

**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**

March 2, 2008

**Be Still: Contemplative Worship**

6:00pm

*"There are none so blind as those who will not see."*

**PLEASE TURN OFF YOUR CELL PHONE**

**INFANT/TODDLER CARE BY ADULTS DURING ALL SERVICES IN OUR CHURCH NURSERY**

**PREPARING TO WORSHIP GOD**

Prelude Variations on "Turn To Me" John Foley,  
S.J.

Welcome & Church Family Announcements

Sharing the Peace of Christ

Music for Meditation "No Greater Love" Tom Kendzia

**PRAISING GOD**

The Call to Worship

Leader: The call of God thunders around us and whispers within us; God desires that we might know all things good and just.

**People: Our eyes are opening to God's goodness; we seek to be children of light.**

Leader: God sees beyond our outward appearance. God knows the intent of our hearts.

**People: Open to the Spirit in these moments, we to know and follow God's will.**

**ALL: God among us, God within us, open our eyes that we may see you more clearly, love you more dearly, follow you more nearly!**

\*Song of Adoration:#J1 Spirit, Come" Gregory Norbet

Prayer of Personal Confession (in silence)

Assurance of Forgiveness

**HEARING GOD'S WORD**

Scripture Lesson

**JOHN 9:1-41**

Sermon ADVENTURES IN MISSING THE POINT

Rev. Patricia L. Liberty

A Moment of Silent Reflection

**RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD**

A Call to Prayer

Song of Prayer (Unison) "Jesus, Come To Us" David Haas

**Words: Jesus, come to us, lead us to your light.**

**Jesus, be with us, for we need you.**

**(During this song, we invite you to come forward & light a prayer candle, symbolizing your prayers.)**

The Call to Silence & the Ringing of Our Prayer Bell

Silent Prayer and Reflection

Song of Prayer (Unison) "Only A Shadow" Carey Landry

**Words: The love we have for you, O Lord, Is only a shadow of Your love for us;**

**Only a shadow of Your love for us, Your deep, abiding love.**

The Pastoral Prayer

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Communion Song "Take, Lord, Receive" John Foley,  
S.J.

**(During the song, please come forward, take a piece of bread & dip it into the cup. The gold containers 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 the kneeling bench nearest you & kneel or stand for a blessing.)**

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

\*Hymn #196 "Amazing Grace" John Newton

**(During this song, our Deacons will pass baskets to receive your offering/tithe.)**

\*Benediction

**PLEASE JOIN US DOWNSTAIRS NOW FOR COFFEE & CONVERSATION**

**Coffee Hour Host:** Lorraine & Len Ostasiewski

**Flowers:** Given in loving memory of lifelong member Marjorie Fish Garry by her family.

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

Pick a date, don't forget your phone number, and Meredith or Bev will be in touch.

**Joys & Concerns for** Hospitalized: Jack Noble, Pat Diego. We pray for Sally and Dan Daigle & family as they grieve the death of her brother, Steven...Chuck Williams has been accepted by the UCC as a commissioned chaplain... We continue to pray for Shirley Penfield, Sandi Reed, Wes Babkirk, 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 (860-919-2260),

Rick Haverly (860-620-0513), Cyndie Holden (203) 206-9507 or Linda Fernandes-Bailey (1-860-274-9907).

**LENTEN NOONDAY SERVICES** These special 30-minute Lenten services are offered at 12:00Noon every Wednesday through March 19 in our Chapel, led by one of our clergy staff. Lenten luncheons follow each one in Memorial Hall for just \$3. ALL welcome!

**SCHEDULING EVENTS:** Please call the office to schedule any meetings, events or building use (628-6958).

**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.

**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).

**HOLY WEEK VIGIL:** Sign-up today for our *Holy Week Vigil*, when people will be in our chapel around the clock (Maundy Thursday 3/20, 9:00PM through Easter Sunrise, 3/23, 6:00AM) for 1 hour each, worshipping, praying and meditating on behalf of all of us. **Sign up next to Pat's office today!**

**2007 TAX STATEMENTS** are available in the Narthex. **Please pick yours up so we can save on postage!**

**BUTTERFLIES IN MEMORY/HONOR OF A LOVED ONE** on sale during Coffee Hour TODAY - \$1. They will be displayed in the sanctuary on Easter Sunday. Proceeds will go to future youth mission trips.

**SUMMER CAMP:** The UCC runs a wonderful summer camp experience for children & teens at *Silver Lake Conference Center* in Sharon, CT. Brochure & registration is now available on-line at [www.ctucc.org](http://www.ctucc.org) (Click on "Silver Lake"). We also have some scholarship assistance available. See Karlene Archambeault or Carole Lantz.

**CHURCH WOMEN UNITED** is hosting a "*World Day of Prayer*" this **Friday, March 7<sup>th</sup>, 1:00pm** at the First Baptist Church, Meriden Avenue, Southington. Dessert & coffee. All women invited.

**NEW 2008 CHURCH DIRECTORY** is now available. Pick one up in the Narthex, Memorial Hall or outside the Church Office.

**VIDEOGRAPHER NEEDED!** We're looking for someone to film one service each week, and special events throughout the year. If you're interested contact Pat Liberty (628-6958) for details.

**MEN'S BREAKFAST CLUB HAS BEEN RESCHEDULED TO** March 15, 8:30am in Memorial Hall. All men are welcome to join in as we figure out the kitchen, enjoy each others company and discuss anything we want to. Suggested \$5 donation. No registration.

**JR CIA (grades 6-8) ACTIVITY** - Saturday, March 15, 6:00pm. Meet and pick-up at LASER STORM, 2211 Meriden-Waterbury Tpke, Southington. Cost: \$13 per person. Sign-up outside Pastor Pat's office. Questions? Call Rick Haverly (628-6958).

**BREAKFAST CLUB...Thursday, March 13, 8:00-9:00am** and as always, breakfast is only \$1. Our guest speaker is Alphonse D'Angelo speaking on his "Highlights of Italy".

**PEACE CAFÉ COFFEEHOUSE**, meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday each month at 7:30pm (doors open at 7pm). This month, **March 15**, we'll meet in the **Meetinghouse** to enjoy **#9 paying tribute to the music of the Beatles**. Free-will offering.

**EASTER BASKETS...**Can you donate an Easter basket to a child in need? Please fill a basket for a boy, girl or infant and return your completed basket to Memorial Hall near the Missions bulletin board by **Noon on Sunday, March 16**. If you don't have a basket to fill, a limited number of empty Easter baskets will be available in

*Memorial Hall. Take 1 or more and fill with Easter candy, small toys, coloring books, crayons, etc. Thank you for the continuous care & support to our DCF kids.*