

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

*Established 1727 ~ An Open and Affirming Community*



**December 23, 2018 ~ 10:00 a.m.**

**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

# ~ORDER OF WORSHIP~

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*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.*

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## 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.*

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## PRELUDE

"Ave Maria"

Bach/Gounod

Dave Hall, cello

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Deb Copes

L: Jesus, God sent you in mercy to be to be Emmanuel, God-with-us.

**All: Teach us the compassion of God.**

L: Jesus, your life took flesh in the mercy of Mary's womb.

**All: We rejoice in the compassion of Mary.**

L: Jesus, your family took shape in the mercy of Joseph's welcome.

**All: We give thanks for the compassion of Joseph.**

L: Jesus, your holy family knew the struggle of the poor,

L: When they were refused the mercy of shelter in Bethlehem.

**All: Teach us the compassion of God;**

**Lead us in the ways of justice and mercy.**

*\*please rise in body or in spirit*

***Bold denotes unison response***

**\*INVOCATION AND THE LORD’S PRAYER**

O Loving God,  
We await the birth of Jesus,  
whom you send into the world to show us  
the way of compassion.  
Let us follow Jesus with courage and joy  
across all the boundaries of our human difference.  
Open our hearts and our communities,  
that they may be places where your goodness is recognized,  
and your generosity is shown to all our sisters and brothers.  
All this we ask in the name of Jesus, 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

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.



## LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE: LOVE

*The Advent candles will be lit this morning by the Wolfe-Taylor family.*



One: As we gather around the Advent wreath today,  
We rejoice that Christmas is a time of prayer and  
of open hearts when we sing songs of joy.

Christmas is a time of worship – the moment when the busiest of us pause in  
wonder. Christmas happens when God comes to us in love  
through Jesus Christ and fills us with love for all humankind.

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 love.

Such great love helps us to love God and one another.

*(The fourth candle in the wreath is lit.)*

Three: O God, we thank you that Jesus showed your love for every person –  
Babies and children, old people and young, sick people and those who were strong,  
rich people and those who were poor. Come to us in this Advent season, and give  
us love in our hearts for all people.

**All: Amen.**

## MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES

Georgette Huie

## 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

“The Angels and the Shepherds”

Bohemian Carol,  
arr. C.H Trevor

The Choir

## SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 1:39-55

Pew Bible NT p57

## SERMON

“The Power of God”

Rev. Craig L. Cowing

## \*HYMN

“It Came upon the Midnight Clear”

NC 131

## 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

“We Three Kings”  
The Handbell Choir

arr. Cynthia Dobrinski

## \*Doxology



I 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

“On Eagle’s Wings”

NCH774

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 musical score is written on three staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the first line of the call to prayer, with chords D, Asus4, A, and D. The second staff contains the second line, with chords Em, A7, D, and D7. The third staff contains the third line, with chords G, A, Bm, F#m, Em, A7, and D. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a final whole note on the third staff.

## Pastoral Prayer

**\*HYMN**

“Angels We Have heard on High”

NC 125

**BENEDICTION**

**\*POSTLUDE**

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**LITURGIST**

Deb Copes

**USHERS**

Sarah DeGiovanni, Jim DeGiovanni, Sue Chatfield & Wendy Ware

**HOSPITALITY**

Sue VanNess and Cheryl Hummel

*The Tower is lit this week in honor of Pasquale Accardo by Deanne Accardo*

*In  
Loving  
Memory*

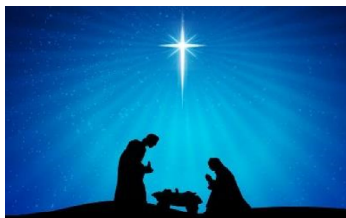




## ADVENT & CHRISTMAS SEASON WORSHIP & EVENTS



Sunday, December 23, 10am Worship, Fourth Sunday of Advent



**Monday, December 24, 5pm & 11pm – Christmas Eve Worship Services!**

Sunday, December 30, 10am Worship

Sunday, January 6, 10am – Epiphany Pageant and Diaper Drive

*Gift-giving to those in need through Covenant to Care, Mitten Tree, Toy Drive and Diaper Drive, Is ongoing throughout December.*

Sunday, January 6th – Youth Epiphany Pageant

Please join us during worship when the young people present an Epiphany Pageant: a retelling and reenactment of the Christmas story. As witnessed to by the children, the gift of baby Jesus, also known as ‘God with us’, was not for a few people at a specific time in history, but for all the world and for all time. Come, to be reminded of God’s love for you and for all creation.



Diaper Drive – Sunday, January 6

We’ll collect diapers during the Epiphany Pageant for the Connecticut Diaper Bank. The Diaper Bank distributes free diapers to poor families, food pantries, soup kitchens, day care centers and shelters throughout Connecticut.

All sizes are needed. Thank you, Witness and Outreach: Anita Cowing, Heather Collins, Marge Murk, Elaine Sellenberg and Sue Speers.

