

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

Established 1727 ~ An Open and Affirming Community



**July 22, 2018 ~ 10:00 a.m.
Ninth Sunday after Pentecost**

***PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND LORD'S PRAYER**

Caring and gracious God, you are the shepherd who gathers us together today to celebrate with grateful thanksgiving the community in which we live. We are nourished by its diversity, brought about by the unique gifts each person contributes.

Be with us in this time of worship and encourage us to never cease welcoming the strangers we meet and accepting the gifts they bring. Grant that they will enrich our lives and will be a reminder of the joy that comes when all will be one in you.

**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**

“Grant Us Wisdom to Perceive You” v.1 NCH510

1 Grant us wis - dom to per - ceive you, hearts a -
2 Grant us faith - ful - ness in pray - ing, strength to
3 Grant us dil - i - gence in do - ing, pa - tience
4 Grant us cour - age to pro - claim you; Sav - ior

wak - ened to re - ceive you, minds a - lert to
keep our souls from stray - ing, sense to cease from
when your truth pur - su - ing, ea - ger to re -
of our lives we name you! May our ac - tions

thoughts that grieve you, God of mer - cy, hear us.
dis - o - bey - ing, God of mer - cy, hear us.
ceive re - new - ing, God of mer - cy, hear us.
nev - er shame you; God of mer - cy, hear us.

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 musical score is written on three staves in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a common time signature (C). The melody is simple and repetitive, with lyrics 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.

TRIO

“All is Summer”

Shaker Song, arr. Susan Matsui

Victoria Bower, Jillian Maynard, Melody Hall vocalists

SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 6:30-46

Feeding the Five Thousand

6:30 The apostles gathered around Jesus, and told him all that they had done and taught. He said to them, "Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while." For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves. Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they hurried there on foot from all the towns and arrived ahead of them. As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things.

When it grew late, his disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now very late; send them away so that they may go into the surrounding country and villages and buy something for themselves to eat." But he answered them, "You give them something to eat." They said to him, "Are we to go and buy two hundred denarii^[a] worth of bread, and give it to them to eat?" And he said to them, "How many loaves have you? Go and see." When they had found out, they said, "Five, and two fish." Then he ordered them to get all the people to sit down in groups on the green grass. So they sat down in groups of hundreds and of fifties. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to his disciples to set before the people; and he divided the two fish among them all. And all ate and were filled; and they took up twelve baskets full of broken pieces and of the fish. ⁴⁴ Those who had eaten the loaves numbered five thousand men.

SERMON

“Bringing What We Have”

Rev. Craig L. Cowing

***HYMN**

“Dear God, Embracing Humankind”

NCH 502

OFFERING OF GIFTS

Following the receiving of offerings by the ushers, Rev. Cowing will come down 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

“Simple Gifts” (Shaker song)

by Joseph Brackett Jr., duet arr. by Dave Hall

Gail Hall, clarinet and Melody Hall, cello

***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

“Be Still and Know that I am God”

(NCH743)

Be still and know that I am God. Be still and know that
I am God. Be still and know that I am God.

The image shows a musical score for a song. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The time signature is 3/4. The lyrics are written below the treble clef staff. The first system of music has the lyrics 'Be still and know that I am God. Be still and know that'. The second system of music has the lyrics 'I am God. Be still and know that I am God.' The music is written in a simple, hymn-like style with chords and single notes.

Pastoral and Silent Prayer

***HYMN**

“Christian, Rise and Act Your Creed”

NCH 537

BENEDICTION

***POSTLUDE**

“Voluntary”

Maurice Greene

LITURGIST

Sarah DeGiovanni

USHERS

Deb Copes and Steve Smith, Dave Sageman, Wendy Ware

HOSPITALITY

Jackie Little



*Today's altar flowers are donated in loving memory of Warren Carpenter
by Gladys Carpenter*

Join us for Coffee, Food and Fellowship after Worship!





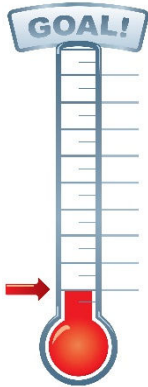
BACKPACK DRIVE! This summer, we will once again support our Covenant to Care liaison, Allison, by providing backpacks and school supplies for children in DCF care. Please do not provide used items unless they are in “like-new” condition. We will be collecting items through August. Thank you!

Collecting: Backpacks, paper, notebooks, pens, #2 pencils and folders. Erasers, pencil boxes, glue sticks, blunt scissors, pencil sharpeners, non-permanent markers, rulers, small tissue packets and crayons.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS



We’re updating our records: Please contact the church office if you have a change of address, phone or email. Directories are available in the office. New Directories will be published in September. Contact us at: office@rhccucc.org or 860-529-4167.



