

ROCKY HILL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Established 1727 ~ An Open and Affirming Community



September 4, 2016 ~ 10:00 a.m.
Twenty-Third 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** 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 aisles at the time of the offering, when the cards will be collected.

PRELUDE

“Gymnopedie”

Erik Satie

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: To take the clay of our lives, and shape disciples:

People: God calls us to the Potter's House

Leader: To receive and mend those who are broken from life experiences:

People: God calls us to the Potter's House

Leader: To love and heal those who are wounded from war:

People: God calls us to the Potter's House

Leader: To shelter all who are outcast and heavily burdened:

People: God calls us to the Potter's House

Leader: Let us enter this place of transformation:

People: And worship our God!

*HYMN

“Sing Praise to God”

New Century (Black) 6

**Please rise in body or in spirit.*

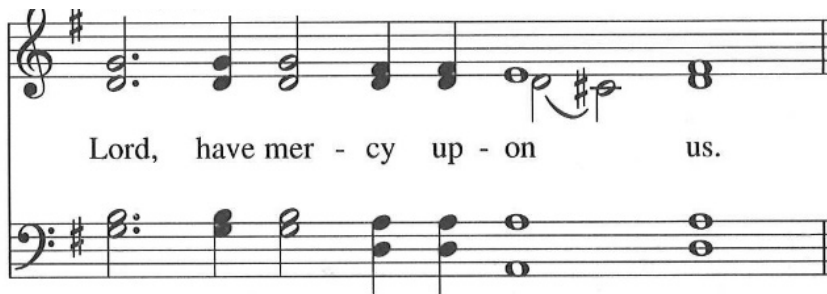
Bold type denotes collective response

*INVOCATION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our God, allow us to enter into your house to worship you.
We have come to lay the clay of our lives on your wheel
so that we might be shaped and fashioned into vessels
for your Spirit who
will mend those who suffer,
heal the sick,
and offer the outcast loving shelter.
Create in us the spirit to serve those
who are broken from laboring in life and war.
Bless us with a new attitude to serve you and your people.
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

NC 750




Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

The first musical system consists of a treble and bass staff in G major (one sharp). The treble staff has a melody with a final half-note G. The bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords.



Christ, have mer - cy up - on us.

The second musical system is identical in notation to the first, with the same treble and bass staves and lyrics.



Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

The third musical system is identical in notation to the first two, with the same treble and bass staves and lyrics.

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES

SCRIPTURE READING

Philemon 1-21

Pew Bible NT p191

SERMON

"A New Relationship"

The Rev. Craig L. Cowing

OFFERING OF GIFTS

Following the receiving of offerings by the ushers, they will 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.

Solo

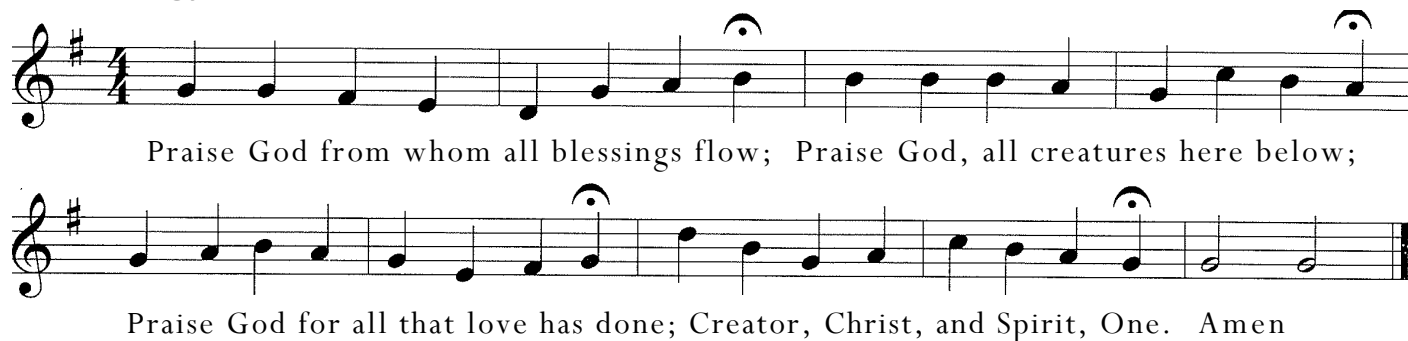
"God in the Waves"

words, June Sardilli

Val Triplets, soloist

music, Don McKeever

*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

“More Love to You, O Christ” (verse 1)

NC 456

1 More love to you, O Christ, more love to you! Hear now the
2 Once earth-ly joy I craved, sought peace and rest; Now you a -
3 Then shall my lat - est breath whis - per your praise; This be the

Refrain
prayer I make faith to re - new.
lone I seek, give what is best: In all I say and do,
part - ing cry my heart shall raise:

more love, O Christ, to you, more love to you, more love to you!

