



## The Milton and Katherine Chaffee Lecture

When Katherine Chaffee passed away in 2011, she left a generous bequest to First Congregational Church. The Board of Trustees voted to use that bequest to establish the **Milton and Katherine Chaffee Lecture on the Future of the Church**. The purpose of the fund is to sponsor a lecture or lecture series at First Congregational Church delivered by a leading scholar or minister involved in work to understand or build the church in the future. Lecturers would be people of national reputation who would draw people from our community and beyond.



The first Milton and Katherine Chaffee Lecture on the Future of the Church will be held on Sunday, April 22, 2018 at 3:00 p.m. The lecturer will be the [Rev. Dr. John C. Dorhauer](#). Dr. Dorhauer, an author and theologian, currently serves as the ninth General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ.

Dr. Dorhauer is passionate about justice. Two statements that shape his theology are: "God is love. God is just." He is also passionate about the future of the denomination, insistent "that the Holy Spirit envisions a future in which the United Church of Christ matters." During his tenure, he is calling on the denomination to rethink itself and to consider new ways of "being church" in light of reduced societal interest in institutional religion, and the steep decline in the membership of the UCC since the 1960s.

On Sunday, April 22, we will hold one joint worship celebration at 10:00 a.m. where Dr. Dorhauer will deliver the sermon. At 3:00 that afternoon, Dr. Dorhauer will deliver the first Milton and Katherine Chaffee Lecture on the Future of the Church. Members of the community and of other local churches will be invited to participate.

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## FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

37 Main Street, Southington, CT 06489

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

Website: [FCCSouthington.org](http://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](mailto:rbrown@fccsouthington.org)  
Pastor Rachel [rachel@fccsouthington.org](mailto: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/Organist	Louis S. Vollono, Jr.
Tech/Communications	Dawn Gambacini
Office Coordinator	Mira Morel
Collector	Ray Dischino
Bookkeeper	Allison LeBarron
Minister of Music Emeritus	John R. Parsons



### **We pray for**

- Ellen Brush and family grieving the loss of her brother, William Kilduff (3/3)
- Kim Lovley-Casarella and family grieving the death of her step-father, Henning Traulsen (3/11)
- Lois Dwelley and family grieving the death of Embert (3/12)
- Joan Tardif and family grieving the death of her mother, Carmella "Millie" Arena (3/14)
- Rhonda Blanchette and family grieving the death of her mother, Rachel Seller (3/14)

**Today's Concerns:** We pray for Lou Vollono's father (Lou Sr.), Lois Dwelley, Christine Blakey (Donna Blakey's daughter-in-law), Beverly Garmon (Kris Gauthier's Godmother), Tony Ingala, Tina and Todd Jenkins, Bob Nacca (family of Wendy Valerio), Anne Sharnick, Bryan, Jamie (Kathy Williams' brother), Bert (Sandi Reed's friend), Frank (Kathy Williams' brother-in-law). **Ongoing Concerns:** We continue to pray for Karen Barna, Carolyn Beadle, Helen Deckert, DJ Festa, Tracey Gabree, Gloria Gelpke, Todd Lawson, Betsy Roberts, Nellie Shepherd, Ellen Perkins Simpson, Fran Sperry, Faith Sullivan, Peggy Thibodeau, Ben (Morris Eisenberg's nephew), our Stephen Ministers and care-receivers, and Caring Ministry team and friends.

## **Apple Harvest Festival 2018**

Our largest fundraiser requires LOTS of coordination! Are you interested in helping with communication, volunteers activity, kitchen support, outside booth support, new idea generating? Please [contact Linda A](#) (203-592-8559) if you'd like to help make this our best year yet.

## New Member Orientation

Have you been attending FCC 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** of these dates:

**Sunday, April 8 or 15**

**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 29**.

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## Walk Thru Israel

Thank you to everyone who participated in our Walk Thru Israel. The church school children earned about \$300.00 which will be donated to The Connecticut Children's Hospital.

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## Family Promise: You Can Make a Difference!

A smile and a couple of hours of your time is all it takes! Our next volunteer week is **April 29—May 6**. Please mark your calendar.

