

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

Established 1727 ~ An Open and Affirming Community



**December 18, 2016 ~ 10:00 a.m.
Fourth 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

“Ave Maria”

Bach/Gounod

Dave Hall, cello

LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE

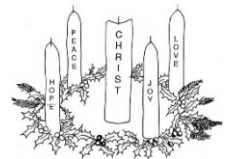
The Advent candles will be lit this morning by the family of Emily McKenna

One: Love. Everything begins with Love.

**Many: From the beginning of creation to the end of time,
God's love colors everything.**

Two: Open your hearts to love and you will recognize hope shining
in the most ancient of promises.

(The candle of Hope is lit)



One: Love. Everything continues with Love.

**Many: From strangers across oceans to neighbors next door,
God's love dwells in everything.**

Two: Live love as a way of being and you will see peace shining
in each and every face that images: beloved.

(The candle of Peace is lit)

One: Love. Everything ends with Love.

**Many: From the most challenging struggle to the most wondrous delight,
God's love flows through everything.**

Two: Give love with open hands and you will find joy shining
in the surprises that undo us and transform us.

(The candle of Joy is lit)

One: Love. Everything leans toward Love.

**Many: From the greatest ruler to the tiniest baby,
God's love changes everything.**

One: Prepare the way for love and you will find love shining
in each and every breath that whispers: Emmanuel.

(The candle of Love is lit)

Prayer

***HYMN**

“The First Nowell”

PH (red) 141

*INVOCATION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Holy God, Generous Lover of all, we come to worship longing to abide in love, as lavish and wide as the stretching ocean and still as intimate as a tear. We yearn to feel your presence flowing among us. Emmanuel, the promised one, we know you are as near to us as our breathing. As we sing and pray, speak and listen, let the light of love shine in our midst, for it is through this world-changing love that we witness you moving in and among us. God-with-us, be with us, in this hour and every hour. 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

The image shows a musical score for a sung response. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature has one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is 3/4. The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

I am God. Be still and know that I am God.

The image shows a musical score for the second line of the sung response. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature has one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is 3/4. The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

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

The image shows three staves of musical notation in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C). The melody is simple and consists of quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are written below the notes.

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

“Jesu Joy of Man's Desiring”

Jj.S. Bach

The Choir with Katie Hoffman-Fulda, flute

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 1:18-25

Pew Bible NT p1

SERMON

“Don't Be Afraid”

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 Anthem

“Greensleeves”

arr. Lenore Johanson

Katie Hoffman-Fulda, flute; Gail Hall, clarinet; 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

“Away in a Manger”

PH (red) 137

BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

“Hydom, Hydom”
The Bell Choir

Czechoslovakian Folk Carol

LITURGIST

Don Pagnuccio

USHERS

Holly & Peter Alessi, Polly Pagnuccio, John Sword

HOSPITALITY

Lynn, Emily and Will McKenna

*Today's altar flowers have been given in honor of
Teagan & Charlotte's Grandma, Gert Perry, on her 70th Birthday.*



Join us after worship for a second hour program on the
History of Christmas Carols, led by Rev. Craig Cowing.

TODAY! JOIN US
Christmas Caroling 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.

MARCH OF TOYS TODAY! SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18

Please bring in any new and unwrapped toy. Or, you can donate money or purchase a gift card through Scrip and a member of the Board for Missions will purchase a toy on your behalf.

Our January event will be a diaper drive benefiting. 'The Diaper Bank'.

You can start bringing in diapers any time.

Thank you for all for your support to the people we serve!





Former member of RHCC Arthur Peterson passed away peacefully on December 10th in Rocky Hill. Cards of sympathy may be sent to Art's daughter: June Arney, 8490 Upper Sky Way Unit 319, Laurel MD 20723. Donations in his memory may be given to Rocky Hill Congregational Church, 805 Old Main Street, Rocky Hill, CT. 06067.

WEATHER CANCELLATION POLICY

In the event of winter weather on a Sunday morning, our first priority is to ensure the safety of church members. If worship is canceled, 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. You should also note that if the town of Rocky Hill has a parking ban due to snow, then worship is automatically cancelled as well. 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.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24 - CHRISTMAS EVE

5pm Intergenerational Service with candlelight

11pm Candlelight and Communion

*If you are available to usher on Christmas Eve,
please contact Deb Copes, Craig, or the church office.*



Sunday, December 25- Christmas Day Worship 10am in the Chapel
Sunday, January 1 - New Year's Day Worship 10am with Communion
Sunday, January 8 - Worship at 10am and Epiphany Pageant

The Office will be closed Monday, December 26 through Friday, December 30th.
Join us on Tuesday, January 3 at 9:30am for the Church Mouse mailing.



