

the edge

The First Church in Windsor
United Church of Christ—Gathered 1630
An open and affirming community
for all God's people

Our mission is to worship God, love our neighbor,
and follow Jesus as together we journey in faith.



APRIL 2010



From the Minister –

**“I live in a very small house but my
windows look out on a very big world.”
-Confucius**

Since 1997 our congregation has had a vital and sustaining partnership with Pastor Lee and the members of the Sanwoon Church in South Korea. Our partnership is part of a larger relationship between the Connecticut Conference (UCC) and the Kyung-ki Presbytery (Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea). Over the course of the past twelve years Pastor Lee and members of his church have made several visits to Windsor and we in turn have sent a number of people from First Church to visit the church in Sanwoon. In addition, both congregations have benefitted from a number of youth exchanges over the years through a program called “Sacred Journey.”

For the past several years the Sanwoon congregation has been building a new church and now their new spiritual home is almost completed. I recently received an invitation from Pastor Lee to attend this momentous event in the life of their faith community on Sunday, April 25. Although it is a long flight, I am happy to be able to represent First Church at this historic occasion in the life of our partner church.

Although Christianity was not introduced into Korea until the beginning of the twentieth century, the church has grown by leaps and bounds since then. In fact, there are now as many Christians in Korea as there are Buddhists, which is remarkable when you consider all this has happened over the relatively short course of one hundred years. The new church building is an impressive modern structure. If you have not seen it, there are pictures of it on the bulletin board in the hallway outside my office as well as on our church website.

In honor of the occasion we have commissioned local artist and First Church member Sue Warner-Prouty to make a communion chalice and plate as our contribution to their new church building. Sue is a member of the Wesleyan Potters Cooperative Guild in Middletown and is highly regarded for her creativity and craftsmanship.

Please be sure to keep the members of our partner church in your prayers during our worship service on April 25. We all know that the church is not a building, but we also know that to us our old Meetinghouse is sacred space. I am honored and pleased to be able to help dedicate this new sacred space for our brothers and sisters in Korea. I know that if the need were ever to arise they would do the same for us and more. Despite the difficulties of language and distance our partnership has stood the test of time and serves as a reminder that,

“In Christ there is no East or West,
In him no South or North
But one great fellowship of love
Through-out the whole wide earth.”
-John Oxenham

Grace & Peace, RHH

**WORSHIP
SCHEDULE**

Sundays at 8 a.m. Holy Communion & 10 a.m. Family Worship

April 4
See Holy Week Schedule

April 11
Rick Huleatt

April 18
Nancy Lois

April 25
Char Corbett

LECTIONARY LESSONS

APRIL 4 (Easter)
Isaiah 65:17-25
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
I Corinthians 15:19-26
Luke 24:1-12

APRIL 11 (Second Sunday of Easter)
Acts 5:27-32
Psalm 150
Revelations 1:4-8
John 20:19-31

APRIL 18 (Third Sunday of Easter)
Acts 9:1-6
Psalm 30
Revelation 5:11-14
John 21:1-19

APRIL 25 (Fourth Sunday of Easter)
Acts 9:36-43
Psalm 23
Revelation 7:9-17
John 10:22-30

HOLY WEEK EVENTS

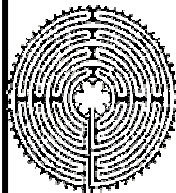


Sunday, March 28: Palm Sunday
Following the 10 a.m. service, **Hosanna Fair** will be held in Nelson Hall, with children making traditional craft objects of Easter significance. No Chapel.

Thursday, April 1: 7:30 p.m.
Service of Tenebrae, with Holy Communion, marking the darkness that followed the Last Supper and Jesus' betrayal.



Good Friday: April 2 at noon
Musical Meditation in the meeting-house.



11:00—4:00p.m. Come cherish some quiet time and sacred space. Meditate on the journey of faith. Walk the labyrinth in Nelson Hall.

