

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!

March 16, 2008

CHAPEL COMMUNION

8:00AM

PLEASE TURN OFF YOUR CELL PHONE

"The longest journey is the journey inward." Dag Hammarskjöld

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

PREPARING TO WORSHIP GOD

Gathering Music
The Welcome/Welcoming One Another
Church Family Announcements

PRAISING GOD

The Call to Worship

Leader: In our weakness we are strong. In our poverty we are rich. In our foolishness we are wise. This is the upside down promise of the gospel we claim and celebrate.

People: In our shadows we seek light. In our silences we listen. This is a day of celebration and foreboding.

Leader: In our searching we are found. In our longing we are satisfied. In our powerlessness, we are powerful beyond all human understanding, for God's power is made perfect in our weakness.

People: God of mystery and mercy grant us new life and with you we accept the invitation to join you in these days of service and sacrifice.

*Hymn of Praise: #216

All Glory, Laud, and Honor

St. Theodulph

*Prayer of General Confession (Unison)

We are taught from our youth that winning is better, that power is what we need. We confess that we often live by this value and exert our power in ways that are destructive to ourselves, to others and to our planet. We view power as a commodity to be claimed rather than a good to be shared. Transparent before you in our arrogance and insecurity we confess that our posturing for power is rooted in our lack of trust in you. Forgive us when we doubt that this is true and help our unbelief as we live in this world where power is wielded against much that is holy. Forgive us; set us free; and empower us from within. In the name of the one who relinquished his power for our sake, Amen.

Now in the silence hear our personal confessions...

*Personal Prayer of Confession (in silence)

*Assurance of Forgiveness

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Scripture Lessons

Sermon

WINNING AND LOSING REVISITED

MATTHEW 21:1-11

Rev. Patricia L. Liberty

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.

Inside gold container are gluten-free, wheat-free, corn-free, soy-free wafers for those with allergies.)

*Prayer of Thanksgiving (join hands)

*Benediction

* * * * *

Flowers: Are given by Janet & Robert Schmidt in loving memory of their parents.

Palm frons: Given by Gloria Gelpke in loving memory of her adopted mother, Olive MacKinnon.

Date palms in vases: Given by Kay Chaffee in loving memory of her husband, Milt Chaffee.

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.

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Joys & Concerns for We pray for Linda Lawrence, recovering from surgery this week. We continue to pray for Shirley Penfield, Wes Babbirk, 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 Our last Noonday Lenten service is this Wednesday, March 19 in our Chapel, led by Rev. Cyndie Holden. Lenten luncheons follows in Memorial Hall for just \$3. ALL welcome!

HOLY WEEK VIGIL: There are several times available. Please check the sign-up sheet for a time you might be available 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! WE NEED TO FILL EVERY HOUR!!**

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).

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 (Click on "Silver Lake"). We also have some scholarship assistance available. See Karlene Archambeault or Carole Lantz.

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.

EASTER BASKETS: Should be turned in **TODAY** by Noon. *Thank you for the continuous care & support to our DCF kids.*

NO TWIGS REHEARSALS in April. We'll resume in May. See you then. TWIGS will join BRANCHES at the 11:15am service on Palm Sunday, March 16.

R.E.S.T., OUR BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP meets **TODAY** at **4pm**. Please note the time change for this meeting. We'll discuss "Amish Grace".

HELP The 7,000.00 Fund Raising Challenge! Mothers Day and Graduations are right around the corner. Would you like to purchase that special someone a beautiful piece of Silpada Jewelry? Silpada Designs Jewelry will be on display and for sale April 13th and 20th after the 9:15 and 11:15 worship services. 100% of the profits will go to the challenge. Silpada is an incredible collection of .925 Sterling Silver Jewelry, belts and watches. Questions please contact Kathy Patenaude 203-631-7894

GORDON'S INSTALLATION: We are exploring the possibility of a bus for members to attend Gordon's installation at Keene Congregational Church on Sunday, April 6th at 5pm. The bus would leave our church at 2pm and return at 10pm. The cost would be \$25/person. If you are interested sign-up outside the pastor's office door.

FREE UPRIGHT PIANO Anyone interested in the upright piano that was once used in Memorial Hall should call Beth Winne, (621-6159). Your only cost is the mover.

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

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.)

INFANT/TODDLER NURSERY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR ALL SERVICES: Adults & teens! Can you help out once/twice monthly? Contact: Beth Winne (860-621-6159 or BethWinne@yahoo.com).

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS FOOD: Please help! Bring mac/cheese, cold cereals, soups, tuna, canned fruits/vegetables, baked beans, jelly, peanut butter & pasta & sauce to our Missions Committee Hope Chest in the Narthex or bring a gift certificate from a local grocery store to the church office for the purchase of perishables. Thank you!

