

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

January 25, 2009

10:00 AM

CHIMES

Lydia Petersen

INTERESTS OF THE FELLOWSHIP

PRELUDE: "Come Away to the Skies" -George Shearing
(Tune: Middlebury from Southern Harmony)

CALL TO WORSHIP: (**responsively**)

For God alone our souls wait in silence.

Our hope is from God, our fortress.

God is our rock and our salvation.

God is our refuge and our deliverance.

Trust in God at all times, in all places.

Pour out your hearts to the One who hears.

All people are valuable in God's sight.

No one is more important than another.

Worship God, who is ready to speak to us.

Open your lives to God's steadfast love.

All power in the universe belongs to God.

Yet God depends on our faithful service.

*HYMN 4 (*Chalice*) "Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!"

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

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

We await your message, God of all places and times. Sometimes we do not like what we hear, but we know we need to listen. Your message is inclusive and fair, while we like to make distinctions that favor us and our friends. You call us out of our comfort zones to do new things and try better ways. You direct us to reach out to people with whom we seem to have little in common. Speak your truth to us in this service so we can carry it to the places where you want us to go, to the people you are eager to reach. In Jesus' name we pray, and also saying, *Our Father...*

*GLORIA PATRI (*Chalice* # 35)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM:

MINISTER: Fellow members of this household of faith, I commend to your love this child whom we now receive as a member of the family of God. Will you endeavor to live so that he may grow in the knowledge and love of God, and of our Savior Jesus Christ? Will you support his parents in their efforts to guide their child in the way of the gospel, and to faithful service in Christ's church?

CONGREGATION: **We will endeavor to do so, and we promise our support.**

*HYMN 75 (*Chalice*) "I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry"
Church School children may pass to their classrooms when the congregation begins singing.

OFFERTORY: "On Jordan's Stormy Banks"

-Samuel Stennett (1727-1795)/arr. Helvey
Senior Choir

*DOXOLOGY (*Chalice* # 46)

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

God of steadfast love, we pray that you will love the world through the moneys we dedicate today. We pray that your work of transformation will be carried forward by our gifts. As a church, we seek to follow where Jesus leads. As individuals, we heed the call to discipleship. Bless our efforts to fish for people – for their sakes, not our own. Amen.

A MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION

followed by the PASTORAL PRAYER and ORGAN RESPONSE

*HYMN 337 (*Chalice*)

"Jesus Calls Us O'er the Tumult"

SCRIPTURE: Mark 1:14-20 (Pew Bibles, N.T. p. 32)

SERMON: "FOLLOW ME"

*HYMN **594** (*Chalice*) "Dear Lord, and Father of Mankind"

*BENEDICTION and *RESPONSE

*POSTLUDE: "Rondeau" from "Abdelazer Suite" -Henry Purcell

(*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
Ron Olejniczak	Duty Trustee
Chris and Ed Welcome	Greeters
Dave and Carol Heyer	Ushers
Vicki and Andy Rees	Coffee Hour Hosts

THE FLOWERS today are given by Phyllis Meeker in loving memory of Mert.

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 *brief* time of refreshment and fellowship. Following that, please return to the sanctuary for the congregational meeting to vote on the 2009 Operating Budget.

Please see bulletin insert for announcements

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



184 Cherry Brook Road – PO Box 133
 Canton Center CT 06020-0133
 Church Office 860-693-4581 Fax 860-693-4216
 E-mail cantoncenterchurch@snet.net
www.cantoncenterchurch.org

ANNOUNCEMENTS – SUNDAY, JANUARY 25, 2009

JUNIOR CHOIR: Today, 11:15 AM in the Music Room.

ORDER JYF SUPERBOWL GRINDERS today at the coffee hour. They will be prepared by JYF for pickup next Sunday, Feb. 1st.

LAST CHANGE TO BUY MISSION SHARES for our youth's international mission project. They will be selling Mission Shares for \$25 each at coffee hour. One or more shares will entitle you to a spaghetti dinner for 2 and presentation on Saturday, May 9th.

PLEASE ATTEND TODAY'S BUDGET MEETING of the congregation. Take a moment for coffee and refreshment and then return to the sanctuary to vote on the 2009 Operating Budget proposed by the Board of Trustees.

CONFIRMATION CLASS: Today, Noon-1:30 PM.

VALENTINE'S DAY BABY SITTING is being offered by senior high youth on Saturday, February 14th from 5-9:30. Take your sweetheart out for dinner and bring your children to the Parish Hall for movies, games, and fun. The cost will be \$15 for 1 child, \$20 for 2 children and \$25 for 3 or more children. Please call for reservations 693-4581 or sign up by the church office by February 6th. The proceeds support the Mexico Mission Trip.

THE MISSION COLLECTION FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY is non-perishable food for the Canton Food Bank and Gifts of Love. Please leave donations in the Mission Box by the church kitchen door. Please check to see that food items are in-dated.

COMING UP

SENIOR CHOIR: Monday, 7:00 PM.

BELL CHOIR: Thursday, 7:00 PM.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE: Next Sunday, 8:30 AM.

SYF BAKE SALE will be held on Sunday, Feb. 8, at coffee hour, to benefit their mission trip.

JYF SLEDDING / SNOWSHOEING on church hill downs behind the church: Sunday, February 8, after church.