Saturday, April 3: 11:00 a.m.
Easter Egg Hunt - School children up to grade 3 can participate in finding the Easter egg surprises.



11:30 a.m. Brunch
Afterwards, come and join us for a delicious brunch in Nelson Hall. \$3.00 for adults, \$2.00 for child or \$10.00 max per family.

Sunday, April 4: 9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. Duplicate services of music and celebration. There is no 8:00 a.m. service this Sunday and no church school. Care for younger children is available in the Youth Room in the meetinghouse.



First Church Auction News

We are pleased to say that the First Church Auction netted **\$17, 419!** All the money goes towards First Church missions and ministries. A big thank you goes out to all those people who donated goods and services to the auction and to all those 140+ people who bought those items and had a wonderful time doing it. Good fellowship, good food and a good gift to our Church. We are grateful!

Nancy Clark and Ruth Budlong

**From the Deacons
Spring Greetings!**

Now that flu season is winding down, we will resume our normal worship service Greeters and Passing of the Peace practices in the month of April. Thanks for your cooperation over the past few months with our special flu season guidelines - your support was greatly appreciated!



**"God's Church in a Strange Land: 7 Ways to Thrive"
Call to the 143rd Spring
Annual Meeting**

Connecticut Conference United Church of Christ
(Congregational Christian Churches)
First Congregational Church of Madison
26 Meetinghouse Lane
Saturday, May 8, 2010

CHURCH NEWS AROUND the CONGREGATION

*To the Sunday School Children,
Jack and I receive such wonderful cards—
birthdays, special holidays and right now our
valentine card sits on our dining room table.
Thank you, again and again!*

Jack and Elie Cowan

*Thank you very much for my beautiful valentine. It
was the only one I received!
Sincerely,*

Louise Thomsen

*I did not get a chance to thank you for all you have
done for my family throughout our time of need. I
wanted to thank all who have supported us,
comforted us and my grandmother (Evelyn Parker)
when she needed it. All your love and support
means so much.*

Liz and Family

*Dear Friends at First Church,
Thank you, thank you for the lovely flowers recently
sent to me after my illness. There are buds which
with fresh water, daily grooming, I'll keep as long
as possible because they brighten up the place.
I'm feeling stronger every day and hope to see you
soon. Thank you and God bless all of you.*

Laverne Gustafson

Other Offerings

The New England Chapter of the American Bell Association. will hold its Spring Meeting in Nelson Hall on **April 24 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.** A buffet lunch is available for \$15. Flora Ranny will display and talk about Crotal Bells and a variety of bells will be available for sale. For more information call *Elaine Brophy*.

On April 7 at 7:30 p.m., The Island Chamber Musicians will have a concert at the Loomis Chaffee School in the new music center at the southern end of campus. The program includes Brahms, Bach and Mozart and features our own **Mark Watkins** who will be singing Brahms Liebeslieder waltzes. There is plenty of parking and the event is handicap accessible.

-Submitted by Evie Smith

First Church Women's Club

On Tuesday, March 9, the Women's Club had a St. Patrick's Day themed meeting complete with Irish background music, shamrock table decorations and a dessert of brownies topped with green mint ice cream.



Helen Davenport presented a most enjoyable program entitled "Magic in Glass" in which she told us about the process of making stained glass art. She brought examples of her stained glass creations and showed us many more in a PowerPoint presentation.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, April 13 at noon in Nelson Hall. Mark Watkins, the First Church Choir Director, will entertain us with a musical program entitled, "Showers of Flowers." Please bring a dish to share for this potluck luncheon. A \$2 donation is appreciated to cover costs. Please call Polly Ellis at 688-5949 to sign up.



News from the First Church Early Learning Center

The four year old classes had a great time learning about how maple syrup is made at Northwest Park this month. We also had a great time on March 3 with a wonderful magic show. There are still openings available in most of our programs, so if you know of people who are interested, please tell them to call the office at 860—688—4597 to schedule a tour.

