

Welcome! Thank You for Worshiping With Us Today!

Welcome to *The First Congregational Church of Southington*. Ours is an **open & affirming** congregation dating from 1724 & worshipping in our present Meetinghouse since 1830. One of the larger, more vibrant *United Church of Christ* churches in New England, our church's 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 our church to be an accepting, caring, non-judgmental community, where faith is renewed, lives are transformed, & power for positive living is received. It's a church *where the Spirit is alive & miracles happen!* Welcome!

T. G. I. SUNDAY: CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP

January 21, 2007 **11:15am & 6:00pm**

Biblical scholar, William Barclay, wrote: *We hear a great many sermons about the might & the majesty & the power of God; we would do well sometimes to think of the helplessness of God, that without what we can do, God is quite & totally helpless.* I think Barclay overstates his case by saying God is helpless. But his point was that the church is essential in the achievement of God's purpose & will for the world. More than just a community that keeps Christ's memory alive, we are, figuratively speaking, the hands & feet & voice that does His work & speaks His word. We are called to be the flesh & blood manifestations of the Holy Spirit as it reveals the reconciling love of God.

INFANT & TODDLER CARE BY ADULTS DURING ALL SERVICES IN CHURCH NURSERY

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

The Gathering Music

The Welcome & Welcoming One Another
Church Family Announcements

The Call to Worship

*A Time for Singing

*Prayer of General Confession (unison)

Patient and loving God, how often You have spoken to Your people and we have closed our ears because Your words disconcerted us? How often have You given us new vision and we have closed our eyes for lack of courage to see what You would have us see? How often have You nudged us to take risks for the sake of love and we have turned aside, missing divine opportunities? Forgive us, O God, for not listening, not seeing and not acting. Forgive us for not heeding Your call. Now in the silence, hear our personal prayers of confession.

*Prayer of Personal Confession (in silence)

*Assurance of Forgiveness

Children's Message

Children & Teachers Exit to Church School

Video Clip from

Scripture Lesson 1 CORINTHIANS 12:12-31

Sermon MANY MEMBERS, ONE BODY
Dr. Gordon E. Ellis

Prayers of the Church

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

(Please come forward, break off piece of bread & dip it into cup. In the gold container are gluten-free, wheat-free, corn-free, soy-free wafers for those with allergies.)

The Act of Blessing **(A blessing by anointing is offered during communion to all who wish it. After partaking of communion, go to either kneeling bench, & kneel or stand.)**

*Prayer of Thanksgiving & Lord's Prayer (please join hands)

*Song

*Benediction

*Response

PLEASE JOIN US DOWNSTAIRS FOR COFFEE & CONVERSATION

Greeters: 11:15am Brenda Mabery **6:00pm** Pam Brush

Coffee Hour Hosts: 11:15am Lisa & Caitlyn Flynn **6:00pm** Heidi Bass

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Our 2007 Flower Chart to provide flowers in honor/memory of loved ones is now available in Memorial Hall.

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Joys & Concerns for Prayer: Alan Beaudoin will have surgery on 1/29 at Yale-New Haven Hospital. We continue to pray for Pat Diego; John Zigmont; Mary Carter; Shirley Penfield; Janet Crocker; Betsy Roberts; Maureen Curtis; Pat Livingstone; & our Stephen Ministers & care-receivers.

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SOUPER BOWL OF CARING: 2/4 (*Super Bowl Sunday*) is *Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday*. Our youth join youth nationwide collecting money for the hungry & hurting. In 2006, 11,000 groups in all 50 states & beyond generated over \$5 million. All money is donated to local charities selected by the participants. Organizers just ask participants to report collection amounts so that national totals can be announced. Our young people will hold soup pots at all exits on *Souper Bowl Sunday* for *Bread for Life*, our community soup kitchen. Since 1993, over \$33 million nationwide has helped those in need. Please support our youth in loving our neighbors by dropping \$1 into a soup pot on 2/4.

ALL-COMMITTEE MEETING NIGHT IS TOMORROW for Christian Education, Missions, Stewardship & Trustees, beginning with a brief worship service for everyone at 7:00pm in our Chapel.

PEACE CAFÉ: Our Church Council has officially re-named Fellowship Hall (under Meetinghouse). It will now be called *Peace Café*. Plan to join us on **Saturday, February 10**, for our **grand opening**, starting with a wonderful church family **pot-luck supper** in Memorial Hall at **6:00pm** to get acquainted with new and long-time members. Then we will adjourn to **Peace Café** for a special **dedication** of our new coffee house and theater, followed an evening of fun, music (by very talented church friends) & film. Anyone wishing to perform a song or two should contact Dee Elloian (860-674-8844) ASAP. You'll LOVE it!

TRIP TO SEE GODSPELL: Join your church family to see *Godspell* on Sunday, April 15, 2:00pm, at *The Warner Theater* in Torrington (small theater across from main theater). We have reserved 25 seats at \$18.50 each (less if we fill all 25 or more). Sign-up next to Gordon's office by March 1st or contact Cynthia Enright (860-276-0138 or ccenright@yahoo.com) with questions. Adults must accompany children.

PASTA DINNER: Join us on **Saturday, 1/27, 5:00-8:00PM, Memorial Hall**, for a Pasta Dinner to support our February *Youth Mission Trip to Mississippi*, where they will help with Hurricane Katrina reconstruction. **\$7.50/adults & \$5/children (5 & under).**

SEEDS OF HOPE GROUP has been rescheduled from tonight until NEXT Sunday, 7:30pm.

SACRED CIRCLE COVENANT GROUPS will be offered during Lent. As a Lenten discipline, we hope all church members & friends will attend one. It's a 5-week commitment (2/26 - 4/1) spending 2 hours/week in a group with 6 to 8 others from church exploring & learning to live according to *The Sacred Circle of Discipleship* that Gordon presented in a 3-part sermon series in October. Groups will be offered at different times on different days for your convenience. Watch for sign-up sheets soon.

WINTER ART CAMP: Award-winning artist & teacher, John Baker, will offer an *Art Camp* during February vacation (2/19 - 2/23) for kids (with lessons in painting, drawing, clay, collage, mixed media & illustration) in our new *Peace Café* (formerly Fellowship Hall). Sessions will be 2-hour: grades 1-3 meet 9:30-11:30am & grades 4-7 meet 1:30-3:30pm. Children will also learn about art from around the world & help their friends create artwork for our new *Peace Café*. Cost: \$150 (includes all materials). Register today; space is limited. Contact John (203-536-5642 or at Johnnysings@excite.com).

PUZZLE SWAP on Sunday, 2/25, all day in Memorial Hall. Bring in & take home puzzles for adults & children (children's puzzles not more than 100 pieces). For info, contact Lois Hall (860-828-4219).

A QUIET CANDLELIGHT PRAYER SERVICE in the style of Taize is held **EVERY Tuesday, 6:30-7:00pm**, in our Chapel. All welcome & encouraged to attend for quiet, reflective worship.

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