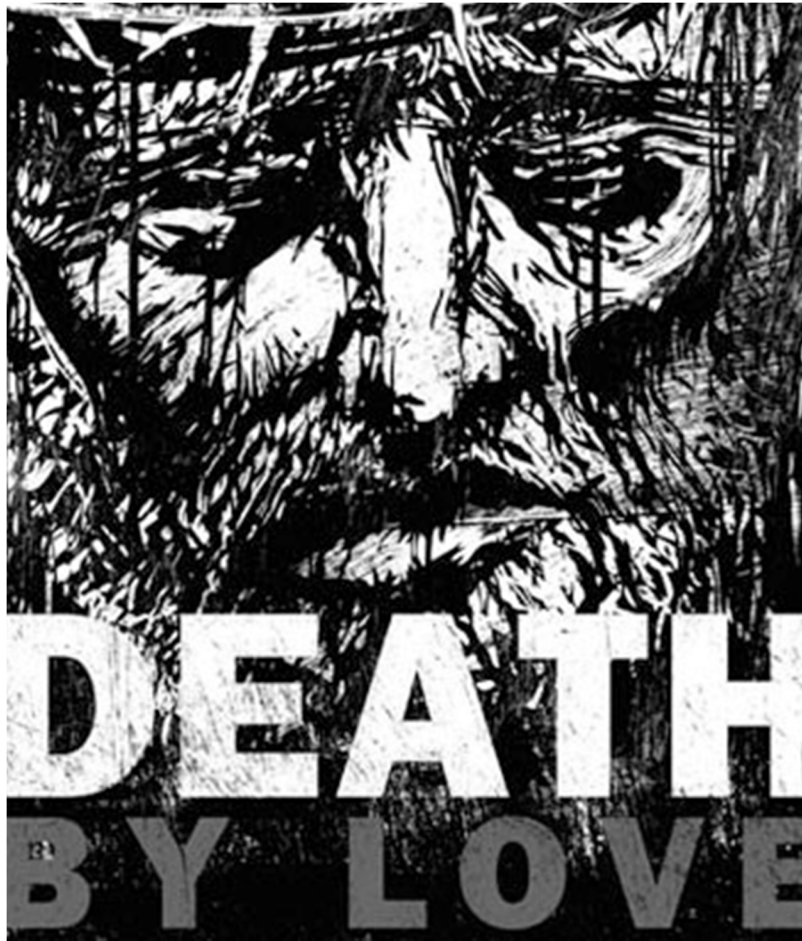


**ROCKY HILL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

Established 1727 ~ An Open and Affirming Community



**March 1, 2015 ~ 10:00 a.m.
Second Sunday in Lent**

~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. Meghan D. Young

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

"Peace Like A River"

arr. D. Goeller

CALL TO WORSHIP

The Rev. Dr. Brenda Pelc-Faszczka

We are called to journey, this and every day, following Jesus wherever he leads us.
Let us worship together, to tell future generations the good news.

**Let us practice justice,
to bring God's hope to all people.**

We are called to faithful living, to trust the One who gives us life.

**God calls each of us to take up our cross,
to trust the One who bears it with us.**

We journey with God.

**Let us worship God, who walks with us,
this and every day.**

*HYMN

"Glory, Glory Hallelujah"

Printed in bulletin

**Please rise in body or in spirit.*

**Bold type denotes collective response.*

***GATHERING PRAYER**

**God of Love,
in this unholy mess
we call life
you always call us
to faithfulness and trust,
calling us to set aside ourselves
and to shoulder a cross,
showering us with love and mercy
when we do nothing to deserve these gifts.
You always act in ways which surprise us.
With each encounter we are changed and transformed.
Draw us nearer, to live our lives as a reflection of divine glory.
Our world is hurting
and we need the followers of Jesus to follow more closely.
Maybe then we will hear your voice speaking to us and saying,
... “listen to my Child, the Beloved!”**

***WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

Great and giving God, we enter into the wilderness of this Lenten season with mixed feelings.

