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,

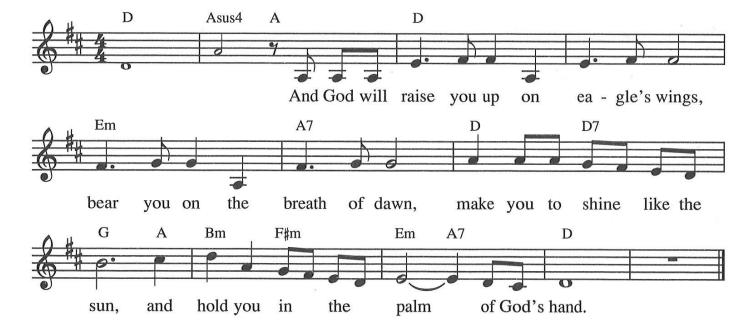
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

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



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



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"

Dave Hall, cello

Bach/Gounod





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



Pastoral Prayer

*HYMN

"Away in a Manger"

PH (red) 137

BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

"Voluntary and Fugue"

Handel

LITURGIST USHERS HOSPITALITY Don Pagnucco Kim Burghoff, William Collins, Jim and Lois Stevens 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.

<u>Faith Formation – Youth Group Meetings</u>

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 <u>Saturday evening or early Sunday morning on the following media outlets</u>:

- Channel 3 WFSB-TV
- Our facebook page <u>www.facebook.com/rhccucc</u>
- Our website <u>rhccucc.org</u>



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

Foods Big Y, Stop & Shop, Trader Joe's, Westside Marketplace, Whole

➤ 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

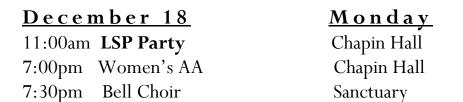
The next ordering deadline for cards that are not kept in inventory will be on Sunday, January 7.

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

Decen	<u>ıber 17</u>	<u>Sunday</u>
10:00am	Worship	Sanctuary
9:30am	Childcare	Room 4
10:00am	Church School	Rms 24,25,26
5:00pm	HS Youth Party	Chapin Hall



December 19 <u>Tuesday</u>

Little Scholars Preschool Closed until January 2 5:30pm Bonsai Group Party Chapin Hall 7:00pm Hearing Voices Room 22

December 20 <u>Wednesday</u>

7:30pm Choir Sanctuary

December 21 <u>Thursday</u> 7:30pm Men's AA Chapin Hall

December 22 <u>Friday</u> 10:00am Poinsetta Delivery Narthex

Rms 22,23,25,26,27 6:00pm Tamil School

December 23 <u>Saturday</u>



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 Christmas Service with scripture, 5:00pmmusic 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 <u>ccowing@rhccucc.org</u>

Minister for Children and Youth: Georgette L. Huie ghuie@rhccucc.org

Minister of Music: Mary DeLibero <u>mary@rhccucc.org</u>

Office Manager: Theresa E. Cleary office@rhccucc.org

Webmaster: Dave Hall webmaster@rhccucc.org

Child Care Provider: Liz Pulling