



## VOWS OF RENEWAL

Leader: Do you renew and affirm the promises made at your baptism?

**Congregation: I do.**

Leader: Do you recognize God's call on your life to walk in his way?

**Congregation: I do.**

Leader: Do you embrace Jesus as the way, the truth and the life?

**Congregation: I do.**

Leader: Will you follow him as Lord, and receive him as your Savior?

**Congregation: I will.**

Leader: Do you accept the nurture of the Holy Spirit who renews your spirit each day?

**Congregation: I do.**

Leader: Do you accept and embrace others who seek a liberating faith in God?

**Congregation: I do.**

Leader: In renewing your baptismal vows, remember your baptism as a mark of acceptance and welcome into the care of Christ's church, where you may begin again your Christian faith and life.

## A UNISON PRAYER

*O God, we rejoice in your grace, given and received. We thank you that you claim us, that you wash us, strengthen us and guide us, that you empower us to live a life worthy of our calling. In the way of Jesus, make us as water in a dry and thirsty world. Establish us to be places of refreshment for others. Root us and nurture us in love, that with all your people, that we may rightly and justly serve you. Amen.*

\*HYMN OF DEDICATION "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus" #344 Chalice Hymnal

THE ACT OF RENEWAL (The Pastor will place water on those who come forward and the following words will be used.)

Leader: Remember your baptism and be thankful.

Recipient: Amen

\*THE COMMON COMMISSION (Unison)

*Let us go forth into the world in peace, being of good courage, holding fast to that which is good, rendering to no one evil for evil, strengthening the fainthearted, supporting the weak, helping the afflicted, honoring all people, loving and serving the Lord, and rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.*

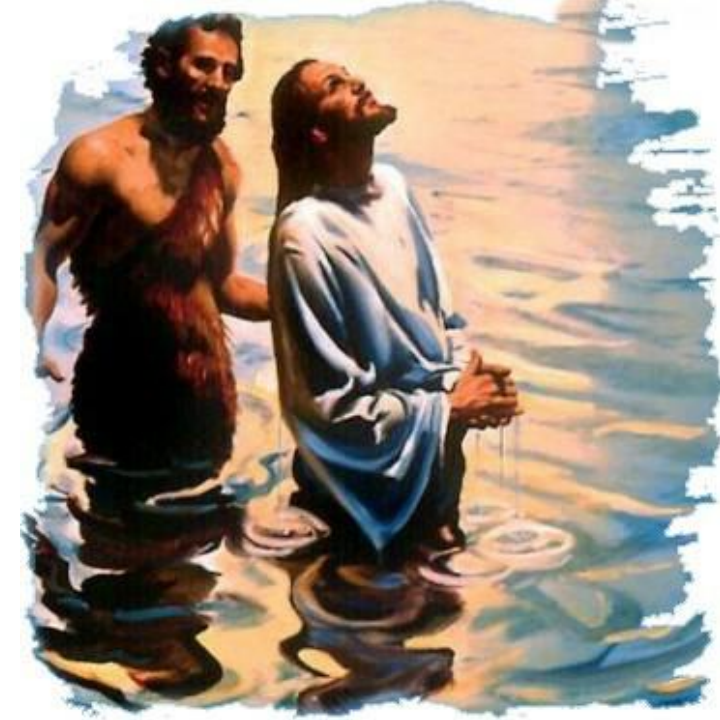
## BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION IN MUSIC "Duo" (Devienne) –Joshua Toman and Jamie Howanec, flute

## POSTLUDE

"Sussex Carol" (Traditional) –The Baldwin Chamber Players

*Our Vision: Praising God and meeting the needs of people through worship, study, outreach and fellowship, in the name of Jesus Christ.*



**First Congregational Church**  
**2301 Main Street**  
**Stratford, Connecticut 06615**  
**203-378-2644 – Fax 203-377-6749**  
**Website: [Firstchurchstratford.org](http://Firstchurchstratford.org)**

**WORSHIP 10:00 AM**  
**Sunday School 10:00 AM – Sept. to May**

**Sunday, January 8, 2012**

The Rev. Edward Rawls, Minister  
Don Coulson, Financial Secretary  
Anne Larsen and Jane Hartigan, Parish Nurses  
Kristine Bacon, Director of Christian Education