FUND-RAISING CHALLENGE: At our Annual Meeting, we voted in a budget that included a fund-raising challenge of over \$7,000, hoping members would rise to the occasion & do creative fund-raising. *Have an idea?* Can you help? Contact Linda Accuosti (860-628-7737) or Nancy Smith (860-628-4896). So far...we're half way there!!

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY WORK DAY: Our next work day is **SATURDAY, April 19th** (& monthly on the 3rd Saturday. Sign-up TODAY next to the pastor's office! Men, women & teens (16 & over) welcome. If you can't join us to work, please consider providing fuel for the volunteers, **SNACKS**, for 15 to 20 people. Call Michael Halloran, (860/426-1304) for more info or to sign-up. Thanks!

RIDES! We need your help!! Would you be willing to occasionally drive members to medical or dental appointment? If so, please call Cyndie Holden to volunteer (628-6958).

*Feeling Frazzled?
Your World too Noisy?*

Why not try our

***Contemplative
Worship Service***

**Sundays, 6:00PM
in our historic Meetinghouse**

This quiet, reflective service features silence, scripture, prayer, simple hymns & songs & soft instrumental music.



**Holy
Week
Vigil**



From 9pm on Maundy Thursday (3/20) to 6am on Easter Morning (3/23) someone will be in our chapel worshipping, praying and meditating on behalf of all of us.

If you would like to participate in this moving, spiritual experience, please sign-up next to Pastor Pat's office for one or more hours.

You will be provided suggestions for what to do with your time, or you may use it as you wish.

**There are still spots available!
Sign-up TODAY!**

SMALL GROUPS

All small groups are open to everyone, whether or not you've ever attended before.

BREAKFAST CLUB: Meets the 2nd Thursday each month (Sept. – June), 8-9am, Memorial Hall. Breakfast \$1. Meets **Thursday, April 10th**, Speaker: *our own Eldon Haford* will speak on his “**Bread For Life**” experiences.

PEACE CAFÉ COFFEEHOUSE meets the 2nd Saturday each month at 7:30pm (doors open at 7pm). This month, **April 12**, we'll enjoy *Susan Mazer & Megan Keith*. Free-will offering.

CRUISIN' CONGOS: **Thimble Island Boat Cruise, Wednesday, June 18.** We'll leave the Municipal Parking Lot at 9:15am to cruise aboard *Cap't Bob's Cruise Boat*, *lunch at your own expense* at the **Old Stone House** in Guilford. A stop at the Bishop Farm Market in Guildford and home by 4:00pm. For info, call Meredith Mann (860-628-8982).

QUILTS FOR CHILDREN IN NEED GROUP meets **every other WEDNESDAY, 10:00AM**, room #201/2, to sew quilts to comfort children in need. No need to sew; you may cut, piece or tie. **Next meeting: March 26.** For more info, call Carole Lantz.

PARENTS & TOTS GROUPS meet **Tuesdays & Wednesdays, 9:30-11:00AM**, in Peace Café. Contact Lisa Christensen (860-276-0235). Fun for kids; fellowship for parents!

PRAYER CIRCLE: **EVERY TUESDAY, 4:00-5:30PM, Church Parlor.** All welcome! Leave prayer requests & addresses (card will be sent) in folder next to Church Office marked: ***Prayer Requests***.

SEEDS OF HOPE GROUP works in & through our church & community to foster awareness, communication, educational opportunities & action regarding our role as compassionate Christians living in a small world, who take seriously Jesus' statement: *Whatever you do to even the least of your brothers & sisters, you do it to me.* The group sponsors forums, speakers, film & book discussions etc, promoting peace, justice, environmental concerns & more. ALL WELCOME! For info, call Randy Yale (919-606-5757 or randy_y0@yahoo.com). **Usually meets the 1st Sunday each month. Next meeting: April 6, 7:30pm, room #204.**

OUR ADDICTION ASSISTANCE NETWORK is for individuals/families needing confidential assistance with problem drinking, drug use, gambling, etc. Contact Steve & JoAnn Ray (203-591-1291).

SENIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP (grades 9-12) meets Sunday evenings: in *Peace Café*, 7:30-9:00pm. For more information, contact Rick Haverly (860-620-0513).

R.E.S.T. (Reading for Enrichment and Spiritual Transformation) Read *Holy Silence* by J. Brent Bill then join us for a discussion, Sunday, May 18th, **7:30pm** in room 207. Led by Rev. Linda Fernandes-Bailey.

OUR ARCHIVAL COMMITTEE meets every Thursday from 10am – Noon in room 201/2 (except the summer months). Do you like working on small projects? Why not join our group to organize our church's history. For more info call Doris LaRese (860-628-7550).