1. Volunteering is easy, fun, and rewarding!
2. It is no longer necessary to attend a training class. We have a video for you to watch, and some information to read.
3. Have questions? Please call the church office or [email FP@fccsouthington.org](mailto:FP@fccsouthington.org).

**Thank you for helping us to provide a safe place for families experiencing homelessness.**



***Lucy Jane Maynard***

Daughter of Timothy and Kelly Maynard

**March 11, 2018**

***Nora Emily Olmstead***

Daughter of Amber Sarno and Mark Olmstead

**March 18, 2018**

***Julie Victoria Broomhead***

***Noah Paul Broomhead***

Children of Adrianna Zambrzycka-Broomhead and Jeffrey Broomhead

**March 25, 2018**

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## Thanks to our church family

for the thoughts, prayers, cards, and well wishes surrounding the birth of our son in late January. We are grateful for you all!

*The Nichols Family*

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## New Quilts in Meetinghouse

Please note the new quilts displayed in church. Many of our Grateful Threads quilters have made this design, called "Trip-Around-the-World," especially to hang for Easter Sunday. They will eventually be given to people in need around our community and perhaps around the world. They remind us that the Christian community is all around the world and we at First Church are a part of that community.

## FAITH FORMATION

### Bagels and Bible Study

Everyone is invited to join Pastor Ron before work for tasty bagels, brief Bible study and stimulating conversation. We are currently studying the Gospel of John. Brief readings to prepare for the Bible study are emailed to participants before each meeting. We meet **every other Thursday from 7:00-7:45 a.m.**

in Memorial Hall. This month: **April 5 and 19.**

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 **all are welcome!**



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### Attention Young Adults

20- and 30-Somethings are invited to join us **Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m.** for friends, fun, faith and food! We use an online curriculum called "Wired Word". Questions? Contact Pastor Rachel for details. 860-628-6958 ext. 119, or email her at [Rachel@fccsouthington.org](mailto:Rachel@fccsouthington.org).

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### Bible Study at The Orchards

This weekly Bible study meets in the private Dining Room of The Orchards located at 34 Hobart Street in Southington. Several residents of The Orchards attend this Bible study, but it is open to everyone. We meet **every Wednesday from 10:30—11:00 a.m.** to study the scripture passages that will be read at the First Congregational Church worship services the following Sunday. **All are welcome!**

## April Worship at FCC

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



### **Apr 1: Easter Sunday**

**6:00 a.m.** at YMCA Camp Sloper, 1000 East St.

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

The Rev. Dr. Ronald B. Brown, preaching

### **Apr 8: Second Sunday of Easter**

The Rev. Dr. Ronald B. Brown, preaching

### **Apr 15: Third Sunday of Easter**

The Rev. Rachel J. Bahr, preaching

### **Apr 22: Fourth Sunday of Easter**

#### **10:00 a.m. Worship**

The Rev. Dr. John C. Dorhauer (General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ), preaching

### **Apr 29: Fifth Sunday of Easter**

Special guest musician, Rev. Bryan Sirchio joins us at 9:30 and 11:15 worship services

The Rev. Dr. Ronald B. Brown, preaching

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

## Pastor Ron's Message

It is my favorite Easter story. It is about a young woman trained as an elementary school teacher who gave up teaching to work in a hospital. She was asked to visit a little boy and help him with his homework. "We are studying nouns and adverbs," his teacher said, "and I hope you can help him."

She was dismayed to discover that the boy was in the hospital's burn unit in very serious condition and in great pain. She was embarrassed when she walked into the room and saw him in a state of misery, but decided to press on and stumbled through the lesson, ashamed of herself for putting him through such a senseless exercise.

The next morning the nurse on the burn unit said to her, "What did you do to that boy yesterday?" Before she could get out her apology, the nurse said, "We had given up on him, but ever since you visited him, he seems to be fighting back, responding to treatment."

The boy himself later explained that he had given up hope, but it all changed when he had come to the simple realization that they wouldn't send a teacher to work on nouns and adverbs with a dying boy, would they? (Joyce Hollyday, "Wayfare," *Sojourners Magazine*)

Easter is like that. Resurrection happens only when death is near. When you feel like you are at the end of your rope, ready to quit, that's when you discover that God will never give up on you. Never.

