



Sunday, May 20 at 10:00 a.m.

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

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



Sunday, June 10 at 10:00 a.m.

Infant Care Nursery available.
After the service come to Memorial Hall
for a Volunteer Appreciation Celebration sponsored
by the Leadership Development Board

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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/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

- Joyce Fritz and family grieving the death of her brother Ervin Ketchledge (4/11)
- Dan Gabree and family grieving the death of Tracey (4/19)

Today's Concerns: We pray for Scott Garver, Anne West, Jean Kleis (Judy Chatfield's daughter-in-law), Richard Bullock (Linda Accuosti's father), 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, 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.

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.





- Thank you to the following people that helped with our first craft fair! Elizabeth, Dave, and Brooke Hagen; Clare Lindsey; Dawn Gambacini; Lynn Grenier; and Brian Bradshaw.
- Thank you to all of the April Family Promise volunteers.
- The Missions Committee would like to thank everyone who donated items for the Southington Community Services Easter Collection. We delivered a carload of Easter basket fixings and the staff at SCS was very appreciative. You definitely brought some smiles to faces on Easter morning.
- Thank you to our April Bread for Life volunteers: Shirley Campbell, Mary Carter, Michael and Linda Ericsson, Debbie Hart, Donna Keene, Meredith Mann, Alisha Robarge, Bev Ryan, and Art Smith.
- Thank you to Sam and Irene Hendrickson who coordinate all of the Stephen Ministers and the training sessions (and have for many years!)
- Thank you to all of our youth group volunteers and confirmation mentors. You have a profound effect on the youth you are leading!

Farewell Announcement

Dawn Gambacini has announced that she will be leaving her job as our Technology/ Communications Coordinator as soon as a replacement is found. Her other part-time job has become full-time. Dawn has served the church faithfully for nearly 8 years, first as the Technology Coordinator then adding a communications portfolio to the position in 2015. Dawn has been a wonderful presence in the church office and her contributions to the life and ministry of the church as a member of our staff will be sorely missed. Dawn is looking forward to a transition back to “regular church member” as she remains an active presence in the church. Dawn has asked that there be no formal celebration upon her departure, but you are encouraged to send her cards and notes expressing appreciation for her faithful work as a member of the church staff. Thank you Dawn for all your hard work!

Thanks to our Church Family

Thank you for your gifts of support during Mom’s passing. Taking time out to support us meant more than you could know; we are grateful for your thoughts and prayers.

Joan, Don, Claire, and Joey Tardif

I and my family thank you for prayers, visits, and food. Your kindness will never be forgotten..

Lois Dwelley

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: **May 3, May 17, and May 31.** 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!**



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.

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!**

May Worship at FCC

Worship at 8:00, 9:30 and 11:15 am

May 6: Youth Sunday

The Rev. Rachel J. Bahr, preaching

May 13: New Member / Stephen Ministry Commissioning Sunday

The Rev. Dr. Ronald B. Brown, preaching

May 20: Pentecost/Confirmation Sunday

10:00 a.m. Worship

The Rev. Rachel J. Bahr, preaching

May 27: Trinity Sunday

The Rev. Dr. Ronald B. Brown, preaching

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



Happy Mother's Day Sunday, May 13

And thank you to all the women who have guided, inspired, taught and loved us!

"She opens her mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue."



As we pause to remember those who served...

**our church office
will be closed on**

Monday, May 28th

Pastor Ron's Message

It seems that winter is having a hard time letting go this year—everybody is talking about it. It made me remember a favorite poem by a poet named Jo Sorley.

