

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

November 23, 2008

10:00 AM

THANKSGIVING SUNDAY  
REIGN OF CHRIST SUNDAY

CHIMES

Lydia Petersen

INTERESTS OF THE FELLOWSHIP

PRELUDE: "Now Thank We All Our God" -arr. D. Wagner/ V. Fox  
Cherry Brook Chimes and Organ

INTROIT: "Break Forth into Joy" (-Perry) Junior Choir

CALL TO WORSHIP: (**responsively**)

Come, God is seeking to gather us together.

Like a shepherd searching for lost sheep, God calls us.

**Something or someone has summoned us here.**

**Dare we believe that God knows and welcomes us?**

God reaches out to rescue all who have strayed.

Scattered, weak, and injured ones are drawn to God

**We come, in need of healing, seeking a blessing.**

**Our faith draws us here, in spite of our doubts.**

Come, above all else, to worship and give thanks.

Make a joyful noise to the Creator of all worlds.

**God's steadfast love becomes real to us here.**

**We are reminded of God's immeasurable greatness.**

\*HYMN 718 (*Chalice*) "Come, Ye Thankful People, Come"

715 (*Chalice*) "Now Thank We All Our God"

***Our church school children will begin their processional  
when the congregation begins singing.***

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

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

**We come with gladness, loving God, drawn by our need  
and by a desire to praise you and give thanks. Enlighten the  
eyes of our hearts that we may be full of hope. Enlarge the  
circle of our concern that we may see the stranger as next of  
kin, the hungry person as a part of our own family, the one  
who is sick as a whole individual deserving of our care. Grant  
us the presence of Christ that we may learn more fully to  
follow in the footsteps of Jesus. In Jesus' name we pray, and  
also saying, *Our Father...***

\*GLORIA PATRI (*Chalice* #35)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

OFFERTORY: "Spirit Wind"

-Bartsch

Cherry Brook Chimes

\*OFFERTORY HYMN OF DEDICATION: (Tune: We Gather Together)

**We praise thee, O God, our Redeemer, Creator,**

**In grateful devotion our tribute we bring.**

**We lay it before thee, we kneel and adore thee,**

**We bless thy holy name, glad praises we sing.**

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

**God of steadfast love, receive these expressions of our  
thanks for the glorious inheritance entrusted to us. We  
hereby enlist ourselves and our resources toward the  
realization of your eternal purpose for all humanity. May this  
congregation become more and more a source of hope for  
each of us and for all we meet. Amen.**

\*HYMN 717 (*Chalice*)

"Let All Things Now Living"

***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

ANTHEM: "Hymn of Grateful Praise"

-Fettke

Senior Choir

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 25:31-46 (Pew Bibles, N.T. p. 27)

SERMON:

"LITTLE THINGS COUNT"

\*HYMN 234 (*Chalice*)

"Crown Him with Many Crowns"

\*BENEDICTION

\*RESPONSE

\*POSTLUDE: "Rejoice, O Pilgrim Throng"

-arr. Burkhardt

(\*All who are able, please stand)

The Rev. Susan M. Prichard	Interim Minister
Sarah W. LeGeyt	Director of Christian Education & Youth
Mary Lou Keefe	Organist; Director of Music
Betsy Ash	Junior Choir Director
Barbara Lowell and Matt Solomon	Duty Deacons
Hugh Anderson	Duty Trustee
Darryl and Jamie Haberern	Greeters
Jim and Gina Magennis	Ushers

**THE FLOWERS** today are given in loving memory of Rosalie Bolland, my mom, and Mary Schramm, my grandmother, for whom I will be forever grateful, with wonderful Thanksgiving memories, by Jan Tanner and family.

**MANY THANKS** to Polly Rice for creating the beautiful harvest cornucopia gracing our communion table today.

**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 of the Parish House 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 for coffee. All are welcome to stay for the Thanksgiving Potluck.

Please see bulletin insert for announcements

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS – SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2008**

**JUNIOR CHOIR** Today, 11:15 AM, Music Room; **NO CHERUB CHOIR** today.

**PAGEANT ENSEMBLE** rehearses today, after worship, in church.

**THANKSGIVING POTLUCK IS TODAY** after worship in the Parish Hall. All are invited.

**PICK UP YOUR BUTTERBRAID** orders today, after worship. See the SYF at a table at the far end of the Parish Hall.

**TRANS-SIBERIAN ORCHESTRA TICKETS** may be purchased today for the concert next Sunday, Nov. 30<sup>th</sup>. All of our church family are invited to buy tickets. See Rachel Baugher.

**CONFIRMATION CLASS**: Today, at Noon, in the Music Room.

**WORKSHOP LEADERS and TEACHERS** are needed for winter and spring terms for church school. See Sarah LeGeyt.

**JYF REMINDER**: JYF is participating in the Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service today, 4:00 PM, Collinsville Cong'l Church.

**ECUMENICAL THANKSGIVING SERVICE** is this afternoon at 4:00 PM at the Collinsville Congregational Church, 7 South Street. Rev. Prichard, our Senior Choir, Bell Choir and members of the Junior Youth Fellowship will be participating.

### **COMING UP**

**ADVENT POTLUCK AND WORKSHOP** with crafts and activities: Sunday, December 7, after worship. Sign up on the kitchen door.

**SENIOR CHOIR**: Monday, 7:00 PM.

**BIBLE STUDY**: Tuesday, 10:30 AM; 'First Fruits – Tel Jericho'

**THE CHURCH OFFICE** will be closed Thursday and Friday for the Thanksgiving holiday.

**BELL CHOIR** will not meet this week.

**CHRISTMAS WREATHS**, ordered from the Confirmation Class, will be available for pick-up Sunday, December 7, after worship.

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## **“Turkey and a Twenty”**

Thanksgiving is just around the corner and Monday is the last full donation day at central Connecticut's regional food bank. This year's goal of 16,000 turkeys is the largest number ever needed.

Foodshare's "Turkey and a Twenty" drive features collection sites and special events throughout Hartford and Tolland counties. Those wishing to help are asked to visit [www.foodshare.org](http://www.foodshare.org) and click on the "turkey toolkit" section for a comprehensive list of collection site locations throughout the region as well as their specific dates and times of operation.

"We need to mobilize an army of new donors to meet the challenges before us," says Gloria McAdam, President & CEO of Foodshare. "With the entire community's support, Foodshare hopes to ensure that every family enjoys a traditional holiday meal... and just as importantly, that adequate resources are in place to help people in need long after the holidays are over."

Monetary donations to Foodshare can also be made:

- . online at [www.foodshare.org](http://www.foodshare.org)
  - . by phone at (860) 286-9999
  - . by mail at Foodshare, 450 Woodland Ave, Bloomfield CT 06002-1342
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