

# ROCKY HILL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

*Established 1727 ~ An Open and Affirming Community*



**February 8, 2015 ~ 10:00 a.m.  
Fifth 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

"Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service"

arr. Randall Hartsell  
from Sacred Harp

## CALL TO WORSHIP

The Rev. Meghan D. Young

"I was glad when they said to me,

'Let us go into the house of the Lord,'"

**where the smallest word can be the Word of God,**

where the briefest touch can be the touch of grace,

**where hearts are opened and strength renewed.**

In joy or in distress, whatever our need,

**the God of all times and places is with us –**

**even here, even now.**

## \*HYMN

"O God, Our Help in Ages Past"

New Century (Black) 25

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

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

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

Give us now, God of our awakening,  
eyes to see you and ears to hear you.  
Stir in us that we might lay aside  
all burdens, large and small,  
all fears, real and imagined,  
and all our resistance to your Word.  
Let us come to this time of worship  
ready to receive all you give us,  
that we may come away with new strength  
and new life.  
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

The musical notation is written on three staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes, and guitar chords are indicated above the staff.

Staff 1: D Asus4 A D  
And God will raise you up on ea - gle's wings,

Staff 2: Em A7 D D7  
bear you on the breath of dawn, make you to shine like the

Staff 3: G A Bm F#m Em A7 D  
sun, and hold you in the palm of God's hand.

## 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**      “His Voice as the Sound of the Dulcimer Sweet”      setting. Alfred Fedak  
The Choir      American Folk Hymn

*His voice as the sound of the dulcimer sweet is heard thru the shadows of death.  
The cedars of Lebanon bow at his feet, the air is perfumed with his breath.  
His lips as a fountain of righteousness flow, that waters the garden of grace,  
From which their salvation the Gentiles shall know and bask in the smile of his face.*

*Love sits in his eyelids and scatters delight through all the bright regions on high.  
Their faces the cherubim veil in his sight, and tremble with fullness of joy.  
He looks and ten thousands of angels rejoice, and myriads wait for his word,  
He speaks, and eternity, filled with his voice, re-echoes the praise of her Lord.*

**READING FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES**

Isaiah 40:21-31

**SERMON**      “Weariness and Strength”      The Rev. Dr. Brenda Pelc-Faszczka

**\*HYMN**      “In the Bulb There is a Flower”      New Century (black) 433

## 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

“Sometimes a Light Surprises”

Craig Courtney

Melody Hall, Soprano

*Sometimes a light surprises the Christian while she sings;  
It is the Lord who rises with healing in His wings:  
When comforts are declining, He grants the soul again  
A season of clear shining, to cheer it after rain.*

*In holy contemplation we sweetly then pursue  
The theme of God's salvation, and find it ever new;  
Set free from present sorrow, we cheerfully can say,  
Let the unknown tomorrow bring with it what it may.*

*It can bring with it nothing but He will bear us through:  
Who gives the lilies clothing will clothe His people too:  
Beneath the spreading heavens no creature but is fed;  
And He who feeds the ravens will give His children bread.*

*Though vine nor fig tree neither their wanted fruit should bear,  
Though all the fields should wither, nor flocks nor herds be there;  
Yet, God the same abiding, His praise shall tune my voice;  
For, while in Him confiding, I cannot but rejoice.*

## \*Doxology



Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;



