

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

Established 1727 ~ An Open and Affirming Community



**December 11, 2016 ~ 10:00 a.m.
Third 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.*

INTROIT

“O Come Little Children”

Danish Carol

The Children's Choir with Ben and Will Rolfe, orchestra bells; Eric Jokl, violin

LIGHTING OF THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE: JOY

The Advent candles are lit today by Frank DiRenzo and his family.

One: There are some blessings that are only revealed to us when the day is darkest.

Many: There are some mercies that only shine when the shadows are deepest.

One: There are some graces that are only glimpsed when the night is the longest.

Many: O come, O come Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel.

**The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,
the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus
it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing.**

One: In Advent, we remember the darkest days,

Many: and await the brilliant light of hope.

(The candle of **Hope** is lit)

One: In Advent, we remember the thirsty days,

Many: and await the quenching light of peace.

(The candle of **Peace** is lit)

**Please rise in body or in spirit.*

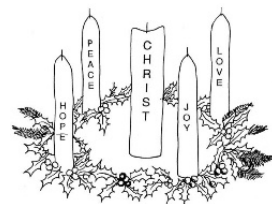
Bold type denotes collective response

LIGHTING OF THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE: JOY

One: In Advent, we remember the silent days,

Many: and await the singing light of joy.

(The candle of **Joy** is lit)



One: Say to those who are of a fearful heart,

"Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God...who will come and save you."

**Many: Our souls magnify the Lord and our spirits rejoice in God,
our Savior.**

Prayer

***HYMN**

"Watcher, Tell Us of the Night"

NC (black) 103

***INVOCATION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER**

O God, we come today echoing John the Baptist's question to Jesus:

"Are you the one who is to come?"

Give us eyes to see and ears to hear the answer for ourselves:

In the work of justice: Christ!

In the practice of mercy: Christ!

In good news for the poor: Christ!

In the vision of peace: Christ!

**Make us ready, with open hearts and joyful spirits, to follow in Christ's way. 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
I am God. Be still and know that I am God.

The musical score is written for a single melodic line on a treble clef staff. The key signature has one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 4/4. The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes, with some measures containing rests. The lyrics are printed below the staff, aligned with the notes.

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.

The musical score is written for a single melodic line on a treble clef staff. The key signature has two sharps (D# and F#), and the time signature is common time (C). The melody is simple and repetitive, with lyrics printed below the staff.

ANTHEM

“All Earth is Hopeful”

David M. Cherwien

The Choir

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 35:1-10

Pew Bible NT p663

SERMON

“Traveling on God’s Highway”

Rev. Craig L. Cowing

*HYMN

“In the Bleak Midwinter”

NC (black)128

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.

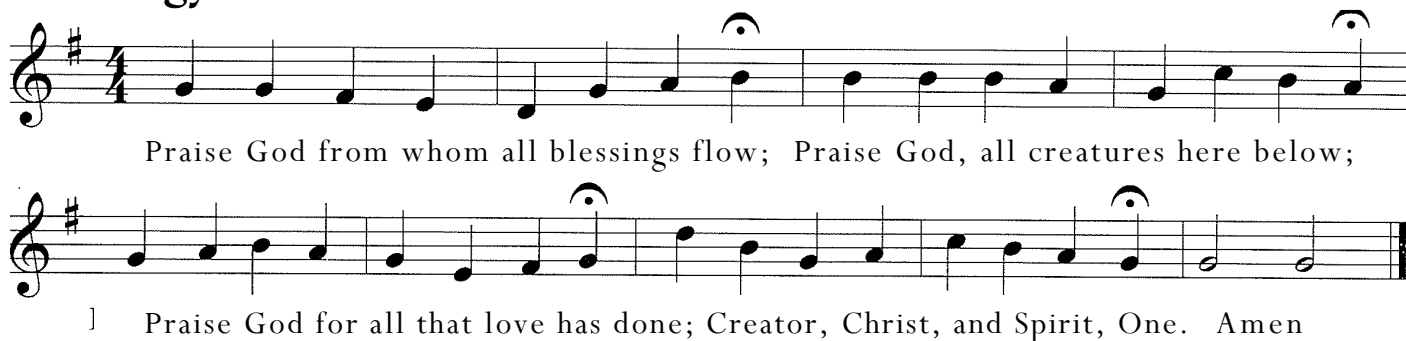
Offertory Duet

“Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming”

