

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

January 4, 2009

10:00 AM

EPIPHANY

CHIMES

Bob Oswald

INTERESTS OF THE FELLOWSHIP

PRELUDE: "Still, Still"

-Polish carol

CHORAL INTROIT

CALL TO WORSHIP: (**responsively**)

Come, join the search for all God will reveal.

We are the church, committed to an encounter with mystery.

God has sent light to dispel our fears.

The glory of God has risen upon us.

The gospel of Christ reveals God's grace.

We share in the promise of Jesus Christ.

We gather together and lift up our eyes.

Our hearts thrill to the sight and our lips rejoice.

Through us, the wisdom of God will be made known.

There is rich variety to meet each one where we are.

The radiance of truth surrounds us.

Boldly and confidently, we approach our God.

*HYMN 144 (*Pilgrim*) "What Star Is This, With Beams So Bright"

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

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

God beyond our knowing, grant us today new glimpses of who you are and what you intend for us to be. The powers of this earth bow before you in humble adoration. Mighty nations are tiny blips on the screens of your eternity. Our lives are insignificant except as you enlist us to be a part of your eternal purposes. You draw us irresistibly toward the light. We are attracted to your revelation. We need the sense of purpose you engender among us. Come, Holy Mystery, to reveal as much of your truth as we can stretch to understand and receive into our lives. In Jesus' name we pray, and also saying, *Our Father...*

*GLORIA PATRI (*Pilgrim* #513)

OFFERTORY: "The Snow Lay on the Ground"

(Venite Adoramus Dominum) -trad. English carol/arr. Lindh
Senior Choir

*DOXOLOGY (*Pilgrim* #515)

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

We reach for the boundless riches of Christ, even as we give the tithes and offerings we have pledged. An abundance of things does not satisfy, and the wealth of nations cannot buy peace. Therefore, we join our efforts in the church to make a difference in the world, not through instruments of oppression but through the power of love. Employ our gifts in the service of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

A MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION

followed by the PASTORAL PRAYER and ORGAN RESPONSE

*HYMN 119 (*Pilgrim*)

"As with Gladness Men of Old"

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 2:1-12 (Pew Bibles, N.T. p. 1)

SERMON:

"FOLLOW THAT STAR!"

*COMMUNION HYMN 149 (*Pilgrim*)

"I Know Not How that Bethlehem's Babe"

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER:

All who profess faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior are welcome to receive the Bread and the Cup. The deacons will administer communion to the congregation as seated. We partake of the elements after all have been served, as one body in Christ.

*HYMN 143 (*Pilgrim*)

"We Three Kings of Orient Are"

*BENEDICTION

*RESPONSE

*POSTLUDE

(*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
Geri Bunnell and Curt Johnson	Duty Deacons
Dave Heyer	Duty Trustee
The Herbek Family	Greeters
The Jeff Smith Family	Ushers
Tim and Cary LeGeyt	Coffee Hour Hosts

THE FLOWERS today are given in memory of Bertha Mills and Genevieve Humphrey by Sam Humphrey.

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 refreshment and fellowship.

Please see bulletin insert for announcements

ANNOUNCEMENTS – SUNDAY, JANUARY 4, 2009

JUNIOR CHOIR will **not** rehearse today.

CONFIRMATION CLASS: Today, 11:45–1:15. Bring a bag lunch.

ABOUT NAMETAGS... Please wear yours! It is a great help to match names and faces in our church family. Nametags are located in wooden trays in the Parish Hall. Of if you wish, you may store yours in the church vestibule.

IF CHURCH SERVICES ARE CANCELLED for any reason, you may listen for the notice on WTIC AM 1080, or watch WFSB on local channel 3, or check our church's website www.cantoncenterchurch.org.

JUST A REMINDER REGARDING PARKING: Please reserve the north (upper) parking lot by the church for the senior or less able-bodied members of our church family who may have difficulty walking long distances from other parking areas or need to use the ramp entrance. This is especially important in winter weather. Thank you for your kindness and cooperation.

THE MISSION COLLECTION FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY will be **new books for all ages** for Interval House. Please leave donations in the Mission Box by the church kitchen door.

2009 OFFERING ENVELOPES are on the information table by the kitchen. Please save mailing costs by picking yours up. Envelopes are available for anyone who wants them.

HONOR COURT will be hosted by our church in Hartford tomorrow evening.

COMING UP

SENIOR CHOIR: Monday, 7:00 PM.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE: Monday, 7:00 PM.

DIACONATE: Tuesday, 7:00 PM.

BELL CHOIR: Thursday, 7:00 PM.

MISSIONS COMMITTEE: Next Sunday, 9:00 AM. *-continued*

Announcements, Sunday, January 4, 2009, continued

JYF PIZZA LUNCH & MOVIE: Next Sunday, 11:30 AM.

ATTENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND CHURCH OFFICERS: Deadline is next Sunday, January 11, for submitting annual reports to the church office.

PRIME TIMERS will meet Wednesday, January 14, at 12 Noon for "Souper" Wednesday. Please bring a can of soup (not creamed) to add to the mixture for lunch. The program will be "The Game" (Scattergories). Dessert & coffee provided.

HELP OUR YOUTH ON AN INTERNATIONAL MISSION PROJECT. Three of our Senior Youth Fellowship members have registered for a trip to Mexico to help impoverished children at an orphanage and to build homes for families living at the dump. Silver Lake in partnership with Simply Smiles is organizing the trip. They will be selling Mission Shares. You will have the opportunity to purchase a Mission in Mexico Share for \$25 a piece. Buy a share in celebration, in honor or in memory of a loved one. Buy a share for each member of your family! One or more shares will entitle you to a spaghetti dinner for 2 and a Mission Trip presentation on Saturday, May 9th. The kids will be selling shares during the coffee hour through the month of January.

SUPERBOWL GRINDERS will go on sale during the coffee hour on January 18th and 25th. They will be prepared by the JYF and ready for pickup on game day, February 1st.

IMPORTANT MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION will be held Sunday, January 25, after worship to **vote on the 2009 Operating Budget** proposed by the Board of Trustees.

WORKSHOP LEADER is needed for Games and Movement. Share Bible stories and then act out the stories or play games connected to the story. Teach the same lesson to different classes each week. Also, a third **TEACHER** would be a great help in this year's large kindergarten class. See Michele Iannello or Sarah LeGeyt for information or to sign up.

RETREAT COMMITTEE is planning for the All-Church Retreat scheduled for March 20th-22nd. Anyone interested in being on the committee may see Bob Mankowski.