

**Rocky Hill
Congregational Church
Established 1727**
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



**April 28, 2013
Fifth Sunday of Easter
10:00 A.M**

**The Friendly Church at the Center
An Open and Affirming Community**

ROCKY HILL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Sunday, April 28, 2013

10:00 a.m.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

We welcome all and extend a special greeting to our guests; our service is enriched by your presence! Join us in Chapin Hall for fellowship time after worship. The Welcome Table in the hall offers information about the church and ushers can answer any questions. Hearing devices and large-print bulletins are available for worship—ask an usher. Nursery care is always available downstairs in Room 4.

GOD GATHERS US FOR WORSHIP

A SCRIPTURAL AFFIRMATION

The Rev. Donna K. Manocchio and William McKenna

Adapted from Psalm 148

Congregational Response: Praise the Lord!

PRELUDE

Please use the prelude as a time for personal prayer and preparation of your heart for worship.

“Sanctus,” by Franz Schubert, arr. by Robert W. Smith

RHCC, UCC Orchestra

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 pastors prior to worship.

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Delight! Children of God, delight!

People: We are delighted to be in God’s house today, to give God our thanks and praise.

Leader: We gather together to celebrate our common ministry.

People: We gather to remember God’s promise to make all things new.

Leader: We come together this day to delight in offering our gifts.

People: We delight in the gifts we are giving, the pledges we are making and the future we are creating with God.

Leader: We join our hearts and our spirits today and delight in giving.

People: We are here! We are delighted! We are united!

Leader: Let us worship our God who loves when we delight in giving.

People: Let us worship God!

* HYMN

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

New Century Hymnal 43

* PRAYER OF INVOCATION

AND THE LORD’S PRAYER (*debts/debtors*)

Meghan D. Young

Loving and living God, recreate us in your love during this hour of worship. Let our prayers and hymns rise to you as gifts of joy. Let our meditations and offerings be a sign of our faith. Through your grace, transform our fear into courage and our confusion into confidence. Speak to us again and send us out into the world renewed and ready to be witnesses to your love and compassion. We pray in the power and spirit of the risen Christ, saying together the words he teaches 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.

* GLORIA PATRI

Glo - ry be to the Fa-ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Ghost;
As it was in the be-gin-ning, is now and ev-er shall be, world with-out end. A - men. A - men.

ANTHEM

“Swing Low, Sweet Clarinets”

Arr. John Edmondson

A MESSAGE FOR CHILDREN OF 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.

GOD SHARES WORDS OF LOVE AND LIFE

OPENING THE WORD

A READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT

Revelation 21:1-6

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

SERMON

"A New Thing"

The Rev. Donna K. Manocchio

* HYMN

"Take My Gifts"

(See insert)

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

(We invite your oral prayer requests – keeping the request brief and identifying the first name for the pastors. Trust that God knows the details of the need.)

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER RESPONSE

A - - men,
A - men, a - men, a - - men.

OFFERING INVITATION

For those who have already given their offering, Giving Cards are available in your pew so that all may participate in giving back to God with joy and gratitude.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

"Morning Has Broken"

by Cat Stevens

The Choir

Morning has broken like the first morning;

Blackbird has spoken like the first bird.

Praise for the singing, praise for the morning.

Praise for them springing fresh from the world.

Mine is the sunlight, mine is the morning.

Born of the one light Eden saw play.

Praise with elation, praise ev'ry morning,

God's recreation of the new day.

* DOXOLOGY

As we sing the Doxology, praising God for all our blessings, some in our congregation sing this inclusive language version: "Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God all creatures here below; Praise God above, Ye Heavenly host; Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen." You are welcome to sing whatever words are in your heart.

Praise God from whom all bless-ings flow; Praise him, all crea-tures here be-low;
Praise him a-bove, ye heaven-ly host; Praise Fa-ther, Son, and Ho-ly Ghost. A - men. -

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

DEDICATION OF PLEDGES

Introduction

Sharing our Gifts

Please bring your pledge forward as directed by the ushers, coming down the center aisles and returning by the side aisles. While in your seat, please join in the singing of the hymns.

Hymn

"Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You"

New Century Hymnal 4

Prayer of Dedication (*Unison*)

Gracious and loving God, we are delighted to give our pledges to you. Help us use them to glorify you and to participate in your mission in the world. Encourage all of us to be your ministers in this home of Christ's friends and in the body of Christ. Deepen our commitment to serve you and all your children. In the name of Jesus, who teaches us how to give, we pray. Amen.

