

PARISH POST

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

CHESHIRE
CONNECTICUT

Volume XXIII

July/August 2006

No. 6

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

**Services at 8:00 in the Chapel
and 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary**

Summer Church School for Pre-school 3 through 2nd grade
and Nursery/Toddler care are available at the 10:00 a.m. service only.

Sunday, July 2 – (Fourth Sunday after Pentecost): 8 & 10 Worship/Summer Church School/ Communion/Food Offerings; Paula Adams will preach; the lessons are 2 Samuel 1:1, 17-27 & Psalm 130 OR Wisdom of Solomon 1:13-15, 2:23-24 & Lamentations 3:23-33 or Psalm 30; 2 Corinthians 8:7-15; Mark 5:21-43.

23:1-6 & Psalm 23; Ephesians 2:11-22; Mark 6:30-34, 53-56.

Sunday, July 9 – (Fifth Sunday after Pentecost): 8 & 10 Worship and Summer Church School; Rick Dacey will preach; the lessons are 2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10 & Psalm 48 or Ezekiel 2:1-5 & Psalm 123; 2 Corinthians 12:2-10; Mark 6:1-13.

Sunday, July 30 – (Eighth Sunday after Pentecost): 8 and 10 Worship and Summer Church School; Alison McCaffrey will preach; the lessons are 2 Samuel 11:1-15 & Psalm 14 or 2 Kings 4:42-44 & Psalm 145:10-18; Ephesians 3:14-21; John 6:1-21.

Sunday, July 16 – (Sixth Sunday after Pentecost): 8 & 10 Worship and Summer Church School; Rick Dacey will preach; the lessons are 2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19 & Psalm 24 or Amos 7:7-15 & Psalm 85:8-13; Ephesians 1:3-14; Mark 6:14-29.

Sunday, August 6 – (Ninth Sunday after Pentecost): 8 and 10 Worship and Summer Church School; Rick Dacey will preach; the lessons are 2 Samuel 11:26-12:13a & Psalm 51:1-12 or Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15 & Psalm 78:23-29; Ephesians 4:1-16; John 6:24-35.

Sunday, July 23 – (Seventh Sunday after Pentecost): 8 and 10 Worship and Summer Church School; Rick Dacey will preach; 2 Samuel 7:1-14a & Psalm 89:20-37 or Jeremiah

Sunday, August 13 – (Tenth Sunday after Pentecost): 8 and 10 Worship and Summer Church School; Rick Dacey will preach; the lessons are 2 Samuel 18:5-9, 15, 31-33 & Psalm 130 or 1 Kings 19:4-8 & Psalm 34:1-8; Ephesians 4:25-5:2; John 6:35, 41-51.

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Sunday, August 20 – (Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost): 8 and 10 Worship and Summer Church School; Alison McCaffrey will preach; the lessons are 1 Kings 2:10-12; 3:3-14 & Psalm 111 or Proverbs 9:1-6 & Psalm 34:9-14; Ephesians 5:15-20; John 6:51-58.

Sunday, August 27 – (Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost): 8 and 10 Worship and Summer Church School; Alison McCaffrey will preach; the lessons are 1 Kings 8:(1,6,10-11), 22-30, 41-43 & Psalm 84 or Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18 & Psalm 34:15-22; Ephesians 6:10-20; John 6:56-69.

Coming this fall: *The Mark Project*

In earliest Christian churches, the Gospel wasn't a written text, bound in a book. It was a living narrative, told and retold in community. The first written version of the Jesus Story—the first written gospel—was likely the Gospel of Mark (dated between 65-80). But even after the Story was written down, it continued to be shared and performed aloud by the whole community.

This fall you're invited to experience Mark's gospel the way the First Century Christians experienced it. You're invited to participate in ***The Mark Project***. Participants in *The Mark Project* will discover how sharing the gospel aloud opens up new insights and deepens our relationship with the Word. Rick Dacey will be working with the group (we're looking for a group of between 15 and 25

people) this fall in preparation for an evening in Advent when we will share the Gospel of Mark together *in its entirety* (an event that will last about two hours).

