

ROCKY HILL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
*Established 1727 ~ An Open and Affirming Community*



December 1, 2019 ~ 10:00 a.m.  
First Sunday of Advent  
Communion & Consecration Sunday

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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 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.



Please include your full address, phone number and email 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.

# ~ORDER OF WORSHIP~

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## *For Reflection:*

To have faith is to be willing to do the work of waiting and imagining  
...how God through us, can put the pieces together  
in a new and more whole and holy way.     – *Jan Richardson*

## PRELUDE

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## INTROIT

## LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE: PEACE

## \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Jarod Taylor

One                   We come into God's presence in hopeful anticipation,  
We await the coming of the Son of God.

*Right side           The coming of the Son of Man  
will be like two in a field;*

One                   one will be taken and one will be left.

*Left side           Two women will be grinding meal together;*

One                   one will be taken and one will be left.

*Left side           Like a thief in the night,  
attempting to break into the house.*

One                   The day of our Lord will come upon us,  
on a day when we aren't expecting it.

**All                   Beware, keep awake; no one knows when Jesus is coming**

## \*HYMN

"O Come, O Come Emmanuel"

NCH 116

*(\*please rise in body or in spirit; Bold denotes unison response)*

## PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND LORD'S PRAYER

Holy God,

We begin the journey of Advent with a longing found in all corners of our world,  
that peace might overwhelm all strife and reign in every heart.

We listen for the call to follow where you lead;  
and we hunger to be fill with your holy truth revealed.

Guide us as we travel; open our eyes and our ears for all we need to learn.

We pray this in the name of Jesus, Prince of Peace, who taught to pray like this,  
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

Santo, Santo, Santo

NCH 793

The musical score is written for two staves, treble and bass clef, in 6/8 time. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The melody is primarily in the treble clef, with the bass clef providing harmonic support. The lyrics are written below the notes. The score is divided into two systems. The first system contains the first line of the response, and the second system contains the second line. The lyrics are in Spanish and English. The chords are indicated above the notes: C, G7, C, F, C, F, C, Am, F, G7, C.

San - to, san - to, san - to, mi cor - a - zón te a - do - ra! Mi  
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, my heart, my heart a - dores you! My

cor - a - zón te sa - be de-cir: san - to e - res Dios.  
heart is glad to say the words: you are ho - ly, God.

## SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

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

## 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 READINGS

New Testament Matthew 24:36-44

Hebrew Scriptures Isaiah 2:1-5

## SERMON

“Learning Peace”

Rev. Nada Sellers

## \*HYMN

“With Joy Draw Water”

NCH 109

## OFFERING OUR GIFTS

*Following the receiving of offerings by the ushers, prayer request cards will be collected. For those who have already given their offering, Giving Cards are available so that all may participate in the act of the offering.*

Dedication of our 2020 pledges

*At this time we will dedicate our pledges for financial support of our church for 2020.*

*The pledging ministry will distribute pledge cards for those who do not have them.*

**\*Dedication Prayer**

**With joy we offer these pledges for the New year, 2020. You are the source of all we have; now freely we return these portions back to you and the ministries you call us to as a spiritual community. Bless these gifts and help us to meet the goals we have set before ourselves as individuals. May we grow as a community of faith, holding a place for each other and for the people we hope to welcome in your name in the coming year. In Jesus' name we pray this. Amen.**

Invitation to the offering

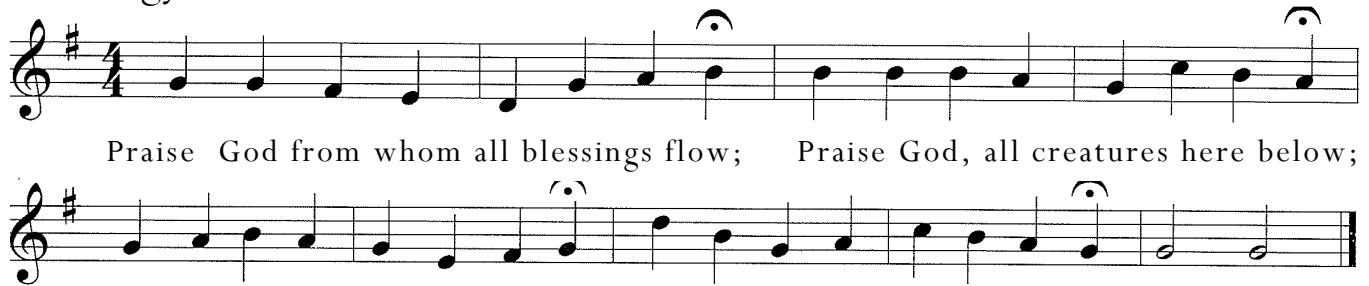
Offertory Anthem

"The Apple Tree"