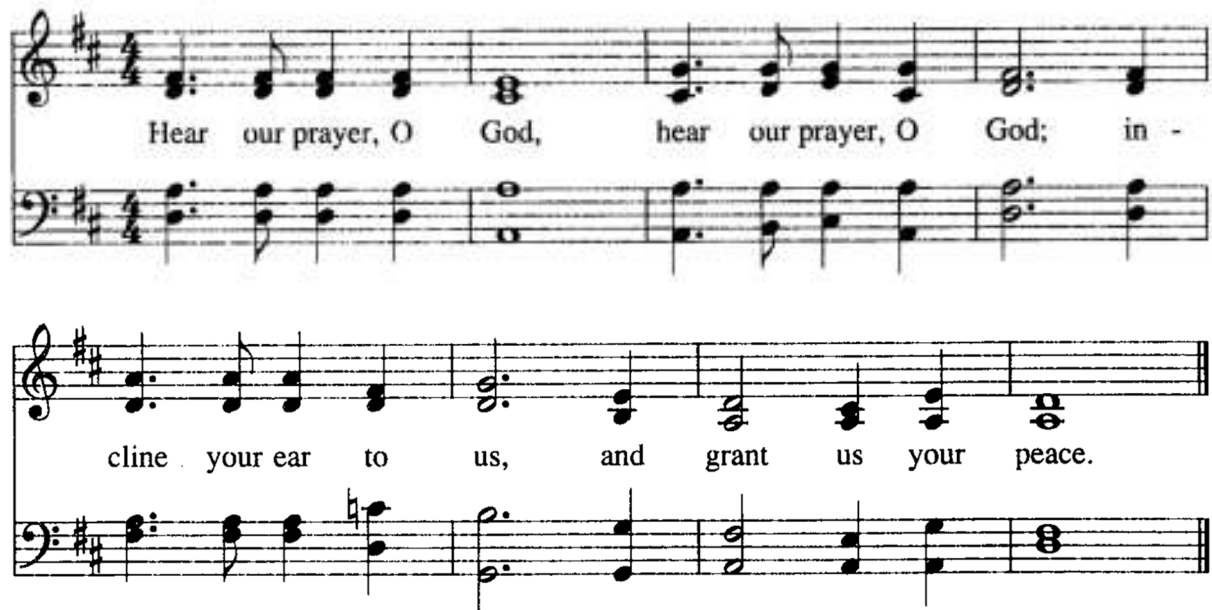
Praise God for all that love has done; Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen

## \*Prayer of Dedication

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

## Joys & Concerns

## Sung Call to Prayer



## Pastoral and Silent Prayer

**\*HYMN**            “You Are Salt for the Earth, O People”            New Century (black) 181

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*POSTLUDE**            “Spiritual Sailor” from the Sacred Harp setting James Boeringer

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**ACOLYTES**

Victoria Bower and Tyler Morgan

The tower was lit Feb. 1 – 7 in memory of Ed Carberry  
By Bob and Denise Carberry and Julia O’Connor.

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

**JOIN US TODAY AT 11:30**

### **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.

**Stories all Around.** Everyone has a story. Some share them with ease while others need an invitation to voice their stories. Look and listen around your neighborhood. Who knows the local anecdotes and is familiar with the local characters? Take time to ask and listen. Encourage your children's friends to share tales of family trips and other adventures. Plan a casual block party event for storytelling that will create a web of friendships. Service root beer floats on a hot evening or hot cocoa on a chilly winter night. Make Sunday night "story night" in your family and let everyone have a turn spinning a tale. However you choose to make stories a part of your life, regularly include favorites from the Bible. Learn from and enjoy the master storyteller, Jesus.

**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) – Fat Sunday!**

*February 15, 5 PM – 6:30 PM*

Come for dinner around the welcome table, and prepare for Lent. Please RSVP by Friday, February 13, with Meghan Young at [Meghan@rhccucc.org](mailto:Meghan@rhccucc.org). 1 Adult Volunteer is needed for this gathering.

#### **Silver Lake 2015 – Calendars and Scholarships Available**

Pick up your Silver Lake 2015 summer camp calendars in Chapin Hall and sign-up for summer fun! Scholarships are available. Scholarship requests must be received by March 30. Please contact Meghan Young at [meghan@rhccucc.org](mailto:meghan@rhccucc.org) for more information.

## 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.*

**Ride Care.** Several of our church members and friends have mobility issues, do not drive, or do not have a car. Get to know folks as you give them rides to and from worship services and church events. *Must have car, with valid registration and car insurance.*

**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](mailto:meghan@rhccucc.org) or Stephanie Heneghan at [stephanie\\_heneghan@yahoo.com](mailto:stephanie_heneghan@yahoo.com) for more information and sign-up. Look for additional information and opportunities in the coming months.



# SHROVE TUESDAY/ASH WEDNESDAY GATHERING

Gather for a pancake dinner, celebration, and special music, followed by a time of worship.

