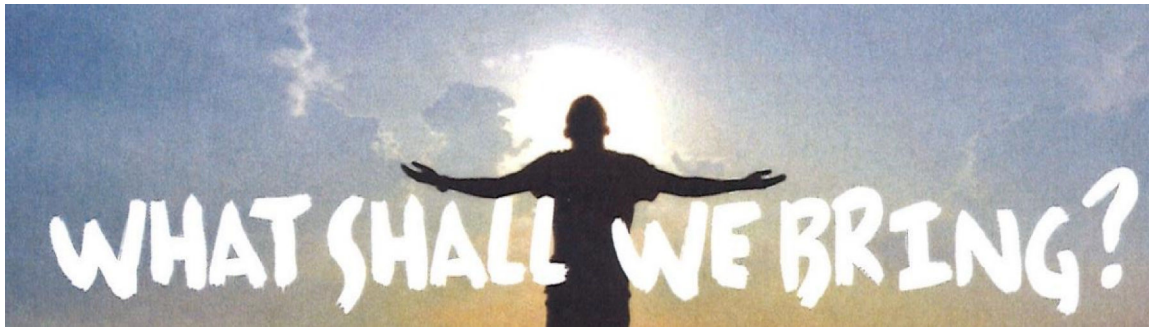


**ROCKY HILL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

*Established 1727 ~ An Open and Affirming Community*



**December 2, 2018 ~ 10:00 a.m.**

**First Sunday of Advent**

**Communion & Consecration Sunday**

## ~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.*

## MINISTRY MOMENT

**PRELUDE** “Pastoral Symphony” (from The Messiah) G.F. Handel

**CALL TO WORSHIP** Nancy Parsons

L: In Advent we watch and wait, and prepare to welcome the Christ Child into the world.

**All: Come, Lord Jesus, come!**

L: In Advent we prepare for a life of discipleship,  
and watch faithfully for signs of God's light breaking into the world.

**All: Come, Lord Jesus, come!**

L: As we wait, our God, we watch for signs of your action in the world,  
Actions of compassion and grace breaking in.

**All: Come, Lord Jesus, come!**

L: Holy God, we recognize that we do not know the day or the hour,  
but we know that the day is near.

**All: Come, Lord Jesus, come! Be born anew in our world and in our lives.**

\*Please rise in body or in spirit.

**Bold type** denotes collective response

**\*INVOCATION AND THE LORD’S PRAYER**

**In this season as the days grow shorter and the shadows lengthen,  
we gather in eager expectation for the Light of the World to dawn.**

**Help us, God, to lay aside all the works of night  
and even our cynicism as we enter this sacred season.**

**During this hour of worship, send your Spirit to empower us  
to live in the light with hope.**

**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**

**"Shepherd Lead Me"**

NCH775

Shep - herd, lead, lead me in your righ-teous-ness,

The first system of music is written for a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment (bass clef). The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The vocal line begins with a half note G4, followed by a quarter note A4, a half note B-flat4, and a quarter note A4. The piano accompaniment consists of a steady bass line with chords. The lyrics are: "Shep - herd, lead, lead me in your righ-teous-ness,".

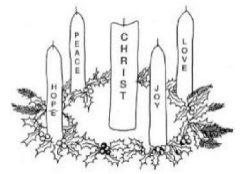
make your way plain be - fore my face. For it is you, God,

The second system continues the melody. The vocal line has a half note G4, a quarter note F4, a half note E-flat4, and a quarter note D4. The piano accompaniment continues with chords. The lyrics are: "make your way plain be - fore my face. For it is you, God,".

you, God on - ly, who makes me to lie down in safe - ty.

The third system concludes the piece. The vocal line has a half note C4, a quarter note B-flat3, a half note A3, and a quarter note G3. The piano accompaniment ends with a final chord. The lyrics are: "you, God on - ly, who makes me to lie down in safe - ty.".

## LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE: HOPE



*Today the Advent wreath will be lit by the Andonucci family.*

One: Today is the beginning of Advent-the preparation time for celebrating Christ's birth. We are here because God's promises to our ancestors came true when Jesus was born. God's promise is kept each Sunday when we worship because Christ is in our midst. God will keep the promise to come again in glory.

Two: We light this candle to proclaim the coming of the light of God into the world. With the coming of this light there is hope. Because of Christ we not only have hope, but we believe that good is stronger than evil. God wants us to work for good in this world. (The first candle is lit.)

Three: O God, we thank you that Jesus brought hope into our world. By the good news of the Bible you are still bringing hope to people. Help us to be ready to welcome Jesus Christ so that we may think good thoughts and do good deeds and so that we may be a people of hope in our world.

**All: Amen.**

## 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 READING**     Jeremiah 33:10-16

Pew Bible, OT p. 738

**SERMON**

“What Shall We Bring?”

