

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

Established 1727 ~ An Open and Affirming Community



**October 14, 2018 ~ 10:00 a.m.
Twenty-First 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** are available for worship—ask an usher. **Nursery care** is available downstairs 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 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 aisles at the time of the offering, when the cards will be collected.*

MINISTRY MOMENT

Faith Formation

PRELUDE

“Prelude in C”

David N. Johnson

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: The word of God is alive and active,
sharper than any two-edged sword,
piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow;
it can judge our thoughts and intentions of our hearts.

All: **We cannot hide
for we are naked and laid bare
to the one whom we must render an account.**

L: Let us hold fast to our confession before Jesus who was tested as you and I
and yet was without sin.

All: **We approach the throne of grace with boldness,
so that we may receive mercy
and find grace to help in our time of need.**

***Bold type** denotes collective response*

**Please rise in body or in spirit.*

***PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND LORD’S PRAYER**

O God, you sowed the seeds of justice when you created this world.

Though your bountiful creation has enough for everyone, it is hardly divided fairly.

There are those who struggle to get their daily bread each day and then there are those who have more than they can use in their lifetime.

May we remember that all we have comes from you and that you have entrusted to us all that we have.

May we take your commandments to heart so we can do as Jesus asks of us.

Grant that we, O God, use this hour to work in our ministries to end this disparity.

We ask 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**

“Shepherd Lead Me”

NCH775

Shep - herd, lead, lead me in your righ-teous-ness,

make your way plain be - fore my face. For it is you, God,

you, God on - ly, who makes me to lie down in safe - ty.

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES

Georgette Huie

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

“Swing Low”
The Choir

arr. Don McKeever

SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 10:17-31

Pew Bible NT p.46

SERMON

“The Eye of the Needle”

Rev. Craig L. Cowing

*HYMN

“Take My Life, God, Let It Be”

NCH 448

OFFERING OF GIFTS

Following the receiving of offerings by the ushers, the minister will come down 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

“Adorate”

setting by John G. Barr

*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

“On Eagle’s Wings”

NCH774



And God will raise you up on ea - gle's wings,
bear you on the breath of dawn, make you to shine like the
sun, and hold you in the palm of God's hand.

Pastoral and Silent Prayer

***HYMN**

“Eternal Father, Strong to Save”

PH 429

BENEDICTION

***POSTLUDE**

LITURGIST

Doretta Andonucci

USHERS

Marge Murk, Deb Copes and Steve Smith

HOSPITALITY

Nancy Harlow and Ruth Jensen

The altar flowers are given by Susan VanNess
in loving memory of Gilbert VanNess

The tower is lit this week in memory of shipmates who lost their lives during the
torpedoing of the U.S.S. Houston CL 81 on 14-16 October 1944.

By John Sword



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.



OCTOBER 14 WEEKLY
BIBLE READINGS

Growing With God's Word

2018 Daily Bible Reading Guide:

Connecticut Bible Society

I am like an olive tree growing in the house of God; I trust in His constant love forever and ever. -Psalm

52.8 (Good news Translation)

- 14 Isaiah 24.1-23
- 15 Isaiah 29.9-24
- 16 Isaiah 30.8-26
- 17 Isaiah 32.1-20
- 18 Isaiah 33.1-24
- 19 Isaiah 56.1-12
- 20 Isaiah 57.1-21



HERITAGE & HOMECOMING SUNDAY – OCTOBER 21

On Heritage & Homecoming Sunday, we will honor our long-time church members (Heritage) and also celebrate our entire congregation (Homecoming). That morning at 9:15am, we will have a breakfast for our 50+ members in the Parlor before Worship. Invitations have been sent. Please RSVP to the church office at: 860-529-4167.



At the close of our worship service, we will all gather in front of the church for a photo of our entire congregation! We hope everyone will come to help us celebrate 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. Steve Ware, our church historian will make a brief presentation on our history.



Icon of the Month for October

The icon of the month for October is from the Monastery of St. Catherine at Mt. Sinai. The original was painted around 1200. The top part depicts the Crucifixion, and the lower part depicts the Nativity. This is a common theme in icons and other religious art, to depict the Nativity but also have a visual reference to the Crucifixion, to see in one image the beginning and end of Jesus' earthly life. This icon is painted on reclaimed wood out of respect for the resources of the Earth. Visit in Weil Chapel for prayer and meditation.



WE'RE UPDATING OUR CHURCH DIRECTORY.

Contact the office if you have any changes to your contact information (address, phone or email) at: 860-529-4167 or office@rhccucc.org. New directories will be available on Heritage and Homecoming Sunday, October 21st.

