

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

*Established 1727 ~ An Open and Affirming Community*



August 17, 2014 ~ 10:00 a.m.  
Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

# ~ ORDER OF WORSHIP ~

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*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.*

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## 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 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

## CALL TO WORSHIP

The Rev. Meghan D. Young

May our worship here today be what nothing else is...

**the gathered, attentive people of God, in the house of prayer.**

May the Spirit touch our spirits here in a way that nothing else does...

**through word and music, through silence and gesture,  
awakening the deep in us that awakens to God.**

May the longings of our private hearts and of our common heart  
recognize God's heart in this place,

**so that when we go out from this place,  
we will see God everywhere.**

## \*HYMN

"God Is Here! As We Your People Meet"

printed in bulletin

*\*Please rise in body or in spirit.*

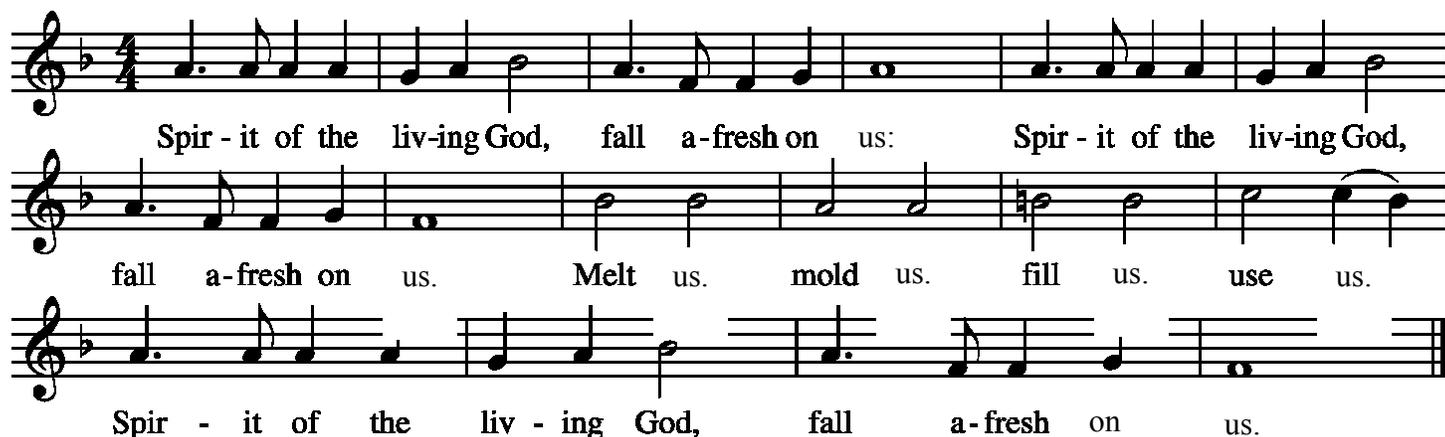
*\***Bold type denotes collective response.***

## \*GATHERING PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

God, our loving and faithful Creator,  
who is everywhere and within everything,  
may we feel today the strong and certain touch of your Spirit  
upon our spirits,  
awakening us to the new possibilities we long for,  
reminding us that we are not solitary and alone,  
teaching us again of all that is greater than ourselves.  
As each of us lives out our own story,  
through commitments, loves and choices,  
help us to remember  
that together, we are making a world.  
Here, in the house of prayer,  
may we be deepened, inspired and renewed  
for the world-making work  
of faith, hope and love.  
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.  
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.

# MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES

## ANTHEM

## READING FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES

Isaiah 56:1, 6-8

## SERMON

“What Are Churches For?”

The Rev. Dr. Brenda Pelc-Faszczka

## \*HYMN

“We Love Your Realm, O God?”

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

#### \*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

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of two systems of music. The first system has a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "Hear our prayer, O God, hear our prayer, O God; in -". The second system also has a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "cline your ear to us, and grant us your peace." The music is in the key of D major (two sharps) and 4/4 time. The piano part features a steady accompaniment of chords and moving lines.

## Pastoral and Silent Prayer

**\*HYMN**

“O God in Whom All Life Begins”

printed in bulletin

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*POSTLUDE**

*(Please remain seated during the postlude.)*

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We welcome our guest organist/pianist Windsor Johnson this morning.

The flowers this week are given remembering Mother’s and Grandma’s gardens by John and Midge Sword.



## 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.*

#### **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" ?*

**THE BLESSING OF OPPORTUNITY - A second hour presentation**  
Next Sunday, **August 24th**, Sarah Mosure will share experiences from her medical mission trip to the Dominican Republic. With Arm2Arm volunteers, she helped provide supplies and basic medical care to Haitian immigrants forced to live in encampments known as 'bateyes' by the Dominican government. Come for a second hour presentation of God's love in action.

**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 5<sup>th</sup> grade,  
focuses on “Favorite Bible Stories” and will be offered on the following Sundays:

August 24          Favorite Bible Stories: The Good Samaritan

**NOAH’S TABLE – Peter’s Retreat**

We are headed to Peter’s Retreat on August 24<sup>th</sup>, from 1 PM – 4 PM, to serve ice cream and host bingo. Please bring a bingo prize for the residents. You must RSVP by Wednesday, August 20, with Meghan Young at [Meghan@rhccucc.org](mailto:Meghan@rhccucc.org). Drivers and chaperones will be needed.

