

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

*Established 1727 ~ An Open and Affirming Community*



**December 6, 2015 ~ 10:00 a.m.  
Second 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 and large-print bulletins** 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

## CALL TO WORSHIP

The Reign of God is drawing near:

**The prophet calls us to change our lives!**

Prepare the way for the Lord:

**A just and peaceful path!**

Welcome one another, for Christ welcomes you:

**For the glory of God!**

## \*HYMN

"Lift Up Your Heads. Ye Mighty Gates"

Pilgrim (red) 114

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

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

## \*INVOCATION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Holy God,

We long for your peace, and trust in your promise;  
we hear your call to turn toward you,  
to change our lives and welcome you in.

Meet us here and fill our minds with your wisdom  
and our hearts with your peace,  
that our worship together  
may open us to the challenge of your dream of wholeness for all.  
In the name of the One who is coming,  
we pray as He 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.

## LIGHTING OF THE SECOND ADVENT CANDLE: PEACE

### \*SUNG RESPONSE:

The musical notation consists of two staves in G major, 4/4 time. The first staff has four measures with lyrics: 'Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, in ex - cel - sis De - o!'. The second staff has four measures with lyrics: 'Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!'. Chords are indicated above the notes: Dm, Gm, C, F, Dm, Gm, C, F for the first staff; and 3 Dm, Gm, C, F, 4 Dm, Gm, C, F for the second staff.

## 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 score is written on three staves in treble clef, with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C). The lyrics are: "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."

## SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 3:1-6

N.T. p. 52 pew Bible

## SERMON

“Preparing the Way”

The Rev. Craig L. Cowing

## OFFERING OF GIFTS

*During the time of offering, your prayers can be offered using the blue prayer request cards and placed in the offering plate. The pastor will read the prayers aloud during the Joys and Concerns.*

### 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

“Advent Carol”

Peter Niedmann

The Choir

### \*Doxology

The musical score is written on two staves in treble clef, with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The lyrics are: "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

Musical score for 'Sung Call to Prayer' in G major and 4/4 time. The score consists of two systems of music, each with a treble and bass staff. The lyrics are: 'Hear our prayer, O God, hear our prayer, O God; in - cline your ear to us, and grant us your peace.'

### Pastoral Prayer

\*HYMN "Let All Flesh Keep Mortal Silence" New Century (black) 345

### Prayer of Confession

God of abounding grace, have mercy upon us. Our valleys are deep when we are encompassed with care. Our mountains are high when our burdens are heavy. We grope in the maze of our tangled alliances and reap the pain of bad choices and ignorant gambles. You promised that all flesh shall see your salvation. Show us the straight path and the smooth way that lead to your righteousness, through Jesus Christ, who is the way. Amen.

### Assurance of Pardon

Paul prays that "your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless.

**In Christ, let us live in the assurance of God's continued mercy and forgiveness. Amen.**

# THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

*This church practices open Communion. All are welcome to participate, including children, and regardless of denominational affiliation or church membership.*

*This morning, the congregation will be seated for Communion; the elements (bread and non-alcoholic grape juice) will be brought to each pew. Please wait until all have been served so that we may take the elements together. As you pass the trays to your neighbor, you may use the words “The bread of life” and “The cup of blessing.” If you would like to receive gluten-free bread, please raise your hand so that a Deacon may serve you.*

## Invitation

## Recalling the Story: The Words of Institution

## Sharing the Bread and the Cup

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

**Our God, we thank you for this meal, as a reminder of your care for us. We pray that we may take the fulfillment we find here and bring it to those whom we encounter. Help us to be the bearers of your grace and ambassadors of reconciliation.**

**Amen.**

## Sharing the Peace of Christ

Now let us share among us a sign of God’s peace.

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

**\*HYMN**

“Awake, Awake to Love and Work”

New Century (black) 89

## BENEDICTION

## POSTLUDE

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**LITURGIST**

Maley Hunt

**USHERS**

Kathy Mosure, Bea Donahue, Bob Simmons, Steph Heneghan

**The tower is lit this week in memory of Marian Gray  
by Sue Monaghan.**

# ADVENT FAMILY NIGHT TONIGHT, 5 PM – 7 PM

Join us for a pot-luck dinner, and crafts as we prepare for this season of Advent to wait in anticipation for the birth of Jesus Christ. Bring a salad, a main dish, or a dessert (a true pot luck!)

