



## \$4,000 an hour. Not bad money if you can get it!

On Work Boots Saturday, we asked members to give 2 hours of their time and talent to help FCC complete some much needed repairs. The idea was simple. Give a little time and talent. Help FCC by restoring some luster to the grand lady that is our church.

On that Saturday, God blessed us with beautiful fall weather. The arch over the chapel entrance was repaired and repainted. The garden entrance and office entrance were both repainted. All the windows were washed upstairs and downstairs. The nursery was cleaned. Trusses in the attic were shored up. A tree was removed. The plants in the garden were pruned. Leaves and debris were removed from all the flowerbeds surrounding the church. Nine trips were made to the transfer station to dispose of organic and inorganic materials. The confirmation class got service hours. New friendships were made. More than 25 people showed up to help. Seven more were a part of the day by donating food or supplies. Conservatively, the value of all the helping hands was worth \$8,000. Your 2 hours made a huge difference. Thank you!

There are many opportunities just like this all around the church. As we start 2017, the Generosity Board encourages you to keep your eyes and ears open for the small opportunities that God puts in front of us frequently. Give Christ your time and talent so others might find their way to him. More details on the next Work Boots Saturday coming soon!

Yours in Christ –

Joe, Linda, Missy, Ray, Rich and Ron  
Board of Generosity



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# FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

37 Main Street, Southington, CT 06489

860-628-6958/ Fax 860-621-0402

[fccsouthington.org](http://fccsouthington.org)



E-mail: [office@fccsouthington.org](mailto:office@fccsouthington.org)

## OFFICE HOURS

Monday—Friday, 9am—1pm

## SUNDAY SERVICES

**8:00AM Chapel Communion**

**9:30AM Traditional Worship**

**11:15AM T.G.I. Sunday Contemporary**

## FOR PASTORAL EMERGENCIES

Call 860-628-6958 during office hours

or our Pastoral Emergency line: 860-385-4884

Pastor Ron [rbrown@fccsouthington.org](mailto:rbrown@fccsouthington.org)

Pastor Rachel [rachel@fccsouthington.org](mailto:rachel@fccsouthington.org)

Ministers to the World:  
*The Whole Congregation*

## STAFF

<b>Senior Pastor</b>	Rev. Dr. Ronald B. Brown
<b>Associate Pastor</b>	Rev. Rachel J. Bahr
<b>Minister of Music</b>	John R. Parsons
<b>T.G.I. Sunday</b>	Steve Nyren
<b>Music Coordinators</b>	Melissa Mirisola
<b>Directors of Christian Education</b>	Karlene Archambeault Carole Lantz
<b>Tech/Communications</b>	Dawn Gambacini
<b>Office Coordinator</b>	Mira Morel
<b>Custodian</b>	Lynn Bushnell
<b>Collector</b>	Ray Dischino
<b>Bookkeeper</b>	Allison LeBarron



- The Williams family grieving the death of Rita Williams (1/23).
- Kevin Tangney and family grieving the death of his father, Kevin Sr. (1/21).
- The Smedberg family grieving the death of Carol (1/21).
- Carol Udeen and family grieving the death of Ted Lewandowski (1/20).
- Damian Gambacini and family grieving the death of his brother, Ed (12/22).
- Mary Carter and Karen Barna and family grieving the loss of Mary's mother, Frances Cecil (12/29).
- John and Sue Parsons and family grieving the death of John's nephew (Larry's son), Ben (1/5).
- The Cronin Family grieving the death of Mitzi (12/5) and Howard (1/13).
- The Reuber family grieving the death of Ray (12/20).
- Brittany and Connor Hill grieving the unexpected death of their grandfather who lived with Parkinson's for 30 years.
- Scott Herold and Lynn Grenier and family grieving the death of Scott's mother, Marge (12/11).
- Brian and Karen Bradshaw and family grieving the death of Brian's father, Dennis Damron (12/11).

Continued prayers for Jennifer Nichols (Stephen Nichols' sister), Jim Lovley (Kim Lovley-Casarella's brother), Kim Rees, Bryan, Callum Roberts, Peggy Thibodeau, Sandi Reed, Joan Salamon, Todd Lawson, Cathy Bruno, Fran Sperry, Diana Putnam, Mary Bugbee, Carolyn Beadle, Betsy Roberts, our Stephen Ministers and care-receivers, and Caring Ministry team and friends.

