

# ROCKY HILL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

*Established 1727 ~ An Open and Affirming Community*



**September 20, 2015 ~ 10:00 a.m.  
Seventeenth 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

*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). Be prepared to pass it to the aisles at the time of the offering, when the cards will be collected.*

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## PRELUDE

“Daydreams” Scenes from Childhood

Robert Schumann

Dave Hall, cello

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Jesus challenges us in today's gospel:

**Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.**

Then Jesus took a little child and put it among them;

and taking the child in his arms, he said to them:

**Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me.**

**And whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.**

We are still learning today what Jesus came to teach us two thousand years ago.

To change the world we must change the way we love and welcome all children!

**May we learn to love all children as if they were our own!**

Will all the children present please lift up your voices so all of us adults can hear you? --Say your name and say “Hello!”

**Children:** *Say their names and “hello”--a happy chaos moment!*

**All: Welcome, children!**

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

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

\*INVOCATION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Dear God,

Jesus has called us to welcome children as a way to welcome you.

And please, dear God of compassion and justice, hear our voices:

With the presence of our children we welcome you!

Teach us the way to make the last first and to be servants of all.

Guide us in your way of humility and service.

Show us how to become disciples of Jesus Christ.

We ask for blessings on all your children in our holy family. 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:

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 SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

## 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



The musical notation consists of three staves of music in treble clef, key signature of two sharps (F# and C#), and common time (C). The lyrics are written below the notes.

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.

**ANTHEM**

“I Will Arise”

arr. Parker and Shaw

The Choir

**SCRIPTURE READING**

Mark 9:30-37

N.T.p. 39 pew Bibles

**SERMON**

“Opening Ourselves to God”

The Rev. Craig L. Cowing

**\*HYMN**

“Just As I Am”

New Century (black)207

## OFFERING OF GIFTS

*Following the receiving of offerings by the ushers, the pastor 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**

“Be Thou My Vision”

Nichols

Dave Hall, cello

**\*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**

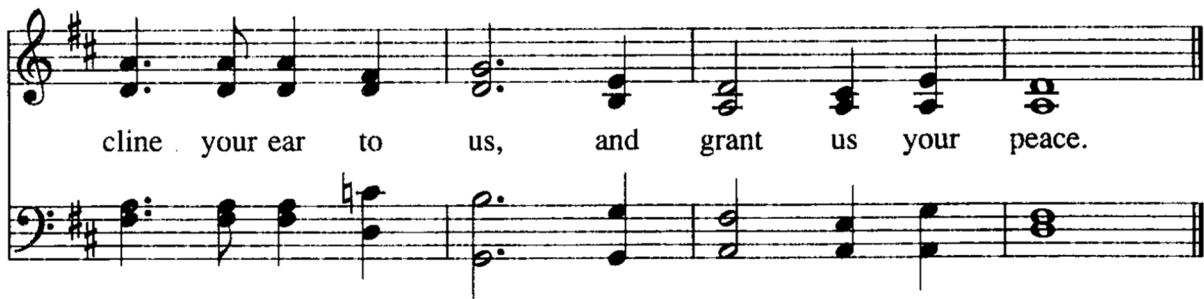
**PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

**Joys & Concerns**

**Sung Call to Prayer**



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**

“Lord, Make Me More Holy”

New Century (black) 75

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*POSTLUDE**

“Spiritual Sailor” from the Sacred Harp

arr. James Boeringer

**LITURGIST**

Bob Carberry

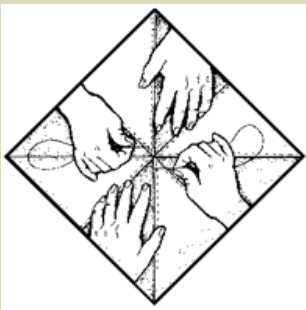
**USHERS**

Mark Murk, Victoria Bower, Michael Bower, and Bob Inderbitzen

**The flowers have been given in memory of Helen Griswold  
by Eleanor Mahar.**

**The tower is lit this week in memory of  
Grampa & Dad-Donald Thompson Jr. by Cindy, Maley & Thom Hunt.**

### **COMING EVENTS!**



The 2015 Church Fair Quilt has been completed and will be presented and blessed during the September 27th service. Do not miss the opportunity to view the quilt - the next public display will be at the Fair. The quilt will be raffled off on November 7<sup>th</sup> at the Roast Beef Dinner. Raffle tickets are available in Chapin Hall after service or in the office during the week..

### **CALL TO SPECIAL CHURCH MEETING**

A special congregational meeting of the Rocky Hill Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, is called for Sunday, October 4, 2015 immediately following worship in the sanctuary for the following item of business:

To receive and act upon a recommendation from the Board of Trustees for expenditure of funds to reroof the church building.

There will be no other business transacted at this meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Marsha G. Hoffman, Clerk

## 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 at the home of Steve and Wendy Ware for refreshments, trading of golf lies and awarding of prizes. Directions to the Ware's home will be provided.

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.....



**Shhhhhhhhhhh!!!!**

**THE SILENT AUCTION** is coming (10/24) and we want to make it bigger and better this year than it has ever been! To do that, we definitely need everyone's help. The Silent Auction committee (Gail Tine, Linda Grillo, Neal Cox and me – Deb Copes) need donations. If you are uncertain whether a donation is suitable for the auction, please call me (860-257-1099) or feel free to find me on Sunday mornings. We are happy to make donation suggestions or, if you have something in mind already, I am happy to pick items up. Donations of Scrip are always welcome – we get a double benefit when folks donate Scrip! We also need empty baskets and volunteers to help us on Friday evening, 10/23, and the day of the Fair, 10/24. Thanks so much!!



Food Pantry  
Donations Needed

## ROCKY HILL FOOD PANTRY

The seasons are changing but the need for donations to our local food bank keeps increasing. When you are shopping, please consider adding one item to your basket for a Rocky Hill neighbor. 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**





## 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, Bonefish 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 20

Sunday

**CHURCH SCHOOL BEGINS**

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

Chapin Hall  
Rm 22, 23,24,25, 27

September 21

Monday

7:00pm Women's AA

Chapin Hall

September 22

Tuesday

6:00pm Community event  
7:00pm Hearing Voices

Room 25  
Room 24

September 23

Wednesday

5:30pm Pilates w/Caroline  
6:00pm Kaplan  
7:30pm Adult Choir

Chapin Hall  
Room 24  
Choir Room

September 24

Thursday

7:30pm Men's AA

Chapin Hall



Sept. 22 Gayle McGowan  
23 Steven Sudell  
24 Michele Jokl  
Christina Peterson  
25 Al Diaz  
26 Diane Bengston



REMINDER – NEWSLETTER MAILING

The October Church Mouse will be mailed out on Monday September 28<sup>th</sup>. **All are welcome** to join us from 9:30am on in the Fiorilli Room. Refreshments provided.

**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 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](mailto:ccowing@rhccucc.org)

Minister for Children and Youth: Georgette L. Huie [ghuie@rhccucc.org](mailto:ghuie@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)