

FaithWorks

Volume 57 Issue 6

July-Aug 2017



Senior Pastor's Corner

By the time you read this article the last two months of my sabbatical will be underway. As I prepare to go, I want to share a celebration and an invitation.

The celebration— At our Annual Meeting on June 12, the congregation voted to install solar panels on the south-facing roof of our historic meetinghouse. I can think of no better way to continue our historic witness to God's love and justice here in Southington than to make this investment to be good stewards of our financial resources and of God's good creation. When completed, the solar panels will produce more than 40,000 kWh of electricity per year, saving the church more than \$4,000 each year, and significantly reducing our carbon footprint. It is the right thing for us to do, and I thank the Board of Trustees and church member, Rich Vocke, who carefully prepared and presented this possibility for the congregation's consideration.

An invitation— Over the last couple of months, as I have prepared for my sabbatical, I have been talking with some of the lay leaders of our church about questions that I will be praying about over the next two months, and I want to offer them for your prayers as well:

1. What is your vision and/or hope for FCC over the next 5 years?
2. Who needs to be part of the conversation about this vision/hope?
3. What leadership skills will be necessary to accomplish this vision/hope?
4. What might stand in the way of our accomplishing this vision/hope?

I believe with all my heart that the most exciting days for First Congregational Church wait for us in the future. As we live toward those days, I invite you to pray these questions with me, and, in the fall, I will invite us to talk about them together.

In the meantime, I will also be praying that all of you have a restful and renewing summer season.

Summer blessings,

Pastor Ron

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FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

37 Main Street, Southington, CT 06489
860-628-6958/ Fax 860-621-0402

fccsouthington.org



E-mail: office@fccsouthington.org

SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

Monday—Thursday, 9am—1pm

SUNDAY SERVICES (Summer)

8:00AM Chapel Communion

10:00 AM Worship in Meetinghouse

FOR PASTORAL EMERGENCIES

Call 860-628-6958 during office hours
or our Pastoral Emergency line: 860-385-4884

Pastor Ron rbrown@fccsouthington.org

Pastor Rachel rachel@fccsouthington.org

Ministers to the World:
The Whole Congregation

STAFF

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



We pray for

- Joanne Kelleher and family grieving the death of her mother, Anne Smith (5/30).
- David Lacombe and family grieving the death of his mother, Rita Lacombe (6/5).
- Dawn Garvey and family grieving the death of her father, Richard Gioia (6/6).
- The family of Patricia Germaine who passed away on 5/31.
- Frank Theilman and family grieving the death of his brother, Jim Theilman (6/8).
- The family of Michael Sarzen who passed away on 5/16.
- Kathy Williams and family grieving the death of her sister, Martha Pellegrino (6/22).
- Judy Miceli and family grieving the death of her mother, Charlotte Frasario (6/21).
- Barbara Silva and family grieving the death of her sister, Pat Livingstone (7/9).

Continued prayers for Pastor Ron (on sabbatical), Loren (D-J Lavoie's friend), Mary Potter, Caleb Myers (Sabina Vance's nephew), Anne Sharnick, Judy Orofino, John Noble, Elizabeth Goodwin (Laurie Lynch's mother), Reny (Irene) Janelle, Diane Cayer, Carolyn Mansolf, Barbara Hungerford, DJ Festa, Tracey Gabree, Bryan, Peggy Thibodeau, Todd Lawson, Fran Sperry, Mary Bugbee, Carolyn Beadle, Betsy Roberts, our Stephen Ministers and care-receivers, and Caring Ministry team and friends.

Please
Pray
for...



Thank You to...