***A Place Where Children And
Childhood Are
Celebrated***



Scholarships Due by May 1

Frank Roswell and First Church Scholarship applications are now available and due May 1: First Church members graduating from high school and continuing their education are encouraged to apply for these scholarships. Please visit "Scholarships" on the church website (www.fcwu.org) for details and an application or contact the church office for more information.



Parish Caring Ministries

First Church has had many painful deaths over the last month. The following is a meditation from Henri Nouwen that might help us as we grieve these losses:

Remembering the Dead

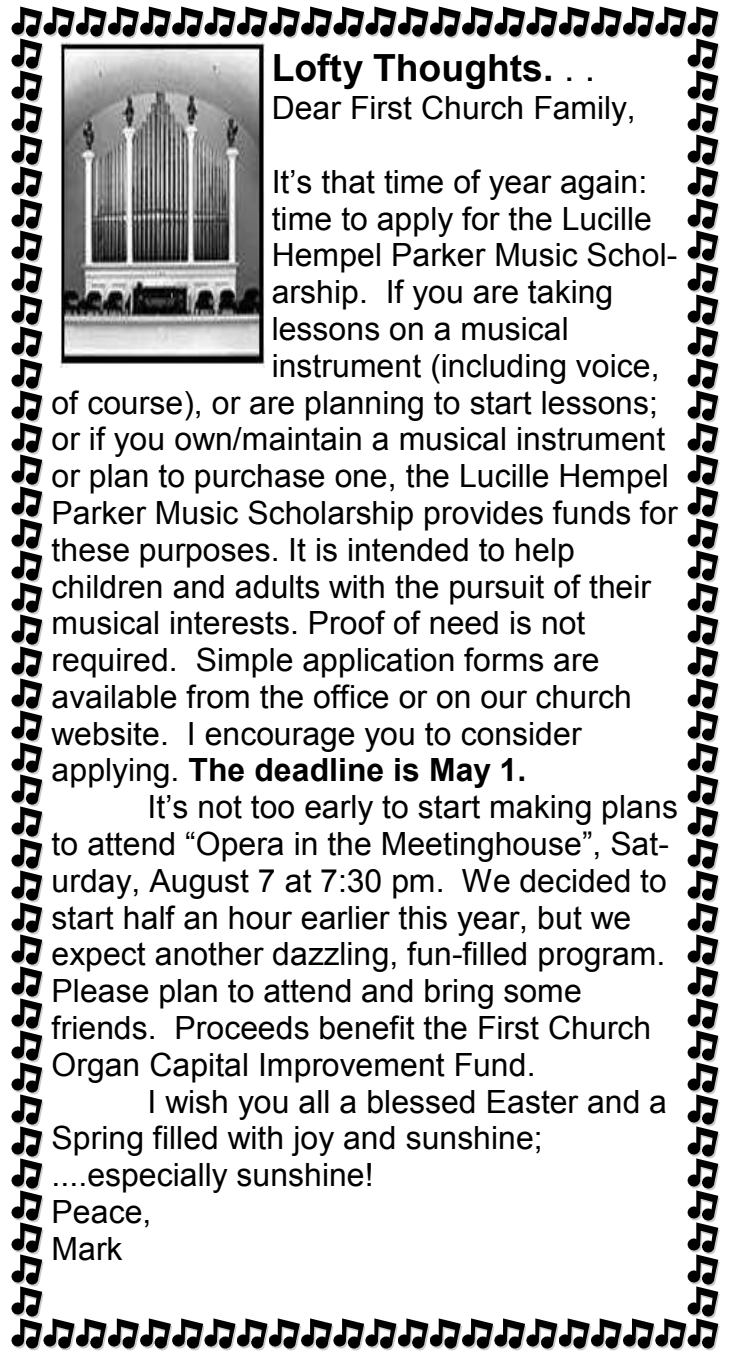
When we lose a dear friend, someone we have loved deeply, we are left with a grief that can paralyze us. Our thinking, feeling, and acting are codetermined by them: Our fathers, our mothers, our husbands, our wives, our children, our friends – they all are living in our hearts. When they die, a part of us dies too. That is what grief is about: It is that slow and painful departure of someone who has become an intimate part of us. When Christmas, the new year, a birthday or an anniversary comes, we feel deeply the absence of the beloved companion. We sometimes have to live a year or much more before our hearts have fully said goodbye and the pain of our grief recedes. But as we let go of them they become part of our “members,” and as we “re-member” them, they become guides on our spiritual journey.

