

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

Established 1727 ~ An Open and Affirming Community



**May 3, 2015 ~ 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 and large-print bulletins** are available for worship—ask an usher. **Nursery care** is always available down the hall in Room 4.*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Rev. 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 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

“Claire de Lune”

by Claude Debussy

CALL TO WORSHIP

The Rev. Dr. Brenda Pelc-Faszczka

Come and sit; we shall study the Word.

Together we shall read the living Word and understand.

Come and kneel; we shall break the bread.

Together we shall eat and be satisfied.

Come and walk; together we shall part the waters.

Together we shall risk, and, behold, we shall be changed.

*HYMN

“Sing Them Over Again to Me”

New Century (Black) 319

**Please rise in body or in spirit.*

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

*GATHERING PRAYER

Loving God, so many people
in so many lands
know and love you.

Help us to know you better
and to be your witnesses
in all we say and do.

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,
the openness to receive the good news,
as well as the courage to reach out to others.

Help us to boldly be your witnesses so that
people may experience your love.

All this we pray, in your name. Amen.

*SUNG RESPONSE

Al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia,

al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia! *(Last time, end.)*

The musical score is written for two staves, treble and bass clef, in 3/4 time with a key signature of one flat. The melody is simple and repetitive, with lyrics written below the notes. The first system covers the first line of lyrics, and the second system covers the second line, ending with a fermata and the instruction '(Last time, end.)'.

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURES

Acts 8:26-40

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

"A Communion Invitation"

text by Mary Martin

music by Joseph Martin

*Gentle pilgrim, come and eat,
All who hunger, all who need.
Bread is broken for the feast,
Come and all will be received,*

*Come ye trav'ler in the night.
All who thirst for life divine.
Jesus bids you come and dine.
Fill your cup with heaven's wine.*

*Bread of comfort, hope of glory,
Wine of promise, come fill our empty hearts.*

*Come ye weary to the Lord.
Bread is served and wine is poured.
All your strength will be restored,
One in Christ forevermore.*

***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 image shows a musical score for a 'Sung Call to Prayer'. It consists of two systems of music, each with a treble and bass staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. 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 and Silent Prayer

*HYMN

“You Are Called to Tell the Story”

New Century (Black) 357

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 with Jesus, where all who love him gather.

It is the table of sharing with the poor of the world,
with whom Jesus identified himself.

It is the table of communion with the earth, in which Christ became incarnate.

It is the table of bold grace and radical welcome for all. Even you, even me.

So come to this table.

**We come this table,
we who have much faith
and we who would like to have more;
we who have been here often**

**and we who have not been for a long time;
we who have tried to follow Jesus,
and we who have failed.**

Come.

It is Christ who invites us to meet him here.

We come because Christ invites us.

We come because we want to meet Christ here.

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.

Recalling the Story: The Words of Institution

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

Communion Music

Improvisations on "Aria" by D. Wood, and "An Ancient Tale" by B. Filtz
Rhody Triblets, guitar

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Lord Jesus Christ,

you have put your life into our hands;

now we put our lives into yours.

Take us, renew and remake us.

What we have been is past;

**what we shall be, through you
still awaits us.**

Lead us on.

Take us with you. Amen.

The Practice of Peace

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** "Take Me to the Water" New Century (Black) 322

***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE** "Prelude in F" by J.S. Bach

ACOLYTES Louis DiRenzo and Tyler Morgan
COMMUNION SERVERS Deb Copes, Bill Hoffman, Marge Murk
Nancy Parsons, Chris Sheehan, Sue Van Ness
USHERS Denise and Bob Carberry and Julia O'Connor
Polly and Don Pagnucco
GREETERS Tom, Will, and Ben Rolfe
HOSPITALITY Nancy Rolfe and Ruth Jensen

The tower is lit this week in memory of Dan Somes by Elaine Somes.

MAY BREAKFAST

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

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



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PLANT SALE

Flowers & Vegetables

Saturday, May 9th

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

Raffle tickets can be purchased in Chapin Hall.

From the CT Conference UCC
HOW TO HELP IN NEPAL:

Dear friends,

Reports from Nepal have been heartbreaking. Though nobody knows for sure, estimates suggest that more than 4,000 may have died. It is the worst earthquake to strike Nepal in over 80 years. United Church of Christ Disaster Ministries is already present on the ground in Nepal, working through our partners in the ACT Alliance, providing food, water, and temporarily shelter. Those who survived the quake will need support for many years to come.

Here's how you can help:

1. Pray for the people and communities impacted by the earthquake.
2. Make a gift payable to your congregation marked for Nepal Earthquake, with the request it be sent payable to the United Church of Christ, Wider Church Ministries, Financial Services - 6th Floor, 700 Prospect Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44115.

OR

3. Send gifts, payable to United Church of Christ and marked in the memo portion Nepal Earthquake, to United Church of Christ, Wider Church Ministries, Financial Services - 6th Floor, 700 Prospect Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44115.

OR

4. Make a secure on-line donation to the [International Emergency Relief Fund](#).
Please note: Nepal Earthquake in the comment section.

Blessings to you!

Thank You Note from Sarah Mosure after our HOLA lunch:

I just wanted to say thank you to the missions board and our congregation for a very successful fundraiser. HOLA has now raised about \$700 of our goal, and we hope to reach \$1000 after our fundraiser this Monday! We are so grateful for all of RHCC's generosity and support, and we are confident that together we can make a positive impact on Latin American communities.

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 or 860-529-4167. Great Grandmothers will be celebrated on Mother's Day.

ADOPTEE RESOLUTION UPDATE: The adoptee resolution that RHCC has been considering as a congregation has been submitted to the CT Conference of the UCC. We are currently waiting to hear whether it will be accepted.



31ST ANNUAL WALK AGAINST HUNGER

TODAY - 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) 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.

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 and youth bulletins.
S.P.I.R.I.T. Church School will resume on May 10 as we begin preparations for Children's Sunday.

5th Annual Youth Revival!

WHO: Youth Group (Grades 5-12)

WHEN: TODAY - Sunday, May 3, 3 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



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.

If you placed an order last weekend, your cards may be picked up this morning at the scrip table in Chapin Hall.

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

THIS WEEK AT RHCC

May 3

10:00am **Worship**
2:00pm **Walk Against Hunger**
2:30pm **UCC Youth Revival**
4:00pm **Tamil Sangam**

May 4

10:30am **Apple Service**
5:00pm **Yoga with Lynn**
7:00pm **Women's AA**
7:00pm **Bowling**

May 5

7:00pm **Boards & Committees**

May 6

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

May 7

7:30pm **Music Committee**
7:30pm **Men's AA**

May 9

8:00am **Spring Breakfast
& Plant Sale**
9:00am **Yoga with Lynn**

Sunday

Sanctuary

Rms 22, 23, 24, 25

Monday

Apple Rehab
Chapin Hall
Chapin Hall

Tuesday

Wednesday

Rm. 6.
Choir Room

Thursday

Fiorilli Room
Chapin Hall

Saturday

Chapin Hall

Chapel

Happy Birthday



May 3 Cynthia Sweezy
4 Christopher Sheehan
5 Sara Toft
Elizabeth Burnham
6 Joan Tennyson
8 Jeremy Thompson
9 Christine Mullins
Kimberly Rutigliano

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

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: The Rev. 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