*It takes courage to be crocus-minded.
God, I'd rather wait until June,
Like wise roses,
When the hazards of winter are safely behind,
and I'm expected, and everything's ready for roses.
But crocuses?*

*Highly irregular.
Knifing through hard-frozen ground and snow,
and sticking their necks out,
because they believe in spring
and have something personal
and emphatic to say about it.*

*God, I am by nature rose-minded.
Even when I have studied the situation here
and know there are wrongs that need righting,
affirmations that need stating,
and know also that my speaking out may offend...
for it rocks the boat...*

*Well, I'd rather wait until June.
Maybe later things will work themselves out,
and we won't have to make an issue of it.*

*God, forgive, wrongs don't work themselves out.
Injustices and inequities and hurts don't just dissolve.
Somebody has to stick her neck out,
Somebody who cares enough to think through
and work through hard ground,
because she believes and has something personal
and emphatic to say about it.*

*Me God? Crocus-minded?
Could it be that there are things that need to be said,
and you want me to say them?*

I pray for courage.

I do too, and I hope you will join me. If we do, I know that spring will come.

Resurrection blessings,
Pastor Ron



Join our Middle School and High School Youth as they lead worship at all services on Sunday, **May 6th**.



Join us on **May 13th** when we will welcome our new members. Stop by at the bulletin board in Memorial Hall to learn more about our new members, and be sure to introduce yourself!

Stephen Ministry Sunday May 13

In order to become a Stephen Minister, a long training process must be completed. On **Sunday, May 13** at the 9:30 service, four FCC members will be commissioned as Stephen Ministers. Congratulations to Carrie DiProspero, Derek Charles Gray, Jessica Palmieri, and Jane Viviano



BULLETIN BOARD

Game Night for Adults Friday, May 18

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

There will be no regular meeting on the second Tuesday in May; we will be cooking meals for Family Promise during the week of **April 29th. —May 5th.**

Please call Bev at 860-666-8874 with questions.

Are You Blessed with Mobility?

We strive to keep our small parking 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!



Join us in Memorial Hall after each service on **Sunday, May 6th** to see the creativity of our FCC artists.

Give Life!

Red Cross Blood Drive



The American Red Cross will hold a blood drive in Memorial Hall on **Tuesday, May 15 from 1:00-6:00 pm.** Make your appointment by calling 1-800-RED-CROSS, visiting Red-Cross.org, or downloading the Red Cross Blood Donor app.

Apple Harvest Festival 2018

Our largest fundraiser requires LOTS of coordination!

- Are you interested in helping with the Apple Harvest Festival?
- Do you have an idea you would like to share?
- Do you want to learn more about it?

We are having our planning meeting after the 10AM service on **May 20th** after church in the Parlor at **11:45.**

Please contact Linda (203-592-8559 or laccuosti@gmail.com) if you'd like to help make this our best year yet.

Church Council Corner

2018 FCC Annual Meeting

The 2018 FCC Annual Meeting will be held on **Monday, June 18th at 7:00 pm** in the Meeting House; please plan to join us.

The agenda includes a review of the past year, elections, and approval of the proposed budget for the 2018-2019 year.

All board and committee reports need to be turned in by **Wednesday, May 23** to give us time to assemble, print, and distribute the reports. Please format your report with 1" margins all around using a font of Calibri 11. Thank you for your cooperation!

Questions regarding reports can be directed Mira in the church office at 860-628-6958 or office@fccsouthington.org

Church Council Meeting

All are invited to our next meeting: **Monday, May 21 at 7:00 p.m.** in room 201/202.



What is a Member-at-Large?

Your representative on the Church Council. Do you have praise, concerns, or ideas about the way First Congregational Church is run? Ideas can be confidentially brought to the council. Please email mal@FCCSouthington.org or speak with one of the members-at-large:

8:00 am Danielle and Bill Adams

9:30 am Meredith Mann

11:15 am Lynn Grenier

Serve the Lord with Gladness

The **Leadership Development Board** is currently recruiting for our boards and committees for next year and would value your input. Are you interested in Music, Drama, Christian Education, the building or financial issues, hospitality, missions, representing our church at the UCC, library, history? If you have an interest, let us know – we'd love to contact you to discuss including your gifts and talents to the glory of God! Email spalmier-i21@gmail.com

Village Green Nursery School

is currently looking for a member from FCC to join our Board of Directors. We meet once a month in the evenings for 2 hours. The Board of Directors oversees various activities and are a great group of people! If you would like more information about becoming a board member please contact the director of VGNS, Shannon Knudsen at (860)628-6958.