## Births



### Lucas Stephen Dailey

Son of Rich and Bailey Dailey  
January 2, 2017

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Christmas Hospitality Night on December 5. This year it was part of the White Christmas in the Community event. There was extravagant hospitality; singing by members of Branches; beverages, homemade cookies and marshmallow snowmen from Christian Education and the Middle school youth group; Grateful Threads quilters group; the Ecuador Foundation Fund; a Christmas tag sale; an activity for children; local non-profits and more. We hope you will join us next year.

~ Joanne Kelleher (Event Coordinator)

## Thank You to...

- All who donated items (and money for postage) to be sent in care packages to our college students and the youth who packaged them!
- Our members who shared their Star Gift stories on Epiphany Sunday.
- The Enrights for donating a laptop.
- Our Faithful Friday Folders and newsletter folders who spend
- Kay Dickson who is mailing our bulletins and sermons to our shut-in church members.



## Bread For Life

We thank all who have given their time for this wonderful mission. Our next time to serve is February 20—24. Please sign up outside Pastor Ron's office.



## Baptisms



### Emmalee Jane Brown

Daughter of Steven and Caroline Brown  
December 18, 2016

## ASH WEDNESDAY—March 1 SERVICE OF PENANCE

12:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.

In our Meetinghouse

These brief services offer music, quiet reflection, prayer and a brief sermon, as well as the giving of ashes on forehead or palm to all who wish to receive them.

## Lenten Noonday Services

Every Wednesday during Lent **at Noon in our Chapel**, approximately 30 minutes  
Followed by a **Lenten Luncheon (\$3)** prepared by our boards and committees.

## Lenten Luncheon Hosts Needed

Lunch is offered (\$3) each Wednesday in Lent after the noonday service. The host group uses money collected to use toward their committee/board's mission.



If your board/committee is interested, please call the church office. Individuals are also invited to host a luncheon and donate the money to the mission of their choice. Call the church office for details 860-628-6958.

## FAITH FORMATION

### **Bible, Bagels and Banter**

Join Pastor Ron before work for tasty bagels, brief Bible study and stimulating conversation on **February 9 and 23** in Memorial Hall from 7:00-7:45 a.m.

Bible Study



### **Weekly Wednesday Bible Study**

**Bible Study at The Orchards** meets in the South Living Room of The Orchards located at 34 Hobart Street in Southington. Several residents of The Orchards attend this Bible study, but it is open to everyone. We meet **every Wednesday from 10:30-11:15 a.m.** to study the scripture passages that will be read at the FCC worship services the following Sunday. **All are welcome!**

### **Between Us—Women’s Online Spiritual Formation Community**

We are excited to offer a digital spiritual connection for women via Facebook. All ages of women are invited to join us for an hour of provocative conversations of faith that intersect our daily lives. Find the group link on the [FCC Southington Facebook page](#). We hope you will join in!

### **Attention Young Adults**

20– and 30-somethings are invited to join us at Noodles & Company in Southington every **Tuesday night at 6:00 p.m.** for friends, fun, and faith.

### **Lenten Series on Open & Affirming**

We will continue our tradition of having a Lenten Series, and this year we will be focusing on our Open and Affirming Statement. Each Wednesday evening, we will begin with a potluck supper in Memorial hall, followed by various speakers highlighting different parts of the statement. Stay tuned for more details and be sure to join us as we celebrate the diversity of God’s creation.

## **February Worship at FCC**

**Worship at 8:00, 9:30 and 11:15 a.m.**

### **February 5: Fifth Sunday after Epiphany**

The Rev. Dr. Ronald B. Brown, preaching

### **February 12: Sixth Sunday after Epiphany**

The Rev. Dr. Ronald B. Brown, preaching

### **February 19: Seventh Sunday after Epiphany**

The Rev. Rachel J. Bahr

### **February 26: Transfiguration Sunday**

The Rev. Dr. Ronald B. Brown, preaching

Please visit our **Worship This Week** page for the most up-to-date information about worship services: [FCCSouthington.org/worship-this-week](http://FCCSouthington.org/worship-this-week)

### **Mid-Week Evening Worship**

Pastor Rachel invites you to this new but familiar experience **Wednesday, February 15, 2017 at 6 p.m.** As you approach the Chapel, you hear music playing. As the gathering progresses through ancient rhythms of prayer, preaching, and song, people move about the room, getting up to light a candle, or to kneel and meditate. The service is participatory: you will be invited to call your prayers out during prayer, to talk back during sermons, to tell the story of communion together. After the service, the worshipers gather for food, mission projects, Bible studies, or for visitors, a chance to tour the whole church. You head out filled-up, Spirit-filled, ready. We hope you will join us!

