

February 2011

Sunday Schedule

Feb. 6
10:00 a.m. **Morning Worship & Sunday School**

Feb. 13
10:00 a.m. **Morning Worship & Sunday School**

Feb. 20
10:00 a.m. **Morning Worship & Sunday School**

Feb. 27
10:00 a.m. **Morning Worship & Sunday School**

The **Senior Choir** rehearses each Wednesday evening at 7:30 p.m. and on Sunday morning at 9:00 a.m. unless otherwise notified.

Children's Choir and Youth Choir rehearses immediately following morning worship on Sundays (11:15-11:30 a.m.) unless otherwise announced.

Church Office: (860) 528-3133
Fax Number: (860) 528-3220
Senior Pastor: *Rev. Dr. Theodore H. Mosebach*
Pastor Emeritus: *Rev. William E. Flynn*
Director of C.E.: *Mrs. Louise R. Holmes*
Director of Music: *Mr. Jerry K. Scheinfeldt*
Church Secretary: *Mrs. Thory Donofrio*
Treasurer: *Mrs. Donna L. Basler*
Sexton: *Mr. Dennis J. McCarthy*



E-mail addresses:

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tedmosebach@churchcorners.org

DonnaBasler@churchcorners.org

LouiseHolmes@churchcorners.org



Winter Weekend

at Silver Lake will be February 11-13, 2011. Join us for a weekend of fun, fellowship, and friendship in the hills of Sharon, CT. Everyone - young or old, single or married, with children or without children - is welcome to share in this unique experience.

Our theme this year is "Animals in the Bible".

Price: \$80.00 individual
\$150.00 couple
\$190.00 family of 3 or more

MEMORY VERSES SO FAR:

The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want.
Psalm 23

It is a greater blessing to give than to receive.

Acts 20: 35

What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God.

Micah 6: 8

Not everyone who says to me "Lord, Lord," will enter the Kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my father in Heaven.

Matthew 7: 21

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them.

I John 4: 16



Six Month Calendar

I am in the process of compiling the calendar for the next 6 months. In order to be as accurate as possible, I am requesting someone from each group, board and committee to please see me to confirm your meeting schedule for this calendar. Also, any special dates and events you would like to include. Thank you. *Louise Holmes*



Feb. 6 Children will begin in
worship
Feb. 13 Children will begin in
worship
Feb. 20 Children will begin in
worship
Feb. 27 Children will begin in
worship



Youth News

JYF is a youth group for students in grades 6-8. We meet on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month, 11:30 a.m. -1:00 p.m.

ANNUAL REPORT

Annual Report information is due in the church office no later than January 16, 2011!! Every board, committee, club and scouts are asked to submit a report. Remember, what you submit is part of the history of First Congregational Church.



Coffee Hour - Everyone is invited to Coffee hour following worship. Members of the **Board of Trustees** are serving for the month of

February. Each week the Board of Deaconesses provides the refreshments. Please be generous with your donations to the *Coffee Fund* in the basket on the table in the dining room.

The Board of Christian Education

will meet Tuesday, February 22 at 7:00 p.m.

The Board of Deaconesses will meet February 7 at 1:00 p.m.

The Board of Deacons will meet Monday, February 14 at 7:00 p.m.

The Board of Missions will meet Sunday, February 13 at 11:30 a.m.

The Board of Stewardship will meet Monday, February 14 at 7:00 p.m.

The Board of Trustees will meet Tuesday, February 8 at 7:00 p.m.

The Standing Committee will meet Thursday, February 24 at 7:00 p.m.

W.E.B. will meet Thursday, February 17 at 6:15 p.m.

W.E.B.

Women Empowered & Blessed is a group comprised of members of the **Guild**, the **Business & Professional Women's Group** and **Mother's Club**. All women of the church are invited to attend.

The program for W.E.B on

February 17th at 7:15 p.m. will be about the remarkable Beatrice Fox Auerbach, owner of G. Fox. Following a brief review of the recent biography of Mrs. Auerbach "A Woman in Business" by Virginia Hale there will be a time of "Sow and Tell". We will have an evening of reminiscing about the downtown store we all grew up with. Please join us and share your stories of days gone by of the large department store in Hartford and about the businesswoman born before her time. There will be a Pot Luck Dinner before the program at 6:15 p.m. If you are unable to attend and have a story you would like to share, please see me before the meeting and I would be happy to pass it on.

EHIM

East Hartford Interfaith Ministries
Human Needs Fund Office
Beth Harlow, Coordinator
(860) 289-4919



Library Notes

Ring in the New Year with a resolution to do more reading. Your Church Library Committee proposes a checklist of reading resolutions for your consideration. How many can you keep?

1. Visit your church library
2. Select a book from the Library table
3. Read a new book from the Church Library
4. Examine the selection of Video's and DVD's on the Church Library shelves.
5. Notice the Bulletin Board outside the Library door.
6. Ask the Librarian of the Day for help in choosing or locating books.

Happy New Year!! Good Reading!!

Pictures Needed!

The Historical Committee is busy putting together a pictorial review of 2010 and we're looking for photos of Children's Day, Rally Sunday, the roof repairs and *Ted's* anniversary celebration. If you have any photos – prints or digital – please give them to any member of the Historical Committee. Pictures are needed no later than February 27.

