

FaithWorks

Volume 57 Issue 2

March 2017



Pastor's Message:

It's one of my favorite Bible verses and I return to it often, especially when I need perspective on what the church should look like—not the building we sometimes call the church, but the real church: all of you who are reading this.

Then Peter began to speak to them: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him."—Acts 10:34-35

Peter, the leader of Jesus' disciples, had been struggling with what the church should look like. Should it just be the Jews, or the people who just ate certain foods, or followed certain rules? Is that what the Bible says?

Peter loved his Bible and he thought he knew his Bible, and bless his heart for it. **But he didn't truly** understand his Bible yet. He thought his Bible said that only one kind of people is acceptable to God. He had forgotten that passage from Deuteronomy that says,

For the Lord your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who is not partial and takes no bribe, who executes justice for the orphan and the widow, and who loves the strangers, providing them food and clothing. — Deuteronomy 10:17-18

During our Lenten program, *Our Lenten Table*, we are going to explore what the church looks like. Our Open and Affirming statement announces that our church embraces differences in age, race, gender identity, sexual orientation, marital status, ethnicity, nationality, socio-economic status, and physical, emotional, and mental capability. Throughout Lent we will explore that diversity. We will host programs on disabilities, aging, mental health, sexual identity, and embracing people of other faiths. The programs will be either on Sundays or Wednesdays and will usually include sharing a meal. There is a complete schedule inside. I hope you will join your church at *Our Lenten Table*.

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

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

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
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 Dischiono
Bookkeeper	Allison LeBarron



- Joe and Kathleen Brock and family mourning the **death of Joe's mother, Dale (2/7)**.
- Jill Lawson and Jodi Topa and their families mourning the death of their father, John Tacinelli, Sr. (2/6).
- Carole Lantz and family grieving the death of **Carole's aunt (2/15)**.
- Toni Height and family grieving the death of her son-in-law, John Sokolnicki (2/20).
- Ralph and Lynn Bushnell and family mourning **the death of Ralph's uncle, Robert (2/20)**.
- The family of Jean Keir who passed away on 2/22.

We pray also for Lita Nyren, Pat Germaine, Tracey Gabree, Kayleigh Sharnick, and for Faith Sullivan.

Continued prayers for DJ Festa, Tracey Gabree, **Stephen Nichols' sister Jennifer, Tammy Hill's Aunt Lou, Rich Szulczewski's aunt Alice, Steve Casillas' aunt Yolanda, uncle John, and brother Robert, Mike (and Linda) Ericsson's sister Chris, Kim Rees, Bryan, Callum Roberts, Peggy Thibodeau, Sandi Reed, Todd Lawson, Fran Sperry, Diana Putnam, Mary Bugbee, Carolyn Beadle, Betsy Roberts, our Stephen Ministers and care-receivers, and Caring Ministry team and friends.**

Daylight Savings Time Begins

Don't forget! Before bed on Saturday, March 11, turn your clocks ahead one hour!



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!
- All our February Bread for Life volunteers: Christine Bruemmer, Shirley Campbell, Mary Carter, Kay Dickson, Michele Dozier, Judy Lees, Maureen Lyon, and Bev Ryan.
- Carolyn Mansolf for coordinating our **Veteran's Appreciation program: Quilts of Valor**, and to everyone who baked pies and made the quilts.



Baptisms



Antonia Noelle Giordano
Daughter of John and Christina Giordano
January 29, 2017

Connor Andrew Rodney
Son of Andrew and Janice Rodney
February 19, 2017

2017 Flower Chart

is posted in Memorial Hall.

Did you know that the flowers in church each Sunday are donated by someone in the congregation in memory or honor of a loved one **or in celebration of a special occasion?** If you'd like to donate Sunday flowers (\$35 per arrangement) in memory or honor of a loved one or occasion, sign up on the flower chart in Memorial Hall. Faith or Kathy will be in touch.



Thank You from Louise Wygonowski

Thank you to all my church family for the cards, flowers, visits and prayers during my stay at Southington Care Center. They were a great comfort to me.

~ Louise

New Member Orientation

Have you been attending FCC for a while and want to explore what it means to be a **"member" of our wonderful faith community?** Here is your opportunity to learn about FCC ministries, meet church leaders and ask questions about our church. Come and find your place in the life and ministry of First Congregational Church of Southington. Choose one orientation meeting:

Sunday, March 26 or Sunday, April 2
12:45-2:00 p.m. in room 201/2

Sign up outside Pastor Ron's office.

