



The newsletter of The First Congregational Church
Canton Center, Connecticut

The CHURCHMOUSE

November 2009

FROM THE INTERIM MINISTER

Dear Friends,

Well, the frost has already been on the pumpkin and if you haven't gotten your crops in, your harvest will be small. Such is life in New England with its unpredictable weather. But as direct descendents of the Pilgrims, we know that gratitude for whatever blessings we have received is fundamental to who we are.

Besides unpredictable weather, fall brings with it the season of stewardship; 'unpredictable' and 'season' being the linking words. Nobody wants to talk about or to hear about stewardship. Without pledges, budgets can't be set. Without stewardship pleas, pledges don't increase.

Friends, this is a very important year to think about your pledge. This is the year you, as a congregation, will be calling a new pastor. The Search Committee needs to know that they have your support as they continue to do the job you asked them to do, to find a new pastor. They want to be able to find a good, strong candidate and to be able to pay that person a living wage.



The Trustees are also dependent on your generosity to help them do their work. As the work of the Capital Campaign began, many maintenance issues came up. Ants, bugs, and rotten wood were discovered as paint, windows and bat droppings were addressed. None of these things were in the budget but had to be fixed as they were discovered. Part and parcel of being fiscally responsible is taking care of the property we own. Each year, when budgets have to get balanced maintenance, mission and Christian Education lines get cut--much to the consternation of those who know what's needed.

As people of faith, we have a responsibility to live up to our high calling. I know that many of you have been down-sized, have lost investment income, or are anxious about your financial futures. That is a 'given' in the current economy. But when you are looking at your family budgets, I'm asking you to give serious consideration to your church and its needs as well. If we are to remain a beacon of hope in these uncertain times, your help is needed.

Keep the faith,

Sue

CALENDAR OF CHURCH EVENTS

Nov. 1	Sunday	8:00 AM	Daylight Savings Time Ends Pastoral Search Committee
		8:30 AM	Teachers' Meeting
		10:00 AM	Worship / Church School
		11:15 AM	Cherub Choir; 11:30 AM Junior Choir
Nov. 2	Monday		Honor Court hosted in Hartford
	Monday	7:00 PM	Senior Choir
Nov. 3	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Diaconate
Nov. 4	Wednesday	7:00 PM	Nominating Committee
Nov. 5	Thursday	7:00 PM	Bell Choir
Nov. 8	Sunday	8:30 AM	Christian Education Committee
		10:00 AM	Worship/Stewardship Sunday/Church School
		11:00 AM	JYF Bake Sale at coffee hour
		11:15 AM	Cherub Choir; 11:30 AM Junior Choir
		11:45 AM	Instrumental Ensemble rehearsals begin
Nov. 9	Monday	10:00 AM	Prayer Shawl Ministry
		6:30 PM	Music Committee
		6:30 PM	Board of Trustees
		7:00 PM	Senior Choir
Nov. 10	Tuesday	10:30 AM	Minister's Book Study
		7:00 PM	Minister's Book Study
		7:00 PM	Pastoral Search Committee
Nov. 11			Minister is on vacation Nov. 11 – Nov. 24
	Wednesday	Noon	Prime Timers meet in Parish Hall
		7:00 PM	Church Council
Nov. 12	Thursday	7:00 PM	Bell Choir
Nov. 15	Sunday	10:00 AM	SYF meets in the Corner Room
		10:00 AM	Worship/Church School
		11:15 AM	Cherub Choir; 11:30 AM Junior Choir
		11:45 AM	Instrumental Ensemble
		Noon	JYF Laser Tag
Nov. 16	Monday	7:00 PM	Senior Choir
Nov. 17	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Pastoral Search Committee
Nov. 19	Thursday	7:00 PM	Bell Choir
Nov. 22	Sunday	9:50 AM	Church School meets in Parish Hall
		10:00 AM	Worship/Church School
		11:00 AM	Thanksgiving Potluck dinner
		11:15 AM	Cherub Choir; 11:30 AM Junior Choir
		11:45 AM	Instrumental Ensemble
		4:00 PM	Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service at St. Patrick's
Nov. 23	Monday	7:00 PM	Senior Choir
Nov. 24	Tuesday	10:00 AM	Minister's Book Study
		7:00 PM	Minister's Book Study
		7:00 PM	Pastoral Search Committee
Nov. 26-27	Thursday/Friday		The Church Office is closed for Thanksgiving
Nov. 29	Sunday	10:00 AM	First Sunday of Advent , Worship/Church School
		11:15 AM	Cherub Choir; 11:30 AM Junior Choir
		11:45 AM	Instrumental Ensemble
		11:30 AM	Advent Workshop with pizza lunch
Nov. 30	Monday	7:00 PM	Senior Choir

November 2009						
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