

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

Established 1727 ~ An Open and Affirming Community



May 1, 2016 ~ 10:00 a.m.

Sixth 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.

INTROIT

“Dona Nobis Pacem”

Traditional

The Choir

CALL TO WORSHIP

Michael Bower

One: Outside the city gate a farmer rises early so that there will be food on our tables. As we gather today to give you thanks,

Many: We ask a blessing on the farmer.

One: Outside the city gate a resort owner throws open the windows and a housekeeper changes the bed so that we might rest in the shade of the tree which grows beside living waters.

As we gather today to give you thanks,

Many: We ask a blessing on the resort owner and the housekeeper.

One: Outside the city gate a road crew patches over the wear of winter so that we will be safe as we travel past field and forest and stream. As we gather today to give you thanks,

Many: We ask a blessing on the road crew.

**Please rise in body or in spirit.*

Bold type denotes collective response

One: Outside the city gate a migrant worker bends over a field
so that our bodies will be nourished with nutrient rich food
from the soil of the earth.

As we gather today to give you thanks,

Many: We ask a blessing on the migrant worker.

One: On this day we honor those outside the gate
by river, field, mountain, forest and ocean.

In this place of prayer we give thanks, O God of All Creation

Many: And ask a blessing on all who care for your Creation.

***HYMN**

“Shall We Gather at the River”

New Century (black) 597

***INVOCATION AND THE LORD’S PRAYER**

Come, Lamb of God, light our path as we gather today.

Open the gates of our minds and our hearts

that your word may penetrate to the depth of our being.

Lead us to the river of the water of life

And refresh us for the work you have set for us.

Sit us down under the tree of life

**And let us rejoice in the diversity of its fruit and witness to the healing
of nations.**

Show us your glory, Sovereign One as we come to worship you.

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,

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

WELCOME

MISSION MOMENT

Thomas Kainamura

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.

SCRIPTURE READING

Revelation 21:22-22:5

NT(Pew Bible) p230

SERMON

“Shall We Gather at the River”

The Rev. Craig L. Cowing

OFFERING OF GIFTS

Following the receiving of offerings by the ushers, the pastor 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

“If Ye Love Me”
The Choir

Thomas Tallis

***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

Musical score for 'Sung Call to Prayer' in G major and 4/4 time. The score consists of two systems of music, each with a treble and bass staff. The lyrics are: 'Hear our prayer, O God, hear our prayer, O God; in - cline your ear to us, and grant us your peace.'

Pastoral Prayer

*HYMN

“As We Gather at Your Table”

New Century (black) 332

Prayer of Confession

Holy One, too often we seek after the peace that the world gives.
We strive for financial abundance and positions of status and power.
We look for salvation in the gleaming metropolis
with its busyness and its skyscrapers and its burgeoning populace,
or in the evenly furrowed rows of fertilized farmland,
and we relinquish our lives to a reality of our own creation.
Forgive us.

Show us again the river of the water of life in country and city.
Lead us to the tree whose leaves are for the healing of the nations and
Sink our roots there, into the soil of your creation.
Remind us that before industry, before economy, before agriculture,
before all the systems of our own creation, there was your Creation.
Turn us back to you, Source of Life. *(a time of silence)*

Words of Assurance

Leader: Before industry, before economy, before agriculture,
before all the systems of our own creation, there was Love.
There is still Love.

People: **God's love for us knows no beginning and no end.
We give thanks, for we are a loved and forgiven people. Amen.**

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

Recalling the Story: The Words of Institution

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Our God, thank you for inviting us to this table. Help us as we invite others to come to this table, that they too might know the peace that you give. We ask that we may take the nourishment we receive here today and be instruments of your healing grace. Amen.