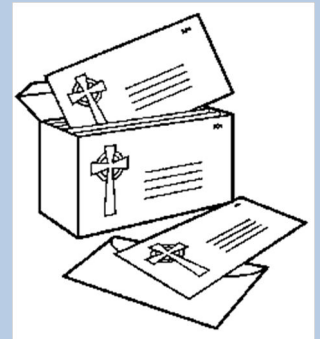
*This is an intergenerational event  
for the entire church family and friends.*

If you have questions,  
contact Georgette Huie [ghuie@rhccucc.org](mailto:ghuie@rhccucc.org) 860-529-4167  
or Kathy Morgan [kathym317@gmail.com](mailto:kathym317@gmail.com) 860-257-7454



## **From the Financial Secretary:**

Please contact me, Deb Copes, either by phone (860-257-1099) or email ([deb.copes@gmail.com](mailto:deb.copes@gmail.com)) if you need pledging envelopes for our 2016 pledge year. I can leave them for you down in Chapin Hall or another place in the church convenient for you to pick them up. If you are interested in signing up for Vanco/electronic funds transfer for your pledge, I would be happy to help you do that. I do contribute via Vanco for everything – pledge, Scrip payment, Missions/Diaconate offerings – and it is very convenient. And I'm all about convenience! If you already use Vanco and need assistance changing your current pledge, I would be happy to assist you with that as well.





## 15th ANNUAL COOKIE WALK

Yes, it's that time of year again!

Time to pull out your rolling pins and sifters and feed your sweet tooth!

This year we will be doing things slightly different. Based on the feedback we received last year, we have changed the format slightly. It will be held on

**SATURDAY December 19**

**10:30 AM until 1 PM .**

The snow date will be SUNDAY December 20th after church.

Proceeds from the walk **help support the youth group trip** to the July UCC National Youth Event.

Pre-packaged tins and pre-orders will be available.

If you would like to pre order you can contact

Linda Tokarski (860-633-8413. or [ltokarski 64@gmail.com](mailto:ltokarski64@gmail.com))

or Marsha Hoffman (860-563-1367).

Please help us by signing up after church in Chapin Hall and baking a batch (or two) of your favorite cookies. They can be dropped off in Chapin Hall Friday afternoon (December 19) between 2 and 6 or Saturday morning before 10.



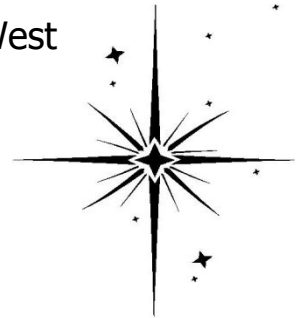
While our music community is busily getting ready for our Lessons & Carols service, our Music Committee is busy planning the reception after the service. There will be some food items provided by the committee and by other church members. However, if anyone is willing to bring a dessert or an appetizer to be shared at the reception, our Committee would truly appreciate it. If you need ideas on what to bring, please call Deb Copes at 860-257-1099. We do ask that you bring your item already plated or ask Inreach for a plate from Chapin Hall prior to the event. Thank you in advance!

RHCC Music Committee



## LOOKING AHEAD TO DECEMBER

Sun. Dec. 6	10:00am	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent – worship and communion
	5:00pm	Advent Family Night
Tues. Dec. 8	1:00pm	“Images of Christmas, East and West
Wed. Dec. 9	1:00pm	Advent Bible Study
Thurs. Dec. 10	7:00pm	Blue Christmas Service
Sun. Dec. 13	10:00am	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent - Worship
	4:00pm	Lessons and Carols
Tues. Dec. 15	7:00pm	“Images of Christmas, East and West
Sat. Dec. 19	10:30am	Cookie Walk
Sun. Dec.20	10:00am	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent – worship
	11:00am	Snow date for Cookie Walk
	2:00pm	Christmas Caroling
Thurs. Dec. 24	5:00pm	Christmas Eve Intergenerational Service
	11:00pm	Candlelight and Communion Service
Sun. Jan 10	10:00am	Epiphany Pageant



Giuliano-Sagarino Brooklawn Funeral Home  
511 Brook Street  
Rocky Hill

invite you to attend their

**20<sup>th</sup> annual Memorial Tree Lighting Ceremony**  
on **Wednesday December 9 at 6:30pm.**

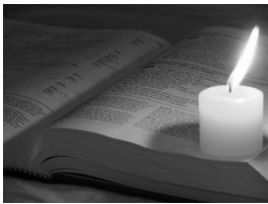
It is an evening of celebrating and remembering loved ones.

All are welcome to attend.



Tuesday December 8 at 1 PM and Tuesday December 15 at 7 PM the Rev. Craig Cowing will give a presentation on **“Images of Christmas, East and West,”** in which he will display copies he has painted of Orthodox icons and Renaissance paintings with a Christmas theme. He will talk about the significance of Christmas in the Eastern and Western traditions and how that reflects on images of Christmas.

On Thursday, December 10 at 7 PM we will have a **Blue Christmas service.** The purpose of the service is to acknowledge that the holiday season is difficult for many who suffer from depression or who have experienced loss. December is the darkest month of the year, and the coinciding with a joyous holiday season can be difficult. This will be a meditative service of music, prayer and readings.



