

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!

Rev. Patricia L. Liberty, Interim Senior Minister

January 6, 2008

EPIPHANY

9:30am

PLEASE TURN OFF CELL PHONES.... THANK YOU!

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

PREPARING TO WORSHIP GOD

"It is better to follow even the shadow of the best, than to remain content with the worst, and those who would see wonderful things must often be ready to travel alone." - Henry Vandyke, The Other Wise Man –

The Welcome/Welcoming One Another
Church Family Announcements

Prelude *Fantasia: Wie Schön Leuchtet der Morgenstern* Dietrich Buxtehude
Lighting the Candles Acolyte: *Molly Dobratz*

PRAISING GOD

The Call to Worship

LEADER: The Word is made flesh, God is in our midst. This is the good news we proclaim.

PEOPLE: In Jesus Christ, God calls us to a new community and gives a new vision of nations and races, lands and people joined together in love.

LEADER: Celebrate and renew that vision today as you sing and seek, receive and give.

PEOPLE: We come to offer ourselves and be refreshed for God's work.

*Hymn of Praise: # 159 *As With Gladness Those of Old* Dix

*Prayer of Invocation (unison)
God of the faithful in every time, today you call us into your church to be one body in Jesus Christ. You give us the gifts we need for your service and bless us with a community of believers who share your vision. Grant us a renewed spirit of faithfulness and discipleship. Bind us in one community with your people in all places, for the sake of the realm your Son came to bring. Amen

*Response: #743 *Be still and know that I am God (3times)*

HEARING GOD'S WORD

The Sacrament of Christian Baptism: #A1 (Worship Book)

Children & Teachers Exit to Church School

Scripture Lessons

Sermon

FINDING OUR WAY

Isaiah 60:1-6, Matthew 2:1-12

Rev. Patricia L. Liberty

Hymn of Reflection: (insert) *Worship the Lord in the Beauty of Holiness*

Monsell

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Presentation of Our Offerings and Tithes

Offertory Anthem *The Morning Star Doth Shine*

T. Charles Lee

*Doxology *Praise God from whom all blessings flow! Praise God, all creatures here below!*

Praise God above, you heavenly host! Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost!

*Prayer of Dedication

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

The Invitation

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

The Sharing of the Bread and Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving

*Hymn: #158 *O Morning Star, How Clear and Bright*

Wie Schön Leuchtet

*Words of Parting (unison)

Let us go forth into the world with a sharpened realization, an open-hearted anticipation, and an over-abundant celebration of the God who will be with us every step of the journey.

*Benediction

*Response: (join hands) *Blest Be the Tie That Binds*

"Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love. The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above."

Postlude *Wie Schön Leuchtet der Morgenstern*

David Cherwein

PLEASE JOIN US DOWNSTAIRS NOW FOR COFFEE & CONVERSATION

Ushers: Our Board of Deacons

Coffee Hour Hosts: Ruth Smith, Peggy Thibodeau **Greeters:** Beatrice, Paul, Diana & Elena Babineau; Tyler Zak

Flowers: Given in memory of Dustin Arigoni by the Dobratz family.

Our 2008 Flower Chart to provide flowers in honor/memory of loved ones is now available in Memorial Hall.

Pick a date...Don't forget your phone number & Meredith or Bev will be in touch.

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Joys & Concerns for Prayer: Today we celebrate the baptism of Brian III & Matthew Marek, twin sons of Brian & Stacy. We keep Frank Rogers & family in prayer as they grieve the death of his wife, Shirley (12/26). We pray for Carol Skwiot, hospitalized last week & Bonnie Perry having foot surgery (1/9). We continue to pray for Andrea Sinclair, Ted Andrzejczuk, Kim Palmer, Pat Diego, Matthew Currao (Iraq), Betsy Roberts; Vi Hart; Carolyn Beadle; Mitzi Cronin; Maureen Curtis; Pat Livingstone; our Stephen Ministers & care-receivers.

FOR PASTORAL NEEDS & EMERGENCIES call any of our ministers: Patricia L. Liberty (401-499-7752), Rick Haverly (860-620-0513), Cyndie Holden (203) 206-9507 or Linda Fernandes-Bailey (1-860-274-9907).

NO TWIGS IN JANUARY. Rehearsals will resume on February 5th at 6pm.

SCHEDULING EVENTS: It is very important that all events and meetings planned in the building get cleared and posted with the office. On many an evening the building is filled to capacity and it is not fair to bump someone who has cleared their meeting with the office ahead of time. Plan ahead 628-6958.

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS NEEDED at all services. You only have to commit to it once every 2 months. Call Barbara Stubbs (203-440-8958.)

OUR ARCHIVAL COMMITTEE IS LOOKING FOR NEW MEMBERS! Are you well organized? Do you like working on small projects? Why not join our group to organize our church's history. Meets every Thursday (except summers), 10-12N in room 201/2. For more info call Doris LaRese (860-628-7550).

OUR CHURCH'S WEBSITE, www.firstchurchsouthington.org

BREAD BAKER NEEDED!! 4th Sunday of each month. Contact Jean DeVito (276-0727).

A REMINDER TO PARENTS –Dismissal times for church school are: 9:30am – 10:45am; 11:15am – 12:30pm; 6:00pm – 7:15pm. If the service is over before dismissal time, please go to Memorial Hall until church school ends.

VILLAGE GREEN NURSERY SCHOOL REGISTRATION for church members & alumni, Saturday, January 12, 9am, Memorial Hall. Snowdate: Monday, January 14, 6pm, Memorial Hall.

PASTA DINNER Saturday, January 26th, 6-8PM in Memorial Hall. To support our February Youth Mission Trip to Mazatlan, Mexico. **\$7.50 adult & \$3/ 5yrs. and under. Tickets on Sale Today!**

LAITY SUNDAY is January 27. The theme is “Called to Follow.” If you'd like to participate, call Rev. Linda Fernandes-Bailey.

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER –MARK YOUR CALENDAR! February 5, 6pm in Memorial Hall. We're celebrating Mardi Gras and preparing ourselves for Ash Wednesday and Lent. Men's Club will serve a traditional pancake supper then enjoy a Mardi Gras parade, pancake race and family Lenten crafts.

SAFE CHURCH TRAINING: FREE CPR/AED TRAINING..January 16 for renewal training & January 23 for full training. Both sessions begin at 7pm in room 201/2. **Sign-up outside the Pastor's office.**

SAFE CHURCH FIRE DRILL. Some time between January & May we'll have a fire drill with no advanced notice. If you hear the fire alarm during the church service, follow the directions from the minister. **DO NOT GO THROUGH THE CHURCH** to get anyone. All children will be evacuated by their teachers/infant care staff (they're usually out before anyone else).

THE COFFEE HOUSE 2nd Saturday of each month at 7:00pm, Peace Café. On January 12th enjoy *Lisa Martin*.

KID'S CLUB (grades 2-5) is going to LASER STORM, (2211 Meriden-Waterbury Tpke), on Friday, January 18, 6pm. Cost: \$13 pp. Sign-up outside Pastor's office.