

THE PARISH POST

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

CHESHIRE, CONNECTICUT
www.cheshirecongregational.org

Volume XXVIII

October, 2011

No. 9

Call of the Spirit

By Jeff Braun, Senior Minister

Something is happening at our church. Something that we've been building toward and preparing for the last few years. Something mysterious. Something magical. Something that is unquestionably Christ led and Spirit filled. Something quite remarkable. Something transformative.

What's happening is that we are hearing Christ's call for renewal. We are sensing the Spirit's movement, in fresh and material ways. We are discerning opportunities to lay down old perspectives and approaches. We are seeking and, what's more, beginning to embrace, new ideas about how to embody our faith, how to unify our efforts, how to creatively fund our church's good work, and how to build Christ's church.

From our worship to our classrooms, from our small groups to our special events, from our broader mission work to the intricate and myriad ways we care for one another — there is a palpable energy springing forth this fall. There is a growing lilt in our step, a lift in our spirits, an openness (and, frankly, a courage!) to

step forward in faith, and to venture beyond where we've been, beyond what we thought possible.

This same energy is palpable in the work of our boards and committees, as, together, we take on important questions and challenges.

But one example is the mutual commitment by our Budget Committee, Stewardship Board, and Executive Board to take a dramatically different approach with our giving and our church budget for 2012. In years past, we would work up a budget (usually based on the prior year's budget), present the budget to the congregation in late September, and then ask the congregation to pledge enough to meet that budget.

It seemed the right approach. But, with the Spirit's help, we realized that this approach unintentionally limits us! It hems us in. It asks us to look down at a bottom-line, rather inspiring us to look up to God. It asks us to pledge against what

Continued on the next page

Continued from the previous page

we've already done, rather than to pledge based on the faith in what we are yet to accomplish through the Spirit.

The question is not how we might match last year's pledging. The question is how can we exceed what we did last year? Our pledges are not merely a chance to meet an arbitrary budget number. Our pledges are a transformative chance to make our faith material. They are a chance to invest — on the deepest level — both in the church that we love and serve, and in the church that loves and serves us.

Focusing on a higher call and a higher prize does not mean we forgo planning or financial responsibility. Far from it! And a preliminary budget summary is available in the church office should anyone request one.

But this year — our eyes and our ears, our hearts and our minds will be focused on the mutual empowerment and spiritual transformation that comes when we look to what is possible in Jesus Christ.

With our Savior and Shepherd both before us, behind us, and among us — may we venture toward the light to come... in faith!

*God's Peace,
Jeff*



Blessing of the Animals

Come join Alison McCaffrey on the church Green Saturday, October 15, at 10 a.m., as we ask God's blessings on those

beloved members of our households and families: our pets, and animals of all sizes.

The love we give to our pets and the love we receive from them is profound and unique, and can draw us more deeply into relationship with God, our creator. When we ask God's blessing on these treasured creatures, we are asking God to bless our relationship with them, and all they bring into our lives. And in doing so, we are reminded of the beauty of God's creation and of our role in ensuring its care. Please leash your dog, and bring cats and other small animals in a cage or carrier for their safety. You may instead bring a photo of your pet. Those who wish may bring a photo or remembrance of a dearly beloved pet who is no longer living for a prayer of thanksgiving. Children are also welcome to bring their favorite stuffed animals — God's love speaks to us all in many ways.

October Worship Schedule

Sunday, October 2: World

Communion Sunday. Services at 9:00 and 11:00. Communion will be served. Food offerings will be received; the foods of the month are pasta and pasta sauce.

Sunday, October 9: Consecration Sunday; we present and bless our pledges for 2012. Services at 9:00 and 11:00.

Sunday, October 16: Services at 9:00 and 11:00.

Sunday, October 23: Services at 9:00 and 11:00.

Sunday, October 30: Services at 9:00 and 11:00.

The Christmas Fair Needs You

The First Congregational Church Christmas Fair is Saturday, December 3 from 9:00 a.m. to 2 p.m. (note the new start time!). Here's how you can help:

- **Build and donate a gift basket.**



Don't know how? Bring your selected items to the basket making workshop on Tuesday, November 15 at 7:00 p.m. in Parish Hall to learn how to put it all

together. We are also looking for donations of Folgers red plastic coffee cans with lids. Questions? Call Patti Dickinson, 203-271-7003.

- **Help make Christmas centerpieces to sell.** The workshop will be Tuesday, November 29 in Parish Hall at 7:00 p.m. Donations of ribbon, Xmas pics, greenery (boxwood, pine, cedar, holly, etc.) will be appreciated. Questions? Call Sue DelGREGO, 203-272-7573.

- **Wanted for the Granny's Attic booth:** donations of new or very special items that can be "re-gifted". Must be clean and ready to sell. Questions? Call Debbie Wylie, 203-272-4723.

- **Needed for the children's area:** Small candies, boxes of Honey Maid graham crackers, volunteers to make

frosting, and small gift items (golf tees, jewelry, etc.) for the children to buy as gifts for Mom and Dad, and small boxes for the gifts. Questions? Call Jan Garthwait, 203-272-5915 or Beth Ross at 860-426-0702.

- **Calling all bakers!** We need your help. Make your signature cookie, as many as you can, and bring to the church on Dec. 2. Sign-up sheet will be available so we know we can count on you! If cookies are not your specialty, please consider a cake, bread, etc. for the bake table. Questions? Call Melanie Pivrotto, 203-271-3092; Regan Huntley, 203-272-8467 or Jan Cowles 203-272-8441.