Rev. Craig Cowing will lead an **Advent Bible Study** on three Wednesdays, December 2, 9, and 16 at 1 PM in the Fiorilli Room. Each week we will look at the texts from the Revised Common Lectionary for the upcoming Sunday.



**Sunday, December 20 at 2:00pm**

Join the Music Committee for an afternoon of singing your favorite Christmas carols. We will be visiting several nursing houses 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.



# A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

December 13, 2015 at 4:00 p.m.



**Rocky Hill Congregational Church**

**United Church of Christ**

**Established 1727**

*An Open and Affirming Community of Faith*



## **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.

November set a new one-month record, with a monthly profit of more than \$2800! If you placed an order last weekend, you may pick up your cards in Chapin Hall this morning.

Next Sunday - December 13 - will be the last pre-Christmas opportunity to buy gift cards that are not stocked in inventory. Orders placed by Dec. 13 will be available for pickup on Dec. 20. Need any stocking stuffers?

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.

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, Bonafish Grill, Buffalo Wild Wings, Denny's  
On the Border, TGI Fridays, Outback Steakhouse

**Shopping:** Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Bed Bath & Beyond,  
Home Depot, Kohl's, iTunes, L. L. Bean, Lowes, Payless Shoes, Target,  
Toys R Us, Walmart

See Gail Hall at 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 6

### Sunday

#### SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

10:00am	<b>Worship</b>	Sanctuary
11:20am	<b>Children's Choir</b>	Choir Room
11:40am	<b>Lessons/Carols Adult Choir</b>	Choir Room
4:00pm	Siragu Tamil School	Rm 22, 23, 24, 25, 27
5:00pm	<b>Advent Family Night</b>	Chapin Hall

### December 7

### Monday

7:00pm	Women's AA	Chapin Hall
7:30PM	<b>Bell Choir</b>	Loft

### December 8

### Tuesday

1:00pm	<b>Images of Xmas, East &amp; West</b>	Fiorilli Room
7:00pm	<b>Ad Hoc Governance</b>	Fiorilli Room
7:00pm	Hearing Voices	Room 24

### December 9

### Wednesday

9:00am	<b>Breakfast Club</b>	Bob's Cafe
1:00pm	<b>Bible Study</b>	Fiorilli Room
5:15pm	Pilates w/Caroline	Chapin Hall
7:00pm	<b>Choir/Lessons &amp; Carols</b>	Choir Room
7:30pm	<b>Adult Choir</b>	Choir Room

### December 10

### Thursday

7:00pm	Blue Christmas	Chapel
7:30pm	Men's AA	Chapin Hall

### December 12

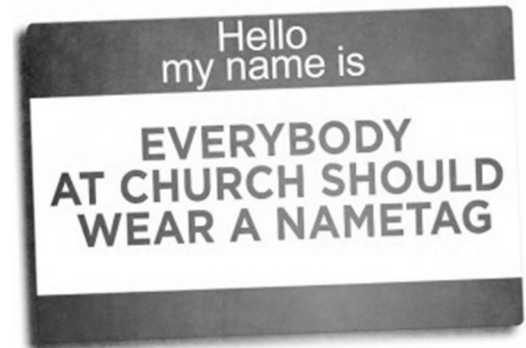
### Saturday

9:00am	<b>Lessons &amp; Carols Rehearsal</b>	Sanctuary
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#### BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

Dec. 6	Marty Rowe
7	Robert Mullins
9	Kendres Lally



The **MARCH OF THE TOYS** will be **DECEMBER 13TH**. Please bring an unwrapped toy to church on December 13th. The toys collected will be brought to the Hartford Seminary where they will be distributed to Hartford area families in need. Many social workers in the area 'shop' at the Hartford Seminary for the families they support. There will be a basket in the sanctuary for toy collections. Toys can also be left in the Missions Office, at the Missions Board in Chapin Hall or speak with Kari McCaw 860-803-4852 [kariblaise@hotmail.com](mailto:kariblaise@hotmail.com). If you will be attending church on December 13th, please bring your toy for the 'March of the Toys'

*Remember to Honor your Loved Ones  
With Christmas Poinsettias*



They will adorn the sanctuary for worship on  
**Sunday, December 20th**  
**The cost is \$14.00 per plant.**  
**Ordering deadline is Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup>**

Please fill out the information below and mail to Kim Burghoff (*see address below*)

Given by: \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Telephone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Dedication (“in loving memory of...” or “in honor of...” etc.):

1. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

Please select:

[  ] I will pick-up my plant after worship on Sunday, December 20th.

[  ] Use my plant to decorate the church through Christmas.

**Make your checks payable to:**

**Rocky Hill Congregational Church with “Poinsettia” in memo line and mail to:**

Kim Burghoff

204 Gray Fox Lane, Rocky Hill CT 06067.

You may call Kim with questions at 860 563-3287.

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

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