

# THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

*Gathered 1635*

Walton Place

Stamford, Connecticut 06901

Member of the United Church of Christ

*An Open and Affirming Congregation*

**Today**                    **Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost**  
**Holy Communion, Deacons Fund and Food Trunk offering**

8:45 a.m.      Chancel choir rehearsal  
9:45 a.m.      Clason Group—Room 309  
10:30 a.m.      Worship—Sanctuary  
11:45 a.m.      New Organ Information Meeting – Choir Loft  
12:00 noon      Sanctuary reserved  
12:30 p.m.      Chapel reserved

**Monday**  
9:30 a.m.      Fusion Dance Class

**Tuesday**  
7:00 p.m.      Rainbow Café  
7:00 p.m.      Room 301 reserved

**Wednesday**  
12:00 noon      Sanctuary Open for prayer and reflection (until 2:00 p.m.)

**Thursday**  
10:00 a.m.      Thrift Shop (until 3:00 p.m.)

**Saturday**  
**11:30 a.m.**      Downtown Eats (until 1:00 p.m.)  
1:00 p.m.      Dining Room reserved

**Next Sunday**            **Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost**  
**Stewardship Sunday**

8:45 a.m.      Chancel choir rehearsal  
10:30 a.m.      Worship—Sanctuary  
12:00 noon      Congregational Meeting  
12:00 noon      Second Sunday Walk  
12:00 noon      Sanctuary reserved  
12:30 p.m.      Chapel reserved

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

AI-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.fcstamford.org](http://www.fcstamford.org)

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

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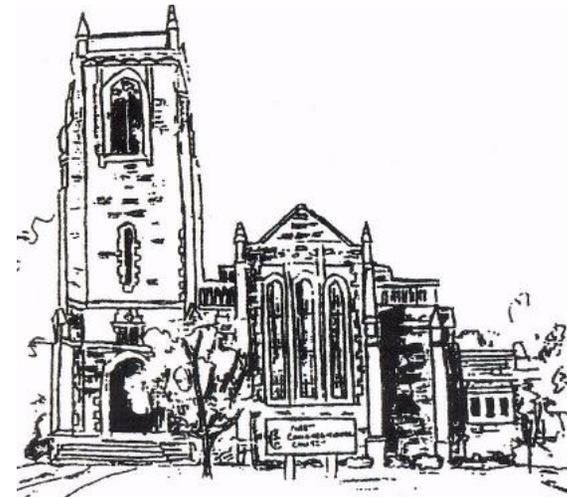
*An Open and Affirming Congregation*

Walton Place

Stamford, Connecticut 06901

**November 2, 2014**

**Twenty-first 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.*

November 2, 2014  
10:30 a.m. in Sanctuary  
Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost  
\*All who are able, please stand.

*Please turn off cell phones.*

~

**PRELUDE**

Timothy Wallace

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CALL TO ANNUAL MEETING**

**RINGING OF THE HOUR AND LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE**

**INTROIT**

Chancel Choir

*Make A Joyful Noise*

Words: *from Psalm 98*; Music: Timothy Alexandre Wallace

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

We come to worship God, who has made us and knows us;

**We come to celebrate God's presence among us!**

We come to follow Jesus, who leads us to New Life;

**We come with joy, knowing in Christ we have eternal life!**

We come to listen to the Holy Spirit, who calls us forth;

**May we enter this worship knowing the Spirit is alive among us! Amen!  
in the name of Christ. Amen.**

**\* HYMN**

*For All the Saints*

Chalice #637



*“Do you want to stand out? Then step down. Be a servant.  
If you puff yourself up, you'll get the wind knocked out of you.  
But if you're content to simply be yourself,  
your life will count for plenty.”*

*Matthew 23:11-12 (The Message, Eugene Peterson)*

~

**LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY (continued)**

**Rainbow Cafe**, A youth group for Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgendered Youth, will meet at the church **Tuesday November 4, 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.

## 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.

**Would you like to learn more about the plans for a new organ for the sanctuary?** Join Tim Wallace in the choir loft following the worship service today for a brief informational meeting about our proposed new Allen digital organ. Bring your coffee/tea and your questions for Tim and members of the Music Ministry board.

**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 wanted 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 [rmgodzeno@gmail.com](mailto:rmgodzeno@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 16.**

## \*PRAYER OF CONFESSION\*\*

**Healing God, we confess that we live in unhealthy ways. We put our own desires above the needs of others in the world, even above our own needs. We consume more resources than we need; we save up enough for ourselves into the future but fail to see the daily hunger and homelessness around us. Forgive us for our selfish ways, and help us to seek You in our daily lives, so that we might serve You in the world around us, every moment, and love our brothers and sisters as we love ourselves. In the name of Christ, who calls us into restoration, we pray. Amen.**

## 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

*Great and Glorious*

*Franz Joseph Haydn*

*Great and glorious is the Lord in majesty, glorious in pow'r eternal, mighty and loving Father; praise Him for His greatness, praise Him for all His exceeding greatness. Great and glorious, mighty in awful majesty, let all extol Him evermore.*

*Praise ye the Lord, for it is good to sing praises to our God; glorious and mighty, loving Father, glorious ever in majesty. Praise to Thy name, Thy holy Name for evermore.*

### SCRIPTURE

*Matthew 23:1-12*

Lynda Stack  
*New Testament, p.25*

### SERMON

Rev. Susan Gibson

**MOMENT FOR STEWARDSHIP**

Lynda Stack

**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**

*Hear Our Prayer, O Lord*

Chalice #306

*Hear our prayer, O Lord, hear our prayer, O Lord,  
incline thine ear to us, and grant us thy peace. Amen.*

**INVITATION TO SHARE OFFERINGS**

**OFFERTORY**

*Lord, to Thee do I lift my soul*  
Terry Hyde, tenor

Antonio Vivaldi

**SUNG RESPONSE**

*Accept, O God, the Gifts We Bring*

Chalice #379

*Accept, O God, the gifts we bring of spirit and of clay  
Transform them into blessings on those we serve today  
Rekindle deep within us all a passion to fulfill  
The ministry disciples have, empower’d to do your will.*

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**HYMN**

*All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly*

Chalice #419

**COMMUNION**

*(We serve grape juice and gluten-free bread)*

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Almighty God, we give you thanks for the gift of Christ’s presence, Emmanuel. Unite us with all who are fed by this meal that we may faithfully proclaim the good news of your love and presence in this world. Strengthen us with this meal that we may be salt and light and leaven for the furtherance of your peace in this world. Amen

**\*HYMN**

*Now Thank We All Our God*

Chalice #715

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*SUNG BENEDICTION**

*God, Dismiss Us with Your Blessings (verse 1)*

Chalice #439

*God, dismiss us with your blessing;  
Fill our hearts with joy and peace;  
Let us each, your love possessing,  
Triumph I redeeming grace.  
O refresh us, O refresh us,  
Traveling through this wilderness*

**POSTLUDE**

Timothy Wallace

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***The flowers today are given by Pam Riley,  
in loving memory of her brother, John H. Judson***

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