

# FaithWorks

Volume 57 Issue 5

June 2017

## Senior Pastor's Corner

I was ordained to Christian ministry in 1985, when I was only 24 years old. I knew everything and nothing about the church. I will never forget the day I moved into my first "Pastor's Study" (aka office) at Parma Greece United Church of Christ in the suburbs of Rochester, New York. I emptied the last box of books and placed them neatly on the shelf, I sat down in the chair behind the desk, and that is when panic struck. What do I do now?

Pretty soon the phone rang, and I started working on my sermon for Sunday, and I stopped by the hospital to visit someone who had surgery the day before—I managed to figure out what was next—but to this day I often sit at my desk absolutely amazed that I get to do this for a living, and I thank God for calling me to this work. I love being a pastor.

Over these last thirty-two years, however, the church has changed dramatically. Ministry has changed dramatically. Often that change is hard, and confusing. It has inspired me to offer a special sermon series this summer called:

### ***Back to Basics: Christianity 101***

On four consecutive Sundays, my sermons will explore basic concepts of Christian faith as outlined by the [United Church of Christ Statement of Faith](#).

**June 18:** *We believe in God—[Genesis 1](#)*

**June 26:** *In Jesus Christ, God has come to us and shared our common lot—[Philippians 2:1-11](#)*

**July 2:** *God bestows upon us the Holy Spirit—[Acts 10:34-48](#)*

**July 9:** *God calls us into the church—[John 21](#)*

Facing the new challenges of being the church often requires us to get back to the basics. I hope you will join me this summer as we explore the foundation of our Christian faith.

Eastertide 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](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

Senior Pastor	Rev. Dr. Ronald B. Brown
Associate Pastor	Rev. Rachel J. Bahr
Minister of Music	John R. Parsons
T.G.I. Sunday	Steve Nyren
Music Coordinators	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



We pray for

- the friends and family of Josephine Dorzens who passed away on (4/28).
- Sandy DiStefano and family grieving the death of her mother.

Continued prayers for Patricia Germaine, Anne Smith (Joanne Kelleher's mother), John Noble, Reny (Irene) Janelle, Judy Orofino, Angelina Bartoldo (Kris Bates' mother-in-law), Jessica Lagassey, Ruth Smith, Diane Cayer, Pat Germaine, Carolyn Mansolf, Barbara Hungerford, DJ Festa, Tracey Gabree, Bryan, Peggy Thibodeau, Todd Lawson, Fran Sperry, Diana Putnam, Mary Bugbee, Carolyn Beadle, Betsy Roberts, our Stephen Ministers and care-receivers, and Caring Ministry team and friends.



## Summer Worship Hours

From **July 2 through September 3**, we will have two worship services each Sunday. Our 8:00 a.m. service will be the usual chapel communion service. Our 10:00 a.m. service will alternate between a traditional style and contemporary style. [Please see page 10](#) of this newsletter for more details.

## Happy Father's Day!

**Sunday, June 18**



## Thank You to...

- Our May Bread for Life volunteers: Shirley Campbell, Mary Carter, Michelle Dozier, Christine Dzierlatka, Michael and Linda Ericsson, Jarvis Lord, and Beverly Ryan.
- All who volunteered and purchased tickets for the EFF Pancake and Egg Breakfast which raised over \$1100 for the girls in Ecuador.
- John Parsons who organized the Roots' and Gallery Singers' trip to St. Bart's for Even-song. It was another beautiful and memorable day! Thanks to Pastors Ron and Rachel who stepped in to serve as clergy in the service! And to everyone who supported the April BOMA Bake Sale! \$364.75 was collected to help pay for our transportation. Thank you!
- All the allies who showed up in support of the GLSEN Safe Schools Summit!
- As always to our faithful bulletin and newsletter folders!



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## From Bonnie Perry

Dear Church Family,  
Thank you so much for the cards and lovely flowers. They really brightened my recovery time. Hope to see you all in church very soon.

Thanks again,  
*Bonnie*

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## From Sandy DiStefano

To everyone who thought of me in their hearts and prayers, my sincere thanks to all of you who thought of me at the time of my mom's death. I sincerely appreciate it.

