

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

Established 1727 ~ An Open and Affirming Community



April 6, 2014 ~ 10:00 a.m.
Fifth 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

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 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

"Andante"

by Josef Rheinberger

CALL TO WORSHIP

In the flowers poking their heads out of the dirt;
in signs of dry lives refreshed in your spring spirit;
we see how you love us, God of steadfast love.

In the tears of a worried father over his son's illness;
in the weariness of a mother facing a long shift at work;
we see how you love us, our Resurrection and our Life.

In the comforting touch of a loved one;
in the birds which rush into the sky before spiraling down;
in the words we are given to offer to the empty-hearted;
we see how you love us, Breath of our souls.

*HYMN

"O Come to Me, You Weary"

New Century (black) 484

**Please rise in body or in spirit.*

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

*GATHERING PRAYER

Chris Sheehan

Loving God,
we bare open our hearts,
with all that we are and all that we hope,
that you might draw us closer.
Generous God, we are set free by your saving grace,
but still we seem unable to throw off the grave clothes of our habitual sin.
We cling to our fears, for they are so familiar and comfortable.
Yet, there in every corner of our lives,
in every shadow we fear,
you come, Steadfast Love.
You call us to new life through the love and sacrifice of your Son,
Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

Silence is kept.

*WORDS OF ASSURANCE

You can put your hope in God, dear friends, for God offers us
that love which never fades, that life which never ends.
We wait for God, and God does not fail us.
God's hope, God's love, and God's grace are forever.
Thanks be to God!

*SUNG RESPONSE

The musical score is written in G major, 4/4 time, with a tempo of 76. It consists of two systems of music. The first system has a tempo marking of 76 and a dynamic marking of *p*. The second system also has a dynamic marking of *p*. The lyrics are: "Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's ho - ly name." and "Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me in - to life." The guitar chords are: Dm, G, Dm, Bb, C, F, A for the first system; and Dm, G, Dm, Bb, C, Dm for the second system.

p $\text{♩} = 76$ Dm G Dm B \flat C F A
Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's ho - ly name.

p Dm G Dm B \flat C Dm
Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me in - to life.

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES

READING FROM THE GOSPEL

John 11:1-45

SERMON

"The Shortest Sentence"

Meghan D. Young

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

"Amazing Grace"

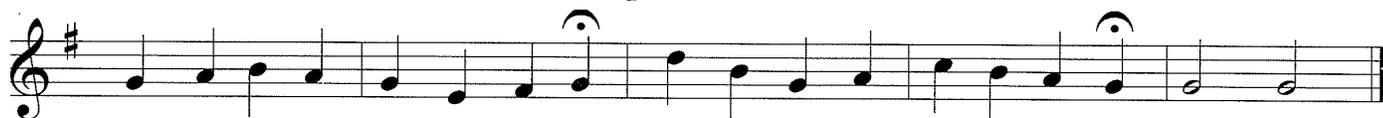
by Craig Courtney

The Choir

*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

"Let Us Break Bread Together"

Pilgrim (red) 288

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,
in the bread and the cup,
God gives life to us
as the Spirit comes to dwell in every room of our souls.
"Come out," Jesus calls,
and his word unbinds us, pushing away the rocks that close us off from love.
We come to the sacred meal where,
we are made free.

**A meal which heals and strengthens us
so we can say
to the barren, 'here is your life;'
to the despairing, 'here is your hope!'
so we would go into the world
to visit with those who are sick,
to wait with the expectant,
to share tears with the broken.**

Christ calls each of us to come just as we are,
gathering by his side with Lazarus, Mary, and Martha,
with all our sisters and brothers,
in forever singing out praises to God.

**Let us sing songs to the One in whom we hope,
rejoicing in God, who dwells in our souls.**

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.**

The Words of Institution: Recalling the Story

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

Communion Music Bread	"Prelude in C"	by David N. Johnson
Communion Music Juice	"Pater Noster"	by Arthur Foote

Prayer of Thanksgiving

**Loving God in Jesus Christ,
with gratitude for your holy nourishment about this table,
we dedicate:**

**our lips to be the hopeful voice of Christ to the despairing;
our hands to reach out in Christ's name to heal the broken;
our feet to walk in Christ to visit those who are shunned;
our bodies to be Christ's living sacrifice
to break the power of death.**

Take us. Empower us. Use us. Amen.

