

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

Established 1727 ~ An Open and Affirming Community



December 4, 2016 ~ 10:00 a.m.

Second 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

“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”
The Handbell Choir

arr. Kevin Bryant

LIGHTING OF THE SECOND ADVENT CANDLE: HOPE

The Advent candles will be lit this morning by Kaedryn Pulling and her family.

One: We are God's gathered people.

Barry Wilcock

Many: And so come to this moment filled with holy hope.

(The candle of Hope is lit)

One: May justice roll down

Many: And peace flow like a mighty river around the world

One: May equity be the reality for generations yet to come

Many: And may peace flow throughout humanity, as it did with the One

One: The One who was sent here, the One who sent us, the One whose power never fails

Many: Peace is possible and we are resolved today to believe.

For if God be for us, then anything we dream of can be a reality.

We light this candle as we proclaim peace around the world.

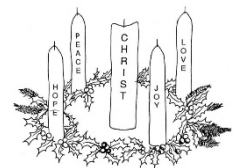
We stand together, from one end of the Earth to the other, knowing God is with us.

(The candle of Peace is lit)

Prayer

**Please rise in body or in spirit.*

Bold type denotes collective response



***INVOCATION AND THE LORD’S PRAYER**

In the season of Advent, when the past has fled away and there is nothing to do but wait, shelter us, Our God. Be our surrounding darkness; be the fertile soil out of which hope springs in due time. In uncertain times, help us to greet the dawn and labor on, love on, in faith awaiting your purpose hidden in you waiting to be born in due time. 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**

NC 743

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

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

DEDICATION OF THE CONFIRMANDS

Introduction

Address to the Confirmands

Leader: Kaedryn, Frank, Emily, and Julia; we rejoice in your experience of the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit.

ALL: In the love of Christ we encourage you, and pray that God will continue to bless you.

Leader: Sarah, Liz, Jim, and Candi, we give thanks for your experience of God's presence made known to us in Jesus Christ, and for your willingness to enter into this journey with these young people.

ALL: In the love of Christ we encourage you, and pray that God will continue to bless you.

Prayer

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 score is written on three staves in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a common time signature (C). The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes. 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."

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 11:1-10

Pew Bible NT p640

SERMON

“The New Branch”

Rev. Craig L. Cowing

***HYMN**

“Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming”

NC (black)127

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 Be Silence “
The Choir

arr. Gustav Holst

***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

Prayer of Confession

All: Our God, we confess that it is not easy to wait for you. Our world worships the power that acts quickly through force. How difficult it is for us to wait for the power of your reign which comes slowly through love. We admit that while claiming to desire your reign of peace and justice, we cling to our own ways, and we leave little room for you to act in our lives. Forgive us, and show us how to clear a path for you. Come to us in Christ, and reveal your reign on earth.

Silent Prayer

Assurance of God's Love

Leader: God says, "Remember these things, O Israel, for you are my servant. I will not forget you. I have swept away your transgressions like a cloud, and your sins like mist. Return to me, for I have redeemed you." In the name of Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven.

All: Amen

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

Prayer of Thanksgiving

We thank you, Our God, for giving us spiritual food and drink, and eternal life through Jesus your servant. We ask you to be mindful of your church, to preserve us against all evil, and to perfect us in your love, that we may serve you in your world. 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).*

BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

LITURGIST

Barry Wilcock

COMMUNION SERVERS

Sarah DeGiovanni, Gail Hall, Cheryl Hummel
Rich Pawlich-Pagliccio, Don Pagnucco, Stephanie Heneghan

USHERS

Victoria Bower, Margie Butkiewicz & Allen Cudmore, and Wendy Ware

HOSPITALITY

Jennifer Martin & Sue VanNess

Today we celebrate the beginning of the confirmation process for our four confirmands, Kaedryn Pulling, Julia O'Connor, Frank DiRenzo, and Emily McKenna, and their mentors, Liz Reed-Swale, Candi Smith, Jim Stevens, and Sarah DeGiovanni.

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 – Advent Family Night

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.

21st Annual Memorial Tree Lighting Ceremony

All are invited to attend on Wednesday December 7 at 6:30pm.

It is an evening of celebrating and remembering loved ones.

