

COLUMNS

First Congregational Church East Hartford, Connecticut

Over 300 Years of Ministry!



May 2010

Sunday Schedule

- May 2** *Fifth Sunday of Easter*
10:00 a.m. **Morning Worship & Sunday School**
11:30 a.m. JYF
2:00 p.m. **Honoring the Memories of Our Mothers (note time change)**
7:00 p.m. **Koinonia III**



- May 9** *Sixth Sunday of Easter
Mothers Day*
10:00 a.m. **Morning Worship & Sunday School**
11:15 a.m. **Library Committee**
3:00 p.m. **Koinonia II**

- May 16** *Seventh Sunday of Easter*
10:00 a.m. **Morning Worship & Sunday School**
11:30 a.m. JYF
2:00 p.m. **Paul Bisaccia Concert**
6:00 p.m. **Koinonia I**

- May 23** *Pentecost*
10:00 a.m. **Morning Worship & Sunday School**

- May 30** Memorial Day Weekend
10:00 a.m. **Family Worship**
No 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 & Youth Choir rehearses immediately following morning worship on Sundays (11:00-11:15 a.m.) unless otherwise announced.



Coffee Hour - Everyone is invited to Coffee hour following worship. Members of the **Deaconesses** are serving for the month of May. The **Board of Deaconesses** provides the refreshments each week. Please be generous with your donations to the *Coffee Fund* in the basket on the table in the dining room

FCC's 6th Annual Golf Tournament

Fore! It's that time of year again! The time for First Congregational Church's Annual Golf Tournament! This year's tournament will be held Saturday, May 15 at Topstone Golf Course in South Windsor, CT. Everyone is invited to participate as a tournament sponsor, a hole sponsor, a dinner sponsor, a golfer, or by attending the delicious dinner. The day begins at 10:00 a.m. with registration for the golfers, and dinner will be served at 4:30 p.m. We will have raffle drawings and Hole Challenge awards. The informational brochure is enclosed in this issue of Columns. Don't miss this exciting event!
Please contact *the church office* at 860-528-3133.



G O L F
D A Y



Guild Rummage Sale

Friday, May 7, 4-6 p.m.
(Note time change)
Saturday, May 8, 9 - 12 p.m.

Flea Market

Saturday, May 8
9 a.m.-3 p.m.

The Senior High PYF thanks you for all of your past donations. They will not be accepting any donations because they will no longer have a table at the Flea Markets.

JYF Plant Sale



Can & Bottle Drive

Help support PYF members in their efforts to raise money for workcamp!! Please drop off your cans & bottles before 12:00 noon.

Sunday School News

May 2, May 9, May 16, and May 23
Children will begin in worship before going to their classes

May 30 - Memorial Day Weekend
Family worship with no Sunday School. Child Care is available for children age 5 and under.

Junior Youth Fellowship

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.

Sunday, May 2

11:30 JYF Bring your lunch

Saturday, May 8

9:00-3:00 Church Flea Market
JYF will be selling plants.

Sunday, May 16

11:30 Last meeting.



Silver Lake

There are still some openings at Silver Lake, the summer camp sponsored by the United Church of Christ in Sharon, CT. One week summer conferences are available for children entering grades 4 through 12. There is a wide variety of themes from which to choose. Scholarships are available. Please see *Louise Holmes* for a booklet and more information.

"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 are gratefully accepted.



High School Seniors

Post Secondary Students!

Scholarship applications have been mailed. If you did not receive one and would like to, call the church office. Completed applications must be received in the church office no later than **May 23!**

The Board of Christian Education

will meet on Monday, May 24 at 7:00

The Board of Deaconesses will meet

Monday, May 3 at 1:00 p.m.

The Board of Deacons will meet Monday,

May 10 at 7:00 p.m.

The Board of Stewardship will meet

Monday, May 10 at 7:00 p.m.

The Board of Trustees will meet Tuesday,

May 11 at 7:00 p.m.

W.E.B.

Women Empowered and Blessed is a group comprised of all women of the church.

W.E.B. will meet Thursday, May 20 at 6:15 p.m.

Guild – W.E.B. will meet Tuesday, May

11 at 11:00 a.m.

Library Committee will meet Sunday, May 9

at 11:15 a.m.

Standing Committee will meet Thursday,

May 27 at 7:00 p.m.

