

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

*Established 1727 ~ An Open and Affirming Community*



November 16, 2014 ~ 10:00 a.m.  
Twenty-third 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

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

“Simple Gifts”

Russell Schulz-Widmar

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Consecrate: to make sacred.

Today is our consecration day.

**We make of our lives an offering,  
for God's sacred purposes.**

Every day is a day of sacred purpose,  
every day is a consecration day.

**Every day, God's love is alive in us,  
God's call animates us and all our gifts.**

Consecrate: to make sacred.

**Let the people of God be joyful in our gathering,  
grateful in our abundance, ready in our discipleship!**

## \*HYMN

“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You”

New Century (black) 4

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

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

## \*GATHERING PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

O God who is generous with the whole creation,  
flinging stars and seeds and spirits to life,  
may we who are made in your image  
reflect in joy the abundance of your heart.

May our own hearts find their treasure  
in extravagant love,

in what is true, right, good, compassionate, and holy.

May we remember that everything we have been given to use –  
time, talent and treasure --

are first your gifts to us,

each one an invitation to love and to serve.

O God who is generous with the whole creation,  
may we be generous in your name,  
responding today, tomorrow and always  
with grateful and ready hearts.

This we ask in Christ's name and spirit, as we also say together:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

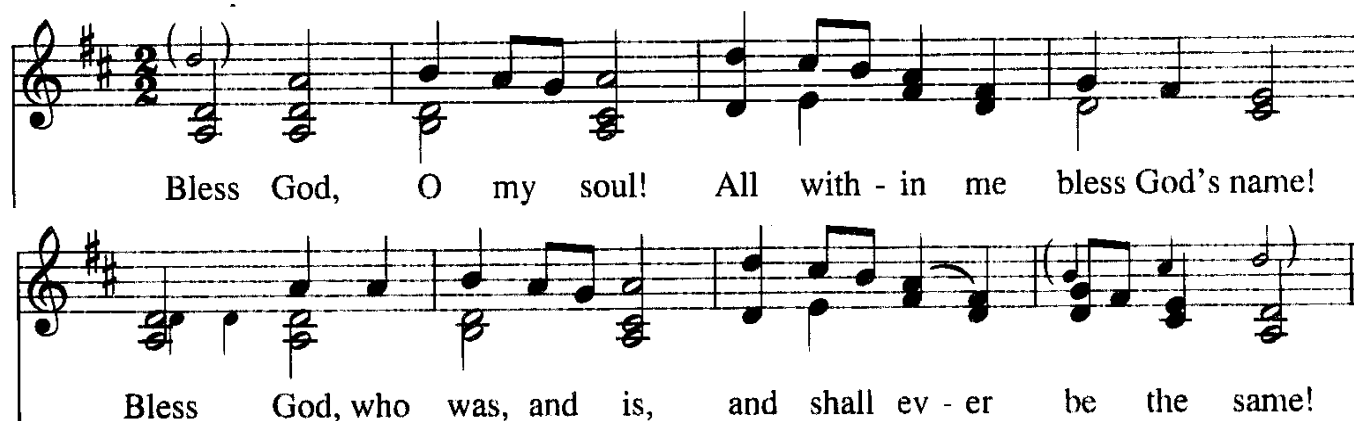
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

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:



Bless God, O my soul! All with - in me bless God's name!

Bless God, who was, and is, and shall ev - er be the same!

## MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES

### ANTHEM

“Here I Am, Lord”

Daniel Schutte

Setting by Jack Schreder

The Choir, John Hoffman, soloist

*I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.*

*All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.*

*I, who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.*

*Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?*

*Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?*

*I have heard you calling in the night.*

*I will go, Lord, if you lead me.*

*I will hold your people in my heart.*

*I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain.*

*I have wept for love of them - they turn away.*

*I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone.*

*I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?*

*Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?*

*I have heard you calling in the night.*

*I will go, Lord, if you lead me.*

*I will hold your people in my heart.*

*I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame;*

*I will set a feast for them; my hand will save.*

*Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied.*

*I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?*

*Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?*

*I have heard you calling in the night.*

*I will go, Lord, if you lead me.*

*I will hold your people in my heart.*

### READING FROM THE GOSPEL

Luke 12:32-34

John 13:34-35

### SERMON

“Who is God Calling You to Be?”