Fondly,  
*Sandy*

## From Karlene Archambeault

Dear Church Family,  
Thank you so much for the wonderful honor and tribute to my 25 years as Christian Education Director. I was so touched and surprised that you could arrange it all without me having a clue! This church and children's ministry is my passion and I am honored that you have all loved and supported me and my sometimes "out of the box" creativity! Leading the children and teachers is easy when we have such creative, dedicated teachers and enthusiastic, willing children to work with.

All my love and appreciation,  
*Karlene*

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## From Beverly Ryan

I would like to thank Rose Dunlap, Meredith Mann and Maureen Lyon for nominating me to receive the Christian Service Award through Church Women United. Like everyone at our church, we are so lucky to have such an active church where there are so many things, big and small, we can choose to do to make our church what it is. I also want to thank all from our church who attended the celebration dinner. I am so blessed to be a part of a wonderful church and church family.

*Beverly*

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## From Patricia Germaine

Dear Church Family,  
Thank you for all your prayers and kindness. I appreciate all the cards. I hope to be back soon.

Love,  
*Patricia*

## 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. We will continue watching and discussing the PBS documentary series, [Ancient Roads from Christ to Constantine](#). This series explores the beautiful and important historical places where Christianity was born and grew from a small movement called “The Way” to its place as the official religion of the Roman Empire. Join us on **Thursdays, June 1, 15, and 29 from 7:00-7:45 a.m.** in Memorial Hall. We can’t promise any answers, but we have a great time and learn a lot from exploring the questions. No previous Bible study experience is necessary and new folks are always welcome. Each session stands alone, so come when you can.

### **Between Us:**

#### Women’s Online Faith Community

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](#).

### **Attention Young Adults**

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

## **June-July Worship at FCC**

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

### **June 4: Pentecost—Confirmation Sunday**

8:00am Chapel Communion

10:00am Combined Worship

The Rev. Rachel J. Bahr, preaching

### **June 11: Trinity Sunday**

The Rev. Dr. Ronald B. Brown, preaching

### **June 18: Second Sunday After Pentecost**

The Rev. Dr. Ronald B. Brown, preaching

### **June 25: Third Sunday After Pentecost**

The Rev. Dr. Ronald B. Brown, preaching



### **July 2: Fourth Sunday After Pentecost**

8:00 a.m. Chapel Communion

10:00 a.m. Traditional Worship

The Rev. Dr. Ronald B. Brown, preaching

### **July 9: Fifth Sunday After Pentecost**

8:00 a.m. Chapel Communion

10:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship

The Rev. Dr. Ronald B. Brown, preaching

### **July 16: Sixth Sunday After Pentecost**

8:00 a.m. Chapel Communion

10:00 a.m. Traditional Worship

The Rev. Rachel J. Bahr, preaching

Visit [FCCSouthington.org/worship-this-week](https://www.fccsouthington.org/worship-this-week) for the most up-to-date info about worship services.

## BULLETIN BOARD

### Weekly and Monthly News

Do you receive our weekly and/or monthly newsletters? Email [happenings@fccsouthington.org](mailto:happenings@fccsouthington.org) to be added to our list and be sure to add this to your Contacts so that emails will come to your inbox (and not your spam folder.) We also have church school, racial justice, Peace Café, Steeple Players and Spiritual Formation newsletters, so please let us know if these interest you as well.

**Our church office will be closed on  
Tuesday, July 4, 2017**



### Shopping at Patrick Baker & Sons?

Mention our church's name at the register (or if you are buying on the web, enter **22610** in the Church Code box on the checkout page) and they will credit our church account with 10% of the purchase amount. Thank you for remembering FCC!

### Morning Women's Group

We will meet **Tuesday, June 13 at 11:30 a.m.** at Spartan II Restaurant at 930 Meriden-Waterbury Tpke for our end-of-year luncheon. All women are invited! Our annual sticky bun meeting will be on **Tuesday, July 11** at Faith's house. Call Bev Ryan at 860-666-8874 with questions.

### Church Council Meeting

Our meetings are suspended for the summer and will resume in September.

### 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.

### From Joan Lucas Fenn

Thank you to the congregation for your cards, wishes, prayers and thoughts during my journey to recovery.