Mark Schweizer

The Choir

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

## THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

*This church practices open Communion; all are welcome to participate, regardless of church membership or denominational affiliation.*

Prayer of Confession

**Holy God, who interrupts our apathy and challenges our assumptions, help us to pull away from the violence and death that seems to captivate so much of our human imagination. As we welcome the advent of your Son, Jesus, the Liberator and Peace maker, we confess our complicity in these chaotic times. By what we have done as well as what we have left undone, we have fallen away from faithful service. Forgive us and free us to be kind and compassionate after the pattern of Jesus, the one who showed us the way to comfort and joy.**

## Silent Prayer

## Words of Assurance

### Invitation

One: Jesus calls us to his table, rooted firm in time and space, where the church in earth and heaven finds a common meeting place.

**All: We share the bread and wine, his body.**

One: We share the love of which we sing.

**All: We share the feast, open to all and hosted by the Prince of Peace.**

One: Come to this table of peace and joy!

### Bearing Witness to the Story

Three Testimonies of Faith in Action

Liz Reed-Swale, Jarod Taylor, Dave Hall

*Following each story, we will respond:*

**We give thanks for your story of peace!**

### Recalling the Story & Pastoral Prayer

### The Words of Institution



### Sharing the Bread and the Cup

*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.*

### Prayer of Thanksgiving

**Thank you, Holy One, for this bread and fruit of the vine through which we have remembered the life of Jesus and all he taught us. Place a manger in our hearts and fill us with love as we prepare once again to receive the newborn child. Amen.**

\*HYMN

“Isaiah the Prophet Has Written of Old”

NCH 108

### BENEDICTION

One Go from this place alert and awake in the spirit of God’s peace..

**People We scatter now as people of the four winds:  
to the north and south, east and west.**

One Go from this place alert and awake in the spirit of God’s peace...

**People We go as faithful servants to spread God’s love to the ends of the earth.**

**All: Amen!**

### BENEDICTION RESPONSE

### POSTLUDE

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LITURGIST

USHERS

COMMUNION SERVERS

GREETER

HOSPITALITY

Jarod Taylor

Deb Copes, Steve Smith, Wendy Ware

Michael Andonucci, Chris Sheehan

Bob Carberry, Jan LaCava, Deb Copes

Joan Tennyson

InReach

Today's Flowers for worship are given by Joan Tennyson in Loving Memory of  
*James & Ida Tennyson and Carol & Rose Neumann*

The DeGiovanni family has lit the church tower this week in honor and celebration of the 100th birthday of long time family friend, **Cynthia Drake Hugli**.

### Consecration Sunday

Congregations that approach financial stewardship from a biblical perspective do not view the money Christians give to their church merely as a way to pay its bills. Rather, such congregations see financial contributions as a way to help people grow spiritually in their relationship with God by supporting their church's mission and ministry with a percentage of their incomes.

Today we will receive a special message and offer our pledge cards.

### **Today! Sunday, December 1, 5:30pm – Advent Family Night**

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



Music Ministry is currently signing up Readers and Ushers for this year's Lessons & Carols Service on Sunday, December 8 at 4:00pm. Contact Mary, Nada, or email the office if you would like to participate.

A new sign-up portal for Liturgists, Ushers and Sunday building opening, can be found on our website:  
[RockyHillUCC.org](http://RockyHillUCC.org)



*Remember to Honor your Loved Ones*

*With Christmas Poinsettias*



The plants will adorn the sanctuary for worship on  
Sunday, December 22 through Christmas Eve and the New Year.  
The cost is \$12 per plant. Ordering deadline is Sunday, December 15.

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.

