

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

Established 1727~ An Open and Affirming Community

**Third
Sunday
of
Advent**



December 14, 2014 ~ 10:00 a.m.

~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 and large-print bulletins** are available for worship—ask an usher. **Nursery care** is always available down the hall in Room 4.*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Rev. Dr. Brenda Pelc-Faszczka

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 pastors 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

CALL TO WORSHIP

The Rev. Meghan D. Young

Joy! Joy! The season of Advent promises us this,
**that those who watch and wait
will already know the joy of the coming light:**

Good news to the poor and broken-hearted,
a song of praise instead of sorrow.

The season of Advent promises us this:
**prepared hearts are ready hearts,
ready for the fullness of God's gifts.**

People of God, watching and waiting ones, today let us praise,
for the gift of God's joy is on its way.

**Please rise in body or in spirit.*

****Bold type denotes collective response.***

***GATHERING PRAYER AND THE LORD’S PRAYER**

Gather us now once more, O God, as an Advent people –
as those who trust your coming,
still, now and always:

coming into our hearts, where we are holding fear,
and into the heart of the world, where we long for peace.

Come and announce your Word to us,
disturb us with its newness, awaken us to its promise,
and help us bring it to birth --
even here, even now.

In Christ’s name and spirit we pray, as we also say together:

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

The musical notation is written on two staves in a 6/8 time signature. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of lyrics, with chords Dm, Gm, C, F, Dm, Gm, C, and F above it. The second staff contains the melody for the second line of lyrics, with chords Dm, Gm, C, F, Dm, Gm, C, and F above it. The lyrics are: "Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, in ex - cel - sis De - o!" and "Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!".

LIGHTING OF THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE: JOY

Ellie Maher
Bay Tran

In this season of Advent, we are here to watch and wait and pray for the coming of light into the world. We long for the day when the things of darkness – selfishness and greed, suffering and oppression - shall be no more. Today we light the third candle of Advent – a symbol of the joy to come.

**A candle burns, a symbol of our joy.
God of hope, peace and joy,
come to us again this Advent.
May the joy of this season be born again within us,
burning as a light within our lives.**

The third (pink) candle is lit.

Lord, by your presence,
light up the past, that we might learn from it with thankfulness.
Light up the present, that we might live in it with love.
Light up the future, that we might prepare for it in hope.

**As we watch and wait and pray for this Advent season,
may we be ready to encounter the One
who is always and already with us. Amen.**

Sung by all: *Gloria, gloria, in excelsis deo.
Gloria, gloria, alleluia, alleluia.*

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES

THE SACRAMENT OF CHRISTIAN BAPTISM (inserted in the bulletin)

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."

ANTHEM

“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”
The Jubilate Handbell Choir

Setting Kevin Bryant

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURES

SERMON

The Rev. Tamara Moreland

***HYMN**

“Come, O Long-Expected Jesus”

New Century (black) 122

OFFERING OF GIFTS

Following the receiving of offerings by the ushers, the pastor(s) will come to the center aisle to receive 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

“Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring”

J.S. Bach

The Choir with Katie Hoffman-Fulda, flute

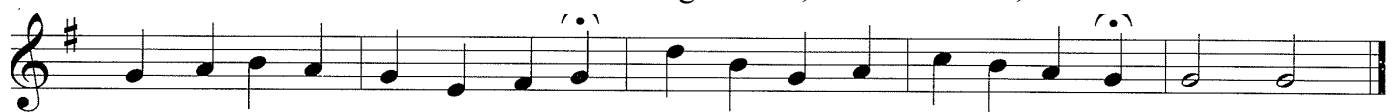
*Jesu, joy of man's desiring,
Holy wisdom, Love most bright,
Drawn by Thee, our souls aspiring,
Soar to uncreated light.*

*Word of God, our flesh that fashion'd,
With the fire of life impassion'd,
Striving still to Truth unknown,
Soaring, dying, round Thy throne.*

***Doxology**



Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here



Praise God for all that love has done; Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen

***Prayer of Dedication**
PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE
Joys & Concerns

Sung Call to Prayer

Hear our prayer, O God, hear our prayer, O God; in -
cline your ear to us, and grant us your peace.

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of two systems of music. The first system has a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The second system also has a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "Hear our prayer, O God, hear our prayer, O God; in - cline your ear to us, and grant us your peace."

Pastoral and Silent Prayer

- *HYMN** "People, Look East" inserted in bulletin
 - *BENEDICTION**
 - *POSTLUDE**
-

- ACOLYTES** Tyler Morgan and Brian Speers
- USHERS** Steve Smith, Deb Copes, Kim Burghoff, Bay Tran, Steph Heneghan
- GREETERS** Niki Graham and Louis and Frankie Dizenzo
- HOSPITALITY** Jennifer Hernandez and Jean Goff

This morning we welcome the Rev. Tamara Moreland, Regional Minister for the North Central Region of the Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ. Tamara is the Conference staff person who has been the main denominational resource to our Pastoral Search Committee.