Congregational Self-Study Report

The Deacons have 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 8:45 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.

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

Save These Dates:

Apr 29—May 6	Family Promise Host Week
May 6	Youth Sunday
May 6	FCC Art Show in Memorial Hall
May 6	Congregational Self-Study session
May 9	NAMI Mental Illness Family Support Group
May 11	Chicken Pie Supper Scholarships due at church office
May 12	FCC's Got Talent
May 13	New Member Sunday
May 13	Stephen Ministry Sunday
May 15	Red Cross Blood Drive
May 16	Congregational Self-Study session
May 18	Game Night for Adults
May 19	Confirmation Lunch & Rehearsal
May 20	Confirmation Sunday
May 23	Annual Reports due from all committees/boards
June 1-2	Relay for Life
June 10	Children's Day
June 18	FCC Annual Meeting

Check our online calendar any time at 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: May 9 & 23

Leader: Carole Lantz

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Our shawls are given to those in need of comfort, whether from illness, sorrow, loneliness or loss. Prayer shawls are available upon request to church members and their friends and family.

If you knit or crochet, consider making and donating shawls to our ministry. Patterns, needles and yarn are available if needed. Call Kathy LaBarre, 860-628-2904. **Please pin a tag with your name on each shawl you knit/crochet.**

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 203-213-6732 or Amy 860-637-5458 with questions. **Our next meeting is Wednesday, May 9**

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. Please stop by to purchase yours and mark your calendar now to support our relay!

Caring Ministry

Our next Caring Ministry meeting will be **Monday, May 21 at 10:00 a.m.** Please call Carolyn with questions, **860-621-5082**.

Meal Ministry for you or a church member who is going through a difficult time, surgery, etc. Call Carolyn 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 860-793-2765.

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 **July 22—July 29**. **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).

“Where Do I Get Information about FCC?”

News and Upcoming Events—Bulletin boards are located next to the elevator (ground floor), all around the walls of Memorial Hall, and just inside the main doors (between the chapel and meetinghouse). Also, you can visit our Happenings page at [FCCSouthington.org/happenings](https://fccsouthington.org/happenings) or our online events calendar at [FCCSouthington.org/events](https://fccsouthington.org/events). Sign up for our e-newsletter at [FCCSouthington.org/newsletter](https://fccsouthington.org/newsletter) and be sure to add happenings@fccsouthington.org to your contacts.

Sign-ups—These are most often located on the wall outside Pastor Ron’s office and sometimes in Memorial Hall. You can also call the church office at 860-628-6958 or email office@fccsouthington.org to sign up. Our office hours are Monday—Friday, 9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

Pick up a printed copy—Forms, newsletters, surveys, vouchers, etc. are placed on the credenza (long cabinet) outside the church office and on the table in the narthex (just inside the meetinghouse doors). These are also usually online at [FCCSouthington.org/forms](https://fccsouthington.org/forms). Newsletters can be read online at [FCCSouthington.org/newsletter](https://fccsouthington.org/newsletter).

Missions and Ministries—Read more about these on our website at [FCCSouthington.org/share](https://fccsouthington.org/share) and watch for a brochure coming soon.

Coping with life's challenges—there are Christian care booklets located on the walls outside the church office and in the narthex (just inside the meetinghouse doors).

Join the Conversation! [Like and follow us on Facebook](#) and get updates in your newsfeed.

The Maureen Lyon Memorial Scholarship For VGNS



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.



CHRISTIANS
Caring for each other

Food Pantry Donations

The food pantry at Southington Community Services is always in need of donations such as Peanut butter, Jelly, Canned goods (vegetables, fruit, tuna, soup, pasta), Instant potatoes/rice, Pasta/egg noodles, pasta sauce, boxed mac & 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. Last month FCC provided about \$120 worth of food. Thank you for helping those in need!

Know Someone Going through a Difficult Time?

