

**THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
OF CANTON CENTER**



**December 31, 2017 - 10:00 a.m.
First Sunday after Christmas**



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***GATHERING PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Bev Sealand

God of all our days and years,
our seasons and our lives,
we rejoice in the gifts of Christmas
and carry within us its hope and peace,
its joy and love,
as we come to the gate of a new year.
Today as we ponder the meaning of the Christ-light,
may we remember our call
to take it out into the world,
so that wherever we are, and with all we meet,
we can help make visible its shining.
This we pray in the name and spirit of Christ,
as we also say together:

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 debts,
as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom and the power
and the glory forever. Amen.

***SUNG RESPONSE**

① Dm Gm C F ② Dm Gm C F
Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, in ex - cel - sis De - o!

③ Dm Gm C F ④ Dm Gm C F
Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

READINGS FROM SCRIPTURE Isaiah 60:1-4, Matthew 5:14-16

SERMON "Tidings of Light"

Hollace Bristol

***CAROL** 159, Chalice (blue) *There's a Song in the Air!*

OFFERING OF GIFTS

Invitation

Offertory "Coventry Carol" traditional 15th Century
Judy Robinson & Mary Lou - duet arr. Victor Johnson

*Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise him, all creatures here be - low;
Praise him a - bove, ye heaven - ly host: Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

*Prayer of Dedication

O God whose light shines through us,
we give thanks for these and all good gifts you give us.
We ask your blessing upon these offerings,
upon the intentions of our hearts within them
and all the ministries for which they are given.
Through them and through us,
may your love be evident in this world. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Joys and Concerns
Pastoral Prayer

*CAROL 488, Pilgrim (red) *Go, Tell It on the Mountain*

*BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

*POSTLUDE "Sing We All Noel" Alan Pote

The First Congregational Church, Canton Center
December 31, 2017

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME

We're glad you've joined us for worship today. Please know that whoever you are, wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here! If you are visiting today, please help us get to know you better by filling out one of the visitor cards in the pews and placing it in the offering plate. Questions? Please feel free to ask the pastor, or call the church office during the week.

*The flowers this morning are given by Tom & Sherry Goodwin
to honor our family members, past and present.*

CONFIRMATION CLASS IN JANUARY

Regular class meetings will be held on Jan. 14 and Jan. 28, after worship.

SOUPER SUNDAY

In January we will be selling various soups made by committee members to raise money for Open Hearth in Hartford. Open Hearth provides a transitional living program through an 84-bed facility and addiction-related support. Please buy something delicious for your lunch or supper meal while helping others in need on Souper Sunday, January 21, 2018 during coffee hour.

Pastor: The Rev. Dr. Brenda Pelc-Faszczka

Director of Music: Mary Lou Keefe

Dir. of Faith Formation: Sarah Pradhan

Duty Deacons: Bev Sealand & Dan LeGeyt

Greeters: Beth Lingenheld

Ministers: Every Member

Secretary: Kristen DiMattia

Sexton: Walt LeGeyt

Duty Trustee: Sue Lampros

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

We gather as a welcoming community in worship, learning, service and fellowship, to embody Christ's message of love, compassion and justice. Joining faith with action, both within and beyond our church, we strive to build a community that serves all.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING ~ SUNDAY, JANUARY 7

WARNING OF A SPECIAL MEETING: of the First Congregational Church, Canton Center, Sunday, January 7, 2018 after the 10 am service, OR on subsequent Sundays until a quorum is obtained.

AGENDA

- 1. Approval of the proposed 2018 budget.
- 2. Any other appropriate business.

Respectfully Submitted,
Bev Sealand, Clerk

PRIME TIMERS

January 10th ~ Scattergories
The Prime Timers will meet on Wednesday, January 10, 2018 at 12:00 pm at the church for a Pizza Party and a fun time playing Scattergories. Dessert and beverage will also be served.

ACTIVE SHOOTER TRAINING FOR CANTON CHURCHES

Tuesday, January 23, 10 a.m.
Canton Police Department, 45 River Road, Canton
All interested church members and key lay leaders are encouraged to attend this presentation, offered by Captain Lawrence Terra of the Canton Police Department, on how churches can be prepared in the event of an armed aggressor on their premises.

Sunday 31	Monday 1	Tuesday 2	Wednesday 3	Thursday 4	Friday 5	Saturday 6
Worship 10:00 am	ACA 7 pm	Deacons Meeting AA 7:00 pm	Search Committee 7:00 pm	Cub Scouts 4:30 pm		AA 11:00 pm