The tower is lit this week in memory of Catherine Macri

by Joan Tennyson.

S.P.I.R.I.T. Corner

Serve, Pray, Invite, Receive, Ignite, Tell

S.P.I.R.I.T. Faith Nurture Ideas

(Parents: Pick-Up your child in Chapin Hall)

These faith nurture ideas coordinate with the weekly session plans for church school. We hope you will join us in learning, teaching, and growing together!

Here's what we're learning about this week...

LESSON → Los Posadas

Mexico has a celebration called *Los Posadas*. This is a reenactment of the journey of Mary and Joseph to find a safe place to stay in Jerusalem and have their baby. *Los Posadas* happens during the last 12 days of Advent. Each night Mary and Joseph go from house to house asking if there is room for them to stay. Some places say there is "no room," just like the inn keeper. But finally, on Christmas Eve, there is one place that welcomes Mary and Joseph to stay.

Our hearts and our homes must be open to all who need help and hospitality, just like Mary and Joseph did. Scan the news this week. Look around your office. Look around your school. Take a closer look at your neighborhood. Who needs our welcome, prayers, and hospitality?

Prayer For The Week: God, help us to open our eyes and our hearts to the journeys you made, and help us to know you are always with us. *Amen.*

NOAH'S TABLE (6th-8th Grade) – Holiday Party – December 21, 5 PM – 7 PM

Join us for our annual youth group Holiday Party. Come for a meal, a unique advent game, prayer and reflection, and some cooking baking. Please RSVP by Friday, December 19, with Meghan Young at Meghan@rhccucc.org. 1 Adult volunteer is needed for this gathering.

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY



Several church members are interested in restarting a men's Bible study group. You may recall, about six men would meet once a month on Saturday morning in the church parlor room. If you would like to join a men's group to learn more about the Bible, faith building and the power of prayer with men of our church. PLEASE CONTACT JIM STEVENS (860-632-5810) OR SEE HIM AT CHURCH.

CHRISTMAS CARD DISPLAY



Please take a moment to view the new exhibit in the cabinet on the wall opposite the office. Joan Tennyson and Nancy Edwards have artfully displayed a collection of Christmas cards created by Nancy through the years. They are truly beautiful to view.

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.

Today is the last day to order scrip before Christmas. Order forms may be turned in at the scrip table this morning, or your order may be emailed to treasurer@rhccucc.org by tonight. Cards ordered today will be available for pickup next Sunday, Dec. 21. Our next order will not be placed until January 6. Plan accordingly.

We continue to have a variety of cards in inventory from more than 35 different restaurants and retailers, available for immediate purchase this morning, including (but not limited to):

Coffee: Dunkin Donuts, Starbucks

Fast food: Boston Market, Burger King, 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, On the Border

Shopping: Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Bed Bath & Beyond, Best Buy, Home Depot, Kohl's, iTunes, Lowes, Marshall's, Shutterfly, Staples, Target, Walmart

See Gail Hall at the scrip table this morning for a complete listing of available cards, or to have all of your questions answered.

THINK SCRIP!

"VERSIONS OF CHRISTMAS"

*A one-session Scripture study on the nativity texts in the gospels
with Rev. Brenda*



Tues., Dec. 16, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

We are often not aware that the stories of the birth of Jesus come in two almost entirely different versions in the New Testament. The two versions have been combined by Christians to make the one traditional, familiar Christmas story that we tell every year. But that composite story itself does not exist in Scripture. What can we learn for our own spiritual journeys through Advent and Christmas by paying close attention to what is and isn't there in the texts? And to the questions raised by the fact that we have differing versions to begin with? Come and enjoy some enlightening exploration and conversation... and some holiday goodies.

LIGHT A CANDLE TONIGHT DECEMBER 14

As we enter a season that is filled with joy and happiness for most people, there are those who have lost a beloved child, that find this time difficult. The emptiness can be overwhelming. It is a time when Compassionate Friends, a national self-help organization, invites everyone to light a candle for one hour in remembrance of these children at 7:00pm local time, on Dec. 14th, the second Sunday in December.

Candles are first lit west of the International Date Line, then an hour later in the next time zone, eventually encircling the globe in a 24 hour wave of light.

Won't you join in, that their light may shine out to us all.

Website – www.compassionatefriends.org

Joan Tennyson



CHRISTMAS EVE

WEDNESDAY, December 24

**5:00pm Intergenerational Service
with candlelight**

11:00pm Candlelight and Communion

CHRISTMAS PRESENT DRIVE FOR COVENANT TO CARE



This year, we will again be collecting gifts to benefit the children in the Covenant to Care programs. This is a wonderful way to give the struggling children in our communities the gift of Christmas love. Kari McCaw-Blaise has a list of children who need presents. See her after church, email her at kariblaise@hotmail.com or call her at 860-803-4852 if you are interested in participating. Gifts will be collected until Sunday, December 21



14th ANNUAL COOKIE WALK

Yes, it's that time of year again!