## BULLETIN BOARD

### Card and Game Night for Adults

Friday, Feb 17  
at 7:00 p.m.



A great night out with the adults of your church family! Bring a friend and a favorite game, or play something new. Beverages will be provided, but please bring a small snack to share.

### FCC's Got Talent!

Our all-ages talent showcase and Lip Sync Contest returns on **Saturday, March 4 at 7:00 p.m.!** Do you have a special talent? Do you or a small group have a lip sync act to showcase? Bring your song choice and name(s) of participants to auditions! All ages are welcome to audition for this inter-generational showcase. Sponsored by the Steeple Players and FCC High School Youth Group, proceeds from this event will go toward our High School 2017 Mission Trip to Maine.

**AUDITIONS: Friday and Saturday, February 3 and 4 (6-8 pm).** Auditions will be unplugged and consist of a brief talent review and paperwork.

**MANDATORY DRESS REHEARSAL** (complete show run-through) will be Friday, March 3 (6pm until finished) Questions? [contact Pastor Rachel.](#)

### Pies, Pies and More Pies!

are needed for the Apple Pie Reception for our Veterans Appreciation Program, February 12. Please sign up on the sheet in Memorial Hall. Large Apple pies are preferred but any variety is appreciated. Contact Carolyn Mansolf 860-621-5082 with any questions.

### Morning Women's Group

On **Tuesday, February 14 at 9:30 a.m.** in Memorial Hall. All women are invited! Please call Bev Ryan at 860-666-8874 with questions.

### Church Council Meeting

All are invited to our next meeting **Monday, February 20 at 7:00 p.m.** in room 201/202.

### Chair Yoga!

**Mondays at 10am in our Choir Room**



This is a gentle yoga class.

All donations (\$5 suggested) to benefit the girls of Fundación Sor Dominga Bocca in Ecuador.

### Veterans Appreciation Program

**ALL ARE WELCOME** to attend our Veterans Appreciation Program on **Sunday, February 12 at 1:00 PM.** Twenty-five veterans from our church will be presented with a Quilt of Valor to thank them for their service to our country. The presentation will be followed by an Apple Pie Reception in Memorial Hall. We ask guests (not the veterans) to register on the sign up sheet in Memorial Hall so we can plan accordingly. Space is limited. Carolyn Mansolf, [860-621-5082](tel:860-621-5082)

Bring your sweetie some sweets...

### BOMA Bake Sale

**Sunday, February 12**

**After 9:30 and 11:15am Services**

Proceeds will support the Roots' and Gallery Singers' trip to sing at the Chorale Festival at St. Bart's Church in NYC this May.



## Steeple Players' Auditions

The next Steeple Players production will be *And Then They Came For Me: Remembering the World of Anne Frank*. This poignant multimedia play by award-winning playwright, James Still, weaves videotaped interviews of two teen-age friends of Anne Frank – Holocaust survivors Eva Schloss and Ed Silverberg – with live actors recreating scenes from their lives during WWII. As performed by a racially diverse cast, the play speaks to the senseless persecution of people worldwide based on nationality, religion, race, and gender. Auditions will be held on **February 3 & 4 from 6-8pm** and there will be three evening performances, April 28-30, as well as a community dialog.

## We'd Like Your Opinion!

What do you think about this Faith-Works newsletter? Is it interesting? Is it useful? Do you have ideas about what would make it better? Please call the church office at 860-628-6958 or email [happenings@fccsouthington.org](mailto:happenings@fccsouthington.org) to help us meet our church family's information needs!

## Volunteer Appreciation Feb 19, 2017 following each service

*Grat.i.tude (n) a feeling of appreciation toward another person, often accompanied by a desire to express thanks. Synonym - thankfulness*

The Leadership Development Board invites everyone to attend a Volunteer Appreciation Celebration after each service on **Sunday, February 19**. We are so grateful for all of the volunteers at First Congregational Church and realize that our ministry here would not happen in such abundance without you. Volunteers don't always have the time, but they have the heart of service and they give their time, talents and treasures in service to the needs of others. We celebrate your commitment, your gifts and your involvement in our church family. Everyone welcome!

