

We are First Church

A Directory of Programs and Services

for

First Congregational Church

Guilford, Connecticut

2008 -- 2009

(pdf version, rev. 1)

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
An Open and Affirming Congregation

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Ministers to the World	All the Congregation
Ministers to the Congregation:	Our Staff
Kendrick L. Norris	Senior Minister
Susan J. Murtha	Associate Minister
Lisa A. Horst	Acting Assoc. Minister for Children & Families
William C. Speed	Director of Music Ministries
Penelope Rebuzzini	Office Manager
Larry Donahue	Sexton
Michael L. Dalton	Director, Pilgrim Fellowship
Liza Catino	Director, Junior Choir
Karen Owen	Director, Cherub Choir
Barbara Eismeier	Accompanist
Andrea Schmidt	Coordinator for Children's Programs
Karolyn Dunn	Bookkeeper
Dianne Hughes	Clerk
Kim Beckett	Chair, Church Council
Debbie Peluse	Treasurer
Eric Sandin	Financial Secretary
Jeanie Cacopardo	Landmark editor
Martin Ewing	Webmaster

**'God has given us a ministry of
reconciliation.'**
from 2 Corinthians 5: 18

Dear Friends:

Here is your *We Are First Church* booklet for 2008-2009! On these pages are listed opportunities for worship, Christian growth, fellowship, and mission. Consider this your personal invitation to join with us on our journey of faith. The New Testament notes four foundational areas of faith:

Pistis: believing faith - the educational and intellectual aspects

Gnosis: experiential faith - by which we experience God's love through music and the arts, prayer groups, retreats and meditation

Koinonia: fellowship - various activities to build community

Diaconia: service - reaching out to help each other and our neighbors

Our theme this year comes from Paul's second letter to the Corinthians: **"God has given us a ministry of reconciliation"** and will guide us as we begin a year-long Sacred Conversation about Race in America. May we take these words to heart and hear their invitation to deepen our relationship with God, each other, and all of God's creation.

We hope you will take full advantage of the rich ministry of First Church.

Kendrick and Susan

350th YEAR ANNIVERSARY MISSION STATEMENT

Called by God
to be a family of faith,
we covenant, one with another,
to worship through word, sacrament and music and the arts
to grow in our awareness of God's grace and truth,
and to embody Christ's love for the world.

1. Caring-Support-Fellowship

Vision: We are an active, loving, caring, Christ-centered church family with no one falling through the cracks.

2. Interfaith/Community Service

Vision: We are a Christian church family that believes all people are equal in the eyes of God; therefore, we act on our commitment to break down barriers between all people and communities.

3. Christian Education

Vision: We are a Christian people who believe in an on-going coordinated educational program for all age groups, using the creative talents of every member of our church community in order to be better ministers.

4. Welcoming and Inclusion

Vision: We are a Christian people who invite all people to our fellowship; welcome, guide and love all who come to our church; encourage family/lay participation in the worship and activities of our church; and as a family church, because we are one in Christ, we celebrate diversity and support reconciliation.

VISIONS ADOPTED 2003

We are a Christian congregation seeking to discern the Spirit's leading for our life together and mission in the world. Four directions or invitations commend themselves to us, arising out of our congregational conversations in the Visioning process.

1. *Provide to church and community cross-cultural programs and opportunities to serve, by developing our refugee ministry, in order to foster mutual learning, acceptance and understanding.*
2. *Develop a deepening sense of our church as a faith community, by encouraging all church members to become involved in the life, leadership and work of the congregation, and by nourishing and nurturing one another in spiritual growth and social concern.*
3. *Reach out in innovative ways to the broader community and those in need of a deeper spirituality, inviting people to take part in the spiritual, educational and cultural resources of First Church.*
4. *Encourage the financial generosity of our members, thus increasing our annual giving and capital endowment, in order to sustain current ministries, provide more resources for under-funded programs, and expand the social mission of the church.*

WORSHIP

Worship is the central act of the Christian community. Worship includes the praising of God, the desire for reconciliation with God and our neighbor, the hearing and illumination of God's Word, the celebration of the sacraments, and our offering of self to God. We gather to worship on Sundays at the times and places listed, and in observance of other holy days.

First Church recognizes two sacraments, Holy Communion and Baptism. *Holy Communion* is celebrated on the first Sunday of each month, and on special days such as Ash Wednesday and Maundy Thursday. All Christians are invited to participate in this sacrament. *Baptisms* usually occur during the 10:00 a.m. worship service on one Sunday a month. Please call the Church Office for specific dates.

Services for Prayer and Healing are held in the Sanctuary monthly September through July. This is a time of music, prayer, scripture and quiet. For those who wish, there will be laying on of hands and anointing with oil. Services are scheduled for Sept. 10, Oct. 8, Nov. 12, Dec. 10, Jan. 14, Feb. 11, Mar. 11, Apr. 8, May 13, and June 10.

WORSHIP & ADULT EDUCATION CALENDAR

- Sun., Sept. 7** "Welcome Home Sunday"
 8:30am Communion, *Susan preaching*
 9:00am Bible Study – Minear Library
 10:00am Communion, **Family Service**
 11:15am All Church Picnic - Church Lawn
 5:00pm Contemporary Worship Service – Rev. Shipley
- Wed., Sept. 10** 7:00pm Service of Prayer and Healing - Sanctuary
- Sun., Sept. 14** 8:30am Worship – Chapel, *Kendrick preaching*
 9:00am Bible Study – Minear Library
 10:00am Worship/Nursery/Church School begins
 11:15am Adult Forum: Ken Esposito, CT Conference, UCC will speak about Universal Health Care
- Sun., Sept 21** 8:30am Worship – Chapel, *Linda Carleton preaching*
 9:00am Bible Study – Minear Library
 10:00am Worship/Nursery/Church School
 11:15am Reception for Melita House Ministry & Carletons

