

# ROCKY HILL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

*Established 1727 ~ An Open and Affirming Community*



**April 26, 2015 ~ 10:00 a.m.  
Fourth Sunday of Easter  
Creation Sunday**

# ~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 and large-print bulletins** are available for worship—ask an usher. **Nursery care** is always available down the hall in Room 4.*

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## 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 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/INTROIT

Drum Circle

## CALL TO WORSHIP

The Rev. Meghan D. Young

"The earth is the Lord's, and the fullness thereof,"  
the world and everything in it —

**all things come from God.**

The moon and the stars, the dark and the light —

**day and night come from God.**

The sun and the rain, the warmth and the cool—

**every season comes from God.**

The forests and oceans, the fields and the skies --

**above, beneath, around us, all is from God.**

The earth is sacred, all of it —

**O Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!**

*\*Please rise in body or in spirit.*

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

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

Creator God, Maker of All—artist, planter, weaver, sower,  
your whole creation praises you!

All life in its seasons,  
all creatures great and small,  
the whole family of things praises you!

Mindful of how all things intertwine,  
may we grow faithful in our care  
for all you have made,  
and deep in our reverence,  
repentant in our neglect,  
committed in our hope.

May it be that the peace and safety you intend for all creation  
will speak to us today,  
to inspire and awaken your human creatures.

This we ask in Jesus’ name and spirit,  
as we also say together:

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**

*For the beauty of the earth, for the splendor of the skies,  
For the love which from our birth over and around us lies,  
Lord of all, to you we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.*

**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



## ANTHEM

### "The Earth Adorned" The Choir

Waldemar Ahlen

*The earth adorned in verdant robe  
Sends praises upward surging,  
While soft winds breathe on fragrant flow'rs  
From winter now emerging.  
The sunshine bright gives warmth and light  
To budding blossoms tender,  
Proclaiming summer splendor.*

*From out the wood, the birds now sing  
And each its song now raises,  
To join with all the universe,  
In voicing thankful praises.  
With hope and joy their songs employ  
A rapturous exultation  
In praise of God's creation.*

*O God amid these joys of life,  
Creation's glory beaming,  
Grant us the grace to keep your word  
And live in love redeeming.  
All flesh is grass, the flowers fade,  
And time is fleeting ever;  
God's word remains forever.*

## READING FROM THE SCRIPTURE

Psalm 8

Genesis 1, selected verses

## SERMON

“The Family of Things”

The Rev. Dr. Brenda Pelc-Faszczka

## \*HYMN

“God of the Sparrow, God of the Whale”

New Century (Black) 32

## 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

“Now I Walk in Beauty”

Native American

The Choir

*Now I walk in beauty,  
Beauty is before me,  
Beauty is behind me,  
Above and below me.*

### \*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

“The Earth is the Lord’s”

printed in bulletin

## \*RESPONSIVE BENEDICTION AND SENDING FORTH

Celtic blessing

Deep peace of the running wave to you;

**Deep peace of the flowing air to you;**

Deep peace of the quiet earth to you;

**Deep peace of the shining stars to you;**

Deep peace of the God of peace to you.

May we live in God’s world, today and tomorrow,  
as though we know it is God’s world –

**a home that cries out for our reverence and care.**

May we live toward all things with humble compassion,  
**in kinship with everything.**

Thanks be to God. Let all the people say,  
**Amen.**

## \*POSTLUDE

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ACOLYTES

Brian Speers and Victoria Bower

LITURGIST

Lisa Eleck

USHERS

Dave and Bobbie Hawkins, Deb Copes, Steve Smith, Jason Montana

**The flowers are given in honor of Polly’s birthday by Don Pagnucco  
And in loving memory of my husband Ed Bacon by Charlotte Bacon.**

## THIS WEEK AT RHCC

### April 26

10:00am **Worship**  
11:30am **Second Hour**  
4:00pm Tamil Sangam  
5:00pm **Confirmation**  
6:00pm Piano Recital  
Reception

### April 27

5:00pm Yoga with Lynn  
7:00pm Women's AA  
7:00pm Bowling

### April 28

6:00pm Community Group

### April 29

9:30am **Quilters**  
7:30pm **Adult Choir**

### April 30

7:30pm Men's AA

### May 2

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

### Sunday

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

### Monday

Chapin Hall  
Chapin Hall

### Tuesday

Room 25

### Wednesday

Rm. 6.  
Choir Room

### Thursday

Chapin Hall

### Saturday

Fiorilli Room  
Chapel

*Happy Birthday*



Apr. 26 Linda Rupaka  
27 Julie Dostie  
28 Nadine Bell  
29 Liz Reed-Swale  
30 Polly Pagnucco  
May 2 Jeanne Timrud  
Liam Flynn

### **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.

### **MEN'S BIBLE STUDY**

First and third  
Saturdays in the  
Fiorilli Room,  
8:30-9:30am.



Come join your Christian  
brothers as we try to  
understand God's words.