Experiencing the whole Jesus Story in one evening is a powerful, moving, and transforming experience, both for individuals and for the community.

Whether you'd like to take on the challenge of learning and performing large selections, or you'd prefer a very small part, we'd love to have you join us!

Look for more details about *The Mark Project* in the September Parish Post.

-the Scripture by Heart group



Office Hours

Summer Office Schedule

The office will be open 8 to 4:30 Monday through Thursday and 8 to 12 on Friday. The office will be closed for the July 4 holiday on Monday, July 3 and Tuesday, July 4. Regular office hours, Monday through Friday from 8 to 4:30, will resume on Tuesday, September 5.

FROM THE MINISTER OF PARISH CARE...

Paul began many of his letters by giving thanks to God for those to whom he was writing, and I want to begin this letter by giving thanks for you, the members and friends of the First Congregational Church of Cheshire. I thank God for your energy, for your ability to look to your past with gratitude and at the same time to your future with hope and excitement, for your abundant gifts, for your growth as a worshipping community of faithful Christians, for your willingness to care for each other as we are called to do by Christ.

I have been blessed to be your Interim Minister of Parish Care since last August. As I write this, the Search Committee is reading profiles and are about to begin interviewing candidates for this position. It has been an exciting and challenging year for me, and I know whoever is called to this job will also be challenged and energized by it. I hope that some good seed has been sowed in the past year, and I pray that it may blossom and bring an amazing harvest. First Church is gifted with generous people who want to answer the call to live out their faith in a life of caring for others. First Church also has members who need to be cared for. In the past year this congregation has added a number of new ministries (cards, prayer pagers, church visitors, phone calls) to our established ministries. When these ministries work together, it's amazing. I have visited people who are wrapped in a shawl made by our Caring Crafts Ministry,

with their prayer pager by their side, several cards from church on their table, some flowers delivered by the deacons, waiting for a meal from the Meals Ministry. They say to me, "Everyone who comes in here is amazed that our church has done all this, that our church is so caring."

But we aren't batting 1000. We have just started on this journey. There are members who feel forgotten, members who could use a ride somewhere, a home-made meal, some help with chores, or a friendly visit. Our ministries could use more volunteers. It has been a privilege to walk along the first steps of this journey with you, with the Parish Care Committee and the staff of First Church. I pray that God continues to bless this journey with the presence of the Holy Spirit and direct it and uphold it, so that First Church might be like a light shining in the darkness, a beacon of God's hope and love.

Faithfully,
Rev. Peggy Allen

PS As many of you know, I am a member of First Church, so you will continue to see me after my interim with you is over. But part of our minister's code is the promise that we will not interfere with the ministries of those who follow us, so for some months I will be more absent than present, worshipping elsewhere until the settled minister of parish care is comfortable with the job and the congregation. I know that you will welcome him or her with warmth and your usual open and helpful attitude.

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CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS

SUMMER CHURCH SCHOOL has begun on Sunday mornings!

This program is for children in Preschool 3 through 2nd grade.

We will be learning about the **Parables of Jesus** through various weekly workshops. We will use drama, storytelling, video, art, and other interactive forms of learning throughout the summer. This is the kind of program that children can come to when they are able and be away when they must.

Schedule for Summer Church School:

Sundays in July and August
10:00 service

Church School for all ages will resume on Sunday, September 10, 2006 at 9 and 11.



Christian Explorer's Camp

Tuesday – Thursday

August 1-3

9 a.m. – 12 noon

Theme: Finding your way to God:
Grab your backpack and join us on an adventure to explore the stories of Jesus!

Each cabin of kids and their Camp Counselor will visit our campsites: Visits with God, Moving with God,

God's creative tool chest, Fireside chat, campfire singing and of course camp chow.

Camp Reveille: Will open us promptly at 9:00 in the Parish Hall

Closing Campfire: 11:40 with parents invited to join us.

