

# ROCKY HILL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

*Established 1727 ~ An Open and Affirming Community*



**September 24, 2017 ~ 10:00 a.m.**  
**Sixteenth 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** are available for worship—ask an usher. **Nursery care** is 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 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 center aisle at the time of the offering, when the cards will be collected.*

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## INTROIT

“Blessed Jesus at Thy Word”

The Choir

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Cindy Hunt

*(inspired by Matthew 20:1-16)*

L: Our eyes are heavy.  
Our hope is soaring.  
We wait in the marketplace.

**All: Our God is gracious.**

L: Our feet are tired.  
Our expectations rise.  
We are hired first.

**All: Our God is merciful.**

L: Our backs are sore.  
Our spirits are low.  
We are paid last.

**All: Our God is slow to anger.**

L: Our temples flare.  
Our anger rages.  
We take what belongs to us.

**All: Our God abounds in steadfast love.**

\*Please rise in body or in spirit.

**Bold type denotes collective response**

**\*INVOCATION AND THE LORD’S PRAYER** *(inspired by Matthew 20:1-16)*

Call all the laborers, O God,

Call your laborers who woke early,

Call your laborers who came late,

Call your laborers who feel wronged,

Call your laborers who feel overlooked,

Call your laborers who can't feed their children with this wage,

Call your laborers who know they are working in your fields,

Call your laborers who use their wage to increase your love,

Call all your laborers, O God,

Tell us to roll up our sleeves

For we know that we have work to do.

Let us find you in the work we share here and now,

in Christ's presence we pray as he 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.

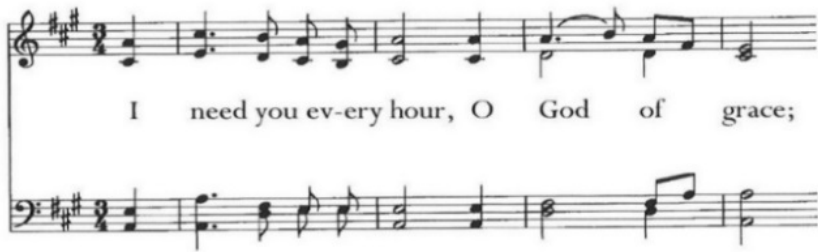
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever.

Amen.

**\*SUNG RESPONSE**

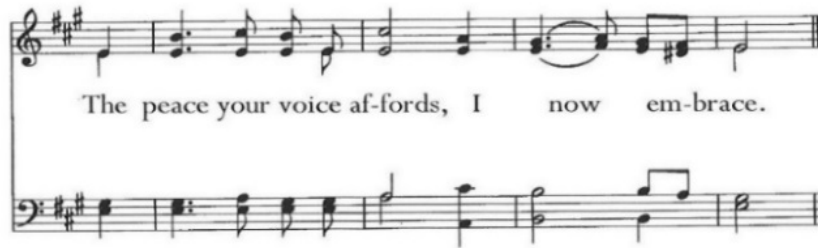
NCH 517



I need you ev-ery hour, O God of grace;

I need you every hour,  
O God of grace;

The peace your voice affords,  
I now embrace.



The peace your voice af-fords, I now em-brace.

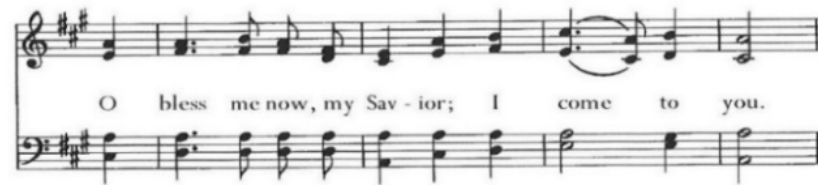
I need you, how I need you!  
Every hour I need you;

O bless me now, my Savior, I  
come to you.

*Refrain*



I need you, how I need you! Ev - ery hour I need you;



O bless me now, my Sav - ior; I come to you.

**MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES**

**BAPTISM**

*Today we welcome into the family of Christ:*

*Maeva Jean Mahard with parents: Jennifer and Sean Mahard*

*and*

*Grace Elizabeth Giannitti with parents: Jill and Enrico Giannitti.*



## 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.

**ANTHEM**

“I Will Arise”

arr. Parker/Shaw

The Choir

**SCRIPTURE READING**

Matthew 20:1-16

NT Pew Bible 21

**SERMON**

“This is Not a Contest”

Rev. Craig L. Cowing

**\*HYMN**

“Come, Labor On”

NC (black) 532

## DISASTER RELIEF BUCKETS

*During this time, volunteers will be assembling the disaster relief buckets for those who are rebuilding their lives after the recent Hurricanes.*

## OFFERING OF GIFTS

*Following the receiving of offerings by the ushers, Rev. Craig will come down the center aisle to collect the prayer request cards.*

## Invitation to the Offering

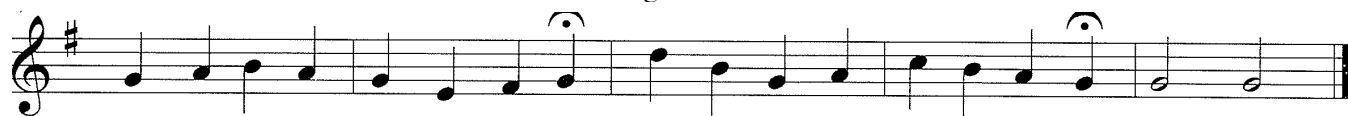
*For those who have already given their offering, Giving Cards are available in your pew so that all may participate in the act of the offering.*

## Offertory

## \*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 “We Yearn, O Christ, for Wholeness” (verse 1) NCH 179

1 We yearn, O Christ, for whole - ness and for your heal - ing touch;  
2 We long to have com - pan - ions who trav - el by our side,  
3 We need your liv - ing pres - ence, O Christ of Gal - i - lee,

We yearn, O Christ, for  
whole-ness and  
for your healing touch;

too long have we felt help - less; our bur - dens seemed too much.  
strong friends to call and an - swer with whom we are al - lied;  
a pres - ence that re - vives us and sets our spir - its free.

Too long have we felt help-less;  
our burdens seemed too much.

For - get - ting all pre - tens - es we make our plead - ings heard,  
As we lift up each oth - er when strug - gles lay us low,  
No long - er are we fear - ful, your love per - vades each place.

Forgetting all pretenses  
we make our pleadings heard,

in hope and ex - pec - ta - tion a - wait your gra - cious Word.  
com - mu - ni - ty de - vel - ops; our faith and car - ing grow.  
Em - pow - er us with cour - age to claim your heal - ing grace.

In hope and expectation  
await your gracious Word.

## Pastoral Prayer

\*HYMN                    “God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending”                    NC (black) 565

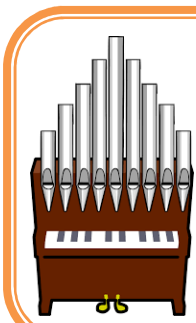
## Blessing of the buckets

## BENEDICTION

\*POSTLUDE                    “Andante Largo”                    John Stanley

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LITURGIST                    Cindy Hunt  
USHERS                    Nancy Parsons, Lois & Jim Stevens  
HOSPITALITY                    Ruth Jensen and Denise Carberry



*The tower is lit this week in honor of  
Dave's mother, **Nancy Hall**,  
who is retiring this week as organist after serving  
in that role at the same church (in Mansfield, Ohio)  
for 65 years.*



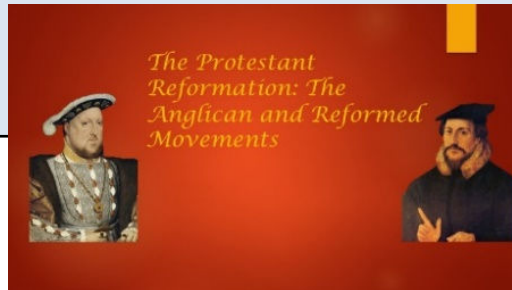
During Today's worship, the congregation will assemble 20 Emergency Cleanup Buckets. The buckets will be delivered to Center Congregational Church in Meriden, which has been activated by Church World Service as an official collection point. So far, CWS has responded with over 100,000 hygiene kits and cleanup buckets for areas affected by Hurricanes Harvey and Irma. The Board for Missions is organizing this effort. They're also working with Minister for Children and Youth Georgette Huie – who has helped commit assistance from our youth groups and their families.



TODAY after worship:

Join Rev. Craig for his continuing series on the protestant reformation.

**This Second Hour** program will be on the Anglican and reformed movements which are the background of our own tradition.



*Join us for Coffee, Food and Fellowship after Worship*



WELCOME VISITORS!

