

ROCKY HILL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Established 1727 ~ An Open and Affirming Community



July 20, 2014 ~ 10:00 a.m.
Fifth 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. 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

“Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service”
from *The Sacred Harp*

arr. Randall Hartsell

CALL TO WORSHIP

Deacon Candace Smith

The prophet asks: Can our soul-weary bones live again?

O God, you know!

We ask: Can we dance again after mourning, loss and grief?

O God, you know!

The gift is sure and unmistakable:

God's breath poured out as new life for weary souls?

Let us celebrate the gift of God's new life,

And come to worship God in laughter and dancing!

*HYMN

“Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness”

printed in bulletin

**Please rise in body or in spirit.*

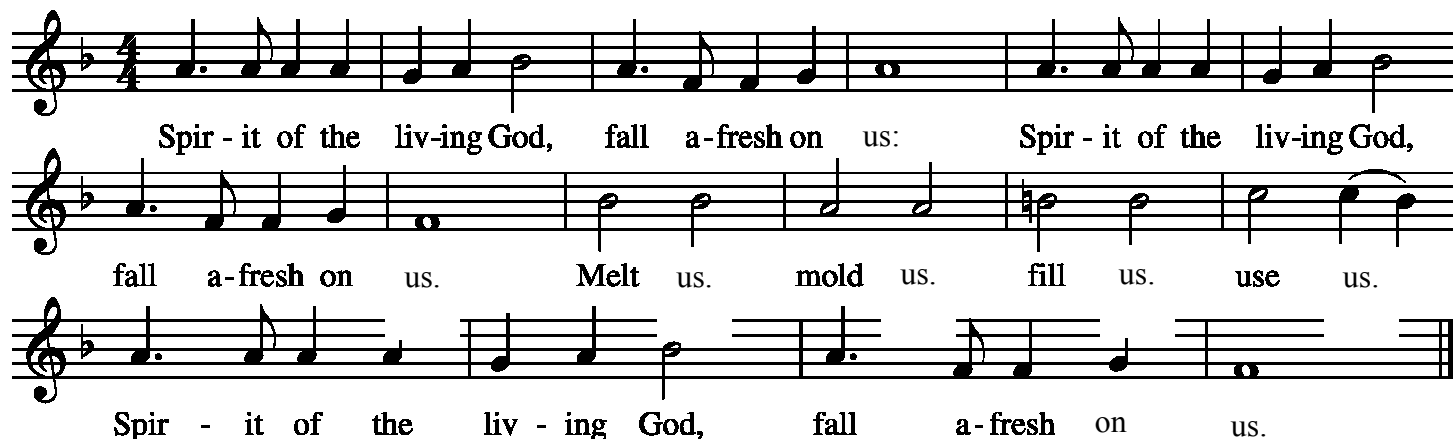
****Bold type denotes collective response.***

*GATHERING PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Compassionate God of wonder,
Your hand came upon the dry dust of earth,
and your Spirit breathed life into us.
The wind of your Spirit is the very sign of life
for all who long for you.
One breath from you and we are rescued
from the arid valley of dry bones,
given muscles and sinews and joy with which to praise you,
and filled with the holy hope you grant to all your faithful children.
Let our whole lives be filled with the life-breath of the Spirit,
that what has lain dormant may burst into bloom,
and what looks to us to be death
may be revealed as but sleep
before the emergence of new life.
God in Community, Holy in One,
we pray as Jesus teaches us, 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



Spir - it of the liv-ing God, fall a-fresh on us: Spir - it of the liv-ing God,
fall a-fresh on us. Melt us. mold us. fill us. use us.
Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a-fresh on us.

ANTHEM

“We are Gathered”

Dorie Ellzey

*We are gathered here together in the presence of the Spirit;
the Spirit that keeps breaking in our lives.
Well, we don't have all the answers but we sure do have the questions;
we know that to create is to survive.*

*(Refrain): We're traveling down a road we've never seen before;
And Lord, it's hard to know which way to go;
But somewhere, there's a promise 'bout some distant shore that those who seek will someday know.*

*We are gathered here together with our dusty feet and bodies;
We're tired and sore and restless and we don't know how we feel;
We wash each other's sandals and anoint our heads with water,
And somewhere in the pain, there's a space that starts to heal.*

(Refrain)

*We are gathered here together just to celebrate the union;
The coming together of our souls in time and space;
We know the Kingdom's coming and we know it don't come easy,
but still we trust our vision of the smile on future's face;
(Refrain)*

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURES

Ezekiel 37:1-14

SERMON

“Can These Dry Bones Live?”

