

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

Established 1727 ~ An Open and Affirming Community



March 15, 2015 ~ 10:00 a.m.

Fourth 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

“Jesus Paid it All”

Gail Hall, clarinet

John Grape
arr. R. Nichols

CALL TO WORSHIP

In this place, the community of faith
is reminded of the promise:

God's love endures forever!

In spite of our impatient grumbling,
despite our attraction to the shadows:

Christ's light shines in us!

When we think our hands are empty,
when we have no music in our souls:

**the Spirit fills us with glad songs,
and creates us for good works!**

*HYMN

“As Moses Raised the Serpent Up”

New Century (Black) 605

**Please rise in body or in spirit.*

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

***PRAYER OF RECONCILIATION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER**

God of love,
you reach deep into your pockets stuffed with mercy
and fill our empty souls;
refusing to be in the condemnation business,
you rebuild our shaky foundations with your everlasting love;
you hear our cries of loneliness and lament,
and reach down to lift us into your presence.

We give you thanks!

The Light of the world has come,
but we admit we love the shadows all around us.

For there, we can boast of our achievements,
rather than point to your grace;
there, we can grumble of our unhappiness with you,
instead of singing your praises;
there, we can give into our natural anger,
and not be touched by your call to be agents of peace and hope.
Forgive us when we close our eyes for fear of what you might show us;
open our eyes until we see what you see in our world.

*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 give you thanks for your steadfast love,
even as we pray as Jesus teaches us,

**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



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 accompaniment is in the bass clef. The lyrics 'A - men. A - men. A - men. A - men. A - men.' are written below the treble staff.

*THE PRACTICE OF 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).*

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



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.

The image shows the musical notation for the song 'We Will Keep a Place For You'. It consists of three staves of music in a treble clef. The key signature has two sharps (F# and C#) and the time signature is common time (C). The lyrics are written below the staves.

ANTHEM

“God So Loved the World”

K. Lee Scott

The Choir with Dave Hall, cello

*God so loved the world
That He gave His only begotten Son,
That who so believeth in Him,
Should not perish, but have everlasting life.*

*For God sent not His Son
Into the world to condemn the world,
But that in Him
The world might be saved.*

*This is a true saying
and worthy of all to be received,
That Christ Jesus came into the world
To save sinners.*

*God so loved the world
That He gave His only begotten Son,
That who so believeth in Him,
Should not perish, but have everlasting life.*

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURES

John 1:1-9
John 3:14-21

SERMON

“So Loved”

The Rev. Meghan D. Young

*HYMN

“What Wondrous Love Is This” New Century (Black) 223

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

“Fairest Lord Jesus”

arr. Dave Hall

Katie Hoffman-Fulda, flute; Gail Hall, clarinet; Dave Hall, cello

*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



The Lord is my light, my light and sal-va-tion: in God I trust, in God I trust. The

Pastoral and Silent Prayer

***HYMN** “God Loved the World” New Century (Black) 208

***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE** “O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High” setting Carl Schalk

ACOLYTES

Victoria Bower and Louis DiRenzo

GREETERS

John, Mollie, and Jacob Engel

HOSPITALITY

Christina Engel and Lynn McKenna

USHERS

Bob Grandell, Lois Griswold, Bob Inderbitzen, Jim and Lois Stevens

The flowers are given in memory of Bill Holmes

By Joan Tennyson



TODAY

11:30am – 12:30pm Chapin Hall

Antoinette Brown Blackwell

Join us for our 3rd Lenten second hour, as we gather for a sacred conversation. Facilitated by Kari McCaw Blaise for Women’s History Month, we will learn about “Antoinette Brown Blackwell” who was the first woman to be ordained by a mainstream Protestant church (1853, by the Congregational Church in South Butler, NY.)



Copies of the proposed budget for the 2015-16 fiscal year are available in four places: (1) the narthex, (2) on the table across from the church office, (3) in Chapin Hall, and (4) on the web site at rhccucc.org. Please review this material in advance of next Sunday's Budget and Elections meeting.

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 22, 2015 immediately following worship in the sanctuary for the transaction of the following items of business:

1. to approve the recommendation of the Council to reduce the ordained ministerial staff to one pastor;
2. to vote on the proposed budget for the 2015-2016 fiscal year;
3. to approve all special offerings for Missions and Diaconate;
4. to vote on the distribution of any undesignated bequests for the 2015-2016 fiscal year;
5. to elect church officers and board and committee members for terms beginning May 1, 2015;
6. to approve the recommendation of the Fair Committee for expenditure of the proceeds from the 2014 events;
7. to conduct any other business brought before the congregation.

