

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

Established 1727 ~ An Open and Affirming Community



September 14, 2014 ~ 10:00 a.m.
Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Re-Covenanting 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 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

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.

INTROIT

Dominican Walking Rhythms

The Drumming Circle

LITANY OF RE-COVENANTING

The Rev. Meghan D. Young

In the gift of a new season, we come together again in covenant —
renewing our commitment to be a community of living faith.

Today we gather again to be one in Christ —
**from our different lives and different experiences
into our common life as disciples.**

We are a community of heritage:
we honor, celebrate and learn from our past.

(A facsimile is brought forward of the 1720 petition, made to the Town of Wethersfield, that there be a church in Rocky Hill. RHCC was founded seven years later.)

We are a community looking forward:
we eagerly look to the next new chapter that is unfolding.

(A copy of the church profile is brought forward as a symbol of the pastoral search.)

**Please rise in body or in spirit.*

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

We are a community of all ages:

**we celebrate the youngest among us
and those with the wisdom of years,
all singing the songs of faith together.**

*(A child and a 50-yr member bring forward a Pilgrim Hymnal
and a New Century Hymnal.)*

We are a community of varied gifts and God-given talents:

**we celebrate all the forms of giving, caring and serving
that are alive among us.**

*(A musical instrument and a baking dish are brought forward as symbols of gifts and
talents.)*

We are a community of hospitality:

we seek to welcome all, in love, in friendship, in Christ.

(The welcome poster is brought forward as a symbol of hospitality.)

We are a community learning the language of faith together:

we celebrate the stories and teachings of our sacred tradition.

(A Bible is brought forward.)

We are a community learning the practices of faith together:

**we celebrate the sacraments and prayers, the study and fellowship
and service, that awaken us to God and connect us to each other.**

(A Communion chalice and a book are brought forward.)

We are a community that seeks to serve God's creation:

we look to a world of need beyond us and offer the signs of God's love.

*(Food for the RHCC food pantry is brought forward,
as a symbol of missions giving.)*

In all these things, we are a community in covenant,
promising to God and to each other our faith, hope and love.

**Like a quilt of many pieces yet one whole design,
we are a community of many and one, one and many,
God's handiwork, stitched together by love.**

(The quilt made by the RHCC quilting group is brought forward.)

Thanks be to God for all that gathers us, for all that strengthens us,
for all that renews us.

Thanks be to God in whose love we re-covenant today!

*GATHERING PRAYER AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

Nancy Parsons

Loving, Life-giving, Ever-Creating One,
in the gift of a new season we give you thanks,
for here and now,
in this place and in the light of this day,
you are making us new.

May we awaken and delight in all your gifts --
those that mean to comfort us,
those that mean to challenge us,
all that are for guiding us.

God of covenant, God of faithful presence and promise,
may our own covenants with you and with each other
come alive this day,
and center our being and our doing.

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.

ANTHEM

“Sweet, Sweet Spirit”

Doris Akers

The Choir

arr. By Keith Christopher

*There's a sweet, sweet Spirit in this place,
And I know that it's the Spirit of the Lord.
There are sweet expressions on each face,
And I know they feel the presence of the Lord.*

*Sweet Holy Spirit, Sweet Heavenly Dove.
Stay right here with us, filling us with Your love;
And for these blessings we lift our hearts in praise;
Without a doubt we'll know that we have been revived
When we shall leave this place.*

*There are blessings you cannot receive
'Till you know Him in His fullness and believe.
You're the one to profit when you say
"I'm going to walk with Jesus all the way.*

*Sweet Holy Spirit, Sweet Heavenly Dove.
Stay right here with us, filling us with Your love;
And for these blessings we lift our hearts in praise;
Without a doubt we'll know that we have been revived
When we shall leave this place.*

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.