- Sun., Sept. 28** 8:30am Worship – Chapel, *Susan preaching*
 9:00am Bible Study – Minear Library
 10:00am Worship/Nursery/Church School
 11:15am Adult Forum – Chapel - *Program on Communication Skills* led by facilitators from the Community Mediation Center of New Haven
- Sun., Oct. 5** **Worldwide Communion Sunday**, *Kendrick preaching*
 8:30am Communion - Chapel
 9:00am Bible Study – Minear Library
 10:00am Communion/Nursery/Church School
 11:15am Adult Forum – Chapel
 1:30pm **CROP WALK**
 5:00pm Contemporary Worship Service - Sanctuary
- Wed., Oct. 8** 7:00pm Service of Prayer and Healing - Sanctuary
- Sun., Oct. 12** 8:30am Worship – Chapel, *Susan preaching*
 9:00am Bible Study – Minear Library
 10:00am Worship/Nursery/Church School
 11:15am Adult Forum – Chapel "How We Can Be a 'Greener' Church" led by Bob Howard and Ray Dudley
- Sun., Oct 19** 8:30am Worship – Chapel, *Kendrick preaching*
 9:00am Bible Study – Minear Library
 9:00am Church School Breakfast for families of children in Crib Room, Nursery, Pre-K and Kindergarten -FH
 10:00am Worship/Nursery/Church School
 11:15am Adult Forum – Chapel - *Issues of Race on the Shoreline* presented by a panel. Discussion
- Fri., Sat. Oct. 24, 25, 26** – Wilcox Lecture Weekend: Philip Newell – See more information on page 18??
- Sun., Oct 26** 8:30am Worship – Chapel, *Philip Newell preaching*
 9:00am Bible Study – Minear Library
 10:00am Worship/Nursery/Church School
 11:15am Adult Forum – Chapel with Philip Newell

- Sun., Nov. 2** 8:30am Communion – Chapel, *Susan preaching*
9:00am Bible Study – Minear Library
9:00am Church Schl Brkfst - families in grades 1 – 3-FH
10:00am Communion/Nursery/Church School
11:15am Adult Forum
5:00pm Contemporary Worship Service - Sanctuary
- Sun., Nov. 9** 8:30am Worship – Chapel, *Kendrick preaching*
9:00am Bible Study – Minear Library
10:00am Worship
11:15am Adult Forum
11:30am New Member Meeting – Minear Library
- Wed., Nov. 12** 7:00pm Service of Prayer and Healing - Sanctuary
- Sun., Nov. 16** 8:30am Worship – Chapel, *Susan preaching*
9:00am Bible Study – Minear Library
9:00am Church Schl Brkfst - families in grades 4 – 6-FH
10:00am Worship/Nursery/Church School
11:15am Adult Forum – Chapel - led by Bd of C&WC
11:30am Inquirers'/New Member Mtg – Minear Library
- Sun., Nov. 23** 8:30am Worship – Chapel, *Kendrick preaching*
9:00am Bible Study – Minear Library
10:00am **Family Service: Thanksgiving Service/Nursery**
11:15am Adult Forum – Chapel – *on Pastoral Care*
11:30am Inquirers'/New Member Mtg – Minear Library
- Sun., Nov. 30** **1st Sunday in Advent, Lisa Horst preaching**
8:30am Worship – Chapel
9:00am Bible Study – Minear Library
10:00am Worship, New Members Rec'd/Nursery/ChSchl
11:15am Adult Forum - Chapel
- Sun., Dec. 7** **2nd Sunday in Advent, Kendrick preaching**
8:30am Communion - Chapel
10:00am Worship/Nursery/Church School
11:15am Harvest Fair Mini-Fair
5:00pm Contemporary Worship Service - Sanctuary
6:00pm Advent Family Supper

- Wed., Dec. 10** 7:00pm Service for Prayer and Healing - Sanctuary
- Sun., Dec. 14** **3rd Sunday of Advent, Susan preaching**
8:30am Worship – Chapel
10:00am Worship/Nursery/Church School
11:15am Adult Forum – Chapel “*Atlantic Slave Trade*”
led by historian Robert Harms
5:00 **Service of Lessons and Carols**
6:30 **Soup & Bread Supper** by Pilgrim Fellowship
- Wed., Dec. 12** 7:00pm Service for Prayer and Healing - Sanctuary
- Sun., Dec. 21** **4th Sunday of Advent, Kendrick preaching**
8:30am Worship – Chapel
10:00am **Festival Service/Nursery/Church School**
- Mon., Dec. 24** 5:00pm **Christmas Pageant**
10:00pm **Candlelight Communion, Susan preaching**
- Sun., Dec. 28** 10:00 am Worship –Sanctuary, *David Colton preaching*

2009

- Sun., Jan. 4** 8:30am Worship – Chapel, *Kendrick preaching*
9:00am Bible Study – Minear Library
10:00am Communion/Epiphany ,
5:00pm Contemporary Worship Service - Sanctuary
- Sun., Jan. 11** 8:30am Worship – Chapel, *Clergy Rotation Sunday*
9:00am Bible Study – ML
10:00am Worship/Nursery/Church School
11:15 Adult Forum – Chpl - “*Financial Planning*” with
Tom Grant - living wills, bequests & ways to include
First Church in your planning
- Wed., Jan. 14** 7:00pm Service of Prayer and Healing - Sanctuary
- Sun., Jan. 18** **Martin Luther King, Jr. Sunday, Emilie Townes preaching**
8:30am Worship – Chapel
9:00am Bible Study - ML

