

**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

**Thanksgiving Sunday**

9:30am

***Neighbors in Need***

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

**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**

The Welcome and Welcoming One Another

Church Family Announcements

Prelude

*Christ is the World's True Light*

Johann Sebastian Bach

(Tia Jones, Ted Shaw, trumpets; Brett Shaw, trombone)

Lighting the Candles

Acolyte: Megan Walsh

**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: (Insert)

*Come, Ye 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.

\*Response: #743

*Be still and know that I am God (3 times)*

**HEARING GOD'S WORD**

Children's Sermon

Scripture Lessons

MATTHEW 25:31-46

Sermon

Liberty

\*Hymn of Reflection #419

LOOKING BACK

*Now Thank We All Our God*

Rev. Patricia L.

Nun Danket

**RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD**

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

Celebration of the Steeple Renovation

Presentation of Our Offerings and Tithes

Offertory Anthem

*Alleluia, Amen*

Georg Gottfried

Wagner

\*Doxology

*Praise God from whom 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 #537

*Christian, Rise and Act Your Creed*

Innocents

**\*Words of Parting (unison)**

May we find the courage to live our faith, to speak our truth and to strive together for a world where all have enough, and the peace of Christ reigns.

\*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

*Now Thank We All Our God*

Johann Sebastian Bach

**PLEASE JOIN US DOWNSTAIRS NOW FOR COFFEE & CONVERSATION**

**Ushers:** Fred & Lita Nyren, Lori St. Pierre, Doris Smith, Don Leger, Paul Norton

**Greeters:** Rose Dunlap, Kathy Andres

**Coffee Hour Hosts:** Donna Blakey, Ellen Simpson

**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.**

\* \* \* \* \*

**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.

## Can You Help?



We are collecting food to assemble 10 Thanksgiving food baskets for members of our community. Items needed for the baskets are... stuffing mix, canned vegetables, gravy, cranberry sauce, canned fruit, instant potatoes, Rice-A-Roni, pudding, fruit pie fillings (apple, blueberry, cherry), & brownie mix.

We would also like to provide a grocery store gift card, for each basket, to be used to buy a turkey.

If you can help, grocery items can be left in the hope chest in the narthex and gift cards/donations can be placed in the collection plate or brought to the church office.

Thank you for your continued generosity.

## Bell Ringers... NEEDED

When we ring the bell for the Southington Community Services and the Salvation Army, 90% of what is raised by the bell ringers during December is given to our town to help the Southington residents in need. The remaining 10% is used in the Hartford area. It's great fun!



We'll be at Stop & Shop on Saturday,  
**December 13<sup>th</sup>**  
**9am – 9pm**

Sign-up for 1 hour or more outside pastor's office.



## Would You Like an Adventure in Ecuador??

**Adopta una Familia**, through The Branford Congregational Church, is in the process of planning its mission trip for **July 30- August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2009** to **Guayaquil, Ecuador**. The twelve day trip includes living with a host family (in simple conditions), working to build houses and put finishing touches on a community center for Guasmo, a barrio in Guayaquil (everyone is encouraged to only do work within his/her capabilities and comfort level), and participating in some wonderful, community-based experiences. A travel portion of the experience will take you to the Andean city of Cuenca. This is a wonderful historically rich city of 150,000 nestled high in the beautiful Andes. It has open air markets, as well as old churches and museums. You will also take a day trip to Cajas National Park.

The cost of the trip remains at \$1700 (incl. transportation, airfare, housing, and most meals), with registration and a **non-refundable deposit of \$500 due in Branford on Sunday, Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>**. Registration is limited.

If you are interested in this life-enhancing opportunity, please contact Clare Lindsey (628-0298 or [mlcb158@hotmail.com](mailto:mlcb158@hotmail.com))



# HOLIDAY AUCTION



Our Annual Holiday Auction held in conjunction with the **Southington Downtown Merchants Hospitality Night**, will be held on **Friday, December 5, 2008** **7 PM in Memorial Hall**.

This event is one of our major fundraisers. Its history of success can be attributed to the wonderful support and generosity of our church members and local businesses.

*Your time and talent is needed to continue this tradition.*

Sign up below & give the form to an usher, bring to the office or the table at Coffee Hour.

I would like to:

\_\_\_\_\_ Donate a service or item to the auction.

