

FaithWorks

Volume 57 Issue 7

September 2017



Dear FCC Family,

How thankful and grateful I am, indeed! As your new Director of Music Ministries, I look forward to meeting and working with you all as I begin this exciting new chapter in my personal and professional life.

I would be remiss if I did not first thank Pastor Ron and the entire Music Director Search Committee. Throughout the entire interview process it was abundantly clear to me that this most dedicated group of individuals truly cared about the Music Ministry at FCC Southington. Their thoughtful questions, meticulous organization, and faithful stewardship were evident each time I met the group during the selection process. Now, I am truly blessed to be part of a community that put much thoughtful care into the selection of a replacement for Mr. John Parsons.

After 37 years at FCC Southington, I must acknowledge John for not only his service here but also his assistance to me personally thus far in making the upcoming transition a seamless one. John has been a consummate professional, as it is clear he truly cares about the community he served. We are all blessed for his openness and his professional collaboration with me.

I have been entrusted to lead a talented and dedicated group of individuals; this is something I take most seriously as we all strive to make a joyful noise. My initial plan is to take time to meet as many of you as possible and listen, observe, and assess the current program before making any adjustments moving forward. At some point your input will be critical. However, as I begin my ministry here at FCC Southington may I ask for your immediate help? Please keep me in prayer. Any success I attribute and give thanks to our God and His overall plan for us all. As you pray for me, be assured of my prayers for all of you during this time of change and transition. We are all so very blessed!

Please reach out to me. My email is lou@fccsouthington.org and I look forward to hearing from you.

With warmest regards,

Lou Vollono, Jr.



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FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

37 Main Street, Southington, CT 06489
860-628-6958/ Fax 860-621-0402
E-mail: office@fccsouthington.org
Website: FCCSouthington.org



OFFICE HOURS

Monday—Friday, 9am—1pm

SUNDAY SERVICES

8:00 a.m. Chapel Communion
9:30 a.m. Traditional Worship
11:15 a.m. Contemporary Worship

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

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
Director of Music Ministries	Louis Vollono, Jr.
Tech/Communications Office Coordinator	Dawn Gambacini Mira Morel
Custodian	Lynn Bushnell
Collector	Ray Dischino
Bookkeeper	Allison LeBarron
Minister of Music Emeritus	John R. Parsons



We pray for

- Nora Matthews and family grieving the death of her aunt, Rose
- Tim and Tori Hickerson and family grieving the death of Tim's father, KL (7/27).
- Steve and Beth Nyerick and family grieving the death of his mother, Lauren (8/14).
- Betsy Schroeder and family grieving the death of her father, Alan "Mick" McCain (8/22).

Continued prayers for Destiny Cruz, Helen Deckert, Sandy Hansen, Joshua, Jerry Szylobryt (Sabina Vance's uncle), Loreen (D-J Lavoie's friend), Caleb Myers (Sabina Vance's nephew), John Noble, Elizabeth Goodwin (Laurie Lynch's mother), Remy (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.



Congratulations and blessings to **Caprina Pugliese** and **Sydney Bradshaw** who were confirmed on Sunday, August 27.

Monday, September 4

Office Closed

Office Hours as of September 5:
Monday—Friday, 9 a.m.—1 p.m.





Thank You to...

- All our tag sale volunteers and everyone who donated or purchased items. We brought in over \$5000.
- Our August Bread for Life Volunteers: Shirley Campbell, Joan Cappannari, Mary Carter, Mike and Linda Ericsson, Maureen Lyon, Bev Ryan, and Joan Tardif.

Dear Church Family,

We wish to thank you for your prayers and cards. Pat was a special sister and will be missed, but I know we will meet again someday in the sunshine. Thank you again for your thoughtfulness. Love and prayers,

Barbara and Tony Silva

From Sandi Reed

I want to thank Diana Sheard for getting all the people to drive me to the doctor's office and x-rays. I really appreciate it! And to the church family for the prayers, flowers, phone calls, visits and cards during my recovery from my accident. Thank you! Sandi

From Kathy Williams

Thank you to everyone who sent cards of sympathy in the death of my sister, Martha. I appreciate your kindness and concern and am grateful for all the support. Kathy

From Dawn Gambacini

Thank you to all who sent sympathy cards following the death of my grandmother. Your support and thoughtfulness are very much appreciated! Dawn

Message from the Deacons

Our Mission Statement: To love and worship God; extend God's radically-inclusive love to all people everywhere; make more and better disciples of Jesus Christ; and inspire people and society to become more and more just, loving, compassionate and Christ-like.

