

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

Established 1727 ~ An Open and Affirming Community



March 23, 2014 ~ 10:00 a.m.
Third 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 downstairs in Room 4.*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Rev. Dr. Brenda Pelc Faszczka

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 pew racks (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.

PRELUDE

"Give Me Jesus"

arranged by Mark Hayes
Traditional Spiritual

CALL TO WORSHIP

Meghan D. Young

Here we gather, in the gift of a new day,
ready, seeking, longing for the gift of new life.

**We come from our everyday places and everyday lives,
from tasks and troubles, from worries and fears,
to meet the One who already knows us.**

Here we gather, in the gift of a new day,
ready, seeking, longing to be touched by the mysteries of grace.

**We come as we are, that by God's love
we might become more than we are.**

For the seeking there is promise, for the longing, hope,
for the thirsty, water:

Christ, the living water, will meet us here!

**Please rise in body or in spirit.*

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

***GATHERING PRAYER AND THE LORD’S PRAYER**

Lisa Eleck

God of all times and places,
God of this time and place,
in this season of Lent we open to you our hearts
and to this sacred place we bring our lives,
the daily round of joy and sorrow, of hope and need,
that all might be touched and healed.
May we be forgiven all we do and all we fail to do
that brings pain to your world;
for the wrong we knowingly choose,
and the right we knowingly neglect,
for our failures of compassion and our hurt of each other.
God of new beginnings, make us new creations.

***WORDS OF ASSURANCE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER**

Hear the promise of the gospel, its word of life to us:
God is faithful... God is faithful... God is faithful.
Nothing separates us from the holy love that heals, forgives,
and redeems the world.

Thanks be to God.

Now let us pray together in the words Jesus has taught 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

$\text{♩} = 76$ *p* Dm G Dm B \flat C F A

Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's ho - ly name.

Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me in - to life.

*THE PRACTICE OF 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

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.

Val Triplets, Dave Hall, vocalists, Rhody Triplets, Guitar, Chris Mosure, Bass

*A Samaritan woman came running to the city to talk about a man she saw.
She took her pitcher, went to the well, water she intended to draw.
The stranger she met there, she didn't know where he came from
but he told her every sinful thing she had done.
She said the man at the well blessed my soul, moved on.*

*Her friends asked her - ("Do you know that man?")
She said "no, I never saw him before."
They asked her - ("Did you get his name?")
"He didn't tell me and I don't know.
But when he touched me I felt the power -my soul caught on fire!
He stopped by, blessed my soul and moved on."*

*The stranger was next seen in a city, standing off an angry mob.
Defending a woman who had been caught in the very act of adultery.
Pity and mercy she sought.
He said "Ye here without sin cast the first stone!"
When he raised her from the ground all her accusers were gone.
He gave her a smile, waved farewell and moved on.*

*The crowd asked her ("Do you know that man?")
She said "No, I never saw him before."
They asked her ("Did you get his name?")
"He didn't tell me and I don't know.
But when he touched me I felt the power and my soul caught on fire
He stopped by, saved my life and moved on."*

*I met that same man
I met that same man
When I turned my eyes away from fear
He opened up his arms and took me near!
I felt the power - Oh My soul caught on fire!
He stopped by - blessed my soul
He stopped by - blessed my soul
He stopped by - saved my life
And moved on...*

SERMON

"Living Water"

The Rev. Dr. Brenda Pelc Faszczka

*HYMN

"Wellspring of Wisdom"

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

"Steal Away"

arranged by Don McKeever

The Choir

Traditional Spiritual

Steal away, steal away, steal away to Jesus.

Steal away, steal away home.

My Jesus, I adore you.

My Lord, He calls me

He calls me with the thunder.

The trumpet sounds within my soul.

My Jesus, I adore you.

***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

Pastoral and Silent Prayer

Prayer Response

Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's holy name;

Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me into life.

***HYMN**

“In the Bulb There is a Flower”

New Century (black) 433

***BENEDICTION**

GREETERS

Caryn, Todd and Emily Doten

HOSPITALITY

Joan and Jim Ross

USHERS

Bea Donahue, Bob Simmons, Kathy Mosure, Joan and Al Diaz

LITURGIST

Lisa Eleck

The flowers are given in memory of loved ones by Babs Wheeler.

