

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

Established 1727 ~ An Open and Affirming Community



**August 4, 2019 ~ 10:00 a.m.
Eighth Sunday after Pentecost
Communion**

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

We welcome all and extend a special greeting to our guests; our service is enriched by your presence! Please join us 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.

Please include your full address, phone number and email 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 aisles at the time of the offering, when the cards will be collected.



ROCKY HILL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
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~ORDER OF WORSHIP~

PRELUDE

MINISTRY MOMENT

Chris Sheehan

CALL TO WORSHIP

Chris Sheehan

One: Heal our inner sight, O God
that we may know the difference between good and evil.

All: Open our eyes
that we may see what is true and what is false.

One: Restore us to wisdom
that we may be well in our own souls.

All: Restore us to wisdom
that we and our world may be well.

(John Philip Newell)

*HYMN

“Joyful Joyful, We Adore You”

NCH 4

**please rise in body or in spirit;*

Bold denotes unison response

*INVOCATION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Thou art the peace of all things calm
Thou art the place to hide from harm
Thou art the light that shines in dark
Thou art the heart's eternal spark
Thou art the door that's open wide
Thou art the guest who waits inside
Thou art the stranger at the door
Thou art the calling of the poor
Thou art my Lord, and with me still
Thou art my love, keep me from ill
Thou art the light, the truth, the way
Thou art my Savior this very day.
We pray in his name,
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

NC 773

Re - mem - ber me, re - mem - ber me,

O Je - sus, re - mem - ber me.

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Isaiah 55:10 – 13, Matthew 13:1 - 9, 18 - 23

SERMON

“In the Garden”

Rev. Dr. Terry Schmitt

*HYMN

“Dear Lord and Father of Mankind”

PH341

OFFERING OF GIFTS

Following the receiving of offerings by the ushers, they will collect the prayer request cards. For those who have already given their offering, Giving Cards are available so that all may participate in the act of the offering.

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

*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

“Sweet Hour of Prayer” verse 1

NCH505

1 Sweet hour of prayer! Sweet hour of prayer! that calls me from a world of care,
2 Sweet hour of prayer! Sweet hour of prayer! the joys I feel, the bliss I share
3 Sweet hour of prayer! Sweet hour of prayer! whose wings shall my pe - ti - tion bear

The first system of music features a treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (D major) and a 6/8 time signature. The melody is written on a single staff, while the bass line is written on a separate staff below. The lyrics are placed between the two staves.

and bids me at my Ma-ker's throne let all my needs and wants be known,
of those whose anx-ious spir-its burn with strong de-sires for your re-turn!
to One whose truth and faith-ful - ness en - gage the wait - ing soul to bless.

The second system continues the melody and bass line from the first system. The lyrics are placed between the two staves.

In sea - sons of dis - tress and grief, my soul has of - ten found re - lief,
With them I has - ten to the place where I would know my Sav - ior's face,
And since I'm bid to seek God's face, be - lieve God's word, and trust God's grace,

The third system continues the melody and bass line. The lyrics are placed between the two staves.

and oft es - caped the tempt - er's snare by your re - turn, sweet hour of prayer!
And glad - ly take my sta - tion there, and wait for you, sweet hour of prayer!
I'll cast a - way my ev - ery care, and wait for you, sweet hour of prayer!

The fourth system concludes the piece with a double bar line. The lyrics are placed between the two staves.

Pastoral Prayer

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

This church practices open Communion; all are welcome to participate, regardless of church membership or denominational affiliation.

Prayer of Confession

Leader: We are confident of God's love and faith in us. Therefore we can be humble and honest in facing up to our sin. Let us confess together.

All: God of glory, we confess that we seek to experience only moments of joy and illumination, rather than the fullness of life in the dangerous task of being your people in the real world. Give us courage, that our prayer and praise may be the springboard for living the life to which you call us in Christ Jesus.

Silent Prayer

Assurance of Pardon

Our God has not given us the gift of the Christ's grace not to fill us with dread and guilt, but instead that we might live freed from the power of sin over our lives. Therefore, go from this place today alive in God's spirit, and freed for the good that God desires us to do.