Interested in joining the church? If you'd like to learn more about our church community; please join us during coffee hour after worship and ask to speak with Pastor Craig Cowing or any Deacon.

We are an Open and Affirming Christian community, actively expressing Jesus' inclusive embrace of all people. All are welcome here.



**Nursey Room Open for families with infants and toddlers**



Child Care during worship is available in the nursery, Room 4 (ground floor), from 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM. Supervised by Liz Pulling and another adult.



We encourage all members of Boards, Committees and the Church to share their news, events and photos for our facebook page, by sending these to [office@rhccucc.org](mailto:office@rhccucc.org). Don't forget to follow us on facebook for updates about worship and events!





Neighbors in Need offering will be collected on Sunday October 1, 2017 on World Communion Sunday.

This offering (NIN) is a special missions offering of the United Church of Christ. It supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States.

One third supports the Council for American Indian Ministries (CAIM). Two thirds are grants awarded to churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities. For more information, pick up a brochure in Chapin Hall from the Missions Board, or visit [www.ucc.org](http://www.ucc.org)

We will hold this collection on Sunday, October 1<sup>st</sup> during our worship service.

Thank you for your generosity.

Did you know that the Diaconate Board maintains a *Helping Hand Fund* to assist Church members and their families who are in emergency need, and, as appropriate, members of the community? Whenever you or someone you know has a need for a Helping Hand, please bring it to the attention of either the Senior Deacon, Deb Copes, or the Minister, Craig Cowing. All disbursements from the Helping Hand Fund are made confidentially, and, as needed, the fund is sustained by our Church's special offerings at Thanksgiving or Christmas.



### Flower committee



In the coming months, we have many Sundays available for memorial flowers or to mark a special occasion such as graduation, an anniversary, or special birthday. They need not be a formal flower arrangement but could be flowers from your garden, or a flowering plant.

There are sign-up sheets on the bulletin board in Chapin Hall if you would like to reserve a date.

WORSHIP RECORDINGS AVAILABLE Audio recordings and bulletins for many of our Sunday worship services are available on the church website, [rhccucc.org](http://rhccucc.org) (See WORSHIP BULLETINS) or you may contact the office to request an audio CD.



### *RHCC Music Ministry*

We are gearing up for the fall! The adult 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](mailto:mary@rhccucc.org) or 860-529-4167.



## October Happenings

Save the Dates!

The Country Fair - Saturday, October 22nd from 9am to 2pm.

Pie-making Workshop – Friday, October 27, 9am

The Roast Beef Dinner and Quilt Raffle - Saturday, October 28, 5:30pm

Quilt Raffle – Tickets available Now!

Available for sale after worship in Chapin Hall. A book of ten for \$10 or \$1 each. For more info, contact Kim Batterson Biglow, Stephanie Heneghan or Gail Tine. All proceeds will be donated, in cooperation with our Board for Missions, to support school children in Hartford.



### Silent Auction Seeking Helpers and Emergency Assistant

As the RHCC Country Fair is just around the corner I find I need a few good people the day of the fair to assist the Silent Auction.

I am looking for one person that can take over in case my grandsons are born that day...and three others that would like to help the booth. One that is computer savvy would be preferable among them, as we need to use the charge card thingy...(as you can see I am not that savvy) Any hours between 8:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. that you can help are greatly appreciated... Please call Elaine Somes 860-563-4099. Thank you!

# A Blessing of the Animals

at the Rocky Hill  
United Methodist Church

## Saturday, Sept 30, 2017

Come In Anytime Between 12 noon—2 pm

**ALL** are welcome. Dogs on leashes  
and Cats in carriers, please.

Refreshments for you and your pet.

Free will donations given to  
Protectors of Animals rescue.



Donations accepted for POA.

\* Individual Pet Blessings

\* Treats  
& Refreshments

\* Take  
Home  
Photos!



open hearts  
open minds  
open doors



Rocky Hill United Methodist Church  
623 Old Main St. Rocky Hill, CT

## Responding to the Hurricanes: Prayer and Action

*(Updated 9/13/2017)*

The hurricanes and catastrophic flooding in Texas, Florida, and the Caribbean have devastated whole communities. It has been difficult to watch the news of so many people facing danger and hardship. Lives disrupted. The national disaster ministries of the United Church of Christ and our other faith-based partners have committed to the long term recovery work, to humbly support survivors in the years ahead. For generations, this congregation has responded to support our sisters and brothers in the midst of life's struggles, whenever and wherever there is need...here, near, and far.