Pastoral Prayer

***HYMN**

“Let Us Break Bread Together”

New Century (black) 330

Prayer of Confession

Most merciful God, we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and follow in your ways, to the glory of your name. Amen.

Silent Prayer

Assurance of God's Love

One: God's word assures us that everything we need to be disciples in the Potter's House.

All: **God is able to place us on the wheel and shape us into vessels that will serve all people.**

One: We can leave this place with the assurance that we are being molded daily by the Potter.

All: **When we come forth we shall love like God.
Let us give thanks to the Word of God!**

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, the congregation will be invited to come forward to receive Communion by intinction; the elements (bread and non-alcoholic grape juice) will be taken together. Take a piece of the "Bread of life" and dip it in the "Cup of blessing". A Communion station with gluten-free bread will be available. Individuals who are unable to come forward can raise their hand and a Deacon will come serve you.

Invitation

Recalling the Story: The Words of Institution

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving:

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. 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).*

New Century (black) 423

Felix Mendelssohn

Sue VanNess & Jennifer Martin

Join us for Coffee, Food and Fellowship after Worship

ICON OF THE MONTH – SEPTEMBER

Visit anytime for prayer and contemplation in the Weil Chapel.

The Icon of the Month for September is from the Yaroslavl region of Russia and dates from around 1300 AD. The text on the Bible in Jesus' hand reads "I am the light of the world" in Greek. Icons from this region of Russia are known for the jewel-like appearance, with bright colors.



ISLAMIC ASSOCIATION
of GREATER HARTFORD
BERLIN MOSQUE

RHCC adults and high school youth are invited to attend an interfaith event at the Berlin Mosque. While the youth gather for their own activities, adults will gather in the worship space with Dr. Reza Mansoor, who will answer any questions we may have about Islam. Dr. Mansoor is President of the Islamic Association of Greater Hartford, Vice-Chair of the Hartford Seminary Board of Trustees, a cardiologist at Hartford Hospital, and author of the newly published book, *Stigmatized: From 9/11 to Trump and Beyond – An American Muslim Journey*. Those of us who have attended previous events have found this time with Dr. Mansoor to be well worth it: eye-opening, educational, prayerful, and compelling. This is also a wonderful opportunity to support our Muslim neighbors who continue to be stigmatized.

Date: Sunday, September 18, 2016

Time: 3pm to 6pm (dinner provided)

Where: Berlin Mosque – 1781 Berlin Turnpike – Berlin, CT

What: Youth – Interfaith Paint-Off

Adults – Q&A with Dr. Mansoor

Please RSVP by emailing Georgette at ghuie@rhccucc.org. Car pools are a possibility.



Cori Mackey will be our guest Preacher on Sunday, September 18th.

Our Executive Director, Cori Mackey, is pursuing her ordination process. I respect her for her dedication to becoming an ordained UCC Minister, while still working tirelessly for the CAC, and her family. -Rich Pawlich-Pagliccio, delegate

Cori's passion is engaging low-income communities in organizing efforts that bring about quality of life changes. She is also deeply passionate about the intersection of social justice and congregational life embodied in a belief that church must be more than just a gathering space on Sundays. She holds an M.Div. from United Theological Seminary in Dayton, OH and is a member of Asylum Hill Congregational Church in Hartford.



Connecticut Conference upcoming events

Friday, September 23 7pm - Bisexual Visibility Day Worship

Center Congregational Church UCC, Meriden, CT

This celebration of bisexuality in particular, as opposed to general LGBT events, was conceived as a response to the prejudice and marginalization of the bisexual persons by some in both the straight and greater LGBT communities. Come worship with us at 7pm on September 23, as we show Christ's inclusive love through an ever increasing welcome in our Connecticut Conference UCC churches!!

Sept. 25-26 - General Association 2016

Heritage Hotel and Conference Center, Southbury

New Location! New Format!! AMAZING Speaker!!! "Typical" American Families: Deconstructing the Myth with Guest Speaker Carlton Mackey: Director, Ethics & the Arts Program for the Emory Center for Ethics.

