

**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 23, 2008

**CHAPEL COMMUNION**

8:00AM

**PLEASE TURN OFF YOUR CELL PHONE**

*In the last analysis, what convinced people that Jesus had risen from the dead was not the absence of his corpse, but his living presence. And so it has been ever since. Frederick Beuchner*

**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: Sing the glad songs of victory; God is creating a day of newness and joy  
**All: God is our strength and our song; this is the day of our salvation.**  
Leader: Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.  
**All: The one who was despised and rejected us assures us that we are beloved by God**  
Leader: We are chosen by God as witnesses to good news. We will live and recount the deeds of our God.  
**All: God reigns; let all nations and peoples rejoice. In Christ, all shall be made alive.**

\*Hymn of Praise: #233 *Christ the Lord is Risen Today!* Easter Hymn

\*Prayer of General Confession (Unison)  
With thanksgiving and joy we worship you, O God. Your creation is amazing. This day is glorious; filled with new life. Come among us now, we pray, to raise up from our fears and doubts and perplexity. We want to be. We want to trust. We want to dare. We want to live. Touch us today with a spirit of hope, that our discipleship may honor the risen Christ, in whose name we pray and for whose realm we labor. Amen

Now in the silence hear our personal confessions...

\*Personal Prayer of Confession (in silence)

\*Assurance of Forgiveness

**HEARING GOD'S WORD**

Scripture Lessons

**RESURECTED IN US**

**JOHN 1:1-18**

Rev. Patricia L. Liberty

Sermon

**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:** Today tulips adorn our altar in celebration of Easter. (See insert)

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** We pray for Matt Bavolack and family as they grieve the death of his mother (100 yrs.). We continue to pray for Shirley Penfield, 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.

\* \* \* \* \*

**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).

**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!**

**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.

**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.

**NO TWIGS REHEARSALS** in April. We'll resume in May. See you then.

**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 13<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup> at 5pm. The bus would leave our church at 2pm and return at 10pm. The cost would be \$25/person made out to "FCC" and due in the church office by March 30. 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**

**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 19<sup>th</sup>** (& monthly on the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.



**"FOR THE BIBLE  
TELLS ME SO"**

Homosexuality and the Bible through the experiences of five American families.

**\*Winner of the Audience Award:  
Seattle Film Festival & Best Documentary**

**Friday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>  
7:00pm in Peace Café  
No Charge**

Sign-up outside the church office.  
For more info call Rev. Rick, 628-6958

***All Welcome!***

# SMALL GROUPS

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

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

**PEACE CAFÉ COFFEEHOUSE** meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto:randy_y0@yahoo.com)). **Usually meets the 1<sup>st</sup> 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 18<sup>th</sup>, **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

## **John 1:1-18**

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.<sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God.<sup>3</sup>All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being<sup>4</sup>in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.<sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

<sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.<sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him.<sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.<sup>9</sup>The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

<sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him.<sup>11</sup>He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him.<sup>12</sup>But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God,<sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

<sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.<sup>15</sup>(John testified to him and cried out, “This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.’”) <sup>16</sup>From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. <sup>17</sup>The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup>No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

\* ~ \* ~ \*

## **Festival Fanfare** (Mustard Seeds)

Helen Kemp

**Refrain:** Hail thee, festival day! Blest day to be hallowed forever;  
day when or Lord was raised, breaking the kingdom of death.


1. Out of the gloom of darkness and cold, the daffodils rise up to cheer us.  
Hope lives again! Let all people be told, “Christ Jesus will always be near us!”  
**Refrain**
2. Let us rejoice in brightness of spring; come see the earth bursting with flowers.  
Love lives again! What a reason to sing of rainbows that follow dark showers.  
**Refrain**
3. Let us rejoice in life, hope, and love. Let music and dancing and singing  
rise up in our hearts like birds high above, keep music and alleluias ringing!  
**Refrain**

# OUR CHURCH CALENDAR

March 23, 2008

## ~ EASTER SUNDAY ~

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

<u>MONDAY</u>	7:00PM	Handbell Rehearsal (Choir Room)	
<u>TUESDAY</u>	9:30AM	Parents & Tots Playgroup (Peace Café)	
	4:00PM	Prayer Circle (Parlor)	
	7:00PM	Boy Scouts (Peace Café)	
	7:00PM	Branches Rehearsal (Meetinghouse, Chapel)	
<u>WEDNESDAY</u>	9:30AM	Parents & Tots Playgroup (Infant Care Room)	
	10:00AM	Quilting Committee (201/202)	
	6:00PM	#9 Rehearsal (Meetinghouse)	
	6:30PM	Girl Scouts (Peace Café)	
	7:00PM	GSJC School (204)	
<u>THURSDAY</u>	10:00AM	Archival Committee (201/202)	
	7:00PM	Stephen Ministry – Training (201/202)	
<u>FRIDAY</u>	7:30PM	GSJC – Bar Mitzvah (Chapel/Memorial Hall)	
<u>SATURDAY</u>	9:00AM	Yoga Class (Peace Café)	
	9:00AM	GSJC School (201,4.5 & Chapel)	
	10:00AM	GSJC BarMitzvah (Meetinghouse)	
	3:00PM	Peace Café in Use – Private Party	
<u>NEXT SUNDAY</u> (4/6/08)	8:00AM	Chapel Communion (Chapel)	
	9:30AM	Morning Worship: Traditional & Church School	
	10:00AM-1:30PM	Fundraiser Brunch (Memorial Hall)	
	10:50AM	Mustard Seeds (Choir Room)	
	11:15AM	T.G.I. Sunday: Contemporary Worship & Church School	
	6:00PM	Be Still: Contemplative Worship & Church School	
	7:30PM	Confirmation Class (Choir Room)	
	7:30PM	Seeds of Hope (204)	
	7:30PM	Sr. High Youth Group (Peace Café)	