For more details contact  
Jim Stevens . 860-632-5810



## CREATION SUNDAY

**JOIN US TODAY AFTER WORSHIP**



*For hands on projects for all  
as we celebrate the themes of **earth-mindfulness** and **earth-care** as acts of faith*



### FROM

#### **THE CONNECTICUT CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST:**

The Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ is asking us all to call or email our State Representative and State Senator now to urge them to oppose Senate Bill 1090, which could add up to three additional casinos in our state. While there are individuals opposed to adding these casinos, the Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ may be the only faith-based organization in Connecticut, and possibly the only organization, opposing this expansion of casino gambling, so we need our voices to be heard. Delegates to the Conference voted Resolutions in 1977, 1979, and 1994 opposing expanding gambling in Connecticut. You can find your legislator at <http://www.cga.ct.gov/asp/menu/cgafindleg.asp#>

When you call or email, if possible, give your name and the town where you live, and let them know that you oppose Senate Bill 1090: An Act Concerning Gaming. You can also say “with gambling expansion and access come increases in problem gambling, and there needs to be more focus on the ill effects and social costs of gambling, not just the financial gain”. After you make your calls or send your emails, Michele Mudrick, the Connecticut Conference Legislative Advocate, will be keeping track of what State Representatives and State Senators were contacted, so please email Michele at [michelem@ctucc.org](mailto:michelem@ctucc.org) or text or call her at [860.796.3822](tel:860.796.3822) to let her know what legislators you contacted that would be helpful.

Visit [http://www.ctucc.org/news/20150408\\_opposingcasinos.html](http://www.ctucc.org/news/20150408_opposingcasinos.html) for more information on why this issue is one of deep concern for us as people of faith in the state of Connecticut.



## **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 → Celebrating God's Creation**

**Read:** *Genesis 1*

#### **Reflect and Remember.**

"In the beginning God created the Heavens and the Earth." Throughout this unit we will explore our own possibilities for creation and our roles with in God's creation. How do we create? How do we make the world more full of truth and beauty? How do we nurture and care for God's beautiful creation?

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

- 1) God says to us "Take care of my creation." Talk about ways you are taking caring of creation, and ways you could take better care.
- 2) Do at least 3 things this week to honor and take care of creation. Some examples: Pick up litter on your street, only use reusable products this week, bring your own grocery bags to the store, work on a garden, step outside and say a prayer of thanks for creation.

**A Prayer For The Unit.** God, God the Maker, Maker of color, sound, texture, quietness, and the restless beauty in living things, we bless you. God, God the Maker, Maker of granite and mustard seed, of grey cloud and starlight, of earthquake and heartbeat, we bless you. God, God the Maker, Maker of all that is unseen, of all that has been, of all that words could never capture, we bless you. God, God our Maker, we, the children of your love, the creatures of your kindness, the guardians of your creation, bless you. We bless you for your making, your trusting, your love, your never-ending goodness. Amen.

## **5<sup>th</sup> Annual Youth Revival!**

**WHO:** Youth Group (Grades 5-12)

**WHEN:** Sunday, May 3, 2:30 PM – 5:30 PM

(Revival starts at 3 PM, we will meet at church at 2:30 PM)

**WHAT:** Inside & Out #AFFIRMED! Gather with youth group's from across the Connecticut Conference of the UCC. Join us for a dynamic worship service that will renew your spirit. Come and sing praise, celebrate vitality, and embrace diversity!

**WHERE:** First Congregational Church in Bloomfield

**For more information or to sign-up, contact Meghan Young at [meghan@rhccucc.org](mailto:meghan@rhccucc.org).**

**Chaperones and drivers needed. Sign-up is requested by Monday, April 27<sup>th</sup>.**



## 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.*

Today is the deadline for submitting orders for gift cards that are not normally kept in inventory. Order forms may be turned in at the scrip table in Chapin Hall this morning, or emailed to [treasurer@rhccucc.org](mailto:treasurer@rhccucc.org) by the end of today. Orders placed today will be available for pickup on May 3rd.

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**

## MAY BREAKFAST

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

Adults \$7.00 ~ Kids (4-12) \$5.00 ~ under 4 - free



## PLANT SALE

Flowers & Vegetables

Saturday, May 9th

8:00 A.M. - 10:00 A.M.

Raffle tickets can be purchased in Chapin Hall.



## 31ST ANNUAL WALK AGAINST HUNGER

SUNDAY, MAY 3 AT 2:00 PM

The Walk Against Hunger provides much needed support for all of Foodshare's participating partner agencies. The largest Walk in CT, this event draws thousands of supporters from all over greater Hartford and is a pretty 2.5-mile walk around Bushnell Park in Hartford. All ages are welcome! Thomas Kainamura ([thomascm@gmail.com](mailto:thomascm@gmail.com)) will be walking with his team and is able to take donations if you would like to make them! Please see Thomas for any additional information.

## NEW GREAT GRANDMOTHERS

If you are or know of a church member who is a new great-grandmother this year, please let the office know at [rhccucc.org](http://rhccucc.org) or 860-529-4167. Great Grandmothers will be celebrated on Mother's Day.

# 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 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](mailto:brenda@rhccucc.org)

Acting Associate Pastor for Faith Formation: The Rev. Meghan D. Young  
[meghan@rhccucc.org](mailto:meghan@rhccucc.org)

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

Office Manager: Mitsey Baker [office@rhccucc.org](mailto:office@rhccucc.org)

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