

ROCKY HILL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Established 1727 ~ An Open and Affirming Community



September 28, 2014 ~ 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

The Rev. Meghan D. Young

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.

PRELUDE

"Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus"

Stead/Kirkpatrick

Katie Hoffman-Fulda, flute

CALL TO WORSHIP

The Rev. Dr. Brenda Pelc-Faszczka

Disturb us, Lord, when we are too well pleased with ourselves,
When our dreams have come true because we have dreamed too little,
When we arrived safely because we sailed too close to the shore.

Disturb us, Lord.

Disturb us, Lord, when with the abundance of things we possess
We have lost our thirst for the waters of life;
Having fallen in love with life, we have ceased to dream of eternity and in our efforts
to build a new earth, we have allowed our vision of the new Heaven to dim.

Disturb us, Lord.

Disturb us, Lord, to dare more boldly, to venture on wider seas
Where storms will show your mastery;
Where losing sight of land, we shall find the stars.
We ask you to push back the horizons of our hopes;
And to push into the future in strength, courage, hope, and love.

Disturb us, Lord.

**Please rise in body or in spirit.*

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

***GATHERING PRAYER AND THE LORD’S PRAYER**

God of love,
take hold of us in this act of worship,
and do not let us go until we have been blessed by a vision of love,
infinitely generous, gentle and forgiving;
simple, wholesome, mysterious, profound;
in which all are accepted and no one rejected;
love that never ends.

Living God, Love itself,
You give vision and insight, speaking spirit to spirit.
You stir the sleeping conscience, rouse the dormant mind,
to seek justice, express beauty, declare truth.
Most of all you come in the power of Jesus,
bringing love and joy and peace,
patience, kindness, goodness,
faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.

Live in our hearts now and forever.
This we ask in Jesus’ 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.

*SUNG RESPONSE

¡San - to, san - to, san - to, mi cor - a - zón te a - do - ra! Mi
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, my heart, my heart a - dores you! My

cor - a - zón te sa - be de-cir: san - to e - res Dios.
heart is glad to say the words: you are ho - ly, God.

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.

ANTHEM

“Awake, My Heart”

Jane Marshall

The Choir

*Awake, my heart, and render
To God thy sure defender,
Thy maker, thy preserver,*

*A song of love and fervor.
Confirm my deeds and guide me:
My day, with thee beside me,
Beginning, middle, ending,
Will all be upward tending.*

*My heart shall be thy dwelling,
With joy and gladness swelling;
Thy word, my nurture giv'n
To bring me on toward heaven.*

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURES

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32
Matthew 21:23-32

SERMON

“Turn, then, and live.”

The Rev. Meghan D. Young

*HYMN

“Canticle of the Turning”

Printed in Bulletin

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

“Nearer My God To Thee”

Mason/Giuliacci

Victoria Bower and John Hoffman, vocalists, Katie Hoffman-Fulda, flute

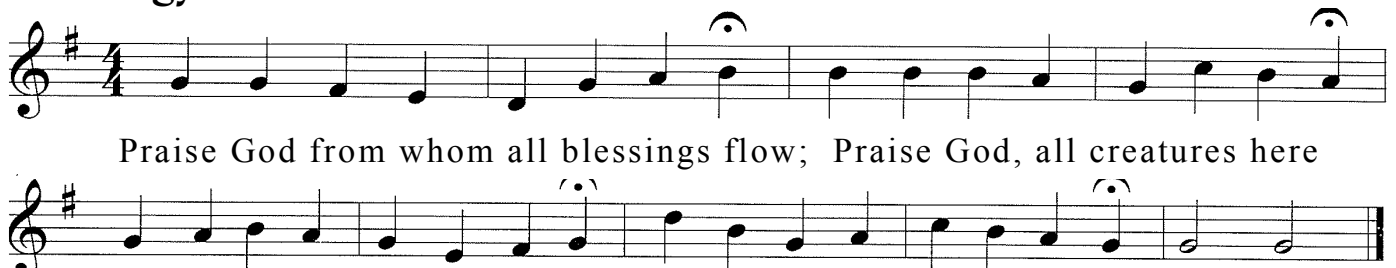
*Nearer, my God to thee, nearer to thee!
E'en though it be a cross that raiseth me.
Still all my song shall be nearer, my God, to thee
Nearer, my God, to thee, nearer to thee!*

*Though like the wanderer, the sun gone down,
Darkness be over me, my rest a stone.
Yet in my dreams I'd be nearer, my God, to thee,
Nearer, my God to thee, Nearer to thee!*

*Then with my waking thoughts bright with thy praise,
Out of my stony griefs Bethel I'll raise;
So by my woes to be nearer, my God, to thee.
Nearer, my God, to thee, nearer to thee!*

*Or if, on joyful wing cleaving the sky.
Sun, moon, and stars forgot, upward I fly.
Still all my song shall be nearer, my God, to thee,
Nearer, my God, to thee, Nearer to thee!*