Love,  
Joan

### Ecclesiastical Council for Lisa Eleck

At the request of Rocky Hill Congregational Church, and upon recommendation of the Committee on Church and Ministry (COCAM) of the Hartford Association of the Connecticut Conference UCC an Ecclesiastical Council is now called to examine Lisa M. Eleck for Ordination into Ministry of the United Church of Christ. You are cordially invited to the Ecclesiastical Council for Lisa M. Eleck on **Sunday, June 4, 2017 at 3:30 p.m.** at Rocky Hill Congregational Church, 805 Old Main Street, Rocky Hill, CT 06067. Parking is in the rear of the church and on the street.

### Summer Newsletter

This summer, our newsletter will be published on July 15 and not again until September 1. Please plan to send your group/committee's news to [happenings@fccsouthington.org](mailto:happenings@fccsouthington.org) by **Thursday, July 6**. Thank you!

### Summer Office Hours

July 3—Sept 1:

Monday—Thursday, 9am—1pm

# Middle School and High School Honors:

## Grade 6

Juliana Aulbach  
Tyler Blumetti  
Lincoln Cardillo  
DJ Festa  
Makenzie LeBarron  
Morgan LeBarron  
Jamie Leggett  
Nicholas Halloran  
Mikalyn Mirisola  
Timothy Nivison  
Michael Putnam  
Natalie Salerno  
Anna Shamus-Udicious  
Caitlyn Sheldrick  
Sydney Valarose  
Benjamin Vroeginday

## Grade 7

Allison Bradshaw  
Brendan Garvey  
Owen Huard  
Abigail LeBarron  
Neya Mulrooney  
Nicole Mulrooney  
Victoria Scavone

## Grade 8

Olivia Blumetti  
Amanda Boan  
Joshua Budnik  
Avery Halloran  
Brianna Lanci  
Jackson Sullivan  
Andrew Vroeginday

## Grade 9

Alyssa Aulbach  
Tara Brock  
Emma Brush  
Trinity Cardillo  
Alexa Chaltas  
Abbey Halloran  
Jenna Massi  
Emily Nivison  
Caprina Pugliese  
Francesca Scavone  
Ella Shamus-Udicious  
Christopher Taylor  
Hunter Valarose

## Grade 10

Haley Andrews  
Sydney Bradshaw  
Jason Brault  
Kevin Gabree  
Samantha Gabree  
Lydia Gambacini  
Jonathon Rossi  
Aliya Sarris  
Gabriella Verderame-Malachowski

## Grade 11

Katarina Aulbach  
Cole Brock  
Timothy Budnik  
Connor Brush  
Elizabeth Cassan  
Sophia Chaltas  
Julia Dietz  
Molly Dobratz  
Katelyn Ierardi  
Andrew Lohneiss  
Benjamin Palmer  
Keegan Smith  
Benjamin Wakefield

## Grade 12 Graduates and honors

Emma Cook  
Christian Crowley  
Jack DePaolo-Boisvert  
Lindsay Dzierlatka  
Kata Erdei  
Brianna Gambacini  
Samuel Johnson  
Samantha Jones  
Amanda Lavoie  
Joshua Palmer  
Megan Walsh

## Will attend:

Boston College  
University of Hartford  
Cheshire Academy  
  
Simmelweis University (Budapest, Hungary)  
University of Connecticut  
Sacred Heart University  
  
University of Tampa  
Utica College  
University of Connecticut



## FCC News

### Director of Music Search Update

A search committee appointed by the Church Council has completed work on a position description for our Director of Music Ministries and has reviewed applications and audition recordings. Several interviews and auditions have been scheduled. It is the search committee's hope to have a new Director of Music Ministries ready to begin on September 1. During the summer, Connie Scavone and the Rev. Glenn Halverson, who have often been substitute musicians at FCC in the past, will lead music for our traditional worship services.

Members of the search committee include, Andy Lees (chair), Patty Nichols (secretary), Merrily Lacombe, Tim Johnson, Jeannie Norton, Jennifer Stroop, Sharon Vocke, and Pastor Ron Brown. The committee welcomes your questions.

### Celebration for John Parsons

John's final worship service as our Minister of Music will be **June 11 at 9:30 a.m.** The service will honor John's faithful ministry by being just that, faith-filled worship with beautiful hymns, anthems and organ music.

