

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

February 1, 2009

10:00 AM

CHIMES

Bob Oswald

INTERESTS OF THE FELLOWSHIP

PRELUDE: "Reverie on an Early American Melody"

-O'Kane/arr. Birchwood

CHORAL INTROIT

CALL TO WORSHIP: (**responsively**)

Great are the works of God, and greatly to be praised.

God's righteousness endures forever.

**We come together as a congregation of believers.**

**We give thanks to God with whole hearts.**

God is gracious and merciful and trustworthy.

At all times, God is mindful of the covenant.

**The works of God's hands are established among us.**

**We can count on God's righteousness and faithfulness.**

Awe before God is the beginning of wisdom.

All who approach God in fear have good understanding.

**Holy and awesome is God's name.**

**We call on God to empower our worship.**

\*HYMN 6 (*Chalice*) "Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above"

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

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

**God of the prophets, help us to recognize your voice among the competing claims of our day. Raise up in our midst authentic witnesses to your truth. Be present with us now to guide our prayers and praise. Let us not presume to know your message without careful listening or to speak your word without discerning the Spirit. Light your fires within us so we may heed your summons and give our best in your service. In Jesus' name we pray, and also saying, Our Father...**

\*GLORIA PATRI (*Chalice* #35)

OFFERTORY: "Psalm 150"

-Lewandowski/arr. Dash

Senior Choir

\*DOXOLOGY (*Chalice* #46)

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

**By giving away some of the wealth we cherish so much, we keep ourselves focused on who you are, gracious God, and on what you expect of us. As the body of Christ, we seek to be a healing force in our world. May the offerings we present be used in ways that encourage healthful behaviors among us in the church, within our community, and as far as our influence can reach. Receive us and our gifts, we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.**

ANTHEM: "Rigaudon"

-Campra/arr. Thompson

Cherry Brook Chimes Bell Choir

A MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION

followed by the PASTORAL PRAYER and ORGAN RESPONSE

\*HYMN 572 (*Chalice*)

"Take Time to Be Holy"

SCRIPTURE: Mark 1:21-28 (Pew Bibles, N.T. p. 32)

SERMON:

"WITH AUTHORITY"

\*COMMUNION HYMN 403 (*Chalice*)

"In Remembrance of Me"

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 666 (*Chalice*)

"The Voice of God Is Calling"

\*BENEDICTION

\*RESPONSE

\*POSTLUDE: "March Jubilant"

-Sheppard

(\*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
Barbara Lowell and Matt Solomon	Duty Deacons
Hugh Anderson	Duty Trustee
Susan Turner and Leon Turner	Greeters
Wayne and Donna Goeben	Ushers
The Junior High Class	Coffee Hour Hosts

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

**THE FLOWERS** today are given by Bill and Polly Rice in loving memory of his mother, Rose Rice, and her grandfather, William H. Peters, who would have been 100 today.

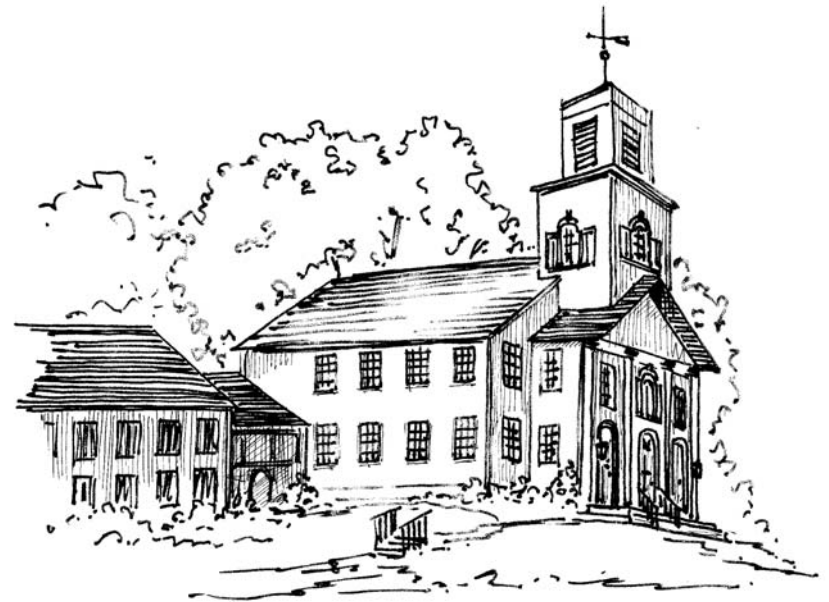
**WE CORDIALLY WELCOME** those who are visitors to this church and to this morning's worship service. Please sign the guest book in the vestibule. Or, fill in a Friendship Card found in the pews. Also found with the Friendship Cards are Pew Envelopes. Please feel free to use them for any donation.