Rev. Craig L. Cowing

## **DEDICATION OF OUR 2019 PLEDGES**

*At this time we will dedicate our pledges for financial support of our church for 2019. The pledging ministry will distribute pledge cards for those who do not have them.*

### **\*DEDICATION PRAYER**

*After collected, we will stand and say the following prayer in unison:*

**Gracious and loving God, giver of all that is good.**

**These cards represent our sweat, our lives, our dreams.**

**The pledges which we make on them are but tokens of the awesome gifts that have been given to us.**

**They are pledged in thanksgiving for all we have received and for all we are challenged to become.**

**May they be the first fruits of all we have and not what we have left over, the way you give to us.**

**May we see them as our offering to you, sacred, yet earthy, filled with possibilities.**

**Thank you for helping us recognize how important the mission and ministries of this Church are to us,**

**And our commitment to their continuing. Amen.**

**\*HYMN**

“Take My Life, God Let It Be”

NC 448

## **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 Anthem**     “Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”

arr. Gustav Holtz

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

## \*Prayer of Dedication

### PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

#### Joys & Concerns

#### Sung Call to Prayer

“On Eagle’s Wings”

NCH774



And God will raise you up on ea - gle's wings,



bear you on the breath of dawn, make you to shine like the



sun, and hold you in the palm of God's hand.

#### Pastoral and Silent Prayer

## **Prayer of Confession**

**Holy and Loving God,  
we give thanks for the promise of this sacred season  
and for the joy we find in the Christ Child.  
Yet even as we rejoice,  
we recognize that we often fail to live with the hope of redemption.  
In this season of anticipation, we know that we are easily distracted  
by our own projects and preparation.  
We lose focus on the one who is the Source of our joy.  
Forgive us, God, and restore our hope in you. Amen.**

*(Moment of silence and reflection)*

## **Assurance of Pardon**

The promise of the season of Advent  
is the promise of Emmanuel, God with us.  
Jesus calls us to keep awake so that we are ready for God's arrival.  
Therefore, let us lay aside all those things that distract us from faithful watching for God.  
Friends, believe the Good News of the Gospel:  
**In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

## **THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

*This church practices open Communion. All are welcome to participate, including children, and regardless of denominational affiliation or church membership. 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.*

## **Invitation**

**Recalling the Story: The Words of Institution  
Sharing the Bread and the Cup  
Communion Music**



## Prayer of Thanksgiving

Our God, as we enter this season of Advent we give thanks for this meal that Jesus has given us as a way to renew our faith. We ask that the Christ Child be reborn in our hearts. Help us to lay aside our burdens and follow him as we leave this place. Amen.

## Sharing the Peace of Christ

Now let us share among us a sign of God's peace.

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

## \*HYMN

"Come Thou Long Expected Jesus"

## BENEDICTION

## \*POSTLUDE

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## LITURGIST

Nancy Parsons

## USHERS

Cheryl Hummel, Marge Murk, Wendy Ware

## COMMUNION SERVERS

Bob Carberry, Michael Andonucci

Rich Pawlich-Pagliccio, Cheryl Hummel, Barry Wilcock, Jan LaCava

## HOSPITALITY

Jean Goff & Jeannie Alessi

*The Tower is lit in Loving Memory of Pasquale Accardo by Deanne Accardo*

### 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. We look forward to your enthusiastic participation in our Consecration Sunday Service.

Sincerely, The Pledging Ministry

We would love to hear how you “paid it forward” after receiving the reverse collection on Sunday, November 18th. Please let us know the following:

1. How you planted the seed money (put it to use),
  2. Something God taught you through the process or through someone you interacted with.
- If there is anything else you want to share, we would love to hear it! Please email [office@rhccucc.org](mailto:office@rhccucc.org) or share your story with anyone on the pledging ministry (Jennifer Cordes, Betty Schako, Barry Wilcock or Deb Copes) during coffee hour after any Sunday service.



*Join us as we*

**Celebrate Advent**



**TODAY! December 2, 5pm – 7 pm 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.



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#### ICON OF THE MONTH FOR DECEMBER

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The icon of the month for December is another Renaissance work, painted as a devotional painting. The original is at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, DC. It was painted by Lorenzo de Credi around 1475. For many years it was believed to have been by a young Leonardo da Vinci. This painting is very small, only six inches high, not counting the frame. Come enjoy Pastor Craig's copy of this painting as we anticipate Christmas! It will be on view in the Weil Chapel whenever the church is open.

#### Caring Team Ministry

Poinsettias will be delivered to church members who are no longer able to worship with us; some by the Carolers on Dec 16th and others by volunteers during the following week. If you can help bring the message of the season to others, please, sign up with the Caring Team Ministry on the 'Big Board' in Chapin Hall or speak to Wendy, Don or Steph H.





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.

Join us on Wednesday, December 12, at 6:30 p.m.



