

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 27, 2008

LAITY SUNDAY

9:30am

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

PLEASE TURN OFF CELL PHONES. THANK YOU!

PREPARING TO WORSHIP GOD

The Welcome and Welcoming One Another

Church Family Announcements

Prelude *Cantata 142: Alleluia*

Joann Sebastian Bach

Lighting the Candles Acolyte: Nick Powell

PRAISING GOD

The Call to Worship

PASTOR: We who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

PEOPLE: **Christ, the light of the world, shines in this place.**

PASTOR: The light of Christ shines in the church.

PEOPLE: **The cross of Christ brings a message of eloquent wisdom and saving power.**

PASTOR: The light of Christ shines in our world.

PEOPLE: **The call of Jesus turns us toward the light.**

PASTOR: The light of Christ surprised Jesus' first disciples.

PEOPLE: **Will we, like Jesus' early followers, hear a new calling today?**

*Hymn of Praise: #18 *Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer*

Cwm Rhondda

*Prayer of Invocation (Unison)

O Christ, the light of the world, you have called us to this house of prayer today. You have invited us to be together in the presence of your word that we hear in scripture and song. We will speak prayerfully and listen attentively. We ask now for a hopeful and expectant spirit as we anticipate a word of guidance, or comfort, or challenge, or even a new calling in this time of worship. We know you surprised Peter and Andrew, James and John so that they left their fishing nests to follow you. We wonder what you have in store for us? Help us to know. Amen.

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

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Anthem *Walk in the Light* (text of Hymn 160)
(MUSTARD SEEDS, Sue Zoni, piano)

arr. André Thomas

Children's Message Dawn Gambacini

Children & Teachers Exit to Church School

Scripture Lesson **MATTHEW 4:12-23**

Sermon "CALLED TO FOLLOW" Rich Cote, Mary DeCroce, Shelly Nyren

Hymn of Reflection: #172 *Jesus Calls Us, o'er the Tumult* Galilee

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

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

Presentation of Our Offerings and Tithes

Offertory Anthem *The Lord is My Light* Stephen Sturk

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

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

Prayer of Dedication

*Hymn of Commitment: #495 *Called as Partners in Christ's Service* Beecher

*Words of Parting (unison)

Let us go forth attentive to Jesus' call "Come and Follow," open to all the surprises that it can bring.

*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 *Cantata 142: Concerto* Johann Sebastian Bach

(Trumpets: Joseph Enright, Tia Jones, Ted Shaw)

JOIN US DOWNSTAIRS NOW FOR COFFEE & CONVERSATION

Ushers: Fred & Lita Nyren, Lori St.Pierre, Doris Smith, Nancy Smith, Don Leger, Paul Norton

Greeters: Paul & Nancy Smith **Coffee Hour Host:** Donna Blakey, Ellen Simpson

Flowers: Are in honor of all those participating in the Laity Sunday services.

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, and Meredith or Bev will be in touch.

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Joys & Concerns for Prayer: We pray for the family of June Sardilli, who passed away on January 21. We keep Graham & Lois Hall & the Maddy family in prayer as they grieve the death of their aunt/great aunt, Gertrude. We pray for Howard Bowman who was hospitalized last week. We continue to pray for Dorothy Beadle, Bonnie Perry, Andrea Sinclair, Pat Diego, Matthew Currao (Iraq), Betsy Roberts; Vi Hart; Mitzi Cronin; Maureen Curtis; Pat Livingstone; our Stephen Ministers & care-receivers.

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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).

THANK YOU to all who coordinated, worked &/or attended Saturday evenings Pasta Supper. Proceeds will benefit our February Youth Mission Trip to Mazatlan, Mexico.

NO TWIGS IN JANUARY. Rehearsals will resume on Wednesday, February 6th & Tuesday, February 12 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 our 6:00pm, service. You only have to commit to it once every 2 months. Call Barbara Stubbs (203-440-8958.)

OUR CHURCH'S WEBSITE, www.firstchurchsouthington.org

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.

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 (free-will offering) then enjoy a Mardi Gras parade, pancake race & family Lenten crafts.

FEBRUARY 6TH IS ASH WEDNESDAY. Plan to attend one of our three Services of Penance: **7AM**, **12Noon** (followed by Lenten Luncheon - \$3), and **7PM**. All services will be held in our Meetinghouse.

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).

LOST: Ladies navy pea coat hung in Memorial Hall on Sunday, January 6. Keys in pocket. Also on January 13 another coat, a brown coat with leopard fur on collar/hood with leather gloves in pockets. Please check your closets and call the church office if you find either one (628-6958).

DEACON'S FUND OFFERING for January will benefit our February Youth Mission trip to Mazatlan, Mexico. 25 youth and their advisors will build an addition at the mission church, Villa del Sol, on the outskirts of the city.

YEAR-END TAX STATEMENTS are now available in Memorial Hall. Please pick yours up so we can save on postage!

BREAD FOR LIFE WEEK Our week to serve is February 11 – 15. PLEASE sign-up (outside Pastor's office) to volunteer to serve from 10am – 1pm just one day that week...more if you can.

FOOD PANTRY VOLUNTEER NEEDED to work on Thursdays, 1:30 – 3:30PM. If you're interested call Eldon Hafford at Bread for Life (276-8389).