

September 4, 2011

Communion Sunday

10:00AM

FOR REFLECTION

Psalm 149

Pew Bible pg. 571

THE PRELUDE

“Just a Closer Walk with Thee”
-Arlene Bernor, vocalist

-Anonymous

CALL TO WORSHIP

-Andy Byrne, Deacon

Leader: Praise God!

People: **Sing to God a new song!**

Leader: Give thanks to our Maker.

People: **We rejoice in our sovereign God.**

Leader: Let us praise God with dancing and music.

People: **Let the faithful sing for joy as we praise God together!**

*HYMN OF PRAISE

“O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing” #5 Chalice Hymnal

INVOCATION

Leader: In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
one God and mother of us all, we gather to meet you this morning.
You are always with us, in us, and among us.
Make us aware of your presence in worship, in word, and in sacrament.

All: **Amen**

CHURCH AT PRAYER

Prayer Requests

Silent Prayer

Pastoral Prayer

THE LORD’S PRAYER (Unison)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

The Offertory Statement

Offertory “Swing Low, Sweet Chariot” (original version) -Traditional/arr. Hayes
-Jack Strother, baritone

*Doxology

#46 Chalice Hymnal

Prayer of Dedication

*THE COMMUNION HYMN

“Blessed Assurance”

#543 Chalice Hymnal

THE GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 18:15-20

Pew Bible pg. 895

SERMON

“How We Go About Things”

-The Rev. Ed Rawls

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

THE INVITATION

Leader: Luke the evangelist wrote of our risen Savior,
who at the table with two of the disciples
took bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them.
Their eyes were opened and they recognized
the risen Christ in the breaking of the bread.

People: **In company with all believers in every time and beyond time
we come to this table to know the risen Christ
in the breaking of the bread.**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy and Gracious God,
we have not loved you with our whole hearts
and we have not loved each other as you have loved us.
Forgive us, we pray,
for settling for anything less than our best,
for not making peace with our brothers and sisters,
for falling short of what you desire for us
and for your world.

ASSURANCE

God’s grace is abundant, God’s love is never-ending.
As children of God, receive God’s forgiveness and blessing.

THE GLORIA PATRI

#35 Chalice Hymnal

COMMUNION PRAYER

Leader: Up with your hearts!

People: **We lift them to God.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to God.

People: **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Leader: Holy God, you created a planet full of life. í .

***SANCTUS**

“Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!” verse 1 #4 Chalice Hymnal

***THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

***THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELEMENTS**

(Please take the elements when received)

THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (Unison)

**Gracious God, you have once again shown us your love
by bringing us to this meal.**

**We go from here renewed in faith,
renewed in courage,**

and strengthened by your presence.

Thank you for loving us so tenderly.

**Thank you for challenging to deny ourselves,
take up our crosses, and follow you.**

***THE CLOSING HYMN “Blest Be the Tie That Binds” #433 Chalice Hymnal**

THE SONG OF SIMEON (Unison)

*Holy One, now let your servant depart in peace; your word has been fulfilled:
my own eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared for all people;
a light to reveal you to the nations and the glory of your people Israel.*

THE BENEDICTION

THE BENEDICTION IN MUSIC

-Allison Fay, soprano

THE POSTLUDE

“Improvisation”

*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
Firstchurchstratford.org***

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

Communion Sunday, September 4, 2011

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

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

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

Email: Firstchurchofstratford@yahoo.com

Minister: The Rev. Edward Rawls

Bulletin Supplement, September 4, 2011

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.

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 or by leaving this notice in the offering plate with the following information:

Name: _____

Email: _____

TODAY, September 4, 2011

10:00am Worship with Communion

11:15am Fellowship

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

MONDAY, September 5, 2011-Labor Day

Office Closed

TUESDAY, September 6, 2011

7:00pm French Speaking Baptist Church

WEDNESDAY, September 7, 2011

7:00pm Alcoholic Anonymous Planning Meeting

7:30pm Camera Club

THURSDAY, September 8, 2011

7:00pm Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting

FRIDAY, September 9, 2011

SATURDAY, September 10, 2011

9am-12pm French Speaking Baptist Church

10:00am Women's Service League

Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting

SUNDAY, September 11, 2011

10:00am Worship

11:15am Fellowship/Board of Benevolence/Church Fair Meeting

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

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.

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.

Please take note that Childcare will NOT be available in the Crib and Toddler room, during the summer months, while Sunday school is not in session.

For those parents who do wish to bring their child into the Nursery 1 & 2 room and remain with them, are welcomed to do so.

Sunday school will begin on *September 18, 2011* and at that time our Crib and Toddler room will again become staffed for the school year. Thank you.

The Board of Christian Education

USHERS: Our Ushers today are Mike Nunno, Charlie Cable, David Banks, Gary Hanson, Barbara Hickey, Charlie Bitzer, Jean Martire and Nancy Mellardo.

DEACONS: Our Deacons today are Beth Turner, Gary Hanson, Al Brown, Barbara Hickey, Ken German, Jean Martire, Eric Nyquist, Arlene Bernor, Elizabeth Larkin and Charlie Bitzer.

OUR GREETERS today are Judy Larsen and Carl Larsen, Sr. representing the Board of Benevolence.

FLOWERS: The center flower arrangement is given in memory of Dean Eckenrod by his family.

The side arrangement is given in celebration of the birth of David Riley Millington on August 17, son of Albert & Alicia Millington by his grandmother, Virginia Millington.