Wednesday, February 18, 5:30—7:30 PM

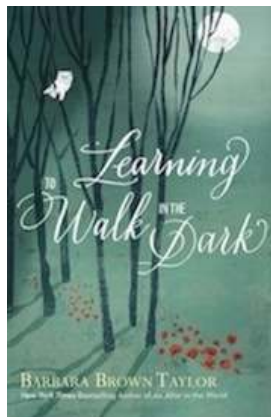
Join us As we move from dancing into a time of preparation.



SIGN-UP IN CHAPIN HALL OR EMAIL [MEGHAN@RHCCUCC.ORG](mailto:MEGHAN@RHCCUCC.ORG)

## A BOOK FOR LENT

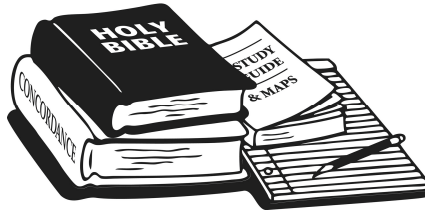
***Learning to Walk in the Dark*, by Barbara Brown Taylor**



*A spiritual reflection on learning to welcome the dark...  
to see times of need, confusion and loss as times when God can be seen.*

Please sign up in Chapin Hall, call the office at 860-529-4167 or email [office@rhccucc.org](mailto:office@rhccucc.org) by Feb. 15 if you would like to have a book ordered for you. Cost is approx. \$15. A discussion opportunity during Lent will be announced.

## *Be* **Nourished**

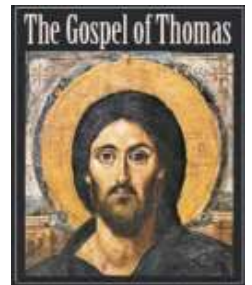


**Sunday February 22**  
**Second Hour 11:30 to 12:30**  
**Join us for a Sacred Conversation on race**  
**Celebrating**  
**Black History Month**

### **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 Fiorilli Room, 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



## **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.*

February scrip results started out strong last weekend, as scrip with a total face amount of more than \$4000 was sold last Sunday, producing profits of \$300 for the week.

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, Target, Walmart

See Gail Hall at the scrip table in Chapin Hall 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.**

## 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.**



## **Talent Show AND CHILI SUPPER**

We hope you can attend this popular event. Come sample the *MANY* types of chili as well as the offerings of our talent-laden church family.

Singers, instrumentalists, story-tellers, and more.....

**What:** Chili, fixin's, breads, dessert. The perfect winter evening.

**When:** Saturday, February 28

**Time:** Chili supper begins at 6 p.m. Talent show starts 6:45 p.m.

# Help Support Little Scholars Preschool



## *“Dinner at DeNovellis”*

**Wednesday, February 11, 2015 4-9pm**

**DeNovellis Family Restaurant  
‘2060 Silas Deane Highway  
Rocky Hill CT 06067**

**Simply present this flyer to your server and a percentage of your meal goes directly to the Little Scholars Preschool at the Rocky Hill Congregational Church.**

**★Reservations are not required, but are highly recommended★**

**Takeout orders are included. Be sure to mention Little Scholars Preschool when you call 860-563-4474**

## THIS WEEK AT RHCC

### February 8

10:00am **Worship**  
11:30am **Second Hour**  
2:00am Community Event  
4:00pm Tamil Sangam  
5:00pm **Confirmation**

### February 9

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

### February 10

8:30am **Breakfast Club**  
7:00pm **Council**

### February 11

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

### February 12

11:00am **Funeral**  
12:00pm Reception  
7:30pm Men's AA

### Sunday

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

### Monday

Chapel

Loft

### Tuesday

Bob's  
Fiorilli Room

### Wednesday

Rm. 6.  
Fiorilli Room  
Choir Room

### Thursday

Sanctuary  
Chapin Hall  
Chapin Hall



Feb 8 Susan White  
Robert Mullins  
11 Valerie Triblets  
Izaque da Silva  
12 Alfred Harlow III  
Annie Hokans-Doll  
Caryn Doten  
13 Beverly Schmidt  
Tyler Morgan  
14 Kurt Sheathelm  
Christopher Mosure  
Brian Speers

### **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.

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

**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](https://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: The Rev. 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)