Marsha Hoffman, Church Clerk

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 → Meals of Blessing

Read: *Exodus 12:1-14*

Reflect and Remember. The story of the Passover is one of the most important stories within the Judeo-Christian tradition – a story of the liberation of the people of Israel from slavery in Egypt. This is a story that Jesus would have heard over and over again as a child. It is also a story that had a tremendous influence upon the early interpretations of the meaning and purpose of Jesus' death and resurrection. The purpose of the Passover or Seder meal is to remember the exodus, which is celebrated among Jewish people to this day. Its observance is commanded in Exodus. God is the central actor and shows the extraordinary lengths that God will go to in order to save God's people. Though the exodus happened thousands of years ago, it was an event that called God's people into being. Though remembrance of these events, God's actions of the past are brought into present experience and we too experience God's liberating love.

Share Your Faith. *Talk about the Bible story children and youth explored this week and try this:* Plan a family gathering. Share a special dessert together and invite each family member to name a favorite experience or event of the past year. How does remembering together help these memories to "live"?

Read: *John 13:1-17*

Reflect and Remember. Although each of the Gospels include Jesus' words about the importance of servanthood, John's Gospel shows us the particular and intimate moment when Jesus demonstrates servanthood by washing the feet of his disciples. He commands his followers to love as he has loved them. Foot washing would have been a common experience in Jesus' day. People walked wherever they went, and roads were rocky and dusty. What would not have been common would be to have your teacher stoop down to wash your feet. This was usually the task of a household servant. Jesus willingly took on the task of servant and invited his followers to do the same. Jesus never betrayed his understanding of himself as "one who serves." His life is "given" and "poured out" for his disciples and for us all.

Share Your Faith. *Talk about the Bible story children and youth explored this week and try this:*

- 1) This week, pay attention to the many ways you touch water – as you bathe, washing dishes, cleaning, drinking. How might Jesus' action of foot washing be similar to baptism? What things does water remind you of?
- 2) What is one thing you could do to serve someone in your life? Make a list of options and look for opportunities this week to take action.

A Prayer For The Unit. Jesus, you are the light of the world. Jesus you are the bread of life. Refresh us with your word and feed us at your table so that we may love you and serve you with a living faith. Thank you for your gift and all those who show your love to us. Help us to remember you are always with us. *Amen.*

NOAH'S TABLE (6th-12th Grade) – Lenten Madness – Tonight, 5 PM – 6:30 PM

Lenten Madness! March 15 is selection Sunday, the kick-off of the NCAA basketball tournament and March Madness. We'll be doing our own version of March Madness – “Lenten Madness”. Join us as we make dinner and pit our favorite bible characters against each other in an NCAA style tournament. Please RSVP by Friday, March 13, with Meghan Young at 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 for more information.*

BREAD: A Call for Recipes



This year for Lent the church school put away wheat for Lent, as well as wrote our blessings and hopes on communion clothes. This year on Holy Saturday we will transform the “wheat” into bread for communion on Easter Sunday. If you have a simple bread recipe please share. Gluten Free recipes are also needed. For information and to submit a bread recipe, please email Meghan Young at Meghan@rhccucc.org.

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?



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.



VERSIONS OF GOOD FRIDAY

A small-group adult education opportunity

Thurs., Mar. 19, 7-8:30 p.m.
OR Tues., Mar. 24, 1-2:30 p.m.
(same session offered twice)

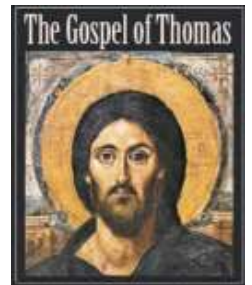
The story of the crucifixion of Jesus, like the narratives of his birth and resurrection, appears in differing versions in the four gospels of the New Testament. We'll look at each version, consider its details, reflect on what can be learned about how this central Christian story has been shaped and told.

No sign-up necessary

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

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.

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

THIS WEEK AT RHCC

March 15

10:00am **Worship**
11:30am **Second Hour**
2:15pm Piano recital
4:00pm Tamil Sangam
5:00pm **Youth Group**

March 16

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

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

March 17

11:00am Retired Clergy

March 18

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

March 19

7:00pm **Versions of Good Friday**
7:00pm **Search Committee**
7:30pm Men's AA

March 21

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

Sunday

Sanctuary
Chapin Hall
Sanctuary
Rms 22, 23, 24, 25
Chapin Hall

Monday

Chapin Hall

Loft

Tuesday

Parlor

Wednesday

Rm. 6.
Fiorilli Room
Fiorilli Room
Choir Room

Thursday

Room 22
Fiorilli Room
Chapin Hall

Saturday

Parlor
Chapin Hall



Birthdays

Mar 15 Alexander Ware
17 Kathy Morgan
18 Gabriella Salazar
20 Sue Van Ness
Elaine Somes
Charlotte Reed-Swale
21 Ryan Bengston

The
"Church Mouse"
DEADLINE
for the April issue is
tomorrow March 16.
MAILING will be
Tuesday,
March 24.

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.

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.