**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 refreshment and fellowship.

[Please see bulletin insert for announcements](#)



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## ANNOUNCEMENTS – SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2009

**SUPERBOWL GRINDER ORDERS** will be ready for pickup **TODAY** at coffee hour.

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

**ALL-CHURCH RETREAT SIGN-UPS** begin today for the March 20-22 weekend. This year's theme is "Count Your Blessings." Come to beautiful Silver Lake in Sharon, CT and enjoy a relaxing fun time. Sign up during coffee hour today, Feb. 8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>. Cost: \$50 for adults, \$40 for children 2-10 (\$200 family max.)

**SYF** will be taking reservations for **VALENTINE BABY SITTING** on Saturday, February 14, 5 – 9:30 PM. See them at coffee hour.

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

**OUR MISSION BOX COLLECTION FOR FEBRUARY** is non-perishable food. Items will be donated to Gifts of Love and the Canton Food Bank. Please check expiration dates and leave donations in the Mission Box.

### COMING UP

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

**DIACONATE:** Tuesday, 7:00 PM.

**BELL CHOIR:** Thursday, 7:00 PM.

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

**SYF BAKE SALE:** Next Sunday, during coffee hour. Proceeds will benefit the Mexico mission trip. Orders will also be taken for their sale of **EASTER CANDY**.

**JYF SLEDDING:** Next Sunday, after church. Sign up on the youth bulletin board opposite the church office. Bring a bag lunch and your own sled!

**CONFIRMATION CLASS:** Next Sunday, 11:45 AM – 1:15 PM. Bring a bag lunch.

## Announcements, Sunday, February 1, 2009, continued

**PRIME TIMERS** will meet Wednesday, February 11, at 12 Noon. The program will be "Show and Tell." Share your handwork, hobbies, collections, etc. Bring a sandwich; dessert and beverage provided.

**CHERUB CHOIR** begins weekly rehearsals on Sunday, February 22, for Easter. Children age 4 through Grade 2 are encouraged to attend. They will meet at 11:15 A.M. in the Music Room. **JUNIOR CHOIR** will rehearse on Sundays, 11:30 - 11:45 AM on the weeks the Cherub Choir is rehearsing.

**THE ANNUAL MEETING** of The First Congregational Church, Canton Center, is scheduled for Ash Wednesday, February 25, 6:45 P.M. There will be a time for dessert and fellowship beginning at 6:45 P.M. in the Parish Hall. There will be Ash Wednesday Worship at 7:15 PM prior to the business meeting that begins at 7:30 PM. All church members are encouraged to attend this meeting, especially those who have been nominated for office or a committee position as well as those persons presenting reports.

**LENTEN BIBLE STUDY.** Starting March 3<sup>rd</sup>, we will begin a five session Bible Study based on the video Bible Study series, *Faith Lessons: On the Life and Ministry of the Messiah*. Each class will be an individual unit but they do build on one another. All are welcome.

**IT'S A MYSTERY!** Intergenerational Lenten Program, Monday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> at 5:30 PM. Come, enjoy an evening of pizza and an exploration of how magic and mystery are used in literature to discuss issues of faith. Magic is the medium, not the message! We will be using the works of Madeline L'Engle (Wrinkle in Time series), J.R.R. Tolkien (Fellowship of the Ring series), C.S. Lewis (Chronicles of Narnia series) and J.K. Rowling (Harry Potter series), which cover more than 60 years of literature. Let's see how Christian authors in different decades portray great truths while weaving wonderful adventures. See posters for details and sign-up on the church kitchen door.

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