

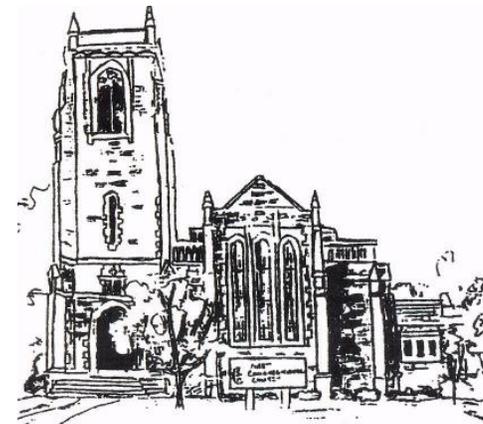
THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Gathered 1635, Open and Affirming since 2007
Walton Place
Stamford, Connecticut 06901

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
Gathered 1635

Member of the United Church of Christ
An Open and Affirming Congregation

Walton Place
Stamford, Connecticut 06901

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
February 1, 2015



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| Today | Fourth Sunday after Epiphany Holy Communion, Deacons Fund and Food Trunk offering |
| 8:45 a.m. | Chancel choir rehearsal |
| 10:30 a.m. | Worship—Sanctuary |
| 12:00 noon | Congregational Meeting—Parlor |
| 12:00 noon | Sanctuary reserved |
| 12:30 p.m. | Chapel reserved |
| Monday | |
| 9:30 a.m. | Fusion Dance Class |
| 6:30 p.m.,.. | Missions meeting at Ferguson Library |
| Tuesday | |
| 7:00 p.m. | Bible Study—Parlor |
| 7:00 p.m. | ManKind Project |
| Wednesday | |
| 12:00 noon. | Sanctuary opens for prayer and reflection (until 2 p.m.) |
| 7:00 p.m. | Rainbow Café |
| Thursday | |
| 10:00 a.m. | Thrift Shop |
| Saturday | |
| 11:30 a.m. | Downtown Eats |
| 1:00 p.m. | Parlor reserved |
| 1:00 p.m. | Dining room reserved |
| 6:30 p.m. | |
| Next Sunday | Fifth Sunday after Epiphany |
| 8:45 a.m. | Chancel choir rehearsal |
| 10:30 a.m. | Worship—Sanctuary |
| 12:00 noon | Second Sunday Walk |
| 12:00 noon | Sanctuary reserved |
| 12:30 p.m. | Chapel reserved |

Alcoholics Anonymous: Monday-Friday, 12 noon—Dining Room
Overeaters Anonymous: Monday-Friday, 12 noon—Room 309
Al-Anon: Wednesday and Fridays, 12 noon—Room 308
Anorexics and Bulimics Anonymous, Tuesdays, 12 noon—Room 308
The church building and office are open weekdays 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Church Directory

Ministers—All the people
Interim Senior Pastor—Reverend 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
Email: fcstamford@gmail.com

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

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

February 1, 2015

10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary

Please silence cell phones.

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PRELUDE

Timothy Wallace

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO ANNUAL MEETING

RINGING OF THE HOUR AND LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

Max Shepherd

INTROIT

Chancel Choir

My Rock and My Salvation

Words: from Psalm 62; Music: Timothy Alexandre Wallace

CALL TO WORSHIP

Adapted from Book of Worship. Copyright 1986 by permission of the United Church of Christ Office for Church Life and Leadership.

God calls us each by name and gathers us together in the body of Christ.

From home and work and play

We are called into God's presence.

Young and old and middle-aged, individuals and families, soft-spoken and outspoken

we hear our names being called to join in worship

This house of worship is a place to pursue God's vision for all people: unity and joy and faith expressed through different gifts.

Let us worship together!

HYMN

Morning Has Broken

Chalice #53



***“If people can't see what God is doing,
they stumble all over themselves;
But when they attend to what he reveals,
they are most blessed.”***

Proverbs 29:18 from The Message by Eugene Petersen

To the Members of The First Congregational Church of Stamford, Connecticut:

This is to inform you that a Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, February 1, 2015 in the Parlor following the morning worship service. This meeting is being called by Pamela Shadford, Moderator. The purpose of this meeting is to:

1. Receive the report from the Visioning Task Force, consider the recommendations, followed by a vote for approval of the Vision and Goals presented.
2. Receive a report from the Moderator on the time line for the process to call our next pastor.
3. Consider any other business that properly comes before the meeting.

Wishing you peace, love, and joy,

Pamela Shadford

Moderator

Kathie Laug

Clerk

LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY
February 1, 2015

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Bible Study The nights are long. The air is cold. Join with your neighbors in Bible Study, and let the light and warmth of God's love into your life! We will gather at 7:00 p.m. every Tuesday evening, starting January 13.

Contact Rev. Susan with any questions.

Fair Meeting and funds distribution: we will hold a fair meeting on February 22 after worship in the West Parlor. All previous booth chairs are encouraged to attend. We will discuss the final distribution of fair money. We are accepting requests for funds. Please send requests to me via email at dms21@optonline.net or to the church office by February 18th. Thank you, Diane Sileo, Fair Chair, 2012

Revive, our young adult discussion group, meets on the third Sunday of each month at noon. We meet in the West Parlor (room next to where coffee hour is held). 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

We welcome Children to our worship! Children's bulletins and pencils available; if you prefer, childcare for infants – 5 year-olds available during worship in the upstairs nursery with caregivers, Elfriede Mallin and Margaret Simpson. An usher can direct you.

Want to be informed of the latest goings on at First Congregational?

Please, email 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) for information on our history and ministries.

Visit our Church Library, located across from the Parlor.

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.

CONFESSION

From the New Century Hymnal. Copyright 1995. The Pilgrim Press. Permission is granted for this one time use.

Gentle and holy God, we acknowledge to you, to one another, and to ourselves that we are not what you have called us to be. We have stifled our gifts and wasted our time. We have avoided opportunities to offer kindness, but have been quick to take offense. We have pretended that we could make no contribution to peace and justice in our world and have excused ourselves from risk-taking in our own community. Have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and help us to live our lives differently, we pray in the name of Jesus, whose call to follow haunts our every prayer. Amen

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

SUNG RESPONSE

*This little light of mine
I'm gonna let it shine
This little light of mine*

*I'm gonna let it shine
This little light of mine
I'm gonna let it shine
Let it shine! Let it shine! Let it shine!*

PASSING OF THE PEACE

SPECIAL MUSIC

SCRIPTURE

Jeremiah 29:1-14

Psalms 62:5-12

Old Testament, p.731

Old Testament, p.526

SERMON

SHARING OF 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 THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Open My Eyes Clara H. Scott, arr. By Carl Frerickson
Terry Hyde, tenor

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

O God Unseen Yet Ever Near

Chalice #399

COMMUNION

We serve gluten-free bread and grape juice.

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

Ours the Journey

Chalice #458

BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION

Shalom Chaverim

Chalice #438

*Shalom chaverim
Shalom chaverim
Shalom, Shalom
Le-hit-ra-ot, le-hit-ra-ot
Shalom chaverim*

POSTLUDE

Timothy Wallace

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**Join us after service in the parlor for hospitality.
(Light refreshments and fellowship)**

Our hosts today are Peter Birch, Linda Peters, and Anne Firmender.

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Please join us for a Congregational Meeting, today after worship.

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4