Missions Moment

Blanket/Tool Sunday – June 20, 2010

You are invited! You are invited to join in the life-saving work of Church World Service. Your five dollars, just \$5.00 will give someone a warm blanket. Your \$5.00 will send a message that, yes, somebody cares.

please contact the church office.

Stewardship Moment

The Giving Heart

Fun and Money – May 2010

It's amazing how much of our money we spend on entertainment – dining out, internet connections, high tech gadgets, movies, cable television, books, hobbies. In a world where basic tasks are made easier through modern appliances and faster transportation, we are blessed with more hours of leisure to fill. And we have become quite ingenious at finding new ways to fill them.

Since we're all on the lookout for new ways to use our treasure to bring a little fun into our lives, you might want to check out the opportunities provided by the annual Golf Tournament. If you don't actually play the game, you can always volunteer to help out. You can enjoy the fun without having to swing a club. You could also join us for dinner – the food's delicious. It's a great way to enjoy a beautiful spring day.

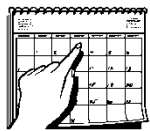
Or perhaps you'd like to join WEB at the annual Game Night and Tea Cup auction. Play the game of your choice and then take a chance on winning any of the awesome prizes on the auction table. It's a great night for fun for all ages.

There are so many great opportunities here at First Church to have a great time and use our talent and treasure to amuse ourselves and support our church. Hope to see you there this spring.



E-mail addresses:

Office@churchcorners.org
LouiseHolmes@churchcorners.org
DonnaBasler@churchcorners.org
TedMosebach@churchcorners.org



To all Boards, Committees and Groups

Before you begin your summer activities; I would appreciate an updated meeting schedule for the six month calendar. Please let me know of any special dates or events you may want included. Thank you for your timely response. *Louise Holmes*

Jubilee Sunday - June 6, 2010 at 10:00 a.m.

A celebration of those who, this year have been members of any Christian church for a combined total of fifty years. If you first joined another church on or before 1960 and have not celebrated your jubilee at First Church, we would like to honor you along with our First Church fifty-year members. For recognition on *Jubilee Sunday*,



Church Library

Focus on Family

"Honor thy father and thy mother."

Mother's Day

May 9

Father's Day

June 20

Children's Day

June 13

Mother's Day, Father's Day, and Children's Day, are Sunday's in May and June to honor these family members. Also, your church library celebrates many family occasions and relationships. The church library displays a selection of special day books to borrow.

New Books about The Prayer Shawl Ministry

Knitting into Mystery by Jorgensen and Izard

The Prayer Shawl Companion by
Bristow and Cole-Galo

The Prayer Shawl Ministry by
Lion Brand Yarn Company

The above books were donated to the church Library by W.E.B.

EHIM

East Hartford Interfaith Ministries

Human Needs Fund Office

Beth Harlow, Coordinator

(860) 289-4919

The Pastor's Corner

Thank You!

You all sure know how to keep a secret! Here I was looking forward to a great First Church Pot Luck but was surprised by something even better. There may not be much that Pennsylvania Dutch culture can contribute to New England, but the sausage sandwich with stir fried green peppers and onions is one thing. Then add a variety of macaroni salads, deviled eggs, and lots of love and laughter, and you have about the perfect combination. Our Fifteen Years Together Anniversary Sunday was a fantastic day!

And the *Voices* Came! What a treat! They can sing here whenever they want. Maybe they were inspired by the table center pieces. Even I might have been able to sing on key surrounded by large "Dunkin' Donuts" styrofoam coffee cups filled with beautiful silk flowers. I take a ribbing now and then about my preference for real flowers in church, but then I also didn't know that "Dunkin' Donuts" coffee cups had any other purpose than to hold good coffee? I still have much to learn.

The surprises started for me in the sanctuary during worship with the presentation of a most generous financial gift along with a gorgeous clergy stole. A clerical stole is a symbol of ordination. It represents the yoke of Christ—the ministry of love and reconciliation begun by our Lord. To wear a stole at First Church is to experience firsthand the truth of Jesus' promise that for all the responsibility which the stole represents, Jesus' *yoke is easy* and his *burden is light*. (*Matthew 11:30*) The stole I was given is a hand crafted artistic expression of the dove of peace with an olive leaf in its beak. It represents the dove which returned to the ark of Noah, ensuring that the flood waters were subsiding and that the earth henceforth would always be blessed with God's favor and provision. Each time I put on the stole I will do so with pastoral pride in our wonderful congregation.

