

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



**March 11, 2018 - 10:00 a.m.
Fourth Sunday in Lent**



184 Cherry Brook Road, PO Box 133, Canton Center, CT 06020-0133

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www.cantoncenterchurch.org

~ ORDER OF WORSHIP ~

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

“ My Shepherd”

Roger Wilson

CALL TO WORSHIP

In this place we gather, the people of God,
and bring the fullness of our lives;
for God so loves the world.

To this time we come, the people of God,
and bring stories of need, stories of joy;
for God so loves the world.

In this day we live, the people of God,
forgiven and helped, blessed and called,
for God so loves the world.

Friends, we come from wherever we are,
and remember that in this day,
God’s grace will find us.

***HYMN 228 Pilgrim (red)** *“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”*

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

**Holy and Eternal One,
ever working in us, through us, and for our sakes,
today may we center our souls and open our hearts,**

ready for a new seeing of your grace
 and a fresh hearing of your word.
 May we be renewed in courage and strength,
 awakened for love and hope,
 to be your faithful people in the world.
 This we ask in Christ's name and spirit,
 as we also pray 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**

p $\text{♩} = 76$ Dm G Dm Bb C F A
 Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's ho - ly name.

p Dm G Dm Bb C Dm
 Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me in - to life.

MOMENT FOR MISSIONS

Kurt and Jolly Lux

Following this, children may go to church school classes.

READINGS FROM SCRIPTURE: John 3:14-21, Ephesians 2:1-10

SERMON "Not Our Own Doing"

***HYMN** 200, Chalice (blue) "What Wondrous Love Is This"

OFFERING OF GIFTS

Invitation

Offertory "Remember Me" Senior Choir

Deborah Govenor

*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

O God who is generous with the whole creation,
may we be generous in your name,
using all you have given us to love and to serve,
to bless and to heal,
so that we might help the world know
your love for all. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

*HYMN 546, Chalice (blue) *"Amazing Grace"*

*BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE *"Sevenfold Amen"*

* POSTLUDE *"Only Thou Art Holy"* Mary McDonald

Pastor: The Rev. Dr. Brenda Pelc-Faszczka

Director of Music: Mary Lou Keefe

Director of Faith Formation: Sarah Pradhan

Duty Deacons: Dave Heyer

Ministers: Every Member

Sexton: Walt LeGeyt

Secretary: Kristen DiMattia

Duty Trustee: Gary Adajian

The First Congregational Church, Canton Center
March 11, 2018

*The flowers this morning are given by Beth Lingenheld
in honor of my mother, Janice Bennett Galusza.*

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.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING - *You will find a special collection envelope in your bulletin for One Great Hour of Sharing. OGHS is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ for disasters, refugee/immigration and development ministries throughout the world. Please make your checks payable to First Congregational Church and we will send one check.*

MESSY CHURCH - THIS FRIDAY! - *Messy Church will be held March 16th at 5:30, dinner at 6:30 here in the parish hall. Come get messy and share and express the real you. Christ centered for all ages. Explore what makes you and others unique with crafts/activities. Celebrate with story/song. Come and bring your friends, sign up at ce@cantoncenterchurch.org or call 860-693-4581.*

Congregational Second-Hour Forum

Next Sunday, March 18 ~ 11:30 - 12:30 a.m.

From a Line to a Circle: Reimagining Our Church's Structure

Following our congregation's adoption of an updated Mission Statement last October, the Church Council has been reviewing our church's organizational structure (committees, other working bodies, lay leadership and staff positions) to consider how our structure can best be imagined and implemented in order to serve our core ministry purposes as a church. The Council would like to present to the congregation the current distillation of its thinking about this and a plan to try out this spring.

CONVERSATIONS FOR LENT

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

Thursday, March 22, 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.

Please note: the time for this discussion is at 10 am (not 7 pm as stated in the Churchmouse calendar)

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.

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

PRIME TIMERS- *The Prime Timers will meet in the church parking lot on Wednesday, March 14, at 11:30 am to carpool to Sweet Wind Farm in East Hartland for a program on making Maple Syrup. Cost is \$5. Bring your own lunch and drink to have before the program.*

EASTER FLOWERS - *Easter Lilies and Tulips will be on sale the next two Sundays, March 18 & 25. Lilies will be \$18 per plant and Tulips will be \$10. per plant. Please see Polly Rice or Kristin Oswald.*

MARCH MISSIONS & OUTREACH - *We will be collecting Easter items for needy families who are clients of Wellmore Behavioral Health in Torrington, CT. Wellmore provides social services to many families in Western Connecticut with service locations in Danbury, Waterbury, Naugatuck and Torrington and covering families in geographical areas from Cheshire to Kent. **Please consider taking a paper egg from the Easter Tree in Parish Hall with a "wish list" item to donate by Sunday, March 25th in time for Easter basket delivery on Easter morning April 1.***

Sunday 11	Monday 12	Tuesday 13	Wednesday 14	Thursday 15	Friday 16	Saturday 17
Worship 10 am Music 11:15 am Cherub Choir 11:15 am Confirmation Class 11:30 am	Prayer Shawl 10 am CE Meeting 6:30 pm Cantata 6:30 pm Trustees 7 pm ACA 7 pm Sr. Choir 7:30 pm	AA 7 pm	Prime Timers Meet Church lot 11:30 am Council 7 pm	Handbell Choir 7 pm	Messy Church 5 - 8:30 pm	AA 11 pm