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Resurrection blessings,

Pastor Ron

## We Welcome Guest Musician, Bryan Sirchio—April 29

After experiencing a Christian "conversion of sorts" when he was 17, Bryan Sirchio started writing songs that were expressive of the insights and joy he was experiencing as a new follower of Jesus. This music ministry has been unfolding one way or another pretty much ever since. Bryan writes and shares songs that somehow offer snapshots of thoughts or feelings or experiences he had as a person who is trying to take the life and teachings of Christ to heart.

Bryan is an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ. He has traveled extensively since 1987 offering concerts, leading worship services and retreats, and offering keynote addresses at various regional and national conferences.

As of January, 2018, Bryan has released 15 CDs, 4 study guides, and 4 songbooks. In 2012, he published a book called, *The 6 Marks of Progressive Christian Worship*. In 2015, he joined forces with well known author Brian McLaren and Rev. Cameron Trimble of the Center for Progressive Renewal in Atlanta to form a new worship music company called The Convergence Music Project (CMP). CMP is an all digital source of music and liturgical resources for worship that reflect the kind of progressive theology and world view that he wrote about in his book. You can learn more about it by visiting the website at [www.convergencemp.com](http://www.convergencemp.com).

At our worship services on **Sunday, April 29**, Bryan will offer the children's message at both the 9:30 and 11:15 services, and, along with Branches, lead the music at the 11:15 service. This event is made possible by the generosity of the Sally J. Visockis Memorial Fund.

## BULLETIN BOARD

### Game Night for Adults

Friday, April 20

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) benefit the girls of Fundación Sor Dominga Bocca in Ecuador.



### Morning Women's Group

We will meet in the church parking lot **Tuesday, April 10 at 10:30 a.m.** to carpool to lunch in Newington. Please call Bev Ryan at 860-666-8874 with questions.

### Church Council Meeting

All are invited to our next meeting: **Monday, April 16 at 7:00 p.m.** in room 201/202.

### Spring Craft Fair

FCC will hold a Spring Craft Fair in Memorial Hall on **Saturday, April 14 from 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

Space is limited and vendors are encouraged to reserve space now by submitting their application and payment (**deadline is April 1.**) For details visit [FCCSouthington.org](http://FCCSouthington.org) for details and to download an application, or pick up an application on the credenza outside the church office. Call the church office ([860-628-6958](tel:860-628-6958)) or see Linda Accusti with questions.



### BOMA Book and Bake Sale

Join us in Memorial Hall on **Sunday, April 15** after all 3 services for FCC Music Ministry's Book and Bake Sale. Proceeds will benefit all groups in the ongoing ministry of music. Want to help? Contact Lou at [lou@fccsouthington.org](mailto:lou@fccsouthington.org) or call the church office at 860-628-6958.

### Blackberry Pines at Peace Café

Don't miss the bluegrass, country and folk music of some of FCC's own!

**Friday, April 27 at 7:00 p.m.** in Peace Café. Suggested donation \$10. Refreshments and snacks will be available for purchase.

Doors open at 6:30 p.m.



### Beatles Tribute Fundraiser

**April 21, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.**

Join us in the meetinghouse for a rockin' great time! Tickets may be purchased in advance for \$20, by calling the GSJC Temple office ([860\) 276-9113](tel:860-276-9113). Please leave a message and Fran or Allison will return your call and arrange to get your tickets to you. (Tickets at the door will be \$25 each.) Children 12 and under are free when accompanied by an adult.

## Church Council Corner

The FCC Church Council serves as the governing body of the Church, acting in an "oversight" capacity. As Moderator, I preside over the monthly meetings of the Church Council and report to the congregation at the Annual Meeting. There are many exciting things happening with the Council and we didn't want to wait until June to share them.

If you haven't looked up at the Meeting House roof recently, you should do that from in front of Town Hall - the solar panels have been installed and they are in the process of being connected. As voted on at the last Annual Meeting, the Congregation decided to move forward with the solar panel and boiler project with the plan to hold a Capital Campaign to help with the funding. Members of the Council have been working on the design of this Capital Campaign and will kick it off after Easter.