- 10:00am Worship/Nursery/Church School
11:15am Adult Forum – Chapel – with Dr. Emilie Townes
- Sun., Jan. 25** 8:30am Worship – Chapel, *Susan preaching*
9:00am Bible Study - ML
10:00am **Family Service: 2nd Year Confirmands/Nursery**
11:15am Adult Forum – Chapel
- Sun., Feb. 1** 8:30am Worship – Chapel, *Susan preaching*
10:00am Communion/Nursery/Church School
11:00am **Annual Meeting**
12:00 **Luncheon**
5:00pm Contemporary Worship Service - Sanctuary
- Sun., Feb. 8** 8:30am Worship- Chapel, *Kendrick preaching*
9:00am Bible Study - ML
10:00am Worship/Nursery/Church School
11:15am Adult Forum – Chapel – Dr. Yolanda Smith on
Faith & Heritage in African American Spirituals
- Wed., Feb. 11** 7:00pm Service of Prayer and Healing - Sanctuary
- Sun., Feb. 15** 8:30am Worship – Chapel, *Susan preaching*
9:00am Bible Study - ML
10:00am Worship Nursery/Church School
11:15am Adult Forum – Chapel
- Sun., Feb. 22** **Laity Sunday, PattyAnn Meyer preaching**
8:30am Worship – Chapel
9:00am Bible Study - ML
10:00 Worship/Nursery/Church School
11:15 Adult Forum - Chapel
- Wed., Feb. 25** 7:30pm **Ash Wednesday Service** - Sanctuary
- Sun., Mar. 1** 8:30am Worship – Chapel, *Kendrick preaching*
9:00am Bible Study - ML
10:00am Communion/Nursery/Church School
11:15am Adult Forum - Chapel
5:00pm Contemporary Worship Service - Sanctuary
- Wed., Mar. 4** 6:00 – 8:30pm Lenten Supper/Worship/Program-FH
- Sun., Mar. 8** 8:30am Worship – Chapel, *Joseph Wagenseller preaching*
9:00am Bible Study – ML
10:00am Worship/Nursery/Church School
11:15am Adult Forum – Chapel with Dr. Wagenseller:
“Spiritual Values in the Family”
3:00pm Consociation Choir Concert – place TBA
- Wed., Mar. 11** 6:00pm Lenten Supper/Prayer & Healing Svc/Program
- Sun., Mar. 15** 8:30am Worship – Chapel, *Susan preaching*
9:00am Bible Study – ML
10:00am Worship/Nursery/Church School
11:15am Adult Forum - Chapel
- Wed., Mar. 18** 6:00 – 8:30pm Lenten Supper/Worship/Program-FH
- Fri., Mar 20th evening & Sat. Mar. 21st matinee performances of**
“Joseph & the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat”
- Sun., Mar 22** 10:00am **Family Service: “Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat”**
- Wed., Mar. 25** 6:00 – 8:30pm Lenten Supper/Worship/Program-FH
- Sun., Mar. 29** 8:30am Worship – Chapel, *Kendrick preaching*
9:00am Bible Study – ML
10:00am Worship Nursery/Church School
11:15am Adult Forum - Chapel
- Wed., Apr. 1** 6:00 – 8:30pm Lenten Supper/Worship/Program-FH
- Sun., Apr. 5** **Palm Sunday, Susan preaching**
8:30am Communion – Chapel
9:45am Ecumenical Palm Blessing - Green
10:00am Worship/Nursery/Church School
11:15 Brunch & Activities hosted by Bd of Christian Ed.
5:00pm Contemporary Worship Service - Sanctuary
- Thurs., Apr. 9** **Maundy Thursday Service** 7:30pm - Sanctuary
- Fri., Apr. 10** **Good Friday** 7:30pm - Sanctuary

- Sun., Apr. 12** *Easter! Kendrick preaching*
7:00am Sunrise Service – Indian Cove Beach
****9:00am & 11:00am Festival Services -**
****note change of time**
- Sat., Apr. 18** Workshop/Bible Study with Wayne Rollins –
“Paul, Fully Alive” –see full description in Adult
Education listings
- Sun., Apr. 19** 8:30am Worship – Chapel, *Lisa Horst preaching*
9:00am Bible Study – ML
10:00am Worship Nursery/Church School
11:15am Adult Forum - Chapel
- Sun., Apr. 26** 8:30am Worship – Chapel, *Kendrick preaching*
9:00am Bible Study – ML
10:00am Worship/Nursery/Church School
11:15am Adult Forum - Chapel
- Sun., May 3** 8:30am Communion – Chapel
9:00am Bible Study – ML
10:00am Communion/**Choir Service**/Nursery/Ch Schl
11:15am Adult Forum – Chapel
11:30am Inquirers’/New Member Mtg – Minear Lib.
5:00pm Contemporary Worship Service - Sanctuary
- Sun., May 10** 8:30am Worship – Chapel, *Susan preaching*
9:00am Bible Study – ML
10:00am Worship/Nursery/Church School
- Wed., May 13** 7:00pm Service of Prayer and Healing - Sanctuary
- Sun., May 17** 8:30 Worship
9:00am Bible Study - ML
10:00 **Family Service: Children’s Day**/Nursery
11:15am Children’s Day Reception
11:30am Inquirers’/New Member Mtg – Minear Library
- Sun., May 24** 8:30am Worship – Chapel, *Kendrick preaching*
9:00am Bible Study – ML

- 10:00am Worship/Nursery
- Sun., May 31** *Pentecost, Susan preaching*
8:30am Worship – Chapel
9:00am Bible Study – ML
10:00am Worship/New Members Rec’d/Nursery
11:15am Adult Forum - Chapel
- Sun., June 7** 8:30am Communion – Chapel, *Kendrick preaching*
9:00am Bible Study – ML
10:00am Communion/Nursery/Summer Sunday Schl
5:00pm Contemporary Worship Service - Sanctuary
- Wed., June 10** 7:00pm Service of Prayer and Healing - Sanctuary
- Sun., June 14** 8:30am Worship – Chapel, *Susan preaching*
9:00am Bible Study – ML
10:00am Confirmation/Nursery/Summer Sunday School
- Sun., June 21** 8:30am Worship – Chapel, *Kendrick preaching*
9:00am Bible Study – ML
10:00am Worship/Nursery/Summer Sunday School
- Sun., June 28** 8:30am Worship – Chapel
9:00am Bible Study – ML
10:00am Worship/Nursery/Summer Sunday School

PARKING FOR WORSHIP

First Church is blessed with a large congregation. As a result we want to insure that the people with physical limitations who need to park the closest to the Sanctuary are able to do so. Those individuals are asked to display a **Priority Parking Card** (available from the Church Office). All able-bodied people are asked to leave the parking spaces in the rear of the Church School Building and in front of the church on both sides of Broad Street open for members with priority Parking Cards. **For those parking in the handicapped spaces on the east side of the Sanctuary, please allow space in the center for the cars behind to get around those in front. Thank you.**

ARE YOU NEW TO FIRST CHURCH OR SEEKING TO BECOME A MEMBER?