Child Caregiver Position Available: The RHCC Council is looking to fill the position of permanent Child Caregiver in the nursery that has been ably held by Liz Pulling for the past two years. We want to thank Liz for her dedication to this position and would like to find someone to fill her shoes. Hours are Sunday morning from 9:45am to 11:15 am with the assist of a weekly volunteer and stipend is \$25.00 per week. If you are interested or know someone who might be please leave information including experience, age, (must be over 18 years), phone/email, in the church office and you will be contacted by the Personnel Committee for further discussion of requirements and experience.

Drug Awareness Program: October 15 - Rocky Hill Community Center

A Drug Awareness Program will be presented by the Wethersfield Rocky Hill Elks Lodge #2308 and the Rocky Hill Human Services Department, on Monday October 15, 2018 from 7:00-9:00 p.m., at the Rocky Hill Community Center, 761 Old Main Street. The program will be led by a panel of experts on drug addiction and recovery. This event is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Rich Pawlich-Pagliccio.



You have an opportunity to support our Church Fair Raffle! Do you have a new or vintage quilt or large wall hanging you can donate? Did you win a quilt you do not use? Did you inherit a quilt that you do not use or want? If you are shaking your head yes, then consider donating it to our raffle. Any quilt size from twin to king is welcome! Call Joan Tennyson @ 860-529-8789.



Request for Donations for Baskets and Items for the Silent Auction at the Fair

We would like to make an appeal to all members who would like to donate a themed gift basket to our Church Fair. If you don't want to do a whole basket, donated individual items would be also greatly appreciated. Here are a few ideas: Scrip cards! This is a double money maker, first with the card (% to church) and second with the silent auction. And it's easy.

Other theme baskets could include: ***Italian*** (wine, pasta, sauce)

Holiday (ornaments, decorations, hats, gloves)

Family/Kids (toys, books, games, cards)

Movie Night (popcorn, small blanket, candy)

Spa (candles, bath salt, lotion) You get the idea!

For more information, contact Sue Chatfield at: smchat999@att.net or call: 860-595-6639.



RHCC FOOD PANTRY BASKET

Clean out your pantry! Or buy 1 extra item while shopping. Our member volunteers make weekly deliveries to the Rocky Hill Human Services Food Pantry. Items accepted include paper goods, personal hygiene items, and non perishable food. Scrip Gift Cards can be donated, or you can use them to buy your donation items! *All donations are gratefully accepted!*



*Don't miss our Roast Beef Dinner!!
Saturday November 3rd 2018 at 5:30pm.*

Roast Beef Dinner

Tickets on sale now:

Dinner: \$12.00 for Adults –

\$5.00 for Children

Children under 4yrs: free.



PIE BAKING WORKSHOP

It's almost time to bake apple pies!

When- Friday, November 2

Time: 9:00 a.m. to finish

Where: Chapin Hall

Please bring your favorite paring knife or pastry cutter.

All are welcome!

Help wanted: We will need volunteers for set up for the Roast Beef Dinner on Saturday November 3 in the morning, and also people to help with serving and clean-up in the evening. See Marsha Hoffman with questions.



Prayer Shawl Ministry

A Quiet Witness

Do you love knitting or do you want to learn? The prayer shawl ministry knits prayer shawls that are given to church members and friends in times of grief or illness. We also donate prayer shawls to local hospitals. No knitting experience required, just ask and we'll teach you. Contact Denise Carberry with questions.



The submission deadline for the NOVEMBER issue of The Church Mouse will be **Monday, October 15**. We want to hear from you! Send your articles and photos to: office@rhccucc.org.



The Mailing date will be Wednesday, **October 31st**, to coincide with the Little Scholars Preschool Halloween Parade! Costumes encouraged.



RHCC Music Ministry

We are gearing up for fall and the Holiday season! The adult choir, bell choir, are currently holding rehearsals. 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 or 860-529-4167.

Save the Date for:

A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

Sunday, December 9, 2018 at 4:00 p.m.

Held in the Sanctuary of Rocky Hill Congregational Church with full choir, pipe organist, and instrumentalists. A unique and moving experience! Reception follows the service.

All are welcome to attend.



Rev. Craig will be on vacation October 23 – 29. Rev Bob Henderson will lead worship on Sunday, October 28. For pastoral concerns during the week, contact the church office to be put in touch with the covering minister.

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 9, 2018

Mark 7:24-37

Be Opened Faith Formation Sunday

What does it mean to be opened? To find oneself changed and transformed, maybe even stopped in one's tracks by the touch of Jesus. Certainly, the touch of Jesus as described in the gospels as an expression of a great love. Love is more than an abstract thing. It is felt by the giving and receiving of it as in our Three Great Loves Campaign – Love of Neighbor, Love of Children and Love of Creation. There are so many ways to love our neighbor. We can feed them and house them and clothe them and welcome them. Another way to show love is to show respect for each other especially when we disagree.