The Parish Visitors will meet at Sue Williams’ house on Monday April 19 at 7:00 p.m. for dessert and fellowship. We will review and discuss the film, “Communicating with Compassion.”

*An apology to Kristen Eckhardt who was mistakenly omitted from the Thank You Volunteers list for March. She was our Friendship Team caller.

Thank you April Volunteers

- Meals and Transportation – Jen Osowiecki
- Flowers – Sue Gardner
- Prayers – Sue Williams
- Care Notes – Peg Cole
- Friendship Team – Jane Goodale



Lofty Thoughts. . .

Dear First Church Family,



It’s that time of year again: time to apply for the Lucille Hempel Parker Music Scholarship. If you are taking lessons on a musical instrument (including voice, of course), or are planning to start lessons; or if you own/maintain a musical instrument or plan to purchase one, the Lucille Hempel Parker Music Scholarship provides funds for these purposes. It is intended to help children and adults with the pursuit of their musical interests. Proof of need is not required. Simple application forms are available from the office or on our church website. I encourage you to consider applying. **The deadline is May 1.**

It’s not too early to start making plans to attend “Opera in the Meetinghouse”, Saturday, August 7 at 7:30 pm. We decided to start half an hour earlier this year, but we expect another dazzling, fun-filled program. Please plan to attend and bring some friends. Proceeds benefit the First Church Organ Capital Improvement Fund.

I wish you all a blessed Easter and a Spring filled with joy and sunshine;especially sunshine!
Peace,
Mark

Connecticut Conference Delegates Needed!

We need of two people who are willing to represent our congregation as voting delegates at the Spring Annual Meeting of the CT Conference to be held in Madison, May 8 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Please contact the church office if you are interested. For further information regarding the Annual Meeting please visit the Conference website at www.ctucc.org

Cluster 13 Youth Mission Update

Sixteen youth and four adults have begun their 20 hours of sensitivity and safety training for our upcoming youth mission trip to Camden, NY July 17 – 24., 2010. The youth and leader participants spent Saturday, March 13 cleaning out the Russell House for the service component of their training, as well as watching and discussing the movie, *Pay It Forward*, where we discussed the complexity of relationships and the lasting forward motion of kindness. **We hope to still recruit 2 more adult leaders for the trip – is God calling YOU?** *Next training date is Sunday, April 25 from 1:00 p.m.—5:00 p.m., place TBD. We will have the construction/ tool safety training.*



3rd Annual FCW Chili Challenge – April 11 during Fellowship Hour

Word has it around the Parish House that several church members are



determined to de-throne the two-time winner of the Chili Challenge, Char Corbett, our Minister of Youth and Outreach. Her response when told these rumors: “Oh yeah? Well then, bring on the heat!” So it’s set folks – Sunday, April 11 is the 3rd Annual Chili Challenge in Nelson Hall, immediately following worship. Stay for the event and YOU decide who makes the best chili in church by casting your vote. We’ll tally the results and let the majority decide! *Chili samples will be available 50¢/each or 3/\$1.00.*

Quarts of chili will also be available for \$5/quart and cornbread and bottled water for \$1.00. All proceeds benefit the Cluster 13 Summer Youth Mission Trip. Want to be a Chili Challenger? Sign up in Nelson Hall by Sunday, April 4.