- All who participated and donated to FCC Team Sunshine at Relay for Life this year. We raised \$729!
- As always to our faithful bulletin folders, and to last month's newsletter folders: Karen Barna, Shirley Campbell, Kay Dickson, Faith Flugrad, Debbie Hart, Bev Huber, Paul Norton, Margaret Pinsall, Sandi Reed, Bev Ryan, Barbara Silva and Tony Silva.
- Linda and Tom Accuosti and the whole team who put together the incredible celebration dinner in honor of John Parsons' retirement, and to Andy Lees for the entertaining slideshow!
- Brad Lawrence who trimmed roses, weeded, planted and mulched our gardens! They look beautiful!
- Rich Vocke for putting together the proposal for our church to "go greener" with solar panels, and for shepherding the process over the coming months.



What can I say? The cards – the words of thanks – the incredible work of choirs and instrumentalists – the wonderful slideshow with comments that defy description – I could keep going on and on - and on.

Being graced with a town proclamation and with the title *emeritus* was totally unexpected and a true honor. The highest honor, however, was in receiving your love and support for all the years I have been privileged to worship with you, not just in music, but in spirit, in truth, and in love.

The words "thank you" seem inadequate, but must express my love and gratitude for all you've done and all you have been. It's been a fantastic journey, and I look forward to the next chapter with you.

John Parsons, *Minister of Music Emeritus*



Matthew Christopher Kern

Son of Robert and Katie Kern

July 2, 2017

From Barbara Hungerford

I would like to thank everyone for all the prayers, visits and cards when I was in Southington Care Center recovering from hip surgery. Thank you!!

Barbara

From Ruth Smith

To my pastors and friends at FCC, My vocabulary isn't adequate to let you all know how very much I have been helped and loved by all of you during this time after my recent surgery. I've benefitted from prayers, cards, food, transportation and phone calls. I couldn't have asked for more help and it continues as I continue to recover. God bless you all.

Ruth



July 3—Sept 1:

Monday—Thursday, 9am—1pm

FAITH FORMATION

Bagels and Bible Study for Men

All men are invited to join Pastor Ron before work for tasty bagels, brief Bible study and stimulating conversation. Our next topic will be a study of the Gospel of John. Brief readings will be emailed to participants and also available on the church website a week before each meeting. **Beginning on September 21**, we will meet **every other Thursday from 7:00-7:45 a.m.** in Memorial Hall. No previous Bible study experience is necessary and new folks are always welcome. Each session stands alone, so come when you can.

Attention Young Adults

This summer 20- and 30-somethings are invited to meet us at Pastor Rachel's house, 166 Berlin Avenue, Southington on **Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m.** for friends, fun, and faith. On July 18 and 25, we will meet at Noodles & Co. as usual.

Broadway Sermon Series

"Faith & Broadway" will be the focus during our August worship services using the themes of Broadway musicals patterned around a sermon which is based upon that particular musical. We will enjoy hearing from different performers and the services will contain songs and music from the following musicals.

August 6—Floyd Collins

August 13—Dear Evan Hansen

August 20—Groundhog Day

August 27— Violet

September 3—Wicked

July - August Worship at FCC

Worship at 8:00 and 10:00 a.m.

July 16: Sixth Sunday After Pentecost

8:00 a.m. Chapel Communion

10:00 a.m. Traditional Worship

The Rev. Rachel J. Bahr, preaching

July 23: Seventh Sunday After Pentecost

8:00 a.m. Chapel Communion

10:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship

Lisa Eleck, guest preacher

July 30: Eighth Sunday After Pentecost

8:00 a.m. Chapel Communion

10:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship

Rev. Jill Olds, guest preacher

Aug 6: Ninth Sunday After Pentecost

8:00 a.m. Chapel Communion

10:00 a.m. Traditional Worship

The Rev. Rachel J. Bahr, preaching

Aug 13: Tenth Sunday After Pentecost

8:00 a.m. Chapel Communion

10:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship

The Rev. Rachel J. Bahr, preaching

Aug 20: Eleventh Sunday After Pentecost

8:00 a.m. Chapel Communion

10:00 a.m. Traditional Worship

The Rev. Rachel J. Bahr, preaching

Aug 27: Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost

8:00 a.m. Chapel Communion

10:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship

The Rev. Rachel J. Bahr, preaching

Visit FCCSouthington.org/worship-this-week for the most up-to-date info about worship services.

