

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

May 31, 2009

10:00 AM

PENTECOST SUNDAY

CHIMES

INTERESTS OF THE FELLOWSHIP

PRELUDE: "Blessed Ye Who Live in Faith Unswerving" -Bach/Brahms

CHORAL INTROIT

CALL TO WORSHIP: (**responsively**)

The day of Pentecost has come, and we are together.
Will the works of God be known among us today?

**We live in the valley of dry bones.
Around and within us is emptiness.**

God comes to us as a gentle breath or violent wind.
Catch your breath, God's breath, and live.

**There are stirrings deep within that give us hope.
There is a Spirit linking us to one another.**

The fires of love dispel life's shadows.
God's Spirit comes to give us new life.

**Surely God is in this place!
May the glory of God be known among us today!**

*HYMN 64 (*Chalice*) "We Sing Your Mighty Power, O God"

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

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

Amazing God, how manifold are your works! The earth is full of life you have created, in forms too numerous to count. You have linked us, your people, to the earth and to all living things. We are interdependent. We can survive only if we have reverence for life. Come among us now to make your ways known. Help us to dream dreams and see visions of your intentions for this world and for your church. In Jesus' name we pray, and also saying, Our Father...

*GLORIA PATRI (*Chalice* # 35)

COMMISSIONING of Anna Burbank, Pastoral Search Committee

PRESENTATION to the Confirmation Class

Jim Koplak

THE ORDER OF CONFIRMATION

THE CALL OF THE CANDIDATES

Pastor: We are happy to receive into the membership of this church those who have indicated their desire to unite with us in this household of faith. They have come to declare their faith, and join us in serving Jesus Christ.

MEMBERS OF THE CONFIRMATION CLASS:

(No photography, please)

RITE OF CONFIRMATION

READING AND OWNING THE CHURCH'S COVENANT

The Members of the Confirmation Class

PRAYERS OF CONFIRMATION

Pastor: Let us, the members of The First Congregational Church, Canton Center, express our welcome and affirm our mutual ministry.

*Church Members: (standing and in **unison**)

We welcome you with joy as partners in the common life of this church. We promise you our fellowship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. God grant that together we may continue to grow in wisdom and in love, as servants in the service of our Lord, Jesus Christ. *(Members in the pews may be seated)*

DECLARATION OF MEMBERSHIP

Pastor: By your baptism you were made one with us in the body of Christ, the church. Today we rejoice in your pilgrimage of faith which has brought you to this time and place. We celebrate your presence in this household of faith; recognizing you as "official" members of this congregation.

THE RIGHT HAND OF FELLOWSHIP

BELL CHOIR ANTHEM: "I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry" (by John Ylvisaker - #75 *Chalice*) This hymn- recognizes and celebrates God's abiding presence, "who for all of us is present from our birth to our death and beyond. Yes, and all that lies in-between." It will be played as our Confirmation Class members return to their seats.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

*HYMN 237 (*Chalice*) “On Pentecost They Gathered”
The children pass to the Music Room with Mrs. Treadwell.

OFFERING, including our gifts to “Strengthen the Church”
Offertory Anthem: “How Can I Keep from Singing” Senior Choir

*DOXOLOGY (*Chalice* # 46)

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

How manifold are your works, amazing God! When there are dry-bones times in our lives, we can look to you for new breath and hope and renewal of life. Your Spirit comes, and we are lifted up and linked to one another. We bring our offerings as an expression of thanksgiving for all your gifts. May your glory be proclaimed in all we give and all we do, when we are together and when we scatter to do your will in other places. Amen.

*HYMN 249 (*Chalice*) “Spirit”

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

SCRIPTURE (Acts 2:1-21 Pew Bibles, N.T. p. 109) & MEDITATION

*COMMUNION HYMN 403 (*Chalice*) “In Remembrance of Me”

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 431 (*Chalice*) “Go, My Children, with My Blessing”

*BENEDICTION and *RESPONSE

*POSTLUDE: “The Heavens Declare” -Marcello
(*All who are able, please stand)

ANNOUNCEMENTS – SUNDAY, MAY 31, 2009

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
Dave Heyer	Duty Trustee
Jim and Cathy Koplak	Greeters
Jeff, Tyler, and Jonathan Smith	Ushers
Deacons	Coffee Hour Hosts

THE FLOWERS today are given in memory of loved ones by Marvin and Noma Deming.

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.

STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH special offering of the United Church of Christ will be received during the morning offering. Please use the envelopes found in the bulletins and make checks payable to First Congregational Church with STC as the memo.

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.

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

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

TEACHERS are needed for fall. Please sign up at coffee hour.

STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL is set for **Sunday, June 21.**
VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED – sign up on the kitchen door – there’s a job for everyone! Especially needed are **berry pickers** for Saturday, June 20.

PRIME TIMERS meet Wednesday, June 10, at Noon in the Parish Hall. Bring your lunch. Dessert and beverages provided. The program will be *Nostalgia – Music and Voices Past* by Bob Schultz.

SPECIAL EVENT: JUNE 14, AT 5:00 PM. The newly forming Women’s Fellowship is hosting a dinner to honor our senior female church members. Invitations will be sent to the senior members. All other women who would like to help and enjoy the evening’s food and conversation are invited to contact Jan Tanner by email at jannyba@comcast.net. There’s much to learn from these members and it is sure to be an evening of learning and laughter.

CANTON HIGH SENIOR CLASS SEND-OFF BREAKFAST will be held here on **Thursday, June 18th** at 8:00 A.M. Volunteers are needed. Please see Sarah LeGeyt or sign up during coffee hour.

MISSION BOX COLLECTION FOR JUNE AND JULY will be for Hartford Interval House and a new organization, A Hand Up, Inc. **Hartford Interval House** is a shelter for women and their children seeking shelter from domestic abuse. We are collecting beach items: gently used children’s water shoes; goggles; new bottles of sunscreen; new beach balls, buckets and shovels. **A Hand Up, Inc.** is based in West Hartford and assists people moving from a shelter to independent living. We are collecting **new bed pillows** (no specific firmness specified).

COMING UP

SENIOR CHOIR: Monday, 7:00 PM.

HONOR COURT is hosted by our church Monday evening in Hartford.

BIBLE STUDY: Tuesday, 10:30 AM (morning session only).

DIACONATE: Tuesday, 7:00 PM.

BELL CHOIR: Thursday, 7:00 PM.

C.E. SUNDAY REHEARSAL: **Next Sunday, June 7, 9:00 AM.** in the sanctuary.

MISSIONS COMMITTEE: Next Sunday, 9:00 AM.

CHANGES IN SUMMER WORSHIP. The worship schedule this summer will be a bit different.

- Worship will be at **10:00 AM for July and August.**
- Worship on **July 5** will be here at **Canton Center** (no ecumenical worship).
- **Ecumenical Worship** (with our friends from Canton Baptist) will be here at **Canton Center, July 12 through August 2.**
- **Ecumenical Worship** will be at **Canton Community Baptist Church, August 9 through August 30.**