Camp Mission Project: Collecting non-perishable food for FISH

Camp supplies needed for each camper beginning the first day:

- ✓ White T-shirt to decorate using God's Creative Tool Chest
- ✓ Backpack with water bottle (labeled with name)
- ✓ Bible or Bible storybook if you have one in your backpack
- ✓ Non-perishable food for our daily mission collection

PARENT AND TEEN HELPERS NEEDED!

If you are interested in helping, you may speak to Debbie Gravell or any member of the Christian Explorer's Planning Team: Emilee Ziolkowski, Joellyn Jason, Kate Hall, Cindy Cavallaro, or Joyce Mulholland. Registration cards and a flyer have gone out in the mail. If you didn't receive one, and are interested in having your child attend the camp, please call the office at 272-5323.

NOAH'S ARK NURSERY

Noah's Ark Nursery is looking for volunteer caregivers to work one time/month in the nursery as part of a three person team or as an occasional substitute. Currently there are openings at both the 9 and 11 o'clock services. We offer childcare for ages 6 weeks up to age 3 years old. If interested, please contact Anne Dacey (Nursery Coordinator) at 250-1623 or Debbie Gravell (Minister of Christian Education) at 272-5323, ext.16. Caregivers of all ages are welcome and encouraged to join the team!

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Women's Bible Study will begin again in September. Watch the September Newsletter for more details.

<h2>BOARDS AND COMMITTEES</h2>

OUTREACH

COLUMBUS HOUSE

As many of you know, whenever there is a fifth Wednesday in the month, our Church provides dinner to residents of Columbus House. This has evolved from a few people preparing, delivering, and serving the meal to a real group effort.

So many members faithfully provide part of the meal or go to help serve, and every time the tins go out on the table, a few new cooks sign up! It has become a time of great fellowship for those involved. The following people helped with the May 31 meal: John Adesso, Shirley Albanese, Ed & Chris Albrecht,

Charlene Black, Lisa Canas, Becky Cavazuti, Jan Cowles, Beth Eichelman, Pam Euerle, Joe Garthwait, Karen Gravino, Martha Lape, Ruth MacDonald, Dick & Sue Mattson, Donna Mead, Heather Musante, Emma Norback, Carolyn Olander, Beth Ross, Joanna Sgorbati, Debbie Sinning, Kirsten Sullivan, Mary Ellen Thompson, Sue Walker, and Emilee Ziolkowski. Thank you again everyone for making this work!

Blessings, Jan Garthwait

FOOD OFFERING

The Outreach food offering was **192** for **June**. The Food Pantry request for the month of **July** is **Juice** and for **August** is **Baby Food/Cereal**.

BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP

Ephesians 4:12—"The Equipping of the Saints"

Breakfast, bottles of water, paint rollers, rakes, and cleaning rags. Those were the basic tools used by members of this church on Mission Day, May 20th. Twenty saints from Cheshire started with breakfast, then took their hand tools to two community agencies: Safe Haven in Waterbury, and Christian Community Action in New Haven. About a third of the disciples were youth. They all painted, landscaped, swept, raked and mulched, attending to the buildings of these Mission

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partners in the same way that we maintain our own church building and grounds every fall and spring.

The Board of Outreach supports these two agencies each year with donations of money, \$7800 for the two in fiscal year 2005. The Board of Outreach has decided to extend its outreach through active discipleship—outreach by doing. The agencies benefit—and so do the disciples. A good breakfast is the least of the satisfactions of the day. Understanding that mission work is more than giving money changes the doers as well as the receivers.

“For the equipping of the saints;” that’s why Paul tells us to be a church. It’s how the church changes lives. We are all called to discipleship in different ways, and the church helps us find that call and gives us basic equipment to live out lives of discipleship everyday and over the course of a lifetime.

Over the next several months, the Board of Stewardship will be celebrating the changes that occur in disciples as they are equipped for new ministries directly through the work of First Congregational Church. Stewardship—it’s not just \$.