Then, at **4:00 p.m. on June 11**, we will gather in the meetinghouse for a celebration of John's ministry. The celebration will be followed by a dinner in John's honor in Memorial Hall sponsored by the Board of Deacons. Everyone is invited to attend the worship service, the afternoon celebration and the dinner. Tickets are free and are required for the dinner. **Get yours by June 4** from the church office or in Memorial Hall after worship.



### College Graduates and Dean's Lists

Jennifer Accuosti	University of Hartford	B.A. in Sociology
Hawley Brown	Tufts University	
Lydia Brown	Ithaca College	
Colin Daigle	Albertus Magnus College	M.S. in Accounting
Ryan Daigle	University of Maryland	B.S. in Kinesiology
Joseph DePaolo-Boisvert	Worcester Polytechnical Institute	
Stephanie Dzierlatka	Naugatuck Community College	
Joseph Enright	North Carolina State University	B.S. in Textile Engineering
Jason Hasko	Wentworth Institute of Technology	B.S. in Architecture
Gail Huckins	Cornell University (Veterinary School)	Doctor of Veterinary Medicine
Tad Meissner	University of Florida	B.A. in Mathematics
Zachary Palmer	Southern New Hampshire University	B.S. in Game Development
Hannah Sheard	University of New Haven	Master's in Criminal Justice
Sarah Zimmerman	Quinnipiac University	Master's in Occup. Therapy



# Standing Up!

## Stephen Ministry

In order to become a Stephen Minister a long training process must be completed. At our 9:30 a.m. service on June 18, two FCC members will be commissioned as Stephen Ministers. Congratulations to Christie and Fred Kuriger.

Stephen Ministry Leadership Training is an engaging week of learning, discovery, worship, relationship building, and catching a vision for all that Stephen Ministry can be for our congregation. We celebrate that Laurie Lynch will be attending Leadership Training in Orlando, FL from June 11 – 17.



## Calling All Golfers!

Bread for Life invites you to their inaugural golf tournament on **Thursday, July 20** at Hawk's Landing Country Club. Memorial and honorary tee sponsorships are available to recognize

someone special. All proceeds will benefit Bread for

Life's mission to ensure that no one goes hungry in our community. Call 860-276-8389 or visit [www.southingtonbreadforlife.org](http://www.southingtonbreadforlife.org) for more details.



## Family Promise: A Safe Place for Families Experiencing Homelessness

Thank you to all our volunteers from First Congregational Church of Southington, Gishrei Shalom Jewish Congregation, and Plantsville Congregational! Your time, talent, and hospitality made our host week of Family Promise possible. Another thank you to all the folks who donated bedding, food, games, bedside tables, lights, and much more! Our loving and caring family truly appreciates each and every one of you. Lisa and Becca want to extend their thanks to our team of coordinators: Justin Krom, Patty Nichols, DJ Lavoie, Beth Barnes, John Mulrooney, Barbara Nati, and Dawn Gambacini.

FCC Southington is now preparing for our second week as Host Church for Family Promise of Central CT (FPCC), an organization that utilizes places of worship to host children and families experiencing homelessness. Host Churches serve as the foundation for FPCC by becoming temporary homes to meet basic human needs for safe shelter, nourishment, and positive relationships with other people.

**Our second host week is July 16-23.**



As a host church, we need your help to welcome families in need of emergency shelter. Volunteer jobs include: room set-up (cots), cooking food for dinner, getting to know the families after dinner, helping with homework, providing overnight support, assisting with setting up breakfast, packing lunches and laundry service.

Please mark your calendars for our second week of Family Promise happening July 16-23! Questions? Please contact Becca Hasko at [becca.hasko@gmail.com](mailto:becca.hasko@gmail.com).



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

As was announced last month, the Board of Deacons and Pastor Ron decided to change the worship schedule for the Sundays of summer. From July 2 through September 3 there will be two worship services each Sunday morning, at 8:00 and 10:00. We will use traditional hymns and special music for the 10:00 a.m. worship services on July 2, July 16, August 6, August 20 and September 3. Our contemporary worship band, Branches, will lead the music on July 9, July 23, July 30, August 13 and August 27. Except for the first Sundays of the month when we will have a traditional communion service, we will celebrate communion by intinction each week.