## Save These Dates:

- |                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| <b>Feb 3, 4</b>          | <b>Auditions: FCC's Got Talent/Steeple Players</b> |
| <b>Wednesday, Feb 8</b>  | <b>Racial Justice Potluck and Program</b>          |
| <b>Sunday, Feb 12</b>    | <b>BOMA Bake Sale</b>                              |
| <b>Sunday, Feb 12</b>    | <b>Veterans Appreciation Program</b>               |
| <b>Wednesday, Feb 15</b> | <b>Mid-Week Evening Worship</b>                    |
| <b>Friday, Feb 17</b>    | <b>Game Night for Adults</b>                       |
| <b>Sunday, Feb 19</b>    | <b>Volunteer Appreciation Celebration</b>          |
| <b>Feb 20—24</b>         | <b>Bread for Life Volunteer Week</b>               |
| <b>Wednesday, Feb 22</b> | <b>Racial Justice Potluck and Program</b>          |
| <b>Sunday, Feb 26</b>    | <b>Mardi Gras Jazz Celebration</b>                 |
| <b>Wednesday, Mar 1</b>  | <b>Ash Wednesday</b>                               |

Check our online calendar any time at [fccsouthington.org/events](http://fccsouthington.org/events).



# Missions



We meet **every other Wednesday** from **10:00 – noon** in room **201/202** to quilt and enjoy fellowship. Not a quilter? Join us and

we'll give you an easy job to do or come for the fellowship. Questions? Contact Carole Lantz  
**Meeting dates: February 1 and 15**

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## “What is Implicit Bias?”

All are welcome to join us as we continue our exploration of racism **Wednesdays, February 8 and 22 at 6:00 p.m.** We will share a potluck dinner followed immediately by a program.

Please visit [FCCSouthington.org/share](http://FCCSouthington.org/share) for more info, and sign up for our [racial justice newsletter](#).

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## Mohegan Sun Trip to Benefit EFF

On **Saturday, March 18 from 2:00—10:00 p.m.**, the Ecuador Foundation Fund is hosting an adults-only bus trip to Mohegan Sun. Tickets are \$45 per person and include transportation, food voucher, and money wheel voucher. **Seating is limited.** For more information: Clare Lindsey 203-592-2918 (mlcbl58@hotmail.com) or Jeff Bender 860-681-9610. Checks should be payable to Jeff Bender.

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## Prayer Circle

**Tuesday afternoons at 4:00 p.m. In the Parlor**

Join us as we lift our joys and concerns to the Lord. Put your prayer request in the collection basket or the folder outside the church office.



## Feel the Warmth!

Sometimes it takes more than a winter coat or a fuzzy blanket to keep another person warm. Sometimes it takes the presence of a caring Christian friend.

**Stephen Ministers share the warmth** of God's love with those who need it most: the ill, the lonely, the grieving... Is God calling you to reach out to those who are hurting? Consider serving as a Stephen Minister. To sign up or for more information please contact Sam Hendrickson at [samh41@att.net](mailto:samh41@att.net) or 860/302-5944



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Connecticut Chapter of Family Promise is getting ready to open their doors and so are we! Please **see page 10** for more information.

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## Caring Ministry

All are welcome to our next meeting **Monday, February 13 at 11:00 a.m.** We hope you will join us in bringing some fellowship to our church friends who cannot come to church to see us.

**Meal Ministry** for you or a church member who is going through a difficult time, surgery, etc.

**Transportation Ministry** If you are in need of a ride to church or a doctor's appointment, or if you are able to provide rides occasionally to church and/or doctor's appointments.

Please call **Carolyn Mansolf, 860-621-5082.**

## Church School News

### **Become Like a Child!**

Remember that scripture when Jesus said you must become like a child (Matthew 18)? Well, we have a great opportunity for you this spring. For our church school's annual "Walk Thru" on April 2nd, we'd like to present the ancestors of Jesus as a Living Bible Museum (like a wax museum, but with real people!) There are a lot of Biblical people that we could portray, and it would be fun to include some of you adults. So, if you would be willing to dress the part of Eve, Abraham, Moses, Daniel, or your favorite Bible character, let me know and we can arrange the costumes and props to tell the story. The children will be participating as usual, but if we could get some adults involved, it would be a much richer Bible Museum for everyone to enjoy. The children would see that Christian Education is important to you adults and you can learn the story and experience church school like a child. Contact Carole or Karlene to sign up! We want you!

~ Karlene

### **Church School Calendar**

**February 5:** Chapel Sunday – children in 2nd—8th grades start in the chapel for a brief Communion service.

### **Family Night at KidCity**

in Middletown for families with children age 1—8 years (open to VGNS and FCC families only)

**Monday, February 20, 5:30-8:00pm**

(snow date February 23) \$15/Family or \$5/person (cash only) Tickets can be purchased at the event. Proceeds will benefit Village Green Nursery School.