**Order forms are available in the Narthex, Chapin Hall, and the office.**



## Thanksgiving offering raises \$5,228 for Helping Hand Fund

- This year, our Thanksgiving offering was designated to replenish the balance of our Helping Hand Fund, which provides financial assistance to church members and friends in times of need. Your generosity was overwhelming, as we collected gifts totaling \$5,228.
- If you meant to contribute but procrastinated, it is not too late. Any gift that is designated for "Thanksgiving offering" or "Helping Hand Fund" will continue to go toward this need.
- Thank you, thank you, thank you!



**Thank you** to everyone who participated in our annual Foodshare Turkey and a \$30 drive. Our congregation collected 33 turkeys and \$1,489! Our collection will support Foodshare's effort to provide a Thanksgiving meal to families in need in Hartford and Tolland counties.



### Connecticut veterans home secret santa

Thanks to all who donated to the Veterans Secret Santa collection. Today is the final day to accept donations. Outreach and Witness is collecting holiday gifts throughout the month of November for residents of the CT Veterans Home in Rocky Hill.



### Wednesday, December 11, at 6:00 p.m.

Our Blue Christmas service is held to acknowledge that the holiday season is difficult for many who suffer from depression or who have experienced loss. December is the darkest month of the year, and the coinciding with a joyous holiday season can be difficult. This will be a meditative service of music, prayer and readings, held in the Chapel.

### Thursday, December 12: 5:30pm to 6:45pm – Young mothers' group

We will meet in Room 6 (Crafters' Room, next to the Nursery) for dinner and socializing. Children are welcome. Come to relax, be fed, and to exchange information and great ideas. RSVP to Georgette for dinner.

### Tom and Doris Schreier Warm Heart Tree

Help us decorate the Warm Heart Tree in Chapin Hall with new, donated hats, gloves, mittens, and scarves for all ages. In addition, tube socks for men are also very much needed. The tree is named in memory of Tom and Doris Schreier, who started the tradition over 40 years ago. Donations will be collected from November 30 to January 5. For questions, please contact Gail Tine at [gtine@cox.net](mailto:gtine@cox.net)





## ADVENT & CHRISTMAS SEASON - WORSHIP & EVENTS



Sunday, December 1, 10am – Worship with Communion & Consecration of Pledges. 5:30pm – Family Advent Gathering & Potluck Dinner

Sunday December 8, 10:00am – Worship, March of the Toys

Sunday, December 8, 4:00pm – Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols

Wednesday, December 11, 6:00pm – Blue Christmas Service



Sunday, December 15, 10:00am – Worship,  
Covenant to Care gifts due; Christmas Poinsettia Flower orders due  
Sunday, December 15, 1:00pm – Cookie Walk/Sale

Saturday, December 21, 4:00pm – Youth Solstice Walk



Sunday, December 22, 10:00am Worship

Sunday, December 22, 1:30pm – Christmas Caroling to Homebound



Tuesday, December 24, 5pm & 11pm – Christmas Eve Worship Services!

*Gift-giving to those in need through Covenant to Care, Mitten Tree, Toy Drive and Diaper Drive, and our food pantry offering at Lessons & Carols.*

Throughout the holidays, Outreach and Witness Ministry has several opportunities to help create a special holiday season for community members in need.



### **March of the Toys! – Sunday, December 8**

We will collect unwrapped toys during worship on Sunday, December 8. The toys collected will be brought to the Hartford Seminary where they will be distributed to Hartford area families in need. Many social workers in the area 'shop' at the Hartford Seminary for the families they support. If you are unable to attend on December 8th, you may drop off your gift during office hours by Dec 5th.

### **Covenant to Care for Children - Sunday, December 15**

If you are interested in supporting one of the children on our social worker's caseload with a Christmas gift, we will have cards available with children's ages and wishes. Please bring in wrapped gifts by December 15th so they may be delivered in time for Christmas. Scrip donations are also welcomed for the children. For more information on both toy & gift drives, please contact Heather Collins at: [heathercollins2004@gmail.com](mailto:heathercollins2004@gmail.com)

## 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
- Gas: Exxon/Mobil
- Pharmacy: CVS, Walgreens
- Fast food: Burger King, Boston Market, Chipotle, McDonalds, Panera, Subway, Wendy's.
- Restaurants: Bonefish Grill, Outback Steakhouse, Red Lobster
- Shopping: Ace Hardware, Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Bed Bath & Beyond, Home Depot, Jo-Ann Fabrics, Kohl's, iTunes, L.L. Bean, Lowes, Michaels, Target, Total Wine, Walmart.
- Grocery: ShopRite, Big Y, Stop & Shop, Trader Joe's, WholeFoods, Westside Market.

