

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

Established 1727 ~ An Open and Affirming Community



March 5, 2017 ~ 10:00 a.m.
First Sunday in Lent
Communion Sunday

~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** are available for worship—ask an usher. **Nursery care** is available down the hall in Room 4.*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*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 pastor 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.***

INTROIT

“Sanctus”
The Choir

Schubert

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Temptation surrounds us at every turn, inviting us to take just a little more:

People: More food, more money, more power, more life!

Leader: “What could it hurt?” we hear, on television, from friends, in our own souls:

People: More suffering, more hunger, more need, more fear, more anger.

Leader: So we gather today in worship to hear the consequences of “more”:

**People: And to celebrate that we do not need “more”
when we have everything in Christ.**

Leader: Beloved of God, let us drink deeply from the wellspring of God’s Spirit,
which has all we need to live fully, love deeply, and serve faithfully.

People: Thanks be to God!

*HYMN

“O Love, How Vast, How Flowing Free”

NC (black) 209

*Please rise in body or in spirit.

Bold type denotes collective response

*INVOCATION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

God, you are our hiding place and our refuge in the time of distress.

We turn to you now, seeking comfort from the wounds of the world and power to face all our afflictions.

Be present in our struggle, and help us to rest in your eternal promises, that we might be fed both with the bread of the world and the nourishment of your word,

strong to resist temptation and faithful in our worship of you.

We pray this in the name of Jesus, who 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

NCH 769

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

The first line of musical notation is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The lyrics are written below the treble staff. The melody is primarily in the treble staff, with the bass staff providing harmonic support. The lyrics are: "Hear our prayer, O God, hear our prayer, O God; in -".

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

The second line of musical notation continues the piece in the same key and time signature. It also consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The lyrics are written below the treble staff. The melody continues in the treble staff, and the bass staff provides harmonic support. The lyrics are: "cline your ear to us, and grant us your peace."

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



The image shows three staves of musical notation for the children's recessional song. The music is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C). The lyrics are written below the notes.

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 READING

Matthew 4:1-11

NT Pew Bible p3

SERMON

“In the Wilderness”

Rev. Craig L. Cowing

*HYMN

“Let Us Break Bread Together”

NCH (black) 330

OFFERING OF GIFTS

Following the receiving of offerings by the ushers, Rev. Cowing will come down the center aisle to collect your prayer 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

“The Best of Rooms”

Busarow

*Doxology



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



¹ Praise God for all that love has done; Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen

*Prayer of Dedication

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Joys & Concerns

Sung Call to Prayer "I Need You Every Hour" (verse 1) NCH 517



1 I need you ev - ery hour, O God of grace;
2 I need you ev - ery hour, in faith or fear;
3 I need you ev - ery hour, in joy or pain;
4 I need you ev - ery hour; teach me your will,



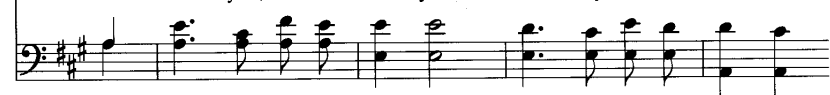
the peace your voice af - fords, I now em - brace.
temp - ta - tions lose their power when you are near.
come quick - ly and a - bide or life is vain.
and your rich prom - is - es in me ful - fill.



Refrain



I need you, how I need you! Ev - ery hour I need you;



O bless me now, my Sav - ior; I come to you.



Pastoral and Silent Prayer

Prayer of Confession

Creative, passionate God,
you delight to shape the world in beauty and harmony.
You invite us to participate in the balance of creation.
We grow in wisdom as our experience unfolds;
we take good learning out of difficult situations yet also
find our well-meant endeavors leading to unintended consequences.
Too often we give in to temptation
that disrupts the joyous, chaotic order of the universe.
We cannot undo all our mistakes,
but we can turn once more to the living presence of Jesus
and find new ways to live and love each other and the earth.
Do not let our hearts be fearful,
but let us in silence acknowledge our sin
and seek the forgiveness that restores your peace.

Silence

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: In Christ's life, ministry, death and resurrection,
we are made able to persist, upright and strong,
for our sins are forgiven.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

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

Recalling the Story: The Words of Institution

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Our God, we thank you for the goodness you shown us by feeding us with spiritual food. Assist us with your grace that we might continue in fellowship, doing your work in the world. Amen.

Sharing the Peace of Christ

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**

"Guide My Feet"

NC (black)497

BENEDICTION

***POSTLUDE**

LITURGIST

Judy Graham

COMMUNION SERVERS

Michael Bower, Sarah Degiovanni, Rob Grandell
Katie Hoffman-Fulda, Rich Pawlich-Pagliccio, Don Pagnucco

USHERS

Victoria Bower, Bob Inderbitzen, Sue Monaghan, and Joan Tennyson

HOSPITALITY

Sue Van Ness and Jen Martin



HOLY LAND POTLUCK DINNER AND PRESENTATION

Saturday, March 11 in Chapin Hall

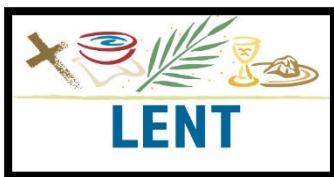
Potluck ~5:00 p.m., Presentation over dessert ~6:00 p.m.

Bring your favorite dish to share, or try something new from the rich and ancient cuisines of the Holy Land! Cookbooks and recipe links are available from Anita at coffee hours after church. Join us for a fun evening presentation of Craig's trip to the Holy Land. He'll share his collection of photos and artifacts from his trip to the Holy Land in 2011. It includes a few paintings he did of various scenes, an icon and a creche from Bethlehem, plus other items. Come and enjoy!