There are a variety of ways you can support our response:

1. Pray. The people impacted by these disasters have cried, "Pray for Us!"
2. Give. The Board for Missions has committed \$2,000 to hurricane and flooding relief efforts. These are monies already contributed or tithed by the congregation to the ongoing mission work of our church. Additionally, the Board has established a church fund for "Hurricane Relief." Already, we have raised over \$2,134 (through Sept 10) from members of the congregation and community. Why donate to the church? Because 100% of donated monies will be used to assemble Emergency Cleanup Kits (a project of Church World Service), and the relief and recovery efforts organized by our covenantal partners. If you would like to make a donation, please mail your check in September to Rocky Hill Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, 805 Old Main Street, Rocky Hill, CT 06067. Include "Hurricane Relief" on the memo line. Or, donate online at rhcucc.org (follow the "donate" buttons).
3. Volunteer. During Sunday worship, September 24, the congregation will assemble 20 Emergency Cleanup Buckets. The buckets will be delivered to Center Congregational Church in Meriden, which has been activated by Church World Service as an official collection point. So far, CWS has responded with over 100,000 hygiene kits and cleanup buckets for areas affected by Hurricanes Harvey and Irma. The Board for Missions is organizing this effort. They're also working with Minister for Children and Youth Georgette Huie – who has helped commit assistance from our youth groups and their families.

Thank you for your generous support. Please contact any member of our Board for Missions if you have questions, or Bob Inderbitzen, 860-418-9171 or email [rinderbitzen@cox.net](mailto:rinderbitzen@cox.net).

Board for Missions: Heather Collins, Anita Hawkins, Bob Inderbitzen, Marge Murk, Elaine Sellenberg, Sue Speers, Wendy Ware, and Benevolence Treasurer Kathy Morgan.



**Love. Grow. Serve.**

## THIS WEEK AT RHCC

### September 24

10:00am **Worship**  
9:30am **Childcare**  
10:15am **Church School**  
11:00am **Coffee and Fellowship**  
11:00am **2nd Hour**  
11:00 **Middle School Youth**

### Sunday

Sanctuary  
Room 4  
Rooms 25,26,27  
Chapin Hall  
Parlor  
Fiorilli

### September 25

#### **NEWSLETTER MAILING**

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

### Monday

Fiorilli  
Chapin Hall

### September 26

6:00pm Cedar Hollow  
7:00pm Hearing Voices

### Tuesday

Fiorilli  
Room 23

### September 27

7:30pm Choir

### Wednesday

Loft

### September 28

9:00am Music Together  
5:00pm Music Together  
7:30pm Men's AA

### Thursday

Room 22  
Room 22  
Chapin Hall

### September 29

6:00pm Tamil Language School

### Friday

Rms 22,23,24, 25, 27



24	Michele Jokl
24	Christina Peterson
25	Al Diaz
26	Diane Bengston
28	James Ussery Jr
28	Kirsten Timrud
29	Eric Jokl

Newsletter Mailing  
Monday Sept 25  
10am in the  
Fiorilli room  
All are welcome!



#### **WE'RE UPDATING OUR RECORDS!**



Contact the office if you have any **changes** to your contact information (address, phone or email) at: 860-529-4167 or [office@rhccucc.org](mailto:office@rhccucc.org). If you are not receiving our weekly email, please fill in your email address below and return to the office. Thank you.

NAME/ADDRESS/PHONE/EMAIL:

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# 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, 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

Today is the ordering deadline for cards that are not kept in inventory. Orders may be turned in at the scrip table in Chapin Hall. Cards ordered today will be available for pickup on Sunday, October 1. The next ordering deadline will be on Sunday, Oct 29 (delivery on Nov 5).

Did you know that you can donate to the Rocky Hill Food Pantry and "Covenant-to-Care for Children" through our scrip program? Your cash/check donations are used to buy gift cards to local groceries (food pantry) or other retail stores (CC). For these donations, we do not retain any profit, so a \$1.00 donation effectively buys about \$1.07 in groceries or clothing. You may donate at the scrip table in Chapin Hall. Stop by 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!

# 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: Theresa E. Cleary [office@rhccucc.org](mailto:office@rhccucc.org)

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

Child Care Provider: Liz Pulling [lrpulling@icloud.com](mailto:lrpulling@icloud.com)