Cindi Bates

**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**

“Living Through Giving”

Don McKeever

The Choir, Gail Hall, clarinet

*If you would live a life worth living  
You must learn to be loving and giving  
Learn to love, learn to give  
That is how to live.*

*Loving, living, learning, giving  
That is how to live.*

*Greed denies to those in need  
The love God gave for all.  
Give a life of loving deeds.  
That's a worthwhile call.*

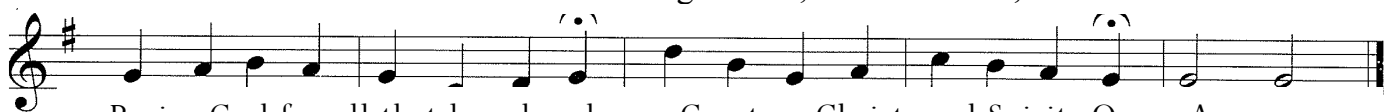
*If you would live a life worth living  
You must learn to be loving and giving  
Learn to love, learn to give  
That is how to live.*

*Loving, living, learning, giving  
That is how to live.*

**\*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.

The musical score is written for two staves, Treble and Bass clef, in the key of D major (two sharps) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics printed below the notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

**Pastoral and Silent Prayer**

**\*HYMN** "God Whose Giving Knows No Ending" New Century (black) 565

**Please be seated after the hymn**

**COMMITMENT TIME AND BENEDICTION**

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**ACOLYTES**

Louis DiRenzo and Brian Speers

**GREETERS**

Jayson, Meghan and Aiden Montana

**USHERS**

Jim & Lois Stevens, Louise Butts, Wendy Ware and Dave Sageman

**HOSPITALITY**

Ruth Jensen and Jean Goff

On this Consecration Sunday, we are most pleased to welcome our guest leader, **Cindi Bates**. Cindi is a member at First Church of Christ, UCC, in Glastonbury, where she has belonged for her whole adult life and where she has served in many roles, including Clerk, President (Moderator), and now is the Past President. She is the daughter of retired UCC minister Rev. Gordon Bates and Wanda Bates, who reside at Covenant Village. Cindi is a lawyer at Aetna and her husband is a Coast Guard Captain, who will retire next year. They have two children, ages 21 and 23. Welcome, Cindi, and thank you!

The flowers are given by Kristy Solie  
in honor of Hannah on her 11<sup>th</sup> birthday.

The tower is lit this week in memory of Ray Danforth  
by Evelyn Danforth.

## 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](mailto:Meghan@rhccucc.org)  
to let us know you are coming.



**S.P.I.R.I.T. Corner**  
*Serve, Pray, Invite, Receive, Ignite, Tell*

***Children are invited to remain in worship today,  
following along with the children and youth bulletins.***

**NOAH'S TABLE (6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade) – November 23, 5 PM – 6:30 PM**

Real conversations with Jesus are always dangerous. Bring a song you're listening to right now. Join us for a unique conversation as we make dinner together. Please RSVP by Friday, November 21, with Meghan Young at [Meghan@rhccucc.org](mailto:Meghan@rhccucc.org). 1 Adult volunteer is needed for this gathering.

**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](mailto: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!*

**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](mailto:Meghan@rhccucc.org).



## 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.

As previously announced, we are placing a special scrip order today. Order forms are available at the scrip table in Chapin Hall, and may be turned in this morning. You may also email your order to [treasurer@rhccucc.org](mailto:treasurer@rhccucc.org) by the end of today. Orders placed today will be available for pickup next Sunday, November 23. (The next order deadline will be at the end of November - Nov. 30).

Here is a partial listing of some cards that you might want to consider ordering today (as they are not typically kept in inventory): Bath & Body Works, Cabela's, Dick's Sporting Goods, Dressbarn, Eddie Bauer, Gap, JC Penney, Jo-Ann Fabrics, LL Bean, Macy's, Old Navy, Sears, Talbots, Tanger Outlets, and Williams Sonoma. A complete listing of all participating retailers is available at the scrip table.

