

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

Established 1727 ~ An Open and Affirming Community



**December 17, 2017 ~ 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.***

PRELUDE

Carols for Guitar
Jared Maynard

CALL TO WORSHIP

Don Pagnucco

Leader: We gather to worship with expectations:
God revealed in new and astonishing ways.

All: **God comes to us in real time.**
God comes to us in dreams.

Leader: Sometimes God's presence is hard to take in —
difficult to believe.

All: **Oh God, we long to believe.**
Help our unbelief!

Leader: God is present here.
God is working in our midst.

All: **Then our mouths are filled with laughter,**
Our tongues shout out with joy!

***HYMN**

“The First Nowell”

PH (red) 141

**Please rise in body or in spirit.*

Bold type denotes collective response

*INVOCATION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Holy God of Advent,
the world in which we live is as terrifying as it is wonderful.
We need Jesus as much today as in times of old.
Many sow in tears, and go out weeping.
Replenish our lands,
fill our hearts with gladness,
restore our faith in you and each other,
wipe away the tears of despair.
As we worship today,
we tilt an ear to listen close.
Let the voice of your angel fill our minds with new understandings.
We are waiting for you. Speak to us today.
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

NCH 775

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. It consists of three staves of music. The first staff begins with a whole note D4 and a half rest, followed by a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, and a quarter note B4. The second staff continues with a quarter note C5, a quarter note B4, a quarter note A4, and a quarter note G4. The third staff continues with a quarter note F#4, a quarter note E4, a quarter note D4, and a quarter note C4. The lyrics are: "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." The guitar chords are: D, Asus4, A, D, Em, A7, D, D7, G, A, Bm, F#m, Em, A7, D.

D Asus4 A D
And God will raise you up on ea - gle's wings,
Em A7 D D7
bear you on the breath of dawn, make you to shine like the
G A Bm F#m Em A7 D
sun, and hold you in the palm of God's hand.

LIGHTING OF THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE: JOY

The Advent candles will be lit this morning by the Gau family



One: Soon we shall celebrate the birth of Jesus. We worship God with joy in our hearts as we are reminded of the words the angel said on that first Christmas Day: “Behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people.”

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 Joy, joy that is ours not only at Christmas but always.

(The candle of Joy is lit)

Three: O Holy One, as Christmas draws near, there is a sense of excitement in the air. We can feel a joy in our lives and see it in those around us. Still, for some of us this is a sad time because of unhappy things that have happened in our lives.

Four: Help us to have the joy that does not depend on earthly happiness but on you. Help us to be filled with your joy so that we may share it with a joyless 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.

ANTHEM

“A Christmas Blessing”

Philip Stopford

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 61:1-11

Pew Bible NT p691

SERMON

“Building in Hope”

Rev. Craig L. Cowing

***HYMN**

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

NC (black) 133

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 Solo

“Ave Maria”

Bach/Gounod

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

NCH 774

Shep - herd, lead, lead me in your righ-teous-ness,
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 musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of three systems of music. Each system has a vocal line on a treble clef staff and a piano accompaniment on a bass clef staff. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line.

Pastoral Prayer

***HYMN**

“Away in a Manger”

PH (red) 137

BENEDICTION

***POSTLUDE**

“Voluntary and Fugue”

Handel

LITURGIST

Don Pagnucco

USHERS

Kim Burghoff, William Collins, Jim and Lois Stevens

HOSPITALITY

Sue Van Ness & Jen Martin



Christmas Worship
Sunday, December 24 at
10am & 5pm



May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope. Romans 15:13



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 7th.

Faith Formation – Youth Group Meetings

The High School Youth Group will celebrate Christmas on December 17. There will be no youth group meeting on December 31.

*Children's &
Youth Ministry*

“The Church has Wifi available to its members and guests. Look for **RHCC_Guest** in the network listing. The password is “beourguest.” (Be Our Guest).



WEATHER CANCELLATION POLICY

If worship is canceled due to severe weather and/or a town parking ban, a notice will be posted either Saturday evening or early Sunday morning on the following media outlets:

- Channel 3 WFSB-TV
- Our facebook page – www.facebook.com/rhccucc
- Our website – rhccucc.org



Additionally, an email will alert church leaders of the cancellation. As always, call the church office and leave a message with your phone number for any pastoral concerns, and your call will be returned as soon as possible.

*Remember to Honor your Loved Ones
With Christmas Poinsettias*



The plants will adorn the sanctuary for worship on
Sunday, December 24th through the New Year.
The cost is \$12.50 per plant.
Ordering deadline is Sunday, December 17th

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. _____

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

Please select:

RED POINSETTIA **WHITE POINSETTIA**

I will pick-up my plant after worship on Sunday, December 24th

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.

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

The next ordering deadline for cards that are not kept in inventory will be on Sunday, January 7.

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 17

10:00am **Worship**
9:30am **Childcare**
10:00am **Church School**
5:00pm **HS Youth Party**

Sunday

Sanctuary
Room 4
Rms 24,25,26
Chapin Hall

December 18

11:00am **LSP Party**
7:00pm **Women's AA**
7:30pm **Bell Choir**

Monday

Chapin Hall
Chapin Hall
Sanctuary

December 19

Little Scholars Preschool Closed until January 2

5:30pm **Bonsai Group Party**
7:00pm **Hearing Voices**

Tuesday

Chapin Hall
Room 22

December 20

7:30pm **Choir**

Wednesday

Sanctuary

December 21

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

Thursday

Chapin Hall

December 22

10:00am **Poinsetta Delivery**
6:00pm **Tamil School**

Friday

Narthex
Rms 22,23,25,26,27

December 23

Saturday



19	Midge Sword
20	Nicholas Jokl
24	Nancy Edwards
25	Jonathan Rutigliano
26	Janet Kunzelman
28	Nathan Vann
30	Krista Pender



CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP
10:00am Fourth Advent Service
5:00pm Christmas Service with scripture,
music and candlelight



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