

ROCKY HILL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Established 1727 ~ An Open and Affirming Community



**September 13, 2015 ~ 10:00 a.m.
Sixteenth 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 and large-print bulletins** are available for worship—ask an usher. **Nursery care** is always 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 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.

DRUM CIRCLE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Jesus asks the disciples:

"Who do people say I am?"

They answer,

"Some say John the Baptist; some say Elijah;
and others say one of the prophets."

But Jesus presses them:

"Who do you say I am?"

Peter answers,

"You are Christ—God's anointed one, God-with-us!"

Now Jesus pushes us:

"What about you?"

Here, in this moment, in this community,

Who do you say I am?"

Where do we find the wisdom to answer?

**Please rise in body or in spirit.*

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

*GATHERING PRAYER AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

Holy Wisdom of God

You call to us from the depths of our hearts,
where we long for connection with you and with one another.

You call to us from busy streets and neighborhoods,
Where human pain and possibility are most urgent.

You call to us from our sacred stories,
where God, Christ, Spirit create, challenge, comfort.

Guide us, we pray, on an adventure of hope, and
help us see with your eyes

the ways which lead to beloved community

where Christ Jesus is at the center. 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:

The musical score is written for two staves, Treble and Bass clef, in 3/4 time with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is simple and repetitive, consisting of eighth and quarter notes. The lyrics are: "Al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia! (Last time, end.)". The score includes a final double bar line and a fermata over the final note.

Al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia! (Last time, end.)

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Greeting

UCC Statement of Faith

We believe in you, O God, Eternal Spirit,
God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God,
and to your deeds we testify:

You call the worlds into being,
Create persons in your own image,
and set before each one the ways of life and death.

You seek in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.

You judge people and nations by your righteous will
declared through prophets and apostles.

In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen
Savior,

you have come to us
and shared our common lot,
conquering sin and death
and reconciling the world to yourself.

You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit,
creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ,
binding in covenant faithful people of all ages,
tongues, and races.

You call us into your church
to accept the cost and joy of discipleship,
to be your servants in the service of others,
to proclaim the gospel to all the world
and resist the powers of evil,
to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table,
to join him in his passion and victory.

You promise to all who trust you
forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace,
courage in the struggle for justice and peace,
your presence in trial and rejoicing,
and eternal life in your realm which has no end.
Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you.

Amen.

Commitment of the Candidates

*Congregational Welcome

We welcome you with joy into the common life of this church.
We promise our friendship and our prayers,
as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ.
By the power of the Holy Spirit, may continue to grow together
in the knowledge and love of God
and in our common discipleship,
witnesses to our risen Savior.
In Christ's name and spirit, welcome.

*Prayer

The Hand of Fellowship

ANTHEM

"Morning Has Broken"
The Choir

Cat Stevens
arr. Simeone

SCRIPTURE READING

2 Kings 7:3-11

SERMON

"We Can't Go Back"

The Rev. Craig L. Cowing

*HYMN

"When Peace, Like a River"

New Century (black)438

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

“Gather Us In”

Marty Haugen

The Choir with Katie Hoffman-Fulda

*Doxology



Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;



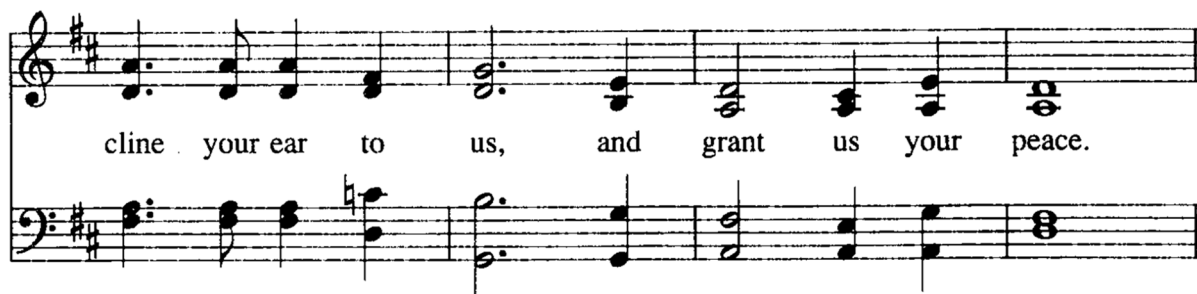
Praise God for all that love has done; Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen

*Prayer of Dedication

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Joys & Concerns

Sung Call to Prayer



Pastoral and Silent Prayer

***HYMN**

“God of Grace and God of Glory”

New Century (black)436

***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE**

LITURGIST

Liz Reed-Swale

USHERS

Victoria Bower, Meghan Kelly Montana & Jay Montana, Brian Speers
and Nancy & Barry Wilcock

HOSPITALITY

Inreach

**The flowers are given by the Flower Committee
to welcome Craig and Anita.**

**The tower is lit this week in memory of Alex W. Murk
by Marge Murk.**

COMING EVENTS!



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

Worship in the Sanctuary –

CHURCH SCHOOL PROGRAM BEGINS

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4

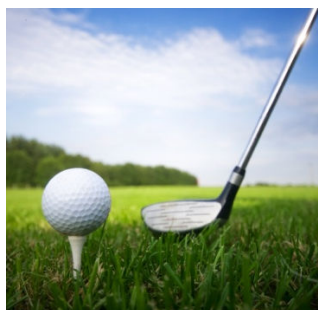
Join us as we celebrate our 50 year members, and our long history as RHCC! Please feel free to bring photos, mementos, and any historical items related to the church, and place them on the table in Chapin Hall that morning.