## Annual Reports and Meeting

This year our annual meeting will be held on **Monday, June 12 at 7:00 p.m. in the meeting-house.** Annual Reports will be available as of June 1 on our church website: [FCCSouthington.org](http://FCCSouthington.org), in the weekly e-newsletter, and on the credenza outside the church office.

If you would like to reserve a printed copy, please call the church office at 860-628-6958 or email [office@fccsouthington.org](mailto:office@fccsouthington.org).



## Family Promise Training

**Our next host week will be July 16-23.**

Please consider participating. It's a great feeling! Sign-ups will be coming out in late June. Visit [FCCSouthington.org/share#fpcc](http://FCCSouthington.org/share#fpcc) for more info. Each volunteer who may interact with the family must receive training. If you have not already, we hope you will attend the volunteer training session on **Sunday, June 11 from 1:00pm - 3:00pm at Mill Pond Church, 2175 Berlin Tpke, Newington.** Please RSVP to [Becca.hasko@gmail.com](mailto:Becca.hasko@gmail.com) or call the office if you plan to attend this training session.

## Save These Dates:

Sunday, Jun 4	Hot Potato Fundraiser (after 8am and 10am worship services)
Sunday, Jun 4	Confirmation Sunday (10:00 a.m. combined service)
Tuesday, Jun 6	Teacher Appreciation Dinner
Friday, Jun 9	Parents & Tots Movie Night
Sunday, Jun 11	John Parsons' Retirement Celebration
Monday, Jun 12	Annual Meeting
Sunday, Jun 18	Stephen Ministry Sunday (9:30 service)
Sunday, Jul 2	Summer Worship Hours Begin (8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.)
Tuesday, Jul 4	Church Office Closed—Fourth of July
Jul 10—14	Girls Rock Camp (9am-12pm in Peace Café)
Jul 16—23	Family Promise Host Week

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

## Apple Harvest Festival:

Sept 29 – Oct 1 and Oct 6-8, 2017

Would you like to help out during The Apple Harvest Festival? This is our church's BIGGEST fundraiser of the year and we need all hands on deck to make it successful! This summer, we will feature descriptions of some volunteer roles available:



**Counter Help Inside**—Serves items that customers purchase (Apple crisp, soup, pretzels), Replenishes coffee and tea supplies as needed, Checks to make sure water and ice cream stays stocked, Keeps their area clean and tidy, Prices baked items if needed.

**Kitchen Helper**—Mixes and bakes Apple Crisp, scoops food items onto serving plates, Assists inside and outside counter help with supplies as needed, Keeps coffee supply adequate, Washes dishes as needed, Keeps the kitchen clean.

## Hospitality at Music on the Green

First Congregational Church will once again be offering extravagant hospitality, in the form of free lemonade, to people attending Music on the Green. These free concerts are held **every Wednesday night from 7 to 9 pm from May 31 to September 6** with a rain date of Thursday. Two to three volunteers are needed each night to set up around 6:15 and then serve the lemonade while enjoying the show. This is a great family activity. Look for a sign-up sheet in Memorial Hall or contact Joanne Kelleher at [joannekelleher@hotmail.com](mailto:joannekelleher@hotmail.com).

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## Pastor Ron to Complete His Sabbatical during July and August

As part of our ongoing support for our pastors, FCC offers a three-month sabbatical for every five years of pastoral service. Pastor Ron was originally eligible for this benefit in January 2016, and had planned to take the sabbatical last summer, but he chose to delay his time away because of the many staff transitions our church experienced during 2016. He took the first month of the sabbatical during January 2017 and had planned to complete the sabbatical in June and July. With John Parsons' retirement on June 15 and the search for a new Director Music Ministries, The Board of Deacons and Pastor Ron decided to delay the sabbatical time once again. Pastor Ron will be on sabbatical from **July 10- September 4**. Pastor Rachel will provide coverage during the sabbatical, and we may even have a guest preacher or two.