Thank you all for your purchase of poinsettias, both for our shut-ins and for the decoration of our lovely sanctuary. As always, special thanks to those who decorate and who deliver poinsettias. We are also grateful for our church school children and teachers who made cards to bring along with the flowers. May you know the joy of this Christmas season.

The Flower Committee and the Diaconate

IN LOVING MEMORY OF:	GIVEN BY:
Ed Bacon, Jr. Ed & Frances Bacon, Sr. and Bill & Helen Jensen Ethel Bacon, Janel Kelly and Harold Kelley	Charlotte Bacon
In honor of family and friends	Louise Butts
Our parents, Ed & Gladys Carberry and Armand & Bette Benoit. Jennifer O'Connor	Bob & Denise Carberry And Julia O'Connor
Russell Carlo, my father	Phyllis Carlo
Warren Carpenter	Gladys Carpenter
Chester J. Cole Gene Little	Grace Cole and Jackie Little
Domenic & Mildred Yacobucci and Irene Conte Angie Toce Pat Howland	Deb Copes
Barbara Vaux Clarence & Hazel Vaux Peter Curtin	Gail and Gregson Curtin
Tommy and Veronica Munger	The Church
John & Phyllis Paholski Courtney Elizabeth, Richard, and Josh: our angels in heaven.	Judy Graham and Family
Howard Griswold	Leona Griswold
Jim Griswold	Lois Griswold
Gail's father, Richard Boberg	Dave and Gail Hall
Our Parents Susan	David and Bobbie Hawkins
Mike Heneghan	Steph Heneghan
Daddy and Grampa, Donald T. Thompson Jr Fun-loving Uncle Bill Maley	Cindy, Maley and Thompson Hunt
Bob & Dot Hunter	Glenn, Steve and Gary Hunter



Christmas Poinsettias



IN LOVING MEMORY OF:	GIVEN BY:
Our parents and grandparents; Mary, Alvin and George	Sue and John Hummel and Family
Our Grandparents Pat Howland	The Inderbitzen and Bower family
Louis LaCava Ronald and Dorothy Young	Janet LaCava
Jim McNally Margaret Libera	Lisa Libera
Our Loved Ones	Judy Libby
Gil VanNess Lillian Peters	Jennifer Martin and Sue VanNess
Charles & Angeline Pawlich Sr.	Rich, Mary & Rick Pawlich-Pagliccio
Rev. Norman & Edna Halliday and Norman, Helen & Bill Sageman	Dave Sageman & Ruth Fitzgerald
Doris Schreier	Thomas Schreier
William & Adrienne Cain Yvonne Bartemy	Candy and Louis Smith
Our son Daniel R. Somes	Dick and Thelma Somes
Dorothy Dennis	Sue Speers
Joseph Tokarski Judith Elkins, Eamon, Scott, Greg, Eric and Lynne. Our loved ones here and abroad	Linda, Bman, Amanda and Ethan Tokarski Linda Tokarski Linda, Brian and Amanda Tokarski
Jack Mahon In honor of our parents, Dan & Judy Wilcock and Pat Mahon	Barry and Nancy Wilcock
Jackie Wyman Dolores Rasch Alec Wyman Karen Wyman-Paine	Mo, Greg and Donna Wyman



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

Cards ordered last weekend should be picked up in Chapin Hall this morning. Scrip will not be sold next Sunday morning, December 25, but will be available again on January 1. Plan your purchases this morning accordingly. The next ordering deadline for cards not kept in inventory will be on January 8.

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 18

10:00am **Worship**
9:30am **Childcare**
10:00am **Church School**
11:15am **Christmas Carols 2nd Hr**
1:30pm **Christmas Caroling**
4:00pm **Tamil School**
5:00pm **HS Youth Party**

Sunday

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

December 19

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

Monday

Chapin Hall
Chapin Hall
Sanctuary

December 20

Little Scholars Preschool Closed until January 3

7:00pm **Hearing Voices**

Tuesday

Room 22

December 21

6:00pm **Pilates**
7:30pm **Choir**

Wednesday

Chapin Hall
Sanctuary

December 22

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

Thursday

Chapin Hall

December 23

Friday

December 24

Saturday

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

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

11:00pm **Candlelight and Communion**



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



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