

ROCKY HILL CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Established 1727 ~ An Open and Affirming Community



July 6, 2014 ~ 10:00 a.m.
Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

~ 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. Dr. Brenda Pelc-Faszczka
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 registration pads (your name is optional) and be prepared to pass it to the aisle at the time of the offering, when the cards will be collected.

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Bill Hoffman

God is our refuge and our strength,
a very present help in time of trouble.
The nations rage, the kingdoms totter,
but the **Word of the Lord** endures forever.
Come, people of God, let us be at worship,
for **God is in the midst of us**
and we are in the midst of **God**.

* **HYMN** “God of the Ages, Who with Sure Command” printed in bulletin

** Please rise in body or in spirit.*

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

*GATHERING PRAYER

Holy One, we gather once more in your presence,
that we might give thanks and praise,
that we might renew our common life,
that we might receive a fresh hearing of your Word.

Open us, awaken us, renew us,
that we might become, again, disciples of Christ,
who calls us to follow him and serve the world in love. 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.)*

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES

READING FROM THE GOSPEL

Matthew 11:25-30

SERMON

The Rev. Dr. Brenda Pelc-Faszczka

OFFERING OF GIFTS

Following the receiving of offerings by the ushers, the pastor(s) will come to the aisle to receive prayer request cards.

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory Anthem

***Doxology**



Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here



Praise God for all that love has done; Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One.

Amen

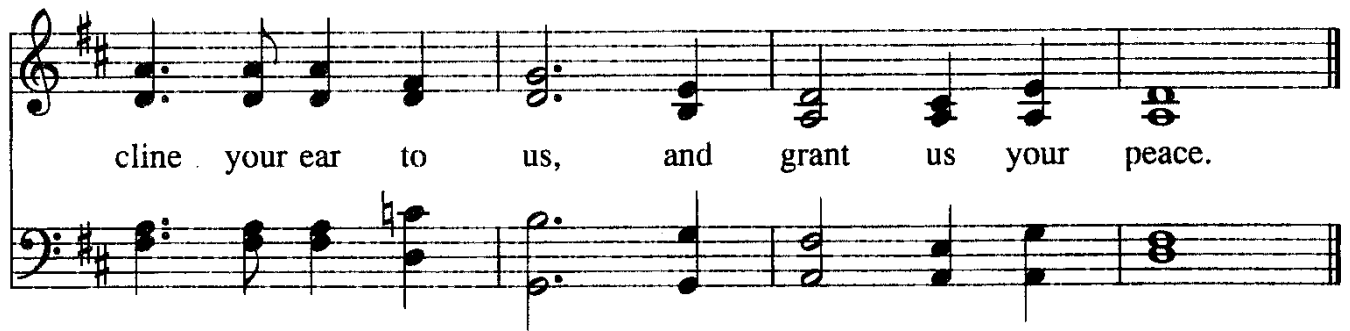
PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Joys & Concerns

Sung Call to Prayer



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**

“Be Known to Us in Breaking Bread”

printed in bulletin

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

This church practices open Communion - all who wish to know the presence of Christ and to participate in the community of God's people are welcome to receive Communion, including children, and regardless of church membership or denominational affiliation.

This morning we will receive Communion by intinction (dipping the bread into the cup, which holds unfermented grape juice). Gluten-free bread and juice are also offered. Any wishing to receive Communion who are unable to come forward may raise their hands to identify themselves to a deacon and will be served in their seats.

Invitation

The table is set, the meal is ready: the joyful feast of the people of God.
**The Bread of Life, given for us,
that we might share it with each other and the world.**
Through the love that creates, forgives and redeems,
God is making all things new,
and we are invited to partake of God's blessing.

Prayer of Preparation and the Lord's Prayer

...This we ask in Christ's name and spirit, as we also say together:

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Given 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.**

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving

For the gifts of your table, we give thanks, O God,
for once more you have called and gathered us,
fed and renewed us.

Now you send us out to be living gospel –
bread for each other and light for the world,
as we follow Jesus into your kingdom. Amen.

Sharing the Peace of Christ

*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 “Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory” printed in bulletin

*BENEDICTION

COMMUNION SERVERS Nancy Parsons, Bill Hoffman, Ruth Fitzgerald and Tom Ful

LITURGIST

Bill Hoffman

USHERS

Bobbie and David Hawkins

The flowers are given in honor of the service men and women serving our
country in the military by Dave and Bobbie Hawkins.

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. Summer programming, for children in Pre-K through 5th grade, focuses on “Favorite Bible Stories” and will be offered on the following Sundays:

July 13	Favorite Bible Stories: Samuel Listens
July 27	Favorite Bible Stories: David Plays the Harp
August 10	Favorite Bible Stories: The Two Houses
August 24	Favorite Bible Stories: The Good Samaritan

NOAH’S TABLE: Game Night – July 13

Noah’s Table is meeting Sunday, July 13, from 5 PM – 6:30 PM. Gather for food, fun, and fellowship. There are a lot of new faces in youth group, and it’s time to get to know each other better. Be prepared for competition, team building, and who knows what other possibilities. Please RSVP by Friday, July 11 with Diana Hellyar at dmhellyar@gmail.com.

NURSERY VOLUNTEERS: If you are interested in volunteering in the Nursery during Sunday morning worship, please contact a member of the Childcare Committee or email them at RHCCchildcare@gmail.com for more information.

S.P.I.R.I.T. Summer Volunteers – If you are interested in helping with any of our summer programming, please email Meghan at meghan@rhccucc.org. Volunteers are needed for 8/10, and 8/24.