*Doxology



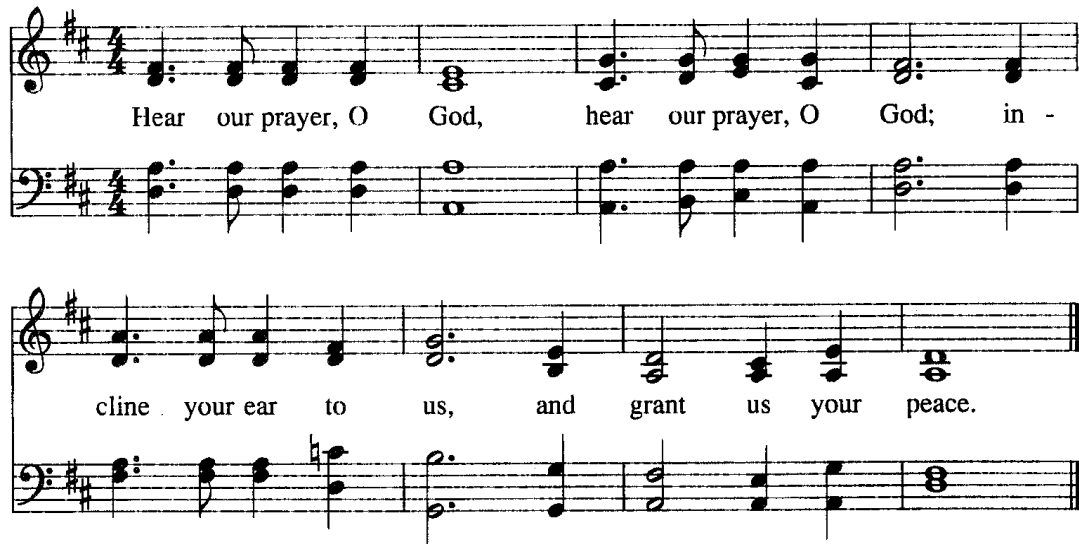
Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here
Praise God for all that love has done; Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen

*Prayer of Dedication

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

“Like a Mother Who Has Borne Us” New Century (black) 583

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

Variations from “Organ Concerto, Op4, No1

G.F. Handel

USHERS

Tim Dostie, Deb Copes, Steve Smith, Louise Butts

Victoria Bower, Bob Inderbitzen

GREETERS

John and Mildred Sword

HOSPITALITY

Janet Hansen, Jean Goff and Jeannie Alessi

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

Serve, Pray, Invite, Receive, Ignite, Tell

S.P.I.R.I.T. Faith Nurture Ideas

(Parents: Pick-Up your child in Chapin Hall)

*These faith nurture ideas coordinate with the weekly session plans for church school.
We hope you will join us in learning, teaching, and growing together!*

Here's what we're learning about this week...

HEROES OF THE BIBLE. There is Daniel, Jonah, Joshua, Noah, David, Miriam and Moses, Esther, Jesus, Peter and John, Dorcas, Paul, Lydia, and many more. There are those that don't even get a name, men and woman who have great faith, who ask difficult questions, who speak up for justice, and even a child who shares his lunch so 5000 can be fed. They are never perfect people, they make mistakes, they are human, but when it matters they are brave, compassionate, giving, and have great faith. The heroes of the bible are often unexpected, teaching us that the ordinary can be extraordinary, and with God's love all things are possible.

LESSON → Jonah

Scripture: Jonah 1-2

Talk About the Bible story children and youth explored this week. Here are some ways to nurture faith at home based on this week's story: (1) Memorize this week's Bible Verse, 1 John 4:21 "Whoever loves God must love others also"; (2) Talk about a time when you felt welcomed? (3) Talk about ways you can work together to make others feel welcome.

Prayer For The Week: Dear God, sometimes there are people who are hard to love. But we know that you love those people, too. Help us to learn to love them. Amen.

NOAH'S TABLE (6th-12th Grade) – Friday, October 3, 5 PM – 9 PM

Back by popular demand, it's the moonlit corn maze! Bring a flashlight and \$10. Wear warm clothes. Dinner provided. Drivers and chaperone's needed. Please **RSVP by Wednesday, October 1st** with Meghan Young at Meghan@rhccucc.org.

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

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:

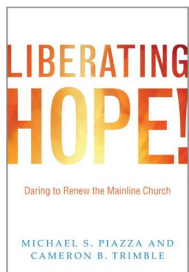
- 1) **Youth Group Advisor** – Regularly assists with youth group and coordinating events. Must be college age or older.
- 2) **S.P.I.R.I.T. Teachers** – Teachers commit to no more than 4 Sundays in a row. Teachers provide support and assistance to our children and youth during our chapel times. Programming 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.

Small Group Ministry at RHCC: Fall Faith Formation Opportunities

Join a small group to explore and enrich your faith in new ways!