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 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!**

## OPPORTUNITIES TO GIVE

### THANKSGIVING FOOD AND CLOTHING DRIVE

NOVEMBER 9<sup>TH</sup> - 30<sup>TH</sup>

This year the RHCC Missions Board is again holding a food and clothing drive to benefit our friends at Peter's Retreat! We will be looking for cold weather clothing items that are either new or very gently used, both male and female, as well as dry goods and pantry items to help stock their kitchen, and holiday decorations that are in good condition. We will begin collecting items the week of November 9<sup>th</sup> and end on Sunday November 30<sup>th</sup>. Please drop off items to either the Missions Room, or in the box by the Missions Board in Chapin Hall.

Please contact Meghan Montana with any questions 203-640-2386 or [meghan.montana1105@gmail.com](mailto:meghan.montana1105@gmail.com)

**Clothing Items Needed:** sweaters/sweatshirts/fleece, long sleeve shirts, coats, gloves, hats, scarves, warm socks, blankets, twin bed sheet sets (sheet sets must be new)

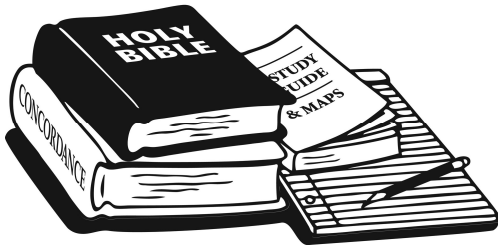
**Food Items Needed:** dry cake, muffin, and other baking mixes, dry pasta, sauces, rice, beans, canned soups, canned vegetables, canned fruits, dried fruits, oils, cooking spray, spices, etc.

*Peter's Retreat is a residential housing program that helps individuals and families living with HIV/AIDS to receive the comprehensive and compassionate services necessary to live healthier lives and break the cycle of homelessness.*

**Please Note:** This drive is replacing the Foodshare "Turkey and a Thirty" drive that we have done in past years. However, if you wish to donate to the Foodshare campaign you can still do so at these locations in the area: West Side Market Place (Rocky Hill), Wethersfield Stop and Shop, Wethersfield Volunteer Ambulance or visit [www.foodshare.org](http://www.foodshare.org) for more locations.



# 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.**

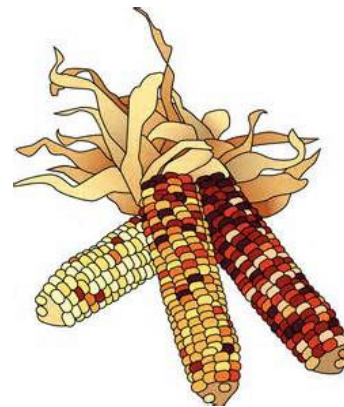
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**THIS WEEK AT RHCC**

**November 16**

**Sunday**

10:00am	<b>Worship</b>	Chapin Hall
11:30am	<b>Children's Choir</b>	Choir Room
12:00pm	<b>Consecration Sunday lunch</b>	
4:00pm	Tamil Sangram	Rm 22, 23, 24, 25
5:00pm	<b>Confirmation</b>	



**November 17**

**Monday**

7:00pm	Women's AA	Chapin Hall
7:00pm	<b>Bowling</b>	
7:30pm	<b>Bell Choir</b>	Loft

**NOVEMBER  
BIRTHDAYS**

**November 18**

**Tuesday**

**NEWSLETTER MAILING**

11:00am	Retired Clergy	Parlor
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Nov. 19	Bob Simmons
	Sheila Elliot
20	Mary-Edith Bowman
	Hannah Fuller
22	Julia Pawlich

**November 19**

**Wednesday**

9:30am	<b>Quilters</b>	Room 6
7:00pm	<b>Adult Choir</b>	

**November 20**

**Thursday**

7:30pm	Men's AA	Chapin Hall
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**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.

**NEWSLETTER MAILING**

The December **CHURCH MOUSE** will be mailed this **TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18** – Join a terrific speedy group of mailers. In the Fiorilli Room beginning around 9:30am. Come any time in the morning, for a half hour, an hour, or however long you can. Refreshments are served.

**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 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](mailto:brenda@rhccucc.org)

Acting Associate Pastor for Faith Formation: The Rev. Meghan D. Young  
[meghan@rhccucc.org](mailto:meghan@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)