

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

Established 1727 ~ An Open and Affirming Community



**November 1, 2015 ~ 10:00 a.m.
Twenty-third 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 available down the hall 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.

INTROIT

"This is the Day of New Beginnings"
The Choir

New Century 417

*This is the day of new beginnings,
Time to remember and move on,
Time to believe what love is bringing,
Laying to rest the pain that's gone.*

*In faith we'll gather 'round the table
To taste and share what love can do.
This is a day of new beginnings
Our God is making all things new.*

CALL TO WORSHIP

Hear, O people of God:
our God is one.
Hear the commandments of our God.

**Please rise in body or in spirit.*

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

**First, love your God with all your heart,
and with all your soul,
and with all your mind,
and with all your strength.**

Hear, O people of God:
our God is one.

Recite the commandments to your children
and hold them in your hearts.

**Second, love your neighbor as yourself.
There is no commandment greater than these calls to love. Amen.**

***HYMN** “God, We Thank You for Our People” New Century (black) 376

***INVOCATION AND THE LORD’S PRAYER**

**Our God, Source of all life and Ground of all love,
we thank you for your love that never lets us go.**

**Thank you for the privilege of gathering in this space to
worship you.**

**We do not come merely to open the doors of the church,
but we come that our hearts might be opened to you and to one
another.**

**As we worship you today, help us to respond to the call of love
– to love you, our neighbors, and ourselves.**

**May we be transformed from individuals to members of your one
body.**

**Guide us as families, as a community of faith, as a nation
to follow the path of love. 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.

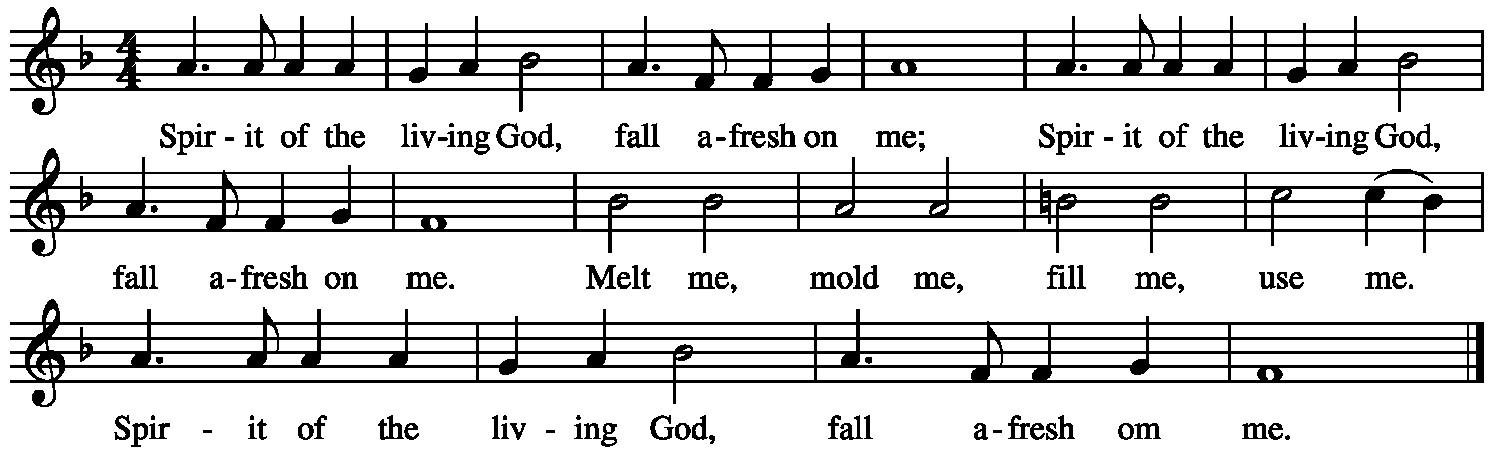
Give us this day our daily bread,

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



Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me; Spir - it of the liv - ing God,
fall a - fresh on me. Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.
Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh om me.

MOMENT FOR STEWARDSHIP

Barry Wilcock

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.

SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 12:28-34

N.T. p. 42 pew Bible

SERMON

“The Greatest Commandment is Love”

The Rev. Craig L. Cowing

OFFERING OF GIFTS

During the time of offering, your prayers can be offered using the blue prayer request cards and placed in the offering plate. The pastor will read the prayers aloud during the Joys and Concerns.