We appreciate the disciplines of Lent and the opportunities for growth. We acknowledge your promise of provisions to carry us through.

Yet we balk at our Lenten journey's beginning. We are often entirely comfortable in our customary places and spaces. We are content with relying upon sources of sustenance other than your presence.

We are inclined to trust our own sense of direction and are reluctant to follow the leadings of your spirit. Forgive us. Give us the will to journey far. May the season of lengthening be a season for strengthening spirits.

*You are invited to make a silent prayer of confession to God
in the community of God's people.*

God in Community, Holy in One,
we lift our voices, as well as our hearts,
knowing that you are our God, and we are your people. Amen.

***SUNG RESPONSE**



A - men. A - men. A - men. A - men. A - men.

The image shows a musical score for a sung response. It consists of two staves, a treble clef on top and a bass clef on the bottom. The key signature has one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is 2/2. The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics 'A - men. A - men. A - men. A - men. A - men.' are written below the treble staff. The music is a simple, rhythmic setting of the word 'Amen'.

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURES

Mark 8:31-38

SERMON

The Rev. Meghan D. Young

***HYMN**

“Peace Like A River”

Printed in bulletin

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

“When the Roll is Called Up Yonder”

arr. D. Goeller

Valerie Triblets, 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

Musical notation for the first part of the Sung Call to Prayer. It consists of two staves, treble and bass clef, in a 4/4 time signature with a key signature of one sharp. The lyrics are: "Hear our prayer, O God, hear our prayer, O God; in -".

Hear our prayer, O God, hear our prayer, O God; in -

Musical notation for the second part of the Sung Call to Prayer. It consists of two staves, treble and bass clef, in a 4/4 time signature with a key signature of one sharp. The lyrics are: "cline your ear to us, and grant us your peace."

cline your ear to us, and grant us your peace.

Pastoral and Silent Prayer

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

We come to the table where Christ is the host.
The table of God stands open and ready
as a place of sanctuary and safety, of hospitality.

**For this is the table
where God intends us to be nourished;
this is the time when Christ can make us new.**

So come, all you who are tired and travel-stained, footsore and famished;
come with your fellow travelers and find companionship and comfort;

**for here, Jesus –
who knows what it is to wander, watch and wrestle in desert places –
waits to meet us and welcome us in,
offering us rest and restoration, solace and strength,
for the journey still to come.**

Prayer of Preparation

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.**

Recalling the Story: The Words of Institution

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

Communion Music

“Give Me Jesus
“The Old Rugged Cross”

traditional spiritual
G. Bennard

Prayer of Thanksgiving

**Lord Jesus Christ,
you have put your life into our hands;
now we put our lives into yours.
Take us, renew and remake us.
What we have been is past;
what we shall be, through you
still awaits us.
Lead us on.
Take us with you. Amen.**

The Practice of Peace

Now let us share among us a sign of God's 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**

"We Shall Not Be Moved"

Printed in bulletin

***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE**

"When the Saints Come Marchin' In"

traditional

ACOLYTES

Brian Speers and Victoria Bower

COMMUNION SERVERS

Gail Tine, Steph Heneghan, Jan LaCava,

Bob Inderbitzen, Rob Grandell, Wendy Ware

USHERS

Kathy Mosure, David and Roberta Hawkins, Deb Copes, Steve Smith

GREETERS

Kari McCaw-Blaise

HOSPITALITY

Jean Goff, Jeannie Alessi, Nicolis Alessi

**This morning's flowers are given in memory of Melissa Hoffman
and Ben and Tom Hoge by Bill and Marsha Hoffman and family.**

**The tower is lit this week in loving memory of our dad,
C. Lawrence Carlson.**

Dixieland Band Members:

