

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

Established 1727 ~ An Open and Affirming Community



**February 2, 2020 ~ 10:00 a.m.
Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
Communion Sunday**

WELCOME! We 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; someone will be glad to answer your questions!

~ORDER OF WORSHIP~

Quote for Reflection:

[The Apostle] Paul envisions the church as an “alternative society,” a very self-conscious minority group living by distinctive standards, yet not turning its back on the outside world... The church is no perfectionist utopia, but a community of fallible persons called to model both freedom and holiness, both humility and confidence, both [openness]to differences and a unified articulation of the truth...

- David Hay in *The Discipleship Study Bible* (WJK)

PRELUDE

Deep River

Adolphus Hailstork

WELCOME and Announcements

INTROIT

Lord I Want to be a Christian

African American Spiritual

CALL TO WORSHIP

Chris Sheehan

One Jesus, Teacher, your instruction surprises us!

People **Not the world's wisdom, but God's.**

You move us with sorrow for the sorrow of the world
And make us strong through our tears.

You offer us humility to admit our failures
And plant seeds of hope in the ashes.

You make us hungry for justice
And give us food that lasts.

You invite us to practice what we preach
And offer joy in that challenge.

You support us in standing firm for truth, even when it costs
And promise the truth will make us free.

ALL Come, let us worship.

*OPENING HYMN

Jesus Calls Us, o'er the Tumult

NCH 172

please rise in body or in spirit, **Bold denotes unison response*

Prayer of Confession and the Lord's Prayer *(together)*

Holy God, in a changing world, rich with possibility and full of challenges, we seek to worship you as a community of faith. Our faith is as much a “work in progress,” as it is an anchor in times of storm. We confess that at times we have missed the mark; we have done things which have been hurtful and wrong, as well as left undone the things which our faith requires. We ask for mercy...

Silent Prayers of confession...

Forgive us by your grace and through the power of the love made known in Jesus. Increase our faith, and help us to answer your calling to be followers of Jesus and to walk with purpose in the Spirit. As we share in your word and feast at your table this day, satisfy our hunger and renew us for as we continue serving others. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

Words of Assurance

***Sung Response**

He Came Down vv. 1,4

Cameroon

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 greeting comfortable to you.

A Message for All Ages

(Children are invited to depart for Church School)



“We Will Keep a Place For You” by John Corrado



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.

Scripture Readings

Psalm 15

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

SERMON

“Chosen”

Rev. Nada Sellers

***Hymn**

As We Gather at Your Table v. 1

NCH 332



OFFERING OF GIFTS

After the ushers receive the offering, they will collect blue prayer request cards.

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.

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory Anthem

The Table is Long

Webster/McKeever

*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 *(together)*

Generous God, receive these gifts for the ministries of this church.

May they be used to bless others, even as we have been blessed. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

This church practices open Communion; all are welcome to share in this holy meal, regardless of church membership or denominational affiliation. All whom Jesus would welcome are welcome here!

Invitation

Recalling the Story & Pastoral Prayer including 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.

***Sung Response**

Come, O Lord, and Set Us Free

John Bell

Come, O Lord, and set us free; give your peo - ple peace. _____

9
Come, O Lord, and set us free; Come, Lord Je - sus, come. _____

The Words of Institution

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

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.

Prayer of Thanksgiving (together)

Thank you, Holy One, for this bread and fruit of the vine through which we have remembered the life of Jesus and all he taught us. As people called and chosen, continue to feed us with hope and joy. Walking this journey, together, we pray. Amen.

***HYMN**

God of Change and Glory

NCH 177

BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

POSTLUDE



Call to Worship adapted from content written by Rev. Susan A. Blain, for 2-2-20
at www.ucc.org, “Worship Ways” for Local Church Ministries, Faith INFO Ministry Team
“He Came Down” Cameroon - Words - Jane Holstein. Music - ©2001 Hope Publishing Company
“Come, O Lord, and Set us Free” - John Bell, Words and Music - ©2008 Iona Community & WGRG1 Service
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PRAYER LIST

Prayers for the ongoing work of our Regional Minister, the Rev. Tamara M. Moore and of our partner churches throughout Connecticut, and the ongoing work of the WCC 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, please write them down and give them to the ushers or pastor prior to worship.

