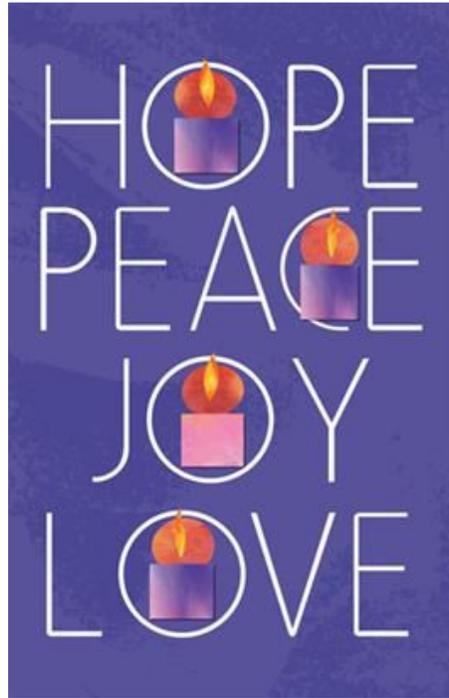


ROCKY HILL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Established 1727 ~ An Open and Affirming Community



December 22, 2019 ~ 10:00 a.m.
Fourth Sunday of Advent

We welcome all and extend a special greeting to our guests; our service is enriched by your presence!

- Nursery care is offered during worship downstairs in Room 4.
- Hearing devices are available for worship; an usher will be glad to assist you when you ask.

Please join us for fellowship time after worship in Chapin Hall, which is located downstairs. The Welcome Table in Chapin Hall offers information about the church; and our members will be glad to answer your questions!

~ORDER OF WORSHIP~

For Reflection:

We fancy ourselves caretakers, encircling the perfection of the newly born,
love wrapped in a fragile human frame.
We bend the knee, as humble as shepherds, our gifts
as inscrutable as myrrh to a nativity's young king.
But You, the one who leads Joseph as if he were a sheep,
You know the truth... You, who leads Joseph - that old believer whose doubt
is as familiar as the story itself - swaddle us in your love,
we who are lost, fragile, aching for that strange and distant star.

– Maria Mankin

PRELUDE

Pat-a-Pan

Burgundian Carol

You are invited – as the music is playing - to come on up to the table at the front right side of the Sanctuary, to light a tea light and so help illuminate a word which represents our theme for this morning's worship.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Michael Andonucci

One As we await the Christ Child's arrival, let us be still.

People God is with us.

One In this household of worship, we look up for the One who is coming;

People God is with us.

One May us receive the word from our Still Speaking God, proclaiming,

People God is with us!

One No matter who we are or where we are on life's journey;

All God is with us!

*HYMN

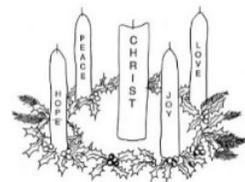
O How Shall I Receive You

NCH 102

*(*please rise in body or in spirit; Bold denotes unison response)*

LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE: LOVE

Today the Advent wreath will be lit by Susan VanNess, Jennifer Martin & family



PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND LORD'S PRAYER

Holy and Present God,

**In this season full of joy and stress; anticipation and anxiety,
slow us the way to slow down lest we miss what really matters...**

**In the midst of the preparations as well as the grief and loneliness,
free our hearts and minds from whatever hinders us
and let us watch for the one who will soon arrive,
the one called Emmanuel. May your Spirit flow through this place,
empowering us to follow the joy all the way to Bethlehem,
and out into the night, where star-light bids us to linger.**

We pray this as Jesus 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

When the Night Becomes Dark

music of Taize

(repeat 3 times, quieter each time)

Em Am⁶ E Am E

When the night be - comes dark, your love, O Lord,

Am E C⁶ Dm C F⁶ E Am

is a fire; your love, O Lord, is a fire.

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

You are invited to share a sign of the reconciling peace of Christ with those around you with a handshake, an embrace, or a non-contact gesture of greeting.

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

Christmas Blessing
Choir

Philip Stopford

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Hebrew Scriptures
New Testament

Isaiah 7:10-17
Matthew 1:18-25

SERMON

“**What’s in a Name?**”

Rev. Nada Sellers

Sharing some moments of silent reflection....



*HYMN

In the Bleak Midwinter

PH 128

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

Following the receiving of offerings by the ushers, prayer request cards will be collected. For those who have already given their offering, Giving Cards are available so that all may participate in the act of the offering.