As part of the Council's role to articulate the mission of the church, Council members attended a retreat on February 10th. We looked at our forms of leadership/structure and how we govern ourselves, reviewed previous Council and mission work, and identified adjustments to be made. The top three focus areas were identified - welcoming community, engagement of members, and decision making/governance - and teams were formed to identify specific goals and tasks moving forward. Taking the time to step back and do a self-evaluation will help us focus the Council's efforts over the next few years.

The Council's fiscal committee has kicked off the budget planning process for the 2018-2019 year. Thank you to everyone who made a 2018 pledge, it makes it easier to estimate revenue when developing the budget. The budget will be presented at the 2018 Annual Meeting which will be held on Monday, June 18th at 7 pm in the Meeting House. Please plan to join us.

For several years the Trustees have been working to best utilize the cell tower space in the church steeple that became available when Sprint and Nextel merged. As of March 2018, they have come to a lease agreement with AT&T who will add their equipment in time for the Apple Harvest Festival. This agreement provides recurring revenue to FCC and will result in improved cell service for AT&T users downtown. Thank you to the team who researched our options and negotiated the contract.

I appreciate all the staff, board and committee members, volunteers and other church members who help make the First Congregational Church of Southington a special community.

Joanne Kelleher, Moderator

### Faith & Family Night with the Yard Goats

Join FCC at Dunkin' Donuts Park on **Saturday, May 5 at 5:00 p.m.** for a great night with the Hartford Yard Goats (vs. Portland Sea Dogs). The evening includes lots of special activities including post-game fireworks! Get your order form on the credenza outside the church office, or [by clicking here](#). Contact Windham Vance with questions.



## Congregational Self-Study Report

**Beginning in mid-April** the Deacons will be making available the results of our Congregational Self-Study. The report will be available through a link on the weekly e-newsletter and printed copies will be available in the Narthex, Chapel, and on the credenza outside the church office. Folks who are interested in discussing the results should attend one of the following sessions:

**Sunday, May 6** at 8:30 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.

**Sunday, May 13** at 10:45 a.m.

**Wednesday, May 16** at 7:00 p.m.

## Stephen Ministry News

Stephen Ministers also attend continuing education sessions to keep their skills up-to-date. In addition to the education provided at the supervision meetings, we will have a Retreat on April 14 at Bread for Life to learn what services they provide for the Southington community.

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## Calling all Artists!

Would you like to share your visual art creativity with your FCC family and friends? FCC's Art Show will be **Sunday, May 6**. Start planning your submission now (maximum 2 per artist), and contact Lynn Grenier ([860-628-6215](tel:860-628-6215) or [lygren@aol.com](mailto:lygren@aol.com)) or Hope Roecker (860-302-9873) for details. **Artwork (labeled with your name) must be brought to the church office by Sunday, April 29.**

### Save These Dates:

- Apr 1 [Easter Sunday](#)
- Apr 2 Church Office closed
- Apr 11 NAMI Mental Illness Family [Support Group](#)
- Apr 14 [Spring Craft Fair](#)
- Apr 15 BOMA Book and Bake Sale
- Apr 16—20 Bread for Life Volunteer Week
- Apr 20 [Game Night](#) for Adults
- Apr 20 Auditions for [FCC's Got Talent](#)
- Apr 22 Guest Preacher: Rev. Dr. John C. Dorhauer, General Minister, UCC
- Apr 22 Milton and Katherine Chaffee Lecture: The Future of the Church
- Apr 27 Blackberry Pines Concert in [Peace Café](#)
- Apr 28 [Ecuador Foundation Fund Pancake & Egg Breakfast](#)
- Apr 29 Bryan Sirchio joins us for worship
- Apr 29 All artwork submitted for Art Show
- Apr 29—May 6 [Family Promise](#) Host Week
- May 5 FCC Faith & Family Night at the Hartford Yard Goats
- May 6 FCC Art Show in Memorial Hall

**Check our online calendar any time at [FCCSouthington.org/events](https://FCCSouthington.org/events).**

# Missions



## Quilt Group

We're a small group of quilters who meet **every other** Wednesday to quilt and for fellowship. Not a quilter?

Join us and we'll teach you how to quilt, or come for the fellowship.

