

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

*Established 1727 ~ An Open and Affirming Community*



**November 15, 2015 ~ 10:00 a.m.  
Twenty-fifth 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 and large-print bulletins** are available for worship—ask an usher. **Nursery care** is always 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 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). Be prepared to pass it to the aisles at the time of the offering, when the cards will be collected.*

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## PRELUDE

“Sweet Hour of Prayer”

Victoria Bower, violin, Ben Rolfe, viola

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Come into this time of worship by the new and living way in Christ Jesus.

**We come with true hearts in full assurance of our faith.**

Come with joyful expectation.

**We gather in full confidence of the gospel's promise.**

Let us praise God together and open ourselves to the power of the Holy Spirit

**That we may encourage and support each other**

**to love our neighbors as ourselves**

**and to be God's instruments of grace.**

## \*HYMN

“God, Who Stretched Heavens”

New Century (back)556

*\*Please rise in body or in spirit.*

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

## \*PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

In you, O God, we find refuge from our turbulent world.  
We work each day to bear witness to your justice through our ministries.

While the journey towards true peace that lies ahead is long,  
our incremental steps continue to take us closer to that promised day.  
Renew in us the strength, faith, and courage we need to persevere  
so that the promised day will come when your will  
will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

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:

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.

## ANTHEM

### “Amazing Grace”

Setting David Ashley White

The Choir with Gail Hall, clarinet

## SCRIPTURE READING

2 Corinthians 9:6-12

N.T. p. 162 pew Bible

Luke 19:1-10

N.T. p. 71 pew Bible

## SERMON

“A Wee little man with a BIG spirit”

The Rev. Dr. Dale Azevedo

## \*HYMN

“Take My Gifts”

New Century (black) 562

## 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 Solo

"Take My Gifts"

arr. Richard Nichols

Gail Hall, clarinet

### \*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

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 “God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending” New Century (black) 565

\*BENEDICTION

\*POSTLUDE “Foundation” setting Wilber Held

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LITURGIST

Judy Graham

USHERS

Jim and Lois Stevens, Bob Simmons and Bea Donahue

The flowers are given in loving memory of Phyllis and John Paholski  
by Judy Graham and family.

The tower is lit this week in loving memory of Jean O’Grady Sheehan  
by Christopher Sheehan and Laurel Cole

On this Consecration Sunday, we are most pleased to welcome our guest leader, **The Rev. Dr. Dale Azevedo**, pastor of the Middlefield Federated Church in Middlefield CT. He was originally ordained a Deacon in the United Methodist Church(UMC) by the New York Annual Conference in 1995 and three years later ordained as an Elder. Having served churches in Denver, CO, and Lakeville, CT, he was appointed to the Middlefield Federated Church in 1999. In 2009, Pastor Dale withdrew from the UMC in order to unite with UCC and was recognized by the Middlesex Association that fall. Pastor Dale received his Master of Divinity (MDiv) in 1995 from The Iliff School of Theology in Denver, CO, and earned his Doctor of Ministry(DMin) degree in 2010 from The Theological School at Drew University in Madison, NJ. His doctoral specialization is in Pastoral Care and Counseling. Our own Bob Inderbitzen met Rev. Dale at a UCC event. Later Rev. Dale asked Bob to be the New Consecration Sunday guest leader at Middlefield.

### **CHURCH STAFF POSITION: Office Manager Wanted**

Office Manager Mitsey Baker has informed us that she will leave the church staff before the end of the year. Mitsey joined our church staff in April 2013—but had helped “cover” the church office responsibilities on a temporary basis many times before. Mitsey’s agreed to remain on the church staff much longer than she had intended (thank you, Mitsey!). We’re so very grateful for all of the ways she has supported the ministry and mission of our congregation throughout many seasons of transition and change.

The Personnel Committee, working with both Pastor Craig and Mitsey, have prepared a current job description for the position of Office Manager—and we’ve started to post the position opening in a handful of classifieds and online job boards. Due to the sensitive and confidential interaction that the Office Manager has with church members, the Personnel Committee and Council have decided that this position may not be filled by a church member or anyone active with this congregation. A job description can be downloaded at <http://tinyurl.com/obyhm4a>. Interested and qualified candidates may email resumes to Bob Inderbitzen, Chair of the Personnel Committee, [rinderbitzen@cox.net](mailto:rinderbitzen@cox.net). Interviews will be conducted by a selection committee comprised of Pastor Craig and members of the Personnel Committee

## 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

### Connecticut Conference Adult Service Trip to the Cheyenne River Reservation!

As hundreds of past participants will attest, the volunteer service trip to the Cheyenne River Reservation with Simply Smiles is a life changing opportunity for you and those you will travel to serve. Participants will live and work with Simply Smiles in the town of La Plant on the Reservation. You will be strengthening this community through construction projects, town-wide events, daily afternoon summer camps and more - all while learning about the rich Lakota culture!