Invitation

Recalling the Story: The Words of Institution

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

This church practices open Communion. All are welcome to participate, including children. This morning, we will have communion by Intinction. (Dipping the bread in the wine at a Eucharist so that the communicant receives both together.) Please come up through the center aisle to the front where the deacons will serve you. If you would like to receive gluten-free bread, please tell a serving deacon when you come up.

Communion Music

Prayer of Thanksgiving

We thank you, God, for inviting us to this table where we have known the presence of Christ, and have celebrated Christ's gifts. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and let us show your praise in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Sharing the Peace of Christ

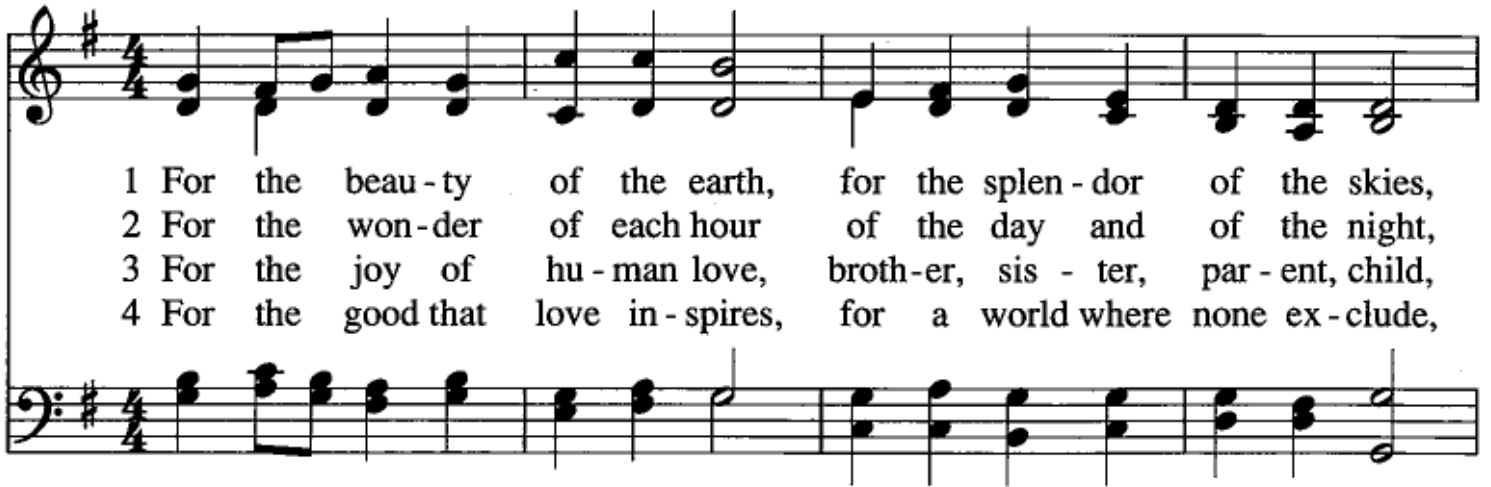
Now let us share among us a sign of God's peace.

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).