*Gathered 1639*

Dr. Joe Utterback, Director of Music  
Bill Hickey, Facilities Manager  
Sandy O'Neill, Church Administrator  
Tammy Langston, Youth Director

Pastor's letter of the week:

Is a letter written by the Reverend Ed Rawls, sent via email, containing important information on the events that are happening at the church. We would like to send it to everyone who has email. If you are interested in receiving the Pastor's letter of the week, please fill out and put into the offering plate or email the church administrator at [firstchurchofstratford@yahoo.com](mailto:firstchurchofstratford@yahoo.com).

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Let's Go Green and receive the Courier by email.**

It has come to our attention that we are using a great deal of paper each month in sending out the Courier by regular mail. We send out over 270 Couriers each month that are sometimes over fourteen pages long. Over a year, that adds up to a lot of trees. It also adds up to a lot of money. In a time when we seriously want to cut our deficit, switching from regular mail to email is a rather painless way to do it.

We know that some of you do not have email addresses and some don't use a computer. That's fine. We plan to keep sending it to you as usual. But for those who use the internet, we would like to encourage you to move from receiving your Courier by mail to email. Believe it or not, if over a hundred people would do this, it could save the world a lot of trees and save the church a lot of money.

If you are interested in helping the church save money by going green and receiving your Courier by email, please notify the church administrator by email at [firstchurchofstratford@yahoo.com](mailto:firstchurchofstratford@yahoo.com) or by leaving this notice in the offering plate with the following information:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**First Congregational Church, 2301 Main Street, Stratford, CT 06615**

**Phone: 203-378-2644 Fax: 203-377-6749**

**Email: [Firstchurchofstratford@yahoo.com](mailto:Firstchurchofstratford@yahoo.com)**

**Minister: The Rev. Edward Rawls**

**Bulletin Supplement, January 8, 2012**

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**TODAY, January 8, 2012-Baptism of Christ Sunday**

**10:00am Worship with Baptism and Sunday School**

**11:15am Fellowship**

**Board of Christian Education Meeting**

**12:00pm-3:00pm French Speaking Baptist Church-Lower Packard Hall**

**3:00pm Rose Window Concert-Michael and Friends**

**4:00pm-7pm The Unitarian Universalist Church- Upper Packard Hall**

**6pm-8pm Pilgrim Fellowship Youth Group**

**MONDAY, January 9, 2012**

**4:00pm Bell Rehearsal**

**6:30pm-8pm Girl Scouts-1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> Grade classroom**

**7:00pm Board of Trustees Meeting**

**Church Council Meeting**

**Boy Scouts-Scout Room and Lower Packard Hall**

**TUESDAY, January 10, 2012**

**5:00pm Table Tennis-Lower Packard Hall**

**7:00pm French Speaking Baptist Church**

**WEDNESDAY, January 11, 2012**

**THURSDAY, January 12, 2012**

**7:15pm Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting-Lower Packard Hall**

**7:30pm Senior Choir Rehearsal**

**FRIDAY, January 13, 2012**

**SATURDAY, January 14, 2012**

**9am-12pm French Speaking Baptist Church-Sanctuary**

**10:00am Women's Service League Meeting-Upper Packard Hall**

**Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting-Lower Packard Hall**

**3pm-6pm The Unitarian Universalist Church Concert-Sanctuary and Lower Packard Hall**

**SUNDAY, January 15, 2012**

**10:00am Worship with New Members and Sunday School**

**11:15am Fellowship**

**Stewardship**

**Benevolence**

**12:00pm-3:00pm French Speaking Baptist Church-Sanctuary**

**4:00pm-7pm The Unitarian Universalist Church-Sanctuary and Lower Packard Hall**

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**GOOD MORNING!** And welcome to worship at First Congregational Church. To all our guests and visitors: we are especially pleased you are joining us for worship this morning and hope that your spirit is uplifted, your soul nourished and you will be able to face the days and

week ahead. We invite you to complete one of the pew cards in the pew and place it in the offering plate. If you would like to meet with the Pastor, please complete the request card in the pew holder.