BOARD OF MUSIC **DANIEL BALINT IN** **RECITAL**

Where: The First Congregational Church in the Sanctuary

When: Friday, June 30, 2006 at 7:30 - reception to follow in the Parish Hall
You've heard him in the Cheshire High School and the Cheshire Youth Theater shows. You now have an opportunity to hear a full evening of Daniel Balint's wonderful voice. Daniel played Lun Tha in CYT's "The King and I," Prince Charming in "Cinderella," and recently won a prestigious HALO Award from the Seven Angels Theater for the best featured actor in a musical as Migaldi in CHS's production of "Evita."

Daniel is a Cheshire High School honor student who has studied private voice with Dorothy Mutkoski since March of 2003. This recital will be a culmination of his hard work before he leaves for college in the fall to study music.

Catch one of Cheshire's rising stars while you still can!

CONCERT ON THE GREEN

The Great American Songbook

First Congregational Church in Cheshire
Saturday, July 8 (Rain date: July 15)
6:00: Bring your own picnic to eat on the green - **7:15: “Let the music begin!”**

The Concert will feature Patricia Barbano, a vocalist and our very own soprano section leader, performing beloved American classics ranging from musical theater and jazz standards to swing and operetta. Special guest, noted baritone Paul Laurence Fletcher, will be joining her for some wonderful duets.

She will be accompanied by an all-star band: Joe D'Eugenio Sr. on saxophone, Joe D'Eugenio Jr. on keyboard, Jonny Allen providing drums & percussion, and Alex Auger on bass.

Lawn seating (bring a blanket or lawn chairs); concert seating will be available for seniors.

TICKETS: \$10 Adults, \$5 Students & Seniors, Children 12 & under FREE! All proceeds to benefit the First Church Music program.

You won't want to miss this one-of-a-kind summer event!

SUMMER MUSIC

Summer is here, and so are new opportunities for parishioners to participate in our music program. If you sing or play an instrument and would like to contribute a musical offering in worship, please see our Music Director Joe D'Eugenio.

FELLOWSHIP

Would you like a chance to participate in Coffee Hour? We are starting Alphabet Sunday and we are asking for people whose names begin with:

A to G to help host coffee hour on November 19, 2006

H to O to help host coffee hour on February 4, 2007

P to Z to help host on June 10, 2007.

Please consider signing up to help in whatever way you can to support this Ministry of fellowship. See us at the Small Group Expo on Sept 10 or call June Webster at 272-5163 if you don't want to wait to sign up.

THE STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL COMMITTEE

The Strawberry Festival Committee would like to thank the nearly eighty church members who gave so generously of their time on June 9 and 10 to help ensure that the Strawberry Festival was a success. And what a success it was!! The weather cleared just in time and the large crowd of all ages enjoyed close to 1,500 strawberry shortcakes, 500 hamburgers and cheeseburgers, and 600 hotdogs while listening to the three featured bands. The kids were treated to games, inflatable rides, pony rides, a petting zoo, face painting, clowns, costumed characters, jugglers and stilt walkers. Without the huge effort put forth by so many of us, such a large event would not be possible. Thanks again and see you next year. Brad Fuller, Martha Lape, Jim Louys, Addie Marx, Beth Ross, Carol Warner, Gary Warner, and Jessie Waszmer.

The Strawberry Festival Committee would also like to thank the following church members who purchased the small ads that enabled us to take a full-page ad in the Cheshire Herald to advertise the Strawberry Festival:

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*Kate Altobello, That Can Be Arranged Room Redesign

