

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

May 10, 2009

10:00 AM

MOTHER'S DAY

CHIMES

Lydia Petersen

INTERESTS OF THE FELLOWSHIP

PRELUDE: "Hymn to the Trinity"

-Scott/Devin

CHORAL INTROIT

CALL TO WORSHIP: (**responsively**)

Come to worship God whose love was revealed in Jesus.

Let all the ends of the earth turn to our God.

We will worship the Almighty and sing praises.

We will proclaim good news to others.

Beloved, we are called to love as God loves us.

We are to love one another as sisters and brothers.

Everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.

We seek to let God's love be perfected in us.

Remember that you have been baptized.

God claims you and has high expectations of you.

Christ is the vine; we are the branches.

We will bear fruit when we abide in the vine.

*HYMN 2 (*Chalice*)

"Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"

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

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

Open our senses to your direction, amazing God, so we may be alert to opportunities you give us. Fill us with good news to share with those who seek meaning for their lives. We are here because we need the good news ourselves. There is much in life that we do not understand. We seek to know your Word and to be led by it. Recall us to the vows of our baptism, reconfirming in us the covenant promises that link us to you and to one another. As we meet you here, our hearts are lifted up in praise. May our worship glorify your name and be pleasing to you. In Jesus' name we pray, and also saying, *Our Father...*

*GLORIA PATRI (*Chalice* # 35)

RESPONSIVE READING: p. 733 (*Chalice*) Psalm 22:25-31

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM:

(*No photography, please*)

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 he may grow in the knowledge and love of God, and of our Savior Jesus Christ? Will you support his 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 75 (*Chalice*) (**seated**) "I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry"

OFFERTORY: "O Lord, My God, You are My Refuge" -J.S. Bach
Senior Choir

*DOXOLOGY (*Chalice* # 46)

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

We give, gracious God, because we are grateful. Your love has sustained us through many trials and temptations. We are thankful for those who have guided our attempts to understand the scriptures. Your loving judgment has provided the pruning our lives require in order to bear fruit. We give in order to extend to others the blessings we have received and to continue the ministry we need as we seek to abide together in your love. Amen.

A MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION

followed by the PASTORAL PRAYER and ORGAN RESPONSE

*HYMN 480 (*Chalice*)

"I Love to Tell the Story"

SCRIPTURE: Acts 8:26-40 (Pew Bibles, N.T., p. 117)

SERMON: "IMPORTANT QUESTIONS" The Rev. Dr. Kent J. Ulery

*HYMN 357 (*Chalice*)

"We Call Ourselves Disciples"

*BENEDICTION and *RESPONSE

*POSTLUDE: "Once to Every Man and Nation" -Lowell/Williams
(*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
Cindy Griggs and Dan LeGeyt	Duty Deacons
Hugh Anderson	Duty Trustee
Evelyn Sealand and Bev Sealand	Greeters
Elizabeth Richter and Willi Bowman	Ushers
The Treadwells	Coffee Hour Hosts

THE FLOWERS today are given in memory of Ethel Burdick by Walter Burdick.

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.

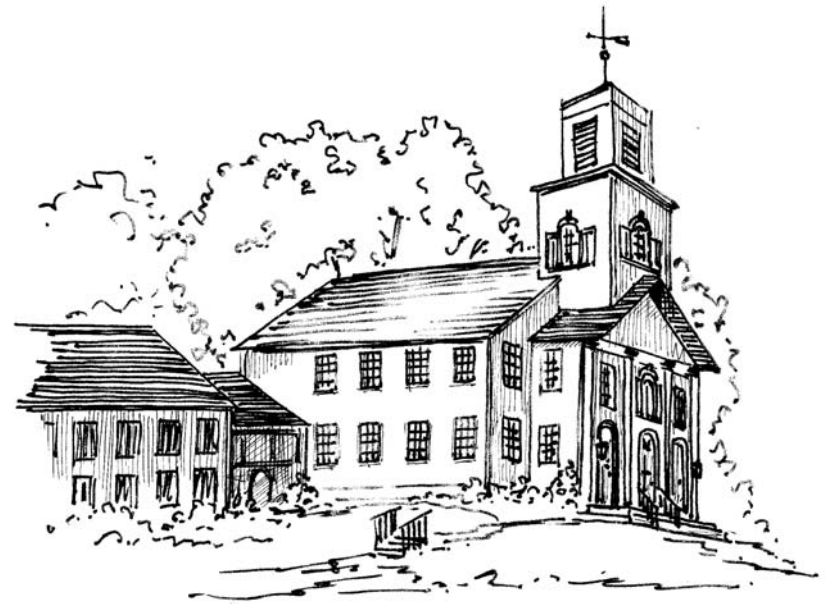
WE ALSO WELCOME the Rev. Dr. Kent J. Ulery as our guest preacher today. He is the President and Professor of Pastoral Leadership at Bangor Theological Seminary. An ordained minister in the United Church of Christ, he served 21 years as a local pastor and 12 years as a Conference Minister. Among other leadership positions, he served on the UCC Executive Council, as an officer of the Council of Conference Ministers, and on the board of directors of both Evangelical Homes of Michigan and Crossroads (Ft. Wayne Children's Home). He is deeply committed to the ministry and mission of the church. His professional interests include parish revitalization, the ministry of administration, the theology and vocation of middle judicatories, the prophetic voice of the public square, and the study of the book of Revelation. He enjoys classical music and good jazz, college sports and great meals, vacation traveling and NASCAR racing. He and his wife, Meg, have two sons and daughters-in-law living near Atlanta and Chicago. Together they find great joy in those all too rare occasions to play with their grandchildren.