**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](mailto:RHCCchildcare@gmail.com) for more information.

**S.P.I.R.I.T. Summer Volunteers Needed** – If you are interested in helping with any of our summer programming, please email Meghan at [meghan@rhccucc.org](mailto:meghan@rhccucc.org). One volunteer is needed for 8/10 and two are needed for 8/24.

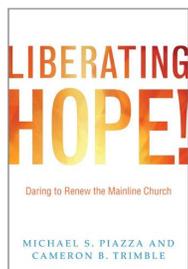
**Koinonia 2014 has been cancelled due to insufficient interest.**

We apologize to all who expressed interest in attending. Look out for more intergenerational faith formation events this fall!

**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 21<sup>st</sup> 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:**

**SALT.**

*Tuesday, August 19*

*7 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. *No preparation necessary.*

## 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.*

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!**

***DAY BY DAY:***  
*do not lose heart...inwardly we are being renewed day by day*  
***2 Corinthians 4:16***



Many of us have made the choice to walk as disciples of Christ in this world. Yet in 2014, we may sometimes feel like fish out of water: the world challenges us in ways that lead us to moments of self-doubt and wondering if God is with us. Come and be with sisters who know those feelings. Come, let us strengthen the gift of our 'day-by-day' conversations with others who know the journey, and the gift of prayer and meditation practices with God, so that we can regain our centeredness and deepen our faith and love. Come, let us strengthen the shining of our lights so that we can return to our congregations and help strengthen the shining of the light of Christ in the world.

**WOMEN'S RETREAT, SPONSORED BY CT WOMEN OF THE UCC**

**Retreat Leader: Rev. Lee Ireland**  
**September 27, 2014 - 8:30am to 4:30pm**  
**First Congregational Church of Portland, CT**  
**Cost - \$35, includes lunch**  
**Contact: Susan Waldron, [swaldron01@snet.net](mailto:swaldron01@snet.net)**

Deadline is September 19<sup>th</sup>. Detach the registration form below and mail with check (\$35) made payable to: **CT Women of the UCC to Liz Longacre, 115 Cook Hill Rd, Griswold, CT 06351** For additional information contact: Liz Longacre, e-mail, [jemlongacre@netzero.net](mailto:jemlongacre@netzero.net) or 860-376-5837

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Church: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

## THIS WEEK AT RHCC

### August 17

10:00am **Worship**

### Sunday

Chapin Hall

### August 18

7:00pm Women's AA

### Monday

Chapin Hall

### August 19

4:00pm **Lodge Service**

### Tuesday

Lodge

### August 20

9:30am **Quilters**

6:00pm Community Meeting

### Wednesday

Room 6

Room 25

### August 21

7:00am Fair Committee

7:30pm Men's AA

### Thursday

Fiorilli Room

Chapin Hall

### August 22

**OFFICE CLOSED**

### Friday



## **HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

Aug 17 Joyce Toft  
Denise Carberry  
Molly Morgan  
18 Thelma Backe  
19 William Bartley  
20 Wayne Pierson  
Laura Pawlich  
23 Emily McKenna

## **OFFICE SUMMER HOURS**

Beginning June 30<sup>th</sup> – August 31<sup>st</sup>

Office hours will be

Monday – Thursday

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

**Closed Fridays**

**STAFF VACATIONS**

**Mary** will be away from August 11 - 24.

**QUILT RAFFLE TICKETS**  
**Available TODAY**  
**in Chapin Hall**  
**Tickets are \$2.00**  
**Book of 10 is \$20.00**

# We Love Your Realm, O God

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Timothy Dwight, 1801  
Adapt. Lavon Bayler, 1992

Ps. 26:8

1 We love your realm, O God, all plac - es where you reign.  
2 We love your church, O God, for Christ has giv - en life  
3 We rec - og - nize, with pain, that we have not a - chieved  
4 Yet Christ, our friend and guide, con - tin - ues to for - give,

We rec - og - nize, with hope and joy, the world as your do - main.  
To form com - mu - ni - ties of love that seek to heal our strife.  
The faith - ful - ness of our re - solve when we at first be - lieved.  
De - liv - ering us from our mis - takes, in - vit - ing us to live.

5 Be - yond our bro - ken - ness,  
we seek to know your ways  
Of deep com - mu - nion, sol - emn vows,  
and hymns of love and praise.

6 We know your truth will last.  
We trust your reign is sure.  
E - quip us for those dai - ly tasks  
that help your world en - dure.

*This poem by Lavon Bayler, a United Church of Christ minister, was inspired by and modeled after the oldest commonly used American hymn, "I Love Thy Kingdom" by Timothy Dwight.*

Tune: ST. THOMAS S.M.  
Williams' New Universal Psalmist, 1770

**Rocky Hill Congregational Church, United Church of Christ**  
805 Old Main Street  
Rocky Hill, CT 06067

Church Office: [office@rhccucc.org](mailto:office@rhccucc.org) / 860 529-4167

Church Website: [rhccucc.org](http://rhccucc.org)

Visit us on Facebook at: [www.facebook.com/rhccucc](http://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](mailto:brenda@rhccucc.org)

Acting Associate Pastor for Faith Formation: The Rev. Meghan D. Young

[meghan@rhccucc.org](mailto:meghan@rhccucc.org)

Minister of Music: Mary DeLibero [mary@rhccucc.org](mailto:mary@rhccucc.org)

Office Manager: Mitsey Baker [office@rhccucc.org](mailto:office@rhccucc.org)

Webmaster: Dave Hall [webmaster@rhccucc.org](mailto:webmaster@rhccucc.org)