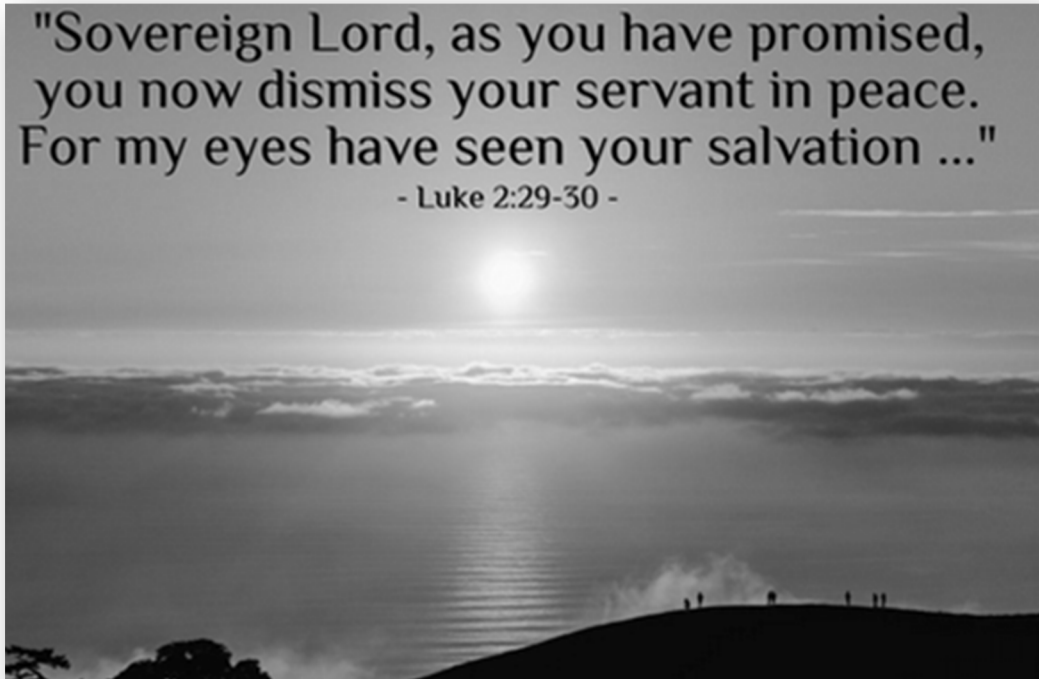


**ROCKY HILL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

Established 1727 ~ An Open and Affirming Community

"Sovereign Lord, as you have promised,
you now dismiss your servant in peace.
For my eyes have seen your salvation ..."
- Luke 2:29-30 -



**December 31, 2017 ~ 10:00 a.m.
First Sunday after Christmas**

~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

CALL TO WORSHIP

Nancy Parsons

Leader: When Jesus is born to Mary and Joseph,

All: God is there.

Leader: When Jesus is presented at the temple,

All: God is there.

Leader: When Simeon holds Jesus in his arms,

All: God is there.

Leader: When Anna recognizes Jesus in the temple,

All: God is there.

Leader: This very morning,

All: God is here.

Leader: In the future we cannot see,

All: God is there. Let us worship God!

*HYMN

“Brightest And Best”

NC (black)156

**please rise in body or in spirit*

Bold denotes unison response

*INVOCATION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Holy God, we know that you have been present to us
throughout all of history,
even throughout our own histories.

We know you will be with us in our future.

Yet often we don't live as if we know that.

You ask no more of us than what we can provide.

Give us the ability to overcome the past and look toward the future as
you await us there.

We ask 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

D Asus4 A D
And God will raise you up on ea - gle's wings,

Em A7 D D7
bear you on the breath of dawn, make you to shine like the

G A Bm F#m Em A7 D
sun, and hold you in the palm of God's hand.

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



The musical notation consists of three staves of music in treble clef, key signature of one sharp (F#), and common time (C). 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

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 2:22-40

Pew Bible NT

p58

SERMON

“The Past Meets the Future”

Rev. Craig L. Cowing

*HYMN

“What Child Is This”

NC (black)148

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

*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

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.

Pastoral Prayer

BENEDICTION

***POSTLUDE**

GUEST ORGANIST

Janet Schneider

LITURGIST

Nancy Parsons

USHERS

HOSPITALITY

*The tower is lit this week in
loving memory of Robert (Bob) Yocum
by Dave and Bobbie Hawkins*



Epiphany Pageant
Sunday, January 7 at 10 AM

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.





