

# THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

*Gathered 1635*

Walton Place

Stamford, Connecticut 06901

Member of the United Church of Christ

*An Open and Affirming Congregation*

<b>Today</b>	<b>Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost</b> <b>Volunteers Cook for New Covenant House</b>
8:45 a.m.	Chancel choir rehearsal
10:30 a.m.	Worship—Sanctuary
12:00 noon	Sanctuary reserved
12:30 p.m.	Chapel reserved
<b>Monday</b>	
9:30 a.m.	Fusion Dance Class
<b>Tuesday</b>	
7:00 p.m.	Rainbow Café
7:00 p.m.	Dining Room reserved
<b>Wednesday</b>	
12:00 noon	Sanctuary Open for prayer and reflection (until 2:00 p.m.)
<b>Thursday</b>	
10:00 a.m.	Thrift Shop (until 3:00 p.m.)
<b>Saturday</b>	
1:00 p.m.	Dining Room reserved
6:30 p.m.	Chapel reserved for <i>Jesus Comes Ministry</i>
7:30 p.m.	Concert – Sanctuary reserved
<b>Next Sunday</b>	<b>Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost</b> <b>Holy Communion, Deacons Fund and Food Trunk offering</b>
8:45 a.m.	Chancel choir rehearsal
9:45 a.m.	Clason Group—Room 309
10:30 a.m.	Worship—Sanctuary
12:00 noon	Sanctuary reserved
12:30 p.m.	Chapel reserved

Alcoholics Anonymous: Monday-Friday, 12 noon—Dining Room

Al-Anon: Wednesday and Friday, 12 noon—Room 308

Overeaters Anonymous: Monday-Friday, 12 noon—Room 309

The church building and office are open weekdays 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

## Church Directory

Ministers—All the people

Interim Senior Pastor—Rev. Susan Gibson

Organist and Choir Director—Timothy Wallace

Administrative Assistant—Peggy Kittle

Sexton—Flor Beltran

Phone: 203 323-0200; Fax: 203 348-2270

Website: [www.fccstamford.org](http://www.fccstamford.org)

Email: [fccstamford@gmail.com](mailto:fccstamford@gmail.com)

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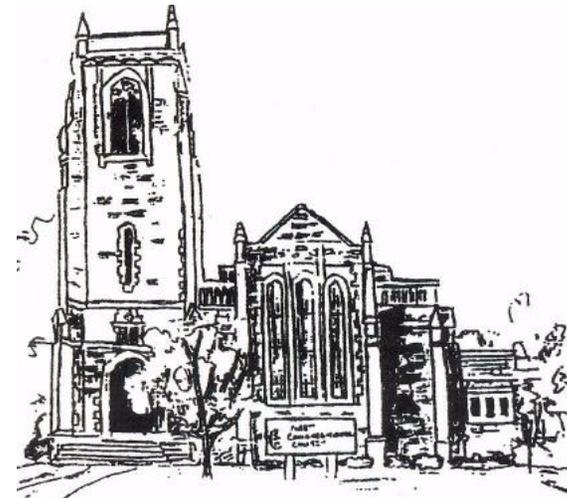
*An Open and Affirming Congregation*

Walton Place

Stamford, Connecticut 06901

**October 26, 2014**

**Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost**



*No matter who you are,  
no matter where you are on life's journey,  
you are welcome in this  
United Church of Christ congregation.*

October 26, 2014  
10:30 a.m. in Sanctuary  
*Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost*  
\*All who are able, please stand.

*Please turn off cell phones.*

~

PRELUDE

Timothy Wallace

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*"Physics isn't the most important thing. Love is."*  
Richard P. Feynman

CALL TO ANNUAL MEETING

~

RINGING OF THE HOUR AND LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

Emma Lange

INTROIT

Chancel Choir

*Hear Ye Now*

Words: from *Micah 6*; Music: Timothy Alexandre Wallace

**LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY** (continued)

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP\*\***

For those who have not been welcomed before

**You are welcomed by Christ here.**

For those who have been turned away

**Christ is opening the door for you.**

For those who have been forgotten

**God cannot forget you, for God made you.**

Come, join together in worship of our God.

**You are God's beloved. We welcome each other in the name of Christ.**

**Amen.**

**Rainbow Cafe**, A youth group for Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgendered Youth, will meet at the church **Tuesday October 28, 7:00 p. m.** Check out our Facebook page for the latest information (Rainbow Cafe Stamford) or contact Joe Belisle. All are welcome.

**Interested in being an usher?** Please talk to Pam Groeschner at coffee hour.

**Want to be informed of the latest goings on at First Congregational?** Please, email [fccstamford@gmail.com](mailto:fccstamford@gmail.com) to join our church mailing list. Also, we do have an e-mail prayer chain. If you'd like to join this, please email us and request to be added to this list.

**FCC is on Facebook!** (We're at First Congregational Church of Stamford.) Check out our Facebook page for up-to-date information on what is happening around here! While you're at it, check out our webpage ([www.fccstamford.org](http://www.fccstamford.org)) for information on our history and ministries.

**Keep us informed!** If you are hospitalized, please call the church office and let us know. We would like to include you in our prayers and visit.