CALL TO THE ANNUAL BUDGET AND ELECTIONS MEETING TODAY

The annual Budget and Elections Meeting of the Rocky Hill Congregational Church, United Church of Christ is called for **Sunday, March 23, 2014** immediately following worship in the sanctuary for the transaction of the following items of business:

1. to vote on the proposed budget for the 2014-2015 fiscal year;
2. to approve all special offerings for Missions and Diaconate;
3. to elect church officers and board and committee members for terms beginning May 1, 2014;
4. to approve the recommendation of the Fair Committee for expenditure of the proceeds from the 2013 events;
5. to vote on the distribution of unspecified bequests for the 2014-2015 fiscal year;
6. to conduct any other business brought before the congregation.

Marsha Hoffman, Church Clerk

A handout containing the proposed budget and related discussion as well as the list of nominations for election will be available at the meeting directly following this service.

NEWSLETTER MAILING
TOMORROW

COME **JOIN** a wonderful group of people who help prepare the bulk mailing of the newsletter. We will begin around 9:30am **MONDAY** morning in the Fiorilli Room. It takes between 15 to 20 hours to complete this task, so the more people helping, the faster the work is done. Come any time in the morning, for a half hour, an hour, or however long you can.



**Ladies, you are invited
to InReach's**

**LADIES BRUNCH
& FASHION SHOW**

Chapin Hall,
Sunday, April 6, 2014, at 1:30 pm.

*Our models will feature fashions by Dress Barn while you dine on quiches,
green salad, fruit, sweet & savory muffins and breads, light desserts,
and assorted beverages.*

Please **call 860-529-8789 to reserve tickets.**

Tickets: \$10.00.

S.P.I.R.I.T. Corner

Serve, Pray, Invite, Receive, Ignite, Tell

S.P.I.R.I.T. Faith Nurture Ideas

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...

COME JOIN THE CIRCLE: Unit 4 – Women Of The Resurrection

Faith Questions

Read Luke 24:1-10. It tells us, “two men in dazzling clothes” appeared to Mary and the other women at the tomb, terrifying them, and telling them, “He is risen.” The disciples, hearing of the experience, call it “an idle tale.” But, was it really an idle tale?

Think of a time when something unexpectedly good happened to you. What was your first response? Was it belief or disbelief? What did you think? Feel? Do? Sometimes we are tempted to call these “good news” events “idle tales” because we are afraid to trust or believe.

Make room for surprise: Practice a different response to the unexpected. Toys and games can provide opportunities for us to experience the unexpected. For example, find a high bounce super ball and experiment with it outside. How high can it bounce? How many times? Think of the ball as a surprise in your faith life. Catch or chase the surprise no matter how high and far it goes and remember to open your heart to surprises in your life.

Easter Prayer: Dear God, thank you for the wonderful surprise called Easter. When you roll away stones in our lives, we are often afraid. Help us to open our hearts to surprises as we learn and grow together. Amen.

NOAH'S ARK- Meets tonight!

Beginning this March, Noah's Ark will begin meeting twice a month on Sunday evenings from 5 PM – 6:30 PM for dinner, fellowship, and faith. If you are planning to attend, please RSVP with Diana Hellyar.

NURSERY VOLUNTEERS: Nursery Volunteers are needed. If you are interested in volunteering in the Nursery during Sunday morning worship, please contact a member of the Childcare Committee or email them at RHCCchildcare@gmail.com for more information. You can also sign-up outside the Nursery.

PARENTS:

Church school ends at 11:15 AM.

Please pick-up your children at the following locations.

(So that the children may focus through the end of their class, we ask that you do not look through the classroom windows, and that you wait for the teacher to end class by opening the classroom door.)