Gail Hall, Clarinet

James Rolfe, Tenor Sax

Ruth Fitzgerald, Baritone Horn

Rhody Triblets, Guitar

Chris Mosure, Bass

John Corvo, Drums

Dave Hall, Trumpet, Director, and Arranger

TODAY - SACRED CONVERSATION ON RACE

March 1, 2015 at 11:30 AM

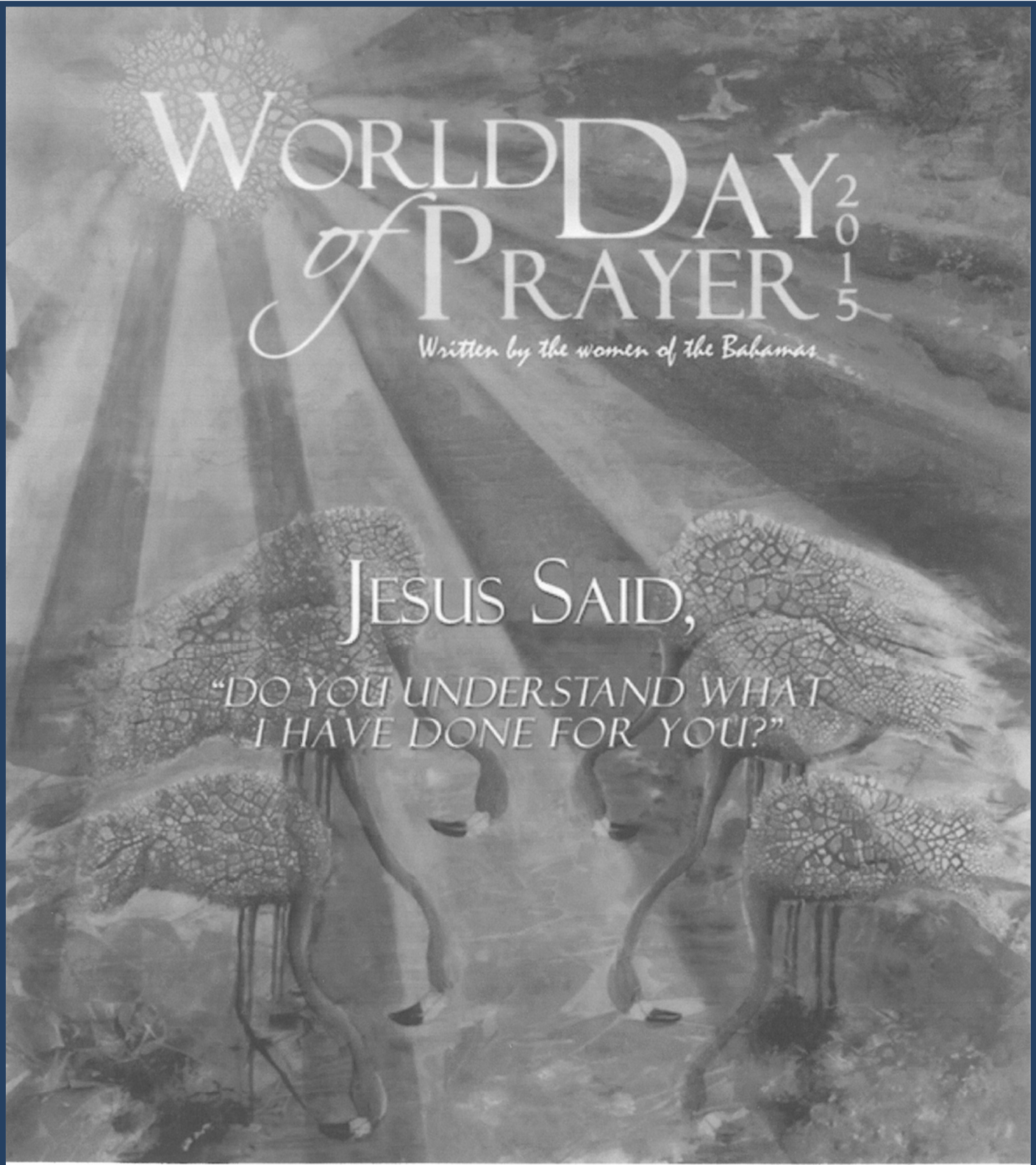
Join us for the first of our Lenten 2nd hours, as we gather for a sacred conversation on race. One of Martin Luther King's most famous quotes concerns race and the American church. "It is appalling that the most segregated hour of Christian America is 11 o'clock on Sunday morning...", King remarked in 1963. Sadly, almost 50 years later, the church remains overwhelmingly racially divided. What does this mean for us as a church? We will talk about the history of the Black church, focusing on segregation and the work off the UCC in regards to race relations. Who is the black church now and how can we be more racially sensitive in our personal life and in the life of the church?