"Care & Share" Sunday is the first Sunday of every month when we bring items for Food Bank. You will find white envelopes marked Food Bank in the pews in which monetary donations may be made. All donations (including monetary) are gratefully accepted!! Thank you!!!

The Pastor's Corner:

Black History Month

The times they are a changin' Bob Dylan wrote and sang sometime back in the sixties. Well, thank goodness.

Now and then I still sometimes hear talk something to the effect of, *Wouldn't it be better if things were the way they used to be?* Okay, when?

Not 1619 when the first slaves from Africa land in Virginia. It wasn't until 1808 that congress bans the importation of African slaves into the United States therefore making human trafficking illegal for the first time in our country. Can you imagine?

So, alright, let's not go so far back. How 'bout 1831? No, that was when a protestant minister named Nat Turner who was also a slave (I can't quite imagine that) and whose pastor's heart had seen enough of blood and tears and suffering by innocent people in his congregation (that I can imagine) and organized a slave rebellion which was quelled by the Virginia militia and the pastor hanged.

Would we want to back before 1947 before Jackie Robinson when if you didn't look white enough you couldn't play professional baseball, or before 1948 when President Truman finally integrated the armed forces. And not before 1954 when the Supreme Court ruled that segregation in public schools was unconstitutional and everyone no matter how they looked could attend their neighborhood schools.

I don't want to go back to 1963 when four dark complexioned girls attending Sunday School are murdered when a bomb explodes in their church building. And not before 1972 when after forty years the infamous Tuskegee Syphilis Experiment ended on 499 dark skinned men to study the effects of syphilis and see how long it would take to kill a person.

Yet over those years ancestors of those first slaves from Africa, in spite of their incomprehensible disadvantages, became teachers and lawyers and farmers and inventors and physicians and soldiers and poets too numerous to mention here and clergy— how important faith and church leadership was to our societies progress, and

today we can include astronauts and senators and even President.

So why black history month? I don't think we need it just so some of us can take pride in ourselves, I really think we all need to remember the past rightly, the heroes and the villains, our pride and our shame, how far we've come, thank God— lest we focus only on our violent horrors now and lose hope and confidence in the future. If some of us have come so far, all of us can.

Perhaps we all need our heroes and I have mine. He was just local church pastor who lived in the parsonage with his family but like Nat Turner before him saw his flock suffer enough and went on not just to help his congregation but to move a nation forward through the power of preaching. I don't want to go back to any other time, but I would sure like to shake his hand.

Ted

GIVING BACK – February 2011

February – the love month. It's amazing how many ways we express our love here at First Congregational. We express it by being willing to serve on boards and committees to help further the God's work in our church and community. We say I love you when we join a choir, teach a church school class, volunteer for a mission trip (either youth or adult) or providing refreshments for a gathering. We share our love with others when we pass the peace, visit a shut-in or welcome visitors during coffee hour.

We also share our love and our gratitude when we commit to supporting our church. To date, we've received 56 pledge cards for about 83% of the funds we need to continue for another year. Thank you so much to those who have returned their cards. If you've forgotten to pledge this year, there's still time to get your pledge card in before Annual Meeting. If you've misplaced your pledge card, you can get another one from the church office or by contacting any member of the Board of Stewardship – Have you noticed that after you give something away, your hands are open and empty to receive new blessings? May you have a year rich with God's blessings.

Nice Notes

For some years while I was Senior Minister of First Congregational Church, Charlie Steen was our custodian. Today I read his obituary in the newspaper, and it would not seem right to let this occasion pass without some personal word of commendation for his service to the church.

With his wife Shirley, Charlie lived in the old parsonage at 829 Main St. Some may remember that between the house and Chapel Street he managed to keep a vegetable garden. Charlie was a farmer at heart. He grew some mighty impressive tomatoes, and even a few ears of corn, in that little space. Charlie worked hard for us. Few know the myriad tasks he had to get done on a regular basis every week while also dealing with the unexpected, whether it was leaky plumbing, snow that had to be shoveled from the steps and doorways, or putting in extra time at a funeral or wedding. Charlie did it all with friendly chatter, including meeting requests from church staff or leaders for various needs. Most of the time, Charlie greeted us with a smile. He liked people. And that may have been his greatest gift to us, because there was always a church member or a group leader coming along who needed information or access to equipment or facilities. Charlie, I think, lived by interruptions, and I sometimes wondered how he got any of his regular work done. But he did.

As the years went by, health problems caught up with Charlie. Chores that he once took in stride became harder for him. Some days he just didn't feel good. But he kept on working at his best for us.

Maybe we can pay people for the work they do. But when they go that second mile, as Charlie often did, do it with a smile, as Charlie often did, and bestow their friendship and loyalty upon us, as Charlie did, well, we can't really pay for such things, can we? But we can say, thanks, Charlie. Thanks for a job well done. Thanks for your kindness and your friendship. We haven't forgotten. And we won't.

Rev Bill Flynn

To First Church:

Thank you so much for the lovely fruit basket the Sunday School children sent me at Christmas. It was wonderful. Also thank you for all the beautiful flowers

the deacons brought to me.

Sincerely,
Marilyn St. Laurent



CANCELLATIONS

If there are any questions about Church closings, consult WFSB – Channel 3 or WFSB.com.

Offering Envelopes



2011 Offering Envelopes are ready to be picked up for those who requested envelopes. They are located on the table just inside the dining room.