Annual Tag Sale May 22 to Benefit Youth Mission Trip

Mark your calendars! This year’s annual tag sale will be held on Saturday, May 22, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Nelson Hall. A bake sale and car wash (weather permitting) will be part of the fundraising events. Nelson Hall will be open on **Friday, May 21st** for those of you who wish to drop items off. Please keep us in your thoughts as you prepare for spring cleaning. As the date gets closer we will have information regarding pick-up and storage of any items you wish to donate. For more information, please speak with Cindy Taplin or Priscilla Ford. We are still looking for other adult volunteers to help coordinate this event. Please call the church office for details.

Confirmation Class Update

March was an engaging month for our confirmands. Bill Williams and Liz Dupont-Diehl talked about the philosophy and practice of Buddhism and it’s complementary relationship with Christianity; began working with their mentors on their faith statements/projects and visited the First Cathedral in Bloomfield. Looking ahead in April, the class will continue to work on their faith statements and to plan their leadership of the May 2 Children’s Chapel. Confirmands meet with Rick and Char May 9 and present their faith statements/projects to the Deacons on Wednesday, June 2. Their confirmation on June 6 will be here before we know it – so please keep them in your prayers and ready yourselves to walk with them on these last few steps of the journey!



Silver Lake Registration Is Underway

Silver Lake’s 2010 Summer Conference Calendar is out and camp registration is available on-line at <http://silverlake.ctucc.org/>. Partial scholarships are offered by First Church and some scholarships are available through the CT Conference office. Calendars can be found outside the church office.

Sign Up for Overlook Farm August 16-August 20

Several spaces are still available for youth ages 12 and older to join us at Overlook Farm. This is an experiential opportunity to explore the root causes and possible solutions of global hunger and the unique way in which Heifer International empowers communities to lift themselves out of poverty. Fourteen youths age 12 and older will have the opportunity to live in tents (and other housing structures), and cook a simple meal. They'll also care for the farm animals and gardens as well as assisting with other farm chores. The activities are fun and educational in addition to providing an amazing way to grow in awareness, appreciation and understanding of other global cultures. It's also a way to support Our Church's Wider Mission and show our commitment to Heifer International. The cost is \$75 for the week. Scholarships are available. Contact Char Corbett for more details.

Women's Spring Retreat

April 24

At the
Wisdom House
In the beautiful
Litchfield Hills

*"PRAYING WITH
COLOR"*

Led by the Reverend
Sara Jane Munshower

Contact the church office to
reserve your spot
first.church.windsor@snet.net
(860) 688-7229
\$15 per person

Retirement Celebration For Davida

A service honoring our retiring Conference Minister, The Rev. Dr. Davida Foy Crabtree, will be held at the Old State House in Hartford from 3:00 – 6:00 p.m. on Sunday, May 2. Davida, who along with her husband David Hindinger, are active members of First Church, has served as Minister of the Connecticut Conference since 1996. Although a formal acknowledgement of the end of her tenure will take place at the Spring Meeting on May 8, this will be a wonderful time to thank her and celebrate her many years of faithful ministry to the United Church of Christ. Anyone interested in carpooling to the event should contact the church office at 860-688-7229 or email

Associate Pastor Search Committee Update

After the annual meeting in February where our congregation voted to support the position of Associate Pastor, the Search Committee has been moving forward with the search process. Following the customary UCC guidelines for a search, we have completed our local church profile. This is a lengthy document that describes who we are for potential candidates. We will shortly list the position with the UCC, inviting all qualified candidates to respond. We continue to work with Ineke Mitchell, our Regional Minister from the CT Conference, who supports and guides us through this process.

We are engaged in a unique process of discernment to discover the person whom God is calling to be with us. We are hopefully and prayerfully following a time frame to have an Associate begin serving by September.

Bob Stisser, Penny Richard, Scott Burghoff, Steve Porcaro, Claudia Jones, Marillyn Loomis, Betsy Kenneson, chair



Church School Update

I would like to send out a big thank you to all of the 7th and 8th grade teachers and students who helped out with the Shrove Tuesday celebration. Despite the inclement weather that evening, we

ended up with a respectable turnout and enjoyed good food and lots of laughs with friends and family.