*Betsy Adams, Mary Kay Beauty Consultant

*Larry Pivrotto, Pivrotto Remodeling

*Janet Jacaruso, Scooter School

*Karen & Fred Havlicek, Chapin & Havlicek Physical Therapy

*Wayne Gibbs, Gibbs Wire & Steel Company

*Paula Criscuolo, Calcagni Real Estate Realtor

*Ken Fackler, Cheshire Tool Company

*Kevin Ross, Rock Building & Remodeling

*Paul Ruszczyk, Attorney At Law

*Ken Stevens, Soil Science and Environmental Services

*Roger Olander, DataSet Business Graphics

*Harry Black, Bowman, Monaco & Black CPA

*Tom Sienkowski, New Concepts Plumbing & Heating

*Stuart Post, Post Financial Strategies

*Bill Meyerjack, Budwitz & Meyerjack

*Bob Giddings, Kensington Bird & Animal Hospital

*The Gravino family

*Glenn Nowie, Triumph Electric

MISCELLANEOUS

TEAM STEEPLECHASE IN TOP TEN PERCENT

On June 9th, thousands of men, woman and children gathered at Cheshire

High School field to support the 10th Anniversary of the American Cancer Society Relay for Life. With your help, we raised \$9,371 for the fight against cancer. We had 30 people participating on our team this year. Through the rain, the heat, the winds, the cold, the night, your team was constantly on the track. That is an amazing thought when you realize in the middle of the night people were leaving their warm, dry beds to come out and walk in the cold and the rain. That shows amazing dedication to the team and to the cause.

Team SteepleChase would like to thank everyone for their support. To Gary Warner for the tent which sheltered us in the ever changing weather. To Susan Mancinelli, Kathy Duffendack, and the many women who helped us make the beautiful quilt from the squares many of you designed. To John and Laura Whinfield for the fabulous BBQ chicken on Friday night and to all the people who brought food and drink for the event. To Matt McCaffrey for playing the guitar at our moving Sunrise Service, and to Alison for leading us.

One danger in naming names is that you run the risk of not mentioning someone. So to EVERYONE who supported our team by thought, deed, or prayer, we give our deepest appreciation.

Betsy

CONGRATULATIONS HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES!

Sean Almeida, Brittany Bailey, Charles Barber, J.D. Bates, Justine Bates, Trevor Biggart, Jeremy Bishop, Guy Brooks, Scott Canning, Laurie Clouse, Tracey Colantonio, Lisa Conant, Paige Cowles, Allison Farina, Jacquelyn Fede, Timothy Foley, Kelly Garthwait, Matthew Gaudio, Logan Gibbs, Kyle Hunter, Joshua Jensen, Julia Jones, Joel Kelleher, Wayne Lawrence, Jr., Corey Leonard, John Lyke, Daniel Mazzaferro, Hannah McCaffrey, Janell Moore, Kristen Mozian, Kelly Murnane, Kelly Murphy, Lindsey Olander, Megan Pappas, Bryan Perri, Jonathan

Persio, Jessica Rose, Katie Smaldone, Jennifer Stronk, Nicholas Taylor, Rob Thatcher, Peter Visconti, Thomas Voils, Staci Whinfield, Judith Wiles, and Andrea Wright.



UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST CONNECTICUT CONFERENCE

An Update from your Delegates

The spring CT UCC Conference was held at the Middletown UCC on May 13. Please check the delegate bulletin board in the connector for details of the conference. We will be posting

information about the fall CT Conference (October 20-21) meeting as we receive it.

The 2007 National UCC General Synod will be held in Hartford, CT. It is the 50th anniversary of the formation of the United Church of Christ. We encourage you to volunteer to help out and/or to attend if you are able.

Please note that the National UCC website is www.ucc.org and the Ct Conference website is www.ctucc.org. Current information is always available to you on these websites. Or speak with one of your delegates if you have comments or questions. Your delegates are: John Afman, Ken Euerle, Pam Euerle, Karen Gravino, Terry Hamley, Joe Holstein, and Jay Knipe.

LIBRARY

These are the latest new library books and videos:

The Preacher's Daughter by Beverly Lewis (part of a series)

Children/Young People Books:
This is the Star by J. Dunbar, G. Blythe

Unlovable by Dan Yaccarino

The Quilt Makers Journey,
By Jeff Brumbeau & Gail deMarcken
A brave young girl leaves her village in search of the true meaning of happiness.

10.