We will receive new members at all worship services on Sunday, April 9.

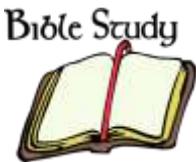
Thank You from the Board of Music and Arts

Our February bake sale earned \$500.50! Thank you to all who baked, cooked, volunteered, and purchased goodies! The proceeds will help us pay for transportation for our Roots Choir and Gallery Singers to sing at the Choral Festival at St. Bart's Episcopal Church in New York City this May. Thank you for your support!

FAITH FORMATION

Bible, Bagels and Banter

Join Pastor Ron before work for tasty bagels, brief Bible study and stimulating conversation. In March 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, March 9 and 23 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](#). We hope you will join in!

Holy Week Vigil

From evening Maundy Thursday (April 13) through Easter morning at 6:00 a.m. we will have someone in our Chapel, staying awake **with Jesus**. **Sign up outside Pastor Ron’s office** for your one-hour vigil.

March Worship at FCC

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

March 5: First Sunday in Lent
The Rev. Dr. Ronald B. Brown, preaching

March 12: Second Sunday in Lent
The Rev. Dr. Ronald B. Brown, preaching

March 19: Third Sunday in Lent
The Rev. Sarah Lund, preaching

March 26: Fourth Sunday in Lent
The Rev. Rachel J. Bahr, preaching

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

Ash Wednesday—March 1 SERVICES OF PENANCE

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

We begin Lent on Ash Wednesday, March 1. As is our recent custom, we will hold two Ash Wednesday services, at noon and at 7:00 p.m. which will include scripture, music, confession, and the imposition of ashes. If you are not able to attend one of those services, we will provide another way for you to begin Lent in reflection and worship. The meetinghouse will be open on Ash Wednesday from 7:00 a.m. through the end of the evening service. Each hour, on the hour, a pastor will be in the meetinghouse to offer ashes to anyone who comes in. There will also be self-directed prayer stations set up in the meetinghouse so that anytime you stop by you will have the opportunity to worship and pray on your own time as you begin your Lenten journey. I encourage you take this Lenten opportunity receive the gifts of God.

BULLETIN BOARD

Card and Game Night for Adults

Friday, March 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.! This year we will also enjoy a performance by professional singer/songwriter, actress, puppeteer, and storyteller, Flor Bromley. And there are rumors about certain music directors performing as well!!! Sponsored by the Steeple Players and FCC High School Youth Group, proceeds from this event will go toward our high school mission trip to Maine. Admission will be \$5 at the door and monetary donations will be gratefully accepted as "votes" for your favorite acts. Bring a friend and don't miss the fun!

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 Noonday Services

Every Wednesday during Lent at Noon, approximately 30 minutes.

Followed by a Lenten Luncheon (suggested \$5 donation) prepared by our boards and committees.



Morning Women's Group

On Tuesday, March 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, March 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.

Choristers Guild Festival

Roots will be attending the Choristers Guild Festival workshop at the Golden Hill United Methodist Church in Bridgeport on Saturday, April 1st. Concert time is 1:30 pm.

LGBT Socials

Our church community welcomes you no matter who you are, and we are in the process of developing faith-building outreach programming to the diverse spectrum of the LGBT community. We hope you will join us, and invite a friend!

Friday, March 31, 7pm

We're going bowling! RSVP by emailing Pastor Rachel Rachel@fccsouthington.org, or calling the church office 860-628-6958.

Friday, April 28, 7pm

We're going to see Steeple Players Production *And Then They Came For Me!* Ticket information will be available soon.

Our Lenten Table

Lent is often seen as a season of repentance, fasting and preparation for the coming of Easter. In the early church, Lent was a time to prepare new converts for baptism. Today during Lent, Christians focus on their relationship with God; an intentional time for self-examination and reflection, often choosing to give up something or volunteering and giving of themselves for others.

