

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

March 8, 2009

10:00 AM

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

CHIMES

Karen Olejniczak

INTERESTS OF THE FELLOWSHIP

PRELUDE: "Seek the Lord While He May Be Found" -Purefoy

CALL TO WORSHIP: (**responsively**)

We are invited to walk with God.

We are welcomed by God as people of the covenant.

How awesome to stand in the presence of our Creator!

We bring our praise to glorify God.

God calls us by name and gives us new names.

We are summoned to faithfulness and fruitfulness.

God not only speaks to us but also listens.

God hears our cries and meets our needs.

Let the ends of the earth remember and turn to God.

Let the families of all nations worship the Creator.

We will pay our vows to the One who calls us.

We praise the God of all nations and all peoples.

*HYMN 29 (*Pilgrim*) "Now Thank We All Our God"

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

In trust and confidence, we call on your name, almighty God, eager to know you more fully and serve you more faithfully. We have heard your amazing promises given to our ancestors in the faith. We seek your word for us in our day, for we want to grow strong in our faith as our ancestors did in theirs. As they gave you glory and praise, we gather to do the same. As they passed on their faith to new generations, we seek to teach and live in such a way that our children and their children will be drawn to minister in your name. In Jesus' name we pray, and also saying, *Our Father...*

*GLORIA PATRI (*Pilgrim* # 513)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

OFFERTORY: "God, Grant Me To Be Silent" -Hill
Senior Choir and Janet Reynolds, cello

*DOXOLOGY (*Pilgrim* # 515)

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

Glorious God, we dedicate these gifts as an expression of our faith. You alone know how much we share and how much we withhold. You know the extent of our trust and the depth of our commitment. May this act of giving draw us closer to you and extend a blessing to all who are helped through our sharing. Amen.

*HYMN 337 (*Pilgrim*) "Give to the Wind Thy Fears"
The church school children may pass to their classrooms when the congregation begins singing.

ANTHEM: "The Blessing" -McKlveen
Cherry Brook Chimes Bell Choir

A MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION
followed by the PASTORAL PRAYER and ORGAN RESPONSE

*HYMN 225 (*Pilgrim*) "Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee"

SCRIPTURE: Mark 8:27-38 (Pew Bibles, N.T. p. 40)

SERMON: "WHO AM I?"

*HYMN 161 (*Pilgrim*) "Before the Cross of Jesus"

*BENEDICTION and *RESPONSE

*POSTLUDE: "The Way of the Cross Leads Home" -Pounds

(*All who are able, please stand)

The Rev. Susan M. Prichard	Interim Minister
Sarah W. LeGeyst	Director of Christian Education & Youth
Mary Lou Keefe	Organist; Director of Music
Lydia Petersen and Matt Solomon	Duty Deacons
Dave Downs	Duty Trustee
Chris and Ed Welcome	Greeters
Art Dewey and Bob Mankowski	Ushers
The Goebens	Coffee Hour Hosts

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THE FLOWERS today are given by Linda Kessler in loving memory of her parents, James and Lois Beane.

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, MARCH 8, 2009

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

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

PALM SUNDAY POTLUCK – Sunday, April 5, after worship. Please sign up on the sheet on kitchen door to RSVP and indicate whether you will be bringing a vegetable/side dish or dessert. Rolls and beverages will be provided. We are also looking for volunteers to prepare hams and help set up the Parish Hall before church. Please contact Rachel Baugher at 693-0494 to help.

PLEASE TAKE AN “EGG” from the egg tree in the Parish Hall and bring in the item noted by March 29th. Easter baskets will be prepared by the JYF and Missions Committee this year for clients of the Canton Food Bank.

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.)

TALENT SHOW TRYOUTS TODAY for church school students. See Jim Koplak after church in the double classroom.

JYF GAME DAY & ICE CREAM SUNDAES is today, after church.

CONFIRMATION CLASS: Today, 11:45 AM – 1:15 PM. **Also,** meet at the church Friday, 5:45 PM, to depart for Confirmation Retreat.

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

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY: Monday, 10:00 AM.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES: Monday, 6:30 PM.

MUSIC COMMITTEE: Monday, 6:30 PM.

SENIOR CHOIR: Monday, 7:00 PM.

Announcements, March 8, 2009, continued

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY (Evening Session): Tuesday, 7:00 PM.

PASTORAL SEARCH COMMITTEE: Tuesday, 7:00 PM.

PRIME TIMERS will meet in the Parish Hall at Noon on Wednesday 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.

CHURCH COUNCIL: Wednesday, 7:00 PM.

BELL CHOIR: Thursday, 7:00 PM.

NEW MEMBER FORUM is scheduled for next 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 our 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 Forum, but would still like to join on April 5, please speak to Rev. Prichard to make other arrangements.

DEADLINE for submitting items for the April issue of *The Churchmouse* is next Sunday, March 15.

LENTEN WORKSHOP: “IT’S A MYSTERY!” POSTPONED until Monday, March 23, 5:30 PM. Join the pizza supper and book discussion.

NEED HELP WITH A JOB SEARCH? Bill Thomas has worked in the outplacement business, assisting hundreds of people in their job search. Bill Thomas has volunteered his time to work with church members with 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, [wdthomas421@comcast.net](mailto:wthomas421@comcast.net)) or Joan (860-409-9182, j.colglazier@sbcglobal.net).