

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



December 8, 2019 ~ 10:00 a.m.
Second Sunday of Advent
Consecration Sunday

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~

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SOLO Come Unto Him (*from The Messiah*) G.F. Handel
Melody Hall, Soprano; Dave Hall, cello

*CALL TO WORSHIP Rob Grandell

One Show us your mercy, O God,

Right side ***and grant us your salvation.***

One Truth will spring up from the earth,

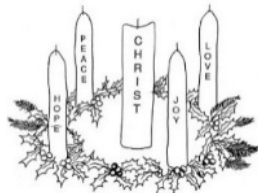
Left side ***and righteousness shall come down from on high.***

One See, a voice, cries in the wilderness,

All **“Prepare the way of the Lord!”**

LIGHTING OF THE FIRST & SECOND ADVENT CANDLES: PEACE & HOPE

Today the Advent wreath will be lit by the Grandell family.



(*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 as hope-filled people; and we hunger to be transformed into the likeness of your son, Jesus.

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

When the Night Becomes Dark

music of Taizé

(repeat 3 times)

Em Am⁶ E Am E

When the night be - comes dark, your love, O Lord,

Am E C⁶ Dm C F⁶ E Am

is a fire; your love, O Lord, is a fire.

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

MARCH OF THE TOYS



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.

ANTHEM

I Wonder as I Wander

Appalachian Carol

arr. Richard Shephard

The Choir, Liz Reed-Swale, Soprano; Dave Hall; Tenor

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Hebrew Scriptures

Isaiah 11:1-10

New Testament

Matthew 3:1-12

SERMON

“Getting Ready”

Rev. Nada Sellers

Sharing some moments of silent reflection...



*HYMN

Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming

NCH 127

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.

BEARING WITNESS – Stories of Faith: Liz Reed-Swale, Dave Hall, Barry Wilcock

DEDICATION OF OUR 2020 PLEDGES

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

Members from the Pledging Ministry Team will distribute pledge cards for those who do not have them.

*DEDICATION PRAYER *(together)*

With joy we offer to you, O God, 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 servants. May we grow in community, 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 OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen”

Traditional Carol arr. Kevin McChesney
The Bell Choir

*The 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.

Pastoral Prayer with Joys & Concerns

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 hope...

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

All: Amen!

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

Choir

POSTLUDE

Largetto Pastorale

Domenico Zipoli

LITURGIST
USHERS
GREETER
HOSPITALITY

Rob Grandell
Dave Sageman, Wendy Ware
Joan Tennyson
InReach

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

Consecration Sunday

Congregations that approach financial stewardship from a biblical perspective do not view the money Christians give to their church merely to pay its bills. Rather, such congregations see financial contributions 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 are grateful for your presence here today, and for your participation in our Consecration Sunday Service.

Sincerely, The Time, Talent, Treasure Ministry/Pledge Team.



Outreach & Witness Ministry - Help us make the holidays special for children in need.

March of the Toys! - We will collect unwrapped toys during worship today.

The toys will be brought to the Hartford Seminary where they will be distributed to Hartford area families in need.

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 information with children's ages and wishes. Please let us know as soon as possible so we can coordinate a gift for each child.*** 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 drives, please contact Heather Collins

at: heathercollins2004@gmail.com

A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols – Today at 4:00 p.m.

This special Christmas service is held by Christians around the world to celebrate the story of Christ's coming, in words and music. The service reflects our desire to deepen your experience 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 encourage you to attend today and bring a friend!
Sincerely, Your Music Ministry.



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 8th 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.



ADVENT & CHRISTMAS SEASON - WORSHIP & EVENTS



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

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



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

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 that coinciding with a holiday season can be difficult. This will be a meditative service of music, prayer and readings.

Sunday, December 15, 10:00am – Worship, Covenant to Care gifts due;
Christmas Poinsettia Flower orders due



Sunday, December 15, 1:00pm – Cookie Walk/Sale, followed by
5:30pm – Family Advent Gathering & Potluck Dinner

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!

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.



A new sign-up portal for Liturgists, Ushers and Sunday building opening, can be found on our website: 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.



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. Donations will be collected now through January 5.