Lent has traditionally involved fasting, however, our 2017 Lenten Educational Series, Our Lenten Table, is **all about eating. Eating with Jesus. Eating with others. Gathering around the Jesus' Table.** Our Lenten Table is about coming together around the table of mercy, justice and grace. We will eat together, worship together, and learn together. We invite you to join us around the table on Wednesdays or Sundays (depending on the week), to participate in an educational series exploring the different facets of our Open and Affirming Statement*. Through thoughtful presentations and panels we will explore: Age, Disability, Mental Illness, Sexual Orientation, and Race.

Our Lenten Table: Sharing Potluck Meals

One of the ways we are extending love and hospitality to one another will be by eating a meal together before our Lenten programs. On March 5, 19, 22 and April 5 these will be potluck-style meals in Memorial Hall, and we encourage you to prepare a dish from your cultural background to share with the group. This will be great opportunity to learn about the beautifully diverse cultures represented at FCC and in the greater community. The meal on March 29 will be our Lenten Luncheon (suggested \$5 donation). Please sign-up **outside Pastor Ron's office.**

Our Lenten Table at Home

Even beyond our own educational and worship opportunities, over these next 40 days we encourage you to invite people to your own tables. Who might God be encouraging you to extend hospitality? Perhaps, someone of another race, gender, cultural/religious background? Perhaps the new family down the block? Perhaps your co-worker who has different beliefs/opinions than yourself?

***Open and Affirming Statement:** We, the members of The First Congregational Church of Southington, Connecticut, hereby declare ourselves to be an open and affirming congregation. We accept the challenges and joys of Christian faith, a faith profound enough to embrace even uncertainty. **We struggle with the difficult issues of our day, understanding that God's Word touches and guides us as a congregation and as individuals. With God's grace, we welcome and affirm the total identity of all people as beloved children of God.** We are a congregation that seeks to break down the barriers of prejudice, declaring respect for the worth and dignity of all persons, embracing differences in age, race, gender identity, sexual orientation, marital status, ethnicity, nationality, socio-economic status, and physical, emotional, and mental capability. We also recognize and affirm loving, committed, and diverse families. We actively welcome all people to become members of our **church and to share fully in our church's life and leadership, ministry and fellowship, worship and sacraments, and responsibilities and blessings.**

Our Lenten Table—Schedule of Events

To assist us with our planning, please sign up for all programs outside Pastor Ron's office or call the church office 860-628-6958 to let us know how many will attend.

Sunday, March 5—5:30 p.m. potluck (program following)

Disability: Gabrielle M.W. Bychowski presents a workshop on disability and faith communities. The hour workshop will examine traditions of disability in Christian thought and literature from scripture to Medieval Scholasticism and C.S. Lewis to Marvel Comics. The event will include community discussion about experiences of faith and embodiment, working towards a more accessible church community. Youth and adults welcome!

Sunday, March 19— 12:45p.m. brunch potluck (program following)

Mental Illness: Sarah Lund is an ordained minister and received the Bob and Joyce Dell Award for Mental Health Education from the UCC Mental Health Network in 2015 for "her outstanding authorship and leadership in breaking the silence about mental illness in family and in church and offering healing and hope." Sarah is a national speaker and author of highly acclaimed *Blessed are the Crazy: Breaking the Silence about Mental Illness, Family and Church* (Chalice Press, 2014) and blogs at sarahgriffithlund.com. **The Southington Library is in the process of getting extra copies of Sarah's book.**

Wednesday, March 22—6:00 p.m. potluck (6:45 program)

Sexual Orientation: Our program will be comprised of panelists who span the spectrum of sexuality speaking from their experience as they have created affirming supportive spaces in their own faith communities. True Colors is a non-profit organization that works with other social service agencies, schools, organizations, and within communities to ensure that the needs of sexual and gender minority youth are both recognized and competently met. The organization has been spotlighted by both national and local media for their expertise in LGBTI youth issues.

