

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

Established 1727 ~ An Open and Affirming Community

**They are not of the world,
even as I am not of the world.**

John 17:16

May 28, 2017 ~ 10:00 a.m.

Seventh 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 downstairs 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 center aisle at the time of the offering, when the cards will be collected.*

PRELUDE

“America the Beautiful”

CALL TO WORSHIP

Jim Stevens

(adapted from Ps. 68)

Leader: We shout for joy to God who rides upon the clouds!

**All: We sing praises to our awe-inspiring God,
before whom the earth quakes,
and whose abundant blessings provide for all in need!**

Leader: God is Sovereign over the earth,
Defender of the defenseless, and Parent to orphans;
God creates families for those who are alone.

**All: God leads captives to freedom
and breaks the yoke of oppression.**

Leader: God goes forth before the people,
marching through the wilderness of their lives,
bringing forth restoration and justice.

**All: Sing praise to God, Rider of the ancient skies,
who dwells in holiness.**

*Please rise in body or in spirit.

Bold type denotes collective response

CALL TO WORSHIP

Jim Stevens

Leader: Proclaim the power of God!

All: O God, how awesome you are in your sanctuary!
You give power and strength to your people.
Let us worship God!

*HYMN "O Beautiful for Spacious Skies"

PH (red) 440

*INVOCATION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

God Most High, we gather to honor and glorify you.

Receive our invitation to dwell with us.

Enfold us in your presence and

fill us again with holy awe and mystery.

We are yours and we claim you as our God.

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

NCH 765

1 Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,

Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

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



The image shows three staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and common time. 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.

ANTHEM

“Homeward Bound”

Marta Keen

The Choir with Victoria Bower, soprano; Jillian Maynard, mezzo-soprano

SCRIPTURE READING

John 17:6-19

NT Pew Bible p111

SERMON

“Be The Church: In the World
But Not of the World”

Rev. Craig L. Cowing

*HYMN

“It’s the Old Ship of Zion”

NC (black) 310

OFFERING OF GIFTS

Following the receiving of offerings by the ushers, Rev. Craig will come down the center aisle to collect the 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

“Benedictus”

Brian Lewis

Victoria Bower and Jillian Maynard

*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

“O Master, Let Me Walk With Thee” (verse 1) NCH 418

1 O Mas - ter, let me walk with thee In low - ly
2 Help me the slow of heart to move By some clear,
3 Teach me thy pa - tience; still with thee In clos - er,
4 In hope that sends a shin - ing ray Far down the

paths of serv - ice free; Tell me thy se - cret, help me
win - ning word of love; Teach me the way - ward feet to
dear - er com - pa - ny, In work that keeps faith sweet and
fu - ture's broad - ening way, In peace that on - ly thou canst

bear The strain of toil, the fret of care.
stay, And guide them in the home - ward way.
strong, In trust that tri - umphs o - ver wrong.
give, With thee, O Mas - ter, let me live. A - men.

O Master, let me
walk with thee
In lowly paths of
service free;
Tell me thy secret,
help me bear
The strain of toil,
The fret of care.
A-men.

Pastoral Prayer

***HYMN**

“In the Midst of New Dimensions”

NC (black)391

BENEDICTION

***POSTLUDE**

“Prelude Allegretto”

Leonardo Vinci

LITURGIST

Jim Stevens

GREETER

Victoria Bower

USHERS

Christopher Sheehan, Wendy Ware

HOSPITALITY

Lynn McKenna & Nancy Harlow



LOOKING AHEAD

Sat. June 3	4:00pm	Dinner for Confirmands, family & sponsors
Sun. June 4	10:00am	Pentecost Sunday, Communion & Confirmation Strengthen the Church Offering
Sun. June 4	3:30pm	Ecclesiastical Council for Lisa Eleck
Sun. June 11	10:00am	Children’s Sunday & Annual Meeting





Strengthen The Church Offering “Invest In The Vision”.

This offering is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ. It largely supports youth ministries and full time leaders for new churches. As God calls our congregations to be the church in new ways, your generosity will plant new churches, awaken new ideas, awaken new ideas in existing churches and develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults. It will be collected on Pentecost Sunday, June 4th.

Congratulations Graduates!! The Diaconate would like to honor your graduation from high school or college during our Sunday service. If you are graduating or have already graduated this year, please call the Church Office at 860-529-4167 or email us at office@rhccucc.org.



**PROUD
NEW
GRANDPA**

Great Grandfathers!

Are you a new great-grandfather? Please let us add you to our list of wonderful men who have become great-grandfathers, and we will be honoring you during worship on Father's Day. Contact the office at 860-529-4167 or office@rhccucc.org

Confirmation on June 4th on Pentecost Sunday

Confirmation means affirmation of faith. It is an acknowledgement by both the individual and faith community of the presence and power of the Holy Spirit. The rite of confirmation is celebrated in worship as a community, both in response to and in anticipation of the work of God in the life of a believer.