Have you ever wondered what this statement means to you, and all of us, as members of our wonderful church family? The Board of Deacons has. As a result of this pondering, we decided to specify some of the most important responsibilities of our church family based on the Mission Statement. Through much discussion, prayer, and discernment, an outline of the responsibilities of our congregation was developed by a sub-committee and approved by the Board just a few months ago.

Now the questions becomes, "How are we doing? In what areas are we excelling, and in what areas do we need to focus our growth?" During the month of October, the Board of Deacons will be asking each member of our church family to give feedback on these important questions. Please keep your eyes out for the opportunity to give us this important information. Once feedback is received, the Deacons will compile the responses into a report which will be shared with our church family.

The Congregation Responsibilities document is available on FCC's website: FCCSouthington.org. Hard copies will be available in early October.

Thank you in advance for sharing your perspectives with us. Any questions, please [contact Clare Lindsey](mailto:clare.lindsey@fcsouthington.org) 203-592-2918.

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

20- and 30-somethings are invited to meet us at Noodles & Company, 832 Queen Street, Southington on **Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m.** for friends, fun, and faith.



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.)

September Worship at FCC

**Worship at 8:00, 9:30 and 11:15 a.m.
(except as noted below)**

Sept 3: Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost Faith & Broadway Sermon Series: "Wicked"

8:00 a.m. Chapel Communion
10:00 a.m. Traditional Worship
The Rev. Rachel J. Bahr, preaching

Sept 10: Rally Day at Camp Sloper

8:00 a.m. Chapel Communion
11:00 a.m. Worship at Camp Sloper
The Rev. Dr. Ronald B. Brown, preaching

Sept 17: Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost

First Sunday of New Church School Year
Welcome to our new Director of Music Ministries, Lou Vollono!
The Rev. Dr. Ronald B. Brown, preaching

Sept 24: Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost

The Rev. Dr. Ronald B. Brown, preaching

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

Make a Joyful Noise unto the Lord

Roots (grades 2-8), Branches (grade 9+), and the Gallery Singers (grade 9+) are seeking your time and talent. There really is something for everyone in FCC's vibrant Music Ministry. Come and join us! Please contact Lou Vollono, Director of Music Ministries & Organist (lou@fccsouthington.org) for more information, or best yet, we'll see you at one of these rehearsals! Try it; you might like it!

Roots – Tuesday, September 5 from 6-7:00 p.m.

Gallery Singers – Thursday, Sept. 7 at 7:45 p.m.

Branches - Tuesday, Sept. 12 from 7 – 8:30 p.m.

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.

Game Night for Adults Friday, September 15 7:00 p.m.

Held on the third Friday of each month. Beverages are provided. Please bring a small snack to share. Come solo or bring a friend. New games are always welcome! Questions: See Meredith Mann or Carolyn Mansolf



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.



Basket Drawing at AHF

Make your own theme basket or donate items for our committee to prepare. Apple Harvest Festival Basket values are approximately \$25. We have baskets and shrink-wrap if you do not. Please drop off completed baskets or items (**alcohol-free** and clearly marked "Basket Drawing") to the church library or church office through **September 28 and October 5**. Please [email Cynthia](mailto:Cynthia) with questions. Thank you from your Basket Committee - Tracy & Alexa Chaltas, Betsy Casey, Dave Wendt and Cynthia Enright

Morning Women's Group

Our next meeting will be **Tuesday, September 12 at 9:30 a.m.** in Memorial Hall for a brief meeting followed by Chair Yoga with Pat at 10:00 a.m. Call Bev Ryan at 860-666-8874 with questions.

Church Council Meeting

All are invited to our next meeting: **Monday, September 18 at 7:00 p.m.** in room 201/2.

What is Safe Conduct?

"Sanctuary" is more than a building. It is a peace-filled haven of safety and healing for all people.

You've heard the term Safe Conduct, but what is FCC's Safe Conduct Mission Statement?

With prayerful guidance, the Safe Conduct Board's purpose is to develop and implement proactive policies and reporting procedures to protect the children and youth of this church against child abuse, sexual abuse, and overall harm while they are in the care of church programs. The committee also functions to protect the staff and volunteers from false accusations. FCC has provided Safe Conduct training since 2004 and has trained over 650 people – 340 of whom are still active in our congregation!