Time to pull out your rolling pins and sifters and feed your sweet tooth!

This year we will be doing things slightly different. Based on the feedback we received last year, we have changed the format slightly. It will be held on

SATURDAY December 20

10:30 AM until 2 PM .

The snow date will be SUNDAY December 21 after church.

Proceeds from the walk help support the Music program here at RHCC.

Pre-packaged tins and pre-orders will be available. If you would like to pre order you can contact Linda Tokarski (860-633-8413. or [ltokarski 64@gmail.com](mailto:ltokarski64@gmail.com)) or Marsha Hoffman (860-563-1367).

Please help us by signing up after church in Chapin Hall and baking a batch (or 2) of your favorite cookies. They can be dropped off in Chapin Hall Friday afternoon (December 19) between 2 and 6 or Saturday morning before 10.





**CHRISTIAN ACTIVITIES COUNCIL
CHRISTMAS PARTY:
YOU ARE ALL INVITED TO OUR ANNUAL CHRISTMAS
PARTY**

on December 15, 2014

4:00: Horace Bushnell Congregate Homes 51 Vine St
Refreshments and appetizers

5:00: Christian Activities Council 47 Vine St
Main Course

6:00: Sheldon Oak Central 4 Vine St
Dessert and cookie decorating

TRANSPORTATION: Free parking available at Liberty Christian Center 23 Vine St
Shuttle van service between the 3 sites will be ongoing throughout the evening.

A donation of non perishable food items is appreciated.

If you have questions, contact Rich Pawlich-Pagliccio at 860-257-8177

WEATHER CANCELLATION POLICY

In the event of winter weather on a Sunday morning, our first priority is to ensure the safety of church members. Some winters the snow and ice are a real danger, and so worship is cancelled for the day. If such a storm happens, please know that a system is in place to make as many of our members and friends aware as possible. If and when worship is canceled, notice will be posted on **Channel 3 WFSB-TV**, and the voice mail greeting on the church phone will be updated with the cancellation if you choose to phone the main number. Additionally, an email and phone tree will alert church leaders to the same information. It takes a real storm to disrupt our worship, but if that happens, we want to be ready. Cancellations will also be posted on the church website: www.rhccucc.org.

On weekdays, if schools are closed in Rocky Hill, the church office will also be closed.

THIS WEEK AT RHCC

December 14

Sunday

10:00am **Worship**
11:20am **Children's Choir** Choir Room
11:40am **Adult Choir** Choir Room
4:00pm **Lessons & Carols**

December 15

Monday

Poinsettia order due in a.m.

7:00pm **Women's AA** Chapin Hall
7:00pm **Bowling**
7:30pm **Bell Choir** Loft

December 16

Tuesday

11:00am **Retired Clergy** Parlor
7:00pm **Versions of Christmas** Fiorilli Rm

December 17

Wednesday

NEWSLETTER MAILING

9:30am **Quilters** Room 6
7:00pm **Adult Choir**

December 18

Thursday

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

December 20

Saturday

10:30am **Cookie Walk** Chapin Hall
Nursery School



BIRTHDAYS

THIS WEEK

Dec. 17 **DAVID HALL**
15 **Linda Grillo**
17 **Jacob Engel**
19 **Mildred Sword**
20 **Nicholas Jokl**

NEWSLETTER MAILING

The **JANUARY CHURCH MOUSE** will be mailed this **WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17** –
Join a terrific speedy group of mailers in the Fiorilli Room beginning around 9:30am. Come any time in the morning, for a half hour, an hour, or however long you can. Refreshments are served.

**WORSHIP
RECORDINGS
AVAILABLE**

Audio recordings, written sermons and bulletins for many of our Sunday worship services are available on the church website, **rhccucc.org** (See **WORSHIP BULLETINS**) or you may contact the office to request an audio CD or printed sermon.

*Remember to Honor your Loved Ones
With Christmas Poinsettias*



They will adorn the sanctuary for worship on

Sunday, December 21st

The cost is \$12.50 per plant.

Ordering deadline is Monday, December 15th

Please fill out the information below and mail to Kim Burghoff (*see address below*)

Given by: _____

Daytime Telephone number: _____

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

1. _____

2. _____

Please select:

I will pick-up my plant after worship on Sunday, December 21st.

Use my plant to decorate the church through Christmas.

The Deacons may give my plant to a shut-in or homebound member.

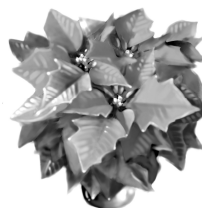
Make your checks payable to:

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.



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 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Friday

8:30 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

Interim Senior Pastor: The Rev. Dr. Brenda Pelc-Faszczka brenda@rhccucc.org

Acting Associate Pastor for Faith Formation: The Rev. Meghan D. Young
meghan@rhccucc.org

Minister of Music: Mary DeLibero mary@rhccucc.org

Office Manager: Mitsey Baker office@rhccucc.org

Webmaster: Dave Hall webmaster@rhccucc.org