Today's Scripture Lesson

MATTHEW 21:1-11

¹When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, ²saying to them, “Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. ³If anyone says anything to you, just say this, ‘The Lord needs them.’ And he will send them immediately.” his took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying, ⁵“Tell the daughter of Zion, Look, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.” ⁶The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; ⁷they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. ⁸A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting, “Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!” ¹⁰When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, “Who is this?” ¹¹The crowds were saying, “This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.”

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Anthem: Hosanna (Mustard Seeds)

Natalie Sleeth

Hosanna! Hosanna! In chorus let us sing!

He cometh! He cometh to be our Lord and King,

Hosanna! Hosanna! O blessed now are we,

He cometh, He cometh, Our true Messiah, He.

All glory, laud and honor to David's royal Son.

He comes, the great Redeemer, the long awaited One.

Hosanna! Hosanna! Let palms prepare His way!

He cometh, He cometh, let all rejoice this day!

Offeratory Anthem: Alone Thou Goest Forth, O Lord

McCabe

Michael

Alone thou goest forth, O Lord, in sacrifice to die.

Is this thy sorrow naught to us who pass unheeding by?

Our sins, not thine, thou bearest Lord, Make us thy sorrow feel,

Till through our pity and our shame Love answers love's appeal.

This is earth's darkest hour, but thou dost light and life restore;

Then let all praise be given thee Who livest evermore.

Give us compassion Lord for thee, that as we share this hour,

Thy cross may bring to us thy joy and Resurrection power. Amen.

Peter Abelard, 1079-

OUR CHURCH CALENDAR

March 16, 2008

TODAY	<i>Palm Sunday ~ One Great Hour of Sharing</i>			
	8:00AM	Chapel Communion (Chapel)		
	9:30AM	Morning Worship: Traditional & Church School		
	9:30AM	Sacred Circle Meeting (207)		
	10:50AM	Mustard Seeds (Choir Room)		
	10:30AM	EASTER WALK THRU (Memorial Hall)		
	11:15AM	T.G.I. Sunday: Contemporary Worship & Church School		
	4:00PM	R.E.S.T. (207)		
	6:00PM	Be Still: Contemplative Worship & Church School		
	7:30PM	Confirmation Class (Choir Room)		
	7:30PM	Sr. High Youth Group (Peace Café)		
	MONDAY	7:00PM		Handbell Rehearsal (Choir Room)
	TUESDAY	9:30AM		Parents & Tots Playgroup (Peace Café)
		4:00PM		Prayer Circle (Parlor)
		7:00PM	Boy Scouts (Peace Café)	
7:00PM		Branches Rehearsal (Meetinghouse, Chapel)		
WEDNESDAY		9:30AM	Parents & Tots Playgroup (Infant Care Room)	
	12:00PM	Lenten Noonday Service (Chapel)		
	12:30PM	Lenten Luncheon ~ Host: Hospitality Committee (Memorial Hall)		
	6:30PM	Girl Scouts (Peace Café)		
	7:00PM	GSJC Meeting (206)		
THURSDAY	10:00AM	Archival Committee (201/202)		
	7:30PM	Service of the Last Supper (Meetinghouse)		
	8:30PM	Sr. Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)		
	9:00PM	Easter Vigil Begins (Chapel)		
FRIDAY	VIGIL IN PROGRESS			
	7:30PM	Service of the Cross (Meetinghouse)		
SATURDAY	VIGIL IN PROGRESS			

NEXT SUNDAY)	<i>EASTER SUNDAY ~ HE IS RISEN !!!</i>	
	6:00AM	Sunrise Service (YMCA Camp Sloper)
	6:00AM	VIGIL ENDS
	9:30AM	Easter Celebration: Traditional Worship/Spec. Prog. Pre-K
	11:15AM	T.G.I. Easter Sunday: Contemporary Worship/Spec. Prog. Pre-K
		NO Be Still: Contemplative Worship Service

2008 Lent & Holy Week Schedule

- > Palm Sunday Services - TODAY! Sunday March 16th
8:00am*, 9:30am*, 11:15* and 6:00pm*
**Walk Through Holy Week & Lenten Pretzel Sale
(sponsored by our Christian Ed. Committee)
in Memorial Hall after the 9:30am & 11:15am services.
- > Wednesday Lenten Noonday Services - 12noon in Chapel. March 19
- > Wednesday Lenten Luncheons - 12:30pm, \$3.00
No sign-up, just go to Memorial Hall after the Noonday Service.
- > Maundy Thursday, Service of the Last Supper - March 20th - 7:30pm*
- > Easter Vigil begins at 9:00pm after the Maundy Thursday service and continues thru 6:00am Easter Sunday. Sign-up outside the Pastor's office.
- > Good Friday, Service of the Cross March 21st - 7:30pm*
- > Easter Sunday Services March 23rd.
6:00am Sunrise Service at YMCA Camp Sloper (East Street),
9:30am* and 11:15am* in our historic Meetinghouse
No 6:00pm service today.