The Rev. Meghan D. Young

*HYMN

“Let It Breathe on Me”

printed in bulletin

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 "Take My Life and Let It Be"

F. Havergal

*Take my life and let it be consecrated, Lord, to thee;
 Take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise.*

*Take my hands and let them move at the impulse of thy love;
 Take my feet and let them be swift and beautiful for thee.*

*Take my will and make it thine; it shall be no longer mine;
 Take my heart, it is thine own; It shall be thy royal throne.*

*Take my love; my Lord, I pour at thy feet it's treasure store.
 Take myself, and I will be ever, only, all for thee.*

***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

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

“Sweet, Sweet Spirit”

printed in bulletin

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

“Today we are All Called to be Disciples”
tune *Kingsfold*

arr. Jason W. Krug

USHERS & GREETERS

Jim and Lois Stevens

SOLOIST

Liz Reed-Swale

The flowers are given by Anne Louise Griswold
in loving memory of her mother Elizabeth Griswold

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 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 – July 27

Noah's Table is meeting Sunday, July 27 from 5 PM – 7 PM. We will watch the documentary “A Place At The Table” and discuss issues of hunger in our community. *It is highly recommended that you come to view the movie if you are planning to participate in the service project on August 8th & 9th.* Please RSVP by July 25 with Meghan Young at Meghan@rhccucc.org.

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.*

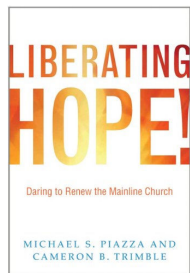
Mark your calendars and sign-up in Chapin Hall or by emailing meghan@rhccucc.org.

Small Group Ministry at RHCC:

Summer Faith Formation Opportunities

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

ALL Church Summer Reading:



Liberating Hope.

Join with your church family as we read together *Liberating Hope: Daring to Renew the Mainline Church*, written by Michael S. Piazza and Cameron B. Trimble. *Liberating Hope* provides concrete and tangible 21st century insight to those churches looking to renew their congregations through hope and optimism rooted in the resurrection.

Based on the successful work that Piazza and Trimble have done through The Center for Progressive Renewal, this book provides accurate and strategic evidence that the decline of the mainline, progressive church can be slowed and even reversed, despite the challenges it is facing. *Liberating Hope* is both thought provoking and an easy read, so don't forget to bring it with you on your summer vacation!

Copies are available to check-out from the church office. Small discussion groups will be forming in late summer/early fall.

Small Group Gatherings:

Pilgrim People. Pilgrim Churches.

Sundays, August 3 and 10

11:30 AM – 12:30 PM, Fiorilli Room

It has been said there are two types of people who show up in church on Sunday: Tourists and Pilgrims. Tourists are those who are spiritual but not religious; those who are shopping for a church home; those who tend to be spectators rather than participants; those who are observers but are not invested. Pilgrims are those who have committed their lives, even though they may not have all the answers; those whose faith is moving, growing, and maturing; those who engage in spiritual practices that foster growth. **Join us for a discussion group rooted in scripture that explores how we can be a pilgrim church of pilgrim people.** *Discussion topics include: prayer, presence, service, generosity, spiritual growth, hospitality, discernment, art and beauty, justice, and diversity. No preparation necessary.*



July 20 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 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.

If you placed an order last weekend, you may pick up your cards at the table this morning. So far, we've earned more than \$2500 in scrip profits since the start of the current fiscal year (May 1st). Thanks to everyone for their continued support - especially during the slow summer months.

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: Bertucci's, Bonefish 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 Gail Hall at the scrip table this morning for a complete listing of available cards, or to have all of your questions answered.

THINK SCRIP!

THIS WEEK AT RHCC

July 20

10:00am **Worship**

Sunday

Chapin Hall

July 21

7:00pm Women's AA

Monday

Chapin Hall

July 23

9:30pm **Quilting**

Wednesday

Room 6

July 24

7:30pm Men's AA

Thursday

Chapin Hall

July 18

OFFICE CLOSED

Friday



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

July 20 Trevor Charamut
21 Francis DiRenzo Jr
22 Holli Bacon
23 Mark Gengenbach
24 Janet Hansen
26 Audrey Titcomb
William Pirre Jr.

OFFICE SUMMER HOURS

Beginning June 30th – August 31st

Office hours will be

Monday – Thursday

9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Closed Fridays

STAFF VACATIONS

Brenda will be away from July 11 – July 22
and July 30 - August 13.

Meghan will be away from July 21 – 28.

Mary will be away from July 21 – 27.
and August 11 - 24.

WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY

**Will not meet
until September.**

RETIREMENT CELEBRATION

The Christian Activities Council, family and friends of the **Rev. Edwin Ayala** will be honoring him on **Thursday August 7, 2014** at The Pond House, Elizabeth Park, Hartford.

The Reception begins at 6:00pm. Dinner will be at approximately 7:00pm.

Tickets are \$75.00 per person.

It goes without saying what an outstanding Associate and Executive Director the Rev. Ayala has been. Please contact Rich Pawlich-Pagliccio after services or at 860-257-8177 for tickets.

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 12:00 p.m.

Friday closed

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