The Neighbors in Need (NIN) offering of the UCC supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States will be collected on Sunday October 4. Enclosed is some information about its work.

RHCC GOLF TOURNAMENT -- SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27TH



This year's fall RHCC golf tournament is scheduled for Sunday, September 27, 2015 at the Wethersfield Country Club. We are planning for up to (12) foursomes and tee times will start at 12:20 PM. Cost will be \$55 per golfer (+ \$5 for prizes) for 18 holes of golf and an electric cart. We will use a 4-man best ball scoring format, so the only score reported will be a team score.

A light buffet-style luncheon will be offered at the Country Club prior to the start of the tournament. Also, we will gather after the round for refreshments, trading of golf lies and awarding of prizes.

Please add your name to the sign-up sheet in Chapin Hall. Also feel free to contact Bill Hoffman (860-563-1367) to reserve your spot. Don't miss out on this fun event! More details to follow.....

FAIR COMMITTEE MEETING
THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 17TH

7:00 P.M.
Fiorilli Room



ANYONE WHO WOULD LIKE TO HELP
WITH THE FAIR PLEASE JOIN US !

CONTACT ANY MEMBER IF YOU
COULD HELP AT A BOOTH,
SELL QUILT TICKETS, OR EVEN GREET!
IF YOU HAVE AN HOUR OR TWO TO SPARE
PLEASE LET US KNOW!
THANK YOU !

Elaine Somes Lynn McKenna, , Ruth Jensen, Neal Cox
Joan Tennyson Candy Smith Jean Goff

REMINDER – NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Newsletter articles for the October Church Mouse are due in the **office next
Tuesday, September 15th.**

They will be mailed out on Monday September 28th

RETIREMENT INVITATION

On September 27th, you are invited to join Pastor Jim Christopher and his spouse Carole at their retirement celebration at the Bayside Christian Church in Virginia Beach VA. Worship is at 10:30am with a luncheon reception following at the home of Kevin and Amy Oliver, 2403 Greenwall Road, Virginia Beach VA 23455.



ROCKY HILL FOOD PANTRY

Food insecurity does not take a vacation in the summer months. The number of families dependent on the Rocky Hill Food Pantry is growing. Clients may receive 1 bag (single person) every 21 days. The current need is protein items (**tuna, canned chicken, Spam, canned ham, Chef Boyardee canned pasta, Vienna Sausage, hash, stew**). Additionally, **coffee, tea, crackers, and breakfast items** are in short supply. **Laundry detergent, toilet tissue, paper towels and shampoos** are always needed.

ATTENTION ALL MEN OF RHCCUCC:

If you would like to join the **men's Christian fellowship study group** and /or attend a quarterly men's fellowship dinner or breakfast with a guest speaker, please contact Jim Stevens for further details. 860-632-5810, or [email js8961@me.com](mailto:js8961@me.com) or see Jim in church.



MENS CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

TWO WAYS TO HONOR OR MEMORIALIZE YOUR LOVED ONES

1. Light the Tower

For a \$10.00 donation the names of your loved ones will be noted in the bulletin. The tower will be lit in their honor or memory for one week.

2. Dedicate Sunday Alter Flowers

You may bring flowers (purchased or self arranged) or you may order from a florist.

Call Kathy Mosure 860-632-9763 or Kim Burghoff 860-563-3287 so that delivery can be assured. You may leave the flowers after service for shut ins or you may take them with you.

SIGN UP IN Chapin Hall



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.*

Did you know that you can donate to the Rocky Hill Food Pantry through our scrip program? Your cash/check donations are used to buy gift cards to local groceries. These are then donated directly to the Food Pantry, or used to buy needed items. For these donations, we do not retain any profit, so a \$1.00 donation effectively buys about \$1.07 in groceries. You may donate at the scrip table in Chapin Hall.

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, Bonafish Grill, Buffalo Wild Wings, Denny's
On the Border, TGI Fridays, Outback Steakhouse

Shopping: Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Bed Bath & Beyond,
Home Depot, Kohl's, iTunes, L. L. Bean, Lowes, Payless Shoes,
Target, Toys R Us, Walmart

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 13

Sunday

RALLY/RECOVENANTING SUNDAY

10:00am **Worship**

Chapin Hall

4:00pm Tamil School

Rm 22, 23,24,25, 27

September 14

Monday

7:00pm Women's AA

Chapin Hall

7:30pm Bell Choir

September 15

Tuesday

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

11:00am Retired Clergy

Parlor

7:00pm Hearing Voices

Room 24

7:00pm Council

Fiorilli Room

September 16

Wednesday

5:30pm Pilates w/Caroline

Chapin Hall

6:00pm Kaplan

Room 24

7:30pm Adult Choir

Choir Room

September 17

Thursday

7:00pm Fair Committee

Fiorilli Room

7:30pm Men's AA

Chapin Hall

September 18

Friday

9:00am Connecticut Conference Chapin Hall

September 19

Saturday

9:00am Connecticut Conference Chapin Hall

10:00am Kaplan

Room 24



Sept. 15 Ilona Laporte
Gail Walker
John Doll
17 Phyllis Carlo
19 Lori Benito



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

Senior Pastor: The Rev. Craig L. Cowing

Minister for Children and Youth: Georgette L. Huie

Minister of Music: Mary DeLibero mary@rhccucc.org

Office Manager: Mitsey Baker office@rhccucc.org

Webmaster: Dave Hall webmaster@rhccucc.org