## ADVENT & CHRISTMAS SEASON WORSHIP & EVENTS



Sunday, December 2, 10am – Worship with Communion & Consecration of Pledges. 5pm – Family Advent Gathering & Potluck Dinner

Sunday December 9, 10am – Worship, March of the Toys

Sunday, December 9, 4pm – Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols

Wednesday, December 12, 6:30pm – Blue Christmas Service in the Chapel

Thursday, December 13, Christmas Poinsettia Flower orders due

Saturday, December 15, 10:30am – Cookie Walk



Sunday, December 16, 10am – Worship, Covenant to Care gifts due

Sunday, December 16, 2pm – Christmas Caroling to Homebound;



Sunday, December 23, 10am Worship



Monday, 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, throughout December.*

All are invited to attend the  
22nd Annual Memorial Tree Lighting Ceremony  
on Wednesday December 5 at 6pm.

It is an evening of celebrating and remembering loved ones.

Giuliano-Sagarino Brooklawn Funeral Home

511 Brook Street, Rocky Hill

60-721-0087





**Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols ~Sunday,  
December 9, 2018, 4:00 p.m.**

We hope you will attend our Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols on Sunday, December 9 at 4:00 p.m. 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 encourage you 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 to Honor your Loved Ones  
With Christmas Poinsettias*



The plants will adorn the sanctuary for worship on  
Sunday, December 23 through the New Year.

The cost is \$14 per plant.

**Ordering deadline is Thursday, December 13.**

Given by: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

*Dedication ("in loving memory of..." or "in honor of..."):*

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

Please select one: [ ☐ ] I will pick-up my plant after worship on Sunday, December 23

OR

[ ☐ ] Use my plant to decorate the church through Christmas and the New Year.

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.



It's the most wonderful time of the year!

**18th Annual Cookie Walk**

**Saturday, December 15, 2018, 10:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.**

In Chapin Hall. Come fill a tin with homemade cookies and treats!

(Snow Date – December 16, 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.)

**Share a mug:** We have some Holiday mugs that we are going to include in Cookie Walk fare. They will be set out in Chapin Hall this morning after worship for your to pick up. If you cannot bake or in addition to baking please take a mug (or more), fill with any goodies: some suggestions include nuts, candy, snack mixes, homemade coffees or teas, wrap in clear wrap and return to be sold at the Cookie Walk. There will be a sample there if instructions are unclear. Thanks. There will also be a sign-up for baking at that time. See Marsha Hoffman with questions. Be sure to come to Chapin Hall on the day of the walk, bring a friend, and buy a tin of your choice and fill it up!

**Sunday, December 16 – 2:00pm– Carol Sing! All are welcome!**

Join us for an afternoon of singing everyone's favorite Christmas carols. We will be visiting several nursing houses and our church family shut-ins and sharing our gifts. All ages welcome. We will meet at the church and car pool, then return to the church afterward for light refreshments.

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

**Covenant to Care for Children**

Help us to make the holidays special for children in need. Our congregation is partnered with a Covenant to Care social worker who we support throughout the year. 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. Gifts will be collected now through December 16th, so they can be delivered in time for Christmas. For more information, please contact Heather Collins  
at:heathercollins2004@gmail.com



**March of the Toys! – Sunday, December 9**

We'll collect unwrapped toys on Sunday, December 9. The toys collected will be brought to the Hartford Seminary where they will be distributed to Hartford area families in need. *Thank you: Anita Cowing, Heather Collins, Marge Murk, Elaine Sellenberg and Sue Speers.*



# 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, Shell, Sunoco
- Pharmacy: CVS, Walgreens
- Fast food: Boston Market, Chipotle, McDonalds, Panera, Subway, Wendy's
- Restaurants: Bonefish Grill, Outback Steakhouse, Red Lobster
- Shopping: Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Bed Bath & Beyond, Home Depot, Kohl's, iTunes, L.L. Bean, Lowes, Michaels, Payless Shoes, Target, Walmart
- Grocery: Big Y, Stop & Shop, Trader Joe's, WholeFoods, Westside Market

The next order for cards not stocked in inventory will be placed on **December 9** (with delivery on Dec. 16). This will be the final order placed in 2018. 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. 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

### December 2

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

### December 3

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

### December 4

7:00pm Ministry Teams  
7:00pm Hearing Voices

### December 5

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

### December 6

7:30pm Men's AA

### December 7

9:30am Music Together

### December 8

9:00am Lessons & Carols Rehearsal

### Sunday

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

### Monday

Chapin Hall  
Sanctuary

### Tuesday

Fiorilli, Parlor, Chapin  
Room 22

### Wednesday

Sanctuary  
Sanctuary

### Thursday

Chapin Hall

### Friday

Room 22

### Saturday

Sanctuary



- |   |                 |
|---|-----------------|
| 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 9th!*



*Bring a friend to our annual  
Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols  
Sunday, December 9th - 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](https://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: Theresa E. Cleary [office@rhccucc.org](mailto:office@rhccucc.org)

Webmaster: Steve Smith [admin@rhccucc.org](mailto:admin@rhccucc.org)