

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



**May 5, 2013
Sixth 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, May 5, 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 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 downstairs in Room 4.

GOD GATHERS US FOR WORSHIP

A SCRIPTURAL AFFIRMATION

Acts 16:9-15

Meghan D. Young

PRELUDE

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

“Bell Jubilee”

by Elaine Lorenz

The Jubilate Handbell Choir

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Rev. Donna K. Manocchio

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: Come, one and all. Gather together! For this is the day of the Lord!

People: Let's gather at the river by the throne of God! For there is blessing forever!

Leader: From the throne of God flows a mighty river of peace and hope for all God's people!

People: And there shall be rejoicing at the sight of the healing waters!

Leader: Our journey brings us to God's wondrous river of Life!

People: Praise be to God who has drawn us from darkness and filled our world with light.

* HYMN

“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”

Pilgrim Hymnal 7

MESSAGE FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES

Mary DeLibero

DEDICATION OF MYRTLE FURMAN MEMORIAL HAND BELL

Introduction

A Word of Remembrance

Prayer of Dedication

Leader: It is good to give thanks to God,

People: and to sing praises to your name, O Most High,

Leader: to declare your steadfast love in the morning,

People: and your faithfulness at night,

Leader: to the music of the lute and harp,

People: to the melody of the lyre.

Leader: For you, O God, have made us glad by your work;

People: at the works of your hands, we sing for joy!

Eternal God, whom the generations have worshiped through the gift of music, accept our praise in the sound of this instrument, which we consecrate in your name and to your glory. Grant that its music may be a blessing to all who worship here. May all of us now be consecrated to you, and let our music be joined to your song of love, and empower us for service in the world. In the name of Jesus Christ, good brother and friend, we pray. Amen.

* UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND RESTORATION

Lord, You know how easy it is for us to sit here, tethered to our darkness and fear. We get bound up by chains of mistrust. We dare not to hope, for so many times before we have been disappointed. So we sit here and wonder where you are. We are not unlike the disciples who wondered also, who feared. Lord, come to us in our darkness. Flood us with your powerful light of love and mercy. Help open our eyes to the good news of your eternal glory. Give to us visions of the place in which love and hope will reign. Forgive our stubborn resistance to your mercy and your love. For we ask this in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

* SILENT CONFESSION

You are invited to make a silent prayer of confession to God in the community of God's people.

* WORDS OF ASSURANCE

* 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.

GOD SHARES WORDS OF LOVE AND LIFE

OPENING THE WORD

THE GOOD NEWS

Revelation 21:10; 21:22 - 22:5

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

SERMON

“Open Doors”

Meghan D. Young

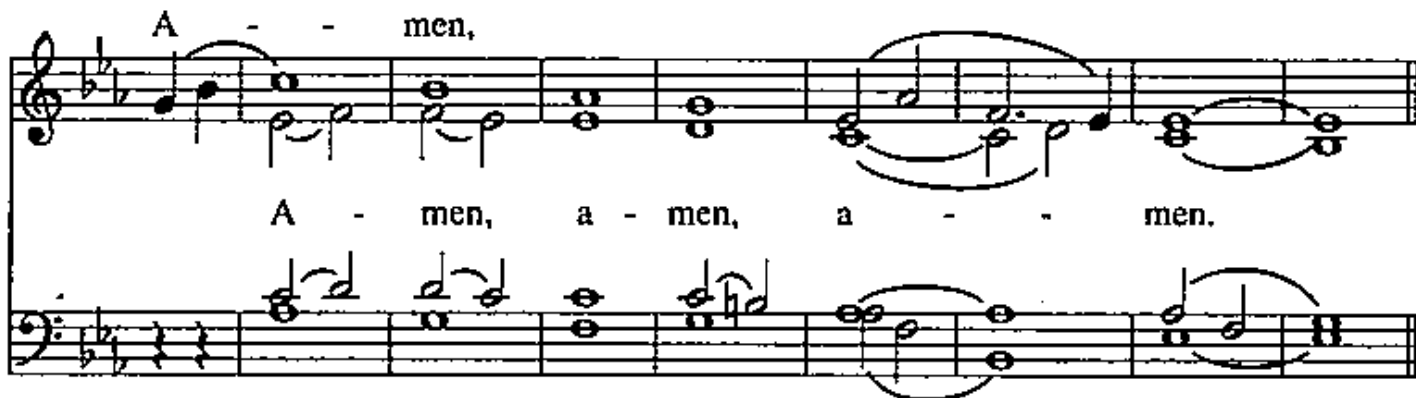
JOYS & CONCERNS

(We invite your oral prayer requests — keeping the request brief. Trust that God knows the details.