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

“I Believe”

music Mark Miller

The Choir with Jillian Maynard, soloist

based on a Jewish poem

*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

Reading of the Church Necrology

Gary Nicholson 11/5/2014

Louise Tangarone 11/7/2014

William White 11/11/2014

Alfred F. Harlow II 11/12/2014

Robert Janes 1/2/2015

Albert Griswold Jr. 1/31/2015

Dorothy Hunter 2/2/2015

Priscilla (Pat) Howland 3/3/2015

David Edwards 4/8/2015

Thelma Backe 5/9/2015

Elizabeth McKinney 6/10/2015

Jean Holmes 10/6/2015

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 Prayer

*HYMN

“As We Gather at Your Table”

New Century (black) 332

Prayer of Confession

Again and again you call us
to care for widows and orphans,
to advocate for those in prison,
to welcome the strangers.

**God, we hear your call,
but all around us we hear the cry
that there is not enough for all, and that some are undeserving.**

Again and again you call us
to love you with our whole heart, understanding, and strength;
such love demands that we seek justice
for those who are oppressed, poor, and forgotten.

**God, we hear your call,
But all around us are competing calls
of worldly loyalties, political parties, and public acclaim.**

As we prepare our hearts and minds in these days,
we ask you to forgive us when we forget to observe
your statutes of compassion and your ordinances of justice.

**Again, you remind us to follow you
so that it may go well for us, our neighbors, our nation,
and our world.**

Assurance of Pardon

Hear the word of God for this season and all seasons:

“Do not be afraid! I will never leave you or forsake you.”

Know that our God who began a good work in us is able to complete it.

As we open ourselves to the Spirit of God,
may we see more fully the wonder of God already at work in us.

And so it is. **Amen.**

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

This church practices open Communion. All are welcome to participate, including children, and regardless of denominational affiliation or church membership.

This morning, the congregation will be seated for Communion; the elements (bread and non-alcoholic grape juice) will be brought to each pew. Please wait until all have been served so that we may take the elements together. As you pass the trays to your neighbor, you may use the words “The bread of life” and “The cup of blessing.” If you would like to receive gluten-free bread, please raise your hand so that a Deacon may serve you.

Invitation

Recalling the Story: The Words of Institution

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Creative, connecting God, you have sent your Spirit and made us the body of Christ;

From child-like faith, to youthful energy, from middle-aged mindfulness, to elder’s wisdom..

We thank you for this time, this remembrance. Increase our faith. Help us to love. Encourage us to act.

In the name of Jesus Christ we pray.

Amen.

Sharing the Peace of Christ

Now let us share among us a sign of God’s peace.

*You are invited to share a sign of the reconciling peace of Christ with those around you
(a handshake, an embrace, or a non-contact gesture).*

***HYMN**

“For All the Saints”

New Century (black) 299

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

LITURGISTS

Victoria Bower and Brian Speers

COMMUNION SERVERS

Bob Carberry, Victoria Bower, Bob Inderbitzen,
Laurel Cole, Wendy Ware, Sue VanNess

USHERS

Lois and Jim Stevens, Bev Schmidt, and Elaine Somes

NURSERY CARE

Don and Polly Pagnucco

HOSPITALITY

Ruth Jensen and Denise Carberry

**The flowers are given in loving memory of
Carl and Rose Neumann and James and Ida Tennyson
by Joan Tennyson**

**The tower is lit this week in memory of William McKenna Jr.
by Lynn and Michael Mckenna family.**



INTERESTED IN JOINING THE CHURCH?

NEW MEMBERS BEING RECEIVED SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15

The next opportunity for new members to join RHCC will be during worship **Sunday, November 15**, with a **preparatory session on November 8** following worship, 11:30 a.m. in the Parlor, with the pastor and Deacon(s). For that preparatory conversation, we welcome those interested in inquiring and exploring, as well as those who know they wish to join the church on November 15. If you'd like to be part of the process, please speak to Pastor Craig Cowing or any Deacon.



COUNTRY FAIR ROAST BEEF DINNER & QUILT RAFFLE
Saturday, NOVEMBER 7, 2015 - 5:30pm
Adults \$12.00; Children (age 5-12) \$5.00

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CALLING ALL BAKERS

AND NON-BAKERS

Calling all bakers and non-bakers to help with pies for the Roast Beef Dinner, **Wednesday, November 5, 2015** from **4:30-7:30 pm** and **Friday, November 6** from **9:00am to 2:00pm**. Bring your peelers, rolling pins, energy and appetites (you will get to sample pie.) The more volunteers the easier the project. Wednesday night we will work with preparing dough as needed, and Friday we will peel apples, put together and bake pies and anything else we can do with apples. If you are interested or have any questions please call Marsha Hoffman at 860 563-1367.

