

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

*Established 1727 ~ An Open and Affirming Community*



**March 18, 2018 ~ 10:00 a.m.**

**Fifth Sunday in Lent**

# ~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** are available for worship—ask an usher. **Nursery care** is available downstairs in Room 4.*

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## 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 center aisle at the time of the offering, when the cards will be collected.***

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## PRELUDE

Jared Maynard, guitar

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Randy Pulling

Leader: Let us gather to worship.

**All: O God, we wish to see Jesus!**

**We come to worship, to pray, and learn.**

Leader: We come looking for Jesus in Scripture lessons,  
in our own life experiences, in helping our world,  
in prayers for each other.

**All: We seek to follow in the way of Jesus.**

Leader: We lay bare before God and one another our own wilderness journey  
filled with some gladness and hope, with reluctance and sorrow,  
with fear and confusion.

**All: O God, speak to us, show us, touch us with your presence!  
Let our Lenten journey lead us to Jesus, so that we may show  
Jesus forth in our lives, our faith community, and our world.**

\*Please rise in body or in spirit.

**Bold type denotes collective response**

**\*INVOCATION AND THE LORD’S PRAYER**

God of the journey,  
you invite us, the church,  
“to accept the cost and joy of discipleship”  
and “to be your servants in the service of others.”  
In so doing, may your presence be our guide and  
Jesus our model.

May we respond to you in loving faithfulness as we seek  
to follow 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.

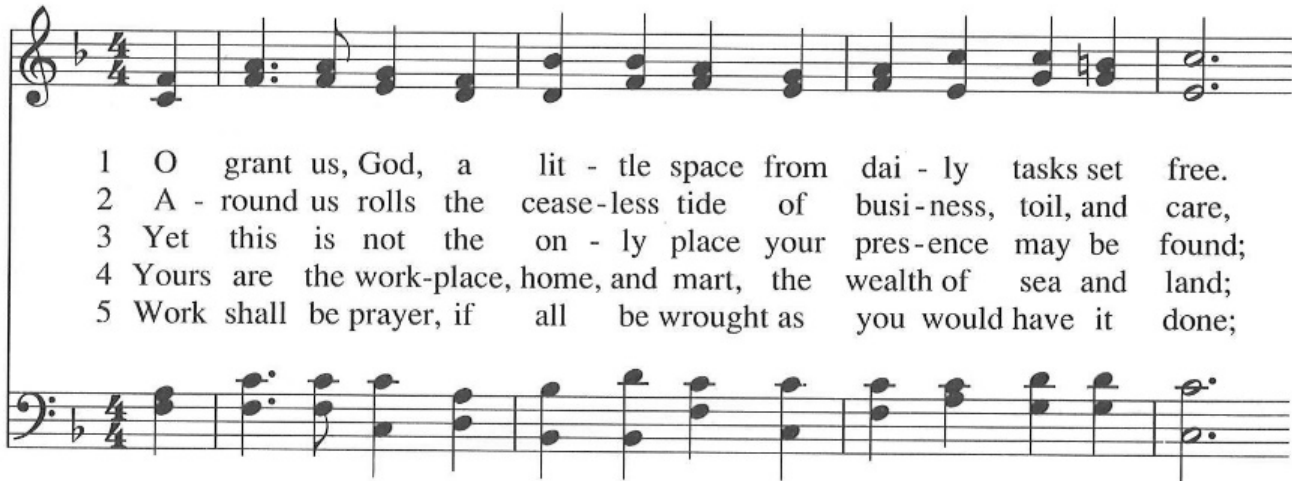
Amen.



