

ROCKY HILL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Established 1727 ~ An Open and Affirming Community



November 9, 2014 ~ 10:00 a.m.
Twenty-second 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. Dr. Brenda Pelc-Faszczka

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

"Here's One"

arr. Mark Hayes

"...talk about a child who do love Jesus, here's one"

Traditional Spiritual

CALL TO WORSHIP

Come, people of God, and be gathered in faith;

for it is God who gathers us.

On this day, let our hearts be lifted and our lives renewed;

for it is God who renews us.

In this place, let us welcome the touch of the spirit and its grace;

for it is God's own grace that blesses us..

From places of confusion and places of strength,

with hearts of fear and hearts of love,

let us come into worship again with our whole selves;

for God makes all things new,

even us, even here, even now.

***HYMN** "God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens" New Century (black) 556

**Please rise in body or in spirit.*

**Bold type denotes collective response.*

*GATHERING PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

We give thanks to you, Holy and Eternal One.
for the gift of this new day and its every blessing.
May we seek together now
that center for our spirits,
that compassion for each other,
that prayer for the world,
by which your love lives in us.
May we learn together, again,
to hold the Christ-light for all we meet,
to be servants in the service of others,
and in all things to trust your grace
that works in us, through us, and for our sakes,
for the world that is on its way.
This we ask in Christ's 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:

The musical score is written for two staves, Treble and Bass, in 3/4 time with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is simple and repetitive, using eighth and quarter notes. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first system covers the first line of the response, and the second system covers the second line, ending with a double bar line and the instruction '(Last time, end.)'.

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.)

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.

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Greeting

UCC Statement of Faith

New Century 885

Commitment of the Candidates

***Congregational Welcome**

We welcome you with joy into the common life of this church.
We promise our friendship and our prayers,
as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ.
By the power of the Holy Spirit, may continue to grow together
in the knowledge and love of God
and in our common discipleship,
witnesses to our risen Savior.
In Christ's name and spirit, welcome.

***Prayer**

The Hand of Fellowship

SOLO

“That Someday is Now”

Don Doig

Val Triplets, soloist

*Oh, Jesus, I've waited so long,
To let you be Lord of my days.
I've struggled so hard to hold on,
When I know I must give you my ways.*

*How many times I said, 'Someday;
Someday I will give you control.'
But now I see that the gift of your peace
Is received when we give not a part but the whole.*

*Oh, Jesus, I give my life, my soul,
As humbly before your throne I bow,
That someday I've longed to know your peace,
That someday is now!*

READING FROM THE GOSPEL

Matthew 25:1-13

SERMON

“Holding the Light”

The Rev. Dr. Brenda Pelc-Faszczka

*HYMN

“Won’t You Let Me Be Your Servant?”

New Century (black) 539

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

"Steal Away"

arr. Don McKeever

The Choir

Spiritual

Steal away, steal away

Steal away to Jesus

Steal away home

My Jesus I adore you.

My Lord, He calls me

He calls me with the thunder

The trumpet sound within-a-my soul

My Jesus I adore you.

Steal away to Jesus

Steal away to Him.

Steal away, steal away

Steal away to Jesus

Steal away home

My Jesus I adore you

*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

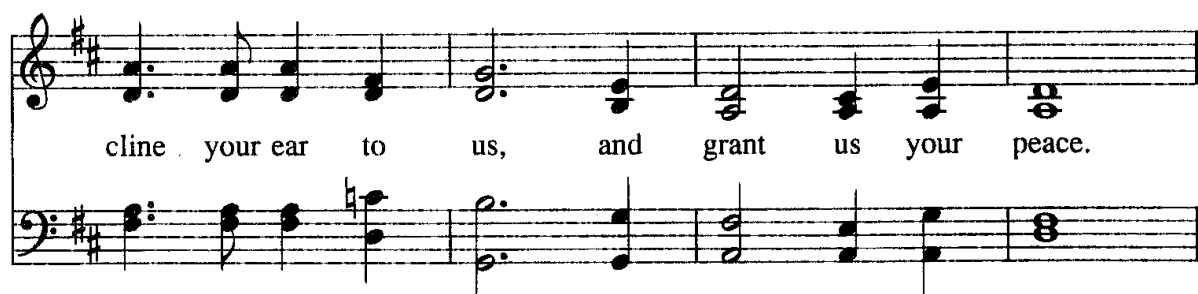
PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

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** “Christian, Rise and Act Your Creed” New Century (black) 537

***RESPONSIVE BENEDICTION**

Now let us go out from this place in peace:
in the life of faith, for which there is no substitute,
 in the love of God for which there is no measure,
in the call of the Spirit, to which there is no end.
Let us go out from this place in peace,
 to hold the Christ light in this world.
 Thanks be to God. Amen.

