

The First Congregational Church
(United Church of Christ)
Canton Center, Connecticut

November 9, 2008

10:00 AM

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY

OFFERTORY: "I Vow to Thee, My Country"
Senior Choir

-Rice/Holst

CHIMES

Lydia Petersen

*DOXOLOGY (*Pilgrim #515*)

INTERESTS OF THE FELLOWSHIP

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION: (in **unison**)

PRELUDE: "Abbot's Leigh"

-Taylor

We set our hope in you, God of all ages, and seek to serve you through our offerings and our efforts to encourage and equip one another for ministry. Help us decide daily to live according to your will, preparing ourselves for the opportunities and challenges you give us. May your rule shape our lives in ways that introduce many to the joys of eternity in the midst of time. Amen.

CHORAL INTROIT

CALL TO WORSHIP: (**responsively**)

Put away the things you have substituted for God.

Let your worship of the one true God be genuine.

We seek to know God and to rejoice before our Creator.

We know the God is beyond all our false images.

God is not deceived by our solemn assemblies.

Our empty festivals do not impress God.

We want to give joyous expression to a growing faith.

We choose to serve the God whom Jesus revealed.

Our hope is in God's grace beyond all judgment.

Our trust is in God's love, greater than our feeble imitation.

We welcome the light God promises us.

We seek to respond with faithful service.

*HYMN **97** (*Pilgrim*)

"God of Our Life..."

**The church school children may pass to their classrooms
when the congregation begins singing.**

A MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION

followed by THE PASTORAL PRAYER and ORGAN RESPONSE

*HYMN **218** (*Pilgrim*)

"O Jesus, I Have Promised"

SCRIPTURE: Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25 (Pew Bibles, O.T. p. 211)

SERMON:

"MAKE A CHOICE"

*HYMN **74** (*Pilgrim*)

"O How Glorious, Full of Wonder"

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (in **unison**) followed by

THE LORD'S PRAYER (using debts and debtors):

God of our ancestors, be our God today as we gather in sincerity and faithfulness to honor you. Attune our hearts to your commandments as we remember your mighty acts. Declare your Word to us so we may be inspired to obey. We know that we must decide today whether or not we will serve you. Not to decide is to reject you. O God, save us from the idols that appear so attractive to us, toys that take so much of our attention and the pursuits that dominate our time. Make your dwelling place with us here. In Jesus' name we pray, and also saying, *Our Father...*

*HYMN **383** (*Pilgrim*)

"Forward Through the Ages"

*BENEDICTION

*RESPONSE

*POSTLUDE: "Onward, Christian Soldiers"

-Sullivan/Smith

(*All who are able, please stand)

*GLORIA PATRI (*Pilgrim # 513*)

The Rev. Susan M. Prichard	Interim Minister
Sarah LeGeyt	Director of Christian Education & Youth
Mary Lou Keefe	Organist; Director of Music
Barbara Lowell and Dave Ayres	Duty Deacons
Dave Downs	Duty Trustee
Sean, Amy, Nicholas and Amanda O'Toole	Greeters
Dave and Carol Heyer	Ushers
Polly Rice, Jan Tanner, Mary Engvall	Coffee Hour Hosts

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THE FLOWERS today are given in memory of Michael Scott Ronaldes and Robert and Elizabeth Ronaldes by their family.

WE CORDIALLY WELCOME those who are visitors to this church and to this morning's worship service. Please sign the guest book in the vestibule. Or, fill in a Friendship Card found in the pews. Also found with the Friendship Cards are Pew Envelopes. Please feel free to use them for any donation.

NURSERY CARE is available in the lower level for infants through 2 years old.

LARGE PRINT COPIES of today's bulletin are available on the ushers' tables in the back of the church. Large print editions of the Chalice Hymnal are also available for use during worship.

PLEASE JOIN US in the Parish Hall after worship today for a time of refreshment and fellowship.

Please see bulletin insert for announcements



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ANNOUNCEMENTS – SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2008

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY IS TODAY. You may place your pledge form in the offering plate or hand it to the Trustees during the coffee hour. Extra pledge forms are on the information table in the Parish House by the kitchen door.

CHERUB CHOIR: Today, 11:15 AM for children ages 4 – Gr. 2 in the Music Room.

JUNIOR CHOIR: Today, 11:30 AM, in the Music Room.

SYF LUNCH AND A MOVIE: Today, 11:30 AM., double classroom. Bring a bag lunch; dessert provided.

THANKSGIVING POT LUCK is Sunday, Nov. 23, after church in the Parish Hall. Sign up on the kitchen door to bring your favorite dish.

“FEATHER FOOD” FEATHERS will be taken today and next Sunday by the church school students to determine what food item they wish to donate on Thanksgiving Sunday, November 23, during their processional into church.

CHRISTMAS WREATHS: One more chance to order from the Confirmation Class during the coffee hour. Pick up Dec. 7th.

TRANS-SIBERIAN ORCHESTRA TICKETS may be purchased at coffee hour for a concert on Nov. 30th. All of our church family are invited to buy tickets. See Rachel Baugher.

PAGEANT ENSEMBLE FORMING for students Grade 5 and older. If you play an instrument and would like to perform on December 14th for the Christmas pageant, please contact Bob Oswald 693-9092. First rehearsal is Sunday, Nov. 16, after worship.

OUR MISSION FOR NOVEMBER is the “Brown Bag” food drive. Bags will be handed out today. Please return food donations to the buffet counter in the Parish Hall or under the stairs by the lower Parish House entrance by next Sunday, November 16.

Announcements – November 9, 2008, continued

COMING UP

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY: Monday, 10:00 AM.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES: Monday, 6:30 PM.

MUSIC COMMITTEE: Monday, 6:40 PM.

SENIOR CHOIR: Monday, 7:00 PM.

THE CHURCH OFFICE is closed Tuesday for Veterans Day. No Bible Study this week.

PRIME TIMERS’ regular monthly meeting is Wednesday, at Noon, in the Parish Hall. Please bring a sandwich; dessert and beverage will be provided. The program will be a lecture by Art Horn on “The History of Weather” held at 12:30 PM. Following the lecture there will be an optional meeting to discuss plans for next year.

CHURCH COUNCIL: Wednesday, 7:00 PM.

BELL CHOIR: Thursday, 7:00 PM.

CONFIRMATION CLASS meets at Noon next Sunday.

JYF FOOD DRIVE at Marandino’s is next Sunday, 1:00 – 4:00 PM to support Jack Bannon’s Farmington Valley Turkey Trot. JYFers, please sign up on the youth board to attend the food drive.

ECUMENICAL THANKSGIVING SERVICE for local churches will take place on Sunday, November 23, at 4:00 PM at the Collinsville Congregational Church. *Please note that the time has changed to 4:00 PM* from the notice in the November Churchmouse.