

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

Established 1727 ~ An Open and Affirming Community



**August 6, 2017 ~ 10:00 a.m.
Ninth Sunday after Pentecost
Communion Sunday**

~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 down the hall 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

“Offertoire”

Charles Alexis Chauvet

CALL TO WORSHIP

Anita Hawkins

One: The day breaks

All: And God does not let us go.

One: The hour calls

All: And God does not let us go.

One: The evening falls

All: And God holds us fast.

One: Let us turn to God in worship

All: God, who never turns from us.

*HYMN

“Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ”

NC (black) 347

*Please rise in body or in spirit.

Bold type denotes collective response

*INVOCATION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

God, you see us.

You see our struggles, you see our difficulties. You see our possibilities, you see our promise. Connect the dots for us, O God. Soften the hard spots with your blessing. Call us in our wandering to hear you say our names. Satisfy our longings as with loaves and fishes and manna from heaven. For you are a good God, present with us always, and in the end, you always have a blessing.

For this and so much more, we give you thanks, through Jesus Christ, 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



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.

SCRIPTURE READING

Genesis 32: 22-31

NT Pew Bible p30

SERMON

“Wrestling with God”

Rev. Craig L. Cowing

*HYMN

“Break Now the Bread of Life”

NC (black) 321

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 Anthem

“Sweet Hour of Prayer”

Vocal Ensemble - Victoria Bower, Katie Hoffman-Fulda, Jillian Maynard, Bob Inderbitzen, Frank Vann, Michael Bower, Jared Maynard, Tom Fulda

*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

Confession

God is present to us, but we don't always feel it.
God is good to us, but we can't always accept it.
Fact is, there are things within and around us
that attempt to step between us and our relationship to God's goodness.
There are things that we think, things that we do,
that act to separate us from God.
The church calls that "sin."
Let us confess our sins to God, in the presence of each other.

God of all mercy:

**I confess that sin grips me and
I cannot break free.
The sins in my mind, on my lips,
in my acts done or even ignored
Stand between me and you.**

**My entire heart is not always yours.
My love of neighbor falls short.
In the name of Jesus,
Have mercy on me.**

**Grant me your renewing forgiveness.
Lead me on your paths of righteousness,
And I shall delight in you
And I shall follow you
Giving glory to your holy name.**

Through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Silence

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: The God who gives, gives all.
The God who loves, loves all.
The God who forgives, forgives all.

Through Christ, our sins, every one of them:
the sins of commission,
the sins of omission,
the sins we confessed with contrition –
all are forgiven.

All: By the grace of God, we are forgiven. Alleluia!

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

This church practices open Communion. All are welcome to participate, including children, and regardless of denominational affiliation or church membership. 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.

Invitation

Recalling the Story: The Words of Institution

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Our God, we praise you, for you have satisfied us with the food and drink of eternal life, and have given to us the signs and seals of your mercy. We offer ourselves, all that we have and all that we are, that we may grow daily in faith, rejoice in hope, and may enrich each other in love. 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**

“Take My Gifts”

NC (black) 562

BENEDICTION

***POSTLUDE**

“Voluntary and Fugue in C”

G.F. Handel

LITURGIST

Anita Hawkins

USHERS

Denise Carberry, Marge Murk, Candy Smith

COMMUNION SERVERS

Ruth Fitzgerald, Gail Hall

Doug Robbins, Elaine Somes

HOSPITALITY

Jackie Little

Today's altar flowers are donated by Judy Graham in loving memory of

Courtney Elizabeth

Love, Grammy, Mom, Jake and Ryan.



Sunday, August 6 10:00am Worship with Communion

Summer Church School, Childcare in Room 4

Sunday, August 13 10:00am Worship,

No Church School, No Childcare

Sunday, August 20 10:00am Worship, Summer Church School

Childcare in Room 4

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 consider donating the following items to help children stay in school. Children removed from their home are often required to attend a new school as part of a placement process and have an increased need to feel like they belong. Please do not provide used items unless they are in “like-new” condition.



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.

We will be collecting items through August 20th. Thank you!

For the month of August the Icon will be *Christ enthroned as the Ancient of Days*. The original was painted at the Monastery of St. Catherine at Mt. Sinai, and dates from around 600-700.

This icon depicts Christ enthroned as the Ancient of Days, the mystical heavenly figure of the Book of Daniel. It is an early representation of Christ with the four beasts representing the four Evangelists. The Greek inscription is a prayer of dedication from the donor of the icon.



THIS WEEK AT RHCC

August 6

10:00am
9:30am **Childcare**
10:15am **Church School**
11:00am **Coffee Hour**

August 7

7:00pm Women's AA

August 8

7:00pm Hearing Voices

August 9

9:00am **Breakfast Club**
6:00pm Pilates

August 10

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

August 11

Sunday

Worship Sanctuary
Room 4
Room 25
Chapin Hall

Monday

Chapin Hall

Tuesday

Fiorilli

Wednesday

Bob's Coffee Shop
Chapin Hall

Thursday

Room 22
Chapin Hall

Friday



6	Ed Bacon
6	Samantha Behlman
7	Linda Tokarski
7	Noah Dion
8	Galen Deming
11	Julia Pickett
12	Deb Copes

Join us on Wednesday, August 9th at 9am, when RHCC members gather for breakfast at Bob's Coffee Shop, 33 New Britain Ave, Rocky Hill. The group meets on the 2nd Wednesday of every month. Stop in anytime!



Rev. Craig will be on vacation from August 14-27.

Rev. Dick Allen from South Congregational in South Glastonbury will cover pastoral concerns during this time. Rev. Pat Felletter will lead worship on Aug 20 and 27.

Please call the office with any urgent pastoral needs: 860-529-4167, or

deb.copes@gmail.com

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 that are not kept in inventory is August 27. Cards ordered by that date will be available for pickup on Sunday, September 3.

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 DeLiberio 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