SAVE THE DATE! SATURDAY, JANUARY 26, 2019 – COMFORT FOOD DINNER WITH MUSIC BY ‘THE COFFEE GRINDERS’!





### *Lessons & Carols Thank You!*

To the Children's Choir, you knew the song perfectly, and sang it with wonderful spirit and joy! Bell choir - the two pieces were gorgeous! And the Choir - all the very hard work you put in, your willingness to embrace some different and difficult pieces, and the sheer beauty and energy of your collective voices brought tears to my eyes.

Thanks to all the instrumentalists, Dave, Gail, Katie, Melody, Jillian, and Jared played beautifully, and the pieces provided introspective, beautiful moments. Many thanks to Dave for arranging and organizing the quintet piece. And Jillian and Melody - your duet was gorgeous, and a joy to hear! And a special thank you to Gail Tanquay our accompanist for her expertise and playing.

Also, many thanks to the Music Committee, led by Lynne, and The Inreach Ministry Team for the lovely reception. Sincere thanks, also to the readers for their superb presentations of the readings, to the ushers for greeting and taking care of our guests, to Theresa for her creative work on the bulletin, to Michael for the stunning artwork, to Judy for the beautiful sanctuary decorations, and of course, to Craig for leading the service, and providing his support, encouragement and appreciation to all the participants, keeping this wonderful tradition alive!

I truly feel blessed to be a part of our church community, and I look forward to our next musical endeavors together! Thank you everyone! ~Mary

Friends: We wanted to share this with you. The Rocky Hill Historical Society is selling a beautiful 'Moser School' Christmas Ornament. You can purchase it now through Christmas at Academy Hall, online, or by phone, or contact Gail Tine for more info. [gtine@cox.net](mailto:gtine@cox.net)

### *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 all through December to January 6. The donated items will benefit the Foster Children's Association of Rocky Hill; VA Hospital, MALT Mobil Hospital Van; and WAIM, an organization that provides clothing and other assistance to families in the Windham area. For questions, please contact Gail Tine.



# Christmas Poinsettias



IN LOVING MEMORY OF:	GIVEN BY:
<i>Ed and Charlotte Bacon</i> <i>In honor of Beverly and Henry Hudson</i>	Ed and Holli Bacon III
<i>Chester J. Cole</i>	Grace Cole and Jackie Little
<i>Wayne Courtemanche</i>	Jennifer and Bill Cordes
<i>Our Loved Ones</i>	Craig Cowing and Anita Hawkins
<i>My Parents: Barbara Vaux and Hugh Curtin</i> <i>My Brother: Peter Curtin</i> <i>My Grandparents: Clarence and Hazel Vaux</i>	Gail Curtin
<i>John &amp; Phyllis Paholski</i> <i>Richard, Joshua, and Courtney-Elizabeth</i>	Judy Graham & Family
<i>Jim Griswold</i>	Lois Griswold
<i>Gail's father, Richard Boberg</i>	Dave and Gail Hall
<i>Our Parents</i> <i>Susan</i>	David and Bobbie Hawkins
<i>Mike Heneghan</i>	Steph Heneghan
<i>Donald Thompson, Jr, Dad and Grandpa</i> <i>In fond memory of 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</i> <i>Doris McNally</i> <i>Margaret Libera</i> <i>Mary Damiata</i>	Lisa Libera, Jackson & Maya McNally
<i>Gene Little</i>	Jackie Little and Grace Cole
<i>Charles and Angeline Pawlich, Sr</i>	Rich, Mary and Rick Pawlich- Pagliccio
<i>William and Adrienne Cain</i>	Candy and Louis Smith
<i>Fred Therault</i> <i>Dorothy Dennis</i>	The Speers Family
<i>Bill and Janet Ware</i> <i>Lester and Hazel Opdyke</i>	Wendy and Steve Ware
<i>Jack Mahon, Nancy's father</i> <i>Our Grandparents</i> <i>In honor of our parents; Dan &amp; Judy Wilcock</i> <i>and Patricia Mahon</i>	Barry and Nancy Wilcock

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. May you know the joy of this Christmas season. – Ministry Teams for Congregational Care, and Flowers Committee.



## TODAY'S CHRISTMAS OFFERING FOR The Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency fund.

The light of God surrounds us,  
The love of God enfolds us,  
The power of God protects us,  
The presence of God watches over us.