***POSTLUDE** “Andante Pastorale” Ravanello

LITURGIST	Michael Bower
ACOLYTES	Victoria Bower and Tyler Morgan
GREETERS	Sue Starr and Jay Jensen
USHERS	Jim & Lois Stevens, Harry & Bev Schmidt, Dave Sageman
HOSPITALITY	Jennifer Hernandez and Ruth Jensen

**The flowers are given in memory of Sharon Grover Vassilopoulos
by Kim, Mark and Sarah Biglow.**

**The tower is lit this week in memory of William Griswold
by Anne Louise Griswold.**

REMINDER – NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The Church Mouse deadline has been moved up because of Thanksgiving.
Newsletter articles for December are due in the **office next Wednesday,**
November 12th. They will be mailed out on Tuesday, November 18.

Introducing...

WE WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS!

We are pleased to be receiving two new members this morning, both of whom are already at home in the United Church of Christ from previous church affiliation. ***Bay Tran***, originally from Vietnam, has recently moved from Bridgeport to Wethersfield. Bay is retired from a career in electronics technology. She and her husband Thomas Buong have a daughter in Wethersfield, a son in Middletown and seven grandchildren. ***Ellie Maher*** recently moved to Rocky Hill from Glastonbury and is a licensed real estate agent with Berkshire Hathaway. A special cake will be served at coffee hour in honor of our new members.

HELP! MORNING MAILERS NOVEMBER SCHEDULE

We have additional bulk mailings this month, and because of Thanksgiving our December newsletter will be mailed on a Tuesday. We will begin around 9:30am in the Fiorilli Room on the following days.

TOMORROW

MONDAY, NOV. 10 – DEACON THANKSGIVING LETTER

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18 – CHURCH MOUSE

It takes many hours to complete this task, so the more people helping, the faster the work is done. Come any time in the morning, for a half hour, an hour, or however long you can. Refreshments are served.

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...

Last week received our Bibles, this week we're exploring what's in there!

LESSON → Bible 101

Scripture: The Bible

Talk About...Did you know the Bible has 66 books – 39 in the Hebrew Bible and 27 in the New Testament. The Psalms has the most chapters with 150, and Philemon only has 1. The Bible is a collection of sacred stories. It is a family story, our family story – the story of God's family. The stories are exciting, fun, challenging, disturbing, and wonderful. People make mistakes, and create miracles out of love. The Bible has it all. This week take time sharing your favorite family stories, and read together some of your favorite stories from the Bible – God's family album.

Prayer For The Week: The word of God is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. Thanks be to God! May God's word grow within us. *Amen.*

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

Small Group Ministry at RHCC: Fall Faith Formation Opportunities

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

Storytellers, Sunday, November 23 – CANCELLED

Storytellers will be re-scheduled in January.

COVENANT GROUPS: On-Going

Covenant Groups provide an opportunity for church friends to share their faith in a more intimate setting. They are comprised of 6-12 people who "covenant" to meet regularly in homes for socializing, support, study, and prayer. The caring that comes from these small groups enriches both the individual and the church at large. For more information, contact Meghan Young at Meghan@rhccucc.org.

ADVENT GATHERING

Sunday, November 30, 5 PM – 7 PM

Join us for a pot-luck dinner, crafts, and worship as we prepare for this season of Advent to wait in anticipation for the birth of Jesus Christ.

*This is an intergenerational event
for the entire church family and friends.*

Please sign-up in Chapin Hall or email Meghan@rhccucc.org
to let us know you are coming.



Advent

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.

Last month, 34 members and friends bought scrip with a total face amount of \$22,500, producing a profit for RHCC of slightly over \$1500. That's an average of about \$660 per buyer, and six members each bought more than \$1000 in scrip during the month. Are you taking advantage of all of the possibilities that scrip offers?

If you placed an order last weekend, you may pick up your cards at the scrip table this morning. And if you didn't get around to ordering last week - or you discover you need more - we'll be placing another order next weekend (Nov. 16), with delivery on Nov. 23rd. Especially at this time of year, there are lots of cards that could be useful to you - cards that aren't usually kept in inventory - that really help to drive the results. A partial list of 30 of these retailers appeared in the November church mouse. For a complete list, stop by the scrip table today.

As usual, 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: Boston Market, Burger King, 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,
On the Border

Shopping: Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Bed Bath & Beyond, Best Buy,
Home Depot, Kohl's, iTunes, Lowes, Marshall's, Shutterfly,
Staples, Target, Walmart

See Deb Copes at the scrip table this morning for a complete listing of available cards, or to have all of your questions answered. Think SCRIP!

