

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

February 15, 2009

10:00 AM

LAITY SUNDAY

CHIMES

Bob Oswald

INTERESTS OF THE FELLOWSHIP

PRELUDE

CHORAL INTROIT

CALL TO WORSHIP: (**responsively**)

Jesus taught: Blessed are the poor in spirit.

He said that the realm of God is theirs.

**We read that those who mourn are blessed.**

**Jesus said they will be comforted.**

The meek will inherit the earth.

The merciful will obtain mercy.

**All who hunger and thirst for rich treasures are blessed;**

**Jesus said they will be filled.**

Blessed are the pure in heart and the peacemakers;

They are God's children and will see God.

**Those persecuted and falsely accused are blessed.**

**Even in the face of evil, we will rejoice.**

\*HYMN 366 (*Pilgrim*) "God of Grace and God of Glory"

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

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

**Let the mountains hear our voices raised in prayer and praise, wise and holy God. We gather in this sacred place to honor and adore you. We come humbly, claiming the cross of Jesus Christ as our sign. We give thanks that you lift up the weak and lowly, defy the world's foolishness and invite us to share in life at its fullest and best as disciples of Jesus. We want to accept your invitation. In Jesus' name we pray, and also saying, *Our Father...***

\*GLORIA PATRI (*Pilgrim* # 513)

RESPONSIVE READING: **#66** (*Pilgrim*) Page 516 Psalms 13, 15

OFFERTORY: "Kyrie"

-Leavitt

Senior Choir

\*DOXOLOGY (*Pilgrim* # 515)

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

**We devote ourselves and these tokens of our thankfulness toward the realization of your reign among us, holy God. We pray for purity of heart as we hunger and thirst for righteousness and as we seek to be peacemakers. We rejoice in this opportunity to share in the extension of your realm. Bless us and our offering, we pray, in Jesus' name. Amen.**

\*HYMN 157 (*Pilgrim*)

"In the Cross of Christ I Glory"

A MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION

followed by PRAYER and ORGAN RESPONSE

\*HYMN 228 (*Pilgrim*)

"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 5:17-18; 6:25-34; 7:1-2,12

(Pew Bibles, N.T. p. 4-7)

SERMON:

"WORDS TO LIVE BY..."

Deacon Matt Solomon

\*HYMN 214 (*Pilgrim*)

"Blest Are The Pure in Heart"

\*BENEDICTION

\*RESPONSE

\*POSTLUDE: Medley of Early American Songs

(\*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 Heyer	Duty Trustee
Lin Erickson and Maggie Schofield	Greeters
John Solomon and Mark Solomon	Ushers

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

**THE FLOWERS** today are given in memory of Zachary Austin LeGeyt by Walter, Connie, Joe and Allyson.

**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 15, 2009

**JUNIOR CHOIR:** Today, 11:15 AM in the Music Room. Beginning next Sunday, Junior Choir rehearsals will be at 11:30 AM during the weeks when the Cherubs meet at 11:15 AM.

**EASTER CANDY ORDERS** will be taken today at the coffee hour by the Senior Youth Fellowship. It's Munson's!

**ALL-CHURCH SKI TRIP** is set for March 7, at Jiminy Peak, leaving the church at 7 AM. Sign up on the kitchen door.

**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." Come to beautiful Silver Lake in Sharon, CT and enjoy a relaxing fun time. The cost will be \$50 for adults, \$40 for children 2-10 (\$200 family max.)

**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.

**DEADLINE** is today for submitting items for the March issue of *The Churchmouse*.

### COMING UP

**THE CHURCH OFFICE** is closed Monday for the Presidents Day holiday.

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

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

**CHERUB CHOIR** rehearsals begin next Sunday. Children age 4 through Grade 2 are invited to sing for Easter. Weekly rehearsals are at 11:15 AM in the Music Room. Junior Choir will rehearse at 11:30 AM for those weeks when the Cherubs rehearse.

## Announcements, February 15, 2009, continued:

**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.

**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. The Tuesday morning sessions begin at 10:30 AM. First session, on March 3, *The Time Had Fully Come* - John the Baptist, the community at Qumran and the Dead Sea scrolls.

Because of an expressed interest in an **EVENING SERIES**, we will also have classes at 7 PM on:

- Tuesday, February 24 *The Time Had Fully Come*
- Tuesday, March 10 *No Greater Love*
- Tuesday, March 17 *The Rabbi*
- Tuesday, March 24 *The Language of Culture*
- Wednesday, April 1 *Living Water*

Please let Jane or Sue know of your interest.

**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 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.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS.** There will be a **NEW MEMBER FORUM** on Sunday, March 15, after worship, for anyone interested in becoming an "official" member of our church family. Reception of new members will take place during worship on Palm Sunday, April 5. Details in the March issue of *The Churchmouse*.