LENTEN PROGRAMS AT RHCC UCC

For Lent we will have several opportunities to learn about our faith. 2017 is the 500th anniversary of the beginning of the Protestant Reformation. Pastor Craig will do a series of second hour presentations on different aspects of the Reformation. These programs will be held after worship, beginning at 11:15 a.m, and will take place in Chapin Hall or the Parlor.

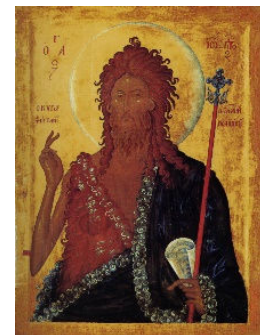
On Sunday, March 19 we will look at the Medieval background to the Reformation and what led up to it, and on Sunday, April 2 we will look at the Lutheran and Anabaptist Reformations. Later programs in the Fall will be on the Anglican Reformation and the Roman Catholic Church's response, and the Reformed movement and Puritanism.



On Wednesdays March 15 and 29 at 7 PM we will have a communion worship service based upon the second century (100's AD) as reconstructed from surviving writings. Both services will be held in the Weil Chapel.

We hope that you will find these activities interesting and enlightening!

The icon of the Month for March is a Macedonian depiction of John the Baptist, circa 1450. Visit anytime for prayer and contemplation in the Weil Chapel.



UCC Super Saturday is a full-day of skill building; offering numerous workshops, worship, a marketplace of vendors, and an opportunity for everyone to network with one another.

Saturday, March 18, 2017 at 8:00 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. Minnechaug Regional High School, 621 Main Street, Wilbraham, MA 01095, Brochures are available in Chapin Hall.

See Craig or Georgette if you'd like to attend, or contact the church office.

CALL TO THE ANNUAL BUDGET AND ELECTIONS MEETING

The annual Budget and Elections Meeting of the Rocky Hill Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, is called for Sunday, March 26, 2017 immediately following worship in the sanctuary for the transaction of the following items of business:

1. To vote on the proposed budget for the 2017-2018 fiscal year;
2. To approve the special offerings for Missions and Diaconate.
3. To vote on the distribution of any undesignated bequests for the 2017-2018 fiscal year.
4. To elect church officers and board and committee members for terms beginning May 1, 2017.
5. To hear the report of Governance sub-committee for overview of current status.
6. To approve recommendation of the Special Events Committee for the expenditure from 2016 events.

Linda Tokarski, Church Clerk



Hofstra Chamber Choir Concert - Saturday, March 25 at 4 p.m.

You won't want to miss this memorable concert. The Hofstra University Chamber a cappella Choir visited several times when our own Melody Hall was at Hofstra. They will be back with us again for a late afternoon concert on March 25. We hope to see you there. We will also be looking for host families for their one night stay. Many of you have hosted students in the past and found it a delightful experience. Please contact Lynne Lataille at Lynnelataille@sbcglobal.com if you can host.

Welcome New Members!

These new members were welcomed by Pastor Craig Cowing and the congregation on February 26, 2017:

(left to right) Jared Maynard, Alice Bradstreet, Rev. Ken Hoyt, and John Piacentini.



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
- 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, Olive Garden, On the Border, Outback Steakhouse, Red Lobster
- Shopping: Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Bed Bath & Beyond, Home Depot, Kohl's, iTunes, L.L. Bean, Lowes, Michaels, Payless Shoes, Target, Toys R Us, Walmart

The next ordering deadline (for cards not kept in inventory) will be on March 26.

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. You may donate at the scrip table in Chapin Hall.

Stop by 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

THIS WEEK AT RHCC

March 5

10:00am **Worship/Communion**
9:30am **Childcare**
10:00am **Church School**
4:00pm **Tamil School**
5:00pm **HS Youth Group**

March 6

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

March 7

7:00pm **Boards & Committees**
7:00pm **Hearing Voices**

March 8

9:00am **Breakfast Club**
6:00pm **Pilates**
7:30pm **Choir**

March 9

9:30am **Music Together**
7:30pm **Men's AA**

March 10

2:00pm **Baptism**

March 11

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



The Men's Christian Fellowship Study Group (bible study) meets on the second and fourth Saturdays from at 8:30-9:30am, in the Fiorilli room.

On Saturday March 11th, we will discuss "The life of Jesus" as viewed by Luke 2:1-20, 4:14-30, Mark 1:29-39 and Matthew 3: 13-4:11. Please join us for fellowship and spiritual enrichment. See Jim Stevens at church or call 860-632-5810 if you want further information.

Sunday

Sanctuary
Room 4
Rms 24,25,26
Rms 22,23,25,26,27
Mongolian Grill

Monday

Chapin Hall
Sanctuary

Tuesday

Fiorilli
Room 23

Wednesday

Bob's Coffee Shop
Chapin Hall
Sanctuary

Thursday

Room 22
Chapin Hall

Friday

Chapel

Saturday

Fiorilli



1	Bill Hoffman
1	Todd McGowan
2	Rebecca Milles
2	Pat Gordon
2	Grace Donahue
4	John Van Doran
6	Joseph Wilson
6	Timothy Bishop
6	Bay Tran
8	Kevin Sudell
9	Colleen Schultz
11	Jason Hall
11	Jennifer Knight
11	Sharon Calvo
11	Cheryl Robbins
11	Ryan Tuohey

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 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Friday – 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

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

Pastor: The Rev. Craig L. Cowing ccowing@rhccucc.org

Minister for Children and Youth: Georgette L. Huie ghuie@rhccucc.org

Minister of Music: Mary DeLibero mary@rhccucc.org

Office Manager: Theresa E. Cleary office@rhccucc.org

Webmaster: Dave Hall webmaster@rhccucc.org

Child Care Provider: Liz Pulling lrpulling@icloud.com