Wednesday, March 29—1:00 p.m. (following the Lenten luncheon)

Age: Growing older changes things: our physical beings, our outlook on life, our wisdom. Does that **mean your purpose has to change along the way? We're older, but we aren't finished: there is still work to do. It might look different than we thought it would, but that's okay. Join Southington Care Center exercise physiologist Mark Colello as he discusses how physical changes can affect our mindset and vice versa. Celebrate how what you have to offer can change along this journey called life.**

Wednesday, April 5—6:00 p.m. potluck (program following)

Tentatively Scheduled—Honest Conversations: Who are our Muslim neighbors? What do they believe? How do extremist actions worldwide affect them? Hear Connecticut Muslims share their stories, and respond to questions such as: **Why don't we hear moderate Muslims speak out against extremism? Why do some girls and women wear Muslim dress, and others do not? What does the Qur'an really say about people of other religions? American Muslims don't have all the answers, but our guests will respond out of their own experiences, raising issues that concern them as well as us.**

Family Promise “Host Week”

As a Family Promise host church, we need your help to welcome families in need of emergency shelter. For information about volunteering, [see page 10](#). Please contact Becca and Lisa Hasko at becca.hasko@gmail.com with questions.

Items that are needed include: Twin sheets (16 sets), Twin washable blankets (16), pillowcases (16), Twin mattress pads (16), Small (low) bedside tables (milk cartons, crates, etc.), Small bedside lamps, Surge protectors, 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 shampoo and soap, infant bathtub, playpen, crib, highchair, booster chair, children's car seats.

One Great Hour of Sharing Sunday, March 26

Through the One Great Hour of Sharing offering, we, as the body of Christ, have opportunity and power to help those who are living in despair as refugees. If refugees had the choice to return home, many would not have a place to return because their home most likely has been destroyed.

This year as you consider your gift to the One Great Hour of Sharing offering, think of what it would be like to not have a place to call home, and then make your very best gift. We will receive the OGHS offering on the Fourth Sunday in Lent, March 26, 2017. Let us live out the call of solidarity with all people, especially those displaced by disaster, war, and famine. Thank you for your generous gifts!

Save These Dates:

Wednesday, Mar 1	Ash Wednesday (services at 12:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.)
Saturday, Mar 4	FCC's Got Talent
Sunday, Mar 5	Our Lenten Table — Disability and Faith Communities
Friday, Mar 17	Game Night for Adults
Sunday, Mar 19	Our Lenten Table —Mental Illness
Wednesday, Mar 22	Our Lenten Table —Sexual Orientation and Faith Communities
Sunday, Mar 26	New Member Orientation
Wednesday, Mar 29	Our Lenten Table —Age
Sunday, Apr 2	Walk-Thru in Memorial Hall (presented by church school children)
Sunday, Apr 2	New Member Orientation
Wednesday, Apr 5	Our Lenten Table —Honest Conversations with Muslim Neighbors
Apr 13—16	Holy Week Vigil
Apr 23—30	Family Promise Host Week
Sunday, Apr 23	Folk Concert in Peace Cafe
Apr 28-30	Steeple Players' Production: <i>And Then They Came for Me</i>
Saturday, May 6	EFF Pancake and Egg Breakfast

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

Casino Bus Trip to Benefit EFF

On Saturday, March 18 from 2:00—10:00 pm, the Ecuador Foundation Fund is hosting an adults-only bus trip to Mohegan Sun.



Three world-class casinos, amazing dining, shopping and entertainment!

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.

May you have the luck of the Irish!

“First they came for the communists, and I did not speak out - because I was not a communist; Then they came for the socialists, and I did not speak out - because I was not a socialist; Then they came for the trade unionists, and I did not speak out - because I was not a trade unionist; Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out - because I was not a Jew; Then they came for me - and there was no one left to speak out for me.” - Martin Niemoller

The Steeple Players present:

*And Then They Came for Me:
Remembering the World of Anne Frank*
Evening performances: April 28—30

Mark your calendar now. Ticket information coming soon. See our webpage:

FCCSouthington.org/steeple-players

Easter Flower Order Form



Lilies and tulips will help us celebrate the glory of Easter and beautify our meetinghouse on April 16.

Would you like to memorialize or honor a loved one with flowers this Easter?

We'll list all names in the Easter Sunday bulletin.

Order Deadline: April 5

Given by _____
(as printed in bulletin)

In memory of _____

In honor of _____

_____ Tulip plant(s) - \$12.00 each

_____ Lily plant(s) - \$15.00 each

_____ I will leave my plant for the Caring Ministry.

_____ I will take my plant after the Easter service.

**Please make checks payable to:
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**

In memo section: EASTER PLANTS

Send form and payment to:

First Congregational Church
Easter Flowers
37 Main Street
Southington, CT 06489



or place form and payment in the collection plate on Sunday.