### **Family Promise**

Connecticut Chapter of Family Promise is getting ready to open their doors and so are we! As a host church, we need your help to welcome families in need of emergency shelter. Volunteer jobs include: room set-up (cots), cooking meals, getting to know the families after dinner, helping with homework, sleeping at the church, breakfast meals, packing lunches and laundry service. Donated items are appreciated as well. We love the enthusiasm that has already been expressed by many of you already.

#### **Items Needed for Host Churches:**

Twin sheets (16 sets), Twin washable blankets (16), pillowcases (16), Twin mattress pads (16), washcloths (minimum 16), alarm clocks, coloring books, crayons, iron, ironing board, recreational items, toiletries (soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes), toys, books, games, puzzles.

During weeks when we host families with small children, we will also need:

baby bottles and liners, disposable diapers, wipes, baby food, baby cereal, infant soap, infant shampoo, infant bathtub, playpen, crib, highchair, booster chair, children's car seats.

More information will follow once we have scheduled our first host week. Please contact Becca and Lisa Hasko with questions.



# Youth News

## Confirmation

Sunday, February 5: 4—5:30 p.m.

Sunday, March 5: 4—5:30 p.m.



## The Best Part of Your Child's Summer!

Silver Lake has been transforming kids' lives for 60 years, opening their hearts to God and to great friendships that last a lifetime. Visit their website at [SilverLakeCT.org](http://SilverLakeCT.org) for the summer conference schedule. Does your kid like: Making art? Bicycling? Boating? Harry Potter? STEAM? The Divergent Series? Making music? Sports? There's a Silver Lake Conference for that!



**Register now!** Even though it's winter outside, it's time to think about registering for Silver Lake, the UCC summer camp in Sharon, CT. Camp is for children entering 4th grade in the fall and older. This year there are 7 sessions to choose from – starting the week of June 25 through the week of August 6. For more information and to register, go to [silverlakect.org/summercamp](http://silverlakect.org/summercamp). There will be an Open House for new campers on **Sunday, May 21 from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.**

## High School Youth Group

YG has got some wonderful Winter and Spring gatherings planned! We need you!!!!

- |              |   |
|--------------|---|
| February 3-4 | FCC's Got Talent Auditions  |
| February 12  | Trip to Cathedral in the Night<br>Deposits and covenants due for<br>July Mission Trip |
| February 12  | Veteran's Appreciation Program  |
| March 4      | FCC's Got Talent  |
| March 12     | Youth Group   |
| March 17-18  | YSOP  |
| April 2      | Youth Group   |
| April 22-23  | Solidarity Sleep-out  |
| April 28/29  | Attend Steeple Players' Production  |
| May 7        | Youth Group   |
| May 21       | Youth Group/End of Year BBQ   |

## Middle School Youth Group

**Saturday, February 11** - come on out for a Love themed Valentine's Party from **6—10 p.m.** Parents can enjoy a evening out, while MSYGers will be having a blast together. We will enjoy fun games and activities, as well as a meaningful service project.

**Sunday, February 12** - We are honoring our Veterans we want you to participate! Our church is hosting a service of recognition for our Veteran's, and a banquet. What will MSYG do? We will be helping with set-up and service as well as by getting to know the Veteran's in our church. We need you to sign-up by emailing Pastor Rachel, and we need at least 25 youth involved in this exciting opportunity.

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## **Mardi Gras Jazz Celebration**

**Sunday, February 26**

**5:00 p.m. Concert**

**6:00 p.m. Pancake Supper**



A jazz concert featuring the Southington High School Jazz Band will be held on **Sunday, February 21 at 5 PM** in the meetinghouse. The twenty members of the Southington HS Jazz Band, under the direction of Brett Berardi, will be performing swing, Latin and other jazz selections. The concert will be followed by a Pancake Supper in the church hall at approximately 6 pm. Regular, banana, blueberry, and chocolate chip pancakes will be available along with coffee, tea, and juice. The event is jointly sponsored by the Southington HS Music Department and the FCC's Board of Music & Arts (BOMA). BOMA encourages fellowship and sponsors events which allow the community to share their vast talents. No tickets are necessary, there will be a free-will offering for both the concert and supper. If attending the supper, an RSVP is appreciated to [office@fcssouthington.org](mailto:office@fcssouthington.org) or 860-628-6958.