THINK SCRIP!

OPPORTUNITIES TO GIVE

WARM COATS NEEDED!

It is the season for cleaning closets and transferring over clothes! With this in mind, Allison, our Covenant to Care Social Worker, has requested any donations of gently used warm coats. They are particularly looking for the items below, but will take any donations that are in very good condition.

Men's Medium for an older boy, 11yr old boy

6 yr old boy, 7 yr old girl

See Kari McCaw-Blaise or Meghan Montana if you would like to donate or have additional questions.

It's time now, before the cold winds blow and the snow falls deep, to think of the American natives on the Cheyenne River Sioux Reservation in South Dakota, who will be in need of warm winter clothing and blankets. Please consider a donation of any kind of winter clothing in good, ready to wear condition for all ages – men, women, children and infants. The last day for collecting will be Sunday, November 16th. For information call Joan Tennyson (860)529-8789, or leave your donations in Chapin Hall on the last table to be picked up on Sundays. It's a good thing!



2014 R.H.C.C COUNTRY FAIR



A HEARTFELT *THANK YOU*

to all who participated in this year's country fair.

With the grace of god, the volunteers of the church
and our customers,

We are proud to announce, despite the pouring rain,

WE RAISED \$10,700.00.

YOU SHOULD ALL BE PROUD OF YOUR EFFORTS.

Respectfully Submitted,

Elaine Somes

FAIR COMMITTEE

THIS WEEK AT RHCC

November 9

Sunday

10:00am	Worship	Chapin Hall
11:30am	Children's Choir	Choir Room
12:00pm	Noah's Table	
4:00pm	Tamil Sangram	Rm 22, 23, 24, 25
5:30pm	Stewardship Dinner	Chapin Hall



November 10

Monday

THANKSGIVING MAILING

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

November 11

Tuesday

7:00pm	Council	Fiorilli Rm
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November 12

Wednesday

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

9:30am	Quilters	Room 6
7:00pm	Adult Choir	

November 13

Thursday

6:00pm	Community event	Room 25
7:30pm	Men's AA	Chapin Hall

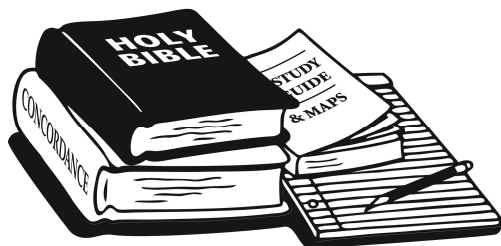
NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Nov. 7	Lisa Taylor
	Jennifer Martin
10	Jon Morgan
11	Dale Rowland
	Harry Blaise
12	Diana Belliveau
	Kari McCaw-Blaise
15	Roland Lataille

WORSHIP RECORDINGS AVAILABLE

Audio recordings, written sermons and bulletins for many of our Sunday worship services are available on the church website, **rhccucc.org** (See WORSHIP BULLETINS), or you may contact the office to request an audio CD or printed sermon.

Be Nourished



COMING AFTER THE HOLIDAYS.....

Things I've Always Wondered about Christianity (But Was Afraid to Ask)

A small-group exploration series based on topics provided by the congregation.

It's been my experience in many years of ministry that we are often carrying questions and struggles about very basic ideas, beliefs or meanings within the Christian faith that we don't feel we understand very well, or that may once have made sense to us but now make less sense, or that seem ill-fitting in some way with how we have experienced God or our own faith. It's good to have a community of others to talk with about those challenges. (For one thing, we generally find we're not alone in having them). This will be designed as a series of small-group conversations within which any and all questions, doubts or struggles can be shared, and we'll explore them together.

-Rev. Brenda

Examples:

I never did believe in the Virgin Birth. Does that mean I'm not Christian?

I have a lot of trouble with all the violence of God in the Bible. Am I supposed to believe that's really what God is like?

So much in the Bible is not plausible, scientifically or literally. Am I expected to believe it all literally? What if I don't?

I used to believe in a "substitutionary atonement" (Jesus' death was in our place, "paid for" our sins) but now that seems absurd to me. How does someone else's death relieve my guilt?

I struggle with what to tell my children when bad things happen in the world. What can I tell them about God...?

If you would like to participate, there are forms in the narthex and in Chapin Hall to submit a question or topic by Dec. 12 (can be returned to the church office or placed in one of the marked envelopes in the narthex or Chapin Hall). Please indicate also your preference for a meeting time for the small group. Plans will be announced after the input has been received.

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