It was a special treat to have my entire family present for the festivities. Initially, everyone planned to be home to celebrate the first birthday of my first grandchild. To have them present for the jubilant recognition of the fifteenth anniversary of my pastoral call to First Church was an added joy.

To all those who had anything to do with the preparation and achievement of the party, I am so grateful. To the cooks, the "roasters", the singer's — you were fabulous! To the Board of Deacons in which I understand the idea took root and which led the planning for the event, you communicated to all of our guests – my pastoral colleagues Al Turner and Art Dunham and Ineke Mitchell our Northern Regional Minister of the Connecticut Conference staff, and reminded all of us who are members, just how excellent is First Church, East Hartford, of which we are each privileged to take our parts. What a day!!!

Most Gratefully,
Ted

Stock Sale

The Senior High Youth are selling stock in their Mission Work Camp trip this summer to Scranton, PA. They will aid in repairs to the homes of senior citizens, people with disabilities, and financially struggling residents. Stock shares will be on sale from any PYF member through June 20. Each share of stock costs ten dollars. Everyone who purchases at least one share will receive:

A personal postcard written by a work camper during the work camp week.

An invitation to a "Stockholders Only" fall banquet where pictures and reports of the work camp effort will be shared.

The love and appreciation of the senior high young people participating in this year's adventure in Christian mission.

The satisfaction of supporting teenagers in their efforts to repair and maintain the homes of people in need as well as supporting the spiritual development of the teenagers themselves.

Visit the display table in the dining room during coffee hour!!

***All Women of
First Congregational Church***

are cordially invited to the Annual Women's Lunch
at

Savvi's Restaurant
1555 Main St East Hartford

Sunday, June 13
Noon – 2 p.m.

Name: _____

Please circle your menu choice:

Broiled Scallops with Salad, Potato & Vegetable
\$22.00

Chicken Parmesan with Salad & Penne Pasta
\$21.00

Baked Meatloaf with Salad, Potato & Vegetable
\$18.00

Chicken Caesar Salad \$15.00

Dinner includes: beverage, bread, dessert,
tax and tip

Please return with payment to
Louise Holmes by June 6.

Checks payable to
First Congregational Church noting "Women's lunch"
in memo.

Church Office: (860) 528-3133
Fax Number: (860) 528-3220
Website: www.ChurchCorners.org
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: *Thory Donofrio*
Treasurer: *Mrs. Donna L. Basler*
Sexton: *Mr. Dennis J. McCarthy*



Nice Notes

Dear Friends in Christ,

Thank you for your gift to the United Church of Christ Haiti Earthquake Relief fund. We recorded your gift of \$808.00 on 3/19/2010.

The January 12 earthquake is no longer the lead news story. Yet Haiti remains on the hearts and in the prayers of the people of the UCC. The situation remains challenging with the Government of Haiti reporting a death toll at 300,000; and estimated 1.2 million homeless and long term rebuilding costs in excess of \$11 billion.

We are grateful for partnerships which allow the UCC to be present and accompany our Haitian sisters and brothers.

Through Global Ministries partners, CONASPEH and House of Hope, we have been able to respond to emergency needs of communities in Port-Au-Prince and beyond.

Through ecumenical partnerships with Social Services of Dominican Churches, Church World Services (CWS), the ACT Alliance and IMA World Health, 2,000 Haitians families in a border settlement near the Dominican border have received food, shelter, and health resources.

Our partnership with CWS has also provided immense assistance to vulnerable children and people with disabilities, as we have coordinated efforts with Service Chretien d'Haiti and the Ecumenical Foundation for Peace and Justice and House of Hope.

In support of earthquake survivors who are living with HIV/AIDS or at risk of infection, we are supporting a coalition of US and Haitian AIDS groups to provide access to care and essential supplies.

With Agricultural Missions and the FONDAMA farmers cooperative we are supporting the provision of 100 tons of seeds, basic tools and training for 3,000 to 5,000 survivors of the earthquake who fled to rural communities.

Thank you for sharing your resources and helping to change lives.

Grace and Peace, Susan M. Sanders
One Great Hour of Sharing Administrator