

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 **2nd Sunday of Easter** 9:30am

PLEASE TURN OFF CELL PHONES.... THANK YOU!

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

"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 -

PREPARING TO WORSHIP GOD

The Welcome and Welcoming One Another

Church Family Announcements

Prelude "little" Prelude & Fugue in B^b Major Johann Sebastian Bach

Lighting the Candles Acolyte: Molly Dobratz

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.

*Response #743 *Be still and know that I am God.* (3 times)

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Children's Sermon

Children & Teachers Exit to Church School

Scripture Lesson

Sermon

John 20:19-31

Rev. Patricia L. Liberty

THE GIFT OF UNCERTAINTY

*Hymn of Reflection #254

These Things Did Thomas Count

DISTRESS

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Prayers of the Church & Lord's Prayer (Using sins)

Presentation of Our Offerings and Tithes

Offertory Anthem *Let the Trumpet Sound* Natalie Sleeth

*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:#251 *I Greet You Sure Redeemer*

TOULON

***Words of Parting (unison)**

We receive the gift of God's peace and are empowered as disciples. We continue to learn and serve in Jesus' name. We will go where we are sent.

*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: "short" Prelude & Fugue in C Major Johann Ludwig Krebs

PLEASE JOIN US DOWNSTAIRS NOW FOR COFFEE & CONVERSATION

Ushers: Bill & Maureen Lyon, Kristin Sabatino, Sandi Reed, Judy Miller, Bob & Carolyn Mansolf.

Greeters: Daniel & Sally Daigle, Donna Blakey

Coffee Hour Hosts: Ralph & Meredith Mann, Rose Dunlap

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.