After each prayer, the congregation responds “Your prayer is our prayer.” To include your prayer on the prayer list, complete a pew pad prayer card and place it in the offertory plate.

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

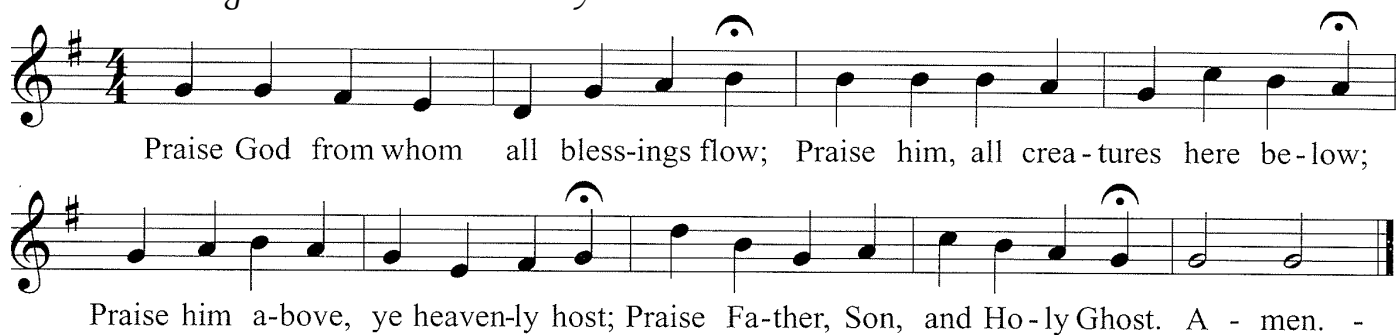
"Fanfare and Ostinato"

by Paul McKleen

The Jubilate Handbell Choir

* 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 blessings flow; Praise him, all creatures here below;

Praise him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen. -

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

* HYMN

"Let Us Break Bread Together"

Pilgrim Hymnal 288

WE SHARE THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Leader: Friends, this is the sacred table of God. Come and taste. Eat and be filled. Drink deep and never thirst again. Come to the feast God prepares.

People: We come just as we are, to partake and share, to taste and see that God is good!

Leader: Around this table, we enact our faith. It is spread for you and me, that we might again know that God has come to us, shared our common lot, and invited us to join the people of God's new age.

People: We come, because God loves us, and desires to be in communion with us.

THE SPIRIT TRANSFORMS

Leader: As the Holy Spirit strengthens your church, may this, your blessed bread, which is now broken, bring life to us.

People: May we be living signs of the charity we share with one another.

Leader: May this, your holy cup, poured out for all, be our salvation.

People: We pray that we who drink from the one cup may be faithful signs of your love.

Leader: Gracious God, as your beloved children, we pray the words your son and our savior 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.

THE STORY IS REMEMBERED AND THE BREAD AND CUP ARE SHARED

An Open Table! At Rocky Hill Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, we believe that the table is not ours, but Christ's. Therefore, anyone, including children, wishing to know the presence of Christ and the community of God's people is welcome to receive, regardless of your denominational affiliation, church membership or where you are on your faith journey. This is a joyful feast for all the people of God!

Deacons will bring the bread and cup to each row. Gluten free bread is available. If you would like to receive gluten free bread, please identify yourself by raising your hand so a Deacon can serve you. All cups contain non-alcoholic grape juice. As you pass the bread to your neighbor, you are invited to say the words, "the bread of life." As you pass the cup, you are invited to say "the cup of salvation." Please wait until all are served before eating the bread and drinking the juice.

COMMUNION MUSIC

"Deep River"

arranged by Mary McDonald

'The Table is Long'

words by John Webster, music by Don McKeever

The Choir

*The Table is long, the Table is old,
It's laden with riches far greater than gold,
The cup of salvation, the good bread of life,
Are here for the sharing, with all who have faith.*

*Our Host is Lord Jesus, who bids us to come,
With all the disciples in that upper room,
To break bread together, and drink of His cup,
We sit at His Table, and with them we sup.*

*In far distant places, they come to His board,
All races and nations sit here with our Lord,
And share with us all now the love and the feast,
A bridge of compassion, now links West with East.*

*I think as I sit at the Table once more,
Of those who came to Jesus, and ate here before,
I think of the presence of loved one and friend,
that great cloud of witnesses, it never will end.*

UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Loving God in Jesus Christ, with gratitude for your holy nourishment about this table, we dedicate: our lips to be the hopeful voice of Christ to the despairing; our hands to reach out in Christ's name to heal the broken; our feet to walk with Christ to visit those who are shunned; our bodies to be Christ's living sacrifice to break the power of death. Help us to use this new life in all that we do and say so that the new world of justice and joy will come. Take us. Empower us. Use us. Amen.