READING FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES

Exodus 16:2-15

SERMON

“Covenanting, Again”

The Rev.Dr. Brenda Pelc-Faszczka

*HYMN

“We Love Your Realm, O God”

New Century (black) 312

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

“Creator, I Adore You”

Led by Liz Reed-Swale

*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

Recognition of 50 year members

Thelma Backe

Charlotte Bacon

Ruby Bennett

Larry Carlson

Grace Cole

**Mary D'Addario

Gail Fu

Bob Furman

Leland Gilbert

Anne Louise Griswold

**Jim Griswold

Leona Griswold

Lois Griswold

Alfred Harlow

Viola Harlow

Midge Harvey

Bobbie Hawkins

Dave Hawkins

Doris Hick

Jean Holmes

Pat Hughes-Walworth

John Hummel

Dot Hunter

Anne King

Gladys Kitchens

Joseph Kunzelman

Janet Kunzelman

Priscilla Lexa

Thomas Matthias

*Elizabeth McKinney

Judith McMannon

Betty Mooney

David Parry

*Bill Pierson

*Janet Pierson

Nancy Powell

Orlo Powell

Doug Robbins

Nancy Robbins

Martin Rowe

Janet Rowley

Joan-Marie Schaefer

Doris Schreier

Tom Schreier

Bob Simmons

David Parry

*Mary Smith

Richard Somes

Thelma Somes

Stewart Sprague

Sylvia Steucek

Russell Stickels

Jean Sudell

**Betty Swain

Phil Swain

John Sword

Midge Sword

Joan Tennyson

Audrey Titcomb

Gordon Titcomb

Joyce Toft

James Ussery

Mark Walworth

Anita Watson

Lynn Webster

Dot Wenzel

Babs Wheeler

Paul Wilson

Alan Wind

*New 50-year member

**Entered Eternal Life this past year

Joys & Concerns

Sung Call to Prayer

Musical score for 'Sung Call to Prayer' in G major, 4/4 time. The score consists of two systems of two staves each (treble and bass clef). The lyrics are: 'Hear our prayer, O God, hear our prayer, O God; in - cline your ear to us, and grant us your peace.'

Pastoral and Silent Prayer

*HYMN "In the Midst of New Dimensions" New Century (black) 391

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE "Bachiana" Gordon Young

USHERS Don Pagnucco, Meghan Kelly Montana, Wendy Ware, Victoria Bower
Bob Inderbitzen

GREETERS Nancy Harlow and Jay Jensen

HOSPITALITY Nancy Harlow and Ruth Jensen

Many thanks to the Drumming Circle for their participation in this morning's service: Michael Bower, Victoria Bower, Tom Rolfe, Will Rolfe, Ben Rolfe, Randy Pulling, Katie Hoffman-Fulda, Julie Dostie, Marsha Hoffman, Wendy Ware.

Today is
RE-COVENANTING SUNDAY

Join us for our ALL church block-party picnic following worship.

S.P.I.R.I.T. Corner

Serve, Pray, Invite, Receive, Ignite, Tell

Join the S.P.I.R.I.T. Circle! Re-Covenanting Sunday 2014

All young people (PreK - 8th Grade) are invited to join us to TODAY as we “kick-off” a year of worship, faith formation, and S.P.I.R.I.T. programming!

PARENTS: Please pick up your child in Chapin Hall following worship.

NOAH'S TABLE (6th-12th Grade) – September 21, 5 PM – 6:30 PM

Come join us for game night. Are you up for the challenge? Please RSVP by Friday, September 19, with Meghan Young at Meghan@rhccucc.org. 1 Adult volunteer is needed for this gathering.

GROW YOUR FAITH & GET INVOLVED WITH S.P.I.R.I.T.