\_\_\_\_\_ Solicit businesses for donations \_\_\_\_\_ Set Up/Decorate on Dec.4th

\_\_\_\_\_ Bake for the Bake Sale \_\_\_\_\_ Helper (it's really fun!) on Dec.5th

Listed below are a few suggestions of services that you may wish to donate. Not limited to these items.

HOME REPAIR  
BEAUTY SERVICES  
FRUIT BASKET  
SINGING TELEGRAM  
HAND CRAFTED ITEM  
AUTO WASH/WAX  
TYPING SERVICE  
PARTY PLANNER/HELPER

ELEC/PLUMBING REPAIR  
WALLPAPERING  
WINDOW WASHING  
COMPUTER REPAIR  
LAWN MOWING  
FLORAL ARRANGEMENT  
SEWING/TAILORING  
APPRAISAL SERVICE  
INTERIOR DESIGN

SURVEYING  
LEGAL SERVICES  
PAINTING  
INCOME TAX PREP  
ROTOTILLING  
BABYSITTING  
CALIGRAPHY  
COMPUTER

INSTRUCTIONS IN KNITTING, CROCHETING, QUILTING, ICE SKATING, SKIING, SWIMMING, GOLF, TENNIS, SOCCER, CAKE DECORATING, BREAD MAKING, COMPUTER.

SERVICE OFFERED: \_\_\_\_\_ VALUE \$ \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

**SERVICES WILL BE PROVIDED AT YOURS AND THE BUYER'S CONVENIENCE.**

# OUR CHURCH CALENDAR

**TODAY** November 23, 2008 **Thanksgiving Sunday/Neighbors in Need**

<b>8:00AM</b>	<b>Chapel Communion (Chapel)</b>
<b>9:30AM</b>	<b>Morning Worship: Traditional &amp; Sunday School</b>
10:30AM	Music Bake Sale
<b>11:15AM</b>	<b>T.G.I. Sunday: Contemporary Worship &amp; Sunday School</b>
12:30PM	Teen Drama Club (207)
4:00PM	Advent Workshop (Memorial Hall)
5:00PM	Sr. High Youth Group
<b>6:00PM</b>	<b>Be Still: Contemplative Worship &amp; Sunday School</b>
7:30PM	Confirmation Class (Peace Café)

<b>MONDAY</b>	6:30PM	Yoga (Peace Café)
		CHRISTIAN EDUCATION MEETING (Memorial Hall)
	7:00PM	ALL COMMITTEE MEETING (Chapel)
		TRUSTEES (203)
		STEWARDSHIP (204)
		SEARCH COMMITTEE (201/2)
		MUSIC COMMITTEE (library)
		HANDBELL CHOIR (Choir Room)

<b>TUESDAY</b>	10:00AM	Bible Study (Parlor)
	4:00PM	Prayer Circle (Parlor)
	5:30PM	Overeaters Anonymous (203)
	6:00PM	ROOTS - Drama: (Meetinghouse)
	6:45PM	ROOTS – Choir (Choir Room)
	7:00PM	Way of Discernment Class (207)
		Branches Rehearsal (Meetinghouse/Chapel)
		Boy Scouts (Peace Café)
	<b>7:30PM</b>	<b>INTERFAITH THANKSGIVING SERVICE (Mary Our Queen Church)</b>
	8:00PM	AA Meeting (206)

<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	6:00PM	#9 Rehearsal (Meetinghouse)
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**THURSDAY** **HAPPY THANKSGIVING~OFFICE CLOSED**

**FRIDAY**

**SATURDAY**

**NEXT SUNDAY** - (11/30) **“HANGING OF THE GREENS”**

<b>8:00AM</b>	<b>Chapel Communion (Chapel)</b>
<b>9:30AM</b>	<b>Morning Worship: Traditional &amp; Sunday School</b>
<b>11:15AM</b>	<b>T.G.I. Sunday: Contemporary Worship &amp; Sunday School</b>
12:30PM	Teen Drama Group (Peace Café)
5:00PM	Sr. High Youth Group
<b>6:00PM</b>	<b>Be Still: Contemplative Worship &amp; Sunday School</b>

## Today's Scripture Lesson

**MATTHEW 25:31-46** <sup>31</sup>“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory.<sup>32</sup>All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats,<sup>33</sup>and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left.<sup>34</sup>Then the king will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; <sup>35</sup>for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, <sup>36</sup>I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ <sup>37</sup>Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? <sup>38</sup>And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? <sup>39</sup>And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ <sup>40</sup>And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.’ <sup>41</sup>Then he will say to those at his left hand, ‘You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; <sup>42</sup>for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, <sup>43</sup>I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.’ <sup>44</sup>Then they also will answer, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?’ <sup>45</sup>Then he will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.’ <sup>46</sup>And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