THANKS to our worship participants today:

Ministers	You, the people of God
Pastor	Rev. Nada Sellers
Liturgist	Chris Sheehan
Communion Servers	Sarah DiGiovanni, Bob Carberry, Don Pagnucco, Elaine Somes, Candy Smith
Ushers	Dave Sageman
Greeter	Joan Tennyson
Hospitality	Nancy Harlow, Lynn McKenna
Childcare	Jennifer Madley, Kaedryn Pulling
Building Open/Close	Dave Sageman

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!

Bucket Brigade! Sunday February 16th

Last year we purchased supplies and assembled Clean Up Buckets for disaster relief with the help and participation of our congregation. We rallied the troops and were able to provide 22 fully stocked buckets which we donated to Church World Services (CWS). CWS provides disaster relief to families and communities affected by flooding, tornadoes, earthquakes and other disasters. This is an excellent way for us to continue to support disasters on a broad scale with a focused effort.



Please join us on Sunday, February 16th as we once again form a Bucket Brigade to assemble supplies during our worship service! Other ways you can help are by:

- Donating for Supplies through purchase of a Scrip card (Walmart comes to mind)!
- Shopping for supplies
- Taking photos of the bucket assembly
- Delivering the filled buckets to Center Church in Meriden.

We have decided to stretch our goal this year to 25 buckets. We do cover some of the supplies from our Outreach and Witness but would appreciate additional donations. In case you want to add to our bucket total, the cost of one bucket is \$78. Please contact any member of outreach and witness or sign up on our bulletin board to participate!

The Outreach and Witness Team: Heather Collins, Elaine Sellenberg, Sue Speers, Christine Kainamera, Marge Murk and Sue Chatfield.

MOVING INTO LENT



LENTEN JOURNEY

Dixieland Sunday – February 23 at 10:00 a.m.



Since 2006, our church has taken advantage of its musical resources by engaging various vocal and instrumental ensembles to provide Dixieland-style music during the morning worship service on Transfiguration Sunday. Please join us as we celebrate the final Sunday of Epiphany before transitioning to the more reflective season of Lent.



Shrove Tuesday Supper – February 25 at 5:30 p.m.

Please join us for pancakes, activities and music; as we celebrate before the start of the reflective time of Lent. Sponsored by Faith Formation, this is a fun intergenerational event!

Ash Wednesday – February 26 at 6:30 p.m.

Ashes will be available on a 'drop-in' basis during the day from 10:00am to Noon. A brief but meaningful service of prayers, music, meditation and ashes will be held in the Chapel at 6:30 p.m. (Choir rehearsal follows at 7:30pm). All are invited to attend.

From your Financial Secretary:

I know you are all looking forward to the upcoming tax season as much as I am. 😊

To that end, all statements were emailed on Saturday, 1/18/2020, to those for whom I have an email address on file. If I do not have an email address for you, your statement(s) went out via USPS on 1/21/2020. If you did not receive a statement from me by the time you read this article, please contact me at deb.copes@gmail.com or at 860-729-6541.

You would receive a contribution/Scrip statement if:

1. You purchased Scrip during 2019
2. You filled out a pledge card during our 2019 campaign and contributed toward that pledge
3. You specifically asked me for a tax statement

It is not too late to get a tax statement so if you want one, please let me know.

-Deb Copes





Southern New England Conference

United Church of Christ

Living the Love & Justice of Jesus

The Southern New England Conference officially came into being with the New Year, and the change is becoming more and more visible. At the end of December, the Conference's Articles of Incorporation were filed with the Massachusetts Secretary of State's office, establishing it as a nonprofit. On Jan. 1, employees of the three historic conferences became employed by the Southern New England Conference. Perhaps more visibly, the Conference launched a **new Facebook page and new website** - sneucc.org - and all staff now have email addresses that end in sneucc.org (last name first initial @ sneucc.org, such as vait@sneucc.org). Visit us at www.SNEUCC.org for all conference information.

