

Welcome! Thank You for Worshiping With Us Today!

Welcome to the First Congregational Church of Southington, dating from 1724, & worshipping in this Meetinghouse since 1830. We are one of the larger, more vibrant United Church of Christ churches in New England. Our purpose is to love & worship God; extend God's radically-inclusive love to all people everywhere; make more & better disciples of Jesus Christ; & inspire people & society to become more & more just, loving, compassionate & Christ-like. You will find here an accepting, caring, non-judgmental community, where lives are transformed, faith is renewed & power for positive living is received. Welcome!

January 8, 2006

CHAPEL COMMUNION

8:00AM

PREPARING TO WORSHIP GOD

Gathering Music
The Welcome/Welcoming One Another
Church Family Announcements

PRAISING GOD

The Call to Worship

PASTOR: The windows of heaven are open whether we realize it or not.

PEOPLE: The Spirit is moving like a dove whether we welcome her or not.

PASTOR: This is the new age of Christ whether we serve it or not.

PEOPLE: This is the hour of salvation, whether we celebrate it or not.

PASTOR: Here and now, people of God, I invite you to a sharpened realization, an open-hearted welcome, and an over-abundant celebration.

*Hymn: #J-1 (Worship Book)

Spirit, Come

Gregory Norbet

*Prayer of General Confession (unison)

God, our Creator and Savior, we are creatures who need Your constant assistance. Without it we will never completely break free from those forces, sometimes subtle and sometimes blatant, that compromise our spirit, and make an unholy alliance with the evil in the world around us. Our need is not for a quick-fix, with cheap forgiveness, followed by pious but impractical good intentions. Rather we pray for an ongoing radical transformation within our deepest being. We ask for more and more of Your saving grace, for the ability to discern our own secretive sins and to muster the desire to sincerely repent. We need a mercy that reaches into those depths where spiritual hungers and furtive corruptions co-exist. We want You to forgive our self-treachery, to eradicate any mutiny, and then to liberate those holy desires which long to rise up into loving thoughts and faithful deeds. Please immerse us in Your healing waters of love. Baptize us with Your Spirit. Let us know that we are truly made in Your image and destined for heights more beautiful than we can ever imagine. Through Christ Jesus, who for our sake was baptized by water and the Spirit. Now in the silence hear our personal prayers of confession...

*Prayer of Personal Confession (in silence)

*Assurance of Forgiveness

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Scripture Lessons
Sermon

ACTS 19:1-11 & MARK 1:4-11

THE NEW & IMPROVED MODEL

Rev. Rick Haverly

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Prayers of the Church & Lord's Prayer (using *sins*)

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

The Invitation

The Sharing of the Bread and Cup

(Please come forward, pew by pew, starting with the entire left side, front pew first. The right side can then follow, beginning in the rear. Break off a piece of bread & dip it into the cup.)

Prayer of Thanksgiving (join hands)

Benediction

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Flowers: Given by Bob & Janet Schmidt in loving memory of loved ones.

NEW: To provide flowers in memory/honor of a loved one/event ANY week this year, sign-up on our new FLOWER CHART in Memorial Hall.

Joys & Concerns for Prayer: These older children receive *The Sacrament of Christian Baptism* at 11:15am today: Chad Peter Mehmel, son of Ed & Marsha Mehmel, and Jack William & Joseph Anthony DePaolo-Boisvert, sons of Valerie DePaolo & Michelle Boisvert. Hospitalized: Gwen Sunderland, Jeannette Faitella & Lucille Gemmell. Ken Sullivan had knee surgery this week. Lyndsey Ellis and Michael & Jennifer Miceli are on a mission for *Every Dollar Feeds Kids* in Guayaquil, Ecuador. Andrea Sinclair goes to NYC on 1/16 for very intricate, extensive back surgery. Matthew Currao, a U. S. Marine, is now in Fallujah, Iraq. We continue to pray for Jacqui Maddy; Bill Bennett; Diane Lamb; Judy Costa; Maureen Curtis; Walter Smith; Pat Diego; Janis Leger; Dorothy & Clive Greenough; Mary Lou Thompson; Donna Morin; John O'Connor; Pat Livingstone; our Stephen Ministers & care-receivers.

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GORDON ELLIS will be in Florida this week attending *Conversations*, an educational conference for senior ministers of large churches in our *United Church of Christ*. He returns Saturday & preaches & leads worship NEXT Sunday.

PASTA DINNER: Sr. C.I.A. (gr. 9-12) will host a **Pasta Dinner THIS Saturday, 1/14, 5:00-8:00pm**, in Memorial Hall for support their February *Youth Mission Trip* to work in Washington, D. C. **\$6/adults & \$3/ages 6 & under:** tickets on sale TODAY at *Coffee & Conversation*.

YOUTH SKI TRIP: Youth, grades 6-12, & their parents are invited on Monday, January 16. Watch for more details soon & sign-up next to Gordon's office. For info, call Rick Haverly (860/620-0513).

LOCAL MISSION WORK: THANKS for a great response to our *Covenant to Care & Angel Tree* gift tags! **168 gifts (valued at \$3,192)** were purchased by our members & delivered to our many D.C.F. kids, as well as 7 kids of incarcerated Southington residents. Our *Salvation Army* bell-ringers on 12/10 raised **\$1,408** for *Southington Social Services*. **17** of our members helped deliver **379** Christmas food baskets to neighbors in need around town on 12/17. AND our *Christmas Gift Cards* raised a total of **\$1177.50** to benefit **4** wonderful mission organizations: *Prudence Crandall Center*, Southington's *Manna Fund*, *Hartford Habitat for Humanity & Every Dollar Feeds Kids*. Doesn't it feel GREAT?

SAFE CHURCH TRAINING: Wednesday, January 18, 7:00-8:30pm, rooms 201/202.

CPR & AED TRAINING: John Arens will teach **full training** (3 hours, get card) on 2 Wednesdays, January 11 or 25, and **refresher training** (90 minutes, get card) on Wednesdays, January 18. All begin at 7:00pm. Please sign-up next to Gordon's office ASAP.

QUIET WORSHIP IN THE STYLE OF TAIZE is offered **EVERY Tuesday, 6:30-7:00pm**, in our **chapel**. It includes 10 minutes of silence, along with scripture, prayers & simple choruses. Join us!

2006 CALENDAR FOR EVERY DOLLAR FEEDS KIDS: To thank you for a minimum donation of \$26, our *EDFK* Board of Directors will give you a *2006 Wall Calendar* which, thanks to local merchants & board members, provides a weekly *thank you* gift (average value: \$25) to the person whose name is drawn from the names of those who purchase calendars (or those they designate if calendars are given as gifts). The person selected each week will be contacted & the gift may be either mailed or picked up at our Church Office. All names will be included in all drawings, regardless of how many times each is drawn. View & order your calendars **TODAY** at *Coffee & Conversation!*

CHECK OUT OUR CHURCH'S WEBSITE, www.firstchurchsouthington.org. You'll love it!

VIDEOS OF SUNDAY SERVICES & SPECIAL EVENTS are available in our Church Library.

CHILD CARE for infants/toddlers is offered at all 4 Sunday services in our Infant/Toddler Nursery.

EVERY DOLLAR FEEDS KIDS OFFERING ENVELOPES are available next to Church Office.