

ROCKY HILL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Established 1727 ~ An Open and Affirming Community



February 16, 2020 ~ 10:00 a.m.

Sixth Sunday after Epiphany



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:

Declining churches tend not to be open to God's presence. They worship, meet, and engage in ministry and mission, but their sense is that God is in heaven, we are on earth, and all that matters is doing good deeds so that we can get into heaven... [W]hat makes a difference [between declining and thriving] is the extent to which the community is open to God at its core... [they] expect to encounter Christ as they engage in the practices of the church... [they] are aware that when we become open to God, God's Spirit flows through the church to make miracles happen.

N. Graham Standish in *Becoming a Blessed Church*

PRELUDE

The Gift of Love

Settings by Currie and Hopson

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT

More Love to You, O Christ

CALL TO WORSHIP

Don-Tomis Leonhardt

(responsively, using bold)

Based on Ps. 119

Happiness comes to those whose way is blameless,
who walk in your Law, Holy God.

Happiness comes to those who keep your decrees,
**and seek you with all their heart,
and do no wrong, but walk in your ways.**

You have commanded that your precepts be kept diligently –

O, that my ways may be steadfast and faithful!

Then I won't feel so ashamed when I look at your commands.

I will thank you with an upright heart.

Come, let us worship God.

*OPENING HYMN

In Christ There is no East or West

NCH 395

*(*please rise in body or in spirit; Bold denotes unison response)*

INVOCATION and the Lord's Prayer *(together)*

We gather into your presence, O God,
to be renewed in our commitments to loving service.
We celebrate your love for us, as you reached out to reclaim us
as your own, even while we were lost or unsure.
We give thanks for this new life in Jesus, for his example
of caring for others by becoming a servant for all.
Accept our praise as we worship you through service to others
today: Sharing in work that will benefit others, may we
learn more about what it means to be church by “doing.”
We pray this as Jesus taught us to pray, saying...
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**

Santo, Santo, Santo
Spanish, English, Spanish

NCH 793

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

Georgette Huie

DISASTER RELIEF BUCKET ASSEMBLY

Today we will assemble emergency clean up buckets to donate to the Church World Service organization (CWS), which provides disaster relief to families and communities affected by flooding, fires, tornadoes and other disasters.

Invitation

Rev. Nada Sellers

Assembly

You are invited to join in this project of assembling the buckets.

Dedication

Pastor: Let us pray: God of great love who taught us all compassion, we want to share the blessings that we have received from you with our neighbors throughout the world.

All: Who are our neighbors?

P: Those forced from their homes due to natural disasters and need us to recognize them as God's children in need.

All: What do they need?

P: They often need the basic things that we take for granted: items to maintain their health or items that will allow them to clean their homes.

All: How will this help?

P: The kits we bless today represent our compassion for our neighbors near and far.

With our kits we send our love and our witness to the presence of God's divine nature in our world.

All: We bear witness.

P: That the hands that made these kits, and the hearts that donated time, talent and treasure desire to be a blessing of God's love in this world.

All: We send our Love.

P: Acknowledging that we first received this love from God and pray that in so sending it God's grace will spread far and wide.

All: This is our prayer.

P: Bless the givers, the kits we made, the work of Church World Service in delivering the kits and the lives of all who receive our kits, with God's great love.

All: Amen.



CHURCH WORLD SERVICE

(Children are invited to depart for Church School)

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



SCRIPTURE READINGS

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

1 Corinthians 3:1-9

ANTHEM

Make Me a Channel of Your Peace
The Choir, Jennifer Martin, Interpreter

Sebastian Temple

SERMON

Reflections on Service

Rev. Nada Sellers

*HYMN

Help Us Accept Each Other

CHALICE 487

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 Solo

If With All Your Hearts
Dave Hall, cello

Felix Mendelssohn

*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*)

God, the Giver, whose many gifts to us are worthy of our praise.
Thank you for reminding us that together, we can share in work
that points to our shared ministry on behalf of others.
Receive our offerings and bless them for the continuing work
of your church in this place. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Sharing Our Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

*Sung Response

Come, O Lord, and Set Us Free

John Bell

*HYMN

The Church of Christ in Every Age

CHALICE 475

BENEDICTION *(responsively, sharing bold)*

Jesus says, Blessed are the poor in spirit:

the kin-dom of heaven is theirs.

Jesus says, Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for justice:

they will have their fill.

Jesus says, Blessed are those who show mercy to others:

they will be shown mercy.

Let us go out from this place, ready to respond:

Our worship is complete; let our service begin.