CLASS	PICK-UP LOCATION
Pre-K & K - 1st Grade	FUN & GAMES RM. 24 <i>Christian Education Hallway</i>
2nd & 3rd Grade	COMMUNITY LIFE RM. 22 <i>Christian Education Hallway</i>
4th & 5th Grade	SHOW & TELL RM. 25 & RM. 27 <i>Christian Education Hallway</i>
6th-8th Grade	HANDS ON RM. 23 <i>Christian Education Hallway</i>

RHCC FOOD PANTRY BASKET

Melissa Gerace-Hicks, Director of Rocky Hill Human Services with responsibility for the Food Pantry, informs us that the client list is increasing while donations are decreasing. In March, monetary donations normally designated for fresh food were used to purchase crackers, rice, and juice. Other staples are also in short supply. The following food items are needed:

Spaghetti sauce and linguini pasta
Rice
Soups
Tuna & canned chicken
Peanut butter & jelly

Crackers
Juice, coffee, tea
Cereals
Applesauce

Jars can be plastic or glass.

Additionally all paper goods (towels, toilet paper, etc.) and detergents are in short supply and **always** needed. Toothpaste, shampoo and conditioners are needed. The pantry also accepts hotel size containers. All donations are welcome.

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.

This month, we have a special appeal from Kari McCaw-Blaise for gift card donations for the "**Covenant to Care**" program, which receives periodic support from our church through the Board for Missions. Donations will be used to provide Easter baskets for as many as 20 kids. Any funds donated through the scrip program will be used to provide gift cards at cost, so your donation will be magnified by the embedded discount. If you are buying cards at the scrip table today, how about adding an extra \$5, \$10, or \$25 to your order to go to this worthy cause? (And you can donate even if you aren't buying any other scrip, of course.)

We continue to stock a variety of cards in inventory from more than 30 different restaurants and retailers, available for immediate purchase this morning, including (but not limited to):

Coffee: Dunkin Donuts, Starbucks

Fast food: Boston Market, Burger King, 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

Shopping: Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Bed Bath & Beyond, Best Buy, Home Depot, Kohl's, Lowes, Marshall's, Target, Walmart

See Gail Hall at the scrip table this morning for a complete listing of available cards, or to have all of your questions answered.

Think SCRIP!

WANTED

The loan of your collection of interesting/funny/beautiful things for everyone to admire in the case by the office. Joan Tennyson (860-529-8789) can arrange your wonderful things. They don't have to be religious in theme.

THIS WEEK AT RHCC

March 23

10:00am	Worship	Sanctuary
11:30am	Budget & Election Mtg	Sanctuary
11:30am	Children/Youth Music	Choir Rm
12:00pm	Living the Resurrection	Parlor
5:00pm	Noah's Table	

Sunday



March 24

Monday

NEWSLETTER MAILING

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

March 26

Wednesday

9:30am	Quilters	Rm. 6.
12:00pm	Bible Study	Fiorilli Room
7:30pm	Adult Choir	

March 27

Thursday

5:30pm	Tops	Chapin Hall
7:00pm	Art & Faith	Fiorilli Rm & Parlor
7:00PM	Fair Committee	Room 24
8:00pm	Men's AA	Chapin Hall

Mar. 23	Marilyn Van Doran
24	Bea Donahue
	Janice Wine
	Sarah Mosure
25	Margaret White
26	Todd Pender
27	Richard Sweezy Jr.
	Rebekah Van Epps
28	Gail Fu
	Lisa Siembab
	Nicole Graham
29	Kim Burghoff
	Carol Jensen
	Laura Fell
	Erik Rousseau
	David Van Epps

WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY

Wednesdays, 12 noon – 1 p.m. (Fiorilli Room)

Led by the preaching pastor for the week, the study is based on the Scripture text(s) coming up for the following Sunday in worship. All are welcome. No experience necessary. Bring your favorite translation or pick one up from the shelf. Brown bag lunch is optional.

REMEMBER OR HONOR LOVED ONES WITH EASTER FLOWERS



The flowers will adorn the sanctuary for worship on
Easter Sunday, April 20.



The three choices this year will be:
Easter Lily in 6 1/2 inch pots with 6+ buds (\$11.95)
Hyacinth 6 inch with 3 bulbs (\$7.95)
Tulip 6 inch full pots with limited color options (\$10.95)

The deadline for ordering is Friday, April 4, 2014.

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 @ \$11.95 each	_____	x 11.95 =	_____
Hyacinth @ \$7.95 each	_____	x 7.95 =	_____
Tulip @ \$10.95 each	_____	x 10.95 =	_____

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

Please select:

- [] I will pick up my plant after worship on Sunday, April 20.
[] 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.



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: 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