

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 30, 2008

CHAPEL COMMUNION

8:00AM

PLEASE TURN OFF YOUR CELL PHONE

“Thomas is a patron saint for those of us who are trying to live a critical faith. He is not satisfied with other people's accounts: he wants to know by experience.” - Unknown -

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: We gather again to celebrate the resurrection. Easter is not just a day it is a way of life.
People: Our hearts are glad and our souls rejoice. God shows us the path of life.
Leader: The risen Christ gathers us to himself and says, “Peace be with you!”
People: We receive this peace as we gather to praise. We will remember his gift as we depart to serve.

*Hymn of Praise: #245 *The Day of Resurrection* Lancashire

*Prayer of Invocation (Unison)
We gather as your Easter people to sing and pray and praise. Joy and wonder are within and around us as we take in the truth of the resurrection. Inspire in us fullness of joy as we serve the risen Christ and embrace the way he sets before us. Build up our sense of community that we may truly care for one another, bearing witness to your love in Christ which reconciles the world. Amen.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Scripture Lessons **JOHN 20: 19-31**
Sermon THE GIFT OF UNCERTAINTY 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

* * * * *

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 celebrate the birth of two babies, Garrett Kyle (3/20), son of Scott & Kim Thompson and Isabella Anne (3/24), daughter of Kim & Jeff Rees. We pray for those hospitalized this week: Pat Diego, Kay Chaffee, We continue to pray for Kay Chaffee, 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.

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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).

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 **before the end of 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).

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.

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 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're chartering 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 made out to “FCC” and brought into the church office by March 30. If you are interested sign-up outside the pastor's office door. **LAST CHANCE TODAY**

YOUTH MISSION TRIP PRESENTATION Hear about Mazatlan, Mexico. Bring a covered dish for a 6pm meal then we'll enjoy a presentation at 7pm on **Wednesday, April 23**. A Great Trip! Hear all about it!

JR. CIA Grades 6-8, SOUTHLINGTON CLEAN UP DAY! Saturday, April 26; 9:45am – 12 noon, meet at church. Sign up outside of the Pastor's office.

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.

FELLOWSHIP & HOSPITALITY is hosting a Brunch to support our \$7000.00 Fundraising efforts **April 27th from 10:00 - 2:00**. Adults are \$10.00 and children 3-12 are \$5.00, children under 3 are free! Tickets will be sold during the first 3 Sunday's in April or you can contact the church office, or Linda Accuosti at 628-7737. Come and enjoy some good food and fellowship. Included in the brunch are: scrambled eggs, French toast, bacon, sausage, ham, home fries, pasta, bagels, muffins, coffee & tea, juice.

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 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.



**“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**

**This Friday, May 2nd
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 2nd Thursday each month (Sept. – June), 8-9am, Memorial Hall. Breakfast \$1. Meets **Thursday, April 10th**, Speaker: *our own Eldon Hafford* 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. And our fall trip is a *Vermont Adventure, September 17-18*. Some of our stops will be *Eaton's Maple Sugar House, Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream Factory, Cold Hollow Cider Mill, Cabot Creamery Outlet, a dinner cruise aboard the Ethan Allen Cruise Boat, a stop at Dakin Farm Store and a walk thru Shelburne Museum Village*. For more information, check out our April FaithWorks newsletter or 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: April 9.** For more info, call Carole Lantz.

PARENTS & TOTS GROUPS meet **Tuesdays (Peace Café) & Wednesdays (Infant Care Nursery), 9:30-11:00AM**. 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.

Additions to Our Easter Tulip List

The following names were omitted from the Easter Tulip dedications.



Given By

David Harwood
Gale & Gary Terrill

Carolyn & Bob Mansolf
Eldon Hafford

In Memory of

My parents, Mr. & Mrs. William R. Harwood
Edward Kraus, Ferris & Mary Terrill,
Betty & Barbara Clark
Our Parents
Loved Ones



Today's Scripture Lesson

JOHN 20:19-31

¹⁹When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” ²²When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.” ²⁴But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.” ²⁶A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.” ²⁸Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” ²⁹Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.” ³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

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Let the Trumpet Sound

Natalie Sleeth

Let the trumpet sound, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Let the earth resound, Hallelujah, Amen!
Let the people sing, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Let the heavens ring, Hallelujah, Amen!
Now and for eternity, O blessed all are we, for Christ the Lord has conquered death at last,
and won the victory!

Let the night be gone, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Let the daylight dawn, Hallelujah, Amen!
Let the world rejoice, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Let the chorus voice, Hallelujah, Amen!

Christ the Lord is risen on this Easter day.
From his mortal prison where three days he lay,
Love has come down to roll the dreadful stone away,
So gone is the night, and dawns now the joyful day.