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

Allegro Moderato

Leon Boellman

THANKS to our worship participants today:

Ministers	You, the people of God
Pastor	Rev. Nada Sellers
Liturgist	Don-Tomis Leonhardt
Minister for Children/Youth	Georgette Huie
Ushers	Bob Carberry, Stephanie Heneghan
Greeter	Joan Tennyson
Hospitality	Sue VanNess, Ruth Jensen



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.

"Come, O Lord, and Set us Free" - John Bell, Words and Music - ©2008 Iona Community & WGRG1 Service.

"Help Us Accept Each Other" - Words: Fred Kann, 1974, Music: John Ness Beck, 1977. Tune: © 1977, Hope Publishing Company.

"The Church of Christ in Every Age" - Contributors: Fred Pratt Green. Text: © 1971 Hope Publishing Company.

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Bucket Brigade! Sunday February 16th



Today we will form a Bucket Brigade to assemble supplies during our worship service, as we have done for several years now, for donation 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.

Other ways you can help include:

- Donating for Supplies through purchase of a Scrip card
- Taking photos of the bucket assembly
- Delivering the filled buckets to Center Church in Meriden.

Thank you for your donations, support and participation today.

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 after 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 beautiful 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.

Reminder: There will be the Dixieland band rehearsal today after worship in the Sanctuary.



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 vailt@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.

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.

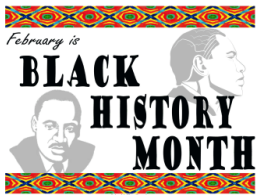
Jesus teaches us to welcome all God's children into God's covenantal community. As we grow together in faith and love, we will strive to celebrate the diversity in which God has created us.



COFFEE HOUR – UPDATE

Because the Inreach ministry has only 4-5 members it has become necessary to reexamine the Sunday coffee hours. Going forward, in order to reduce the preparation for, clean up after and alleviate the expense each member incurs, we will be offering the usual beverages but only serve DD Munchkins (Scrip purchased) and will use paper cups. It is hoped that the reduced effort will encourage more members to join the ministry to serve coffee and smile. No longer needing to master the use of the dishwasher or linger until the last person finishes chatting will remove another obstacle to volunteering.

One Sunday a month a more extensive selection may be served, on a holiday Sunday, Communion or just surprise! Anyone who feels inspired is encouraged to bring in a treat – SEE THE SIGN UP SHEET IN CHAPIN HALL. Of course, we will listen to suggestions emailed, texted or voiced to any of us: Ruth Jensen, Sue VanNess, Nancy Harlow, Jean Goff, Jackie Little or Steph Heneghan for Congregational Care Core Ministry Team.



For all of you are the children of God. —Galatians 3:28

Each person is created in the image of God. But whenever we devise, maintain or perpetuate systems and structures that oppress people based on race and/or ethnicity, we interfere with God's purpose and the opportunity for all God's children to be fully who they are created to be. Racism is an affront to God.

The United Church of Christ and its predecessor churches have made a priority commitment to supporting policies and structures that make real our Christian commitment to racial justice. The UCC's emphasis means more than simply challenging personal prejudices, but involves a commitment to in-depth analysis of societal policies and structures that either work toward the elimination of racism or perpetuate it. For more information, visit: www.UCC.ORG



Young mothers' group will be gathering Thursday, Feb 20 from 5:30-6:45pm in Room 6. RSVP to Georgette - a gluten-free vegetarian meal will be served.

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 16

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

Sunday

Sanctuary
Room 4
Rms 24,25,26
Chapin Hall
Youth Room 2



February 17

President's Day Office & Preschool Closed

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

7:00pm Bonsai Group
7:00pm Women's AA

Monday

Chapin Hall
Room 6

16 John Speers
17 Grant Hoffman
18 Alexander Benson
19 Leona Griswold
20 Midge Harvey
22 Brendan Flynn

February 18

Preschool closed/Office open
7:00pm Cedar Hollow

Tuesday

Chapin Hall

February 19

1:00pm Staff Mtg
6:30pm LSP Board
6:00pm Bell Choir
7:30pm Choir

Wednesday

Parlor
Fiorilli
Choir Room
Choir Room

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!*

February 20

5:30pm Young Mother's Group
7:30pm Men's AA

Thursday

Room 6/Nursery
Chapin Hall

February 21

Office closed on Fridays

Friday



RHCC Newsletter

Submission deadline for the March issue of The Church Mouse will be **February 17**. We want to hear from you! Send your articles and photos to: office@rhccucc.org. The mailing date will be Tuesday, February 25.