Volunteers Needed Today for Family Promise

The Volunteer Coordinators have recently gone through extensive training and are moving forward to get everything ready for our first host week, April 23-30. There are many details that will keep the wheels turning and make our host experience a success for everyone involved. Let us remember that the families we will be serving are going through a difficult time and we are providing them with a safe environment and helping them to achieve their goals. What a wonderful mission we are about to embark on!



At this time, the Volunteer Coordinators are looking for people to be “assistant coordinators” of the many facets involved with being a host church. Those positions are:

Meal Coordinator—Oversees the menu-planning for host week to avoid duplication and ensure that meals are well-balanced. Schedules volunteers to prepare meals that will be dropped off, and schedules volunteers to serve dinner and breakfast; coordinates with other support churches.

Donation/Supply Coordinator—Secures donations and keeps track of what items are needed, coordinates with support churches to secure their donations, checks donation box weekly (Memorial Hall) and brings donated items to FPCC storage closet (at FCC Southington), maintains items needed for each host week.

Laundry Coordinator—Schedules volunteers to bring bedding, towels, etc. home to launder after each host week, keeps track of number of items each volunteer brings home, and oversees the return of all items; coordinates with other support churches.

Safe Conduct Coordinator—Works with Board of Safe Conduct to distribute the FCC Safe Conduct Policy for Family Promise of Central CT and the Background Check Application form to all volunteers; returns the completed forms to the Safe Conduct chairperson.

Activities Coordinator—Plans special events on Friday and Saturday nights, arts and crafts activities, games for children, board games, movie night in Peace Café, etc.; coordinates with support churches.

We are looking to fill these positions right away, so please email Lisa or Becca Hasko at becca.hasko@gmail.com or call the church office (860-628-6958) today.

Are You Blessed with Mobility?

Particularly in the winter when our small parking lot is made even smaller by snow mounds, it is important to keep this lot open for those who may have mobility challenges. Please consider parking in the large lot to our north or in the municipal lot across the green. Thank you for your consideration!

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.

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: March 1, 15, and 29

Bring the hope and joy of Easter to children in need in our town through Southington Community Services. The Missions committee will be collecting baskets, "Easter grass", and small stuffed toys or trinkets (to fill the baskets) from March 5 - April

2 in Memorial Hall. Because there are many restrictions on the types of edible treats that can be donated, the committee will use any cash donations to purchase the suggested items.



For those wishing to make a small donation of cash to help purchase candy and treats, labeled envelopes will be provided on the tables at the beginning of the aisles in the meetinghouse and chapel. They can be placed in the collection baskets. Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

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.



Non-Perishable Food Donations

The food pantry at Southington Community Services is always in need of donations: Peanut butter, Jelly, Canned goods (vegetables, fruit, tuna, soup, pasta (spaghetios)), Instant potatoes/rice, Pasta/egg noodles, Spaghetti sauce, Boxed macaroni and cheese, Baked beans, Cold cereal boxes, hot oatmeal, Jello, Coffee/tea, Individually packaged snacks, Juice pouches or juice boxes, and gravy. Please leave non-perishable items in the Hope chest located in the Narthex at the front of the church. In January, we delivered over \$65 worth of food to SCS. Thank you for helping those in need!

Do You Like to Cook?

We are looking for a few volunteers to cook an occasional meal for a church friend in need. Please call Polly Sauer 860-628-0607 and let her know if you can help.

Caring Ministry

All are welcome to our next meeting Monday, March 6 at 11:00 a.m. Join us in bringing some fellowship to our church friends who cannot make it to church. Please call Carolyn Mansolf with questions, [860-621-5082](tel: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

This Lent, How About Adding Instead of Subtracting?

I've never made it all the way through Lent trying to give up chocolate! And I've always had trouble understanding why God would create cocoa beans and then want us to give them up! But, adding a devotion everyday worked for me and I haven't stopped at the end of the Lenten season. It's become a real "plus" for me. So, instead of giving up something, why not add a little something? But don't go overboard and make it something you resent. Find something that feeds your soul instead of zapping your energy.

Care for yourself, your mind, body and soul! Try to get more sleep, exercise (even 5 minutes helps), go for a walk, eat more fruits and veggies. Take the time to relax, pray, worship, and care for that body that God made just for you.