It's Coming: Koinonia 2014!

“Jesus, the Storyteller”

An intergenerational Vacation Bible School for the whole church family!

August 25th–28th – 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM

Dinner provided. Freewill donations accepted.

This summer you are invited to renew and spark your faith as we join together for fun, food, fellowship, and faith formation. Come for four nights as we learn about “Jesus, the Storyteller”, and share and create our own stories. *Separate faith formation programming will be available for children, youth, and adults.*

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

Small Group Ministry at RHCC:

Summer Faith Formation Opportunities

Join a small group to explore and enrich your faith in new ways!

Mission & A Movie:



A Place At The Table.

Sunday, July 13, 12 PM – 2:30 PM

Chapin Hall

Hosted by Missions & Faith Formation

50 Million Americans – 1 in 4 children – don't know where their next meal is coming from. A Place at the Table tells the powerful stories of three such Americans, who maintain their dignity even as they struggle just to eat. In a riveting journey that will change forever how you think about the hungry. A Place at the Table shows how the issue could be solved forever, once the American public decides – as they have in the past – that ending hunger is in the best interests of us all. **Join us for a viewing of A Place at the Table, and a conversation with a panel of homeless individuals from Hartford**

about issues of homelessness and hunger in our community and how we can work together to end hunger.

A Place At The Table – Part 2: Serving Our Neighbors

Saturday, July 19

7 AM – 11 AM

Center Church in Hartford, CT

Join us as we prepare and serve a meal to the homeless and low-income population in Hartford. 6–10 Participants needed. *Sign-Up in Chapin Hall or email Meghan@rhccucc.org.*

Small Group Gatherings:

SALT.

Tuesday, July 15

7 PM – 8 PM, Chapin Hall

Join us for a short film, followed by a discussion. Through beautiful, deeply spiritual, films made by the SALT project, we will more deeply explore our faith. SALT is a not-for-profit project dedicated to reclaiming and sharing the beauty of Christian life through film, photography, music, poetry, and ideas. SALT aims to build up a community of conversation and resource-sharing that, like salt itself, preserves and seasons the best and most beautiful of the Christian tradition. *No preparation necessary.*



JULY 13 THROUGH AUGUST 24: SUMMER SERMON SERIES

“LIVING STONES: IMAGINING THE FUTURE OF THE CHURCH”

A series of sermons meant to engage us together in imagining how, and reflecting on why, the church might move forward - in a time very different from the past.

July 13 Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

1 Peter 2:1-10 -

“Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God’s sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house...”

What would it mean to be a church of living stones, letting ourselves be built by God, not our own hands, a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices?

July 20 Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Ezekiel 37:1-14

“The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones...He said to me ‘Mortal, can these bones live?’”

*What would it mean to truly believe God can breathe new life into our dry bones?
What would it mean to be a church, willing to go through the noise, and rattling, and growth, as God’s spirit breathes life?*

July 27 Seventh Sunday after Pentecost; Laity Sunday

Members of the congregation will lead worship.

Romans 12:1-8 “Don’t be conformed to the world, be transformed by the renewal of your minds... We are like one body, with many parts but not all with the same function.”

What would it mean to be a church with a presence in the world that is not just like the world, and where a variety of gifts are discovered, used and welcomed?

August 3 Eighth Sunday after Pentecost; Communion

Acts 17:22-34

“The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth,
does not live in shrines made by human hands.”

Jesus said nothing about “Church” as an institution, but much about faith and love. What would it mean to be a church not tied to the bounds of membership and building, but living by Jesus’ great commission to go and make disciples?

August 10 Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Acts 3:1-16

“One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the hour of prayer...And a man lame from birth was being carried in...And he fixed his attention on them, expecting to receive something from them, but Peter said, ‘I have no silver or gold, but what I have I give you; in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, stand up and walk.’”

What would it mean to stop and look up as we dash to our “temples” (jobs, committee meetings, resume building activities, etc.) and offer the love of God, recognizing that God calls us to be in the world?

August 17 Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 56:1, 6-8

“ ‘My house shall be called a house of prayer, for all peoples,’ says God, who gathers the outcasts. ‘I will gather yet others besides those already gathered.’”

What would it mean to understand the church as primarily a “house of prayer,” and God as a God who means to gather in the ones who aren’t here yet?

August 24 Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

Luke 5:1-11

“Jesus said to Simon, ‘Push out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch.’ It was no sooner said than done - a huge haul of fish, so many it strained the nets.”

What would it mean to understand our core purpose as the church to be about depth, our main task as “going deeper” ?

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.

As previously announced, the end-of-June scrip order deadline will be deferred until July 13, with delivery on July 20. Please plan accordingly.

Today we continue to have a variety of cards in inventory from more than 35 different restaurants and retailers, available for immediate purchase this morning, including (but not limited to):

Coffee: Dunkin Donuts, Starbucks

Fast food: Burger King, Chipotle, McDonalds, Subway

Gas: Exxon/Mobil, Shell, Sunoco

Grocery: Big Y, Stop & Shop, Trader Joe's, Westside Marketplace, Whole Foods

Pharmacy: CVS, Walgreens

Restaurants: Bonfish Grill, Buffalo Wild Wings, On the Border

Shopping: Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Bed Bath & Beyond, Best Buy, Home Depot, Kohl's, iTunes, Lowes, Marshall's, Staples, Target, Walmart

See Hilaire Leavitt at the scrip table 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 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