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 for a time of refreshment and fellowship in the Parish Hall following worship today.

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



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ANNOUNCEMENTS – SUNDAY, MAY 10, 2009

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

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

FLOWER AND BAKE SALE IS TODAY after worship at the coffee hour. Buy your Mom a flower and attach a special message. Buy some goodies to share with your Mom. Proceeds benefit the SYF Summer Mission Trip to help the homeless on Staten Island, NY, from July 6-10.

WE ARE GRATEFUL to David A. Bristol, Sr., and family for their donation of pansy plants for the children to give to their mothers today in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Sterling W. Bristol, Sr., and also Sterling W. Bristol, Jr., who died in service in World War II. This has been a tradition here for over 60 years.

OUR MISSION COLLECTION FOR MAY, which was to be “Dress for Success,” has been postponed. The new mission emphasis for May will be announced soon.

RSVP ASAP to the church office 693-4581 for the Teacher / C.E. Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast that is at 8:30 AM next Sunday.

COMPLETED PASTORAL SEARCH QUESTIONNAIRES are still coming in, and if you haven't finished yours yet, please do it as soon as possible and return it to the Church or any Pastoral Search Committee member. The Search Committee would really like to have more of you submit them - it will help us do a better job for all of you. The initial batch is being tabulated by Hartford Seminary, but they'll let us continue to bring them in for now. Thanks! P.S. If a college student or member of your household will not be responding, please return the Questionnaire packet.

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.

SEARCH COMMITTEE: Tuesday, 7:00 PM; next Sunday, 8 AM.

PRIME TIMERS meet on Wednesday at noon in the church's Parish Hall for lunch and a program. The program will be presented by Arlene Shea on “Antiques Appraisals.” Please bring 2-3 antiques to be appraised. She specializes in early American china, art glass, bric-a-brac, ephemera, post cards, Sterling, napkin rings. Please bring your lunch; dessert and beverage will be provided.

CHURCH COUNCIL: Wednesday, 7:00 PM.

BELL CHOIR: Thursday, 7:00 PM.

CONFIRMATION CLASS: Important meeting next Sunday, 10:30 AM in the Corner Room for those class members who did not attend the Confirmation Retreat. Also, there is a regular class session for all next Sunday 11:45 AM – 1:15 PM.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE is looking for the input of any and all the women from our church. We want to make this a committee that will meet the needs of our churchwomen and cultivate the spirit of Christ and spiritual growth through worship, stewardship, education, and service. We will hold an information gathering session on **next Sunday, May 17th** after church. The meeting will be held downstairs in the Corner Room at 11:30 AM. We will discuss some preliminary ideas for the committee and its activities. Please contact Ana Chambers for additional information or if you have any questions (693-1493; laatka@comcast.net).

TRUSTEES' SPRING WORK DAY AT CHURCH is **next Sunday, May 17**, 12:00 – 2:00 P.M. Come, pitch in and enjoy pizza lunch.

BIBLE STUDY RESUMES with the Faith Lessons series using The Death and Resurrection of the Messiah videos. Beginning May 19th there will be both 10:30 AM and 7:00 PM sessions.

Tuesday, May 19th: When Storms Come
Piercing the Darkness

Tuesday, May 26th: City of the Great King 1 & 2

Tuesday, June 2nd: morning only: Lamb of God

Tuesday, June 16th: morning: Roll the Stone Away
evening: Lamb of God

Tuesday, June 23rd: morning: Power to the People
evening: Roll the Stone Away

Tuesday, June 30th: evening only: Power to the People

Please let Jane or Sue know if you are planning to attend so adequate materials may be copied.