

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

December 27, 2009

10:00 AM

CHIMES

Lydia Petersen

INTERESTS OF THE FELLOWSHIP

PRELUDE: "Still, Still, Still"

-Austrian carol/arr. Menga

CHORAL INTROIT

CALL TO WORSHIP (**responsively**):

Men and women, old and young, together:  
Praise God and exalt the Author of Life.

**Praise God in the highest heavens.**

**Praise God, all dwellers on the earth.**

God commanded, and we were created.

God sustains us and enables us to grow.

**Praise God, all who seek to live in faithfulness.**

**Glorify God's name and join the loving community.**

Know that we are chosen by God, holy and beloved.

We are called into one body, the church of Jesus Christ.

**Let us draw close to God and to one another.**

**Let us join with all creation to worship God.**

\*HYMN 161 (*Chalice*)

"I Wonder as I Wander"

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

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

**Height and breadth, length and depth, the whole universe proclaims your glory, faithful God. Your wisdom fills the universe with possibilities we have not tapped. Your Word comes to us filled with riches we have not mined. Within ourselves is the potential for greatness as yet unrealized. Confront us here with your eternal claim on us that we may become the kind, compassionate, and patient people you intended for us to be. In Jesus' name we pray, and also saying, *Our Father...***

\*GLORIA PATRI (*Chalice* #35)

RESPONSIVE READING: Page 766 (*Chalice*) Psalm 146

OFFERTORY: "Hosanna"

-Courtney

Senior Choir

\*DOXOLOGY (*Chalice* #46)

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

**We are thankful for the love that gave us life, for the mission that gives purpose to our days, and for the peace that Christ grants to us. Keep us from needless anxiety, that we may give without counting the cost. We give ourselves as well as our money, that your Word may spread where it is not known and take root where it has not been heeded. Amen.**

\*HYMN 159 (*Chalice*)

"There's a Song in the Air!"

A MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION

followed by the PASTORAL PRAYER and ORGAN RESPONSE

\*HYMN 164 (*Chalice*)

"Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"

SCRIPTURE: Luke 2: 41-52 (Pew Bibles N.T. p. 54)

SERMON:

"GOD WITH US"

\*HYMN 154 (*Chalice*)

"While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks"

\*BENEDICTION

\*RESPONSE

\*POSTLUDE: "What Shall We Sing for the Child"

-Trad. Catalan carol/arr. Helvey

(\*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
Dave and Carol Heyer	Greeters
Evelyn and Bev Sealand	Ushers
The Bykos and the Whitneys	Coffee Hour Hosts

**THE FLOWERS** today are given by the Goeben family in loving remembrance of those who now live with the Lord.

**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.

**PLEASE JOIN US** in the Parish Hall following the service for a time of fellowship and refreshment.

**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.

**Please see bulletin insert for announcements.**

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## **BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS – SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2009**

**CHURCH SCHOOL CLASSES** do not meet today, but resume next Sunday.

**SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING TODAY** after worship. Enjoy some refreshments and please stay for the meeting to vote on the 2010 Operating Budget proposed by the Board of Trustees.

**JUNIOR CHOIR** will not rehearse today.

**OUR MISSION COLLECTION FOR JANUARY** continues the emphasis of December to benefit Hartford's Interval House. Needed items are Pampers (lg), Pull-ups (lg), toilet tissue, Kleenex, paper towels, cleaning products - bleach, glass cleaner, Lysol disinfectant, sponges. Plastic tall/large garbage bags (55+size).

### **COMING UP**

**SENIOR CHOIR AND BELL CHOIR** will not rehearse this week.

**THE CHURCH OFFICE** will be closed Friday for New Year's Day.

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

**MUSIC SUNDAY WORSHIP** (which was cancelled for weather) has been rescheduled for next Sunday, January 3. Enjoy the sights and sounds of the Christmas season with carols and anthems performed by the Junior, Senior, and Bell choirs accompanied by trumpet, flute, and percussion.

**ALL-CHURCH RETREAT PLANNING COMMITTEE** is forming for the Silver Lake retreat set for March 12, 13, 14. Contact Sarah LeGeyt if you would like to help with the plans.

**ANNUAL REPORTS** will be due in the church office on January 17. Committee chairpeople and officers of the church, please take note.

**IF CHURCH SERVICES OR OTHER EVENTS ARE CANCELLED** for any reason, you may check for the notice on WTIC AM 1080 radio, or watch local CBS channel 3, or check our church's website [www.cantoncenterchurch.org](http://www.cantoncenterchurch.org).