arr., Dave Hall

Melody and Dave Hall, cello

*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

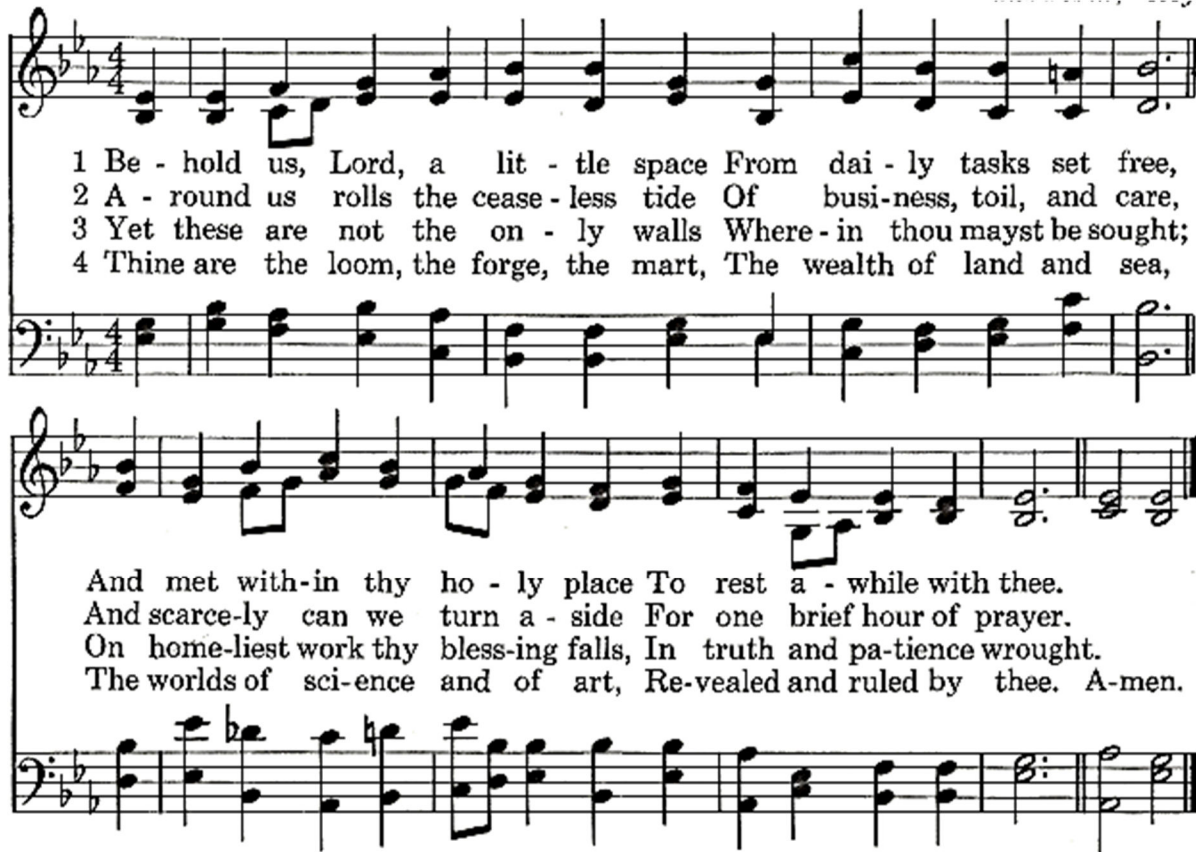
*Prayer of Dedication

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**

“Come, We Who Love God’s Name”

NC 382

BENEDICTION

***POSTLUDE**

“Old Polish Carol”

arr. Don McKeever

LITURGIST

Steph Heneghan

USHERS

Bea Donahue & Bob Simmons, David & Bobbie Hawkins

HOSPITALITY

Arianna Baret-Peralta & Allan Smith

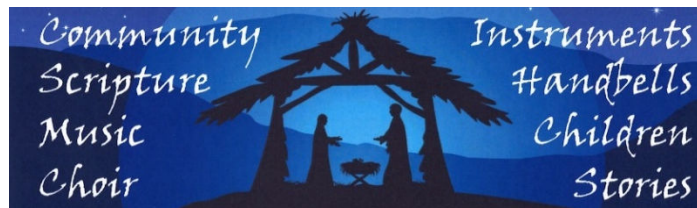
Today’s altar flowers were given in loving memory of

Stephanie Parsons

By Nancy Parsons and family



Today at 4:00 p.m.
**A Festival of
Nine Lessons And Carols**



Blue Christmas Service, Thursday, December 15, 7:00pm

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.



*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

Fill out an order form (available in the Narthex and in Chapin Hall) and give to Kim Burghoff.

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



Sunday, December 18: CHRISTMAS CAROL SECOND HOUR

Join us after worship for a Second Hour Program
on the History of Christmas Carols, led by Rev. Craig.

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.

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



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24th

5:00pm - Intergenerational

Service with candlelight

11:00pm - Candlelight and

Communion

All are welcome here



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

Today 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 today 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 11

10:00am **Worship**
9:30am **Childcare**
10:00am **Church School**
4:00pm **Tamil School**
4:00pm **LESSONS & CAROLS**
6:00pm **Reception**

Sunday

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

December 12

Cookie walk prep all week
7:00pm **Women's AA**

Monday

Chapin Hall
Chapin Hall

December 13

7:00pm **Council**
7:00pm **Hearing Voices**

Tuesday

Fiorilli
Room 22

December 14

9:00am **Breakfast Club**
6:00pm **Pilates**
7:30pm **Choir**

Wednesday

Bob's Coffee Shop
Chapin Hall
Sanctuary

December 15

5:30pm **Meeting**
7:00pm **Blue Christmas Service**
7:30pm **Men's AA**

Fiorilli
Sanctuary
Chapin Hall

December 16

Friday

December 17

Saturday

Cookie Walk! Saturday, December 17
from 10:30am - 1:30pm.

Come fill a tin with homemade cookies
and treats for the Holidays!

(Snow Date – December 18, 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.)



13 Thelma Somes

14 Dave Hall

15 Linda Grillo



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