Our **STEPHEN MINISTRY** can provide them with the focused care, encouragement, and support they need to make it through the crisis. If you know of someone who is hurting, talk with one of our Stephen leaders or Pastor Ron. They can talk with you about how we can connect the person you know with one of our Stephen Ministers. It's a great way for you to show how much you care!

A New Way to Participate in Worship

We are looking to add to our team of folks who setup the slides for the 11:15 worship service. Using the liturgy and the music, we select images that convey the message for that week and guide participants through the worship. It makes our worship even more vibrant and powerful! The time commitment is minimal, and the impact is great. We are also looking for more folks to run the projection system. Please talk to [Pastor Ron](#) or [Dawn Gambacini](#) to learn more about these opportunities.

Church School News

Church School Schedule

May 6: Chapel Sunday

Grades 5-8 stay in church for Youth Sunday

May 20: 10:00 service – Confirmation Sunday

Grades 5-8 stay in church

June 10: 10:00 service—Children’s Day

Summer Church School

July 1—September 2

10:00 service only

We are offering 2 classes of Summer Church School this year: grades 2-4 and grades 5-8.

More information coming!

Meet our Christian Educators

Our Co-Christian Education Directors complement each other as they share their gifts and talents. **Karlene Archambeault** loves to create Special programs, Children's Chapel services, and Lenten and Advent booklets; she says that working with our children and helping them develop their faith and leadership skills is her passion. **Carole Lantz** is an expert with the computer and loves doing layouts, formatting, and adding graphics; she is excited about working to integrate technology as a way to excite children into worshipful experiences. It's a team that really works! Both are trained through the UCC Associate of Christian Education program and have been active members and leaders in the CT Conference, creating and leading programs for other Christian Educators and attending many conferences giving input and gleaning new ideas. They are both involved members of the Association of United Church Educators, nationally, in the CT Conference, and in the New England Conference

Karlene came from a UCC church in upstate NY, where she played the organ. She also plays the accordion, piano, drums, and sang in the choir for decades! She began teaching here in 1982, joining the staff in 1990. She and David have been married 50 years and have 2 adult children. She recently retired from the Hospital of Central CT Laboratory after 47 years. She is a Stephen Minister, leads devotions and facilitates a group, is on the Leadership Development Board, is in the UCC mentoring program for new Christian Educators, and was named a Woman of the Year by Church Women United.

Carole taught and led the Sunday School in Lisle, IL before settling here where she taught, chaired the Christian Education Board, and joined the staff in 2002. Carole and Bob have been married 37 years and have 2 adult children. She graduated from the University of Illinois Chicago with a degree in Psychology, is a Master Gardener, a Stephen Minister, leads the Stephen Ministry Supervision meetings, leads our Safe Conduct board, and created and leads the Grateful Threads quilt group. She also publishes 4 weekly newsletters for Nursery workers, Teachers, Parents and Stephen Ministers to keep us all informed.

For more info or to get involved in Christian Education, please visit our web page [First Congregational Church of Southington | Home](#)

Youth News

Confirmation Class

May 6: Confirmation Class- 4-5:30pm

May 13: Confirmation Class- Sharing Faith Expressions - 4-5:30pm

May 19: Lunch and Confirmation Rehearsal—12-1:30pm

May 20: Confirmation Sunday—10:00am service

Middle School Youth Group

May 6: Youth Sunday all services
grades 5-8 stay in church

May 13: 5:30-7:30pm

May 27: 5:30-7:30pm

High School Youth Group

May 6: Youth Sunday all services

May 12: FCC's Got Talent—7:00pm

5/20: 5:30-7:30pm

6/3: Celebration of Seniors BBQ—5:30

Visit FCCSouthington.org/confirmation or FCCSouthington.org/youth for more info. Please contact Pastor Rachel with questions at Rachel@fccsouthington.org.

Attention High School Seniors:

* Frank Roswell Fuller Scholarship Application

If you are a high school senior in Hartford County who will be going to a 4-year college, you may be eligible to apply. Please visit the Frank Roswell Fuller website at <http://www.hfpgscholarships.org/Scholarship/Search/ViewScholarship/tabid/346/Default.aspx?xfer=507> or call the church office at 860-628-6958. Deadline is May 15.