* indicates childcare provided

Faith Notes...



our weekly e-publication about happenings here at FCC goes out to all each Wednesday. You will need Adobe Acrobat to open the newsletter. It can be downloaded at www.adobeacrobat.pdf.com

As with any new projects, it takes time to work all the kinks out. Please bear with us.

If you don't receive it, we don't have your e-mail address or a current e-mail address. If you wish to be put on the e-list, simply send your e-mail address to churchoffice@firstchurchsouthington.org. Likewise, if you wish to be removed from the list, e-mail us a note or call the church office, 628-6958.



If you don't have a computer, pick up a copy of Faith Notes outside the Church Office.

CHURCH SCHOOL AT 6:00 PM – Just a reminder that we offer the same lessons at the 6:00 PM service as we do at the 9:30am & 11:15am services. Currently we have one class, grades 1 – 8; as attendance increases we will make any necessary adjustment

CONNECTING SCRIPTURE TO LIFE



Faithweaver, our church school curriculum, offers
FAITHWEAVER HOME CONNECT



to help our adult congregation relate to the weekly church school lessons.

Check out the following web links and suggested questions to start family discussions.

This week's lesson (3/16): *Crowds Welcome Jesus to Jerusalem,*
Psalm 118:19-29 Matthew 21:1-11

Web Link: <http://www.christianitytoday.com/tc/2000/002/11.39.html>

Take this True/False test about Jesus' grand entrance into Jerusalem. Then scroll down for a look at the answers. How did you do?

Web Link: www.time.com/time/

When Jesus rode into Jerusalem on what we celebrate as Palm Sunday, the people praised him as a King. They thought Jesus would make a wonderful government official! Choose 2 or 3 stories from the Time website that involve influential people. Read the articles & think about the qualities that make people leaders.

Discuss the following questions:

- Name several leaders from history.
- What made them famous?
- Who are some people from today's world that you consider worthy of praise?
- What qualities do these persons possess that you might want to emulate?
- Why is Jesus worthy of our Praise?

Ask a family member to pray. Praise Jesus for who He is and what He has done.

Easter Conversations about the Future *Dreaming our Dreams for FCC*



Here's your chance to contribute to the conversation about what's ahead for FCC.

Share your dreams and ideas

Celebrate our life together

Consider new opportunities for mission and service

**OFFERED AT VARIOUS TIMES SO ALL CAN ATTEND
SIGN UP FOR ONE SESSION
ALL SESSIONS HELD AT THE CHURCH**

Tuesday, April 1, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in room 201/2

Thursday, April 3, 2008 at 10:30 a.m. in Memorial Hall

Sunday, April 13, 2008 at 9:30 a.m. in room 201/202

Thursday, April 17, 2008 at 1:00 p.m. in Memorial Hall

Thursday, April 17, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in Memorial Hall

Monday, April 21, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in Memorial Hall

Don't miss this opportunity to share your dreams and prayers for FCC.
All sessions led by Pastor Pat and lay leaders.

ANNUAL PROGRESSIVE DINNER

SATURDAY, APRIL 26TH AT 5:30 PM

Please join your church family for the annual Progressive Dinner.



It is a fun and exciting way to meet new friends and mingle with old ones.
A progressive dinner takes you on a delectable journey ...
traveling to a different home for each of 3 courses.

Each host will entertain a party of 6 to 10 guests,
then all will travel to the next home on their itinerary for the next course.
The grand finale will gather all guests together at the final destination for coffee and dessert.

Hope you can join us! It is always a fun time!

Sign up TODAY next to the church office!

Contact Gayle Rossi @ 860-276-8617 with any questions.

PREJEAN

Questioning Capital Punishment



5 Wednesday Evenings

April 23 – May 21

7:00pm in Room 207

"People are worth more than the worst act of their life."

- Sr. Helen Prejean -

Sr. Helen Prejean, one of the world's leading authorities
& outspoken critics of state-sponsored execution.



A 5 session DVD study which features

- | | |
|-----------|----------------------|
| Session 1 | Crossing the Breach |
| Session 2 | What's in God's Name |
| Session 3 | A Change of Heart |
| Session 4 | Radical Forgiveness |
| Session 5 | Next Steps |

Led by Rev. Linda Fernandes-Bailey Sign-up outside Pastor Pat's office.