WINTER CLOTHING COLLECTION

It's time again, during the next 3 weeks to collect winter clothing for the **LAKOTA NATIVE AMERICANS** on the Cheyenne River in South Dakota. This year clothing will be used as Christmas gifts, making it necessary for them to be new. Suggestions - socks, hats, mittens, gloves, underwear, shirts, pj's and sweaters. Other clothing such as coats, jackets, pants, boots, and sweatshirts need not be new but should be in good condition. Blankets and sheets should be new in original packaging.



Cash donations are most appreciated as Rochelle Ripley can buy at reduced prices. Call Joan Tennyson for information. (860) 529-8789



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 earned more than \$1300 from scrip during October. Thanks for your continued support. The next opportunities to place orders for cards not kept in inventory will be Nov. 15, Nov. 29, and Dec. 13. Delivery will be on the Sunday following the order deadline.

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, Bonafish 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.

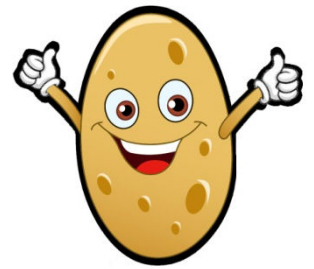
THINK SCRIP



**It's ba-a-ack:
The Baked Potato Fundraiser!**

Sunday, November 22 after worship
\$5 per potato
freshly baked with all the fixings

Proceeds to benefit the High School Youth Group
trip to the UCC National Youth Event in July 2016



The Neighbors In Need offering collected to support our covenantal relationship with the ministries of the United Church of Christ topped \$800. Last year around \$580 was collected. Thanks to all who gave so generously.

FREE CONCERT TODAY

On November 1, at 4:00, the Church of St Andrew in Rocky Hill will present a FREE concert featuring beautiful, operatic liturgical music. "The 3 Sopranos" will feature music from Andrew Lloyd Webber, Vivaldi and others, including 3 versions of *Ave Maria*. The lovely voices of Joy O'Sullivan (music director at St James), Julie Duggan (cantor at St James) and Theresa Pilz will be featured, accompanied by pianist Elizabeth Husmer from St. Elizabeth Seton church. Please join us!

For questions or information, contact Mary Laing 860/810-6521 after 3:00.

THIS WEEK AT RHCC

November 1

10:00am **Worship** Sanctuary
11:20am **Children's Choir** Choir Room
11:40am **Lessons /Carols Adult Choir** Choir Room
4:00pm Siragu Tamil School Rm 22, 23, 24, 25, 27
7:00pm **Middle School Youth** ?

November 2

7:00pm Women's AA Chapin Hall
7:30PM **Bell Choir** Loft

November 3

7:00pm **Boards/Committees**
7:00pm Hearing Voices Room 24

November 4

4:30pm Pie Making Kitchen
5:15pm Pilates w/Caroline Chapin Hall
7:00pm **Choir/Lessons & Carols** Choir Room
7:30pm **Adult Choir** Choir Room

November 5

7:30pm Men's AA Chapin Hall

November 6

8:00am Pie Making Kitchen

November 7

8:30am **Men's Christian Fellowship** Fiorilli Room
5:30pm **Roast Beef Dinner** Chapin Hall
Quilt Raffle Chapin Hall

Sunday

Sanctuary
Choir Room

Monday

Chapin Hall
Loft

Tuesday

Room 24

Wednesday

Kitchen
Chapin Hall
Choir Room
Choir Room

Thursday

Chapin Hall

Friday

Kitchen

Saturday

Fiorilli Room
Chapin Hall
Chapin Hall



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Nov 1 Neal Cox
Bill Pierson
Lanaya Rupaka
3 Phil Swain
5 Meghan Wilcock
6 Thomas Matthias
Mary DeLibero
7 Michael McKenna



ATTENTION ALL MEN OF RHCCUCC

The RHCC men's Christian fellowship study group (aka men's bible study) meets on the first and third Saturday of each month starting November 7, 2015. 8:30- 9:30am. Please join us as we start our new season pursuing God's word and living a Christian life. If you have questions, please contact Jim Stevens 860-632-5810, or [email js8961@me.com](mailto:js8961@me.com)



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 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 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: Mitsey Baker office@rhccucc.org

Webmaster: Dave Hall webmaster@rhccucc.org