Build relationships! Pledge to share dinner with family or friends every week – pot luck or fast food works – the plan is to spend time together. You could invite someone you don't see often or send a card each week. Volunteer, visit someone, join our Caring Ministry group. Or help out in Children's Ministry! You could even help with our Walk Thru on April 2nd. The children are offering a "Living Bible Museum" featuring Bible recreations of the ancestors of Jesus. This year, we'd like to include adults portraying some of the Bible people. We have the props and costumes – we just need you! Whether you add or subtract this Lenten season, find something that feeds your soul and refreshes your life. You'll be glad you did.

~ Karlene

Young Families Gatherings



FCC is scheduling weekly and monthly gatherings for young families! Begins April 5 (won't meet during school vacations) with activities such as music, art, active, and storytime.

Parents & Tots Group

Wednesdays 9:30-10:30am

in the church nursery. And don't miss our Easter Party, Sunday, April 9 following the 11:15 worship service (12:30 p.m.) We will have Easter themed activities, egg hunt, and games. Please bring a sweet or savory brunch item to share, and RSVP to Patty Nichols at patty.g.nichols@gmail.com or sign up outside Pastor Ron's office by April 2.

Church School Calendar

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

Now Hiring: Director of Nursery School

Minimum 4 years early childhood related teaching; supervisory experience
a plus, Minimum Associate's degree in Early Childhood Education or related field. For more details visit our website: FCCSouthington.org/jobs. Email vgnboard@gmail.com with questions.

Youth News

Confirmation

Sunday, March 5: 4—5:30 p.m.
Confirmation Project Outline Due
Friday, March 10: 6:30 p.m.
Sunday, March 12: 4—5:30 p.m.
Sunday, April 2: 4—5:30 p.m.



Middle School Youth Group

Friday, March 24
5-9pm- Pizza, Shopping Trip, Games
Remember “Change for the Sake of Change?”
We’ve raised \$286 from the change collected during Advent, and we’re planning on going on a shopping trip to purchase needed supplies/toys for kids for Social Services. Remember to RSVP to Pastor Rachel:
Rachel@fccsouthington.org.

Attention High School Seniors: FRANK ROSWELL FULLER SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

If you are a senior in high school who will be going to a 4-year college, you may be eligible to apply. Please visit our website for more info: fccsouthington.org/forms or call the church office at 860-628-6958. Deadline is May 15.

Also coming soon...

Chicken Pie Supper Scholarships!



High School Youth Group

Sunday, March 12, 5:30-7:30pm- **We’ll spend** the evening learning about Maine Seacoast Mission, the projects that we will work on, as well as setting goals for our group trip July 2-8, 2017. If **you have friends that haven’t been on a mission trip** before, invite them to come and learn more about this amazing opportunity to work with an excellent organization, Maine Seacoast Mission! Please see FCCSouthington.org for details. **Extending Mission Trip Deposit Deadline ‘til March 12!**

Youth Sunday- April 23

We’re going to be leading worship on Sunday, April 23! All youth in Middle and High School will work together to lead worship. Please e-mail Pastor Rachel with how you would like to be involved. We will have a planning meeting after the 11:15 service on March 5.

March 17-18 YSOP

April 22-23

Solidarity Sleep Out/The Fast That Lasts
We’re excited to plan on this community youth event around homelessness awareness. We will **also be engage in an intentional “fast” at the same time** where we will not eat solid food. This is timely as our church will be hosting Family Promise a new ministry that helps host families who are without permanent housing. We will learn about homelessness through interactive learning experiences, will prepare a meal for our Family Promise guest families, and sleep outside overnight. Sign up with Pastor Rachel by Monday, April 17.

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
37 Main Street
Southington, CT 06489

FCC's Got Talent!



Saturday, March 4

7:00 p.m.

Admission \$5

Lip Sync Battle!
Lip Sync Battle!

Join us in the meetinghouse for our all-ages talent showcase and Lip Sync Contest. This year we will also enjoy a performance by professional singer/songwriter, actress, puppeteer, and storyteller, Flor Bromley. And there are rumors about certain music directors performing as well!!

Sponsored by the Steeple Players and FCC High School Youth Group, proceeds from this event will go toward our high school mission trip to Maine. Admission will be \$5 at the door and monetary donations will be gratefully accepted as "votes" for your favorite acts. Bring a friend and don't miss the fun!