WE GO FORTH TO LOVE AND SERVE

* HYMN

"I Want to be Ready"

New Century Hymnal 616

* BENEDECTION

POSTLUDE

"Antiphon"

by Gordon Young

*(*Please rise in body or in spirit.)*

GREETERS

HOSPITALITY

HEAD USHERS

Jay and Meghan Montana

ORCHESTRA

Directed by David Hall

Katie Hoffman-Fulda, flute

Victoria Bower, violin

Gail Hall, clarinet

David Lewis, clarinet

Chris Mosure, alto sax

James Rolfe, tenor sax

Diana Hellyar, trumpet

John Hoffman, trumpet

Ruth Fitzgerald, baritone

Kathryn Lewis, baritone

Brian Speers, percussion

Mary DeLiberio, piano and bells

NEXT WEEK

Sunday, May 5, 2013

Communion Sunday

Dedication of Church Bell given in memory of Myrtle Furman

Acts 16:9-15; Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5

"Open Doors"

Meghan D. Young

THIS WEEK AT RHCC

APRIL 28

11:30am **Noah's Table**

5:00pm **Confirmation**

SCRIP DEADLINE

APRIL 29

5:30pm Yoga with Lynn

7:00pm **Bowling**

7:00pm Women's AA

7:30pm **Bell Choir**

APRIL 30

9:00am **5th Tuesday Event**

MAY 1

9:00am **Quilters**

12:00pm **Bible Study**

7:30pm **Adult Choir**

MAY 2

1:30pm **Covenant Village Service**

5:30pm TOPS

8:00pm Men's AA

MAY 4

8:30am Yoga

6:00pm Children's Talent Show

SUNDAY

Youth Room

Fiorilli Room

MONDAY

Chapin Hall

Chapin Hall

Loft

TUESDAY

Chapin Hall

WEDNESDAY

Quilters Room 6

Fiorilli Room

Choir Room 1

THURSDAY

Chapin Hall

Chapin Hall

SATURDAY

Chapin Hall

Chapin Hall



Birthdays
This
Week!

28 Nadine Bell

29 Douglas Scheirey
Elizabeth Reed-Swale

30 Palma Pagnucco
Jennifer Ryan
Victoria Connor

May 2 Wendy Moser
Jeanne Timrud
Cristina Connor
Liam Flynn

3 Beverly Ahlberg
Cynthia Sweezy
Laura Walker

4 Christopher Sheehan
Ben Bellizzi

SCRIP-SURE:

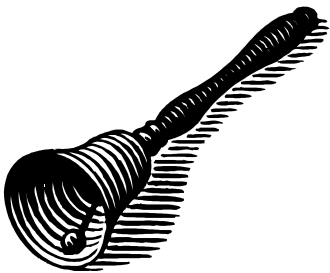
Today is the deadline for submitting scrip orders from our primary scrip broker. Please turn in your order form at the scrip table in Chapin Hall, or email your order to Dave Hall (treasurer@rhccucc.org) by midnight tonight. Orders placed today will be available for pickup next Sunday. We also have some special deals in inventory for immediate purchase, including Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Dunkin Donuts, Starbucks, and Target. See Gail Hall in Chapin Hall for a complete list of cards currently available.

2013 Youth Talent Show – Calling All Young Talent!

May 4th at 6:00pm

Make your own sundaes after the show. Rehearsals to be determined and announced soon. Please email or call Elaine Somes: Elainet320@att.net or 860 563-4099. Registration forms are in Chapin Hall.

Once again I am collecting books to be taken out to the Cheyenne River Sioux Reservation in South Dakota. Needed are children's books, ages 5-11, as well as novels for women to start a library. They must be like new or gently used, with no violence, sex or drugs. If you have a contribution please leave it in Chapin Hall on the end table to be picked up Sundays until May 26th. Thank you.—Joan Tennyson (860) 529-8789



HAND BELL DEDICATION SCHEDULED FOR SUNDAY, MAY 5

A new hand bell in honor of church member and friend Myrtle Furman will be dedicated in worship on Sunday, May 5. Myrtle's family will be present in worship, which will include a moment of remembrance, gratitude and blessing. The bell choir will be offering several selections as well. Please join us for this faith-filled and joy-filled worship!