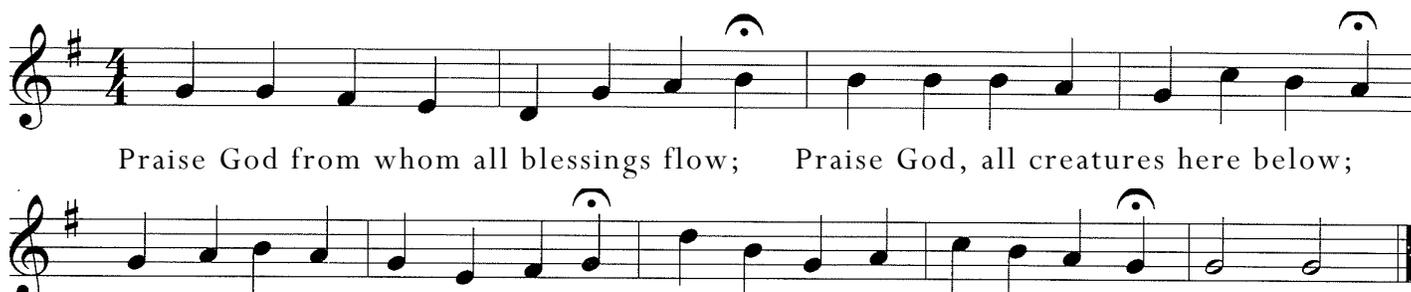
INVITATION TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY SOLO

Ave Maria
Dave Hall, cello

Bach/Gounod

*The 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

*DEDICATION PRAYER

One: Everything we have is a gift from God,
and one of the ways we show God how thankful we are,
is by giving back a portion of what God has given us.

People: **For all we have and for these gifts we share,**

ALL: ***We praise you, God! Amen***

Pastoral Prayer with Joys & Concerns

*HYMN

Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn

NCH 107

BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

Andante Pastorale

O. Ravello

LITURGIST

Michael Andonucci

USHERS

Deb Copes, Steph Heneghan and Steve Smith

GREETER

Joan Tennyson

HOSPITALITY

InReach



The tower will be lighted this week and next week
in honor and loving memory of **Thelma Some**
by her daughter-in-law, Elaine Some



WELCOME - We'd like to stay in touch with you! Here's how...

- Please include your full address, phone number and email as you sign our friendship registration pads.
- 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.
- If you have announcements, they should be written down and given to the ushers or pastor prior to worship.

Upcoming Worship Schedule

Tuesday, December 24 – Christmas Eve Worship Services

5:00 p.m. Family Service with Story and Carols

11:00 p.m. Candlelight Service with Choir

Sunday, December 29 – 10:00am First Sunday after Christmas

Sunday, January 5 – 10:00am Epiphany Pageant with Diaper Drive



Thank you to Gilberts Farm for supplying our Christmas Poinsettias and wreaths; and for donating the lovely kissing ball hanging in our Sanctuary. Please support our local farmers.

Reflection poem from the Living Psalm.80:1-7, 17-19, for Advent 4, was written by Maria Mankin, at www.ucc.org
Parts of the service adapted from Worship Ways content for 12-22-19, written by Chance Martinez-Colon, MID, Spring Hill UCC in FL.

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Christmas Poinsettias

IN LOVING MEMORY OF:	GIVEN BY:
<i>Thomas Andonucci</i>	Michael, Doretta & Caralyn Andonucci
<i>My family</i>	Louise Butts
<i>Our Billy</i> <i>My parents, Bill & Helen McIlroy</i>	Kim Burghoff & family
<i>Warren Carpenter</i>	Gladys Carpenter
<i>Chester J. Cole</i>	Grace Cole and Jackie Little
<i>My Parents</i> <i>Angie Toce</i> <i>Pat Howland</i>	Deb Copes
<i>Peter Curtin</i> <i>Barbara and Hugh Curtin</i> <i>Clarence and Hazel Vaux</i>	Gail Curtin & Gregson Curtin
<i>Our Parents</i>	Ruth Fitzgerald & Dave Sageman
<i>Jim Griswold</i>	Lois Griswold
<i>Our Parents</i> <i>Susan</i>	David and Bobbie Hawkins
<i>Mike Heneghan</i>	Steph Heneghan
<i>Pamela Gross</i>	Marsha & Bill Hoffman
<i>Dad/Grandpa Donald Thompson, Jr.</i> <i>Our fun-loving Uncle Bill Maley</i>	Cindy, Maley and Thompson Hunt
<i>Robert and Dorothy Hunter</i>	Glenn Hunter

Christmas Poinsettias



IN LOVING MEMORY OF:	GIVEN BY:
<i>Jim McNally James & Doris McNally Nello & Margaret Libera Sebastian & Mary Damiata</i>	Lisa Libera, Jackson and Maya McNally
<i>Michele Reed Van Epps Christine E Moser</i>	Carol & Christopher Marshall
<i>William H McKenna Jr Thomas Kelley</i>	Lynn McKenna
<i>Gene Little</i>	Jackie Little and Grace Cole
<i>Manuel & Maria Teixeira John & Sal Markette</i>	Rich, Mary and Rick Pawlich-Pagliccio
<i>Elaine & Jerry Sellers</i>	Nada Sellers
<i>William and Adrienne Cain</i>	Candy and Louis Smith
<i>Fred Therault Dorothy Dennis</i>	The Speers Family
<i>Gil VanNess</i>	Susan VanNess and Jennifer Martin
<i>Our Parents</i>	Susan VanNess and John Hummel & family
<i>Our Parents</i>	Wendy and Steve Ware



Thank you for all of the generous donations for March of the Toys, Rocky Hill Veterans Home Secret Santa and Covenant to Care gifts for children. Our congregation provided many gifts to children and veterans this season.

