

**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 **Rooted in Faith, Growing in Community and Serving Christ in the World!** Welcome!

November 23, 2008

**CHAPEL COMMUNION**

8:00AM

**PLEASE TURN OFF YOUR CELL PHONE**

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

*It is not what I don't understand about the Bible that bothers me. It is what I do understand!"  
~Mark Twain~*

**PREPARING TO WORSHIP GOD**

Gathering Music  
The Welcome/Welcoming One Another  
Church Family Announcements

**PRAISING GOD**

The Call to Worship  
Leader: Come in bringing all of who you are. Calm your hurried pace. For this hour let the cares, the fretfulness and worry be set aside.  
**People: This is a day of God's creating. We are people of God's creating. We rest in that truth.**  
Leader: The Holy One is near and calls to us in love  
**People: We will renew our vows to God in this hour. May our thanksgiving overflow in deeds of kindness.**

\*Hymn of Praise: #422 *Come, O Thankful People, Come* St. George's Windsor

**\*Prayer of Invocation (Unison)**

We are your thankful people, receive our praise and thanks. Blessed by your bounty and bound by your covenant we gather to hear your word for us today. Open our hearts, minds and souls to see what is around us and to respond with compassion. Grant us the presence of Christ that we may learn more fully to follow in the footsteps of Jesus.

**HEARING GOD'S WORD**

Scripture Lessons  
Sermon

LOOKING BACK

MATTHEW 25:31-46  
Rev. Patricia L. Liberty

**RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD**

Prayers of the Church & Lord's Prayer (using *sins*)  
Celebration of the Steeple Renovation

**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

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**Flowers:** Flowers this morning are given by Gloria Gelpke in loving memory of her husband, Roy and his twin brother, Robert, born November 25, 1924. The second arrangement is given by the Flugrad family in loving memory of Joseph Mercuri who died on November 13.

**Our 2009 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.**

**PLEASE REMEMBER: NO LILIES ALLOWED IN THIS FACILITY.**

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**Joys & Concerns for Prayer** We pray for Judy & Andy Lees & family as they grieve the death of her brother, Paul. And, we pray for Dawn & Sean Garvey & family as they grieve the death of her grandmother, Nancy. We continue to pray for Sue Sinclair, Staff Sgt. Sean Tavalozzi (Iraq), USMC LCPL Nathan Penfield (Afghanistan), Ruth Smith, Kim Rees, Kay Chaffee, Spc. Geoffrey Doble, Jr. (Iraq), Jack Noble, Jeannie Norton, Andrea Sinclair, Betsy Roberts, Pat Livingstone, our Stephen Ministers & care-receivers and also the Sr. Minister Search Committee.  
**FOR PASTORAL NEEDS & EMERGENCIES** call any minister: Patricia L. Liberty (860-919-2260), Rick Haverly (860-620-0513), or Linda Fernandes-Bailey (1-203-948-3352).

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED** in our church office to answer phones and to do light duty office work Monday – Friday 9am-12n or 12n – 3pm. If you are interested see Pastor Pat.

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

**TODAY IS THANKSGIVING SUNDAY.** Please give as generously as you can to the **NEIGHBORS IN NEED** collection.

**INTERFAITH THANKSGIVING SERVICE** will be held **Tuesday, November 25, 7:30pm** at Mary Our Queen Church, Savage Street.

**COVENANT TO CARE CHRISTMAS TAGS** are available on our Christmas trees. This is our 10<sup>th</sup> year supplying holiday gifts to children in need. Please take a tag(s) off the tree and return your gift(s) UNWRAPPED WITH TAG ATTACHED by Sunday, DECEMBER 7<sup>TH</sup>. Place your gift(s) in any Covenant to Care box in the narthex, chapel or Memorial Hall.

**SOUTHINGTON COMMUNITY SERVICES HAS MOVED** to 91 Norton Street, Plantsville (formerly the Milldale firehouse).

**NEW STEPHEN MINISTRY TRAINING CLASS COMING SOON:** People are precious, and when they hurt or suffer, they deserve the best care and support we can offer. That's why our congregation has Stephen Ministers. Their training, commitment, and service make them the best at providing care for people who need it. Do you want to give your best to God and to others? **A new class beings on January 15.** For more information about Stephen Ministry, contact Reverend Patricia L. Liberty or Irene Hendrickson today.

**2009 ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS** are available for Hartford & New Haven and we can get out-of-state books. Books will be on sale during coffee hour. Cost: \$30.00. Contact Rose Dunlap with any questions (628-8778). Rose will donate \$6. to the church for every book sold. They make great gifts!

**THE EDFK CART** will be open following the 9:30 & 11:15am services on: November 30 & December 14.

Anyone interested in opening any other Sunday in Nov./ Dec. please call Kathy Corcoran 860-384-2883 for instruction on set-up and break-down.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO HELP WITH OUR HOLIDAY AUCTION!** Can you bake, solicit donations, work at the bake table, set-up, clean-up or help in any way at the auction on Friday, December 5? Call Carolyn Mansolf (621-5082) or sign-up in Memorial Hall.

**MUSIC BAKE SALE! TODAY,** 10:30am in Memorial Hall. Why not pick something up for the holiday.

**A COMMITTEE MINUTES BOOK** containing the minutes of all board/committee meetings is available in the church library for you to view.

**ADVENT WREATH WORKSHOP TODAY...4:00 – 6:00 PM Memorial Hall** (go to the 6:00 pm service after the workshop). Create your own Advent Wreath, make an ornament, stuff teddy bears for our Special Angels I Need To Serve, take home an Advent Booklet & Advent Calendar. A simple dinner of soup, salad & bread will be provided. Goodwill offering to cover expenses.

**ADDITIONAL YOGA CLASS ON THANKSGIVING MORNING! 8:30-9:40am in Peace Café. A monetary free-will offering will be collected and will jump start the FCC bell ringing fund for the Salvation Army.** Questions to Crystal Sullivan at 276-8614 or [kencyruss@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kencyruss@sbcglobal.net). Please bring a yoga mat to class and enter through Peace Café doors. Don't forget our usual Monday evening class 6:30 – 7:30pm.

**ADVENT BOOKLETS & CALENDARS** are available for your use at home. They can be found in Memorial Hall. Please use them with your Advent wreath.