

February 2013

Sunday Schedule

Feb. 3

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

Feb. 10

10:00 a.m. **Family Worship**

Feb. 17

10:00 a.m. **Morning Worship with
Communion & Sunday School**

Feb. 24

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

The **Senior Choir** rehearses each Wednesdays evening at 7:00 p.m. and on Sunday morning at 8:45 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.

Thursday, February 21st at 6:00 p.m.

James de Boer

**Missionary to Paraguay and Argentina
Visits First Church**

For one of our Lenten Gatherings

We will be hosting United Church of Christ missionary James de Boer! He will share with us his ministry of proclamation and service in South America! Supper will be provided by the First Church Board of Missions. This is a special opportunity for the entire congregation to hear firsthand about this mission work of the UCC supported by Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) dollars!



Winter Weekend at Silver Lake will be February 8-10, 2013. Join us for a weekend of fun, fellowship and friendship in the hills of Sharon, CT.

Everyone is welcome to share in this unique experience. Make your reservations soon with *Louise Holmes*. Silver Lake has raised their prices considerably. They now charge \$120.00 per person with no discount for families. Because we feel this weekend is important in the spiritual life of our church families, we are subsidizing some of the cost for our members.

Price: \$110.00 individual
\$180.00 couple
\$250.00 family of 3 or more

Wednesday, February 13th

**Ash Wednesday Worship
The Lord's Supper**

We will gather at 7:00 PM in the Meeting House for a time of self-reflection and worship as we begin to trace the journey of Jesus to Jerusalem and the cross which awaited him there. It is among the most holy and important times to be in God's House together.



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.

Feb. 3 11:30 JYF meeting bring a bag lunch.

Feb. 17 11:30 JYF meeting bring a bag lunch.

The **Board of Christian Education** will meet Tuesday, February 26 at 7:00 p.m.

The **Board of Deaconesses** will meet Monday, February 4 at 1:00 p.m.

The **Board of Deacons** will meet Monday, February 11 at 7:00 p.m.

The **Board of Missions** will meet Sunday, February 12 at 11:30 a.m.

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

The **Board of Trustees** will meet Tuesday, February 19 at 6:30 p.m.

The **Standing Committee** will meet Thursday, February 28 at 7:00 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 Pastor's Corner:

New Beginnings!

Perhaps change does not come easy for any of us. It sure does not for me. I remember when our first child was born, how I looked at him in Debbie's arms when he was first laid there by the nurses just moments after his first breath, how I felt—proud, filled with love, and if I am to be honest, a bit anxious as well. Even more than when Debbie and I married, I realized with the birth of Ben that nothing would be the same in my life. With that moment came a responsibility like I had never had before; another life was now entirely dependent upon me, and I, more than ever before, needed to depend upon God.

There have been other great changes in my life as surely there have been in yours, and if you are like me, with each one there came some

excitement tempered by anxiety, some grief for what was lost and some hope for what might be gained. I remember when my father died. I felt like the whole world had changed. And for me it did, my dad was no longer in it. I remember when I started my ministry at First Church eighteen years ago. Suddenly Debbie and the girls and I were in a new town where we didn't know anyone and Ben was far away in St. Louis; I had new church responsibilities, the girls had new schools to attend, Debbie needed to seek a new job. Looking back I can see how things worked out, how we all grew and how God brought new blessings. I have heard it said that hind sight is always twenty-twenty and so I suppose it is in matters of faith as well as any others.

My retirement is another great change for me and for First Church as well. And I have all the feelings now that I have had at the other dynamic points of my life—anticipation and trepidation, confidence and second thoughts, joy and sorrow—all sometimes mixed together, and sometimes taking turns at predominance. When church matters, when Christian friends matter, how else might it be? Perhaps you have a number of different feelings now too. Maybe some surprise, maybe some worry, maybe some sadness, maybe some anger. Whatever your feelings are, I understand them all. I honor them all. If you ever want to talk about them, I will listen. I need to talk too. That is how Christian friends support each other, strengthen each other's faith, and prepare for the new blessings which God always brings.

There is a wonderful line in the beautiful hymn, "Be Still My Soul" which runs like this. *In every change, he faithful will remain.* There is never an exception to that—not the birth of a child, not the death of a loved one, not the start of a new ministry, not the end of a most happy one. *Be still my soul, the waves and winds still know, his voice who ruled them while he dwelt below!*

For these eighteen years I have been the most privileged pastor who ever lived! I will never stop thanking God for you, not for all eternity!

Forever Grateful,

Ted

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

Delight in Giving – February 2013

This is our final plea for pledge cards to be returned. In October, we mailed 150 pledge cards. As of January 24, we have received 54 pledges – down 11 from last year's 65.

None of us know what lies around the corner and the news reports of the fiscal cliff have been troubling. There is one thing that we can guarantee – that God will be there, loving and supporting us and seeing us through all of life's joys and trials. The only things that God asks of us are things that will bring us deeper joy and satisfaction – to love our neighbors, to seek justice, to walk humbly with God.

This church will continue to serve as God's hands in our community using our time, talents and treasure to spread God's life-changing love to others. 54 people/families in this congregation understand that by delighting in giving to God through this church, they are increasing the blessings they receive from God. Whether with a pledge of support for the entire year or with a one-time gift, won't you please join with the blessed and return your pledge card today?

In searching for ways to present the congregation with ways to get the most for their electric energy dollars, Stewardship has found a partnership with Viridian that allows us to lower our electric bills while providing additional funds for the church. Connecticut Light and Power will still be your electric company. CL&P will still bill you and maintain your external electrical lines. CL&P will not have to worry about generating enough electrical power to supply all of its customers – it will supply you with electricity purchased from Viridian at a lower rate than they could generate it themselves. We will get \$2 a month for each member signed up. If you are interested, please see Rich Beebe or Valerie McCarthy.

REMINDER

ANNUAL CONGREGATION MEETING

Annual meeting is being held on
March 17, 2013 following worship.
Lunch will be served.

Offering Envelopes



2013 Offering Envelopes

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

EHIM

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

2013 Easter Memorial

This year in addition to the Easter plants, part of your donation will go to the Roof Fund of First Congregational Church. We will purchase the number of plants needed by the Deaconesses to deliver to the ill, bereaved or homebound members with the remainder of your donation going to the Roof Fund. The cost of each remembrance is \$13.00.

Your check, payable to the *First Congregational Church* may be given to a Flower Committee person, placed in the offering plate or mailed to the church office by **March 14, 2013**.

Your check should clearly indicate:
Easter Memorial. *Jessie Slade*, Chair, 569-0461.

-----PLEASE PRINT & CHECK ONE-----

In loving memory
 In honor
 In celebration

of: _____

by: _____



E-mail addresses:

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tedmosebach@churchcorners.org

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CANCELLATIONS

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