BULLETIN BOARD

Southington Historic Ornament

The Southington Historical Society has Christmas ornaments available for purchase which feature our beloved church. Cost is \$15 each. Stop by outside Pastor Ron's office to see the ornament and sign up to get yours.

FCC Annual Tag Sale

Thank you to Sandy DiStefano, James Sorrentino, Joan Salamon and Carol Sheffs for volunteering to coordinate our annual tag sale this year. We are looking for a team captain for toys. Responsibilities include pricing the items in these areas and setting up their display. The effort involved will depend on how many donations we have, but volunteers for these positions should plan to be present most nights during the week before the tag sale, Aug 14 - 18. Questions? Please contact Carol Sheffs 860-919-1388 or missernie@cox.net.



We will begin collecting items on **August 6**. (No clothes or stuffed animals, please.) Stay tuned for more information on how to volunteer to help us with this great fundraiser!

Village Green Nursery School...

is now accepting registrations for the 2017-18 school year. We offer a MWF program for 4 year-olds and a T/Th class for 3 year-olds. The school day is from 9-12 with an Extended Day option for 4-year-olds (1½ hours longer with a focus on kindergarten readiness.) VGNS is dedicated to providing a caring, supportive and developmentally appropriate environment, offering a wide variety of activities designed to reflect each child's interest and abilities. Visit vgns.org for more info. Call Shannon Knudsen, Director, with questions or to schedule a tour (860-628-6958 x.13) vgnsstaff@gmail.com.

Morning Women's Group

There will be no August meeting. Stay tuned for information about our September meeting. Call Bev Ryan at 860-666-8874 with questions.

Church Council Meeting

There will be no July Council meeting. Stay tuned for information about an August meeting.

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.

Keep Up with FCC News:

Subscribe to our e-newsletters. Lots of options including weekly and monthly updates, church school, spiritual formation, youth news, Peace Café and many more. Visit eepurl.com/iz4HM and enter your email address (or send a note to the church office.) Then be sure to add happenings@fccsouthington.org to your email Contacts so that emails will come to your inbox (and not your spam folder.)

Game Night for Adults returns

Friday, September 15
7:00 p.m.



Volunteers Needed for Apple Harvest Festival

As our church's biggest fundraiser, we need scores of volunteers to assist with advance preparation and to work during the festival itself. Please mark your calendar now and plan to pitch in a few hours of your time while getting to know some of the folks in our church family. We look forward to working with you!

EFF Annual Dinner-Dance

Mark your calendars now! The Ecuador Foundation Fund will be hosting its annual dinner-dance to benefit the girls of Fundacion Sor Dominga Bocca on **Friday, October 13, 2017** at Testa's in Southington.

Help with Annual Tag Sale

We are looking for one more team captain for our toy section. Responsibilities include pricing the items in these areas and setting up their display. The effort involved will depend on how many donations we have, but this volunteer should plan to be present most nights during the week before the tag sale, Aug 14 - 18. Questions? Please contact Carol Sheffs: 860-919-1388 or missernie@cox.net.

Family Promise Training Session

A new volunteer training session will be held on **Tuesday, August 1 at 6:30 p.m.** at South Church, 90 Main Street, New Britain. Folks who are interested in volunteering for Family Promise must receive training prior to their volunteering. Please email Becca at becca.hasko@gmail.com or call the church office at 860-628-6958 to let us know if you plan to attend this session.