VHS Bible story videos presented by A&E – and located on the parlor shelves:

Abraham (One Man, One God)

Biblical Angels

Cain & Able

Greatest Secrets, The Bible's

Heaven & Hell

Herod the Great

Jesus, The Execution of

Joseph (Master of Dreams)

Last Supper

Last Revolt

Philistines (Arch Enemy)

Prophets (Soul Catchers)

Queen Esther (Far Away & Long Ago)

FYI: We have two recently donated books that are missing. Perhaps they were borrowed and not signed out:

October Song by Beverly Lewis and

Faith of My Fathers by Barack

Obama

We would appreciate their return.

MALAWI MINISTRY TEAM

The Malawi Ministry Team asks you to redeem your cans and bottles at your favorite grocery store and bring the credit slips to church on Communion Sundays (the Lord has need of them!). Leave them in the MMT mailbox located in the parlor, bring them to the office, or drop them in the offering plate. The funds raised will feed hungry school children in Nthandizi, Malawi.

And thank you to:

Carolyn Brown, Charles Jones, and Marianne Eagleson for contributing their credit slips to the Malawi Ministry Team!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Women's Book Discussion

We invite all women "readers" to join us for any or all of the following book discussions. We meet at 7:30 p.m. for a short social time, followed by discussion, ending at 9:30 p.m.

Monday, July 10, Dying for Chocolate by Diane Mott Davidson at Laura Whinfield's

Monday, August 7, The Saving Graces by Patricia Gaffney at Arleen Reid's

Monday, September 11, A Month of Sundays by Julie Mars at Betsy Adams'

Even if you haven't finished the book (or haven't read it), join us for the fellowship and lively discussion.

Please call Martha Lape, 272-9327, or email her at mlape@aol.com if you have any questions about the group or the books.

PERSONALS

Thank you from...

-Ford Cole

Thanks you for your many prayers during my recent knee replacement surgery. I am well aware of those prayers because of the prayer pager given to me by Peggy Allen prior to my hospitalization. The pager kept going off prior to my entering surgery and was a great comfort to me. My wife, Jackie, held it while I

was in surgery and its periodic vibrations gave her peace during my surgery.

But it was after the surgery that I actually felt prayer healing. The surgery went fine but the hospital care almost killed me...literally. During some rather rough days in the hospital, I either held the prayer pager in my hand or attached it to that fashionable gown which they provide. Each time the pager went off (and it went off a lot) it lifted my spirits, touched my heart, and truly made me feel better.

There is no doubt that I was able to worship with you on June 4, ten days after surgery because of your many prayers...and for that I am extremely grateful.

God bless,
Ford

**-Tina, Dan, Jacob, & Tommy
Poincelot**

Dan and I would like to thank all of you for the flowers, cards, thoughts and prayers during my recovery from pneumonia. Special thanks to Peggy Allen, who visited me in the hospital and made my day much brighter. We are blessed to belong to such a caring and supportive church community.

-Jessie Waszmer and family

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for the flowers, prayers, and loving support at the time of Roger's death and funeral. My family and I appreciated it very much.

Your continued prayers and support are very helpful and heart warming at this difficult time.

BAPTISMS

-May 28

Aidan Tyler McCauley, son of Tyler David and Jennifer Carabetta McCauley

-June 11

Kathryn Grace Lombino, daughter of Kevin Joseph and Christian Lynn (McSwain) Lombino

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NEW MEMBERS

-June 4

Tim and Laurie Hart

MARRIAGES

-June 17

Jeannine M. LaPlante and James R. Plaster

DEATHS

-June 2

Paul Hotchkiss, brother of Elsa Bradford

-June 11

John Martin, father of Kirsten Sullivan

-June 12

Horace E. Cogle, Jr.

HOSPITAL STAYS

If you are hospitalized, it is important that you or a family member call one of the ministers or the church office to let us know so we can visit and care for you properly. A new federal law prohibits hospitals from giving us any patient information so we will not know you are there.

Pastoral Care July 1-5

If you are in need of Pastoral Care from July 1-5, please call the Rev. Peggy Allen at 272-3654.

Emergency Pastoral Care

After office hours, you may call Rev. Dacey at 250-1623, or Rev. McCaffrey at 272-3233.

Please be mindful of their family time and call only in an emergency or crisis