We're going to Super Saturday! March 14, 2020

8am-4pm Minnechaug Regional High School, Wilbraham, MA

Registration deadline: Feb 29.

Contact the office or Pastor Nada if you would like to attend.

February Green Tips

Consider making these changes to help Mother Earth:

- Unplug appliances when they aren't being used
- Change out filters in home furnace regularly
- Inspect and keep your chimney clean
- Use caulk and weatherstripping to reduce drafts
- Wash all possible clothes on cold



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.

TIME, TALENT, TREASURE MINISTRY



Ministry Needs

Some of our current ministries have opportunities for additional helpers. Please consider sharing **YOUR** time, talent and treasure in these important areas.

- We need one more member on our Pledging Committee. Please contact Deb Copes debcoes@gmail.com / (860) 729-6541.
- Fellowship opportunities are always great. We're looking for someone to help organize a family movie night. Contact Ruth Fitzgerald rfitzgerald@fhiplan.com / (860) 543-1520 or Steph Heneghan stephanie_heneghan@yahoo.com / (860) 529-4672.
- Photos. We need photos. Please feel free to take photos of memorable moments in our church life. We want to let others know of our active worship and ministry opportunities. Please send your photos of church happenings to Theresa in the church office (office@rhccucc.org).

Welcoming Ministry Team update

Our Welcoming Ministry Team is working to help us be a church of extravagant welcome. Since this team was launched, we have increased our social media communications with the wider community, developed and mailed a postcard about Easter activities, added a Welcome Book (guestbook) to the Narthex, and (our biggest project) introduced a new church directory with photos. Most of all, we want to be welcoming to visitors and guests. If you are interested in being part of the Welcoming Ministry Team, please contact Stephanie Heneghan stephanie_heneghan@yahoo.com / (860) 529-4672 or Ruth Fitzgerald rfitzgerald@fhiplan.com / (860) 543-1520.



New Members & Friends Directory is Getting Positive Reviews

The directory with photos has been available for several months now. If you don't have one yet, copies are available in the church office. The method that was used to create this directory will permit frequent updates. If you notice any errors, change an address or phone number, or want to replace your photo, contact Theresa. office@rhccucc.org.



RHCC Newsletter

Submission deadline for the March issue of The Church Mouse will be February 15. We want to hear from you! Send your articles and photos to: office@rhccucc.org. The mailing date will be Monday February 24.

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: Bonefish 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 **February 23 (with delivery on March 1)**. 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

February 2

10:00am Worship
9:30am Childcare
10:00am Church School
11:00am Coffee Hour
5:30pm Confirmation Class

February 3

7:00pm Women's AA

February 4

7:00pm Worship Ministry
7:00pm Facilities

February 5

6:00pm Bell Choir
7:30pm Choir

February 6

7:30pm Men's AA

February 7

February 8

Private event/member

Sunday

Sanctuary
Room 4
Rms 24,25,26
Chapin Hall
Teen Room

Monday

Room 6

Tuesday

Parlor
Fiorilli

Wednesday

Choir Room
Choir Room

Thursday

Chapin Hall

Friday

Saturday

Chapin Hall



1	Doreen Grandell
1	Alice Bradstreet
2	Cynthia Hunt
3	Teagan Reed-Swale
4	Bill Timrud
5	Kimberly Sweezy
6	Cole Triblets
7	Cheryl Hummel
8	Susan White
8	Robert Mullins
8	Bruce Gengenbach



SAVE THE DATE! Movie Night Saturday, February 15

Our Welcoming Ministry Team is planning a **family-friendly** movie night for Saturday afternoon/evening on February 15th. More info to follow! We plan to have a potluck supper before the movie. We are looking for a few folks to help organize this event, please contact Stephanie Heneghan (stephanie_heneghan@yahoo.com) or Ruth Fitzgerald (rfitzgerald@fhiplan.com). Thanks!

