

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

Established 1727 ~ An Open and Affirming Community



**April 24, 2016 ~ 10:00 a.m.
Fifth Sunday of Easter**

~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.

PRELUDE

“Prelude in C”

David N. Johnson

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The world is charged with the grandeur of God.

All: Praise God!

The universe is a communion of subjects, not a collection of objects.

Praise God from the heavens!

All creation is a song of praise to God.

Praise God from the earth.

The Earth is a sparkling blue and white jewel laced with slowly swirling veils of white, like a pearl in a thick sea of black mystery.

Praise God from the deepest sea.

Great Spirit, give me strength to walk the soft earth,
a relative to all that is.

Praise God, men and women, young and old.

Those who contemplate the beauty of the earth find reserves of strength
that will endure as long as life lasts.

Praise God!

**Please rise in body or in spirit.*

Bold type denotes collective response

***INVOCATION AND THE LORD’S PRAYER**

Gracious God,

Yours is the gift of creation, the rebirth of spring.

Yours is the grace that makes all things new.

Yours is the Word that speaks a spring of water to quench our thirst.

Open our minds to the mind of Christ.

Open our lips, and we will sing ALLELUIA

with sun and moon,

with mountain and hill,

with all creatures of land and sea.

Together we will sing awe to your splendor. We pray this in Jesus’

name, 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**

Re - mem - ber me, re - mem - ber me,

The first line of musical notation is for the vocal part. It is in 3/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are "Re - mem - ber me, re - mem - ber me,". Below the vocal line is a piano accompaniment consisting of chords and moving lines in the bass clef.

O Je - sus, re - mem - ber me.

The second line of musical notation continues the vocal melody. It features a long note for "me." with a fermata. The piano accompaniment continues with chords and moving lines. The piece ends with a double bar line.

WELCOME

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

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

“God is Singing Songs of Love”
The Choir

words by M.T. Winter
music by Don McKeever

SCRIPTURE READING

Acts 11:1-18

NT(Pew Bible) p102

SERMON “The Day the Church Almost Ended”

The Rev. Craig L. Cowing

*HYMN “Shadow and Substance”

New Century (black) 398

OFFERING OF GIFTS

During the time of offering, your prayers can be offered using the blue prayer request cards and placed in the offering plate. The pastor will read the prayers aloud during the Joys and Concerns.

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 Solo

“In the Garden”

arr. John Carter
Gail Hall, clarinet

*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

Sung Call to Prayer

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

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

Pastoral and Silent Prayer

*HYMN "Help Us Accept Each Other"

NC (black) 388

BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE "Andante Largo"

John Stanley

LITURGIST

Michael Bower

USHERS

We welcome Bill and Heather Collins as our newest members this morning!

*Today's Flowers are donated in celebration of Polly's birthday
by Don Pagnucco*

*The Tower is lit in loving memory of Ed Bacon, Jr
By Charlotte and Ed Bacon*

LOOKING AHEAD

<i>Today, April 24</i>	<i>11:00am</i>	<i>2nd Hour: Governance Q&A</i>
	<i>11:00am</i>	<i>Youth Group 'Taco in a Bag'</i>
<i>Sat. April 30</i>	<i>8:00am</i>	<i>Spring Breakfast</i>
	<i>11:00am</i>	<i>Re-Maker's Fair</i>
<i>Sun. May 1</i>	<i>2:00pm</i>	<i>Foodshare Walk Against Hunger</i>

TODAY!

Taco-in-a-Bag Fundraiser!

to benefit the High School Youth Group trip to the
UCC National Youth Event in July

Sunday, April 24 after worship



**Save the date:
Middle School Youth
Heifer International Farm Trip, May 6-7**



April 24 Second Hour:

Organization and Governance Question and Answer Session

There is a shifting dynamic that it is happening in our denomination, and in organized religion as a whole. The idea of smaller, more nimble governance structures is being discussed among churches who have recognized that a change in perspective could help refresh and revitalize our faith communities. Here at RHCC, a small ad-hoc group of the council has been working to explore how we might streamline our own governance structure. The group made a presentation at the B&E meeting and are now beginning to host several second hour discussions with the congregation (copies of the small group's presentation can be found in the office if you were unable to attend). Please join us for our first discussion, we hope to see you there!

FOODSHARE Walk against hunger

Foodshare Walk Against Hunger, Sunday May 1st at 2:00 p.m.

Time: 12:30 p.m. check-in / 2:00 p.m. Walk begins

Place: The Hartford's Liam E. McGee Memorial Park, 140 Garden Street, Hartford

*free parking is available at 690 Asylum Ave.