Giuliano-Sagarino Brooklawn Funeral Home

511 Brook Street, Rocky Hill

860-721-0087



ADVENT & CHRISTMAS SEASON CHRISTMAS AND ADVENT WORSHIP & EVENTS

- | | |
|-----------------------|--|
| Sunday, December 4 | 2 nd Sunday of Advent, 10am Worship/Communion
<i>ADVENT FAMILY NIGHT Potluck Dinner, 5pm</i> |
| Sunday, December 11 | 3 rd Sunday of Advent, 10am Worship
<i>FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS & CAROLS, 4pm</i> |
| Thursday, December 15 | Blue Christmas Service, 7pm |
| Saturday, December 17 | <i>COOKIE WALK, 10:30 am – 1:30 pm</i> |
| Sunday, December 18 | 4th Sunday of Advent, 10am Worship
<i>2nd Hour Program: History of Christmas Carols</i> |
| Sunday, December 18 | <i>CHRISTMAS CAROLING, 1:30pm</i> |
| Saturday, December 24 | Christmas Eve Worship Services at 5pm and 11pm |
| Sunday, December 25 | Christmas Day Worship 10am in the Chapel |
| Sunday, January 1 | New Year's Day Service 10am in the Chapel/Communion |
| Sunday, January 8 | Worship at 10am and Epiphany Pageant |

Christmas Caroling Sunday December 18, 1:30pm to 4:00pm.

Join the Music Committee for an afternoon of singing your favorite Christmas carols and spreading love to others! We will be visiting several nursing houses and our homebound church members and sharing our gifts. All ages and singing abilities are welcome. We will meet at the church and car pool and come back to the church afterward for light refreshments



CANDLE LIGHTING FOR LOSS

During this season of joy for most families, there are those who have lost a child, making the season difficult and empty. Sunday, the 11th of December is a day we can each light a candle in remembrance of all children we have lost to death.



The Compassionate Friends, a national self-help organization for families who have experienced the death of a child, invites everyone to light a candle for one hour at 7p.m. local time. Candles are first lit west of the International Date Line, and then an hour later in the next time zone, encircling the globe in a 24-hour wave of light. The remembrance is held the second Sunday in December each year.

Those remembering a child are invited to share their thoughts on the memory board at the national website: www.compassionatefriends.org. Or call the national office 877-969-0010. The compassionate Friends has nearly 600 chapters in the U.S. and a presence in 30 countries. We do this in remembrance of our children, that their light may always shine.

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!



March of the Toys Sunday, December 18

The board of missions will host the 'March of Toys' on Sunday, December 18. We will take any new and unwrapped toy. You can also donate money or purchase a gift card through Scrip and a member of the Board for Missions will be more than happy to purchase a toy on your behalf. -Kari



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. Order forms are available in the Narthex and in Chapin Hall. *This year a choice of either a Red or White Poinsettia is available.*



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

Lessons and Carols is a beautiful service of short scripture readings and music celebrating the story of Christmas. There is no admission charge, a free-will offering will be taken to support the Rocky Hill Food Pantry. As always, a lovely reception will follow. Please share the peace and hope of this lovely service with others. 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. Help us do the same this year. Remember: ***ALL are welcome here!!!***
Your Music Committee

Rocky Hill Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
Presents

A Festival of Nine Lessons And Carols



Sunday, December 11, 2016

4:00 p.m.

805 Old Main Street, Rocky Hill, CT

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, Bonefish 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

Next Sunday (Dec 11) is the final deadline to order gift cards (that are not stocked in inventory) before Christmas. A comprehensive listing of all available retailers can be picked up at the scrip table in Chapin Hall. Cards ordered by next week will be available for pickup on December 18.

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 4

10:00am **Worship**
9:30am **Childcare**
10:00am **Church School**
11:20am *L & C Choir*
4:00pm **Tamil School**
5:00pm **Advent Family Night**

Sunday

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



December 5

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

Monday

Chapin Hall
Sanctuary
Sanctuary

December 6

7:00pm **Boards & Committees**
7:00pm **Hearing Voices**

Tuesday

Fiorilli
Room 22

December 7

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

Wednesday

Chapin Hall
Sanctuary
Sanctuary

December 8

7:30pm **Men's AA**

Thursday

Chapin Hall

December 9

Friday

- | | |
|---|-----------------|
| 1 | John Hoffman |
| 2 | Joe Kunzelman |
| 3 | Jennifer Cordes |
| 4 | John Hummel |
| 6 | Marty Rowe |
| 7 | Robert Mullins |
| 9 | Amy Murk |

*Reminder:
Lessons & Carols
Rehearsal will be held
on
Saturday, December 10*



*Bring a friend to our annual
Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols
Sunday, December 11th - 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 / 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