Sharing the Peace of Christ

Now let us share among us a sign of God's 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**

It Is Well With My Soul"

NC (black) 438

BENEDICTION

***POSTLUDE**

“O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High”

arr. Schalk

LITURGIST

Michael Bower

USHERS Jennifer Courtemanche and Bill Cordes, Thomas Kainamura, Wendy Ware

COMMUNION SERVERS

Victoria Bower, Judy Graham, Gail Hall
Bob Inderbitzen, Sue Van Ness, Barry Wilcock

*Today's Flowers are donated in loving memory of
Ed Bacon, Jr
by Charlotte and Ed Bacon III*

*The Tower is lit in loving memory of
Mary Frances Medkoff
By Gail and Natalie Tine*

LOOKING AHEAD

TODAY, Sun. May 1 11:00am Foodshare Walk Against Hunger

Sun. May 8 11:00am Mother's Day Strawberry Shortcake

Sun. May 15 11:00am 2nd Hour: New Model of Church Governance

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.

FOODSHARE Walk **against hunger**

TODAY! Sunday May 1

11:30 AM – FREE lunch at the church to “carb up” before the walk (after worship)

12:15 PM - Carpool to WALK, Liam E. McGee Memorial Park (formerly Hartbeat Park), 140 Garden Street, Hartford; FREE Parking at 690 Asylum Avenue

12:30 PM - Check-in at WALK

2:00 PM - WALK steps off; a gentle 2-mile route takes walkers through Bushnell Park and Hartford’s West End. This event is family-friendly and tons of fun!

Important: remember to wear your RHCC T-shirt to church; **bring your own water bottle and sunscreen.** See Bob if you need a shirt (we have a few T-shirts remaining). It’s not too late to make a donation to Foodshare, and in honor of our big team! Cash and checks for “Foodshare” can be given to our team on Sunday. Or, donate online by searching for team “Rocky Hill Congregational Church” at www.FoodshareWalk.org

This walk is **the largest anti-hunger event** of its kind in the State. It begins and ends with music, children’s activities, popsicles, informational booths and so much more. We know it will be a great day and together we will make a difference!

Hunger is in our community and is a more serious problem than you may think:

- There are 137,480 food insecure people living in our area (food insecurity means not knowing where your next meal will come from).
- These people include senior citizens forced to choose between prescription drugs or groceries, families deciding to buy food or heat their homes and children so hungry that they cannot learn or grow properly.
- An estimated 42,850 of our hungry neighbors are children.

This year nearly 300 local hunger-fighting programs - food pantries, community kitchens and shelters - will rely on Foodshare.

Thanks to Thomas Kainamura, our team chair. **Thank you to everyone** who is supporting this fight against hunger by walking, fundraising and/or donating. You have made this year one of the best ever! The Board for Missions is: Kari McCaw - chair, Wendy Ware - secretary, Bob Inderbitzen, Marge Murk, Cindy Hunt, and Lisa Eleck.





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



In honor of Mother's Day next Sunday, May 8, InReach is sponsoring a special coffee hour following worship with Strawberry Shortcake for all. All are welcome to join us!

May 15 Second Hour:

New Model of Organization and Governance

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 this informative discussion, we hope to see you there!



Welcome to our
Church Family:
Heather, William,
and Violet Collins!



If you are able and willing to help teach, lead an activity, or be a second adult in a classroom, please sign up in Chapin Hall or contact Georgette Huie or Kathy Morgan.



Middle School Youth Group

On April 3, we gathered over a simple soup and bread meal to learn about hunger in our communities, and to watch a video from Heifer International about how its programs are helping poor and hungry people around the world. This was in preparation for the overnight trip we will be taking on **May 6** to Heifer's Overlook Farm in Rutland, MA.



High School Youth Group

May will be packed with opportunities for gathering with larger groups of faithful people. On May 1, we will join the Walk Against Hunger in Hartford; on **May 8**, we are invited once again to join the Muslim youth at the Berlin Mosque for an interfaith youth activity; and on **May 15**, the CT Conference will be holding its annual Youth Revival.

Save The Date: Children's Sunday to be held on **June 12**.

GET INVOLVED WITH THE CHURCH FAIR

May 19, 7pm

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

Calling All Graduates!

