

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

March 1, 2009

10:00 AM

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

COMMUNION SUNDAY

CHIMES

Bob Oswald

INTERESTS OF THE FELLOWSHIP

PRELUDE: "Ballad"

-Edvard Grieg /arr. Douglas

CHORAL INTROIT

CALL TO WORSHIP: (**responsively**)

Welcome to the time of covenant renewal.

The God of our salvation greets us here.

We are reminded of God's promises to us;

We remember the promises we have made.

Sense the Spirit descending on us now.

Hear God's welcoming voice.

Surely God is with us.

We can hear God calling our names.

See the rainbow in the sky.

Wonder at God's steadfast love.

All creation proclaims the wonders of God.

We come together to learn what God wants to teach us.

*HYMN 20 (*Pilgrim*)

"Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above"

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

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

Lead us in your truth this day, gracious God, We long to know your ways and to be guided by your Spirit. Direct us into that realm where your purposes govern the hearts and minds of all your children. We want to grow in the likeness of Jesus, to learn to live in ways that are pleasing to you. We wait for you now, eager to respond to your instruction. Let nothing cut us off from you or separate us from one another, not only in this time of worship but as we face the challenges of another week. In Jesus' name we pray, and also saying, Our Father...

*GLORIA PATRI (*Pilgrim* # 513)

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 she may grow in the knowledge and love of God, and of our Savior Jesus Christ? Will you support her 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 277 (*Pilgrim*)

"Jesus, Friend, So Kind and Gentle"

OFFERTORY: "Psalm 139"

-Allen Pote

Senior Choir

*DOXOLOGY (*Pilgrim* # 515)

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

Thank you, God, for the signs and wonders that reveal your presence. Thank you for the covenant fulfilled in Jesus Christ. We want to do our part to share your love with the world. Use our offerings and our lives to bring a realization of your reign among us. Extend your realm by re-creating the church as a true representation of Jesus Christ. May we be humble, teachable, and faithful as we seek to lead others into covenant community. Amen.

A MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION

followed by the PASTORAL PRAYER and ORGAN RESPONSE

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 9:8-17 (Pew Bibles, O.T. p. 7)

Mark 1:9-15 (Pew Bibles, N.T. p. 32)

SERMON:

"THE WILDERNESS OF LENT"

*COMMUNION HYMN 287 (*Pilgrim*)

"Here, O My Lord..."

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 **153** (*Pilgrim*) “Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days”

*BENEDICTION and *RESPONSE

*POSTLUDE: “I Know That My Redeemer Lives”
-Hatton/arr. Burkhardt

(*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
Lydia Petersen and Curt Johnson	Duty Deacons
Ron Olejniczak	Duty Trustee
Bev and Mayo Schreiber	Greeters
Phil Doyle, Stan Ritterbusch	Ushers
Polly Rice, Mary Engvall, Kristin Oswald	Coffee Hour Hosts

THE FLOWERS today are given by Marian Turner in loving memory of her husband, Roy L. Turner, and her brother, John L. Roberts.

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

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



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ANNOUNCEMENTS – SUNDAY, MARCH 1, 2009

CHERUB CHOIR: Today, 11:15 AM in the Music Room, under the direction of Judy Robinson. Children age 4 – Gr. 2 are invited.

JUNIOR CHOIR: Today, 11:30 AM in the Music Room.

ORDER EASTER CANDY TODAY during coffee hour from members of the SYF. Proceeds benefit the Mexico mission trip.

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.)

LEARN ABOUT THE MEXICO "SIMPLY SMILES" MISSION today at 11:30 PM in the Parish Hall. The Rev. Michael Wu will give a brief presentation about his trip with a group last summer to work in Oaxaca.

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

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

OUR MISSION COLLECTION for March is toiletries for men and women to be donated to My Sister's Place and South Park Inn.

COMING UP

SENIOR CHOIR: Monday, 7:00 PM.

LENTEN WORKSHOP: "IT'S A MYSTERY!" IS TOMORROW. Join the pizza supper and book discussion, Monday, March 2, 5:30 PM. (Snow date: March 23)

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY (Morning Session): Tuesday, 10:30 AM.

DIACONATE: Tuesday, 7:00 PM.

BELL CHOIR: Thursday, 7:00 PM.

PASTORAL SEARCH COMMITTEE: Thursday, 7:00 PM.

continued

Announcements, March 1, 2009, continued

ALL-CHURCH SKI TRIP group leaving at 7 AM Saturday morning for Jiminy Peak. Questions, contact Jim Kopljar.

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

MISSIONS COMMITTEE: Next Sunday, 9:00 AM.

JYF GAME DAY & ICE CREAM SUNDAES is next Sunday, March 8, after church. Sign up on the youth bulletin board.

CONFIRMATION CLASS: Next Sunday, 11:45 AM (bag lunch).

PRIME TIMERS will meet in the Parish Hall at Noon on Wednesday, March 11, for lunch and potluck dessert. The program is *Wild Flowers and Invasive Plants*, by Jay Kaplan. Annual dues of \$3 per person will be collected at that time.

NEW MEMBER FORUM is scheduled for Sunday, March 15. The session will take place after church from 11:15 to 12:00, in the Corner Room, which is located downstairs next to the church offices. The session offers the opportunity to get acquainted with others attending as well as hearing Rev. Prichard and members of the Diaconate talk about the organization of The First Congregational Church, our denominational affiliation, expectations of church membership, and about our service of joining, which is scheduled to take place on Palm Sunday, April 5, during the 10:00 A.M. service. If you are unable to attend the New Member Forum, but would still like to join on April 5, please speak to Rev. Prichard to make other arrangements.

NEED HELP WITH A JOB SEARCH? In these difficult economic times, a number of people have lost their jobs. If you would like to participate in a church-sponsored program to help job seekers, or to help in the program, please take note. Bill Thomas spent a number of years in the outplacement business, assisting hundreds of people in their job search. Bill has volunteered his time to work with church members who want to improve their job search skills. If you would like to discuss your possible participation in this program, please contact Bill, or Joan Colglazier, who is helping with the program. We would also welcome others who have helped job seekers and who would be available to help out if needed. Please contact Bill (860-693-4550, wtdthomas421@comcast.net) or Joan (860-409-9182, j.colglazier@sbcglobal.net).