# Welcome to Our Newest Members!

**Rosemary Garnett** was born in Portland, Maine and grew up in Plainville, CT, then moved to Southington in 1983. She was brought up in the Catholic faith and has been married since 1991. She has a son, Aaron, who lives in Phoenix, Arizona along with two beautiful grandchildren, Cameryn and Brady. She is a legal assistant at the Law Firm of McGivney & Kluger, P.C. in Hartford Connecticut. Her interests are traveling, being with family and friends, working out, especially spinning classes at the YMCA, and she also enjoys water sports. She feels blessed to have found this church, and is looking forward to being a member.

**Robert Kern** grew up in Southington. He currently lives in New Britain, CT. Attended Avon Old Farms high school in Avon, CT. He is a manufacturing supervisor with Stanley Black & Decker in New Britain, CT. Robert and his wife Katie, have two children, Addison and Matthew. He has been involved in the manufacturing industry in CT for the last 12 years. He enjoys spending time with family, classic cars, auto racing along with various other sports, and is an avid music fan as well as musician.

**Amy Webb** grew up in Darien, CT and moved to Southington in 1999. She has a B.A from Carleton College and an M.M in Music Education from Manhattan School of Music. She has one son, Steve Mower, and several Malawian God-children. Amy taught elementary music for many years and currently gives private piano lessons. She enjoys travel, movies, animals, and spending time with young children. She is in training to become a healthcare chaplain. "The journey of faith is an exciting one!"

**Sarah Ebaugh** lives in Southington with her husband Trevor and their 6 year old daughter Zoey. She has been employed by the American Red Cross since 2005, and currently works as a Biomedical Process Support Associate. Sarah has always felt a strong connection with church and was an active member in her previous church's youth choir growing up. Sarah's hobbies include spending time with her family, singing, and making people laugh, but feels her biggest accomplishment and most blessed gift is her daughter Zoey.

**David Freer and Carla Teixeira** were recently married (May of 2017) creating a blended family of two boys and two girls. Dave is originally from the Syracuse, NY area and Carla grew up in Waterbury, CT and both have had successful careers with the Travelers Insurance company for many years. Dave enjoys golfing and spending time with friends. Carla enjoys hiking, reading – but they both mostly enjoy spending time with each other and with their family.

**Joshua and Shannon Stedman** have been married for 3.5 years and live in Southington with their 3 month old daughter, Hannah and 3 year old black lab mix, Zoe. Shannon and Josh enjoy tennis, golf, and hiking together and look forward to teaching Hannah those things when she is a little bit older. Shannon also attends yoga classes regularly and Josh is a huge fan of the Miami Dolphins. Shannon grew up in Milford, CT and graduated from the University of Rhode Island. She works for CoWorx Staffing Services as a Selling Branch Manager although she is currently enjoying her maternity leave. Josh grew up in the air force so he has lived in many states but spent much of his later childhood in Louisville, KY. He moved to CT after he graduated college to work for Pratt and Whitney as a Mechanical Engineer. Since then he has transferred to the finance department and is still with the company.

**Erin Byrne** grew up in Trumbull, CT and moved to Cheshire in 2010. She lives with her husband Dave and two children, Kayla (14) and Connor (18 months) as well as a five year old Golden Retriever/Cocker Spaniel mix rescue dog named Mulligan. Erin works as a Program Director at a non-profit agency serving at-risk and delinquent youth in the New Britain community. She has a Master's degree in Forensic Mental Health Counseling and is a Licensed Professional Counselor in CT. She enjoys playing soccer and golf, watching her daughter play soccer and run track in addition to spending time with family and friends.

**Karen Barna** was born in Pennsylvania and moved to Connecticut when she was 15. She is one of ten children and enjoys a close relationship with her siblings. She moved to Southington in 2011 and was married to Mary Carter in June of 2012 here at FCC. Karen started her career as a staff nurse at the Community Mental Health Center in New Haven. She continued her education receiving a Master's Degree in nursing in 1989 from Yale University and was a certified APRN in psychiatric mental health nursing. In 2000, Karen began working at River Valley Services in Middletown as a program director. She retired from state service in 2013 after 31 years. She enjoys her retirement by attending programs at the Y and the Library, walking their dog Zoe, volunteering at FCC, being with friends, reading, and spending time together at home.