**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 (3/23): *Jesus Comes Back to Life***

Matthew 27:27-56; 28:1-10

**Web Links:** <http://www.yesnet.yk.ca/schools/jackhulland/projects/butterflies>  
[Hhttp://www.enchangedlearning.com/subjects/butterflies/activities/](http://www.enchangedlearning.com/subjects/butterflies/activities/)  
[Hhttp://virtualmuseum.ca/Exhibitions/Butterflies/English/teach+games/index.html](http://virtualmuseum.ca/Exhibitions/Butterflies/English/teach+games/index.html)

Surf these websites that show pictures of butterflies in the various stages of their lives. There are activities and coloring pages at the Enchanted Learning site that younger members of the family will enjoy. You will see the entire life cycle of the butterfly at the Virtual Museum website. Be sure to watch closely as the butterfly leaves the pupa case.

Let each family member participate as you discuss the following questions:

How does a caterpillar in a pupa case remind you of Jesus in the tomb?

How does a butterfly coming out of the pupa case remind you of Jesus coming to life again after His crucifixion and burial?

Enjoy a family art project where each person sketches his or her favorite butterfly or caterpillar. Tape the drawings in a prominent place as a reminder that Jesus came back to life and is alive!

## 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.com](http://www.adobeacrobat.com)

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 added or removed from the e-list, simply send your e-mail address to [churchoffice@firstchurchsouthington.org](mailto:churchoffice@firstchurchsouthington.org) or call church office, 628-6958.

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

# 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, 7:00 pm room 201/2**

**Thursday, April 3, 10:30 am Memorial Hall**

**Monday, April 21, 7:00pm room 201/202**

**Thursday, April 24, 1:00 p.m. Memorial Hall (Note Date change)**

**Thursday, April 24, 7:00 p.m. Memorial Hall (Note Date change)**

**Wednesday, April 30, 7:00 p.m. room 201/2 (Note Date change)**

**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 26<sup>TH</sup> 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.

## EASTER FLOWERS 2008

### Given by

Helen Deckert & Family  
The DiMeo Family  
Ron & Laurie Aberizk  
Sandy & Art Hansen  
Roberta Barrett & Shirley Zigmont  
Sue Shanahan  
Carole Lantz, Bob, Catie & Gail Huckins  
Sherry Mallon  
Bob & Joellen Fleming  
Sue Young  
Al Fahnestock  
Ted & Renee Andrzejczuk  
Bob & Martha Beaudoin  
The Enright Family  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Keene  
Nellie Shepard  
The Walsh Family  
The Hungerford & McLellan Families  
Dobratz Family  
Anthony & Barbara Silva  
Josephine Dorzens  
Brandon & Jennifer Thomas  
David Heusel  
The Children of Marjorie Fish Garry  
Shirley & Gordon Raymond  
Melinda Baumgartner  
Paul & Jeannie Norton  
D.J., Rob, & Amanda Lavoie



Greg & Rosemary Thompson

Jen Thompson  
Mr. & Mrs. Rudolph F. Csont  
The Aulbach Family  
Ralph & Meredith Mann  
The Huber Family

### Given by:

Don, Nancy & Lindsey Streeter  
Allan & Arlene Camp  
Ed & Bonnie Perry  
Ron & Laurie Aberizk  
Kristine Brault  
Louise Wygonowski  
Rose Marie Dunlap  
The Vroeginday Family  
Ed & Polly Sauer



### In Memory of:

Richard F. Deckert  
Michael Colangelo  
Edward Young, Sr.  
Loved Ones  
Loved Ones  
Husband and parents  
Dorothy & Clarence Lantz & Fran & Howard Huckins  
Chris Mallon  
Memory of all those that are hurting  
Sally Visockis  
Dorothy & Walter Fahnestock  
Jean Crispino  
Our Parents  
Martin & Edith Enright  
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Keene  
Mary Thomson Shepard  
Justin Wisniewski  
Charles Hungerford  
Our Loved Ones  
Loved Ones  
Russell R. Dorzen  
Mary Nerkowski & Gary Thomas  
Mr. & Mrs. Herman Heusel  
In Her Memory  
All Our Loved Ones  
Melinda & Robert Hausman  
Harold, Anne & Mary Lee Norton  
Arthur Mila, Romeo Lavoie, Mildon Daniels  
Diana Daniels & Shirley Miha  
Angelo, Vivian & Mary Giacini,  
Russell, Georgiana & Eunice Thompson, Therése MacCallum  
Joyce French  
Mary O'Brien, Rudolph Csont, Mr. & Mrs. Harry Ginsburg  
Frank Mangiagli  
Happy Prescher  
Our Parents and Grandparents



### In Honor of:

Our families  
Meredith & Jacob Camp  
Our grandchildren  
Our children  
Joanne Renaud  
Rachel Robbins  
My grandchildren  
Dorothy Murasko  
Our children and grandchildren