Come visit the newly renovated Lodge retreat building!
Sunday, Sept. 18, 3-5 pm
at Silver Lake Conference Center, 223 Low Road, Sharon, CT

You are invited to a dedication service to tour the building, which has been upgraded to passive house building standards. The renovation reduces the building's carbon footprint so that it now uses 90% less energy to heat and cool and 70% less energy overall. Join us for an open house with light refreshments beginning at 3 pm. The Rev. Ryan Gackenheimer, Executive Director of Silver Lake, and The Rev. Kent Siladi, Conference Minister of the CTUCC, will lead a dedication service at 4 pm. Please RSVP to jennnc@ctuucc.org. We hope to see you there! 860-364-5526. www.silverlakect.org

RHCC Golf Tournament – Sunday, September 25th



This year's fall RHCC golf tournament is scheduled for Sunday, September 25th at the Wethersfield Country Club at Noon.

We are planning for up to (8) foursomes and tee times will start about noon. Details of cost and tournament format will be available soon.

A sign-up sheet will be available in Chapin Hall in September, or you can contact Bill Hoffman (860-563-1367) to reserve your spot. Don't miss out on this fun event!



Thank You

to the wonderful volunteers
who helped to send out the September
issue of the Church Mouse last week!

Have a safe and happy
Labor Day holiday!



RHCC Music Ministry

We are gearing up for the fall! The choir, bell choir, children's choir and drum choir will be starting rehearsals soon. If you are interested in joining any of the groups, or if you play an instrument and would like to play in church, please contact Mary at

mary@rhccucc.org.

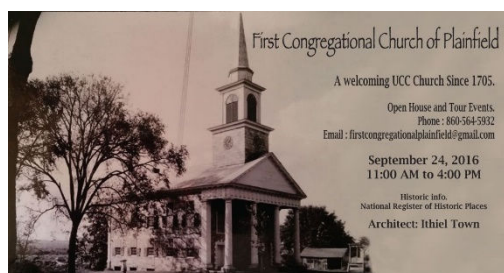


Choir: Wednesday, 7:30pm, choir room, starting Sept. 14

Bell Choir: Monday, 7:30pm, loft, starting Sept. 19

Children's Choir: Sunday after church, 11:20 am, start date TBD

Drum Choir: time and day TBD



THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF PLAINFIELD
519 NORWICH ROAD, PLAINFIELD CT 06374

INVITES YOU TO ATTEND OUR OPEN HOUSE
WITH FREE TOURS OF THIS HISTORIC LANDMARK
SEPTEMBER 24, 2016 FROM 11AM - 4 PM

DONATIONS TO BENEFIT THE BUILDING RESTORATION FUND ARE APPRECIATED

RSVP by email: cathiebeau66@gmail.com

The First Congregational Church of Plainfield is a beautiful 200-year-old example of a Federal-style stone church. It was built in 1816 and designed by [Ithiel Town](#), a major American architect of the early 19th century. The building's columns, portico, and Classical cornice are characteristic features of New England meeting houses of this period. The stone was locally quarried. The Church was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1986 because of its exceptional architectural distinction, even though churches are normally excluded from the listing. It is also listed on the Connecticut State Register of Historic Places.



Save the Dates!

The Country Fair

Saturday, October 22nd from 9am to 3pm.!

&

The Roast Beef Dinner and Quilt Raffle

Saturday, November 5th, 5:30pm

Quilt Raffle Tickets will be available for sale in early September.

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 not kept in inventory will be on September 25. Comprehensive listings of all available retailers 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 "Big Fluffy Dog Rescue" through our scrip program? Your cash/check donations are used to buy gift cards to local groceries (food pantry) or pet stores (BFD). For these donations, we do not retain any profit, so a \$1.00 donation effectively buys about \$1.07 in groceries and other items. You may donate at the scrip table in Chapin Hall.

See **Gail Hall** at 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

September 4

10:00am **Worship**

11:00am Coffee Hour

4:00pm Tamil School

Sunday

Chapin Hall

Chapin Hall

Rms 22,23,25,26,27

September 5

OFFICE CLOSED LABOR DAY

7:00pm Women's AA

Monday

Chapin Hall

September 6

7:00pm **Boards & Committees**

7:00pm Hearing Voices

Tuesday

Fiorilli

Room 22

September 7

6:00pm Kaplan Test Prep

6:00pm Pilates

Wednesday

Room 25

Chapin Hall

September 8

7:30pm Men's AA

Thursday

Chapin Hall

September 9

Friday

September 10

Saturday



04	Liz Pulling
06	Richard Starr
08	Mollie Engel
09	Tom Schreier
10	Eleanor Mahar

Rally Day/Re-Covenanting Sunday **September 11**

Join us as we celebrate the beginning of the church year! After service, all parents may sign up their school-age children for the new church school program! And join us in Chapin Hall for a special lunch, sponsored by the Board for Faith Formation.



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 DeLibero mary@rhccucc.org

Office Manager: Theresa E. Cleary office@rhccucc.org

Webmaster: Dave Hall webmaster@rhccucc.org

Child Care Provider: Liz Pulling