

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 19, 2006

**CHAPEL COMMUNION**

8:00AM

Christians are placed daily before the greatest choices: to be conformed to the luminous image of Jesus through the gracious assistance of God the Holy Spirit or to be conformed to the ravaged image of the world through the deceitful encouragement of the "cosmic powers of this present darkness"

--Romans 12:2; Ephesians 6:10-13 (Spiritual Formation Bible) --

PREPARING TO WORSHIP GOD

Gathering Music  
The Welcome/Welcoming One Another  
Church Family Announcements

PRAISING GOD

The Call to Worship

PASTOR: There were plenty of good reasons to stay home this morning: the old easy chair is more comfortable than a pew. The plump Sunday paper, with news, sports and funnies, seems more readable than scripture.

PEOPLE: **The TV preacher can be turned on (and off) at the flick of a switch. The coffee at home is as we like it. And the music on the stereo is by our own selection.**

PASTOR: The company or solitude there is just fine, thank you. The only request for an offering at home comes in the voice of a child... "play with me"... or the dog's bark or a cat's meow for food.

PEOPLE: **Yet we have the very best reasons for being here this morning: to praise and honor God, to discover our neighbors, to offer service and to grow in faith.**

PASTOR: The choice has been well made. Welcome to worship!

\*Hymn of Praise: #454 Lord, I Want to Be a Christian

\*Prayer of General Confession (unison)

Merciful God, You made us in Your image, with a mind to know You, a heart to love You, and a will to serve You. But our knowledge is imperfect, our love inconsistent, and our serving incomplete. We want to be Your faithful people, but confess that we often don't know what that means. We have failed to continue to grow in our faith. Instead we fill our lives with busyness and our minds with clutter. Day by day we fail to grow in Your likeness. In Your tender love, forgive us, O God. Amen

\*Prayer of Personal Confession (in silence)

\*Assurance of Forgiveness

HEARING GOD'S WORD

**A Brief Interview With Bob Beaudoin**

Scripture Lesson

MARK 2: 1-12, PHILIPPIANS 2: 1-5, 1 TIMOTHY 4:8

Sermon

SPIRITUALLY FIT

Rev. Linda Fernandes-Bailey

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:** In loving memory of our daughter, Alice Elisabeth Maddy from Ben & Jacqui Maddy.

To provide flowers in memory/honor of a loved one/event, please sign-up on Memorial Hall **FLOWER CHART**.

**Joys & Concerns for Prayer:** We pray for our *Youth Mission Trip* participants & advisors in Washington, D.C. We celebrate the births of Emily Hayes Taylor (2/8), daughter of Doug & Julie Taylor, & Daniel Joseph Falco (2/15), son of Tony Falco & Michelle Nucifora. Matthew Plourde had surgery this week. Hospitalized: Joy Nell, Fran Child & Jeannette Faitella. Upcoming surgeries: Pat Livingstone (2/27); Clive Greenough (3/2). 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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**WE WELCOME JOHN ARENS** as worship leader at 9:30am. John coordinates *Men's Breakfast Club* & chairs our *Every Dollar Feeds Kids* Board of Directors. He served our church as a *Minister-in-Training* several years ago. A Search Committee from an area church is here to listen to John today.

**ASH WEDNESDAY IS MARCH 1<sup>st</sup>:** Our holiest season, Lent, begins Wednesday, March 1<sup>st</sup>. We offer **3 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. Gordon's life-giving sermon: *Kill the Cyclops*. A luncheon (\$3) follows the 12:00N service.

**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!**

**SPECIAL OFFERING NEXT SUNDAY:** Our sister church, *Central Congregational* in New Orleans, can no longer pay its pastor, Rev. Wilmer Brown, because of Hurricane Katrina. He has committed to stay anyway. Our *CT Conference, U.C.C.* is helping with a special offering, hoping that each church can raise \$300. Our offering is **NEXT Sunday** at all 4 services! Would you help?

**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**.

**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!**

**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).

**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!*

**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 [Kencyriss@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Kencyriss@sbcglobal.net)).

**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!

**CHECK OUT OUR CHURCH'S WEBSITE,** [www.firstchurchsouthington.org](http://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.