**We meet every other Wednesday**

**10:00 – noon in room 201/202**

**Meeting dates: April 11 & 25**

Leader: Carole Lantz

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## Bread for Life Volunteer Week

Our volunteer week is **April 16 – 20**. Will you share a few hours of your time to serve at our local soup kitchen? Volunteer hours are 10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. and involves setting tables, bagging sandwiches, serving the hot lunch and then clean-up. Anyone over 16 is invited to participate. Please sign up outside Pastor Ron's office.



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## Support for Families Living with Mental Illness

NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) Family Support Group normally meets on **the second Wednesday of each month, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.** in room 206. Led by trained volunteer facilitators, this group is free and is available to any adult families, partners and friends who have been affected by and/or are living with a loved one with a mental health illness. Contact the facilitators Mary P 203-213-6732 or Amy T 860-637-5458 with questions. **Our next meeting is Wednesday, April 11.**

## Serve the Lord with Gladness!

### An Opportunity Fair

The Leadership Development Board is currently recruiting for our boards and committees for next year and would love to show you how our boards serve the church. Join us in Memorial Hall on **Sunday, April 29**, after each service to explore music, drama, Christian Education, the Trustees building or financial issues, Hospitality, Missions, Deacons, quilting, hand bells, Ecuador Foundation Fund, youth groups and many more. We would love to help you find how your gifts and talents can be used to the glory of God!

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## FCC's Relay for Life

The date of this year's Relay is **June 1-2**. To support FCC's team fundraising, luminaries in honor or in memory of someone who has battled cancer will be available for purchase in Memorial Hall following worship beginning April 8. Please stop by to purchase yours and mark your calendar now to support our relay!

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## Caring Ministry

Our next Caring Ministry meeting will be **Monday, April 16 at 10:00 a.m.** Please call Carolyn M. with questions, **860-621-5082**.

**Meal Ministry** for you or a church member who is going through a difficult time, surgery, etc. Call Carolyn M., 860-621-5082.

**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 S., 860-793-2765.

# Getting to Know Our 5th through 8th Grade Leaders...

**Our oldest Church School class is led by a team of seasoned teachers, offering varied styles of teaching, ranging from arts and crafts and interactive games to deep discussions. We'd like to acquaint you with our 5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade teachers and also to our Substitute teachers who have helped so much during this dreadful flu season. Thanks to all!**

**Dan Green** has been with FCC for as long as he can remember, going through the entire Church School program before becoming a Special Ed. helper, teacher, youth advisor and mentor. With training in Special Ed, and business management, he works as a Para Professional for the Plainville Schools.

**Kim Rees** comes from a Catholic background and has been in our church family for 13 years. She is a Stephen Minister and has taught church school plus volunteered at various church events. Kim has her Master's in Physical Therapy and has worked at VNAs. She shares her artistic talents leading "Art for a Cause" at Kelley School where she leads 75 – 100 children on various art projects.

**Brian Bradshaw** began in a Methodist Church as a youngster. Since joining FCC, he has been teaching every week plus leading the Jr. Youth Group on awesome adventures. With degrees in Business Management, Banking and Finance, and International Economics, he is presently a stay at home Dad, guiding his children in their acting careers.

**Deb Simonson** joined us about 5 years ago, coming from a Catholic background in San Diego. She works at Aetna as a Compliance Consultant and has been a Corporate Trainer for Aetna. She serves on the PTO and is a Girl Scout leader and says that she loves being involved in her children's activities because it's important to show her kids that their Christian Education is important to her.

**Greg Cook** was raised at FCC New Britain and joined us 13 years ago. He has served on the VGNS Board, Board of Trustee Chairman and Leadership Development member, and has taught various grade levels in Church School. Greg graduated from CCSU in Business Management and currently works in the sales department at Hartley and Parker. He's a member and past President of the Kiwanis and currently the Vice President of the Parent Senate at Classical Magnet School in Hartford.

**Scott Putnam Sr.** was raised Catholic, but joined FCC about 7 years ago and has been teaching for 5 years. He grew up in Southington and attended R.P.I. in Rochester in Engineering. We works as a builder and remodeler and serves on the Executive Board for the Midget Football League as well as the Shoreline Travel Football league of CT. In his free time, he can be found peeling apples or manning a booth for Apple Festival or a tag sale table. He also raises cows and chickens and makes maple syrup.