THE PRACTICE OF PEACE

We practice sharing Christ's peace with one another as a sign of reconciliation and love. It is not simply our peace, but the peace of Christ that we offer. The peace may be shared with a handshake, embrace, or a non-contact gesture. Please respect the wishes of those with whom you exchange the peace. You are invited to extend peace to your neighbor with the words, "The peace of Christ be with you."

WE GO FORTH TO LOVE AND SERVE

* HYMN

"Shall We Gather At The River"

New Century Hymnal 597

* BENECTION

POSTLUDE

"Recessional"

by Gordon Young

(*Please rise in body or in spirit.)

GREETERS

Brian and Grace Donahue

HOSPITALITY

Ruth and Jay Jensen

HEAD USHERS

Linda Grillo, Denise Carberry
Julia O'Connor, Nancy Harlow, Sean Mullins

DEACONS

Gail Tine, Don Pagnucco, Candy Smith, Bob Carberry
Rich Pawlich-Pagliccio, Julia Pickett, Elaine Somes, Bob Inderbitzen

The flowers this week are given

By Nancy Harlow in memory of Aunt, Caroline, and Dennis

NEXT WEEK

Sunday May 12, 2013

Mother's Day

Ruth Lewis – Liturgical dancer

John 17:20-26

“Always Stay Close”

The Rev. Donna K. Manocchio



THIS WEEK AT RHCC

MAY 5

- 11:30am **Noah's Table**
2:00pm Walk Against Hunger

MAY 6

- 5:00pm **Selection Committee**
5:30pm Yoga with Lynn
7:00pm Women's AA
7:30pm **Bell Choir**

MAY 7

- 7:00am **Board/Committee Mtgs**

MAY 8

- 9:00am **Quilters**
10:30am **Apple Rehab Service**
12:00pm **Bible Study**
4:30pm **Selection Committee**
7:30pm **Adult Choir**

MAY 9

- 5:30pm TOPS
8:00pm Men's AA

MAY 10

- 7:00pm Youth Revival

MAY 11

- 8:30am Yoga with Lynn
11:00am Palmer Memorial Service
6:00pm **Dinner and A Movie**

SUNDAY

Youth Room

MONDAY

Fiorilli Room
Chapin Hall
Chapin Hall
Loft

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

Quilters Room 6
Apple Rehab
Fiorilli Room
Fiorilli Room
Choir Room

THURSDAY

Chapin Hall
Chapin Hall

FRIDAY

Bridgeport

SATURDAY

Chapin Hall

Chapin Hall



- 5 Sara Toft
Elizabeth Burnham
Abigail Bellizzi
6 Joan Tennyson
Jane Lataille
7 Sharon Kromas
Brianna Calderon
Charles Vassilopoulos II
9 Christine Mullins
Kimberly Rutigliano
11 Laura Lynne Anzulewicz

Meghan D. Young will be out of town Friday, May 10 through Sunday, May 12.

SCRIP-SURE

SCRIP-SURE: During April, orders were placed for a total of \$19,500 of scrip, producing a profit for RHCC of slightly more than \$1400. Thank you!

Last week's scrip orders are available for pickup today in Chapin Hall. This week's special deals include Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Denny's, Dunkin Donuts, Sunoco, Starbucks, & Target. Cards for Big Y, CVS, Stop & Shop, Trader Joe's, Westside Market, and Whole Foods are also available as usual.

Interim Minister Selection Update

As is the responsibility of the Deacons to select an Interim Minister, Deacons Don Pagnucco, Candy Smith, Gail Tine and Elaine Somes are doing just that. We have reviewed six resumes submitted by the CT Conference and scheduled four interviews beginning May 2. We ask for your prayers in our process and conversations, and we will continue to keep our church family updated.

BOOK DONATIONS REQUESTED

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

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



of Greater Hartford, CT

TODAY:

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

Children are invited to remain in worship today, following along with the children & youth bulletins. S.P.I.R.I.T. Faith Formation will resume on May 12th, with week 4 of, "Go and Make Disciples".

A Prayer For The Week. 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 & June. 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.

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 group's 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.

You are invited to Koinonia 2013!

Join us at RHCC for a 4 night (5:30-7:30 PM), intergenerational Vacation Bible School, "Koinonia 2013", for the whole church family, from June 24th-27th. This summer you are invited to renew and spark your faith as we join together for fun, food, fellowship, and faith formation. Separate faith formation programming will be available for children, youth, and adults.

Please mark your calendars and sign-up in Chapin Hall or by emailing meghan@rhccucc.org.

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: Carol Harvey 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