Registration forms are available in Chapin Hall after worship. Thomas Kainamura is our team chair. To register, go to www.FoodshareWalk.org and search for Thomas' name or Rocky Hill Congregational Church.

**CELEBRATE SPRING AT OUR
APRIL BREAKFAST & RE-MAKER'S FAIR**

Saturday, April 30th 8am-10:30am

- Adults \$7.00, Kids (4-12yrs) \$5.00, under 4yrs – free
- Egg Strata ≈ Pancakes ≈ French ≈ Toast Cereal ≈
- Bacon ≈ Sausage ≈ Juice ≈ Milk ≈ Coffee



RE-MAKER'S FAIR AND EARTH DAY FESTIVAL

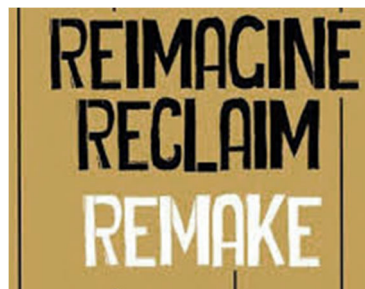
"Remake, Reuse, Rejoice!"

11am-3pm (after the Pancake Breakfast).

The Re-Maker's Fair will feature creatively hand-crafted items made from re-used or up-cycled materials, saved from the waste stream to become beautiful or useful objects. Information on local recycling and other environmental efforts will also be available.

Join us in celebration of our stewardship of the earth!

For more information, contact Anita Hawkins or
the church office at: office@rhccucc.org





Great Grandmothers!

Are you a new great-grandmother? Please let us add you to our list of fabulous ladies who have become great-grandmothers, and we will be honoring you during worship on Mother's Day. Contact the office at 860-529-4167 or office@rhccucc.org

GET INVOLVED WITH THE CHURCH FAIR

Please help in making the 2016 Church Fair one of our best yet. We need members to volunteer and/or donate items. We will accept donations of toys, games, electronics, jewelry, CD's, books, arts and crafts. The Event Committee meets the 3rd Thursday of every month at 7pm. If you'd like to get involved, please see a committee member or come to a meeting. Our next planning meeting will be held on Thursday, May 19 at 7pm, in the Fiorilli Room.

Thank you.

Your Event Committee (formerly the Fair Committee): Peter Alessi-Chairman, Holly Alessi, Jean Goff, Jeannie Alessi, Ruth Jensen, Lynn McKenna, Candy Smith.

Calling All Graduates!

Are you graduating? Or had you graduated sometime this past year? High school, college, a credited program? We would like to recognize your accomplishment in June during worship.

Please contact the office and let Theresa know your name and the accomplishment at 860-529-4167 or office@rhccucc.org



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

Today is the deadline for placing orders for cards not stocked in inventory. Order forms may be turned in at the scrip table in Chapin hall this morning, or emailed to treasurer@rhccucc.org by tonight. Cards ordered will be available for pickup next Sunday, May 1.

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.

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

April 24

10:00am **Worship**

11:00am **Governance Q&A**

11:00am **Taco in a Bag Fundraiser** Chapin Hall

4:00pm Siragu Tamil School

Sunday

Sanctuary

Chapin Hall

Chapin Hall

Rm 22, 23, 24, 25, 27



April 25

NEWSLETTER MAILING

7:00pm Women's AA

7:30pm **Bell Choir**

Monday

Fiorilli Room

Chapin Hall

Loft

April 26

9:00am LSP

6:00pm Cedar Hollow Mtg

7:00pm Hearing Voices

Tuesday

Fiorilli

Room 23

Room 25

April 25	Jane Yorgensen
26	Linda Rupaka
27	Julie Dostie
28	Nadine Bell
29	Liz Reed-Swale
30	Polly Pagnucco

April 27

6:00pm Pilates w/Caroline

7:30pm **Adult Choir**

Wednesday

Chapin Hall

Choir Room

April 28

9:30am Toddler Music

7:30pm Men's AA

Thursday

Rm 25

Chapin Hall

April 29

Breakfast and Fair Set up

Friday

Chapin Hall

April 30

8:00am **Spring Breakfast**

11:00am **Re-Maker's Fair**

Saturday

Chapin Hall

Chapin Hall



Spring Breakfast 8am-10:30am

Egg Strata ≈ Pancakes ≈ French Toast ≈ Cereal ≈ Bacon ≈ Sausage ≈ Juice ≈ Milk ≈ Coffee

Re-Maker's Fair 11am-3pm

Creative, hand-crafted items made from re-used materials

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