

**THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
CANTON CENTER, CT**



**February 18, 2018 - 10:00 a.m.
First Sunday in Lent**



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~ ORDER OF WORSHIP ~

CHIMES

Karen Needham

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Brief announcements from the congregation are welcome. Those wishing to make Announcements are asked to be in the front pews at the start of the announcements period.

There will be opportunity to share prayer requests at the time of the Prayers of the Church. If you wish to offer a prayer request in written form, please fill out one of the yellow prayer request cards found in the pews and place it in the offering plate at the time of the offering.

Large print editions of the bulletin and Chalice Hymnal are available at the back of the sanctuary.

Nursery Room- Childcare is provided for ages 3 and under, in the lower level of the Parish House.

**All who are able, please stand. Bold denotes unison voice.*

PRELUDE

“Nearer, My God to Thee”

arr. Gordon Young

CALL TO WORSHIP

Friends, we gather to be the community of Christ in a new season.

**We gather to be a Lenten people,
seeking God with heart and soul, with mind and strength.**

On this day, let us remember what it means to love God,
and to love our neighbors as ourselves.

On this day, let us remember our source of strength:
God-with-us in all struggle.

On this day, let us be fully present as the Spirit speaks to us and through us –
for God is in the midst of us and we are in the midst of God.

***HYMN 161 Pilgrim (red)** *“Before the Cross of Jesus”*

***GATHERING PRAYER AND THE LORD’S PRAYER**

**We begin this Lenten journey, O God,
to remember the love that holds us and the gospel that claims us;
to confess that by its light we can see our limits,
by its truth we can see our mistakes.
Together we begin this Lenten journey
to remember that we follow the one who is crucified yet risen,**

who calls us out of shadow into light,
who teaches us the power of faithfulness,
who shows us the fullness of love,
and whose community we are.

In his name and spirit we pray, 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**

Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's ho - ly name.

Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me in - to life.

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES

Sarah Pradhan

Following this, children may go to church school classes.

READINGS FROM SCRIPTURE: Matthew 4:1-11

SERMON "On Not Living Divided"

***HYMN 612, Chalice (blue)** "O' Jesus, I Have Promised"

OFFERING OF GIFTS

Invitation

Offertory

"Canon of Praise"
Senior Choir

Pachelbel arr. Hal Hopson

*Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

God of every grace,
we thank you for all the good gifts you give us
for ministries of justice, compassion and care.
We ask your blessing upon these that we offer now,
that they might bear witness to your love,
among us and beyond us.
In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

*HYMN 363, Pilgrim (red) *"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"*

*BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE *"Sevenfold Amen"*
Senior Choir

*POSTLUDE *"Hosanna, Loud Hosanna"* arr. Michael Burkhardt

Pastor: The Rev. Dr. Brenda Pelc-Faszczka

Director of Music: Mary Lou Keefe

Director of Faith Formation: Sarah Pradhan

Duty Deacons: Karen Needham & Charlie Hammond

Greeter: Larry Minichiello & Larry Smith

Ministers: Every Member

Sexton: Walt LeGeyt

Secretary: Kristen DiMattia

Duty Trustee: Phil LeGeyt

Coffee Hour Host: Sarah

**The First Congregational Church, Canton Center
February 18, 2018**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*The flowers this morning are in memory
of Lew and Minerva Forker given by John Forker.*

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.

ANNUAL REPORTS

*Your copy of the Annual Report is ready to view before the Annual Meeting schedule for next Sunday.
Please remember to bring your annual reports back for the annual meeting.*

CHERUB CHOIR

*The Cherub Choir, under the direction of Judy Robinson, will be rehearsing
today 2/18, 2/25, 3/4, 3/11, 3/18 and 3/25. in the music room.
We will be preparing a song to sing for Easter Sunday. The choir is open to ages 3 through 3rd grade.*

YOUTH GROUP-MOVIE NIGHT

*Youth Group Movie Night! Friday February 23rd from 6 - 8:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall.
Pizza and popcorn provided! Contact Sarah or Casey to RSVP.
We will be watching Field of Dreams...this event is open to all youth grades 5 and up.*

PRIME TIMERS

*February 28 - Seasons Restaurant
The "Out to Lunch" Prime Timers will have lunch at the seasons Restaurant at 12 pm on February 28.*

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

of the First Congregational Church, Canton Center, Connecticut, on Sunday,
February 25, 2018 at 10:45 am or on subsequent Sundays at 10:45 a.m. until a quorum is obtained.

Agenda:

1. Call to order and opening prayer
2. Reading of the call of the meeting and confirmation of quorum
3. Presentation of the minutes of the previous meetings
4. Receiving and accepting of the reports of the church officers and committee chairs
5. Presentation of the slate of the Nominating Committee and election of officers, board members and committee members
6. By-Laws Changes:
7. Any other business proper to come before said meeting
8. Adjournment and benediction

Respectfully submitted, Bev Sealand, Clerk

PICK UP YOUR "SEEDS FOR LENT"

A devotional booklet has been prepared for our congregation, called "Seeds for Lent," inviting us into the spiritual practice of noticing during Lent: noticing small things of spiritual importance.

The booklet is a mini-journal for recording our own "noticings" from now until Easter.

Copies are on the table under the bulletin boards, outside the sanctuary.

FEBRUARY MISSIONS & OUTREACH

We will be collecting warm clothing, coats, queen and king sheets and canned goods for area shelters.

Please put gently used items in the mission box outside of the kitchen.

CAKE AUCTION

Cake Auction will be on March 4th!

For more information or to sign up, see sign up sheet or contact Kristin Oswald or Katie Mankowski.

MESSY CHURCH - MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Messy Church will be held on Friday, March 16th. The theme is 'Real Me.' Details to come soon.

Sunday 18	Monday 19	Tuesday 20	Wednesday 21	Thursday 22	Friday 23	Saturday 24
Worship 10 am Cherub Choir 11:15 am Youth Mission- Giv2 Event (leave at noon)	Cantana 6:45- 7:25 pm Sr. Choir/guest singers 6:45 pm ACA 7 pm Sr. Choir 7:30 pm	AA 7 pm	Search Committee 7 pm	Handbell Choir 7 pm		AA 11 pm