Lenten Labyrinth

*Throughout Lent in the Chapel.
Open during office hours and on Sundays.*

Come walk the Lenten Labyrinth. Stop by the church and spend some time in prayerful reflection walking a labyrinth. Labyrinths have been used for centuries, in many cultures, to facilitate prayer, meditation, and spiritual transformation. Labyrinths have one way in and one way out, winding back and forth, to the middle and back out, until we reach the center. When we walk the labyrinth, we begin a pilgrimage. Where will yours take you?





WORLD DAY²⁰¹⁵
of PRAYER
Written by the women of the Bahamas

JESUS SAID,
"DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT
I HAVE DONE FOR YOU?"

Friday, March 6, 2015 ~ 7:00 P.M.
Saint Elizabeth Seton Church

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 March 8 with "Meals of Blessing" for our Lenten Church School Unit. "Meals of Blessing" is our communion education program at RHCC. We offer it every 3 years. This year is especially special, as we will learn about communion all of Lent, and then celebrate communion on Easter. Please join with us as we learn!

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 for more information.

UCC OPPORTUNITIES FOR GROWTH, LEADERSHIP, & FAITH FORMATION

GOING UP RIVER: WORKING FOR A JUST SOCIETY

Saturday, March 14, 8:30 AM - 4 PM at First Church of Christ in Mansfield

Explore the biblical mandate to "go up river", examine what helps and hinders us from fully responding to God's call to "do justice" by becoming a more effective advocate for justice and peace, and learn how justice may be incorporated into the life and ministry of your church. This training is offered to support teams of local church members - laity and clergy - who wish to infuse more faith-based justice conversations, education, skills and opportunities into their respective ministries and communities. Leading justice is a collaborative effort; it's most effective to learn with a team. To attend with the RHCC team, please RSVP to meghan@rhccucc.org or sign-up in Chapin Hall.

SUPER SATURDAY

Saturday, March 21, 2015. Must register by March 6th.

Hosted by the CT and MA Conferences of the UCC.

Join hundreds of pastors and lay leaders from across two conferences for a day of worship, workshops, networking, and a marketplace. The day will feature The Rev. Ruben Duran, Program Director for New Congregations for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, who will speak in the morning on Church for the Life of the World. For complete details, workshop descriptions, and to register:

www.macucc.org/supersaturday. Please contact a Pastor if you are interested in attending. Cost of attending is \$54, however if we register a group of 5 or more the cost is \$44.



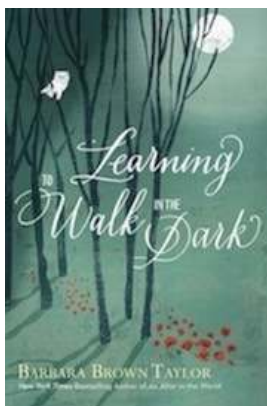
One Great Hour of Sharing offering will be collected on Sunday
March 15, 2015.

It is the Lenten Offering of the UCC supporting disaster, refugee
and development actions.

More information to come in Sunday Bulletins.