Speaking of good things to eat, the March rotation class made a yummy dip called "Hearts of Palm" which was served during fellowship hour and it seemed like a hit judging from the smiles on everyone faces. In case you didn't get a chance to taste or you were looking for a new recipe to try during this year's Easter season, you're in luck!

Hearts of Palm Dip

- 8 ounce can hearts of palm, drained
- 1 cup chopped green onion
- 4 ounces cream cheese
- 1/4 cup Asiago or Parmesan cheese, grated*
- 1/2 cup sour cream
- 1/2 cup mayonnaise



Simply chop the hearts of palm and green onion in the food processor, and then add the remaining ingredients. Make sure the lid is on tightly and then process until smooth. Serve with pita chips, bread or crackers.

P.S. you can find the hearts of palm at any grocery store. I found the cans I used for the rotation class at Ocean State Job Lot.

Happy Birthday!

Rachel Cleveland, David Doyle,
Hannah Jeleniowski,
Christopher Dube, Coleen
Belanger, Marissa Demboski,
Kati Diehl, Liam O'Donnell, Sarah
Eisnor



The Plant Sale is a "Perennial Event" and will be held on May 9th

The plant sale will be held following the worship service. Any donations from your garden's bounty are greatly appreciated and can be brought to the side lawn of Nelson Hall in the two weeks prior to the sale. If you have clumps that need re-potting, we will be happy to do that for you. Any plant materials that are placed behind red shed (between the parsonage and parking lot) will be looked after and readied for the sale.

There will also be hanging baskets for sale, which make a perfect Mother's Day gift. You can check out the sample baskets and place orders on May 2nd during the coffee hour. All proceeds raised from this event will go to enriching the experience of youth headed to Overlook Farms this August.

Come to Vacation Bible School 2010 where you'll meet some

Extreme Heroes: God's Rescue Squad!

9:00 AM – 12:00 Noon at First Church
Monday, Aug. 9 – Friday, Aug. 13

New this year! Family VBS
Potluck Picnic Wednesday,
Aug. 11

5:00PM at Northwest Park!

Children *entering grades kindergarten through 5* are invited to be part of this week of learning about God through the lives and stories of some pretty amazing HEROES/HEROINES found in the Bible, throughout history and in our very own lives. **Registration begins April 1** online at fcwucc.org. Cost is \$15/child – max \$35/family. **Youth in sixth grade and older** are invited to join us as heroic helpers. **Adults** - Join the *Amazing Volunteer VBS Team* and reveal your super powers, too! Call Helga Finlay to volunteer at 860-688-7229, ext 12.

We will celebrate all our First Church Youth on Sunday, August 15.

First Church Staff and Contact Information

Senior Pastor
RICHARD HANNA HULEATT
Pastor Emeritus
F. VAN GORDER PARKER
Music Director/Organist
MARK D. WATKINS
Associate Music Director
VICTOR M. EVANS
Coord. Parish Caring Ministries
SUSAN WILLIAMS
Church Administrator
MARY PHELAN
Director, Early Learning Center
ELLEN MONCHON
Andover–Newton Student
NANCY LOIS



Minister of Youth and Outreach
CHAR CORBETT
Church School Coordinator
HELGA FINLAY
Church School Assistant
GARY SAVA
Treasurer
AUBREY LOOMIS
Bookkeeper
JENNIFER BILODEAU
Sexton
MICHAEL HITE
Custodian
CHRIS LEVINE

Sunday Church Services:
8:00 a.m.—Communion in the Round
10:00 a.m.—Service with Choral program
Weekly Church School

107 Palisado Ave., Windsor CT 06095
Office Hours: 8:30 -4:30 p.m. (M-F)
Phone: 860/688-7229
Fax: 860/688-9408
Email: first.church.windsor@snet.net
Web: www.fcwucc.org

Edge articles should be sent to the church office by email by the 15th of each month. Thank you!

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