

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



**May 12, 2013
Seventh 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 12, 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 Kathryn Lewis

PRELUDE

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

'Andante Pastorale'

by O. Ravello

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

"As Light Through Leaves"

Ruth Vesenka Lewis, liturgical dancer

Emily Doten

Toryn Pulling

* HYMN

"Be Thou My Vision"

Pilgrim Hymnal 391

A MESSAGE FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES

RECOGNITION OF GREAT GRANDMOTHERS

Deacon Judy Graham

Thelma Backe
Charlotte Bacon
Carol Baran
Ruby Bennett
Mary-Edith Bowman
Barbara Burgess
Del Buswell
Duffy Carruthers
Carole Christopher
Amy Cooke
Evelyn Danforth
Doris Day
Joan Dean

Jeannette Doane
Lois Griswold
Jean Hamilton
Janet Hansen
Midge Harvey
Doris Hick
Anne King
Gladys Kitchens
Janet Kunzelman
Priscilla Lexa
Juanita Madden-Estra
Eleanor Maynard
Ella Michaud

Betty Mooney
Irene Moore
Emily Rosenthal
Doris Schreier
Thelma Somes
Sylvia Steucek
Midge Sword
Louise Tangarone
Joyce Toft
Liz Vann
Alice Weil
Dot Wenzel

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

The image shows three staves of musical notation for the song "We Will Keep a Place For You". The music is written in a treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C). The lyrics are written below the notes.

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.

* PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER *(debts/debtors)*

Deacon Elaine Somes

Leader: God of abundant grace and extravagant blessing:
Grant to each of us a singing heart,

People: open and ready to join in your love song.

Leader: Grant to each of us a dancing heart,

People: willing to embrace all our many partners in your great dance of creation.

Leader: Grant to each of us a laughing heart,

People: that we might come into your holy presence with praise, thanksgiving, and joy. Amen and alleluia!

Leader: God of abundant grace and extravagant blessing:
we pray in the name of Christ, who comes from you and teaches us to say together,

All: 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.

GOD SHARES WORDS OF LOVE AND LIFE

OPENING THE WORD

THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS CHRIST

John 17:20-26

ANTHEM

'O Perfect Love' Shenandoah/Perfect Love

Words and arrangement by Don McKeever

The Choir with Dave Hall, cello

O Perfect Love, I long to see You,

As I travel on life's river

O Perfect Love, I almost found You

*Way hey, but then I strayed from your mighty
river.*

O Perfect Love, I long to know You,

For I know you are life's giver

O Perfect Love, could I be like You?

Don't go away my life long love giver.

*O Perfect Love, I know I owe You,
For the good that brought me hither
O Perfect Love, I've found perfection
Way hey, and come what may
Save and cleanse me ever.*

*O Perfect Love, You are beyond our knowing.
Yet You're unerring bearing us along
To Your abode, we trust we all are going
To sing in unison Your perfect song.*

*A song so old but ever new and growing,
Showing that You, O God, are Perfect Love.
We add the music of our lives in chorus
And from imperfect lives make perfect song.*

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

SERMON

"Always Stay Close"

The Rev. Donna K. Manocchio

* HYMN

"Not My Brother, Not My Sister (Standing in the Need Of Prayer)"

New Century Hymnal 519

SHARING OF JOYS AND 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 prayer card and place it in the offertory plate.*

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER RESPONSE

A musical score for a prayer response. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are: "A - - men, a - men, a - - - men." The first staff has a long note for "A" followed by a dotted line, then "men,". The second staff has "A - men," followed by "a - men," followed by "a - - - men." The music is simple and repetitive, suitable for a congregational response.