Chicken Pie Supper Scholarship

Applications were mailed out to all our high school seniors. Please remember to return your completed scholarship applications to the church office **by Thursday, May 11.**

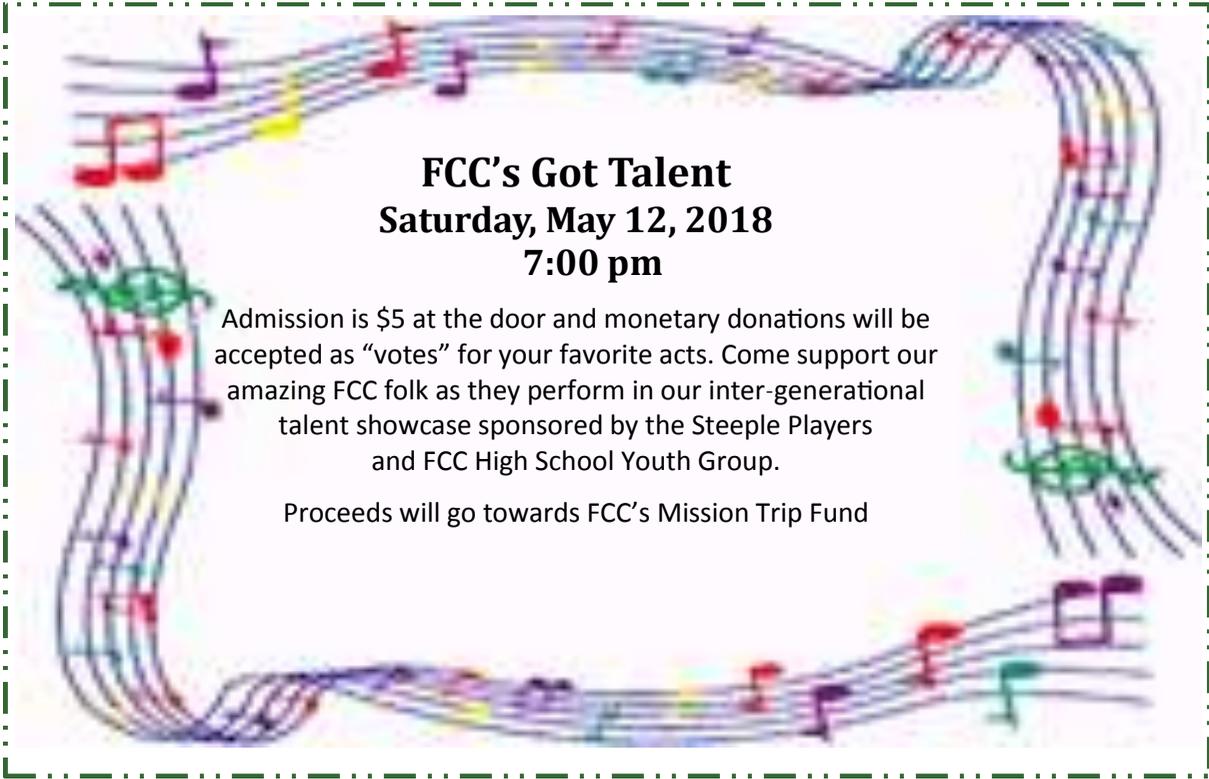
Summer is Better at Silver Lake!

It's time to think about registering for Silver Lake, the UCC Summer Camp in Sharon, CT. Camp is for children entering 4th 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 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. There will be an Open House on **Sunday, May 20 from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.**

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
37 Main Street
Southington, CT 06489



FCC's Got Talent
Saturday, May 12, 2018
7:00 pm

Admission is \$5 at the door and monetary donations will be accepted as "votes" for your favorite acts. Come support our amazing FCC folk as they perform in our inter-generational talent showcase sponsored by the Steeple Players and FCC High School Youth Group.

Proceeds will go towards FCC's Mission Trip Fund