**Ginger Glovna** was raised Catholic in Shelton and joined us at FCC about 15 years ago. She graduated from Southern CT State University, became a CPA and went on to MIT for real estate development and finance. Ginger works for The Fremont Group in West Hartford and has recently opened her own Real Estate Investing Company, "Bright Path Realty, LLC" in Southington.

**Dave Wendt** was brought up at Old Stone Church in East Haven. He has taught for many years while

raising their 2 daughters but for the past few years, has been on an “every week” schedule with his teaching team. Dave also leads middle school youth group when he’s not creating props for Church School Walk Thrus and working full-time for the Southington Schools as Custodian.

**Scott Putnam Jr.** is in our Confirmation Program and attends Wilcox in the Electrical Science Program. He is also on the football team and very involved in the Chesterfield Snow Mobile Club in NH. He loves to ski, hike, camp, fish and play paint ball.

**Dawn Garvey** and husband, Sean, joined FCC from Mary our Queen and Epiphany Church in Cheshire. She has taught all class levels as her youngest of 4 children progressed through Church School. Dawn graduated from Briarwood in Business Education and works as a nursery school teacher at the YMCA. Her best hobby is the kids!

**Georgia Sullivan** explored different religions from Greek Orthodox to churches in Norwalk and Bridgeport before joining us 17 years ago to teach various grades on her son’s faith journey. Georgia is a lawyer in Hartford, transitioning to her own practice in Plainville. She is a mentor at FCC and also with students hoping to become lawyers and volunteers as a trial judge.

**Bev Huber** has been working in children’s ministry for over 60 years! Bev has an Associate’s degree in Dental Hygiene and has served on most of the boards and committees at the church, has taught every grade level of Church School, plus serving in Children’s Chapel and as Church School Superintendent.

**Joe Brock** was brought up in the Methodist Church in Farmington, N.C. He graduated from Western Carolina Univ. and manages an Analytics team at Travelers. Joe is on the Camp Jewell Board of Directors as well as our Church Generosity Board, where he excels at creating great dramas and skits! He loves biking, hiking, camping, paddling and skiing.

**Judy Miller** was raised Baptist and here at FCC has taught various age groups and served on the Christian Education Board. She has an Associate’s Degree in Business from Quinnipiac and worked at SNET with installers and Moore Medical in sales. She is retired now and thinks that there is nothing more precious than a child’s face when they get excited about a church skit or song.

## **Summer is Better at Silver Lake!**

It’s time to think about registering for Silver Lake, the UCC Summer Camp in Sharon, CT. Camp is for children entering 4<sup>th</sup> grade in the fall and older; this year there are 7 sessions to choose from – starting the week of June 24 through the week of August 5.

For over 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 child like: Art? Bicycling? Boating? Harry Potter? STEAM? Construction? Making music? Sports? Social Media? There’s a Silver Lake Conference for that!

Scholarships are available (see Pastor Ron.) For more information and to register, go to [silverlakect.org/summercamp](http://silverlakect.org/summercamp). There will be an Open House on **Sunday, May 20 from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.**

## Church School News

### Church School Schedule

**April 1:** Easter Sunday: no church school – children are invited to worship with their family; nursery care as usual

**April 22:** 10:00 service – children start in church and will be released to their usual classes

Please see pages 10-11 to learn about the folks who volunteer in our 5th - 8th Grade classrooms.

### Did you know that...

Pastor Ron has been meeting with 7 Scouts from the FCC Church Family (boys and girls) for the past few months to work on their God and Family Pin. The curriculum is designed to help youth understand the importance of family and God's role in a healthy family. They've been exploring various Bible stories based on family and doing projects and playing games using dominoes, Legos and other familiar toys to emphasize the stories. Ron has offered a Scouting course for the past 2 years and the kids have been having a great time working together. Thanks, Ron!!

Often, a parent confides that their child begged to come to Church School, when the parent was lounging in their robe drinking coffee with no intention of attending service that day! "And a little child shall lead them!" It actually happened twice last Sunday!

We team teach in Church School and some of our teens are the teacher and the adult is the helper. The teens prepare the lessons, gather the materials for the craft and meet the children with love and smiles. We also have teens operating our sound board, projection, playing in the band, singing in the choirs, deaconing and ushering. Our teens rock!