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. – The Flower Committee and the Diaconate

GOVERNANCE UPDATE

Copies of the final version of the proposed Constitution are now available for pickup in the narthex, in the hallway across from the office, and in Chapin Hall. A related "Frequently Asked Questions" (FAQ) document is also available. Look for additional info, displays, and perhaps a second-hour session during the next several months, in preparation for voting on this new Constitution at the Budget and Elections Meeting on March 18. If you would prefer to receive digital versions of the two documents (in pdf format), please send an email request to treasurer@rhccucc.org.



Diaper Drive

The Diaper Bank distributes free diapers to poor families, food pantries, soup kitchens, day care centers and shelters throughout Connecticut. We'll collect diapers during the Epiphany Pageant on Sunday, January 7.

The Office will be closed Monday, January 1.

Join us on Tuesday, January 2 at 9:30am for the Church Mouse mailing.

Happy New Year!



WEATHER CANCELLATION POLICY

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



Do you have a favorite hymn that you would like to sing in church? If so, the Board of Deacons will be asking you to name your favorite hymn so we can include it in one of our Sunday services. We will be including in the bulletin and future newsletters a form that you can fill out to let us know what your favorite hymn is. Just drop the form off in the collection plate. Or, if you forget to leave it on Sunday morning, you can call the church office (860-529-4176) or email the office (office@rhccucc.org) with your selection. There will also be collections boxes outside of the office and in the Narthex where you can drop off your form. We do want to match the hymn you choose as your favorite with the appropriate liturgical season, so do not be disappointed if you do not see your hymn listed in the Sunday bulletin right away.

From the Financial Secretary:

It's hard to believe that 2017 is over and we are celebrating a new year, not to mention preparing to file our taxes. ☐ Before the end of January, you should receive from me one statement that combines your pledge accounting with a statement to be used when you are preparing your income tax returns. Here are a few reminders:

- For anyone who pledged during 2017, you will also see any additional contributions that you made to the church as one line item on your year-end pledge accounting statement.
- For anyone who did not pledge during 2017 but has requested a tax statement, you will see all of your contributions listed in one letter.
- If you did not pledge and did not request a tax statement, you will not automatically receive a year-end statement from me. You must request a tax statement from me to receive one.
- Memorial donations are acknowledged and sent separately by our minister. I do not record or include them on what I send to you.
- The mailing that shows you the charitable contribution portion of your Scrip purchases will not change.

Also, our pledge cards this year did not include a place to indicate whether you want pledge envelopes. If you do, please let me know. I can also walk you through how to set up electronic funds transfer via Vanco. If you have any questions about any of this information, please feel free to reach out to me at 860-729-6541 or deb.copes@gmail.com.

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

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

December 31

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

Sunday

Sanctuary
Room 4
Rms 24,25,26
Chapin Hall

January 1

Happy New Year! OFFICE CLOSED

7:00pm **Women's AA**

Monday

Chapin Hall

January 2

Little Scholars Preschool back in session

9:30am **Newsletter Mailing**
7:00pm **Boards & Committees**
7:00pm **Hearing Voices**

Tuesday

Fiorilli
Fiorilli
Room 22

January 3

6:00pm **Music Committee**

Wednesday

Fiorilli

January 4

9:30am **Music Together**
7:30pm **Men's AA**

Thursday

Rm 22
Chapin Hall

January 5

6:00pm **Tamil School**

Friday

Rms 22,24,25,27

January 6

10:00am **Pageant Rehearsal**

Saturday

Sanctuary



| | |
|----|--|
| 01 | Gladys Kitchens Samantha Dion Daphne Donahue |
| 02 | Amy Dion |
| 03 | Fred Nashold Nancy Flynn |
| 05 | Babs Wheeler Matt Fulda |
| 06 | Joan-Marie Schaefer Quincy McNeil |

All are invited to InReach's
COMFORT FOOD DINNER
Saturday, January 27, 2018, in
Chapin Hall at 5:30 PM.



WORSHIP RECORDINGS AVAILABLE

Audio recordings, written sermons and bulletins for many of our Sunday worship services are available on the church website, **rhccucc.org** (See **WORSHIP BULLETINS**) or you may contact the office to request an audio CD.

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