

# ROCKY HILL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

*Established 1727 ~ An Open and Affirming Community*



December 28, 2014 ~ 10:00 a.m.  
Fourth Day of Christmas

# ~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 and large-print bulletins** are available for worship—ask an usher. **Nursery care** is always available down the hall in Room 4.*

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## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Rev. Dr. Brenda Pelc-Faszczka

*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 pastors 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

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Judy Graham

New beginnings, new revelations --

**God's light shown to us in many ways.**

Epiphanies of grace and truth ---

**the Christ-spirit shining in a needy world.**

A star in the sky, a hope in the heart --

**journeys to be taken and faith to be found.**

Like wise ones before us, we follow the light;

**like wise ones before us, we look for Christ.**

*\*Please rise in body or in spirit.*

*\***Bold type denotes collective response.***



## MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES

## READING FROM THE SCRIPTURES

Matthew 2:1-12

## SERMON

“Sure We Can!”

The Rev. Dr. Brenda Pelc-Faszczka

## \*CAROL

“The First Nowell”

Pilgrim Hymnal (red) 141

VV. 1, 2, & 3

## OFFERING OF GIFTS

*Following the receiving of offerings by the ushers, the pastor(s) will come to the center aisle to receive 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

#### \*Doxology

“In the Bleak Midwinter”

*What can I give him, Poor as I am?*

*If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;*

*If I were a wise man, I would do my part; Yet*

*what I can I give him—Give my heart*

#### \*Prayer of Dedication

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

### Joys & Concerns

### Sung Call to Prayer

Hear our prayer, O God, hear our prayer, O God; in -

cline your ear to us, and grant us your peace.

## Pastoral and Silent Prayer

\*CAROL                    “It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”                    Pilgrim Hymnal (red) 129

\*BENEDICTION

\*POSTLUDE

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LITURGIST

Judy Graham

GREETERS

Joan Tennyson and Jay Jensen

HOSPITALITY

Ruth and Jay Jensen

We welcome Juliana Hall as guest pianist this Sunday.

The tower is lit this week in memory of Robert Yocum  
By David and Bobbie Hawkins.

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### **S.P.I.R.I.T. Corner**

*Serve, Pray, Invite, Receive, Ignite, Tell*

*Children are invited to remain in worship today,  
following along with the children and youth bulletins.*

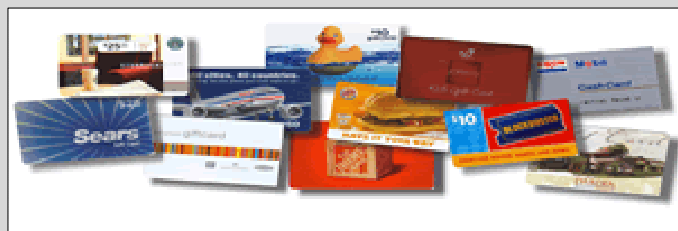
*S.P.I.R.I.T. Church School will resume on January 11 with “Jesus: The Storyteller”*

### **Epiphany Pageant** **Sunday, January 4<sup>th</sup> at 10 AM**

Come join us as we worship in wonder and mystery, bringing the story of Epiphany to light, as worship leaders of ALL ages put on costumes remember through word and action, the birth story and revelation faith. *Pageant Participants: Dress Rehearsal is January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10 AM –*



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## 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.

Our usual end-of-month order will be delayed until next Sunday, January 4. Cards ordered by that date will be available for pickup on January 11.

Meanwhile, we have most of the usual cards in inventory for immediate purchase this morning. Here is a partial list of cards available:

**Coffee:** Dunkin Donuts, Starbucks

**Fast food:** Boston Market, Chipotle, McDonalds, Panera, Subway

**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  
On the Border, TGI Fridays

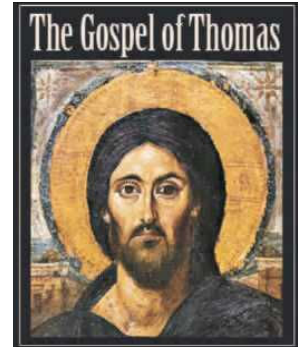
**Shopping:** Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Bed Bath & Beyond,  
Home Depot, Kohl's, iTunes, Lowe's, Marshall's, Target,  
Walmart

See Deb Copes at the scrip table this morning for a complete listing of available cards, or to have all of your questions answered.

**THINK SCRIP!**

**WEDNESDAY SCRIPTURE STUDY**  
**will resume with the Gospel of Thomas**

Weekly Scripture study will resume on **Wednesdays, 12:00 – 1:00**, beginning on **January 14**. The first text we will look at will be **The Gospel of Thomas**. Discovered in 1945, it is one of the several gospels we now know existed in early Christian times but was not included in the canon of the New Testament. Copies of the text will be made available at the first session. No need for any particular background, come and explore what the Gospel of Thomas says that Jesus taught... and see how it compares with what we are familiar with from the gospels we know.



**WEATHER CANCELLATION POLICY**

In the event of winter weather on a Sunday morning, our first priority is to ensure the safety of church members. Some winters the snow and ice are a real danger, and so worship is cancelled for the day. If such a storm happens, please know that a system is in place to make as many of our members and friends aware as possible. If and when worship is canceled, notice will be posted on **Channel 3 WFSB-TV**, and the voice mail greeting on the church phone will be updated with the cancellation if you choose to phone the main number. Additionally, an email and phone tree will alert church leaders to the same information. It takes a real storm to disrupt our worship, but if that happens, we want to be ready. Cancellations will also be posted on the church website: [www.rhccucc.org](http://www.rhccucc.org).

On weekdays, if schools are closed in Rocky Hill, the church office will also be closed.

**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: [rhccucc.org](http://rhccucc.org)

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

**Office Hours**

Monday – Thursday 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Friday

8:30 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

Interim Senior Pastor: The Rev. Dr. Brenda Pelc-Faszczka [brenda@rhccucc.org](mailto:brenda@rhccucc.org)

Acting Associate Pastor for Faith Formation: The Rev. Meghan D. Young

[meghan@rhccucc.org](mailto:meghan@rhccucc.org)

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

Office Manager: Mitsey Baker [office@rhccucc.org](mailto:office@rhccucc.org)

Webmaster: Dave Hall [webmaster@rhccucc.org](mailto:webmaster@rhccucc.org)