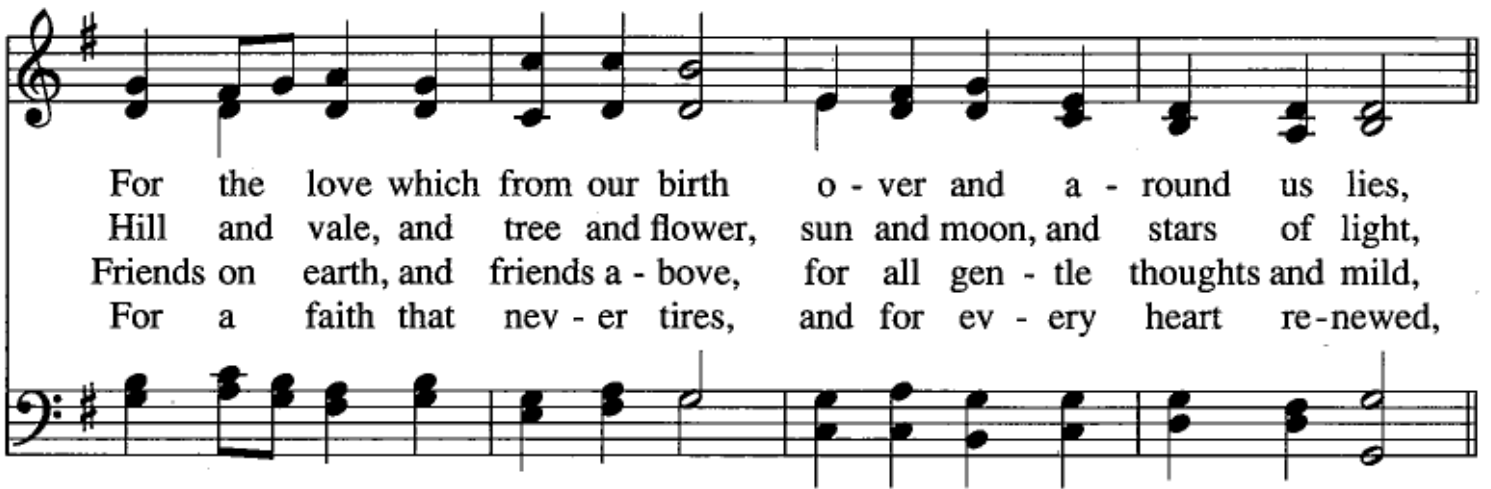
HYMN

“For the Beauty of the Earth”

NC28

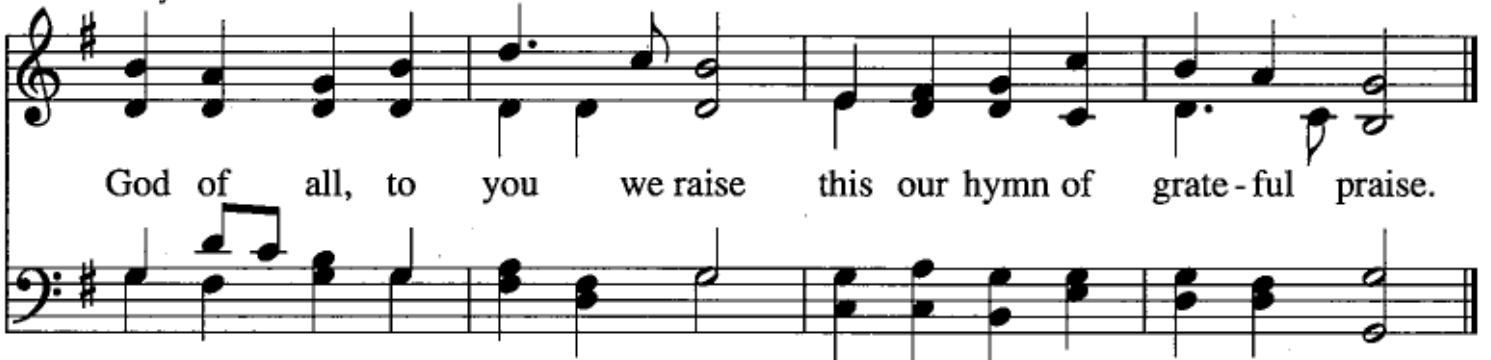


1 For the beau-ty of the earth, for the splen-dor of the skies,
2 For the won-der of each hour of the day and of the night,
3 For the joy of hu-man love, broth-er, sis-ter, par-ent, child,
4 For the good that love in-spires, for a world where none ex-clude,



For the love which from our birth o-ver and a-round us lies,
Hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light,
Friends on earth, and friends a-bove, for all gen-tle thoughts and mild,
For a faith that nev-er tires, and for ev-ery heart re-newed,

Refrain



God of all, to you we raise this our hymn of grate-ful praise.

BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

GUEST MINISTER

Rev. Dr. Terry Schmitt

LITURGIST

Chris Sheehan

USHERS

Marge Murk and Sue Chatfield

GREETER

Joan Tennyson

COMMUNION SERVERS

Stephanie Heneghan and Doug Robbins

HOSPITALITY

Jackie Little



*Today's altar flowers are donated
in loving memory of Wayne Courtemanche
By Jen and Bill Cordes*



Join us for Coffee, Food and Fellowship after Worship.