Congregational Care Ministry



- Please, remember to sign up to help Inreach with coffee hours. There will be a sign-up sheet available.
- In addition, Lessons and Carols concert needs volunteers to set up the goodies for a reception after the music. (Music ministry will clean up.)
- Christmas Caroling group is hoping for lovely weather and many cheerful voices on Dec. 22nd in the afternoon to bring the sounds of the seasons to shut-ins in our community.
- Poinsettias will be delivered to church members who are unable to attend worship. There is an opportunity to sign up and bring a flower and a smile to someone during this season of joy.
- As always, please, let the church office know if someone is hospitalized or ill and in need of a cheerful note or visit. -Don Pagnucco, Wendy Ware, Steph Heneghan

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: Bonafish 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.

The next order for physical cards not stocked in inventory will be placed on **December 15** (with delivery on December 22). E-cards may be ordered anytime. A complete listing of all retailers available through our program can be picked up at the scrip table in Chapin Hall. After December 15, the next order will not be placed until late January.

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 8

10:00am Worship
9:30am Childcare
10:00am Church School
11:00am Rehearsals for Lessons & Carols
4:00pm Lessons & Carols Festival
5:30pm Reception

Sunday

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

9 Amy Murk
14 Dave Hall
14 David Bradstreet

December 9

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

Monday

Fiorilli
Sanctuary

December 10

Cookie walk baking all week

Tuesday

Chapin Hall

December 11

6:00pm Blue Christmas Service
7:30pm Choir

Wednesday

Weil Chapel
Sanctuary

December 12

5:30pm Young Mother's group
7:30pm Men's AA

Thursday

Chapin/Rm 6
Chapin Hall

December 13

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
11:00pm Preschool Holiday

Friday

Chapin

December 14

Saturday



BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE
WED, DECEMBER 11th at
6PM 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.

19th Annual Cookie Walk & Sale: Sunday, December 15, 1:00pm – 3:30pm, in Chapin Hall. Come fill a tin with homemade cookies and treats! We are looking for people who can bake for the Cookie Walk. Sign up Chapin Hall or call Marsha Hoffman. Be sure to come to on the day of the walk; bring a friend, and buy a tin of your choice and fill it up!



Sunday, December 15, 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. This event was rescheduled from Dec 1 due to snow.

Join us as we
Celebrate Advent



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: www.RockyHillUCC.org

Visit us on Facebook & Instagram at: [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.

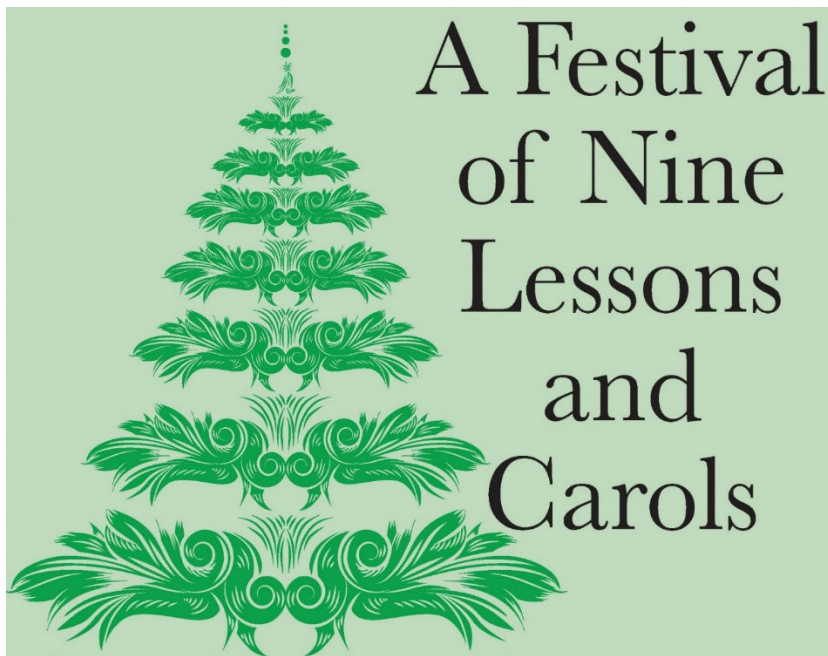
Approved by congregational vote June 2009

Ministry Team

Ministers:	All the members of the church	
Pastor:	Rev. Nada Sellers	nsellers@rhccucc.org
Minister for Children & Youth:	Georgette Huie	ghuie@rhccucc.org
Minister of Music:	Mary DeLibero	mary@rhccucc.org
Office Manager:	Theresa E. Cleary	office@rhccucc.org
Webmaster:	Steve Smith	admin@rhccucc.org

WEATHER CANCELLATION POLICY - In the event of bad winter weather predicted for a Sunday morning, our 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
- Our website – 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

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!