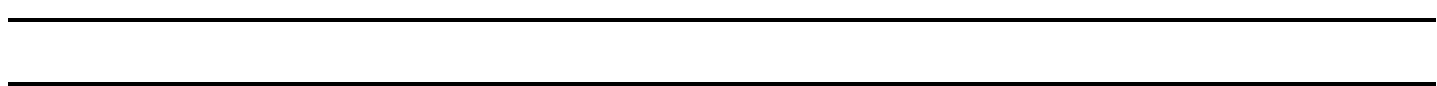
Please fill out the information below and give to Kathy Mosure or the Church Office.



Given by: _____

Daytime Telephone Number: _____

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



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

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

Please select:

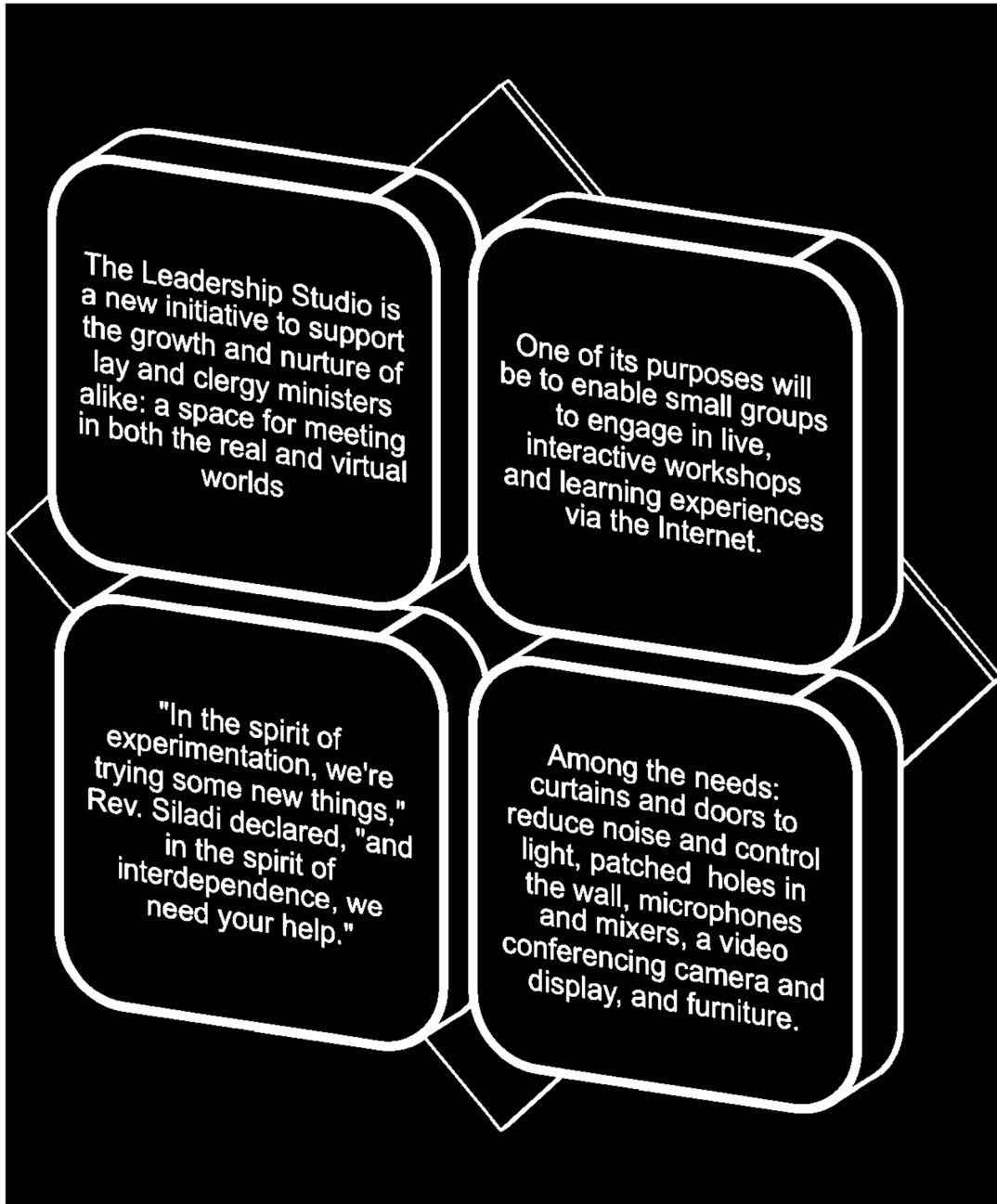
- I will pick up my plant after worship on Sunday, April 5.
- The Deacons may give my plant to a shut-in or homebound member.

**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.



The Leadership Studio



**Donate to the
Leadership Studio Campaign!**

ctucc.org/studio

The Leadership Studio

**A place where leadership is born
and nurtured**

**A place of engagement and
Collaboration**

We need your help!



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