TODAY, December 22 – 1:30pm– Carol Sing! All are welcome!

Join us for an afternoon of singing everyone's favorite Christmas carols. We will be visiting several nursing homes and our church family shut-ins and sharing our gifts. All ages welcome. We will meet at the church and car pool and come back to the church afterward for light refreshments.



Pledge Drive Update

Friends: Consecration Sunday was December 8, and it is time to begin taking stock of what we will be able to accomplish in 2020. In 2019, the Congregation pledged \$201,293. As of December 16, the Congregation has pledged \$182,231. This includes 8 first-time pledgers! We are so grateful for that commitment and the momentum it creates.

Thank you to everyone who has already pledged! If you have not yet pledged, we ask that you prayerfully consider pledging an amount that is meaningful to you. We will rely on pledges to plan and budget for our church life for the upcoming year, so please send your pledge as soon as possible.

If you need a pledging card, we would be happy to provide one. Please either email Jarod Taylor at jarodglenntaylor@gmail.com, call him at 646-531-1644, or catch him or Deb Copes at Coffee Hour. If you are comfortable doing so, we ask that you fulfill your pledge using an automatic recurring transfer via Vanco's electronic funds transfer (EFT). One-time transfers are also possible. If you are interested, reach out to Jarod and he will walk you through it. Instructions are also on the pledging card. It is a very easy process.

Sincerely, Deb Copes, Jarod Taylor, and Sue Chatfield - Pledging Committee



Christmas Offering

Our church is committed to providing support to those facing life challenges in Rocky Hill, (here) throughout the region, (near) and beyond the borders of our state (far). We will dedicate our Christmas offering to Church World Service (CWS), which provides many types of support to people throughout the world, and through their Best Gifts Program we can allocate our offering in a variety of specific ways. A letter detailing our Christmas Offering has been sent to all church members, and offering envelopes will be in the pews at Christmas Evening services. Thank you in advance for your generous contributions to CWS which will provide much-needed assistance to our neighbors throughout the world. This, indeed, is the true spirit of Christmas!



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
- Gas: Exxon/Mobil
- Pharmacy: CVS, Walgreens
- Fast food: Burger King, Boston Market, Chipotle, McDonalds, Panera, Subway, Wendy's.
- Restaurants: Bonfish Grill, Outback Steakhouse, Red Lobster
- Shopping: Ace Hardware, Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Bed Bath & Beyond, Home Depot, Jo-Ann Fabrics, Kohl's, iTunes, L.L. Bean, Lowes, Michaels, Target, Total Wine, Walmart.
- Grocery: ShopRite, Big Y, Stop & Shop, Trader Joe's, WholeFoods, Westside Market.

The next order for physical cards not stocked in inventory will be placed on **January 26** (with delivery on February 2). E-cards may be ordered anytime. A complete listing of all retailers available through our program can be picked up at the scrip table in Chapin Hall.

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.

Think SCRIP!

THIS WEEK AT RHCC

December 22

10:00am Worship
9:30am Childcare
10:00am Church School
1:30pm **Christmas Caroling**

December 23

Office closed this week
Little Scholars Preschool
7:00pm Women's AA

December 24

Christmas Eve Worship
5:00pm Family Service
11:00pm Candlelight Service

December 25

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

December 26

7:30pm Men's AA

Sunday

Sanctuary
Room 4
Rms 24,25,26
Meet at church

Monday

Fiorilli

Tuesday

Sanctuary

Wednesday

Thursday

Chapin Hall

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

24 Nancy Edwards
25 Jonathan Rutigliano
26 Janet Kunzelman
28 Nathan Vann
30 Krista Pender



Dec 24 – 5pm
Family Service

Dec 24 – 11pm
Candlelight service

*Wishing you all a
peaceful and
joyous Christmas!*

The church office will be closed Dec 23 – Jan 1.

January newsletter mailing will be on Thursday, January 2. 9:30am.

Ministry Team

Ministers:	All the members of the church	
Pastor:	Rev. Nada Sellers	nsellers@rhccucc.org
Minister for Children & Youth:	Georgette Huie	ghuie@rhccucc.org
Minister of Music:	Mary DeLibero	mary@rhccucc.org
Office Manager:	Theresa E. Cleary	office@rhccucc.org
Webmaster:	Steve Smith	admin@rhccucc.org

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: www.RockyHillUCC.org

Visit us on Facebook & Instagram at: [RHCCUCC](https://www.facebook.com/RHCCUCC)

Office Hours: Open Monday – Thursday 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Friday – Closed