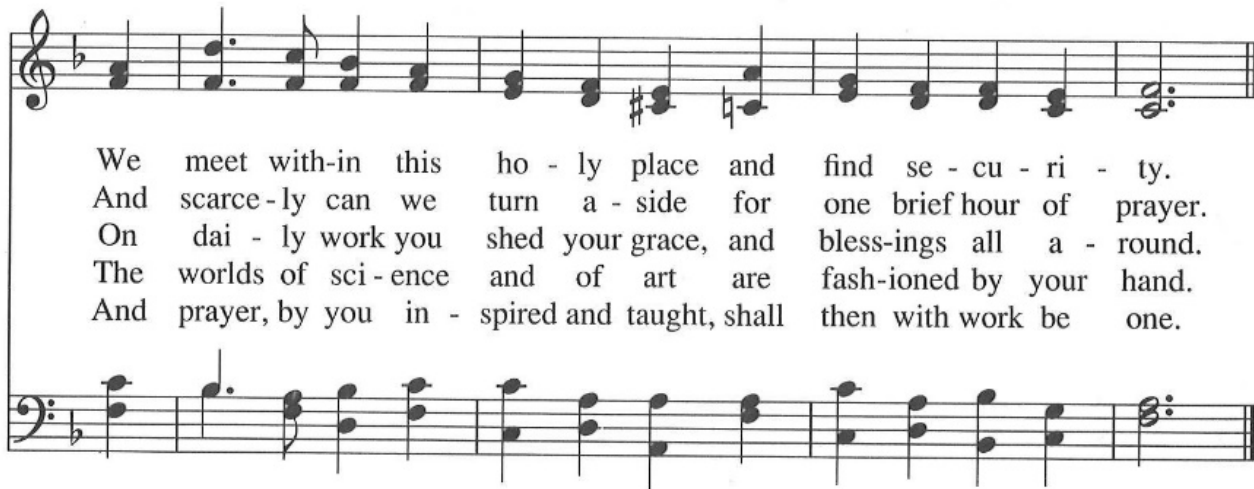
**\*SUNG RESPONSE**

**“O Grant Us, God, a Little Space”**

N 516 verse.1



1 O grant us, God, a lit - tle space from dai - ly tasks set free.  
2 A - round us rolls the cease-less tide of busi-ness, toil, and care,  
3 Yet this is not the on - ly place your pres-ence may be found;  
4 Yours are the work-place, home, and mart, the wealth of sea and land;  
5 Work shall be prayer, if all be wrought as you would have it done;



We meet with-in this ho - ly place and find se - cu - ri - ty.  
And scarce-ly can we turn a - side for one brief hour of prayer.  
On dai - ly work you shed your grace, and bless-ings all a - round.  
The worlds of sci - ence and of art are fash-ioned by your hand.  
And prayer, by you in - spired and taught, shall then with work be one.

**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.

**ANTHEM** “Jesus, The Very Thought of Thee” Chant Mode I, arr. Arlen Clarke

**SCRIPTURE READING** Jeremiah 31:31-35 NT Pew Bible p735

**SERMON** “Written On The Heart” Rev. Craig L. Cowing

**\*HYMN** “Just As I Am” NCH #207

### **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** “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;

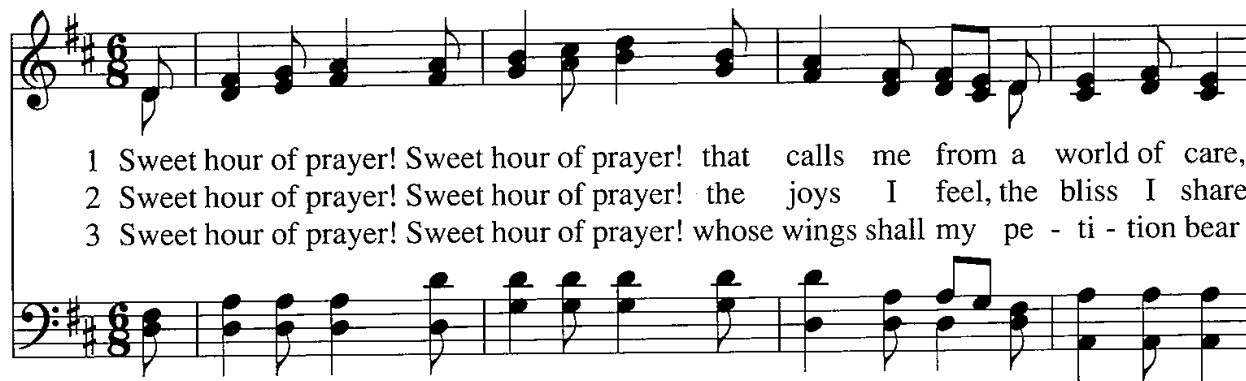


Praise God for all that love has done; Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen

