

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

Established 1727 ~ An Open and Affirming Community



November 27, 2016 ~ 10:00 a.m.

First Sunday of Advent

~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 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.

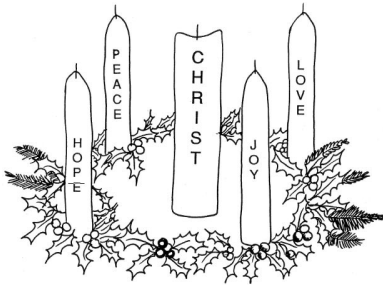
If you have a prayer request you would like read aloud for today's prayers, please fill out one of the prayer cards found in the friendship registration pads (your name is optional) and be prepared to pass it to the aisles at the time of the offering, when the cards will be collected.

PRELUDE

“Pastoral Symphony” (from The Messiah)

Handel

LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE: HOPE



***HYMN**

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

Pilgrim Hymnal (red) 110

**Please rise in body or in spirit.*

Bold type denotes collective response

*INVOCATION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Creating and sustaining god, in your presence there is life.
Living water springs up, and deserts blossom where you pass.
Seeking the life that comes from you, we have gathered before you.
Our hearts are ready, O God, our hearts are ready.
Delight us with your presence, and prepare us for your service in the
world. 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

NC 743



Be still and know that I am God. Be still and know that

The first line of musical notation consists of a treble and bass staff in 3/4 time. The treble staff contains the melody with lyrics underneath. The bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and single notes.



I am God. Be still and know that I am God.

The second line of musical notation continues the melody and accompaniment from the first line. It concludes with a double bar line. The treble staff has the melody and lyrics, while the bass staff has the accompaniment.

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



The musical notation consists of three staves of music in G major (one sharp) and common time (C). The melody is simple and suitable for children. The lyrics are: 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

“Come Thou Long Expected Jesus”
The Choir

Wesley//Prichard

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 2:1-5

Pew Bible OTp631

SERMON

“Let Us Go Up to the Mountain of the Lord”

Rev. Craig L. Cowing

***HYMN**

“The God of Abraham Praise”

New Century (black)24

OFFERING OF GIFTS

Following the receiving of offerings by the ushers, they will collect the 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 Solo

“Come Unto Him” (from The Messiah)
Dave Hall, cello

Handel

*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 “Behold Us, Lord, a Little Space” (verse 1) PH 395



1 Be - hold us, Lord, a lit - tle space From dai - ly tasks set free,
2 A - round us rolls the cease - less tide Of busi - ness, toil, and care,
3 Yet these are not the on - ly walls Where - in thou mayst be sought;
4 Thine are the loom, the forge, the mart, The wealth of land and sea,



And met with - in thy ho - ly place To rest a - while with thee.
And scarce - ly can we turn a - side For one brief hour of prayer.
On home - liest work thy bless - ing falls, In truth and pa - tience wrought.
The worlds of sci - ence and of art, Re - vealed and ruled by thee. A - men.



Pastoral Prayer

***HYMN**

“God the Omnipotent”

New Century (black) 577

BENEDICTION

***POSTLUDE**

LITURGIST

Bob Carberry

USHERS

Bill Collins, Bobbie & Dave Hawkins, Lois & Jim Steven

HOSPITALITY

InReach

TODAY

10:00am Worship

9:30am Child Care during Worship

10:00am Church School

11:20am L&C choir children

11:40am L&C choir adult

5pm Confirmation Meeting

6pm Middle School Youth Cookie Baking

ADVENT FAMILY NIGHT Sunday, December 4th, 5pm – 7 pm

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

Bring a salad, a main dish, or a dessert (a true pot luck!) This is an intergenerational event for the entire church family and friends.



If you have questions, contact Georgette Huie ghuie@rhccucc.org, 860-529-4167 or Kathy Morgan kathym317@gmail.com, 860-257-7454.

*Remember to Honor your Loved Ones
With Christmas Poinsettias*



The plants will adorn the sanctuary for worship on
Sunday, December 18th through Christmas
The cost is \$12.50 per plant.
Ordering deadline is Sunday, December 11th

Please fill out the information below and mail to Kim Burghoff (see address below)

Given by: _____

Daytime Telephone number: _____

Dedication (“in loving memory of...” or “in honor of...” etc.):

1. _____

2. _____

This year a choice of either a Red or White Poinsettia is available.

Please select:

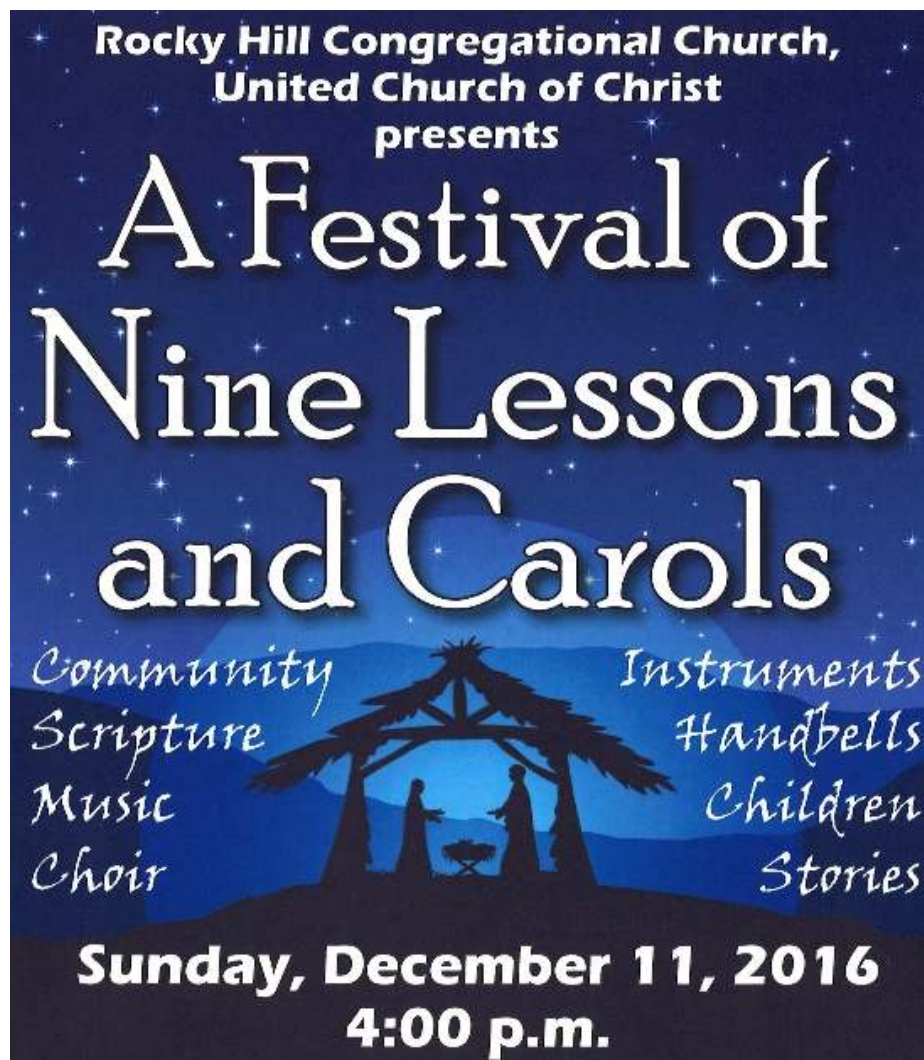
RED POINSETTIA **WHITE POINSETTIA**

I will pick-up my plant after worship on Sunday, December 18th

OR

Use my plant to decorate the church through Christmas.

Make your checks payable to:
Rocky Hill Congregational Church with “Poinsettia” in memo line and mail to:
Kim Burghoff, 204 Gray Fox Lane, Rocky Hill CT 06067.
You may call Kim with questions at 860 563-3287.



We Need YOU (To Help us Fill the Church)!!

We hope you will attend our Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols on Sunday, December 11 at 4:00 p.m. Lessons and Carols is a beautiful service of short scripture readings and music celebrating the story of Christmas. There is no admission charge, though a free-will offering will be taken to support the Rocky Hill Food Pantry. As always, a lovely reception will follow.

We also want to you help us fill the church to share the peace and hope of this lovely service with others. Please share the invitation on Facebook, by phone, in person, or with our lovely postcard invitations. With your help we had our best-attended Lessons and Carols ever last year, and were able to give a big donation to the Rocky Hill Food Pantry. Please help us do the same this year. Remember: ***ALL are welcome here!!!*** Your Music Committee

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
- 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, Olive Garden, On the Border, Outback Steakhouse, Red Lobster
- Shopping: Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Bed Bath & Beyond, Home Depot, Kohl's, iTunes, L.L. Bean, Lowes, Michaels, Payless Shoes, Target, Toys R Us, Walmart

Today is a deadline for placing orders for cards not kept in inventory. Cards ordered today will be available for pickup next Sunday, Dec 4. A comprehensive listing of all available retailers can be picked up at the scrip table in Chapin Hall. Only one more pre-Christmas order will be placed - on December 11.

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

November 27

10:00am **Worship**
9:30am **Childcare**
10:00am **Church School**
11:20am **L & C Choir**
4:00pm **Tamil School**
5:00pm **Confirmation Mtg**
6:00pm **MS Youth**

November 28

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

November 29

9:30am **NEWSLETTER MAILING**
6:00pm **Cedar Hollow**
7:00pm **Hearing Voices**

November 30

6:00pm **Pilates**
7:00pm **L&C Choir**
7:30pm **Choir**

December 1

9:30am **Music Together**
7:30pm **Men's AA**

December 2

Sunday

Sanctuary
Room 4
Rms 24,25,26
Rms 22,23,25,26,27
Parlor
Chapin Hall

Monday

Chapin Hall
Sanctuary
Sanctuary

Tuesday

Fiorilli
Fiorilli
Room 22

Wednesday

Chapin Hall
Sanctuary
Sanctuary

Thursday

Room 22
Chapin Hall

Friday



30	Gael Curtin
1	John Hoffman
2	Anita Watson
2	Joe Kunzelman
3	Jennifer Courtemanche

Save the date!
Cookie Walk
Saturday, December 17,
from 10:30am - 1:30pm.
Come fill a tin with
homemade cookies and treats
for the Holidays!



The Watsons have been active in our congregation and the community for many years, and Anita will be greatly missed. Cards of Sympathy for Anita Watson's family may be sent to: Donald Watson, c/o Avery Heights, 705 New Britain Avenue, Hartford, CT 06106. Donations in her memory may be sent to: Rocky Hill Congregational Church, 805 Old Main St. Rocky Hill, CT 06067.

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 2:00 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: Dave Hall webmaster@rhccucc.org

Child Care Provider: Liz Pulling