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).*

***HYMN** "I Want to Be Ready" New Century (black) 616

***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE** "Fantasia on Salvation" by David Paxton

USHERS
LITURGIST
ACOLYTE
DEACONS

Lois and Jim Stevens, Polly and Don Pagnucco, John Sword
Chris Sheehan
Mark Sheehan
Val Triblets, Joe Sheehan, Laurel Cole, Cheryl Hummel, Marge Murk,
Bob Carberry, Sue Van Ness, Wendy Ware

**The flowers are given in honor of Joan Diaz's upcoming birthday
by Al Diaz**

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	Crackers
Rice	Juice, coffee, tea
Soups	Cereals
Tuna & canned chicken	Applesauce
Peanut butter & jelly	

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.

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 & youth bulletins for Communion Sunday. S.P.I.R.I.T. Faith Formation will resume on April 27, with week 1 of Following Jesus' Way.

HOLY SATURDAY GATHERING & EASTER EGG HUNT

April 19, 3 PM – 4:30 PM in Chapin Hall, An ALL church gathering.

Prepare or the risen Christ with family activities and worship. Come ready to be creative and artistic as we transform what we put away on Ash Wednesday, participate in an Easter egg hunt, and worship as we prepare for Easter rejoicing. **RSVP appreciated.** Please email meghan@rhccucc.org, for more information and to sign-up.

NOAH'S ARK – April Schedule

Noah's Ark meets twice a month on Sunday evenings from 5 PM – 6:30 PM for dinner, fellowship, and faith. In April we will meet on the 13th and the 27th. If you are planning to attend in April, 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.

GROW YOUR FAITH & GET INVOLVED WITH S.P.I.R.I.T.

The RHCC S.P.I.R.I.T. Church School is a place that values intergenerational relationships, growing in faith, and learning throughout our lives to be the disciples Christ calls us to be. You are invited to come join the circle and get involved. **We are currently in need of a 6th-8th Grade Shepherd as well as Community Life, Show & Tell and a Hands Learning Center Guides for unit 5 (begins on April 27).** Learning Center guides prepare engaging activities to teach the bible story through community service, drama, games, crafts, and food. Training and lesson plans are always provided. **If you are interested in getting involved in this ministry please contact Meghan Young at meghan@rhccucc.org.**

GOOD FRIDAY

Friday, April 18

5:30 - 7 PM, Chapin Hall

A meal and walk through Jesus' last words. RSVP appreciated. Email Meghan@rhccucc.org or call the office for more information.

Thank You Notes

Received this week are posted on the Bulletin Board by the side entry.

From

Hands On Hartford

Arm2Arm – Sarah Mosure



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.

Cards ordered last weekend are available for pickup at the scrip table in Chapin Hall this morning. We also have a few extra \$25 cards for Dressbarn - first come, first served. For the month of March, 41 members and friends purchased a total face amount of \$23,000, on which RHCC earned a profit of approximately \$1,600. That was 33% higher than for March, 2013. Thanks to everyone who continues to support this important fundraising program.

We continue to stock a variety of cards in inventory from more than **35** 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

Restaurants: Bertucci's, Bonefish Grill, Buffalo Wild Wings, On the Border

Shopping: Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Bed Bath & Beyond, Best Buy, Dressbarn, 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!

FROM THE INREACH COMMITTEE

We are missing several tablecloths. If you have taken one home to launder, please return them to Chapin Hall. Thank you.

THIS WEEK AT RHCC

April 6

10:00am **Worship** Sanctuary
11:30am **Search Committee** Fiorilli Room
11:30am **Children/Youth Music** Choir Rm
11:30am Ladies Brunch
& Fashion Show Chapin Hall
12:00pm **Living the Resurrection** Parlor

Sunday



April 7

10:30am **Apple Rehab Srv**
7:00pm Women's AA Chapel
7:00pm **Bowling**
7:30pm **Bell Choir** Loft

Monday

Apr. 7 Judith Frascarelli
Grace Hoffman
8 Gary Lexa
Meghan Montana
Leah Scully
Isabel Donahue
9 Kathy Kunzelman
Sam DeGiovanni
11 Beatrice Crandall
Brian Donahue
11 Kaedryn Pulling
12 Stephen Ware
Skyler Dean-Lee

April 8

8:30am Breakfast Club

Tuesday

Bob's Coffee

April 9

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

Wednesday

April 10

7:00pm **Council** Fiorilli Room
8:00pm Men's AA Chapin Hall

Thursday

April 11

5:30pm **RHCCNS** Chapin Hall
Family Fun Night

Friday

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.

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