



**THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
OF CANTON CENTER**



September 9, 2018 ~ 10:00 a.m.

GATHERING SUNDAY

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

Office 860-693-4581

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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 is available in the lower level of the Parish House. Children ages Birth-3 years may visit the Nursery with a parent at any time.

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

PRELUDE *"Now and Forevermore"*

Mary McDonald

CALL TO WORSHIP

This is the day that our God has made;
 let us rejoice and be glad in it!
From our many places we come,
 and our many gifts we bring.
From our many journeys we arrive
 at the place called love.
Friends, we are gathered in God, called by Christ, awakened by Spirit,
 to celebrate and renew the life we share!

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

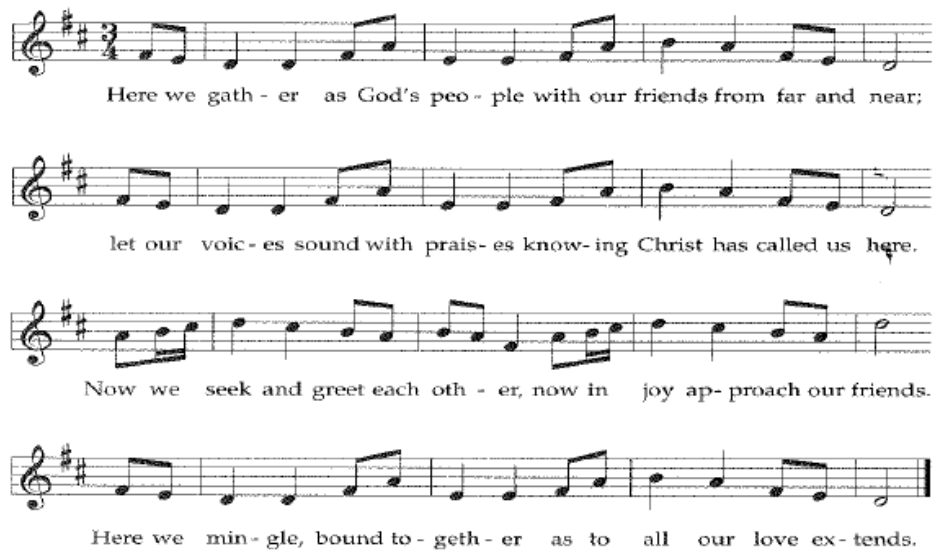
*GATHERING PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Loving God who has made this day and gathered us in it,
who has given us life and called us to it,
we give thanks for the sure presence of your love --
here, there, everywhere.
Awaken us and stir us,
open us and fill us --
so that like water flowing
our love will flow too,

and guide us in all we do.
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** *"Here We Gather as God's People"*



Here we gath - er as God's peo - ple with our friends from far and near;
let our voic - es sound with prais - es know - ing Christ has called us here.
Now we seek and greet each oth - er, now in joy ap - proach our friends.
Here we min - gle, bound to - geth - er as to all our love ex - tends.

***WELCOMING EACH OTHER IN PEACE**

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES

As a sign of our coming together to open a new season, bringing our many and varied gifts and energies, and committed to loving and caring for God's whole creation, we will all be invited to bring forward water we have brought from many places in that creation, to be combined in one flowing fountain.

Following this, children may go to Church School classrooms.

***HYMN 247, Chalice (blue)** *"Wind upon the Waters"*

READING FROM SCRIPTURE Isaiah 2:1-5

SERMON "Flowing Toward God"

OFFERING OF GIFTS

Invitation

Offertory

"River in Judea"
Senior Choir

arr. John Leavitt

*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

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

*HYMN 530, Chalice (blue) "I've Got Peace Like a River"

*BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE "Go Now in Peace"
Senior Choir

*POSTLUDE "We Are Called"

David Haas/Mark Hayes

The First Congregational Church, Canton Center
September 9, 2018

*The flowers this morning are given by Kathy Pickrell
in memory of loved ones.*

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.

PICNIC AFTER THE SERVICE TODAY – ALL WELCOME!

Please stay for lunch today, outside (weather permitting).

All are welcome.

If you're visiting today – please be our guest!

CHURCH SCHOOL REGISTRATION THIS MORNING

Parents of children ages Pre-K through Grade 8 are asked to register their children this morning for the 2018-19 Church School year.

Please see registration forms on the bulletin board in the hallway by the classrooms, and see Sarah Pradhan, Director of Faith Formation, for assistance.

PRIME TIMERS LUNCHEON ~ WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

The Prime Timers will meet in the church parking lot at 11:30 a.m. We will carpool to Lost Aces Orchard in North Granby for lunch. The cost is \$18.75 plus tax

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

Ministers: Every Member

Sexton: Walt LeGeyt

Secretary: Kristen DiMattia

Trustee: Jeff Goodwin

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.

*Spirit Conversations: **What To Say – and Not Say -- in a Time of Need***

Virtually all of us will at some time be in the situation of wondering what we can, or should, say to another who is experiencing something difficult... to the one who is grieving after a death, dealing with illness, job loss, divorce, or experiencing any other of life's adversities. With well-meaning intentions, we may say things that we think will help, but which may, in fact, not be so helpful to those who need our presence. In this conversation (facilitated by Rev. Brenda), we'll consider responses that might be more helpful, or less so, to people in need of emotional support.

This same conversation will be offered at two different times.

Please sign up on the bulletin board

Wednesday, September 19, 10:30 a.m. to noon

or Tuesday, September 25, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

WELCOME BACK TO FUNDRAISING WHILE YOU SHOP

September is finally here and we're ready to get back to scripping!

Stop by the Scrip table today (and every Sunday) during coffee hour to see what gift cards we have in store, what we have to order, find out more about the program, or just say "hi"!

Sunday 9	Monday 10	Tuesday 11	Wednesday 12	Thursday 13	Friday 14	Saturday 15
<p align="center">Worship Gathering Sunday 10:00 am</p> <p align="center">Picnic Church School begins</p>	<p>Music 6:30 pm</p> <p>Trustees 7 pm</p> <p>Choir 6:45 pm</p> <p>ACA 7 pm</p>	<p>AA 7 pm</p>	<p>Prime Timers</p> <p>Lost Acre Orchard</p> <p>Council 7 pm</p>	<p>Bell Choir</p> <p>Listening Session 7 pm</p>		<p>AA 11 pm</p>

HARVEST FAIR & CHICKEN PIE SUPPER

Saturday, October 13th



Supper: 5-7 pm

Chair: Phil LeGeyt 860-992-5222

Chair: Cora Mutch 860-693-0015

This annual fall fund raiser along with the Harvest Fair will be here before you know it. As we all return from our vacations, let's remember the significant number of volunteers needed for these great fellowship events to happen.

Please be ready to sign up as you see the posting appear on the kitchen door. If you have never worked on the event, don't worry. We'll make sure you get all the information you need. The jobs are broken down into segments that can be handled by just about anyone. Please help, you'll be glad you did.

WE NEED EVERYONE'S HELP FOR THE FOLLOWING:

CHICKEN COOKING

GRAVY MAKING MARATHON

DINING ROOM SET-UP

VEGETABLE PREP ASSISTANT

CHICKEN PIE CRUST MAKING and PIE ASSEMBLY

THE BIG EVENT (lots and lots of help needed)

Watch the kitchen door for SIGN-UP SHEETS. Please SIGN UP EARLY so the chairs don't have to panic and so you get to do your favorite job. This is a fun time and a great way to get to know your fellow church members.

