

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Gathered 1635, Open and Affirming since 2007

Walton Place

Stamford, Connecticut 06901

Today Second Sunday in Lent

Holy Communion, Deacons Fund and Food trunk offering

8:45 a.m. Chancel choir rehearsal
10:30 a.m. Worship—Sanctuary
12:00 noon Sanctuary reserved
12:30 p.m. Chapel reserved
3:00 p.m. Living Voice Chorus—Parlor (until 5:00 p.m.)

Monday

9:30 a.m. Fusion Dance Class—Dining Room
6:30 p.m. Missions

Tuesday

7:00 p.m. Lenten Study—Parlor

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
7:30 p.m. Trustees

Saturday

11:00 a.m. Downtown Eats
1:00 p.m. Dining room reserved

Next Sunday

Third Sunday in Lent

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

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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.fccstamford.org

Email: fccstamford@gmail.com

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

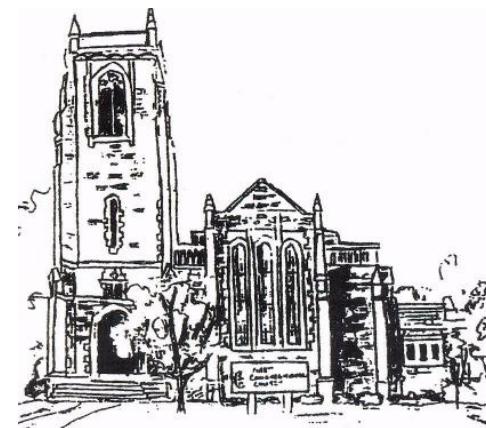
Gathered 1635

Member of the United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation

Walton Place
Stamford, Connecticut 06901

Second Sunday in Lent March 1, 2015



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

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT
M arch 1, 2015
10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary

Please silence cell phones.



PRELUDE

Timothy Wallace

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGING OF THE HOUR AND LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

Georgia Bauerle

INTROIT

Chancel Choir

Lead Me in Thy Truth

Words: from *Psalm 25*; Music: Timothy Alexandre Wallace

CALL TO WORSHIP

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From water to wilderness:

God's covenant continues; God's kingdom comes near.

On stone and in hearts:

God's covenant continues; God's kingdom comes near.

From the ancestor of nations to the Son lifted up;

God's covenant continues; God's kingdom comes near.

We follow Jesus on the Lenten path,

For where he is, we would be also.

HYMN

The God of Abraham Praise

Chalice #24

"I have a lot of faith. But I am also afraid a lot, and have no real certainty about anything. I remembered something Father Tom had told me--that the opposite of faith is not doubt, but certainty. Certainty is missing the point entirely. Faith includes noticing the mess, the emptiness and discomfort, and letting it be there until some light returns."

Anne Lamott

LENTEN STUDY

*Who do you say that I am? What are you looking for?
Why would people gain their whole world, but lose their lives?*
Jesus

We think of Jesus as the man with the answers, but really Jesus is the man with the questions. Our Lenten study will be the book, "*Jesus is the Question; the 307 Questions Jesus asked and the 3 He Answered*," by Martin Copenhaver, the President of Andover Newton Theological School. This book has been praised by scholars and church leaders for drawing us deeper into the company of Jesus.

The books are available in the church office for \$13. (Scholarships available for those unable to pay. Please speak with Susan) We will meet on Tuesdays, at 7:00 p.m. in the church parlor beginning on February 24.

Hope to see you there! Bring your questions!

LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

March 1, 2015

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New exhibit in the Tinker Memorial Cabinet,
located in the hall outside the pastor's office:

Crosses and Crucifixes

What's the difference between them?
What do they symbolize?

(Hint: You can look them up in the church library.)

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A volunteer is needed to host
Palm Sunday Coffee Hour, March 29.

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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.

CONFESION

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God of mercy, we travel this Lenten season in confession. We do not live according to your ways, but according to our own. We condone violence, participate in systems of injustice, and use power to our own advantage at the expense of others. Forgive us, we pray, when we are tempted to follow paths other than those you set before us. Teach us your commandments; help us to turn from evil in its many guises, and turn us toward your kingdom drawing near. Remember us, and be for us an ark of safety and new life. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

SUNG RESPONSE

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.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

SPECIAL MUSIC

We aspire to be a community drawn together by God and inspired by Christ's courage, who

*Lives by faith
Practices radical compassion
Affirms all God's children
Embraces transformation of ourselves, our church, and the broader community*

Nurtures spiritual growth in ways that speak to a changing world.

Vision Statement of First Congregational Church, Stamford

Adopted February 1, 2015

SCRIPTURE

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

Mark 8:31-38

Paul Bingaman

Old Testament, p.7

New Testament, pp. 34, 35

Chalice #46

SERMON

Susan Gibson

ANTHEM

The First Song of Isaiah

Jack Noble White

Surely, it is God who saves me; I will trust and not be afraid.

For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense, and God will be my Savior.

*Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing from the springs of salvation
and on that day you shall say, "Give thanks to the Lord and call upon His
name." [Refrain]*

*Make His deeds known among the peoples; see that they remember that His
name is exalted. Sing the praises of the Lord, for He has done great things
and this is known in all the world. [Refrain]*

*Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion; ring out your joy, for the great one in the midst
of you is the Holy One of Israel. [Refrain]*

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

In This Time

Chalice #303

*In this time of quiet reverence, God fill us now with everlasting peace
and my each and ev'ry day we live bring true faith in your abiding love.*

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

God So Loves the World

Terry Hyde, tenor

John Stainer

DOXOLOGY

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him all creatures here below;
Praise him above ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen*

Chalice #46

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. Unite us with all who are fed by this meal that we may faithfully follow you, and 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

I Have Decided to Follow Jesus

Chalice #344

BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION

Go, My Children, with My Blessing

Chalice #431

*Go, my children, fed and nourished, closer to me
Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free
Here my Spirit's power filled you,
here with tender comfort stilled you
God, my children, fed and nourished, joyful and free.*

POSTLUDE

Timothy Wallace

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