If you have questions or wish to participate in a training session, please contact Carole at carole@fccsouthington.org. Thank you for helping to keep our children safe!

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 account with 10% of the purchase amount. Thank you for remembering FCC!

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. This year the festival is held **Friday—Sunday, September 29—October 8**, and we will need volunteers during all fair hours (bakers, cashiers, kitchen help, servers, vendor support, etc.) and the week prior (setting up and peeling apples.) 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. Who knows? Maybe you'll even get to try the "Accuost-i-matic Apple Peeler!" Please watch for sign-up sheets in Memorial Hall. We look forward to working with you!



Family Promise Host Week: September 10-17

Thank you to all the Family Promise volunteers who shared their time with our four guest families in July! They had a great experience thanks to your good care and kindness.

We ask for the whole congregation's help and encourage you to **bring a friend or family member** to the Family Promise Volunteer Training on **Saturday, September 9 at 9:00 a.m.** at First Congregational Church, 31 Maple Street, Bristol. Volunteering together is a great family activity!

Sign-ups are in progress at signup.com/go/shHwLoB for our next host week: September 10-17! If you have not already received training, please make sure you attend the Volunteer Training on September 9 (above) in order to lend us a hand for our 3rd week of being a host church. Please reach out to [Becca and Lisa Hasko](#) or call the church office at 860-628-6958 to let us know if you plan to attend this session. Thank you!



Save These Dates:

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| Sep 3 | Last Sunday with 10:00 a.m. worship |
| Sep 10 | Rally Day Worship at YMCA Camp Sloper |
| Sep 10-17 | Family Promise Host Week |
| Sep 15 | Game Night for Adults |
| Sep 17 | Church School Year Kick-Off—worship at 8:00, 9:30 and 11:15 |
| Sep 17 | Confirmation Class Orientation |
| Sep 17 | High School Youth Group Kick-Off |
| Sep 21 | Men's Bible Study Resumes |
| Sep 24 | "Our Whole Lives" Info Session |
| Sep 24 | Middle School Youth Group Kick-Off |
| Sep 29—Oct 8 | Apple Harvest Festival |
| Oct 13 | Ecuador Foundation Fund Dinner-Dance at Testa's |

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: September 13 (in Memorial Hall) and 27 in room 201/2

Celebration Ringers Invites New Members!

Looking to try something new? The Celebration Ringers would love for you to join us! We are an easy-going group who enjoys making music together. We practice once a week. Youth, teens, and those without musical experience are welcome. Please [contact Patty Nichols](#) at 860-709-8676 for details.

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. 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!

EFF Annual Dinner-Dance

The Ecuador Foundation Fund will be hosting its annual dinner-dance to benefit the girls of Fundación Sor Dominga Bocca on **Friday, October 13, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.** at Testa's (26 South Center Street) in Southington. Tickets are \$45 and include a buffet dinner and music by the ever-popular Small Town Gamblers. A prize will be awarded for the best "orange and black" garb! Get your tickets in the church office or in Memorial Hall after worship services. Visit FCCSouthington.org/happenings#eff for more information.

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

Building their foundation, one LEGO at a time!

It's been a pleasure this summer to have Brian Bradshaw and Dan Green lead our church school class. Sitting in on the class, I was impressed at how comfortable the kids are, asking questions and sharing their ideas and their lives with each other. It came to mind that the class was somewhat like the Wizard of Oz story – a bunch of colorful characters all searching for something! Whether it be a **heart** like God, **courage** to stand up for your faith, a **brain** that questions our faith, or just the knowledge that there's **no place like home** in this church family, the whole group shared stories and ideas and each lesson ended with a circle of prayer tying the lesson to life.

The yellow brick road of this generation presents dangerous places in the forest of life that might make kids feel that the loving God they learn about in church school is powerless to stop the bad things they hear about on the news. But in their discussions, they talk about God during tragedy, deaths, cancer, divorce and bullying. They can see where God is and can trust God to be there beside them. They build a foundation of faith that gives them the heart and the courage to help them through the hard places to live out their own faith story.

In September, we will be learning about the foundation of our Protestant Faith and meeting some of the great forefathers of the reformation. Like the Legos that connect and build all sorts of creations, we will experience being connected to each other and how we all help to build a firm foundation of faith. Join us as we learn, connect and build at FCC!