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

'Steal Away'

arr. D.McKeever

The Choir

*Steal away to Jesus
My Jesus I adore You.*

*Steal away, steal away, steal away to Jesus
Steal away, steal away home.
My Jesus I adore You.*

*My Lord He calls me.
He calls me with the thunder
The trumpet sounds within-a-my soul.
My Jesus I adore You.*

* 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

"Blessed Be the Ties That Binds"
New Century Hymnal 393

WE GO FORTH TO LOVE AND SERVE

* BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

'Variations From Organ Concerto Op. 4, No.1'
by G.F. Handel

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

GREETERS

Ruth and Jay Jensen

HOSPITALITY

Inreach

USHERS

Phyllis Wilkey
Wendy Ware, Bob Inderbitzen, Michael Bower

The flowers this week are given

By Donna Manocchio in honor of her mother, her sisters, and her daughters

NEXT WEEK

Sunday, May 19, 2013

Confirmation Sunday/Pentecost

John 14:8-17, (25-27)

A reflection from the RHCC Confirmands

Meghan D. Young

Special Coffee Hour for Mother's Day

Everyone's invited to join us in Chapin Hall as we celebrate Mother's Day with strawberry shortcake after the Worship Service today. Sponsored by InReach.

THIS WEEK AT RHCC

MAY 12

11:30am Noah's Table

MAY 13

2:00pm Lodge Service
5:30pm Yoga with Lynn
7:00pm **Women's Bible Study**
7:00pm **RHCCNS**
7:00pm Women's AA
7:30pm **Bell Choir**

MAY 14

8:30am **Breakfast Club**

MAY 15

9:00am **Quilters**
12:00pm **Bible Study**
6:00pm Cedar Hollow
7:30pm **Adult Choir**

MAY 16

5:30pm TOPS
7:00pm Fair Committee
8:00pm Men's AA

MAY 18

8:30am Yoga
11:00am Anne Marie Laforge
Memorial Service
5:00pm Confirmation Dinner

SUNDAY

Youth Room

MONDAY

Chapin Hall
Parlor
Fiorilli Room
Chapin Hall
Loft

TUESDAY

Bob's Coffee Shop

WEDNESDAY

Quilters Room 6
Fiorilli Room
Room 25
Choir Room 1

THURSDAY

Chapin Hall
Room 25
Chapin Hall

SATURDAY

Chapin Hall
Sanctuary

Chapin Hall &
Sanctuary



May 12 Kelley Waverly
13 Adam Carberry
Mark Carberry
14 Steve Smith
Paul Burnham
Randall Pulling
Christine Kainamura
Robert Furman
15 Jay Jensen
Mark Pawlich
Matthew Yorgensen
16 Jean Hamilton
Hilaire Leavitt
17 Rebecca Behlman

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

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 Baptized?

As Philip and the Ethiopian official were going along the road, they came to some water; and the official said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?"

– Acts 8:36

The encounter between Philip and the Ethiopian official in Acts 8 is framed by the questions the official asks of Philip. First he wanted to understand the scripture he was reading and asked Philip to help him interpret. The Ethiopian's response to the story of Jesus was both definite and immediate. As they went by some water he asked Philip in Acts 8:37, "What is to prevent me from being baptized?"

The answer should be "everything"! As a eunuch, religious law of the day would have allowed this man to study and discuss scripture but not to be a full member of the assembly. Philip's decision to baptize him demonstrated that God's love was for everyone. God's love said yes when human barriers would rather say no.

This is a story of Christianity beginning to move beyond its initial base in Jerusalem. Led by the Spirit, Christians opened themselves to others and began to include people who had not been part of their immediate community. What bound them together is the same thing that unites the church today – the story of Jesus and gift of baptism. These are God's blessings – what we call grace. It is God's hand that reaches for us first. It is God who crosses the distance, breaks through the barriers, meets us where we are, and invites us into relationship. God's grace is the love that loved us first. Our task is simply to respond by living in faith.

Read: Acts 8:26-40

Reflect. *Talk about the Bible story children and youth explored this week. How have you experienced God's love reaching out to you or through you? Where have you felt let down? Claim your baptismal identity as God's own child. Choose one or two specific ways you can tell your faith story by what you say and do.*

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 & 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.

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	FUN & GAMES RM. 24 <i>Christian Education Hallway</i>
K - 1st Grade	SHOW & TELL RM. 25 & RM. 27 <i>Christian Education Hallway</i>
2nd & 3rd Grade	HANDS ON RM. 23 <i>Christian Education Hallway</i>
4th & 5th Grade	FOOD & PEOPLE Youth Room <i>Ground Floor of Church</i>
6th-8th Grade	COMMUNITY LIFE RM. 22 <i>Christian Education Hallway</i>

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 DeLiberio 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