Today (Dec. 1) is the ordering deadline for cards that are not kept in inventory. Orders may be turned in at the scrip table in Chapin Hall this morning. Cards ordered today will be available for pickup on Sunday, Dec. 8. After today, the next order will be placed on December 15 (with delivery on Dec. 22). A complete listing of all retailers available through our program can be picked up at the scrip table in Chapin Hall.

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.

Think SCRIP!

## THIS WEEK AT RHCC

### December 1

10:00am Worship  
9:30am Childcare  
10:00am Church School  
11:20am L & C Choir  
5:30pm **Advent Potluck**

### December 2

7:00pm Women's AA  
7:30pm Bell Choir

### December 3

7:00pm Worship Ministry Team  
7:30pm Facilities

### December 4

7:00pm L&C Choir  
7:30pm Choir

### December 5

4:15pm **Magic Eraser Party**  
7:30pm Men's AA

### December 6

### December 7

9:00am Lessons & Carols Rehearsal

### Sunday

Sanctuary  
Room 4  
Rms 24,25,26  
Choir Loft  
Chapin Hall

### Monday

Fiorilli  
Sanctuary

### Tuesday

Fiorilli  
Parlor

### Wednesday

Sanctuary  
Sanctuary

### Thursday

Sanctuary  
Chapin Hall

### Friday

### Saturday

Sanctuary

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

- 1 John Hoffman
- 2 Joe Kunzelman
- 3 Jennifer Cordes
- 4 John Hummel
- 6 Marty Rowe
- 7 Robert Mullins

*March of the Toys  
Bring in a new, unwrapped  
toy on Sun. Dec 8th*



**MAGIC ERASER PARTY**  
December 5: 4:15pm to 5:30pm  
RHCC families are invited to help  
clean the backs of the pews using  
Magic Erasers (provided).  
Pizza will be served afterwards.  
RSVP to Georgette for dinner,  
and contact Liz Reed-Swale if you  
have questions.



*Bring a friend to our annual Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols*

*Sunday, December 8th - 4:00 p.m.*

*A free-will offering for the Rocky Hill Food Bank will be collected.*

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: [www.RockyHillUCC.org](http://www.RockyHillUCC.org)

Visit us on Facebook at: [www.facebook.com/rhccucc](http://www.facebook.com/rhccucc)

Office Hours: Open Monday – Thursday 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Friday – Closed