We welcome to our worship and church life all who seek the presence of God, no matter where you are on your faith journey. Each person brings his or her own gifts and faith experience which adds richness to the life of First Church as the Body of Christ - in our worship, fellowship and mission. If you are new to First Church and wish to learn more about our congregation and the United Church of Christ, of which we are a part, we offer Inquirers' Meetings. These meetings are also for those who are seeking membership. All are welcome to become members as they feel led. In the Congregational tradition, new members join by covenanting with other members; we use the words of the 1629 Salem Covenant.

New members will be received on **Sunday, November 30, 2008** and **Sunday, May 31, 2009** during the 10:00 a.m. worship service. In preparation for membership, we will offer two sets of two meetings (one in the fall, the other in the spring) on our journey of faith as First Church, and as a United Church of Christ congregation.

Sundays, November 11, 18 & 25 at 11:30am in the Minear Library
in Spencer House (members received on 11/30/08)

Sundays, May 3rd & 17th at 11:30am in the Minear Library
(members received on 5/31/09)

You are invited to attend as many meetings as you are able. These meetings are especially helpful to those coming from a different denomination or faith background. Child care is available. Details of the meetings will be printed in the bulletin and the *Landmark*, our monthly newsletter. If you have questions before the meetings, please call the Church Office to speak with one of the ministers.

PASTORAL SERVICES

We care about you and hope to share in your joys and sorrows. Our ministers are available for weddings, funerals, and other life-changing transitions. If you are hospitalized *please* call the church office; due to privacy issues churches can no longer request patient information. If you need, or would appreciate, a visit, please call the Church Office (453-5249). If you are homebound and would like to have someone come to share Holy Communion with you please call the Church Office.

Our ministers are also available for short-term counseling. If long-term professional counseling is needed we are able to make referrals to competent professionals.

The ministers keep hours when you are invited, without an appointment, to drop in to find support, express a concern, or share a cup of tea:

Susan: Mondays, 10am - noon & Tuesdays, 2:00 – 4:00pm

Kendrick: Thursdays, 10am – noon & Fridays, 12:30 – 2:30 pm

In case of emergency you may reach Dr. Norris at 457-9843 or Rev. Murtha at 533-5201.

Board of Deaconesses – Deaconesses are a dozen church members who minister to the congregation behind the scenes. They make available the hearing-aid headsets for worship services, deliver worship flowers to those who need some cheer, write notes to celebrate joys and share concerns, and visit our homebound church members. If you know someone who could benefit from the ministry of the Deaconesses, please fill out a “Joys and Concerns” pew card and put it in the offering plate, or call the Church Office.

We also have a **Prayer Shawl Ministry**. Church members knit or crochet shawls and give them to those who are ill or grieving as a tangible expression of First Church's love. New hands are always welcome! Call Pam Welch, 458-2340.

Called To Care: This program provides ongoing support to families of the congregation during hospitalization, bereavement, and times of transition such as divorce, and moving. Twenty-one lay ministers have received training from clinical pastoral educators, bereavement specialists, and social workers who specialize in these areas. Our volunteers include members whose own professional training is in fields such as medicine, nursing, psychology, social work, and ministry. They meet with pastors for skill building and support. At moments of need in your family's life, there are insightful lay ministers as well as the pastors, deaconesses, and other church members to offer care and support. If you feel called to assist others, there is an organized program ready to enable you to do so effectively. Offerings about grief, illness, and life passages are open to the wider church; you are welcome to attend the programs announced in the Sunday bulletin. For more information, call Marilyn Leslie at 453-3295.

FIRST CHURCH STEWARDSHIP

"In full covenantal partnership with God and each other, we seek to communicate, inspire, and encourage all members to share joyfully their time, talent and treasure, living out the gospel message of Christ."

Members of the Stewardship Committee have the charge to encourage and challenge us to share of our time, talent and treasure for the mission of Christ's Church. There is a "treasure" campaign in the Fall, and "time" and "talent" opportunities throughout the year. The stewardship committee invites us all to envision what First Church can be and encourage us to do our part. No time, talent, or treasure is too small; God can use us all!

CHURCH PUBLICATIONS

The Landmark is our newsletter and is a great source of information about the life of our church each month. Articles for inclusion need to be submitted by the 15th of the month for the next issue. The easiest way to submit articles is via email directly to Jeanie Cacopardo, Editor, Jeanie Cacopardo: jeanie.cacopardo@gmail.com or you may leave them in the Landmark mailbox in Spencer House. Questions? Call Jeanie at 453-6981, or the Church Office 453-5249. If you are not receiving *The Landmark* and would like to, please call the Church Office and leave your name and address.

The Messenger is our Church School newsletter. It is mailed periodically throughout the year to the parents of children who are registered in Church School and Confirmation class and contains information about the Church School program and other church events of special interest to parents.

MUSIC

Music Ministry continues to be one of the hallmarks of the congregation of First Church and as such, it enhances, enriches and facilitates worship by complementing all aspects of the worship service. Music Ministry is transformational, spiritually Christ-centered, dynamic and a balance of tradition and innovation. Its goal is to support and emphasize congregational, choral, and instrumental music that is eclectic in style and genre, nurturing its participants in discipleship and in faith, encouraging all to experience God's gift of music.

We are pleased to have Director of Music Ministries, Bill Speed, as our new leader. First Church will continue to offer a quality music program for all ages with varied opportunities for experiencing music and spirituality through vocal, instrumental and bell choirs and educational classes. Music affects aspects of who we are physically, emotionally and spiritually. Singing, listening and playing instruments include ways to experience the ineffable mystery that is God. We invite you to join us in this ministry of First Church whether you sing, ring, play an instrument or attend a class. Here is a highlight of our music ministry offerings:

Cherub Choir (Kindergarten – Grade 2) meets for rehearsals on Wednesdays beginning September 10th from 4:00 – 5:00pm in Griswold Hall and participates in worship and special presentations throughout the program year September - May. Director: Karen Owen (453-6999).