## *Come, Ye Thankful People, Come*

Choir: *Give thanks to God and praise His holy name. For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works which God prepared beforehand for us to do. Therefore, stand firm, Immoveable, abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain.*

1 Come, ye thankful people, come, Raise the song of harvest home; All is safely gathered in, Ere the winter storms begin: God, our Maker, doth provide For our wants to be supplied; Come to God's own temple, come, Raise the song of harvest-home.	2 All the world is God's own field Fruit unto His praise to yield; Wheat and tares together sown Unto joy or sorrows grown; First, the blade and then the ear, Then the full corn shall appear; Lord of harvest, grant that we Wholesome grain and pure may be.
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3 Even so, Lord, quickly come  
To thy final harvest-home;  
Gather Thou Thy people in,  
Free from sorrow, free from sin:  
There, forever purified,  
In Thy presence to abide;  
Come, with all Thine angels, come  
Raise the glorious harvest home.

Choir: *Give thanks to God and praise His holy name.*

## CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA ORDER FORM

Cost: \$12.50      Deadline: December 7

**ORDERED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PHONE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**GIVEN BY:** (as printed in bulletin)

\_\_\_\_\_

**I DESIRE TO PURCHASE:**

\_\_\_\_\_ plants at & \$12.50 each.

in memory of \_\_\_\_\_

in honor of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I will leave plant.      \_\_\_\_\_ I will take plant with me after the 12/21 morning service.

Please make all checks payable to:

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH** and mark POINSETTIA in memo

Send payment to: **Meredith Mann**  
P.O. Box 41  
Southington, CT 06489  
628-8982



## Connecting Scripture To Faith

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 (11/23): Isaac Is Born, Genesis 21:1-6

Link: <http://www.fs.fed.us/international/>

Link: <http://www.lesstutor.com/jm2.html>

Look for examples of God's gifts to us. Then discuss these questions as a family:

- What sorts of gifts does God have for his children?
- How do God's gifts bring joy?

## OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

INFANT/TODDLER NURSERY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR 11:15am SERVICE: Adults & teens! Can you help out once/twice monthly? Contact: Jen Lanci (621-2831) or Wendy Bernardo (203-234-7282).

BREAD FOR LIFE Our turn to serve at our community soup kitchen is **December 15 – 19**. Sign-up for 1 or more days to serve. 10am – 1pm. Sign-up outside Pastor Pat's office.

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS NEEDED after the 6:00pm *Be Still*: Contemplative Worship service. Call Tracey Gabree, 628-9199.

## 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, December 11**. Spkr: **John Sperduti, Counselor, Southington Youth Services**.  
**Topic: An Overview of Services Offered to Youth & Families in Southington.**

WOMEN'S MORNING GROUP: Meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday each month. **Next meeting: Look for information in our December FaithWorks.** All women of the church invited!

PEACE CAFÉ COFFEEHOUSE: Meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday each month. On **December 13, SUSAN MAZER & MEGAN KEITH, A CHRISTMAS SING-A-LONG, 7:30pm** (doors open at 7pm).

CRUISIN' CONGOS: This trip is Full! The December trip to Springfield's famous **Bright Lights at Forest Park** with dinner at the equally well known **Student Prince Restaurant** will leave Southington **Tuesday, Dec. 16<sup>th</sup>** at 3:30pm. Questions, call Meredith Mann (860-628-8982) or e-mail: [mersm@cox.net](mailto:mersm@cox.net).

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. **December meetings: December 3, 17 & 31** For more info, call Carole Lantz.

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)). Meets the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday each month at 7:30pm in room #204. **Next meeting: December 7**

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 from 5-7pm. For more information, contact Rick Haverly (860-620-0513).

SPIRIT YOGA On Monday evenings, there is a shared yoga practice in the Peace Café from **6:30pm-7:30pm**. All church family members are welcome to participate in this moderately intense practice. Be prepared to stretch, sweat and connect with spirit with this timeless form of meditation in motion. You will need a yoga mat and a non-perishable food item for the food bank. This will be led by several church members and is not open to the public. Questions contact Crystal Sullivan @ 276-8614 or [kencryss@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kencryss@sbcglobal.net).