

Welcome! Thank You for Worshiping With Us Today!

Welcome to the First Congregational Church of Southington, dating from 1724, & worshiping 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!

February 12, 2006

CHAPEL COMMUNION

8:00AM

Evangelism is one beggar telling another beggar where there's a crust of bread. -- D. T. Niles --

PREPARING TO WORSHIP GOD

Gathering Music
The Welcome/Welcoming One Another
Church Family Announcements

PRAISING GOD

The Call to Worship
PASTOR: We gather to praise and glorify God, who calls us from aimless living.
PEOPLE: We, who bind ourselves to this world, seek a vision beyond ourselves and our immediate circumstances. We seek meaningful and joyful lives.
PASTOR: The Good News of Jesus Christ tells us that we are not bound to this world and its values! Christ offers us a new vision and vast possibilities for good.
PEOPLE: Let us celebrate this good news, and live it, offering God truth and love to all who will receive it.
*Hymn of Praise: ##173 You Have Come down to the Lakeshore Pescador de Hombres
*Prayer of General Confession (unison)
Holy God, we dare to come again asking for forgiveness. Too often we have tossed and turned through nights of emptiness, with little hope. We have seen clouds without rejoicing over their refreshing rain. We have confused freedom with license and mistaken humility for weakness. Forgive us, O God, and help to hear and believe the Good News of Jesus Christ, that we might have full, meaningful and joyful lives. Now in the silence, hear our personal prayers of confession.
*Prayer of Personal Confession (in silence)
*Assurance of Forgiveness

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Scripture Lesson MARK 1:28, 32-45
Sermon LET'S NOT FORGET THE MISSION! Rev. Dr. Gordon E. Ellis
includes unison reading: *The Purpose of the Church*: #A-1 (Worship Book)

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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Joys & Concerns for Prayer: We pray for the Weitzke family, grieving the death of Bill's mother, & the Silva family, grieving the death of Barbara's brother-in-law. Hospitalized: Jeannette Faitella & Fran Child. Clive Greenough will have surgery this Thursday. Pat Livingstone will have surgery on 2/27. We continue to pray for Diane Lamb; Matthew Plourde; Andrea Sinclair; Judy Costa; Maureen Curtis; Pat Diego; Janis Leger; Dorothy Greenough; Mary Lou Thompson; Donna Morin; John O'Connor; Matt Currao; our Stephen Ministers & care-receivers.
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USHERS NEEDED: Would you usher **1 Sunday/month at 9:30AM** starting in March? Training provided. Substitutes available. Get to know more people! Sign-up next to Gordon's office TODAY.

JIM COLE IN CONCERT: Jim Cole, the James Taylor of Christian music, is known around the world for songs like *Humble Yourself as a Child, Master of My Heart, Every Generation, & In Bethlehem Tonight*. **Mark your calendar:** Jim Cole will be with us **all day on Sunday, March 26**. He'll sing alone & with our choir or band at all 4 services, then offer a wonderful, Spirit-filled **concert** in our **Meetinghouse at 7:30pm!** Tickets: **\$10** (\$5/under 18) from Church Office. **DON'T MISS IT!**

YOUTH MISSION TRIP SPONSORS: Would you like to be a sponsor for our February *Youth Mission Trip* to Washington, D.C. Youth will be at *Coffee & Conversation* TODAY.

MOVIE DISCUSSION TONIGHT: *Fiddler on the Roof*. Join us, 7:30pm, rooms #201/202.

MOVIES THAT MATTER happens again **Friday, 3/10, 7:00pm**, with Academy Award-winning movie: *Life is Beautiful* with a **discussion** on 3/12, 7:30, led by Sharon Vocke & Clare Lindsey. Join us for discussion whether you watch movie at church or home. **FUTURE Movies:** ; **April 21 (7pm) The Scarlet & the Black** with **discussion:** 4/23, 7:30pm, led by Gabe Selmi & Alice Niemczyski & **May 12 (7pm) 12 Angry Men** with **discussion:** 5/14, 7:30pm, led by Gordon Ellis & Sue Meissner. JOIN US for these *Movies That Matter!*

MUSIC OF THE AGES FOR ALL AGES: A CONCERT BY OUR MUSIC MINISTRY: Our church is blessed with a fantastic music ministry! Join us to hear all of our musical groups: *Senior Choir, Mustard Seeds Children's Choir, The Celebration Ringers* (handbell choir) & *Branches* (our T.G.I. Sunday worship band & singers). It's **Saturday, March 11, 7:30pm**, in our **Meetinghouse**. A free-will offering will be received for *Southington Social Services*. DON'T MISS IT!

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES OF PENANCE: The holiest season on the year, Lent, begins on *Ash Wednesday*, March 1st. We offer 3 brief *Ash Wednesday Services of Penance*, when you may receive ashes. Services are at **7:00AM in Chapel** (30 min.), **12:00Noon in Meetinghouse** (30 min.) & **7:00PM in Meetinghouse** (45 min.). Plan to attend one. A luncheon (\$3) follows the 12:00N service.

JOHN ARENS TO PREACH NEXT SUNDAY: At **9:30am only**, John Arens will preach & lead the bulk of our worship service. A Search Committee from another church, which has been considering John to be their minister, will be here to listen to John. Please join us to welcome & support John.

MAUNDY THURSDAY ACTORS NEEDED: 12 actors/actresses are required for our drama on Maundy Thursday, 4/13. Please contact Crystal Sullivan (860-276-8614 or Kencyss@sbcglobal.net).

SUMMER CAMP FOR KIDS: Our *United Church of Christ* runs a wonderful summer camp for children & teens at *Silver Lake Conference Center* in Sharon, CT. Brochure & registration are available on-line at <http://silverlake.ctucc.org>. A limited number of brochures are available in our C. E. Office (see Karlene Archambeault or Carole Lantz). Some scholarship \$ available (see Gordon Ellis).

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!

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.

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