Junior Choir (Grades 3 – 8) meets for rehearsals on Wednesdays beginning September 10th from 4:00 – 5:00 pm in Fellowship Hall and participates in worship and special presentations throughout the program year September - May. Director: Liza Catino (453-0494).

Senior Choir (High School- Adult) meets weekly for rehearsal on Thursday beginning September 4th from 7:15 – 9:00 pm in the Choir Room and at 9:00 am most Sundays for 10:00 am worship services from September to June. The Sr. Choir participates in weekly worship services as well as special services throughout the program year. New members are welcome at any time. Child care is provided for rehearsals. Attendance policy is as follows:

- If you would like to sing with the Senior Choir and cannot make a weekly commitment you can come on an occasional basis by attending one or two Thursday rehearsals prior to the worship service you can participate in.
- Special services throughout the year such as Lessons and Carols, Christmas Festival Services, Christmas Eve, Lenten special music, Easter Festival Services, and Joyful Noise! Concerts offer opportunities to sing with the Senior Choir by coming to the 4-6 week rehearsal schedule as noted throughout the year. This is an enjoyable opportunity to sing larger works with the choir. Contact Bill (458-9701) for more information about participating as your schedule permits.

Bell Choirs (*All ages*) from beginners to advanced meets throughout the program year providing opportunities to ring with a short-term rehearsal schedule before ringing for worship. Look for announcements in weekly bulletins and the monthly *Landmark* for opportunities to ring. The Intermediate Bell Choir will begin rehearsing Thursday, September 11th from 6:00 to 7:00 in preparation for ringing during worship in October, and the Youth Bells (grades 5 through 12) will begin on Wednesday September 17th, meeting from 3:10 to 4:00. Advanced Ringers will be meeting in September to select repertoire and set dates for worship ringing. Interested ringers should contact Bill (458-9701).

Instrumentalists meet for a variety of musical genres and ensembles, from Jazz and Gospel to classical, solo works to chamber orchestras. Call Bill in the Music Office (458-9701) to discuss how you can participate in this music ministry.

Joseph and The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat

The musical "Joseph and The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" is coming to First Church March 20, 21, 22, 2009. Kendrick has wanted to present "Joseph" for such a long time and now it's happening! You can turn his dream into reality by volunteering to: build sets, create scenery, sew costumes, sing in the chorus, play in the pit orchestra, or choreograph many different kinds of dances. We also need lighting & sound techies, stage hands, ticket-takers, ushers and publicity hounds. Contact Liza Catino by phone 453-0494 or email: l.catino@comcast.net. She needs all the help she can get! Look for notice of auditions for this intergenerational cast sometime in October.

Joyful Noise! Concerts

Joyful Noise! Concerts are held throughout the year sponsored by the Music Committee. There is no admission fee. The free-will offering received at the concerts and the proceeds go the Myrtha Licht Fund at First Church which supports and enhances our musical ministry. Concerts currently scheduled for the 2008-2009 program year are:

Saturday Oct. 18th at 7:00 p.m. - Will Duchon, classical pianist and host on WMNR Fine Arts Radio, in a program of Brahms, Granados and Bach-Busoni

Saturday Nov. 22nd at 7:00 p.m. - Thomas Pandolfi, Juilliard trained pianist, in a concert of all Gershwin music.

Sunday Jan. 11th at 4:00 p.m. - The Shoreline Ringers, an extremely talented and entertaining choir of handbell players ringing five octaves of hand bells and five and one half octaves of hand chimes in a concert of holiday and non-holiday music. Must be seen AND heard.

Sunday Jan. 25th at 4:00 p.m. - The Taubl Family, nine gifted musicians who have traveled and performed together for over ten years. Trained at such prestigious institutions as the Juilliard School, Yale School of Music, and the Hartt School, these award winning musicians will present a concert of music ranging from gospel to show tunes. The Taubl Family was seen on NBC's "America's Got Talent" in the summer and fall of 2008. A perfect concert for all ages.

Saturday March 7th at 7:00 p.m. - Nick Cutroneo, Hartt School of Music trained classical guitarist in a varied program sure to enthrall.

Sunday May 17th at 4:00 p.m. - The ConnArtists - a return engagement of the seven-man a cappella group featuring First Church's own Charlie Dear in a concert of wildly entertaining music for the whole family.

Annual Memorial Concert

Sunday Nov. 9th at 4:00pm - The First Church Annual Memorial Concert featuring the musical stylings of **Morris Pleasure**, professional musician formerly with Earth, Wind, and Fire. Mo will be performing in loving memory and honor of his father, Robert Pleasure, and grandmother, Celeste Pleasure, long time members of First Church. A reception will follow. The Annual Memorial Concerts are presented with thanks for the funding from the Burt Family.

Music and Transformation Classes

Mondays 7:00 - 8:30pm in the Bride's Room

Tuesdays 11:00am - 12:30pm in the Choir Room

This course for adults is a musical interpretation of the stages of transformation where one can explore and deepen one's spiritual life through music and imagery, meditation practices, prayer and Scripture. **Classes begin September 22** and run through May. The course covers 28 weeks, however participants can benefit from a few classes or the entire course. The segments are listed on the next page, each consisting

of 4 classes: the first class is an experience in music, imagery, and creating mandalas; the second class focuses on the spiritual aspects of that particular segment; the third class is a dialog between one's physical and spiritual selves; and the fourth class integrates all one has experienced and learned in that segment. The seven stages are:

Surrender: The Spiritual Practice of Letting Go

Mystery: The Spiritual Practice of Questioning

Abyss: The Spiritual Journey in Darkness

Hope: The Light in Darkness

Discovery in the Light

Renewal: The Spiritual Journey of Rebirth

Manifestation: How Can I Keep from Singing?

Originally designed and taught at First Church by Mary Morreale, this course will continue facilitated by First Church members trained by Mary: Marjorie Colton, Nancy Mann, Suzanne McGriff and Penelope Rebuzzini. There is accompanying book and CD, written and recorded by Mary, which will be available for sale. For more information, please call one of the facilitators: Marjorie (245-3463), Nancy (245-0513), Suzanne (453-1646), Penelope (453-2516), or Stuart Wilkie, Chair, Music Committee (458- 9253).