~ Karlene and Carole

Carole and Karlene feel blessed to be attending Group Publishing's *KidMin Christian Education Conference* from September 22-24. We are looking forward to networking with Directors of Christian Education from across the country and bringing back lots of great ideas for our church school and nursery.

First Day of Sunday School!

Your children are invited to join us for the first day of Sunday School on September 17th at the 9:30 and 11:15 services. Registration letters will be sent out in the beginning of September – if you have any questions or **have not received yours by September 8** please contact Carole at carole@fccsouthington.org.

Our Church School is green!

While going through our supplies this year we noticed that we had an abundance of crayons – and they weren't all in great shape. Instead of just tossing them, we sent the unusable ones to the Crayon Initiative (thecrayoninitiative.org) so they can remake them into crayons for schools, hospitals, and other charitable institutions. Thank you to the Vance family for sorting through the crayons for us.

Youth News

Confirmation Class Begins

Come on out on **Sunday, September 17 from 4:00-5:00 p.m.** in Memorial Hall and sign-up for Confirmation. This is a **required meeting** and youth should bring at least one parent or guardian.

What is Confirmation about?

- **Exploring** the Christian Story
- **Learning** about Christian faith and the UCC
- **Sharing** testimonies of God's work in our lives
- **Discerning** where is my place here and in the world
- **Acknowledging** truths and questions
- **Welcoming** new friends and relationships
- **Serving** our church and the broader community

Typically Confirmation is for youth in ninth grade, though we also welcome youth outside of 9th grade who are interested in this journey of faith. Please contact Pastor Rachel if your youth is interested: Rachel@fccsouthington.org.

Confirmation Day of Service

Saturday, September 23 from 9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m. all confirmands will participate in a day of service, painting the inside of our office coordinator, Mira's, home in New Britain. Details will be provided at the Orientation session on Sunday, September 17 (see above.)

Looking for Legos and Duplos

This fall's Church School theme is "Building our Faith" and we're going to use Legos, Duplos or any similar generic building block, in church and in the classrooms. We also need the flat building bases. If you have any that you wish to get rid of, please give them to Karlene or Carole before September 10. Thank you!

Middle School Youth Group

We're kicking off Middle School Youth Group on **Sunday, September 24!** We're moving youth group to Sunday nights from **5:30-7:30 p.m.** We're planning a super fun kick-off challenge for all of our youth, as our church embraces the theme of "Building the Church": we want you to invite and bring a friend to youth group every time you come. Middle School Youth Group will meet the 2nd and 4th Sunday of MOST months.

High School Youth Group

We're kicking off High School Youth Group with a Big-Bad Bonfire **Sunday, September 17!** Come over to Chez Shamus-Udicious **5:30-7:30 p.m.** We'll have pizza, roast some tasty treats over the fire, get our collective selves together for some fun and laughs. All are welcome! Youth Group meets the 1st and 3rd Sunday of MOST months.

What is "Our Whole Lives?"

Would you like to be more prepared to guide conversations with your youth about moral and ethical values related to sex and sexuality? The "Our Whole Lives" curriculum creates a partnership between the family and faith community to help parents fulfill their role as their children's primary educators. Join us **Sundays, September 24 and October 22 at 12:30 p.m.** in the Parlor to learn more about this program and this important ministry. Contact Pastor Rachel with questions: Rachel@fccsouthington.org

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
37 Main Street
Southington, CT 06489



We Need You!

Can you help make Rally Day a success? We are looking for volunteers to help setup, serve and clean up at Camp Sloper, and then bring some items back to FCC. Please sign up in Memorial Hall or call DJ Lavoie if you can help: 203-228-0108

Sunday, September 10, 2017

8:00 a.m. Chapel Communion at church

11:00 a.m. Outdoor worship

at YMCA Camp Sloper, 1000 East Street, Southington

12:00 p.m. All-Church Potluck Picnic

Our theme this year is *Building the Church* which is significant as we approach the 500th Anniversary of the Protestant Reformation, on October 29, 2017. Come out for worship led by our Youth Band, hear from Reformation figure Martin Luther, and consider "How Are You Reforming the Church?" Music provided by FCC's new Youth Band. Main dish and beverages will be provided. Please bring a side-dish, salad or dessert to share. We look forward to sharing the day with you!