Save These Dates:

Jul 16—23	Family Promise Host Week
Jul 20	American Red Cross Blood Drive
Aug 1	Family Promise Training Session
Aug 6	Begin collecting items for Tag Sale (no clothing or stuffed animals)
Aug 7—11	Bread for Life Volunteer Week
Aug 19	Annual Tag Sale
Aug 21	Church Council Meeting
Aug 29	Safe Conduct Training Session
Aug 31	Safe Conduct Training Session
Sep 6	Safe Conduct Training Session
Sep 10	Rally Day Worship at YMCA Camp Sloper
Sep 17	Official Church School Year Kick-Off
Sep 29—Oct 8	Apple Harvest Festival

Check our online calendar any time at fccsouthington.org/events.

Missions



Quilt Group

We meet **every other Wednesday** from **10:00 – noon** in **air-conditioned 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: July 19 (in Memorial Hall), Aug 2, 16, and 30 in room 201/2

Bread for Life Volunteer Week

Our volunteer week will be **August 7–11**.

We need two volunteers (age 16 or older) from 10:00 a.m.–

12:30 p.m. to prepare bagged lunches, set up the meal, serve and clean up. Please sign up outside Pastor Ron's office. Thank you!



Tab Tops

We're still collecting aluminum can tab tops for the Shiners' Hospitals for Children. Please bring your tabs to the jar outside the Christian Education office or the basket in Memorial Hall.

Prayer Circle

Tuesday afternoons at 4:00 p.m. in the Parlor

All are invited to 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.



Food Pantry Donations

The food pantry at Southington Community Services is always in need of donations: Peanut butter, Jelly, Canned goods (vegetables, fruit, tuna, soup, pasta), Instant potatoes/rice, Pasta/egg noodles, Spaghetti sauce, Boxed macaroni and cheese, Baked beans, Cold cereal boxes, hot oatmeal, Coffee/tea, Individually packaged snacks, and juice pouches or juice boxes. Please leave non-perishable items in the Hope chest located in the Narthex at the front of the church. Thank you for helping those in need!

From Mike Ericsson

Mike's sister, Chrissy, had successful surgery and the cancer was gone. Praise God and thank you for all your prayers!

Mike and Linda Ericsson

Caring Ministry

Our next Caring Ministry meeting will be **Monday, September 18 at 10:00 a.m.** Anyone interested in bringing a little of our church to folks who can't come to us is welcome to attend! Please call Carolyn Mansolf with questions, **860-621-5082**.

Meal Ministry for you or a church member who is going through a difficult time, surgery, etc. Please call Polly Sauer, 860-628-0607.

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 Diana Sheard, 860-793-2765.

Church School News

The Kids Said It!

I'd like to offer a special show of appreciation for all of the Children's Ministry workers and church family who have guided our children this past year. You might not see what a difference you've made, but you definitely have touched young lives. You all witnessed on Children's Day and Confirmation Sunday that our kids' hearts and minds have grown on their faith journeys and that they appreciate what you in our church family do for them. Working with children and youth just might be one of the most important things that you can do in your lives and it is wonderful to see that our Christian Education program is not just teaching about the Bible, but actually transforming their lives. Our Faith Formation team encourages acceptance, tolerance, forgiveness and love and our kids are blessed to be in a church family that reflects all that and more. And that's why we keep doing this – to see the awe in a child's face when they participate in communion – to watch a child pray, even when dressed in a costume or a big red clown nose. We are so grateful for a church family that encourages and includes children in worship. Let the little children come and bring their parents! See you this summer!

~ *Karlene and Carole*

Church School Calendar

We are having summer church school at the 10:00 service for children in 3rd – 8th grades. We'll cover the stories of Isaac and Rebekah to Exodus while also concentrating on learning responsible social media behavior. On the first Sundays in August and September the children will stay in church to partake of communion, the rest of the Sundays they'll meet in the air-conditioned room 201/202 after the children's sermon.

July 16, 23, 30: church school for grades 3-8

Aug 6: children stay in church to participate in Communion

Aug 13, 20, 27: church school for grades 3-8

Sept 3: children stay in church to participate in Communion

Early September: Church school registration letters will be sent; if you haven't received your letter by September 8th please contact Carole at carole@fccsouthington.org.