### 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

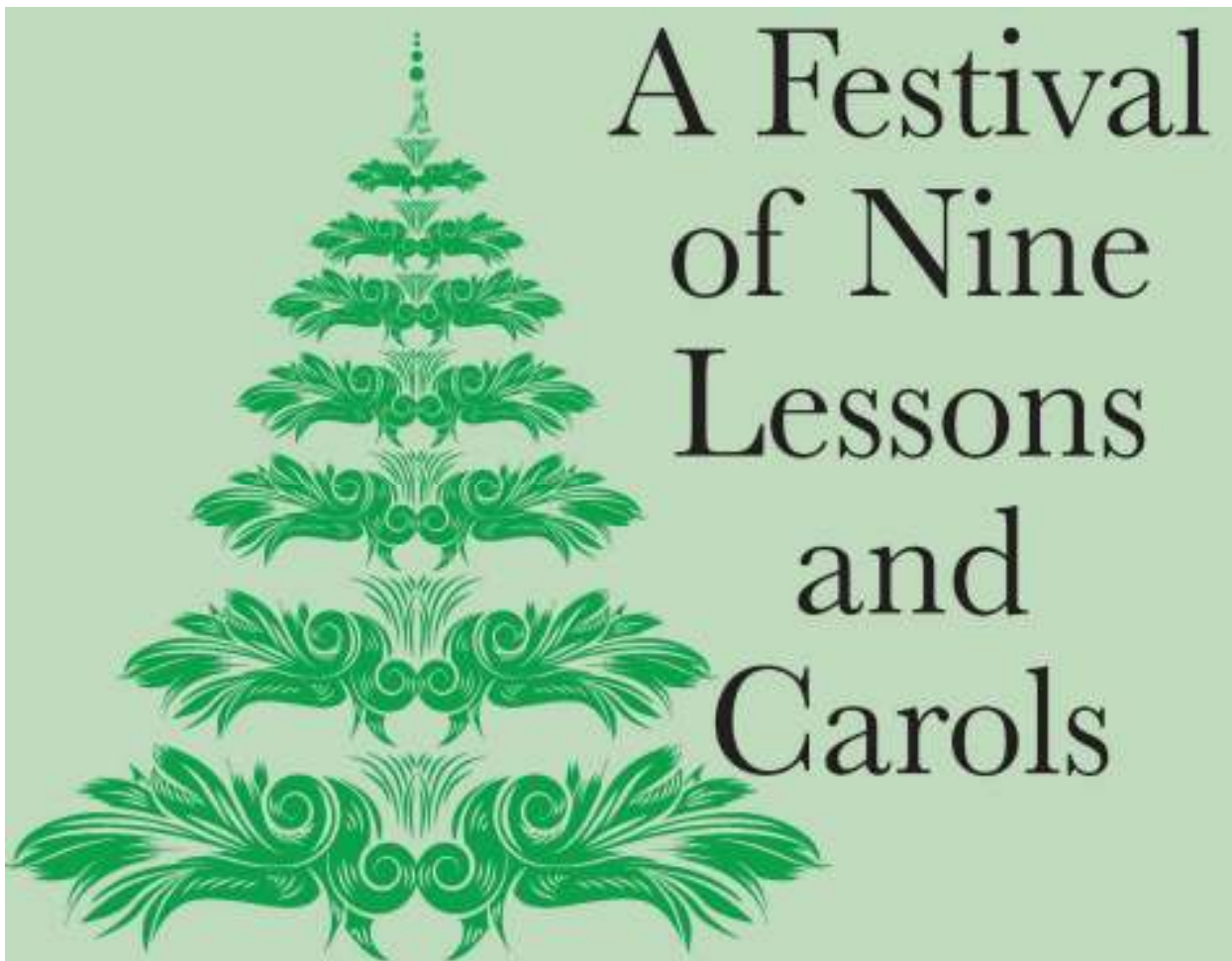
Ministers: All the members of the church

Pastor:	Rev. Nada Sellers	<a href="mailto:nsellers@rhccucc.org">nsellers@rhccucc.org</a>
Minister for Children & Youth:	Georgette Huie	<a href="mailto:ghuie@rhccucc.org">ghuie@rhccucc.org</a>
Minister of Music:	Mary DeLibero	<a href="mailto:mary@rhccucc.org">mary@rhccucc.org</a>
Office Manager:	Theresa E. Cleary	<a href="mailto:office@rhccucc.org">office@rhccucc.org</a>
Webmaster:	Steve Smith	<a href="mailto:admin@rhccucc.org">admin@rhccucc.org</a>

WEATHER CANCELLATION POLICY - In the event of bad winter weather predicted for a Sunday morning, our first priority is to ensure the safety of our church members & friends. If worship is canceled, a notice will be posted Saturday evening or early Sunday morning on the following media outlets:

- Channel 3 WFSB-TV
- Our facebook page – [facebook.com/rhccucc](http://facebook.com/rhccucc)
- Our website – [RockyHillUCC.org](http://RockyHillUCC.org)





**Sunday, December 8, 2019 at 4:00p.m.**  
**Rocky Hill Congregational Church UCC**

805 Old Main Street, Rocky Hill, CT  
860-529-4167 ~ [RockyHillUCC.com](http://RockyHillUCC.com)

We welcome all to share in the beautiful story of the birth of Christ, as told in words and music. Admission is free, and a free-will offering will be collected to benefit the Rocky Hill Food Pantry. A reception will follow the service.

Rocky Hill Congregational Church is an Open and Affirming community of faith, striving to celebrate the diversity in which God has created us. All are welcome here!