

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



**February 25, 2018 - 10:00 a.m.  
Second Sunday in Lent**



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~ ORDER OF WORSHIP ~

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CHIMES

Bob Oswald

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           *"Trust In Jesus"*

CALL TO WORSHIP

In the season of Lent we gather, to remember  
**that we journey together in God.**

With our private hearts we gather, to remember  
**that we also have a common heart.**

From our separate lives we gather, to remember  
**that God calls us to a common life.**

With our spirits open to God's spirit we gather, to remember  
**that the Christ we follow calls us into community,  
with each other and with all others.**

Friends in Christ, today let us be the living Body of Christ.

**\*HYMN 284 Chalice (blue)**   *"Gather Us In"*

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

Loving God, maker of all things,  
we give thanks for the gift of this new  
day and for its every blessing  
To this sacred place, we bring ourselves and our stories,

the daily round of joy and sorrow, of hope and need,  
 that all we carry might be touched and healed.  
 Today may we be open to your wisdom and awake for your call,  
 brave for your work and bound in your love.  
 This we ask as disciples of Christ, in whose 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**

**MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES**

Sarah Pradhan

*Following this, children may go to church school classes.*

**READINGS FROM SCRIPTURE:** Luke 4:16-30

**SERMON** "In This Together: Some Thoughts on Tribalism"

**OFFERING OF GIFTS**

**Invitation**

**Offertory** "Dear Lord and Father of Mankind"  
 Senior Choir

arr. Sue Wallace

**\*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 683, Chalice (blue)** "O' For a World"

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE** "Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days" Senior Choir

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*All members of the church are asked to remain in the sanctuary at the close of the service, for the congregation's Annual Meeting that will follow immediately. Children and youth through grade 8 may go to the Parish Hall during the meeting. Coffee hour will follow the meeting.*

**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:** Sherry & Tom Goodwin

**Coffee Hour Host:** Craig & Linda McAllister

**Ministers:** Every Member

**Sexton:** Walt LeGeyt

**Secretary:** Kristen DiMattia

**Duty Trustee:** Phil LeGeyt

**Usher:** Art Mauger & Marianne Burbank

**The First Congregational Church, Canton Center**  
**February 25, 2018**

*The flowers this morning are given by the Oswald family in memory of  
Kristin's father, Grosvenor McGraw Wadman  
and Bob's father, Donald George Oswald.*

**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.

**CHERUB CHOIR** - *The Cherub Choir, under the direction of Judy Robinson, will be rehearsing today, 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.*

**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*

**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.*

**SCRIP** - *If this warm weather has you thinking about adding a few new outfits to your "Spring Collection", now is the perfect time to buy some scrip for the Gap! Cards are good at Old Navy, Banana Republic and Athleta as well. This week, the church receives 20% on the face value of every card purchased. You still get what you pay for, but we also make 20%. Stop by the Scrip table during coffee hour to place an order or to see any of the other 700+ retailers available.*

**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 located outside of the kitchen.*

## CONVERSATIONS FOR LENT

### TRYING HARD TO BE HAPPY: DOES FORCING POSITIVITY CREATE THE OPPOSITE?

**This Tuesday, Feb. 27, 10 – 11:30 a.m., with Rev. Brenda**

In our culture, there is often a message that "thinking positive" is all we need in life to be happy and well, and that states of unhappiness or unwellness are in our own mind-control. We'll see a brief video with Harvard psychologist Susan David, who argues that forcing "positivity" can actually lessen, rather than strengthen, our emotional resilience for life's challenges.

### "PRAY THE WAY YOU THINK GOD LISTENS:" THE LANGUAGE OF PRAYER

**Wed., March 7, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. or Thurs., March 22, 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.**

*Facilitated by Hollace Bristol and Rev. Brenda Pelc-Faszczka*

How do we shape the language of prayer, whether that language is spoken aloud or silently? Why do we form prayer in one way rather than in another way? What do we understand to be happening when we pray? As we think about the meaning(s) of prayer, we'll consider how our basic understanding of God determines how we pray, and what we think is happening when we do.

### MOVIE NIGHT: "BROTHER SUN, SISTER MOON" FRI., MARCH 9, 6:30 P.M.

*Hosted by Hollace Bristol*

This Academy Award-nominated film (1973) focuses on the early life of St. Francis of Assisi (1181 - 1226), one of the seminal figures in Christian history. Francis was born into wealth and renounced it in order to seek a spirituality and communion with the world, especially the world of nature, unencumbered by material possession. The film is 2 hours in length.

*(Please use sign-up sheets on the church bulletin boards or contact the church office.)*

**CAKE AUCTION - NEXT SUNDAY** - *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 25	Monday 26	Tuesday 27	Wednesday 28	Thursday 1	Friday 2	Saturday 3
Worship 10 am ANNUAL MEETING	Cantana 6:45- 7:25 pm	Lenten Happiness Discussion 10 am	Prime Timers Out to Lunch 12 pm			
Cherub Choir 11:15 am	Sr. Choir/guest singers 6:45 pm	AA 7 pm	Search Committee 7 pm	Handbell Choir 7 pm		AA 11 pm
Confirmation Class after meeting	ACA 7 pm Sr. Choir 7:30 pm					