**Michael and Linda Ericsson** grew up and were married in Erie, Pennsylvania and are still in puppy love after 48 years. Ten years ago they moved to Southington from Cincinnati after having lived in six other states. They are the parents of two grown sons, Todd and Carl. Last April Michael retired from FirstGroup and they have enjoyed the opportunity to travel. Linda is a retired nurse who did a stint at Starbucks as a barista after her first retirement. They are looking forward to fitness, service,

# Welcome to Our Newest Members!

**Meghan and Jason Montana** have been married for 5 years and live in Waterbury with their son Aiden. Jay is a Landscaper at S&R Landscape Construction, and Meghan works as a Business Analyst at AT&T. Aiden is in 1st grade, loves drawing and karate, and spends his time with both Meghan and Jay, and his mom in Meriden. The family is transferring their membership from Rocky Hill Connecticut where they were active members on the Missions and Trustee Boards, Search Committees, and at UCC conferences. Meghan and Jay are both avid foodies and love to find new places to eat and travel. Jay has a passion for building small models and gardening. Meghan is an amateur blogger/writer, and the Founder and CEO of a small non-profit called One Breath, One Hope Inc.

**The Rev. Dr. Claire Bamberg** grew up in Orange, CT and has served churches all over New England and in Indiana. She moved back to Connecticut in 2004 to serve as the Executive Director of the Pastoral Counseling Center in West Hartford. She has most recently served as the settled minister in Plainville, CT, leaving there in May of 2016 to become a Senior Consultant and the national Director of Coaching with The Center for Progressive Renewal (CPR). She has a BA degree in Religion (Honors) and French, an M.Div. in Applied Theology from Harvard Divinity School, and a D.Min. in Pastoral Care and Counseling from Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis, IN. She lives in West Simsbury and has six adult children (step-children, biological children and adopted children), spread all over the country, and two dogs. She enjoys singing, basket weaving, quilting, gardening and reading - and she looks forward to the day when she will be able to enjoy these things regularly again. Right now, she is traveling for her work with CPR.

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## Has Your Life Been Touched by Cancer?

We invite you to join our team at Relay for Life: **FCC Team Sunshine!** Relay for Life will be held **Friday, June 2 – 3, 2017** at Southington High School. Adults and youth are invited to join us (youth must have an adult sponsor present at the event.) Call Sandi Reed at 860-620-0087 or email Cynthia Enright at [ccenright@yahoo.com](mailto:ccenright@yahoo.com) to sign up or with questions. There is no fee to join the team. Suggested donation is \$10. You can also donate to the team online. Visit [FCCSouthington.org/happenings](http://FCCSouthington.org/happenings) for details and a link to the online site.



### EVENT AGENDA

Relay for Life is a 24-hour event that begins Friday, June 2 at 4:00 p.m. We'll kick off the event by celebrating everyone who's been affected by cancer. Whether someone's been diagnosed for 10 days or been cancer-free for 10 years, they gather together for the crowd to cheer them on. Throughout the entire 24 hours, each team will have someone walking laps around the high school track. We'd love to have you walk with us!

# 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: June 7 and 21, July 5**

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## Racial Justice Ministry

Join us on **Wednesday, July 12 at 6:30 p.m.** for a potluck supper in Memorial Hall followed by our next discussion about racial justice (7:00p.m.) and stay tuned for an upcoming movie night. In the meantime, take a look at the Race Forward website for the latest research on pressing racial justice issues: [raceforward.org/research](http://raceforward.org/research).



What topics would you like to discuss with regard to racial justice? Are there books or movies you'd recommend? Send the info to [happenings@fccsouthington.org](mailto:happenings@fccsouthington.org).

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## 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!

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## 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.

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## Caring Ministry

Our next Caring Ministry meeting will be **Monday, June 19 at 11:00 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

Summer is almost here! And we have some changes here at FCC. That doesn't mean that God is on vacation – that means that we are partnering with God to meet your needs – to come together to worship in a meaningful way and to support all of our FCC family.