A BOOK FOR LENT

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



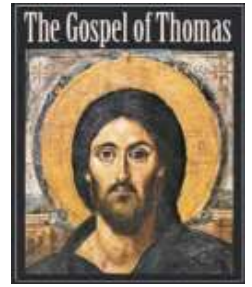
*A spiritual reflection on learning to welcome
the dark...
to see times of need, confusion and loss as times
when God can be seen.*

A discussion opportunity is planned for Second Hour following
worship on **Sunday, March 29**. If you have ordered a book, you
may pick it up after worship or from the office during office hours.
The cost is \$15.00.

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

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.

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, license, 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 or Stephanie Heneghan at stephanie_heneghan@yahoo.com for more information and 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.*

During February, over \$18,000 of scrip was sold, producing a profit for RHCC of more than \$1300. This was our best February result ever, a remarkable feat given that two Sunday morning services were canceled due to snow. If you ordered cards in February, you can pick them up this morning at the scrip table in Chapin Hall.

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,
Wendy's

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, Payless Shoes, Target, Toys R
Us, 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

REMEMBER OR HONOR LOVED ONES WITH EASTER FLOWERS



The flowers will adorn the sanctuary for worship on
Easter Sunday, April 5.



The three choices this year will be:
Easter Lily in 6 1/2 inch pots with 6+ buds (\$11.00)
Hyacinth 6 inch with 3 bulbs (\$8.50)
Tulip 6 inch full pots with limited color options (\$8.50)

The Deadline for orders is March 21.

Please fill out the information below and give to Kathy Mosure or the Church Office.

Given by: _____

Daytime Telephone Number: _____

Dedication ("in loving memory of...", "in honor of...", etc.):

	<u>Number ordered</u>	<u>Dollar Amount</u>
Lily @ \$11.00 each	_____ x 11.00 =	_____
Hyacinth @ \$8.50 each	_____ x 8.50 =	_____
Tulip @ \$8.50 each	_____ x 8.50 =	_____

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

Please select:

- I will pick up my plant after worship on Sunday, April 5.
- The Deacons may give my plant to a shut-in or homebound member.

**Make checks payable to RHCC and give them directly to
Kathy Mosure or mail to the Church Office**
805 Old Main Street, Rocky Hill CT 06067, Attn: Flower Committee

You may call Kathy with questions at 860 632-9763.



THIS WEEK AT RHCC

March 1

10:00am **Worship**
11:30am **Second Hour**
4:00pm **Tamil Sangam**

March 2

9:30am – 2:00pm **Labyrinth**
10:30am **Apple Rehab Service**
7:00pm **Women's AA**
7:00pm **Bowling**
7:30pm **Bell Choir**

March 3

9:30am – 2:00pm **Labyrinth**
11:00am **The Lodge Service**
7:00pm **Boards/Committees**

March 4

9:30am – 2:00pm **Labyrinth**
9:30am **Quilters**
12:00pm **Bible Study**
5:30pm **Nominating Comm.**
7:30pm **Adult Choir**

March 5 Thursday

9:30am – 2:00pm **Labyrinth**
7:00pm **Search Comm**
7:30pm **Men's AA**

March 6 Friday

7:00pm **World Day of Prayer**

March 7 Saturday

8:30am **Men's Bible Study**
9:00am **Yoga with Lynn**

Sunday

Sanctuary
Chapin Hall
Rm 22, 23, 24, 25

Monday

Chapel

Chapin Hall

Loft

Tuesday

Chapel

Wednesday

Chapel
Rm. 6.
Fiorilli Room
Fiorilli Room
Choir Room

Chapel
Fiorilli Room
Chapin Hall

St Elizabeth
Seton

Fiorilli Room
Chapin Hall



Birthdays

Mar 1 Bill Hoffman
Todd McGowan
2 Rebecca Milles
3 Alice Weil
Pat Gordon
Grace Donahue
4 John Van Doran
6 Percy Hall
Bay Tran
7 Margaret Vassilopoulos

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