ADULT EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

Wilcox Lectures, Friday October 26 – Sunday October 28 --

“The New Birthing of Christ for Today: A Celtic Perspective”

This year's Wilcox lecturer is ***Dr. J. Philip Newell***, from the Iona Community in Scotland. The series includes a lecture Friday evening, two on Saturday morning, luncheon (provided), and an afternoon lecture. Lecture Admission: Friday - free; Saturday \$15 (lunch included). Advance registration is advised!

Friday evening: ***“Listening for the Heartbeat of God:***

An Introduction to Celtic Spirituality”

Saturday's theme: ***“The Twin-Loves of Celtic Spirituality:***

Love of Christ, Love of Creation”

Also, he will preach on Sunday and then lead an Adult Forum.

Sunday morning sermon: ***“Made in the Image of God”***

Bible Study: This year we are offering Bible Study at a new time: **9:00 - 9:45am on Sundays**. We might even offer coffee and tea to make sure you're awake! Leaders will be: David Colton in September and October; Bob Raines in November; Shannon Clarkson in January;

Kate Ott in February; Daphne Stitt in March; and Charlotte White will lead following Easter in April and Sandra Wiens will lead in May.

Sunday Adult Forum: We offer these adult education opportunities most Sundays at 11:15am. There's time for a quick cup of coffee and then head to the Chapel for the program. The complete listing is in the Worship section (pgs 4-11.) ***Child care will be provided.*** A few special programs are:

Sept. 14th - Ken Esposito from the CT Conference Office of the UCC will speak about Universal Health Care.

Sept. 28th - All those participating in our Sacred Conversation on Race supper are strongly encouraged to attend this program on communication skills that promote good group process. Two facilitators from the Community Mediation Center of New Haven will be our leaders. Child care will be provided.

Oct. 12th - Bob Howard and Ray Dudley will talk about how we can be a “greener” church.

Oct. 19th - a panel will talk about issues of race on the Shoreline. Do plan to attend as it will be helpful for our “Sacred Conversation” Discussion. Child care provided.

Nov. 16th – led by the Board of Community & World Concerns.

Nov. 23rd - Pastoral Care is the focus

Dec. 14th - Historian Robert Harms will give us an in-depth look at the brutal operations of the Atlantic slave trade through an illustrated recounting of the 1731 – 2 voyage of the slave ship Diligent. Along the way, he will introduce the economic forces, political rivalries, and moral debates that animated the 18th century Atlantic world.

Jan. 11th - Tom Grant will speak about living wills, bequests, and other ways to include our church in your financial planning.

Jan. 18th - Dr. Emilie Townes will lead a talk-back session on issues related to her sermon. She is the Academic Dean at Yale Divinity School and a professor of Christian Ethics.

Feb. 8th - Dr. Yolanda Smith from Yale Divinity School will talk about her research on faith and heritage found in African American spirituals.

Mar. 8th - “Spiritual Values in the Family” with Dr. Joseph P. Wagenseller, ordained Episcopal Clergyman and Jungian Psychoanalyst. He will talk about the Spiritual Journey of Life, discussing family life, its dynamics, and some of the difficult issues that often occur within families.

April 18th—“*Paul, Fully Alive*” is an all-day workshop presented by Wayne Rollins. Paul is the man everyone thinks they don’t like, but who turns out to be a Mensch to whom we can all relate very well personally. Sessions: “*Paul, the Man*,” “*Paul the Letter-writer and Situational Theologian*,” “*Paul and a New Christian Ethic*,” and “*Paul for the Road*.” A series “with feeling” and relevance, along with new insight into this short, runty guy with the genius that really “caught” what Jesus was about and that saved the early Christian movement from a lapse into a legalistic orthodoxy. .

Lenten Supper & Study: Join us for the five Wednesdays in Lent: March 4 – April 1 from 6:00 – 8:30pm for our Lenten series. Each evening begins at 6:00pm in Fellowship Hall for a supper. At 6:45pm we will have a brief meditative worship followed by the program at 7:00pm which will be a biblical exploration led by Kendrick and Susan. Details to follow. You are encouraged to join us for any parts or all of the evening as you are able.

Miner Library, located in the Spencer House, is a reference and lending library intended to advance individual and group studies pertinent to worship, faith and spirituality. For assistance please call Marjorie Colton, First Church Librarian at 245-3463.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE

The Board of Community & World Concerns (CWC)

Our mission is to assess and determine the needs and opportunities for outreach in our local, national and global communities and in the

wider church and to communicate with church members about participating in mission. One CWC Board member serves as a liaison to each funded program and can help you get involved and connected with an agency. The Board welcomes suggestions for support of other currently unfunded organizations or programs and will give consideration to each request. CWC supports a budgeted contribution of at least 10% of the church’s operating expense for use by the United Church of Christ state, national, and global denominational ministries.

In addition, our benevolence-giving supports these missions sponsored by the CWC:

Basic Support of the U.C.C.	Domestic Violence Services
Church World Service/CROP Walk	Alternative Giving
Guilford’s ABC (A Better Chance)	Christian Community Action
Shoreline Resettlement Alliance	Fair Haven Parents Ministry
Covenant to Care	Columbus House
Guilford Interfaith Ministries	Guilford Welfare Oil
Guilford Meals on Wheels	Guilford Food Bank
Pilgrim Fellowship Mission Trip	Interfaith Cooperative Ministries
Melita House	The Cove for Grieving Children
UCC Seminaries in New England:	Bangor & Andover Newton

If you are interested in being involved with any of these programs, please contact any Board member: Chair, Linda Cantley (458-2569) Karin McNamara, Clyde Work, Michael Garvey, Peppina Haydock, Dawn Parker, Gail Pappas, Jeri Perkins, Gretchen Law, Paula Baraket, Nancy Ruther.