**Today Sunday School is in session, children are to go to their classrooms. Childcare is available in our Crib and Toddler room.** For those parents who wish to keep their baby with them, we ask that if the child should become fussy, please feel free to make use of the rocking chair located at the back of the sanctuary. The glass doors, which are located at the bottom of the stairs leading from the Narthex to the lower level, will be locked on Sunday mornings. If you need access to the lower level during worship, please see an usher. The restroom is located out the doors of the sanctuary and to the left in the Narthex.

**USHERS:** Our Ushers today are Greg Carleton, Walter Dunbar, Andy Byrne, Don Reaney, Jim Perman, Bill Wilson, Liza Hickey, Steven Bump and Marilyn Francis.

**DEACONS:** Our Deacons today are Andy Byrne, Steven Bump, Sue Linden, Mike Nunno, Lucia Smith and Bob Preto-Rodas.

**OUR GREETERS** today are representing the Pilgrim Fellowship Youth Group.

**OUR ACOLYTE** for today is Ryan Poisson, son of Barbara and Kenneth Poisson of Stratford.

**FLOWERS:** *The altar flowers are given to the greater glory of God and in celebration of Baptism of Christ Sunday.*

Our baptism today is Hunter Ryan Beauchemin born on September 20, 2011 in Bridgeport. His parents are Heather Bernor and Alan Beauchemin.

**The Nominating Committee is looking for people to serve on the following boards or committees:**

Board of Christian Ed (3) - Two positions are one-year terms  
Ushers (1)

If there is a committee or board that you wish to serve on, please contact the Chairperson of Nominating, Virginia Millington at 203-378-1974 as soon as possible. Thank you!

**OFFERING ENVELOPES:**

Please pick up your 2012 Offering Envelopes in Upper Packard Hall during fellowship hour.

**Contact Office**

Please contact the church at 203-378-2644 or [firstchurchofstratford@yahoo.com](mailto:firstchurchofstratford@yahoo.com) if someone is sick or is in the hospital, so we can be praying for them.

**In Sympathy:**

Our thoughts and prayers are with the Poisson family. Barbara Poisson's mother passed away over the holidays. Condolences can be sent to: Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Poisson, 35 Mapledale Avenue, Stratford, CT 06614

**Submission of information for the Courier:** The February 2012 Courier deadline will be January 15, 2012. Please try to send all submissions for the Courier via the church email address at [firstchurchofstratford@yahoo.com](mailto:firstchurchofstratford@yahoo.com) to help make production of the Courier easier to process. For those of you who do not have a computer, your handwritten or typewritten articles will still be accepted, but please try to have them in a few days prior to the deadline. In addition, if you would like to **receive your Courier via email**, please contact the office and or check out the website for the Courier at [firstchurchstratford.org](http://firstchurchstratford.org).

Thank you for your continued support and cooperation.  
-Sandy O'Neill, Church Administrator

**WOMEN'S SERVICE LEAGUE JANUARY 14**  
**The Women's Service League will meet Saturday, January 14 at 10A.M.**  
**We have lots to talk about and plants to make.**  
**Jamie Dobrovich will bring a display of Pampered Chef as well as**  
**Co-host with Beth Turner.**  
**Please join us with some good ideas for the New Year!**

**Music Review**

**Today we have the pleasure of welcoming back the Baldwin Chamber Players. They will be providing the music for our Prelude, Offertory, Musical Benediction and Postlude.**

**The Baldwin Chamber Players are:**

**Ruth Johnson, Rose Arsenault, Hugh Croll and Zoli Toman on violin;**

**Barbara Comstock on viola;**

**Joshua Toman and Jamie Howanec on Flute and**

**Cynthia Russell on oboe.**

First Congregational Church of Stratford Presents:

A Rose Window Concert Series

*Michael and Friends*

# *Standard Time*

Michael Jovovich

*with*

Dr. Joe Utterback

*with special guest artists:*

Tony LaVorgna

Nick Macri

Roger Post

*and*

Eric Nyquist

Saturday, January 8, 2012

3:00PM

First Congregational Church of Stratford

2301 Main Street, Stratford

203-378-2644

*A free will offering will be accepted*