A MUSICAL TRIBUTE TO ALL WHO SERVED

The Middlesex Hospital Vocal Chords presents its Annual Spring Concert

“Lifting Spirits with Song”

Saturday May 11, 2013 7:30 pm

Portland High School, 95 High Street, Portland, CT

Ticket discounts to all Active Military and Veterans \$15

Adults: \$20; Seniors & Youth under 12: \$18

Tickets call: 860-347-2787 : 860-342-3120

www.vocalchords20.org

Reminder: 30th Annual Foodshare Walk Against Hunger

on Sunday May 5th, 2013 in Hartford starting at 2PM with registration time at 1PM. It is not too late to sign up to walk or support the RHCC Team. Team goal is to raise \$2,000 and to date we have raised \$1,270 and we need your help to reach our goal. Please visit www.foodshare.org to support or contact Thomas Kainamura (thomascm@gmail.com or 860-922-6210).



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

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 5 – Go & Make Disciples

What Does It Mean to Be Inclusive?

Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip. "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went.

– Acts 8:26-27

In this story we learn that the Holy Spirit urged Philip to travel on a road through the wilderness. Who would expect to be a witness there? Yet along the way Philip encountered an official from the country of Ethiopia who was returning from time studying God's word in Jerusalem. He was having difficulty interpreting the words of scripture and he asked Philip to help him to understand. According to the customs of the day, Philip should not have associated with the man, yet the Holy Spirit had sent him to just this place for just this purpose. In this encounter, Philip realized that God's family is much larger and more inclusive than he originally thought.

Sometimes we find it easier to talk with people we know, or people who look or speak as we do, or who share our traditions. This makes us feel safe. But, like Philip, the Holy Spirit urges us to go to unfamiliar places and meet new people. Jesus asks us to reach out beyond our friends and family to share God's love freely, showing and telling about God's inclusive and expansive love in all we do and say.

Read: Acts 8:26-40

Reflect. *Talk about the Bible story children and youth explored this week. Think about your congregation or community or school or workplace. Which people are not considered to be "included" there? Why do you think this is? What actions can you take on their behalf? One way to celebrate our differences is to learn about how and what other cultures and religions celebrate. Notice which religious holidays are printed on your calendar, or if you have Internet access go to www.interfaithcalendar.org to see a listing of primary sacred times for world religions. Learn more about these holy days and take advantage of events in our area.*

A Prayer For The Unit. Jesus you have shown us by your life what it means to love and serve others. In your great commission you ask us to go out and make disciples. Give us the wisdom to teach as well as the courage to reach out to others. Help us to be your witnesses so that people may experience your love through us. *Amen.*

NURSERY VOLUNTEERS: Nursery Volunteers are needed for May. If you are interested in volunteering in the Nursery during Sunday morning worship, please contact a member of the Childcare Committee (Kari McCaw-Blaise, Liz Pulling, and Liz Reed-Swale) 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	SHOW & TELL RM. 25 & RM. 27 <i>Christian Education Hallway</i>
K - 1st Grade	HANDS ON RM. 23 <i>Christian Education Hallway</i>
2nd & 3rd Grade	FOOD & PEOPLE Youth Room <i>Ground Floor of Church</i>
4th & 5th Grade	COMMUNITY LIFE RM. 22 <i>Christian Education Hallway</i>
6th-8th Grade	FUN & GAMES RM. 24 <i>Christian Education Hallway</i>

Youth Night Out

Join us on Friday, May 3rd, from 5 PM-9 PM for a picnic dinner and games at Elm Ridge Park. This event is open to youth, grades 6th-12th. As always, friends are welcome. Please RSVP or sign-up as a chaperone/driver with Meghan Young (meghan@rhccucc.org) by Wednesday, May 1st.

3rd Annual Youth Revival!

WHO: Youth Group (Grades 6-12)

WHEN: Friday, May 10th, 7 PM

WHAT: Declare our future at the 3rd Annual Youth Revival as we gather with youth groups from across the Connecticut Conference of the UCC. Join us for music, testimony, preaching, prayer and fellowship in a multi-cultural, multi-racial setting.

WHERE: United Congregational Church of Bridgeport

**For more information or to sign-up, contact Meghan Young at meghan@rhccucc.org.
Chaperones and drivers needed. Sign-up is requested by Sunday, May 5th.**

Rocky Hill Congregational Church United Church of Christ

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

Senior Pastor: The Reverend Donna K. Manocchio donna@rhccucc.org

Acting Associate Pastor for Faith Formation: Meghan D. Young meghan@rhccucc.org

Minister of Music: Mary DeLibero mary@rhccucc.org

Church Office: office@rhccucc.org / 860 529-4167

Webmaster: Dave Hall webmaster@rhccucc.org

Church Website: rhccucc.org

Visit us on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/rhccucc