Thank you to Rev. Terry Schmitt for leading us in Worship today!

Rev. Schmitt served as Senior Minister at Center Congregational Church in Manchester for eleven years, and he currently serves as the Executive Director of the *Connecticut Council for Interreligious Understanding*. His background is in parish ministry and in nonprofit organizations. He holds a Ph.D in Sociology. He and his wife are members of First Church in West Hartford.

Thank you!



Greetings!

On behalf of Council I would like to thank all who made Craig and Anita's last Sunday a success including those who attended worship despite the significant heat, assisted in the preparation, hurried set up and clean up for the reception following worship and contributed to their gift. No thanks for the weathermen.

Here is an update for pastoral coverage for the remainder of the summer and the search process.

1. Pulpit supply has been arranged until Labor Day weekend as follows:

- a. Rev. John Afman, who preached on July 14th will lead worship on July 28th, August 11th and 25th.
- b. Rev. Terry Schmitt, a former member of our church in the 1990s will lead worship on August 4th
- c. Our own Georgette Huie will be in the pulpit on August 18th and September 1st.

2. Rev Afman has volunteered his services as able for pastoral emergencies so please contact the church office and Theresa will facilitate that communication as needed. We are also looking for additional back up coverage as well. Please also be sure to make yours or loved ones needs known to respective hospital chaplaincies as routine visitation is not necessarily the norm any more.

3. Council is forming an ad hoc committee in conjunction with Worship Ministry to find an interim pastor. We are considering several additional models to the "traditional" interim we have had in the past. A representative from the Connecticut Conference is assisting us in this process.

4. As we move ahead with the above we also will be reaching out to form a Pastoral Search Committee for a "settled pastor". If you would like to volunteer to be considered for this task please contact Hilaire Leavitt, Church Clerk, at halx@rcn.com or 860 977 3197. Our hope is to form a manageable diverse group of parishioners for this process.

5. If you have any questions regarding any of the above please contact me at psuuconn@cox.net or 860 463 4009 or Ruth Fitzgerald, Vice Moderator and rfitzgerald@fhiplan.com or 860 543 1520.

Marsha Hoffman, Moderator

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
- Gas: Exxon/Mobil, Shell, Sunoco
- Pharmacy: CVS, Walgreens
- Fast food: Burger King, Boston Market, Chipotle, McDonalds, Panera, Subway, Wendy's.
- Restaurants: Bonafish Grill, Outback Steakhouse, Red Lobster
- Shopping: Ace Hardware, Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Bed Bath & Beyond, Home Depot, Jo-Ann Fabrics, Kohl's, iTunes, L.L. Bean, Lowes, Michaels, Target, Total Wine, Walmart.
- Grocery: ShopRite, Big Y, Stop & Shop, Trader Joe's, WholeFoods, Westside Market.

The next order for physical cards not stocked in inventory will be placed on August 25 (with delivery on September 1). E-cards may be ordered anytime. A complete listing of all retailers available through our program can be picked up at the scrip table in Chapin Hall.

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.

Think SCRIP!

THIS WEEK AT RHCC

August 4

10:00am Worship
9:30am Childcare
11am Coffee Hour

August 5

7:00pm Women's AA

August 6

August 7

August 8

7:30pm Men's AA

August 9

OFFICE CLOSED
Set up for Worship in Chapin Hall

Sunday

Sanctuary
Room 4
Chapin Hall

Monday

Chapin Hall

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Chapin Hall

Friday



- | | |
|---|-----------------|
| 1 | Jeannette Doane |
| 2 | Lynne Lataille |
| 6 | Ed Bacon |
| 7 | Linda Tokarski |
| 7 | Noah Dion |

Backpack Drive – now through August 11th. Drop off new school supplies on Sunday or during office hours! Thank you!



There will be a Memorial Service for Donald Watson on **Tuesday, August 13 at 11am** in the Sanctuary. A reception will follow in Chapin Hall. All are welcome to attend.

In Loving Memory

Office Manager Vacation: The church office will be closed August 19-23.

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

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