#### Interested?

Informational Meeting:  
November 22  
3:00 PM  
United Church Center  
125 Sherman Street  
Hartford, CT

[CTUCC.org](http://CTUCC.org)

**Trip Dates:**  
**April 30 - May 7**  
**2016**

**Thank You!**

#### For More Details:

Please Contact:  
Charlie Kuchenbrod  
[charliek@ctu.org](mailto:charliek@ctu.org)

[SimplySmiles.org](http://SimplySmiles.org)

## **CT CONFERENCE Annual Meeting Delegates Affirm Adoptees' Rights to their History and Heritage**

Brian Donahue addresses delegates at the CTUCC Annual Meeting.

HARTFORD (11/2/2015) -- At the October 24, 2015, Annual Meeting of the Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ, held in Newington, Connecticut, delegates voted overwhelming in favor of an Adoptee Rights Resolution proposed by the Rocky Hill Congregational Church UCC. The Resolution supports the right of adult of adoptees to obtain their original birth certificate and obtain true and accurate information about their origins. This right to obtain their original birth certificate was restored to some Connecticut adoptees pursuant to a law advocated for by Access Connecticut Now, Inc., a grassroots adoptee rights organization.

The resolution sought support from Connecticut's 240 UCC congregations to urge and persuade their legislators to restore to all adult adoptees access to their original birth certificates. Presently, every non-adopted adult citizen of Connecticut has the right to receive a copy of their original birth certificate, and so do adult adoptees who were adopted on or after October 1, 1983. Those who were adopted before October 1, 1983, however, are denied access to their original birth certificates.

The issue was originally introduced to the Rocky Hill Congregational Church's Council (elected governing board) in January by Brian Donahue, an adoptive and biological father of three girls. A church member for eight years, he is involved with Access Connecticut as its Director of Public Outreach, and has been very involved in ensuring adult adoptees obtain their legal rights of origin and biological family's medical history.

Mr. Donahue said, "I brought the resolution to my church because the United Church of Christ has been a leader in civil rights for several groups in the past. I want all adult adoptees to be able to obtain their ethnic, racial, cultural, and genetic identity. I want all adoptees to be able to obtain their biological families medical histories.

"The United Church of Christ believes God shows no partiality. I believe the government should not either. I want my biological child to have the same legal rights as my adopted children to their information. The law should not treat adult adoptees any differently than non-adoptees."

The resolution says that by denying some adult adoptees access to their original birth certificates, these individuals are denied true and accurate information about their biological origin — keeping them from gaining fuller knowledge of their ancestry, ethnicity, medical history, and genetic background. The resolution states that denying access to an original birth certificate also denies adoptees from knowing a "basic part of their human story and identity" and limits "decisions about their health care...including care needed to save their lives."

"We deeply appreciate the thoughtful process of discernment engaged in by the Connecticut Conference of the UCC that led to enactment of this Resolution," said Karen Caffrey, President of Access Connecticut, who addressed the delegates during the debate.

Connecticut law only provides access to adults born and adopted in Connecticut after October 1, 1983, pursuant to Public Act 14-133. This law, passed last year, is part of a growing trend



across the U.S. to give adoptees access to their original birth certificates. Alabama, Alaska, Kansas, Maine, New Hampshire, and Oregon all give unrestricted access to original birth certificates to all adoptees over the age of 18. Rhode Island adoptees older than 25 may receive their original birth certificates, while several other states provide access with some caveats.



## 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 will be placing a special order for scrip this week, in response to the increased demand of the holiday shopping season. Orders may be turned in at the scrip table in Chapin Hall this morning, or emailed to [treasurer@rhccucc.org](mailto:treasurer@rhccucc.org) by the end of tonight. Cards ordered this weekend will be available for pickup on Nov. 22. The next opportunities to place orders for cards not kept in inventory will be Nov. 9, and Dec. 13. Delivery will be on the Sunday following each 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, Bonefish 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**

## THIS WEEK AT RHCC

### November 15

- 10:00am **Worship**  
New Members Join  
Sanctuary
- 11:00pm **Consecration Sunday Lunch**
- 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
- 6:00pm **Middle School Youth Group** Chapin Hall

### November 16

### Monday

#### **NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**

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

### November 17

### Tuesday

- 10:30am Retired Clergy Parlor
- 7:00pm Hearing Voices Room 24

### November 18

### Wednesday

- 5:15pm Pilates w/Caroline Chapin Hall
- 7:00pm **Choir/Lesson s& Carols** Choir Room
- 7:30pm **Adult Choir** Choir Room

### November 19

### Thursday

- 7:30pm Men's AA Chapin Hall

### November 21

### Saturday

- 8:30am **Men's Bible Study** Fiorilli Room
- 11:00am **Memorial Service** Sanctuary
- 11:30am **Reception** Chapin Hall
- 5:00pm **Wedding Rehearsal** Sanctuary



#### NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

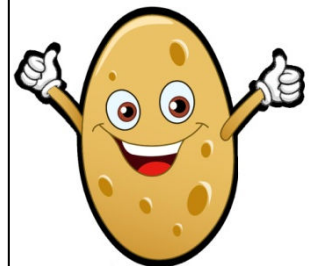
- Nov 15 Roland Lataille
- 19 Robert Simmons  
Sheila Elliot
- 20 Mary-Edith Bowman  
Hannah Fuller



### **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



# 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: Mitsey Baker [office@rhccucc.org](mailto:office@rhccucc.org)

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