-James Dillet Freeman

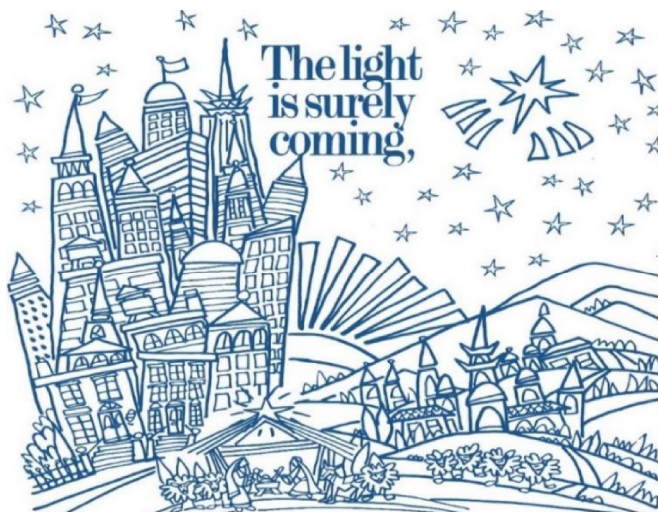
For over a century, the **Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund** has been a tangible expression of God's love and light in the world. Year after year, United Church of Christ (UCC) members and congregations have reached out in kindness, compassion, and gratitude to those who have faithfully shepherded our Church in the past and who now find themselves facing unexpected financial needs.

In 2017, UCC congregations and members generously contributed over \$1,500,000 to the Christmas Fund. This enabled the United Church Board for Ministerial Assistance (UCBMA), the charitable arm of the Pension Boards, to provide, on behalf of the whole Church, Supplementation of Small Annuities, Retiree Health Premium Supplementation, Emergency Grants, and Christmas "Thank You" Gift Checks to individuals in need.

The theme of this year's Christmas Fund Offering is *The Light Is Surely Coming*. Our goal is to raise \$1.7 million to help support these ministries of light and love. The recipients of your gifts are persons who have faithfully served the church for many years. And now, in their time of need, you can be the church to them. We invite and encourage you to join thousands of UCC members and congregations who will support this year's appeal and trust the light is surely coming.

The suggested date for receiving the Offering is **December 23, 2018**. We are pleased to provide the resources in this **Offering Guide** to assist and inspire you in promoting the Christmas Fund in your congregation. These and other resources are also available online at [www.christmasfund.org](http://www.christmasfund.org).

On behalf of the hundreds of clergy, lay employees, and their families whose lives were touched by your support of the Christmas Fund Offering, we offer our sincere thanks for your generosity!



## 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, Shell, Sunoco
- Pharmacy: CVS, Walgreens
- Fast food: Boston Market, Chipotle, McDonalds, Panera, Subway, Wendy's
- Restaurants: Bonefish Grill, Outback Steakhouse, Red Lobster
- Shopping: Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Bed Bath & Beyond, Home Depot, Kohl's, iTunes, L.L. Bean, Lowes, Michaels, Payless Shoes, Target, Walmart
- Grocery: 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 20 (with delivery on Jan. 27). 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. 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 23

10:00am **Worship**  
9:30am **Childcare**  
10:00am **Church School**  
11:00am **Coffee Hour**

### Sunday

Sanctuary  
Room 4  
Rms 24,25,26  
Chapin Hall

### December 24

5:00pm **Christmas Eve Worship**  
11:00am **Christmas Eve Worship**  
7:00pm Women's AA

*Little Scholars Preschool Closed until January 2*

### Monday

Sanctuary  
Sanctuary  
Fiorilli

### December 25

**MERRY CHRISTMAS!**

OFFICE CLOSED

### Tuesday

### December 26

OFFICE CLOSED

### Wednesday

### December 27

OFFICE CLOSED

7:30pm Men's AA

### Thursday

Chapin Hall

### December 28

9a-1:00pm OFFICE OPEN

### Friday



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

The church office will be closed Monday Dec 24 - Thursday Dec 27 and open on Friday Dec 28.

The next week, the office will be open all week except for Tuesday Jan 1.

Church Mouse mailing will be on Wednesday, January 2nd at 9:30am in the Fiorilli Room.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!





**CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICES**  
**MONDAY DECEMBER 24,**  
**AT 5:00 P.M. & 11:00 P.M.**

Held in our historic Sanctuary, with scripture readings, sermon, and Christmas hymns sung by our congregation and choir. Our musical worship includes pipe organ, piano, instrumentalists, and bell choir.

All are welcome here!

We believe that all people are created in God's image and thus are blessed and loved equally by God. We welcome all who seek to follow Jesus; including persons of every age, race, faith background, gender, sexual identity, and marital status to share in the blessings and joys of our church family.

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





**Rocky Hill Congregational Church, United Church of Christ**  
**805 Old Main Street**  
**Rocky Hill, CT 06067**

Church Office: [office@rhccucc.org](mailto:office@rhccucc.org) / 860 529-4167

Church Website: [www.RockyHillUCC.org](http://www.RockyHillUCC.org)

Visit us on Facebook at: [www.facebook.com/rhccucc](http://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](mailto:ccowing@rhccucc.org)

Minister for Children and Youth: Georgette L. Huie [ghuie@rhccucc.org](mailto:ghuie@rhccucc.org)

Minister of Music: Mary DeLibero [mary@rhccucc.org](mailto:mary@rhccucc.org)

Office Manager: Theresa E. Cleary [office@rhccucc.org](mailto:office@rhccucc.org)

Webmaster: Steve Smith [admin@rhccucc.org](mailto:admin@rhccucc.org)