God works in strange and wonderful ways! Who would have thought that coming to Rocky Hill Congregational Church, UCC would lead to my seeking ordination in the United Church of Christ? Yet, here I am, preparing for my Ecclesiastical Council. I am so grateful for the support I have received from the people of this congregation along my journey!

When I first attended this church, I learned it was Open and Affirming and that all people were invited to Jesus table. (What a wonderful concept and way to be Christian!) I was warmly welcomed! (Thank you everyone who makes newcomers feel welcome!) The pastors were female. (Oh, my goodness! I was not used to seeing women in clergy robes.) The liturgy was creative while still following the lectionary. And many of the hymns were familiar. There was outreach and Bible study. (What awesome opportunities!) This became my church home.

It is where I realized my call to ordination. It is as if the experiences I had in my life, my experiences with this church (I am not referring to this building, but its people) and what I learned about the UCC were together percolating something new. I was encouraged by the pastor to attend a course at Hartford Seminary. During that course, I knew I wanted to be a pastor. Gratefully, the Deacons approved my request to be a Member in Discernment. It was then approved by the Committee on Church and Ministry of the Hartford Association in 2014.

I have now completed my courses at Hartford Seminary and Yale Divinity School and internships at First Congregational Church, Southington and Center Church, Hartford. My ordination paper has been approved. And my Ecclesiastical Council, to which you are all invited, will be held here at 3:30pm, Sunday June 4, 2017. It has been an amazing journey!

Thank you, Everyone, for all your support, encouraging words, hugs, and of course, prayers! I am truly blessed!

Lisa Eleck



The Men's Bible Study Group will not meet again until Saturday June 10th, 8:30-9:30am in the Fiorilli room. If you enjoy fellowship and want to learn more about scripture and other faith topics, please join us. If you would like further information, please see Jim Stevens at church or call 860-632-5810. Thanks be to God.

CALL TO THE ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the Rocky Hill Congregational Church United Church of Christ is called for **Sunday, June 11, 2017** immediately following worship in the sanctuary for the following items of business:

1. To receive and act upon the 2016 reports of Boards and Committees.
2. To vote on any revisions to the 2017-18 budget as presented at Budget and Elections meeting.
3. To hear a report on the proposed conference merger.
4. To vote on any changes to the report of the Nominating Committee.
5. To conduct any additional business to come before the congregation.
6. To remember and reflect on those members and friends of the church who have entered the Church Eternal from May 1, 2016 to April 30, 2017.

Respectfully submitted;
Linda Tokarski, Clerk

God is still speaking,
**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**



Rocky Hill Memorial Day Parade – 9:30 a.m.
All are invited to watch the parade from the church grounds. If you want to help set up, please stop by between 8am and 8:30am. The Fair & Events Committee will be selling snacks, coffee, juice, donuts, small flags and this year - egg sandwiches.

THIS WEEK AT RHCC

May 28

10:00am **Worship**
9:30am **Childcare**
10:00am **Church School**

Sunday

Sanctuary
Room 4
Rms 24,25,26

May 29

9:30am MEMORIAL DAY PARADE
OFFICE CLOSED

7:00pm Women's AA
7:30pm **Bell Choir**

Monday

Chapin Hall
Sanctuary

May 30

NEWSLETTER MAILING
7:00pm Hearing Voices

Tuesday

Fiorilli
Room 23

May 31

11:30am **LSP Board**
6:00pm Pilates
7:30pm **Choir**

Wednesday

Chapin Hall
Chapin Hall
Choir Room

June 1

9:30am Music Together
7:30pm Men's AA

Thursday

Room 22
Chapin Hall

June 2

9:00am Preschool Graduation

Friday

Chapin Hall

June 3

4:00pm **Confirmation Dinner**

Saturday

Chapin Hall



- | | |
|----|------------------|
| 28 | Don Pagnucco |
| 28 | Stephanie Kelley |
| 29 | Jim DeGiovanni |
| 30 | Robin Welch |
| 1 | Harry Schmidt |
| 1 | Zachary Rupaka |
| 2 | Eric Jokl |

Memorial Day
The office will be closed, Monday, May 29.



The newsletter mailing will be on Tuesday, May 30th, 9:30am in the Fiorilli Room. All are welcome!

There will be a dinner for all Confirmands, their sponsors and families on Saturday, June 3rd from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m., in Chapin Hall. Contact Rev. Craig with any questions.



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 ordering deadline for cards not kept in inventory will be on Sunday, June 11th (delivery on June 18).

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.

Stop by 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

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

Child Care Provider: Liz Pulling lrpulling@icloud.com