

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

February 8, 2009

10:00 AM

CHIMES

Lydia Petersen

INTERESTS OF THE FELLOWSHIP

PRELUDE: "Speak, O Lord" -Getty & Townend/arr. McDonald

CHORAL INTROIT: "Questions" -Nagy
Junior Choir, directed by Betsy Ash

CALL TO WORSHIP: (**responsively**)

Worship God, who is from everlasting to everlasting!

The God of creation does not faint or grow weary.

How good it is to sing praises to our God!

How expansive is God's understanding of us!

The whole universe is subject to God's power.

Creation continues as the universe expands.

God rules all time and space, yet cares about us.

God is pleased with all who reflect steadfast love.

Sing to God with great thanksgiving.

Praise God with the best you have to offer.

We lift up our eyes to see God's wonders.

We open our ears to receive God's message.

*HYMN 12 (*Pilgrim*) "From All That Dwell Below the Skies"

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (in **unison**) followed by
THE LORD'S PRAYER (using debts and debtors):

Powerful God, before whom we are as nothing, we dare to approach you because you assure us that we are not like mere grasshoppers to you. Our individual potential is not hidden from you, and the faithfulness of your church is important to you. We have gathered with great expectation, seeking to have our strength renewed and our hope restored. Make yourself known among us as we unite in your praise. In Jesus' name we pray, and also saying, *Our Father...*

*GLORIA PATRI (*Pilgrim* # 513)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

RESPONSIVE READING #**108**, page 538 (*Pilgrim*) Psalm 148

OFFERTORY: "The Prayer" -Sagar & Foster/arr. Fettke
Senior Choir

*DOXOLOGY (*Pilgrim* #515)

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

Thank you, God, for showing us a better way to live than we are able to devise for ourselves. Thank you for reaching out to win our hearts. Thank you for Jesus Christ, for the ministry that extended your love to the least and the lost, for the powerful presence that offered wholeness to those who were sick or brokenhearted, for the prayers that demonstrated how we, too, can be in communion with you. In gratitude, we dedicate this offering. Amen.

*HYMN 317 (*Pilgrim*) "I Love to Tell the Story"
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 150 (*Pilgrim*) "O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High"

SCRIPTURE: Mark 1:29-39 (Pew Bibles, N.T. p. 32)

SERMON: "A DAY IN THE LIFE OF JESUS"

*HYMN 416 (*Pilgrim*) "Christian, Rise and Act Thy Creed"

*BENEDICTION

*RESPONSE

*POSTLUDE: "Hosanna" -Choplin

(*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
Dave Downs	Duty Trustee
Art Dewey	Greeter
Bill Deming and Ashley Deming	Ushers
Jeff and Kathy Smith	Coffee Hour Hosts

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THE FLOWERS today are given by Marg and Dave Ayres in celebration of their parents and grandchildren.

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 8, 2009

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

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

ALL-CHURCH RETREAT SIGN-UPS continue at coffee hour today for the weekend of March 20-22. This year's theme is "Count Your Blessings." The cost will be \$50 for adults, \$40 for children 2-10 (\$200 family max.)

SYF is taking reservations for **VALENTINE BABY SITTING** on Saturday, February 14, 5 – 9:30 PM. See them at coffee hour or sign up on the bulletin board by the church office.

JYF SLEDDING TODAY, after church.

CONFIRMATION CLASS TODAY, 11:45 AM – 1:15 PM.

COMING UP

REV. SUE PRICHARD will be away in Israel from February 10, through February 21. In case of a pastoral emergency in her absence, The Rev. Mark Deters, Pastor of The Flagg Road United Church of Christ, may be contacted at 523-0121.

SIGN UP FOR ALL-CHURCH SKI TRIP to Jiminy Peak, Saturday, March 7. Poster and sign-up on the church kitchen door.

PRAYER SHAWL: Monday, 10:00 AM.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES: Monday, 6:30 PM.

MUSIC COMMITTEE: Monday, 6:40 PM.

SENIOR CHOIR: Monday, 7:00 PM.

PRIME TIMERS meet Wednesday at 12 Noon in the Parish Hall. For lunch and "Show and Tell." Share your handwork, hobbies, collections, etc. Bring a sandwich; dessert and beverage provided.

CHURCH COUNCIL: Wednesday, 7:00 PM.

BELL CHOIR: Thursday, 7:00 PM.

Announcements, Sunday, February 8, 2009

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. Ash Wednesday Worship will take place 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 3rd, 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. First session, on March 3, *The Time Had Fully Come*—John the Baptist, the community at Qumran and the Dead Sea scrolls.

IT'S A MYSTERY! Intergenerational Lenten Program, Monday, March 2nd 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 Madeleine 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.