SEPTEMBER:



Liberating Hope.

TODAY Sunday, September 28, 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM

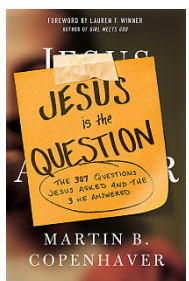
Church Parlor

Join with your church family as we discuss our summer reading, *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. **Copies are available to check-out from the church office.**

OCTOBER:



Jesus is the Question: The 307 questions Jesus Asked and the 3 He Answered

Sunday, October 12, 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM

Sunday, October 19, 12 PM – 1 PM

Church Parlor

Contrary to some common assumptions, Jesus is not the ultimate Answer

Man, but more like the Great Questioner. In the Gospels Jesus asks many more questions than he answers. Asking questions was central to Jesus' life and teachings. *Jesus is the Question* considers the questions Jesus asks – what they tell us about Jesus and, more importantly, what our responses might say about what it means to follow Jesus. **Come with your questions, as we discuss this game-changer of a book by Martin Copenhaver. Copies are available to check-out from the church office.**



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.



THE TOWER IS LIT!

Our long-standing tradition of lighting our tower at night in honor or memory of a loved one was interrupted due to electrical problems. The problem has been located and beginning on the first Sunday in October you will have the opportunity to once again light the tower in memory or recognition of someone. A spreadsheet will be located in Chapin Hall for sign-up. The suggested donation remains at \$10 to have the tower lit for the designated week from Sunday through Saturday.



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 is the deadline for placing scrip orders from our primary broker, Great Lakes Scrip Co. This is only way you can order cards that we don't typically keep in inventory. A current listing of available retailers is available at the scrip table in Chapin Hall. Orders may be turned in at the scrip table this morning or emailed to treasurer@rhccucc.org by tonight, and will be available for pickup next Sunday (October 5).

Looking ahead: Although scrip is sold in Chapin Hall almost every Sunday, be aware that **no scrip will be available for sale (or delivery) on Sunday, October 12 (Columbus Day weekend)**. If you would otherwise expect to buy scrip on that day, please plan accordingly.

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!

THIS WEEK AT RHCC

September 28

10:00am **Worship**
11:30am **Children's Choir**
11:30pm **2nd Hour**
"Liberating Hope"
11:30am Personnel Committee
4:00pm Tamil Sangam
5:00pm **Noah's Table**

Sunday

Chapin Hall
Choir Room
Parlor

Rm 22, 23, 24, 25



September 29

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

Monday

Chapin Hall
Loft

October 1

9:30am **Quilters**
5:00pm **Fair Baking**
6:00pm Kaplan SAT Prep
7:00pm **Adult Choir**

Wednesday

Room 6
Kitchen
Room 24

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Sept 28 James Ussery Jr.
29 Eric Jokl
30 Evelyn Danforth
Oct. 2 Sophia Cardello
4 Stacy Veley
Sandra Mason

October 2

9:30am **Fair Baking**
Fair set up

Thursday

Kitchen

October 2

Fair set up
5:00pm **Noah's Table**

Friday

October 4

COUNTRY FAIR

Saturday

**Copies of last week's
sermon "Chosen" may
be picked up from the
table outside of the
sanctuary.**

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



**NEEDS OF THE
R.H.C.C. COUNTRY FAIR OCT. 4TH 9 A.M.-2 P.M.**

SILENT AUCTION - Deb Copes

Baskets to sell - (think about using "Scrip" cards and create a basket around them, a win win!)

BAKE SHOP- The Pagnuccos

Homemade Baked Goods

KITCHEN SHOP- Elaine Somes

Gently used kitchen items (dishes, utensils, bake ware, etc.)

CANDY SHOP - Candy Smith

Homemade Fudge / Rock Candy / etc.

SEW COUNTRY - Nancy Rolfe

Felt, Thread, Material, Fleece, Yarn, Knitted or Embroidered Items, Patterns

JEWELRY - Phyllis Wilkey

Jewelry, Scarves, Pocketbooks, Wallets, Belts

MAINLY MEDIA - Elaine Somes

CD's, DVD's, cd/dvd Players (in working condition) (No VHS please)

NOTE:

Please bring any items donated to the church and leave by the closets in Chapin Hall

DINNER NEEDS

*****ROAST BEEF DINNER - Marsha Hoffman*****

Pie Makers, Servers, Clean Up, Set Up

***** DON'T FORGET TO BUY YOUR QUILT TICKETS
(ON SALE AFTER CHURCH IN CHAPIN HALL)**

***** Sign up to help an hour or two in a booth (sign up sheets in Chapin Hall)**

***YOUR DONATIONS OF ITEMS OR TIME WILL MAKE OUR CHURCH
FAIR FUNDRAISER A SUCCESS!***

THANK YOU TO ALL INVOLVED

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