The RHCC S.P.I.R.I.T. Church School is a place that values intergenerational relationships, growing in faith, and learning throughout our lives to be the disciples Christ calls us to be. You are invited to come join the circle and get involved. For the 2014 church school we are looking for:

- 1) **Youth Group Advisor** – Regularly assists with youth group and coordinating events. Must be college age or older.
- 2) **S.P.I.R.I.T. Teachers** – Teachers commit to no more than 4 Sundays in a row. Teachers provide support and assistance to our children and youth during our chapel times. Programming is provided on days with individual classes break out for faith formation rotations. Training is provided. Ideally we are looking for 8 - 12 teachers willing to rotate throughout the year. Up to 4 teachers slots are available for high school students.
- 3) **S.P.I.R.I.T. Contributors** – Do you have a gift or skill, an ability to cook/bake, a love for crafts, a musical ability, an affinity for story-telling, a love of all things theater, a passion for organizing mission projects? Join us for a one time class or chapel worship, and share you gift.

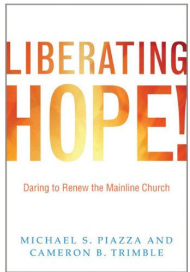
If you are interested in getting involved the S.P.I.R.I.T. Church School, please contact Meghan Young at Meghan@rhccucc.org to sign-up or to find out more information.

NURSERY VOLUNTEERS: Nursery Volunteers are needed for Fall. If you are interested in volunteering in the Nursery during Sunday morning worship, please contact a member of the Childcare Committee (RHCCchildcare@gmail.com) for more information. You can also sign-up outside the Nursery.

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 21st 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 held Sunday, September 28 during the second hour.

CHOIR REHEARSALS ARE BEGINNING

You are invited to join!



Our Minister of Music, Mary DeLibero, has scheduled the choir rehearsals for the new program year. If you are interested in joining a choir, please contact Mary at mary@rhccucc.org for details or just come to rehearsal.

Childrens Choir Sundays, 11:30am to
12:00 in the choir room. Starts September 21st

Adult Choir Wednesdays, 7:30pm – 9:00pm in
the Choir room. Rehearsals already in progress

Handbell Choir Mondays 7:30pm to 8:45pm
in the Loft. Starts September 22nd.



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!

CHECK THE LOST AND FOUND TABLE IN CHAPIN HALL.

Many items were found a long time ago – earrings, a Chevy key, crosses to name a few.



If you were in church Sunday August 31, please check your pockets, pocketbooks, or any place keys may be put, to see if you picked up car keys belonging to Lynn McKenna. Pictures of her grandchildren are on the key chain.

THIS WEEK AT RHCC

September 14

Re-Covenanting Sunday

10:00am **Worship**
4:00pm Tamil Sangam

Sunday

Chapin Hall
Rm 22, 23, 24, 25

September 15

7:00pm Women's AA
7:30pm Bell Choir

Monday

Chapin Hall
Loft

September 16

11:00am Retired Clergy Group
4:00pm **Lodge Service**

Tuesday

Parlor
Lodge

September 17

9:30am **Quilters**
6:00pm Kaplan SAT Prep
6:00pm Community Group
7:00pm **Adult Choir**

Wednesday

Room 6
Room 24
Room 25

September 18

7:30pm Men's AA

Thursday

Chapin Hall

September 20

10:00am Kaplan SAT Prep

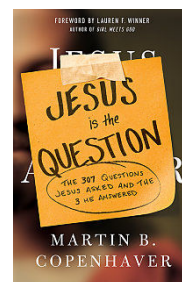
Saturday

Room 24



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

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



OCTOBER SMALL GROUP

The book, *Jesus is the Question: The 307 Questions Jesus Asked and the 3 He Answered* may now be checked out from the office.

OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Thursday
8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Friday
8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

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

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 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Friday

8:30 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

Interim Senior Pastor: The Rev. Dr. Brenda Pelc-Faszczka brenda@rhccucc.org

Acting Associate Pastor for Faith Formation: The Rev. Meghan D. Young
meghan@rhccucc.org

Minister of Music: Mary DeLibero mary@rhccucc.org

Office Manager: Mitsey Baker office@rhccucc.org

Webmaster: Dave Hall webmaster@rhccucc.org