After the Elementary Youth Group met, parents didn't even get out of the parking lot before the kids were asking, "When can we do this again?" Led by Jennifer Thomas and Steve Palmieri (under the direction of Pastor Rachel), a group of 17 children (K-5th grade) began with prayer and dinner and enjoyed fellowship together with games and crafts. Perhaps these kids can get their parents involved with the group! Stay tuned for information about upcoming gatherings.

### The Maureen Lyon Memorial Scholarship

In January 2018, the Board of Trustees voted to establish the **Maureen Lyon Memorial Scholarship**. The scholarship, initially funded by a generous gift from Maureen's family, will provide need-based scholarship assistance to families enrolling children in the Village Green Nursery School. Maureen worked as a speech and language pathologist in the Waterbury School System for 35 years. She loved her profession and working with children. This scholarship honors her memory and her passion for supporting the education of children in our church community. Contact Pastor Ron for more information.



## Youth News

### Confirmation Class

**April 22:** Attend 10am Worship- The Rev. Dr. John Dorhauer (Mandatory)

**April 22:** Confirmation Class- Confirmation Projects DUE- 4-5:30pm

**April 28:** Ecuador Foundation Pancake Breakfast Service Opportunity

**April 28—29:** Solidarity Sleep-out 7pm-8am

### Middle School Youth Group

**April 13-14:** MSYG Overnight Lock-in

**April 22:** 5:30-7:30pm

### High School Youth Group

**April 22:** 5:30-7:30pm

**April 28-29:** Solidarity Sleep-out

### MSYG Spring Lock-in

Are you in town for Spring Break? Come on out Friday, April 13 for our Middle School Spring Lock-in! Our theme for this lock-in is

**Friday the 13th!** Our youth will have fun and explore the church, and all that comes with our spooky theme. The event will begin Friday night at 7pm, and pick-up will be at 9am Saturday morning. Parents are asked to contribute \$5 towards pizza, bring a non-nut snack to share, and please spread the word and invite friends! Please email Pastor Rachel by Wednesday, April 4 if your youth would like to come. We will need a minimum of 12 youth to make this event possible!

### What is Solidarity Sleep-out?

We're looking forward to this great opportunity to raise awareness of homelessness, as well as learning more about how we can help make a difference locally. We will sleep outside overnight at church (in the grassy area.) Some bring tents and others bring appliance boxes. With speakers, and fun interactive learning activities, this promises to be a night you won't want to miss out on.

Visit [FCCSouthington.org/confirmation](http://FCCSouthington.org/confirmation) or [FCCSouthington.org/youth](http://FCCSouthington.org/youth) for more info. Please contact Pastor Rachel with questions at [Rachel@fccsouthington.org](mailto:Rachel@fccsouthington.org).

### FCC's Got Talent!

Our all-ages talent showcase will be held on **Saturday, May 12 at 7:00 pm**

Do you have a special talent? Have you been dying to share your musical talent with friends? Do you individually or as a group want to perform a special song or dance or routine? All ages are welcome to audition for this inter-generational talent showcase. Sponsored by the Steeple Players & FCC High School Youth Group. Proceeds from this event will go towards FCC's Mission Trip Fund.

**AUDITIONS: Friday, April 20 (6-8 pm)** Auditions will be unplugged and consist of a brief talent review and paperwork.

**MANDATORY DRESS REHEARSAL** (complete show run-through) will be **Saturday, May 12, 3-5pm**

Interested? Questions? Contact Pastor Rachel [rachel@fccsouthington.org](mailto:rachel@fccsouthington.org)

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

## **Ecuador Foundation Fund: Pancake and Egg Breakfast**



**Saturday, April 28, 2018**  
**8:00—10:30 a.m.**

**Pancakes—Eggs—Sausage—Coffee/Tea—Juice**

Join us in Memorial Hall **Saturday, April 28 from 8:00—10:30 a.m.** for our annual Pancake and Egg Breakfast to benefit the girls of Fundación Sor Dominga Bocca in Guayaquil, Ecuador. Tickets cost \$7 (children 5 and under are free) and are available in the church office and after all worship services. Tickets will also be available at the door.