The Peace, Affirmation and Justice Committee

The Peace, Affirmation, and Justice Committee promotes peace, human rights and social justice. Since our founding, we have provided educational programs and forums that raise consciousness about current social issues and create opportunities for dialog and involvement. Historically PAJ grew out of the Open and Affirming Committee. When its original work was accomplished, PAJ was established to address a broader range of social concerns. More recently, through public gatherings and government involvement, we advocated for non-violent conflict resolution and progressive legislation on issues ranging from the war in Iraq to prison reform. Through our prison resettlement activities, we offer opportunities for individuals to become personally involved in mentoring women and youths who are incarcerated. We also

offer mentoring support for the children of women who are in prison, and we provide prayer support and supplies for those who are rejoining society. We look forward to the upcoming, planned discussions on race as an opportunity to help move our community and world forward toward greater understanding and fellowship. For more information, please contact one of the Committee members: Virginia Corbiere, PattyAnn Meyer, Sally Koslik, Holly Koncz, Sandra Wiens, Brian Hill, Daniela Koksich, Bob Raines and Vin Adinolfi.

FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Please wear your nametag; it is a significant way to make guests feel welcome.

Coffee Hour: Following 10:00 worship from September through June, everyone is invited for refreshment and fellowship in Fellowship Hall. Each Sunday a Committee or Board is responsible for preparation & clean-up; a Deacon is host, reaching out to welcome visitors and members. During the summer, lemonade is offered on the Church lawn after the 10:00 a.m. service. It moves indoors during inclement weather.

The Red Tent is a women's fellowship group which meets once a month (usually on Saturday mornings) for spiritual reflection and discussion. The topic for conversation may be a particular book, or themes which arise in our lives. We also meet for retreats, usually at the Mercy Center. We welcome women of any age who wish to join us. Meetings for 2008-2009 are presently being scheduled; please call the Church Office (453-5249) for more information.

Alpha Club: The Alpha Club is a social and service group for women of the congregation. We meet monthly (except July & Aug.) on the fourth Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall unless otherwise posted. An interesting variety of programs is offered. Its primary goal is to develop warm friendships and support the church with dedicated service, fund-raising activities, and fellowship. All are cordially welcome. The meeting dates and planned events are:

Tuesday, Sept. 23, 7:30pm- Harvest Fair Workshop - FH

Fri. & Sat., Oct. 3 & 4 – Rummage Sale

Tuesday, Oct. 21, 7:30pm – Caregiving & Receiving - Jane Olsen

VNA

Saturday, Nov. 1 – Harvest Fair

Tuesday, Nov. 18, 7:30pm – Barbara Wells' Japanese Dolls - at Wells'

Tuesday, Dec. 16, 7:00pm – “Christmas Memories” – at C. Small's

Tuesday, Jan. 27, 2008, 7:30pm Surprise

Tuesday, Feb. 24, 2008, 6:00pm – Comfort Evening - comfort food & fellowship, FH. Program: Elaine McNally Fitzpatrick

Tuesday, Mar. 24, 2008, 7:30pm -- Gardening Tips - Goose Lane Gardens

Officers for 2008 are: President: Betsy Work; Vice President: Barbara Bishop; Secretary: Kay Honsberger; Treasurer: Betty Brown; Programs: Barbara Fredericks, Carin Small; Devotions: Charlotte Mousch; Membership: Alice Mitchell; Least Coin: Mary Christiansen; Special Events: Betty Allen, Cindy Magee, Wendy Sullivan; Sunshine: Jane Rowan; Rummage Sale: Betty Allen, Cindy Magee, Wendy Sullivan; Nominating: Annie Adams, Ruth Neale.

42nd Annual Harvest Fair: This year's Harvest Fair will be held on Saturday, November 1st. First Church has a unique event: ours is among only a handful of church fairs left in Connecticut that are still totally member-produced, utilizing no outside vendors or craftspeople. We're open from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30p.m. The proceeds are used on needed major repair projects that happen with an historic building such as ours.

According to our by-laws, fellowship is the *first* objective of our fair. The Fair offers an excellent opportunity for fellowship because it requires a tremendous effort by the entire congregation. The fair is, as always, a wonderful opportunity for fellowship.

In 2008 we will feature the usual shopping rooms and sections: “attic treasures” (many of them antiques); ; bird-carvings; dried flower arrangements; handcrafts; homemade baked goods and candy; house plants; jewelry; knitted goods; tools; wooden and metal wares; and a room of used toys in excellent condition. Food service will be offered as well. The Sanctuary exhibit this year will feature a photographic display of Guilford, past and present.

All are invited and encouraged to join in preparations for this event. Please consult your *Harvest Fair Handbook* – due to arrive soon – it contains a full description of opportunities for participation. All are welcome at any workshops to be held in the fall.

The expenditure of proceeds from the Fair will be determined by the six-person Harvest Fair Committee, and the Alpha Club, with suggestions from the ministers and the Business Committee.

But in the meantime consider doing some craft work, and/or making donations to attic treasures, tools, jewelry, toys, or plants. Thanks!

SEE YOU AT THE FAIR!

PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN 2008 – 2009

General Church School Information

Our church provides an educational program for children on Sunday mornings at 10:00 a.m. during regular worship services.

- The Crib Room and the Toddler class for “3’s and Under” are both available from 9:50 a.m. until the end of worship. Parents are always welcome to stay with their child until their child is comfortable with our rooms and caregivers.
- Pre-K through Grade 8 will generally worship with their families for the first 15 minutes of the service and then leave the Sanctuary to attend Church School classes. Classes end at approximately 11:15 a.m.
- Pick-up arrangements: Parents of children up through Grade 2 are requested to collect them personally from class when the bell rings. This is one of our safety measures for small children. Older children will be permitted to make their own way to meet parents in Fellowship Hall. Parents should arrange for a meeting place inside the church building.
- Grades 7 & 8 – the schedule for Grade 7 & 8 students will be issued in September. The year will provide them with opportunities to participate in Communion periodically. There will also be times when these 2 classes will meet together for a special activity or attend a worship service.
- Registration for Church School, Church Nursery, and Confirmation classes will take place in September. We ask parents to complete a new registration form for each child in the family (Confirmation and below), even if the child attended Church School last year, and even if the child is a baby or toddler who is not yet attending church on a regular basis. We would like to establish a record of relevant information for every child in our church family.
- In addition to the “September through May” Church School program, we usually offer some type of summer programming for children. Plans for this will be announced later in the school year.