“There is one body and one Spirit, calling us to one glorious hope for the future” (Ephesians 4:4) and “There are different gifts, but the same Spirit” (I Corinthians 12:4). “There is one Christ whom we follow, who guides us and to whom we put our hope.” (Psalm 133:1)

So, our schedule might be a bit varied for July and August, but we need to come together to lift our prayers and voices to God. We need to show our children that there are many ways to worship, with voice, piano, organ, flute, drums or guitar. They need to experience our church family in unity, with songs of praise and joy, with moments of quiet and contemplation. Please come, bring the kids and build a foundation of faith that will support them for the future. (Nursery and Church School at 10AM)

Remember, that no matter who you are or where you are on your faith journey, you are welcome here. “Church is an incubator, a nursery, a grade school. You start where people are and move them to where they need to be.” (Adrian Rogers)

Come and let God work through you.

~ *Karlene*

## Church School Calendar

**June 4:** Confirmation @ 10:00; grades 2 – 8 stay in church

**June 11:** 9:30 grades 2 – 8 stay in church to celebrate with John Parsons

**June 18 & 25:** church school as usual

**July 2:** worship at 10:00 a.m. Grades 2—8 stay in church to participate in Communion

**July 9:** church school at 10:00 a.m.

**July 16:** church school at 10:00 a.m.



**10:00 a.m. church school/  
nursery care (July 2—Sept 3)**

## Summer Church School

This year starting in July we're having summer church school at the 10:00 service for children in 3rd – 8th grades. We'll cover the stories of Isaac, Rebekah and many others while also concentrating on learning responsible social media behavior. The first Sundays in July, August, and September the children will stay in church to participate in communion, the rest of the Sundays they'll meet in the air-conditioned room 201/202.

## Youth News

### Confirmation

**Saturday, June 3: 12—1:30 p.m.**

**Sunday, June 4: 10:00 a.m. Confirmation Day**

### Girls Rock Summer Music Camp

Middle and high school girls who sing or play any instrument (for at least 1 year) are welcome to this fun and encouraging camp **July 10—14 from 9:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.** in Peace Café at FCC. Presented by Susan Mazer, group instruction is included and the girls will present their final performance the evening of Friday, July 14 at 7:00 p.m. Cost is \$149 per student. For more information call 860-302-8678 or visit [susanmazermusic.com](http://susanmazermusic.com).

### High School Youth Group

**Sunday, June 4: after worship**

Hot Potato Fundraiser for the Mission Trip

Come on out and support our young people and our mission trip to Maine! Buy a Baked Potato and yummy toppings of your choosing for \$6 each! After the 8 and 10 am services!

**Sunday, June 18: bonfire at Cristy's**

### Young Family Gatherings

FCC is scheduling weekly gatherings for young families featuring activities such as music, art, active, and story-time geared toward children under 5. Join us **June 7 and 14** in the church nursery. (We will not meet during the summer.)

### Parents & Tots Gathering

**Wednesdays 9:30-10:30am**

And don't miss our **Parents' Movie Night, Friday, June 9.** We'll be watching "Bad Moms." Please bring a snack or dessert to share. RSVP to Patty Nichols at [patty.a.nichols@gmail.com](mailto:patty.a.nichols@gmail.com) or sign up outside Pastor Ron's office.



### Confidence, Independence, Great Friends and God, Too!

For 60 years, Silver Lake has been transforming kids' lives, 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!

**Registration has begun** for Silver Lake, the UCC summer camp in Sharon, CT. Camp is for children entering 4th grade and older. For more information and to register, go to [silverlakect.org/summercamp](http://silverlakect.org/summercamp). Scholarships are available. (Please contact Pastor Ron.)

**Is Your Child Going to Silver Lake This Year?** Please email us at [happenings@fccsouthington.org](mailto:happenings@fccsouthington.org) and let us know which week they will be attending.



**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**  
**37 Main Street**  
**Southington, CT 06489**

Sunday, June 4  
10:00 a.m.



After a nine-month spiritual journey, our young people will receive the Rite of Confirmation.

We hope you will attend and help us welcome our confirmands into the membership of our church family.

**John Parsons' Retirement**  
Sunday, June 11  
9:30 a.m. worship  
4:00 p.m. program/dinner



John Parsons will lead the music at the 9:30 worship service on June 11. At 4:00 p.m. we will have a program to honor his 37+ years of service to FCC followed by a dinner in Memorial Hall. **Tickets are free and required** for the dinner. **Get yours by June 4** from the church office or in Memorial Hall following Sunday worship.