While divisive conversations may seem like a product of the 21st century, Ben Franklin (signer of the Declaration of Independence) thought his own age to be quite uncivil. He organized discussion groups in which moral questions, politics and philosophy would be debated with an eye for truth and civility. These groups began with his friends in 1727. His friends were a scrivener, a joiner and two cobblers – not, as you might think, erudite folks from Harvard or Yale, but working people who met with him every Friday evening at a Philadelphia “alehouse” to discuss issues of morality and politics. That was Franklin's answer to incivility in his day – structured discussion with a diverse group of friends.

Churches, today, in the UCC are figuring out ways to have civil discourse about things that matter to our world, among those have been churches who have embarked on loving discussions about LGBT inclusion in the life of congregations. At Rocky Hill UCC, in Rocky Hill, Connecticut, they developed a Covenant that would order these conversations. It says:

Covenant: *Our purpose is to promote understanding. We will treat each other with caring and respect, as God's beloved children. We will take time for prayer. We will speak in the first person "I", and from our own experience. We will speak one at a time. We will listen for understanding, especially when we seem to disagree. We will speak and seek the truth in love. We will allow each other equal "air time." We will ask questions for clarification, not for judgment.*

Rocky Hill UCC understood themselves to be a diverse congregation theologically but they still embarked on a two-year conversation based on the above Covenant. At the end, they voted overwhelmingly to become Open and Affirming. Loving one's neighbor can be about a process as much as a result.

2018 Country Fair

October 20th

9am



Rocky Hill

Congregational Church

805 Old Main Street

Featuring:

Music by Liz Reed

Free Face Painting by Catalina • 11am-1pm

www.amazingfaceart.com

Explore an Antique Fire Engine!



Halloween Costume Parade • 1pm

Featured Shops

Snack Shack opens at 9am • Tea Room opens at 11am

Kids Korner • Jewelry Shop • Something Different

Holiday House • Farm Market • White Elephant

Baked Goods • Sew Country

Silent Auction closes at 1:30pm

Winners announced at 2pm

Roast Beef Dinner

Saturday NOVEMBER 3, 2018, 5:30 pm.

Tickets can be purchased at the Fair or
call the Church Office at 860-529-4167.

Tickets (children under 4 are free)

\$12 for Adults - \$5 for Children



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
- Gas: Exxon/Mobil, Shell, Sunoco
- Pharmacy: CVS, Walgreens
- Fast food: Boston Market, Chipotle, McDonalds, Panera, Subway, Wendy's
- Restaurants: Bonefish Grill, Outback Steakhouse, Red Lobster
- Shopping: Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Bed Bath & Beyond, Home Depot, Kohl's, iTunes, L.L. Bean, Lowes, Michaels, Payless Shoes, Target, Walmart
- Grocery: Big Y, Stop & Shop, Trader Joe's, WholeFoods, Westside Market

The next order for cards not stocked in inventory will be placed on October 28.

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!

THIS WEEK AT RHCC

October 14

10:00am **Worship**
9:30am **Childcare**
10:15am **Church School**
11:00am **Coffee Hour**
Fair Set-up begins

Sunday

Chapin Hall
Room 4
Room 24
Chapin Hall



October 15

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE!

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

Monday

Chapin Hall
Choir Loft

14	Brian Wilcock
15	Peter Graham
16	Lisa Benson
17	Lisa Gilbert
17	Jillian Maynard
18	Mary Dean

October 16

7:00pm Hearing Voices

Tuesday

Chapel

October 17

12:30pm **Fair prep in preschool rooms**
7:30pm **Choir**

Wednesday

Choir Loft

October 18

Little Scholars Closed
Fair Set-up
7:00pm **Council**
7:30pm Men's AA

Thursday

location TBD
Firehouse

FAIR COMMITTEE WILL
BE SETTING UP THEIR
BOOTHS IN VARIOUS
ROOMS DURING THE
WEEK.



October 19

Little Scholars Closed
Fair Set-up

Friday

The Country Fair - Saturday, October 20 from 9am to 2pm.

Pie-making Workshop – Friday, November 2, 9am

The Roast Beef Dinner - Saturday, November 3, 5:30pm

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: www.RockyHillUCC.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

Pastor: The Rev. Craig L. Cowing ccowing@rhccucc.org

Minister for Children and Youth: Georgette L. Huie ghuie@rhccucc.org

Minister of Music: Mary DeLibero mary@rhccucc.org

Office Manager: Theresa E. Cleary office@rhccucc.org

Webmaster: Steve Smith admin@rhccucc.org

Child Care Provider: