time to find a replacement. Do you have a collection? Maybe just related objects? If so, let others enjoy them too.

Put them on display! Call Joan Tennyson (860) 529-8789

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

February 1

10:00am **Worship**
11:30am **Second Hour**
11:30am Dixieland Band
Rehearsal
12:30pm **Personnel Committee**
4:00pm Tamil Sangam

February 2

10:30pm **Apple Rehab Service**
7:00pm Women's AA
7:00pm Bowling
7:30pm **Bell Choir**

February 3

11:00am **The Lodge Service**
6:00pm **Music Committee**
7:00pm **Boards & Committees**

February 4

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

February 5

Thursday

7:00pm **Search Committee**
7:30pm Men's AA

February 7

8:30am **Men's Bible Study**

Sunday

Sanctuary
Chapin Hall
Fiorilli Room
Fiorilli Room
Rm 22, 23, 24, 25

Monday

Chapel

Loft

Tuesday

Wednesday

Rm. 6.
Fiorilli Room

Saturday

Parlor



Feb 2 Cynthia Hunt
Doreen Grandell
3 Teagan Reed-Swale
4 Zoey Grisham
5 Kimberly Sweezy
6 Cole Triplets
7 Cheryl Hummel

The
"Church Mouse"
DEADLINE
for the March issue is
Monday February 16.
MAILING will be
Tuesday,
February 24.

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.

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 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

Acting Associate Pastor for Faith Formation: The Rev. Meghan D. Young
meghan@rhccucc.org

Minister of Music: Mary DeLibero mary@rhccucc.org

Office Manager: Mitsey Baker office@rhccucc.org

Webmaster: Dave Hall webmaster@rhccucc.org