The second side arrangement is given by Jo Schlagenhauf in honor of the birth of her 2nd great grandchild, Mason John, on June 18. He joins his brother Jake Ryan. He is the son of J. Ryan & Jaime Schlagenhauf of Meriden CT. The grandparents are Michele Dollon of Torrington CT, Janis Schlagenhauf of Columbia CT, and John Schlagenhauf of Coventry CT.

Looking for Fabric for the Fair: I am in need of fabric for crafts for the fair. If you are able to help with fabric, please contact Beth Turner at 203-375-4011 or after church on Sunday.

JEWELRY FOR THE FAIR: If you have any jewelry you no longer wear and don't know what to do with it! Donate it to the church fair Jewelry Booth. The jewelry can be left in the Robert Kee Board Room across from the Church Office. Thank you.

Church Family and Friends:
The family of Louise Cole wishes to thank their church family and friends for their much appreciated expressions of sympathy.

–Shirley Porter

WOMEN'S SERVICE LEAGUE MEETING SEPTEMBER 10

Hope everyone had a summer full of good times and good memories!

Our next meeting will be Saturday September 10 at 10AM in upper Packard Hall.

After tasty refreshments, we will confirm plans for the Pot Luck Supper fund raiser which will take place October 1. We will have the privilege of having the first event in the newly refurbished lower Packard Hall. It is beautiful! We need your help! Look forward to seeing you there!

Music Review:

"Swing Low, Sweet Chariot" (original version)

Few are aware that the beloved spiritual as we know it today is a "remake." In 1909, the touring Fisk Jubilee Singers recorded their take on an old spiritual first published in 1874. The newer, more elaborate interpretation soon displaced the original, which became largely forgotten. In 2009, the centennial of the Fisk version, composer/pianist Mark Hayes resurrected the original and set it to a new piano score. We thought the congregation would be interested in hearing the spiritual in its original form.

"SPECIAL MUSIC FUND" NOTICE.

On August 22nd, the Special Music Fund received a donation in memory of Mrs. Grace Scovell of Toronto, Canada. This donation was given by Fred and Gale Whittemore in memory of their dear friend who died in early August.....Many thanks to Fred and Gale for honoring their friend in this manner.

.....The Music Committee

Signed: Gale Whittemore, Music Committee

MUSIC NOTES: Senior Choir will return to morning worship on September 18, 2011 and the first choir rehearsal will be on September 15, 2011 at 7:30pm.

The Bell Choir will return to bell rehearsal on October 3, 2011 at 4:00pm.

If you are interested in being part of the Senior Choir or Bell Choir, please see Dr. Joe Utterback after worship.

The Youth and Junior Choirs will return to choir rehearsals on Sunday, October 2, 2011 after worship.



Church Fair

(Fri. Nov 11 & Sat. Nov.12, 2011)



Thanks to the leadership of Irene Breault, the Fair Chairs, and the entire congregation, the Church Fair last November was a huge success! I hope that enthusiasm will carry over to his year's fair. During the months leading up to the fair, there are several things that the congregation can be thinking about:

Tag Sale Items/Books

Please box up those tag sale items and books you have been looking to donate for the Fair. They can be brought to the church starting (3) weeks before the fair.

Jams/Jellies

With the summer months upon us, now is the time to "jar up" some jam and jelly for the fair. They are always a big seller!

Candy Booth

I am looking for someone to chair the Candy Booth. Irene has some yummy recipes and it would be a lot of fun to gather some people to make the candy. Please contact me if you would like to chair this "sweet" table.

New Ideas

We are always looking for fresh, new ideas to bring to the fair. If you have an idea for a new project we can try - please let me know. When we rent a table we collect \$30; if we can come up with a new product/craft we can sell we can realize much more than \$30 for that table. Put your thinking caps on and let me know what you're thinking!!

Seed \$\$

There is always a need for seed money to help defer the start-up costs of the fair. There will be a bucket in Upper Packard Hall on Sundays for your donations. Whatever you can give would be appreciated.

The fair is a very important fundraiser for our church and it requires the work of the entire congregation to make it a success. We need YOUR help, big or small, to accomplish our goal of raising as much \$ as last year, if not more, this year.

"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much." - Helen Keller

Carol Haberlin, Fair Chair - (203) 378-3981 - c_haberlin@yahoo.com

Sunday School 2011-2012 year begins!



The first day of Sunday school will be on September 18th, 2011 at 10:00 am. Please plan on arriving at Church at 9:30 am to register your child for the upcoming school year. Our goal is to have all children registered and in their new classroom by 10:00 am. We will have staff on hand to bring your child to their classroom and to help answer any questions.

We will also be handing out helpful information for the upcoming year, so please plan accordingly to attend this registration time and ask any questions you may have.

We are looking forward to a great year of fun, learning and do encourage parent involvement.

Registration will begin promptly at 9:30 am in Lower Packard Hall.

Please also feel free to bring any suggestions!

Kristine Bacon
Director of Christian Education



The annual Church Picnic will follow worship on September 18th



A signup sheet listing different picnic dishes & deserts will be available in Upper Packard Hall after worship. Please stop by on August 28th, Sept. 4th or Sept. 11th to let us know what you can bring to the picnic.

Hamburgers, hot dogs and beverage will be provided by the Board of Christian Education.

We look forward to seeing you for a day of fellowship, fun and good food!