OUR CHURCH CALENDAR

March 30, 2008

TODAY	8:00AM	<i>Chapel Communion (Chapel)</i>
	9:30AM	Morning Worship: Traditional & Church School
	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)
MONDAY	6:30PM	CE Committee Meeting (Memorial Hall)
	7:00PM	Handbell Rehearsal (Choir Room)
	7:00PM	All Committee Meeting Night (Chapel)
		Trustees – 203 Stewardship – 204
TUESDAY	9:30AM	Parents & Tots Playgroup (Peace Café)
	4:00PM	Prayer Circle (Parlor)
	4:00PM	Memorial Hall in use (Private Party)
	7:00PM	Easter Conversations (201/202)
	7:00PM	Boy Scouts (Peace Café)
	7:00PM	Branches Rehearsal (Meetinghouse, Chapel)
	8:00PM	AA Meeting (Choir Room)
WEDNESDAY	9:30AM	Parents & Tots Playgroup (Infant Care Room)
	4:00PM	Church & Ministry Committee (Library)
	6:00PM	#9 Rehearsal (Meetinghouse)
	6:30PM	Girl Scouts (Peace Café)
	7:00PM	The 411 – New Member Class (201/202)
THURSDAY	9:30AM	Music Committee Meeting (Library)
	10:00AM	Archival Committee (201/202)
	7:00PM	Easter Conversations (Memorial Hall)
	7:00PM	Love Makes a Family (207)
	7:00PM	VGNS Board Meeting (Library)
	7:00PM	Stephen Ministry – Continuing Ed/Supervision/Training (201-206)
	7:30PM	Sr. Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)
FRIDAY	7:30PM	GSJC Service (Chapel/Memorial Hall)
	8:00PM	Coffee House – Anthony Neff – Peace Café
SATURDAY	8:45AM	Yoga Class (Peace Café)
	12:00AM	Library In use
	2:00PM	Memorial Hall in Use – Private Party
NEXT SUNDAY (4/6/08)	8:00AM	<i>Chapel Communion (Chapel)</i>
	9:30AM	Morning Worship: Traditional & Church School
	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	Sr. High Youth Group (Peace Café)
	7:30PM	Seeds of Hope Meeting (204)

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

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 Memorial Hall

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

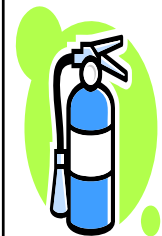
Thursday, April 24, 7:00 p.m. Memorial Hall (Note Date change)

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.

FIRE SAFETY TIP #2



- If the alarm sounds: **GET OUT IMMEDIATELY!** The minister or meeting leader will direct you to the nearest safe route out of the church
- Do NOT go back into the church for children or others. Procedures are in place to evacuate them safely.
- Meet in the Municipal Parking Lot behind the church.
- Do not move your car or drive away. We don't want to block the fire trucks from getting to the church as quickly as possible.

Faith Notes...

our weekly e-publication about weekly 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

If you don't receive your e-newsletter, 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 or call church office, 628-6958.

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

PREJEAN

Questioning Capital Punishment

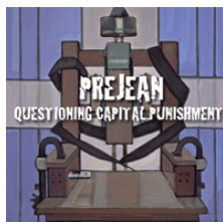
A Living the Questions Program

5 Wednesday Evenings
April 30 – May 28
7:00pm in Room 207

DATE
CHANGE!
Please make
note...

"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.

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.

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 (3/30): *Peter Explains Belief in Jesus,*

1 Peter 1:3-9

As a family discuss the following items: Describe the inheritance that is explained in this passage of Scripture. How is a heavenly inheritance different from an inheritance on earth? What promises does God make regarding heaven? Why should this give us hope? How can we obtain this "Heavenly" inheritance?

Web Link: <http://www.woodruff-fp.co.uk/inheritancetaxwills.htm>

<http://money.guardian.co.uk/tax/factsheet/0,1456,611866,00.html>

<http://www.legal-database.com/legal-requirements-will.htm>

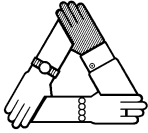
Consider the various tips regarding wills and inheritance that are offered at these websites.

Then think about your "heavenly" inheritance.

Spend a few moments in prayer, thanking Jesus for paying the price of salvation so that we could be the children of God and inherit eternal life.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN OUR CHURCH
COME TO...

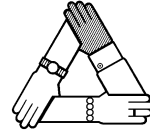
THE 411



Wednesdays, April 2 and April 9
Attendance required at both sessions.

7 - 8:30pm in room 201/2

New Members will be received on Sunday, May 4th



HERE'S YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO:

Learn about the Ministries of FCC

For example: Did you know that FCC supports over thirty different community outreach Ministries?

Meet and greet others who are new to the church AND meet church leaders.

Learn about the United Church of Christ.

Find YOUR place in the life and ministry of First Congregational Church

Let us know you are coming by calling the church office (860/628-6958).

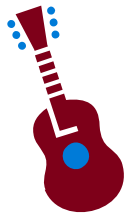
**** Child Care will be provided. Please let us know the number and age of your children. ****

JOIN US IN THE PEACE CAFÉ
to enjoy the smooth, country folk music of

Anthony Neff

Friday, April 4

8:00pm



ADMISSION: A Free-will offering will go to the "Eco-justice Fund" used to reduce the church's energy use & pollution.

**This is the first in a series of eco-justice events sponsored by
*Seeds of Hope.***