Appeal to Support Graduate Studies for Zulu Lemtur!

Help us reach our goal of \$1K, to qualify for matching gift of \$2K from RHCC.

Donations may be payable to RHCC with ‘Zulu support’ notation. See article in this bulletin for more information.

RHCC Fall Country Fair – Needs

As you are cleaning out surplus stuff in the next few months, I am requesting donations for my fair booth. This year I’m trying Something Different...and I could use the following:

- Candles: new & used, tapers, tea lights, & votives
- Baskets
- Vases / Vase liners
- Planters / Pots
- Mugs
- Small tables / Plant stands



Questions? Contact Hilaire Leavitt at 860-529-3814 or halx@rcn.com. Thank you!



Do you love knitting or do you want to learn? The prayer shawl ministry knits prayer shawls that are given to church members and friends in times of grief or illness. We also donate prayer shawls to local hospitals. No knitting experience required, just ask and we’ll teach you. Contact Denise Carberry with questions.

Appeal to Support Graduate Studies for Zulu Lemtur

Many of you will remember Zulu Lemtur, who was a student at Hartford Seminary several years ago, enrolled in their International Peacemaking program. Zulu is a native of Nagaland (in the very eastern part of India), and during his year at Hartford Seminary, he regularly attended RHCC, sang in the choir, and preached one Sunday.



After earning his graduate degree from Hartford Seminary, Zulu returned to Nagaland, but has maintained contact with several church members through Facebook and email. He clearly considers our church to be his “home church in the U.S.”

Zulu has recently received a substantial scholarship to pursue his Ph.D. at Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, CA, starting in the fall. His graduate program and research will deal with “theology and peace building practices in conversation with the Indian tribal people's cultural situations and voices that join people's aspirations for dialogue and peace.” He estimates that his uncovered costs will still be approximately \$20,000-\$25,000 for the next year. While he hopes to be able to find some part time work to provide for some of these costs, he is reaching out to friends and mission organizations to help him close that gap.

We are reaching out to all RHCC members and friends to ask you to consider contributing toward the support of Zulu’s endeavors. To supplement individual giving, two separate RHCC funds – the Helping Hand Fund and the Special Mission Fund - have each committed to match up to \$1000 of individuals’ gifts on a 1-to-1 basis. So, if we can raise \$1000 through individual gifts, our church can provide a total of \$3000 toward supporting Zulu.

Gifts will be accepted through the end of July, and should be payable to Rocky Hill Congregational Church, noted as “Zulu support.” Our collective gift will then be presented to Zulu in August. Zulu is deeply grateful for any support we can provide toward his goal of getting his PhD in Peacemaking. Zulu says “Please convey my greetings to all the members at RHCC. I miss you all and miss my beloved Choir too”.

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:

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- Coffee: Dunkin Donuts, Starbucks
- Gas: Exxon/Mobil, Shell, Sunoco
- Pharmacy: CVS, Walgreens
- Fast food: Boston Market, Chipotle, McDonalds, Panera, Subway, Wendy's
- Restaurants: Bonefish Grill, Buffalo Wild Wings, 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, Walmart
- Grocery: Big Y, Stop & Shop, Trader Joe's, WholeFoods, Westside Market

The next order for cards not stocked in inventory will be placed on July 29.

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!

THIS WEEK AT RHCC

July 22

10:00am **Worship**
9:30am **Childcare**
10:00am **Coffee Hour**
11:30am **TTT Ministry**

Sunday

Chapin Hall
Room 4
Chapin Hall
Fiorilli



July 23

OFFICE CLOSED

7:00pm Women's AA

Monday

Fiorilli Rm

22 Holli Bacon
24 Janet Hansen
27 C J Mason

July 24

7:00pm Hearing Voices
7:00pm Cedar Hollow

Tuesday

Room 6
Fiorilli

July 25

6:00pm **HS Youth Group**

Wednesday

Chapin Hall



July 26

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

Thursday

Room 22
Chapin Hall

July 27

Theresa out of office

Friday

WORSHIP RECORDINGS AVAILABLE Audio recordings and bulletins for many of our Sunday worship services are available on the church website, **rhccucc.org** (See WORSHIP BULLETINS) or you may contact the office to request an audio CD.

PLEASE SHARE THIS INFORMATION: Free meals are available for kids and teens all summer across Connecticut. To find a Summer Meals site close to you, call 211 or Text CTmeals to 977977.

Visit: www.CTSummerMeals.org Help fight hunger in Connecticut!

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: www.RockyHillUCC.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: Steve Smith admin@rhccucc.org

Child Care Provider: Liz Pulling lrpulling@icloud.com