Parents will be notified about special services, Church School vacation days, and other events that pertain to families through the Church School Newsletters, which are distributed during the year – please keep them for reference.

Intergenerational Family Services

These are special services which occur periodically throughout the year. They take the place of regular Church School classes, and are designed to enable all ages to worship together. Extra care and attention to children’s needs and interests will help make this a special time for the whole church family to be together.

- *Welcome Home Sunday* – September 7
- *“Thanksgiving Service* – November 23
- *2nd Year Confirmands Service* – January 25
- *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* – March 22
- *Children’s Day* – May 17

Church School Curriculum

The purpose of our Church School program is to provide an accepting, nurturing atmosphere to help children respond to God’s love and to grow in relationship with God and others. The Bible, which contains stories of our Judeo-Christian heritage, is taught at each level, taking into consideration different emotional, intellectual, and spiritual stages of development. The great insights of faith in the Bible are better understood as the children learn about the people involved in the stories and how they lived, and as the children compare these stories to modern day situations they may encounter.

Church School teachers receive training in the curriculum and Bible skills and use a variety of educational tools. This year classes up through Grade 5 will use *Witness*, an Augsburg curriculum, based on the most familiar Bible stories that we want our children to learn. Older children will use *Bible Quest*, as well as being involved in a variety of other creative learning situations designed especially by our own Church School teachers.

Each grade level also has specific learning goals for the school year in the areas of scripture, worship, and church mission. It is our hope that over a period of several years children will gradually build a fund of knowledge which will help them as they approach a more mature understanding of the Christian faith, and as they see how the members of our congregation worship and work together as a community of faithful people.

Confirmation Classes

Our confirmation program is open to any young person in the church in grades 9 – 11. The class is a two-year program with emphasis on learning about the responsibilities of church membership and exploring the meaning of living a Christian life.

During the first year, each confirmand will choose a sponsor, and with their assistance, will be guided through a series of hands-on learning experiences designed to increase his or her understanding of what it means to be part of the church. These experiences cover a broad range of activities – from helping in the church nursery, to participating in worship services, to assisting in a church-related outreach project. During the second year, the class will meet weekly, learning about the Bible, our church’s history and missions, and exploring together some of the issues that surround our faith and beliefs. Confirmation, for those who choose, will take place in June of the second year.

We ask parents of 9th graders or other young people who have an interest in the confirmation program, to register on “*Welcome Back Sunday*” or contact the church office early in September and let us know you plan to participate.

High School Youth Group

Our Pilgrim Fellowship usually meets on Sunday evenings from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. The group alternates between serious programs, recreational and social events, and service projects for our church and the community at large. In past years a week-long mission trip during spring vacation has been a highlight of the year’s activities. Details of PF programs are announced in the *Landmark*, worship bulletins and PF newsletters. All high school students are welcome to participate. Contact persons: Rebecca Bunting (458-1783) or Pat Dudley-Gregory, Chair, PF Committee (453-5985).

Middle School Youth Group – note new time and day!!

The Middle School Youth group is for anyone in Grades 5 – 8 interested in sharing your talents, kindness and respect with our community and world. Learn about other cultures, get creative, meet new friends and participate in FUN activities. The group will meet with Andrea Schmidt on Thursdays from 3:15 – 4:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Please

join us on Thursday, September 11th and bring a donation of canned meat for the Guilford Food Bank.

Junior Choir – Wednesdays 3:45 – 5:00pm – Fellowship Hall

The Junior Choir, for those in Grades 3 – 8, will meet beginning on Wednesday, September 10th. Director: Liza Catino 453-0494.

Note that the Middle School Youth Group will be meeting on a different day this year so Junior Choir 5th-8th graders may still come to Fellowship Hall after school on Wednesdays and we’ll do something while we wait for the 3rd & 4th graders to arrive.

Cherub Choir – Wednesdays 4:00 – 5:00pm – Griswold Hall

The Cherub Choir, for those in Kindergarten – Grade 2, will meet beginning on Wed., September 10th. Director: Karen Owen 453-6999.

****Children’s Choirs and the Middle School Youth Group DO NOT MEET** during school vacations, school half-days, or snow days.

Both children’s choirs sing periodically in church during regular worship services, and provide opportunities for fellowship and fun for the young people.

BOARD & COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS (until 2/09)

First Church is managed by Boards, Committees, and Church Meetings. These meetings are open to all members; meeting dates are posted in the Landmark and Sunday bulletins. If you are interested in serving on a particular committee or board, please contact the Nominating Committee. Current chairpersons for Boards and Committees are:

Adult Education Committee	Shannon Clarkson
Alpha Club	Betsy Work
Auditors	Charles Dear, Shawn O'Sullivan
Board of Christian Education	Pam Ertelt, Ann Weeden
Board of Community & World Concerns	Linda Cantley
Board of Deaconesses	Pamela Dear
Board of Deacons	Carlos Garcia
Board of Finance	Bet Cummiskey, Ben Lyster
Business Committee	Gary Knowles, Ken Medvetz
Called to Care	Marilyn Leslie
Church Council	Kim Beckett
Communion Committee	Gladys Holland
Decorating Committee	Elaine Lincoln
Flower Committee	Barbara Wells
Harvest Fair Committee	Nancy Patton
Hospitality Committee	Alison Linske
House Committee	Barbara Bishop
Human Resources Committee	Pam Ertelt
Memorial Committee	Kay Honsberger
Memorial Garden Committee	Tom Pugh
Music Committee	Stuart Wilkie
Nominating Committee	Eva Ewing
Offering Collection Committee	Doris Fonicello
Peace, Affirmation & Justice Committee	Virginia Corbiere
Pilgrim Fellowship Committee	Marti Carlson
Stewardship Committee	Sandy Nicholas
Board of Trustees	Richard Boutilier
Usher Committee	Eva Ewing
Welcoming & Inclusion Committee	Lyla Johnson

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