



The newsletter of The First Congregational Church
Canton Center, Connecticut

The CHURCHMOUSE

April 2009

FROM THE INTERIM MINISTER

Dear Friends,

One of the reasons I love to go to Israel just before the season of Lent, is because the scriptures of Lent are so tied to the geography of the country. It gives me a chance to walk the land, and visit the places where Jesus lived, taught, healed and died before I have to preach about them.

In Lent we read about Jesus spending 40 days in the Judean wilderness being tempted by Satan. We watch as he stands on the Mount of Temptation and the pinnacle of the Temple. We follow his movements from Caesarea Phillipi in the north toward Jerusalem; and all the stories and happenings in between.

In the lectionary choices we literally follow Jesus and the disciples' travels through the countryside—stopping at this place and that—moving toward their ultimate destination and confrontations with the religious and political authorities. During Holy Week, starting at the top of the Mount of Olives with Jesus' donkey ride into the city on Palm Sunday; the cleaning of the Temple; the Passover dinner in the Upper Room; the night in the Garden of Gethsemane; the trial and imprisonment at Caiphas' house; his encounter with Pilate at the Antonia; the walk to Calvary; his burial; and the women gathering on Easter morning at the tomb in the garden—we follow step by step what happens.



Emotionally and spiritually we journey with Jesus during our own Lenten pilgrimages of faith. During worship we follow the story, but on our own we wrestle with what it all means to us, today. It is only after we have taken this journey that Easter dawns all the brighter.

I hope that you have taken some time this Lenten season to explore your faith in new ways. I hope that you, like the millions who have gone before you, have your faith renewed, your relationship refreshed and your life given new meaning.

Godspeed,

Sue

CALENDAR OF CHURCH EVENTS

April	1	Wednesday	7:00 PM	Bible Study
April	2	Thursday	7:00 PM	Bell Choir
April	5	Palm Sunday	8:00 AM	Pastoral Search Comm.
		Palm Sunday	8:40 AM	C.E. Committee
		Palm Sunday	9:45 AM	Children in Parish Hall for processional
		Palm Sunday	10:00 AM	Worship & Church School (in Parish Hall)
		Palm Sunday	11:00 AM	Potluck dinner in Parish Hall
		Palm Sunday	11:15 AM	Cherub Choir / 11:30 AM Junior Choir
		Palm Sunday	12:00 Noon	Confirmation Class
April	6	Monday	7:00 PM	Senior Choir
April	7	Tuesday	10:30 AM	Bible Study
		Tuesday	7:00 PM	Diaconate
April	8	Wednesday	Noon	Prime Timers meet in the Parish Hall
		Wednesday	7:00 PM	Bell Choir
April	9	Maundy Thursday	7:30 PM	Worship
April	12	EASTER SUNDAY	9:00 AM	Worship. No Church School. Childcare.
			10:30 AM	Worship. No Church School classes.
April	13	Monday	10:00 AM	Prayer Shawl Ministry
		Monday	6:30 PM	Board of Trustees
		Monday	6:40 PM	Music Committee
		Monday	7:00 PM	Senior Choir
April	14	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Pastoral Search Comm.
April	15	Wednesday	7:00 PM	Church Council
April	16	Thursday	7:00 PM	Bell Choir
April	19	Sunday	8:00 AM	Pastoral Search Comm.
		Sunday	9:00 AM	Missionary & Stewardship Committee
		Sunday	10:00 AM	Worship & Church School
		Sunday	11:15 AM	Junior Choir
		Sunday		Deadline for the May <i>Churchmouse</i> .
April	20	Monday	7:00 PM	Senior Choir
April	23	Thursday	7:00 PM	Bell Choir
April	26	Sunday	10:00 AM	Worship & Church School (<i>begin in church</i>)
		Sunday	11:15 AM	Cherub Choir / 11:30 AM Junior Choir
		Sunday	11:30 AM	JYF Mini-Golf
		Sunday	11:45 AM	Confirmation Class
		Sunday	1:30 PM	SYF Hike to Sessions Woods
April	27	Monday	7:00 PM	Senior Choir
April	28	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Pastoral Search Comm.
April	30	Thursday	7:00 PM	Bell Choir

April 2009						
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