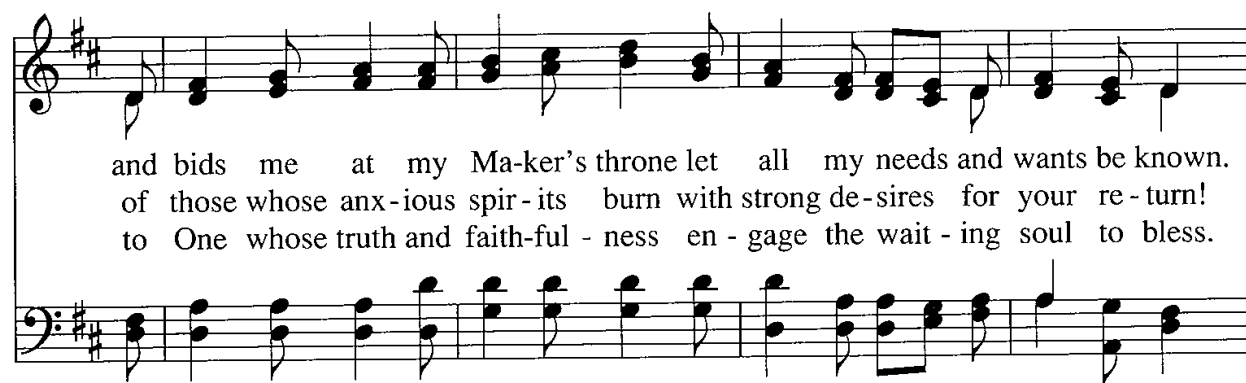
### **\*Prayer of Dedication**

### **PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

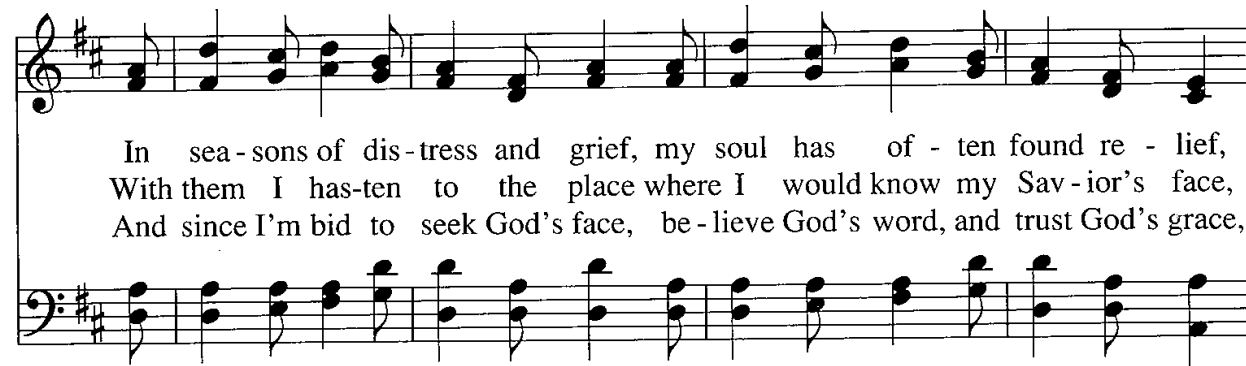
### **Joys & Concerns**



1 Sweet hour of prayer! Sweet hour of prayer! that calls me from a world of care,  
 2 Sweet hour of prayer! Sweet hour of prayer! the joys I feel, the bliss I share  
 3 Sweet hour of prayer! Sweet hour of prayer! whose wings shall my pe - ti - tion bear



and bids me at my Ma-ker's throne let all my needs and wants be known,  
 of those whose anx-ious spir-its burn with strong de-sires for your re - turn!  
 to One whose truth and faith-ful - ness en - gage the wait - ing soul to bless.



In sea - sons of dis - tress and grief, my soul has of - ten found re - lief,  
 With them I has - ten to the place where I would know my Sav - ior's face,  
 And since I'm bid to seek God's face, be - lieve God's word, and trust God's grace,



and oft es - caped the tempt - er's snare by your re - turn, sweet hour of prayer!  
 And glad - ly take my sta - tion there, and wait for you, sweet hour of prayer!  
 I'll cast a - way my ev - ery care, and wait for you, sweet hour of prayer!

**BENEDICTION**

**Budget and Elections Meeting**

**LITURGIST**

Randy Pulling

**USHERS**

Marge Murk, Candy Smith

**HOSPITALITY**

Nancy Harlow and Ruth Jensen

*Today’s Altar Flowers are given by Candace Smith, in memory of  
 William and Adrienne Cain,  
 on what would have been William’s 100th birthday.*



**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 18, 2018 immediately following worship** in the sanctuary for the transaction of the following items of business:

1. To vote to ratify the Constitution as proposed by the Governance Committee.
2. Presentation and approval of the proposed budget for the 2018-2019 fiscal year.
3. To ratify nominating committee recommendations for coming year beginning May 1, 2018.
4. To approve recommendation of the Special Events Committee for the dispersal of funds from 2017 events.

Linda Tokarski, Church Clerk

A copy of the proposed Annual Budget for the upcoming fiscal year will be available for pickup in Chapin Hall and in the Parish House hallway on Sunday, March 18. You may also request a copy by emailing Dave Hall at [treasurer@rhccucc.org](mailto:treasurer@rhccucc.org).

**From the Governance Committee:** We will be voting on the new Constitution at the Budget and Elections meeting on March 18<sup>th</sup>, immediately after worship. We strongly urge everyone to attend this meeting. It so important that we have a quorum at the meeting and that we affirm this bold new step that will carry us into the future.