Safe Conduct Training Sessions

Full Training: Everyone who works with the youth of our church must participate in a Safe Conduct training session, and have a background and reference checks. If you have not already gone through the training, you'll need to attend a 90 minute session. We are offering training sessions on August 29 and August 31 (you only need to attend one session) from 7:00 – 8:30 in room 201/202. You can sign up by going to [SignUp.com](https://signup.com/go/15EX19) using the following link: signup.com/go/15EX19 or email Carole at carole@fccsouthington.org. Please bring the name, address, and phone number of two non-related references to the training session.

Refresher Training: Carole will notify you if you have previously been trained and it's time for you to participate in refresher training this year. Thank you for helping to keep our children safe!

“Southington Youth Charged with Nude Pictures on Cell Phone”

Perhaps you were stunned by this headline in a local newspaper regarding middle schoolers in Southington. Maybe you are a parent who has already had many difficult conversations with your middle schooler (or high schooler), and wish you were more prepared to guide conversations with your youth about moral and ethical values related to sex and sexuality. First Congregational Church of Southington has a history of offering young people and their families age-appropriate curriculum. It's called “Our Whole Lives.”

“Our Whole Lives Sexuality Education” and “Sexuality and Our Faith” curricula are refreshing, bold antidotes to a culture that is conflicted about sexuality and, therefore, saturated with mixed messages and misinformation. The curricula provide an opportunity to step back, reflect, and evaluate these messages, so that participants and their families can more effectively act on and communicate their religious and sexual values. Our Whole Lives and Sexuality and Our Faith create a partnership between the family and faith community, and they help parents fulfill their role as their children's primary educators. The curricula support and nurture four sexuality values: Self Worth, Sexual Health, Responsibility, and Justice and Inclusivity. Participants learn how to embody these values in their own decision making and relationships and how to support others' efforts to do so.

Our religious heritages in the United Church of Christ and the Unitarian Universalist Association compel us to create safe settings where people can come to understand and respond to the challenges facing them as sexual beings. As faith communities, we promote justice for all people, and we affirm the dignity of every individual, the importance of personal responsibility, and the interdependence of us all.

The program and its companion, Sexuality and Our Faith, provide an opportunity for children, youth, and adults to learn about sexuality in the affirming and supportive setting of our religious communities. When used without Sexuality and Our Faith, Our Whole Lives is an excellent option for schools, other faith traditions, community-serving organizations, and at-home schooling.

Each level of Our Whole Lives curriculum offers:

Trained leaders, Parent orientation programs that engage parents in the sexuality education of their children, United Church of Christ materials incorporating worship and religious values into the program, Up-to-date information and candid answers to all participants' questions, activities to help participants clarify values and improve decision-making skills, effective group-building to create a safe and supportive peer environment, education about sexual abuse, exploitation and harassment, opportunities to critique media messages about gender and sexuality, and acceptance of diversity and encouragement to act for justice.

Information sessions about Our Wholes Lives will be held on **Sundays, August 27, September 24, October 22** after the contemporary worship service, **at 12:30pm** in Peace Café. Come and ask questions, and learn about this fabulous ministry. We welcome parents from FCC Southington as well as members from the community to attend.

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
37 Main Street
Southington, CT 06489

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE—PAID
SOUTHINGTON, CT 06489
PERMIT NO. 17



Annual

giant

tag sale!

Saturday, August 19
9am – 2pm

Plan ahead and get those attics and basements cleaned out!
You may bring your treasures to Peace Café beginning
Sunday, August 6 or weekdays from 9am – 1pm.
or call Carol Sheffs at 860-919-1388 to make other arrangements.

NO CLOTHING OR STUFFED TOYS PLEASE!

HELP NEEDED!

As always, there's lots to be done to prepare for the tag sale and clean-up after. We need your help to make this church fundraiser a success. If you can help during the week, before or during the tag sale, even a couple of hours, please contact Carol at 860-919-1288.