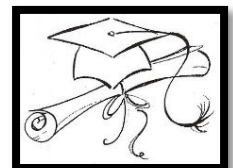
Are you graduating? Or have you graduated sometime this past year? High school, college, a credited program? We would like to recognize your accomplishment in June during worship.

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



Frank Roswell Fuller Scholarship

This scholarship requires that you be a member of the UCC/Congregational Church. Applications are available in the church office. Mr. Fuller was interested in helping "needy, deserving" students obtain the education that he had not been able to enjoy himself. The deadline for submitting your application is **May 15th**.



Wed. May 11 at 9:00am - Breakfast Club at Bob's Coffee Shop, 33 New Britain Ave, Rocky Hill. Members of RHCC meet once a month, on the second Wednesday. Join us for coffee and fellowship!



Notes from our Historian:

In May of 1843 Rocky Hill became Rocky Hill. Known since 1722 as Stepney Parish, the residents of Wethersfield's "Lower Community" decided to petition the Connecticut General Assembly to become a separate town more vigorously than in years past. In May of 1843, the petition was a success and in June of 1843, Rocky Hill was born.

But before Stepney Parish; before even Wethersfield there was a tract of land purchased from the Wangunk Indians by John Oldham and others in 1634. The Wangunk also known as the Wongunk are often associated with Middletown but they once had a major settlement in Wethersfield and present day Rocky Hill. Some sources call these indigenous people the Mattabessett but Wangunk is the name used by their descendants. The tribe is not currently recognized by the US Federal Government or by the State of Connecticut but next time you are walking though Rocky Hill, maybe offer up a 'Meegwetch' (thank you in Algonquin - a dialect of which the Wangunk spoke).



Board for Missions

Thank you to everyone who has donated and who will WALK TODAY to support the Foodshare Walk Against Hunger.

You have made this year one of the best ever.

This month the board of missions is going to practice being 'Fairy Angels'. I was told by a very smart 4 1/2 year old that fairies and angels both wear pretty dresses, have wings and do magical things so are basically the same. Our Fairy Angels will be leaving little messages of love throughout Rocky Hill in the form of low denomination gift cards that will be used in any way that the good Lord sees fit. It is our way of spreading our message of love, joy and welcome arms to the community of Rocky Hill. If you too would like to be a 'Fairy Angel' let one of us know and we will get you some fairy dust. We are also planning a way to celebrate Memorial Day in a missions focused way. There will be more to come as the board finalizes plans.

The Board for Missions: Kari McCaw - chair, Wendy Ware - secretary,
Bob Inderbitzen, Marge Murk, Cindy Hunt, Lisa Eleck.

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

The next order for cards not stocked in inventory will be placed on **Sunday, May 22.** Note that this is one week earlier than usual. Cards ordered by May 22 will be available for delivery on Sunday, May 29.

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

May 1

10:00am **Worship**

11:00am **Coffee & Fellowship**

11:30am WALK FOR HUNGER HARTFORD

4:00pm Siragu Tamil School

Sunday

Sanctuary

Chapin Hall

Rm 22, 23, 24, 25, 27



May 2

7:00pm Women's AA

7:30pm **Bell Choir**

Monday

Chapin Hall

Loft

May 3

7:00pm **Boards & Committees**

7:00pm Hearing Voices

Tuesday

Fiorilli

Room 25

May 4

6:00pm Pilates w/Caroline

7:30pm **Adult Choir**

Wednesday

Chapin Hall

Choir Room

May 5

9:30am Toddler Music

7:30pm Men's AA

Thursday

Rm 25

Chapin Hall

May 6

Middle School Youth Group Trip Heifer Intl. Farm

Friday

May 7

8:30am Men's Bible Study

8:30am Ct. Conf. Historical

Saturday

Fiorilli

Chapin Hall

May 2	Jeanne Timrud
	Liam Flynn
May 3	Cynthia Sweezy
May 4	Chris Sheehan
May 5	Elizabeth Burnham
May 6	Joan Tennyson
May 8	Jeremy Thompson

Mark your calendars!! Invite your friends!!

Dinner and Bobby Jo Valentine coffeehouse. Friday, July 22.

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