**\* HYMN**

*In Loving Partnership*

Chalice #497

## LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

**Join us for hospitality in the Parlor (light refreshments and fellowship).**

**Can you believe –in a few weeks we will be with each other celebrating a festive and hearty Thanksgiving dinner?** It's time to prepare! We need donations and volunteers. We will need leaders to guide and direct our volunteers. The following positions are available: Host and Hostess, Captains and a Kitchen Captain. If you are interested please see one of the Co-chairs: Warren Richardson, Anne Mochulsky, Dawn Brusco or Ellen Taylor.

**Special Concert Announcement** On Saturday, November 1, 2014, 7:30 p.m., FCC presents *The Alchemists*, featuring Gene Bozzi, percussion; RJ Avallone, trumpet; & Timothy Alexandre Wallace, piano and organ. This will be an evening of classical, original and improvised music, including music of Bach, Rachmaninoff and Liszt. There will be a free-will donation with proceeds to benefit the Organ Fund for the new Allen digital organ, which is to be dedicated to the memory of Lois and George Clarke.

**Interested in joining or learning more about FCC Stamford?** Join the Deacons, Reverend Susan and other church leaders after church on Sunday, November 2nd for an informal information session and church tour. This is your chance to ask the questions you've been wanting to ask and to learn more about our history and our worship. For more information, call Senior Deacon Joe Belisle at 203-569-7106.

**Want to get more involved with the church and/or with the Missions we do? Don't know who to ask or what you want to do?** Check the bulletin board in the hallway outside the parlor; you'll find a list of FCC's leaders with a definition of who they are and what they do. We do a lot of important work in the community and we always need good people to help us accomplish these tasks. Get to know your church leaders and ask them about how you can get involved and make a difference through FCC! Joe Belisle, Senior Deacon.

**Revive**, our young adult discussion group, meets on the third Sunday of each month at noon. Please join us for discussion about current events and reflection on that Sunday's scripture readings and sermon. To stay up to date on meeting times and locations, email [rimgodzeno@gmail.com](mailto:rimgodzeno@gmail.com) to be added to our email list, or check back here regularly.

**The Clason Group** is our no-commitment and all-ideas-welcome pre-service get together. This fall, we are looking at the prophet Ezekiel, a Biblical madman who spoke of UFO's and dry bones, of Apocalypse and the need for justice. Join us as we tackle some of the most impossible passages of Scripture. The Clason Group will convene upstairs in room 309 on the first and third Sunday of each month, at 9:45 a.m. **Next meeting is Sunday, November 2.**

## \*PRAYER OF CONFESSION\*\*

**Savior Jesus, we come to You knowing that we have not followed Your ways. We have blamed those who are in need around us for their own struggles. We have crossed our arms and given smug looks to those who have nothing, and blamed them for their own misfortunes. Forgive us because we do not see our neighbors as our brothers and sisters. Forgive us, because You love us and have forgiven us, but we have failed to share that love and care with others. Call us into Your ways**

## WORDS OF ASSURANCE

*Lead us, Lord*

Chalice #593

*Lead me, Lord, Lead me in thy righteousness,  
Make thy way plain before my face,  
For it is thou, Lord, thou, Lord, only,  
That makest me dwell in safety.*

## THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

### ANTHEM

*Be With Us, Lord*

Johann Sebastian Bach

*Be with us, Lord, always and ever, our guide and stay, forever loving, ever blessed Lord. Cheer now our souls; Warm now our cold hearts; Enlighten our darkness, calm our fears, Lord, 'til we see Your face. Lead now us on, when hope is failing, Hold high your cross before our eyes, dear Lord, and fill us with Your love. From depths of sin, O Lord, uplift us; And with Your tender hand and mercy, now take, take our lives and make them Yours. Cheer now our souls; Warm now our cold hearts; Enlighten our darkness, calm our fears, Lord, 'til we see Your face, 'til we see Your face again.*

**SCRIPTURE**

*Matthew 22:34-46*

Steve Ayres  
*New Testament, p.25*

**SERMON**

*The Greatest*

Michael Ciba

**\*HYMN**

*Jesu, Jesu*

Chalice #600

**JOYS AND CONCERNS**

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

**THE LORD’S PRAYER** (unison)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

**PRAYER RESPONSE**

*Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying*

Chalice #305

*Lord, listen to your children praying, Lord send your spirit in this place;  
Lord, listen to your children praying, send us love, send us pow'r,  
send us grace!*

**INVITATION TO SHARE OFFERINGS**

**OFFERTORY**

*Lord, You Have Come*

Judeth DeMott, mezzo-soprano

Cesareo Gabarain

**\*DOXOLOGY**

Chalice #46

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
praise him all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host:  
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen*

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**\*HYMN**

*Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

Chalice #517

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*SUNG BENEDICTION**

*Go, My Children, with My Blessings (verse 1)*

Chalice #431

*Go, my children, with my blessing, Never alone;  
Waking, sleeping, I am with you, you are my own;  
In my loves' baptismal river I have made you mine forever,  
Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own*

**POSTLUDE**

Timothy Wallace

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We welcome Rev. Michael Ciba to our pulpit today.  
Rev. Ciba is the Regional Minister of the Southwest Region  
of the Connecticut Conference, United Church of Christ.

~

*The flowers today are given by Katie McAllister,  
in loving memory of her mother, Martha E. McAllister*

~

\*\* Used with permission, Rev. Mindi Welton-Mitchell, <http://rev-o-lution.org>.