To provide better understanding of the new framework and the upcoming transition plans, we hosted a second hour session on Feb 25<sup>th</sup>. Approximately 30 people attended this session. If you were unable to be there, you can hear an audio recording and see the various slides and handouts online at <http://rhccucc.org/governance>. Hard copies of the presentation slides and handouts are also available in Chapin Hall and on the table in the parish house hallway (across from the office).



If you have questions or comments you want to share, please contact Dave Hall, Marsha Hoffman, Deb Copes, Ruth Fitzgerald, or Pastor Craig Cowing.



### **Smiling Volunteers Wanted to Help Usher**

A small ministry team helps invite and schedule volunteers to usher during worship each Sunday morning. Please consider volunteering! Ushers arrive at 9:30 AM to greet and welcome members, friends and guests, to hand-out bulletins, and to providing assistance as needed. Ushering is a good way to meet new people and develop a sense of serving God and our church community. All ages welcome! Please consider ushering during one Sunday each month. Contact Bob Inderbitzen [rinderbitzen@cox.net](mailto:rinderbitzen@cox.net) or tel. 860-418-9171. If you already help usher...thank you! You contribute to the spirit of worship, friendliness, and welcome in our church!

### **WORSHIP RECORDINGS AVAILABLE**

Audio recordings, written sermons and bulletins for many of our Sunday worship services are available on the church website, [rhccucc.org](http://rhccucc.org) (See WORSHIP BULLETINS) or you may contact the office to request an audio CD.

Looking for something you left behind?  
Check the Lost & Found Boxes in  
Chapin Hall and in the hallway near Fiorilli Rm.







## REMEMBER OR HONOR LOVED ONES WITH EASTER FLOWERS

The flowers will adorn the sanctuary for worship on  
Easter Sunday, April 1st

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 Palm Sunday, March 25

Please fill out the information below

Given by: \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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	<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 Easter Sunday, April 1st.
- [ ] The flowers may remain in church to decorate the sanctuary

Make your checks payable to:

Rocky Hill Congregational Church with "Easter flowers" in memo line and mail to:

**Kim Burghoff, 204 Gray Fox Lane, Rocky Hill CT 06067.**

**You may call Kim with questions at 860 563-3287.**

# 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, 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, Walmart

The next order for cards not stocked in inventory will be placed on **March 25**.

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 18

10:00am **Worship**  
9:30am **Childcare**  
10:00am **Church School**  
5:00pm **MS Youth Group**

### March 19

#### **Little Scholars Closed**

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

### March 20

*Vernal Equinox – First Day of Spring!*

7:00pm **Hearing Voices**

### March 21

7:30pm **Choir**

### March 22

9:30am **Music Together**  
7:00pm **Events Committee**  
7:30pm **Men's AA**

### March 23

9:00am **Music Together/LSP**  
6:00pm **Tamil School**

### March 24

11:00am **Private Event**

### Sunday

Sanctuary  
Room 4  
Rms 24,25,26  
**Chapin**

### Monday

Chapin Hall  
Fiorilli Rm  
Sanctuary

### Tuesday

Room 23

### Wednesday

Sanctuary

### Thursday

Room 22  
Fiorilli  
Chapin Hall

### Friday

Rm 6  
Rms 22,23,25,26,27

### Saturday

Chapin Hall



20	Susan VanNess
20	Charlotte Reed-Swale
21	Ryan Bengston
22	Gladys Carpenter
23	Marilyn Van Doran

*Easter Flower Orders  
due on Palm Sunday,  
March 25.  
Order yours today!*



Monday, March 26 – Join us as we prepare the April Newsletter. 9:30am in the Fiorilli Room!

#### **HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

March 25 Palm Sunday 10 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary  
March 29 Maundy Thursday 7 p.m. Service of Tenebrae in the Sanctuary  
March 31 Holy Saturday 10 a.m. Family Activities and Worship in Chapin Hall  
April 1<sup>st</sup> Easter Sunday! 6:30 a.m. Sunrise Service at Rose Hill Cemetery  
Breakfast will follow at 7am the Church in Chapin Hall  
10:00 a.m. Easter Worship Service in the Sanctuary



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](http://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](mailto:ccowing@rhccucc.org)

Minister for Children and Youth: Georgette L. Huie [ghuie@rhccucc.org](mailto:ghuie@rhccucc.org)

Minister of Music: Mary DeLibero [mary@rhccucc.org](mailto:mary@rhccucc.org)

Office Manager: Theresa E. Cleary [office@rhccucc.org](mailto:office@rhccucc.org)

Webmaster: Dave Hall [webmaster@rhccucc.org](mailto:webmaster@rhccucc.org)

Child Care Provider: Liz Pulling [lrpulling@icloud.com](mailto:lrpulling@icloud.com)