- **Corn chowder:** we need helpers to prepare on Friday morning, Dec. 2. Questions? Call Addie Marx at 203-272-8145.

- **For the Christmas Old and New booth,** we need donations of new or very gently used Christmas items. Please – no broken, moldy, or tattered items! Questions? Call Lisa Canas, 860-426-0281 or Deb Brown 203-272-2068.

- **Help, help, help!** On Dec. 3, we will need many helping hands at the Fair. Sign up on the Christmas Fair board for the area and time you will be able to work or call the person listed above. Questions? Call Martha Lape, 203-272-9327.

Save the date to come shop, have lunch, and enjoy a good time! We're counting on your participation.

Unwrapping Your Gifts

You have heard it said that each of us is gifted by God, but maybe you've wondered just what you have been gifted with, and for what purpose? What are your gifts? How will you share them in your life, in the church, and in the world?

A new small group is forming to explore these very questions and to discern how God might be moving you to live them out in your life and work.

Led by Alison McCaffrey, this group will meet for six Thursday evenings: October 13, 20, 27, and November 3, 10 and 17. Please see Alison with any questions; a sign-up sheet is in the church lobby.

Bible Study: Micah's Challenge

A fall Bible study, entitled "Moral Decisions in the Bible: Seeking God's Will Today," is being held at the church. Designed and led by Rev. John Afman, a member of our church, the course meets every other Thursday morning, from 10 a.m. to noon, in Room 11, and every other Monday evening, 7 to 9 p.m., in Room 10. Classes actually began in September, but new registrants will be accepted in early October.

The study explores how to apply today the call of the Hebrew prophet-preacher Micah: "What does the Lord require of you? To act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with your God." Each part of Micah's call – justice, mercy and humility – will include Scriptures from Old and New Testaments, ethical dilemmas from Bible

times and today, and a discussion of how we make moral decisions, given our different genders, personalities, life situations, and personal needs. We explore whether human nature has changed since Bible times, and how we can keep ancient laws in our modern, complex world.

A sign-up sheet is on the table near the church office. A binder with course material will be available. John is glad to answer questions at church or at home (203-235-6294).

Serving at Columbus House

When serving a Columbus House meal during the summer months, the worry is that enough parishioners won't see the sign-up sheet, and we will be short of food. I should have faith and know that won't be the case. On Aug. 31 we had so much food that every client had seconds and we left enough for the next day!

Thank you to our wonderful cooks and servers: Sue Chatfield, Marianne Eagleson, Kathy Duffendack, Brian Castler, Anne Tait, Lisa Canas, Donna Mead, Nora Adams, Sharon Graver, Millie Farrell, Glenn Nowie, Ken Anderson, Henry McNulty, Beth Ross, Suzanne Lawson, Augusta & Attila Ozdemirer, Janet Moore, Teena Griggs, Martha Lape, Eleanor Gager, Sally Ziegler, Marilyn Gordon, Adeline Arumainayagam, Karen Gravino, Chris and Ed Albrecht, Emily Massimino, Pam & Ken Euerle, and Joe Garthwait. Thanks to the Albrechts for providing a wonderful meal after for the servers. Our next meal there is November 30.

Jan Garthwait

How Our Church is Reaching Out

Baby bottles: Thanks to those in the congregation who participated so generously in the Baby Bottle project, we have transferred \$336 to the Malawi mission to sponsor Lillian and Jacqueline for another year. In addition, we have sent a check for \$894.29 to the Chrysalis Shelter for Women and Children in Meriden. Most of this impressive amount came from the change in the baby bottle banks. It's amazing what our pennies, dimes and quarters can do.

Baby clothing needed: Continuing with the focus on women and children, we want to remind you of our on-going Baby Basket Ministry. First Congregational Church participates in a ministry supplying baby outfits and more for a baby's first year to needy families in the Waterbury and Bristol areas. On the third Sunday of each month, we invite members and friends to bring new and good quality used baby clothing, sized 0 – 18 months, baby toiletries, shoes, bibs, blankets, toys, towels and washcloths to church and put them in the bassinet which will be located in the Parlor. (If you forget to bring your donation on the third Sunday, the bassinet will remain at church throughout the month.)

We will bring these baby clothes and supplies to the Waterbury Church of Christ, where they will be packed into laundry baskets that provide five or six outfits for each season of the first year of a baby's life and various other supplies. Then they will be distributed through

Waterbury and Bristol Hospitals to those in need. If you have questions, please contact Patti Dickinson at 203-271-7003, or go to www.basketministry.org.

Midnight Run: We will take meals and clothing to the hungry and homeless in New Haven again on October 31. Please sign up to provide meal ingredients on the easel in the 'crossroads' at church, and bring your gently used men's clothing donations to the big yellow bin in Parish Hall. We also need new men's underwear and socks (many thanks for the generous sock donations in August!) and trial-sized toiletries. If you are interested in riding along on the Run, please sign up on the Outreach Board in the Parlor.

Coffee hour extras: If you have goodies remaining after hosting coffee hour and want to leave them for Midnight Run meals, please label them (there are labels in a stand in the kitchen), and put them in the freezer. The treats are much appreciated.

Food donations: Our offerings of non-perishable food in October will be sent to the Cheshire Food Pantry. Although they are grateful for all donations, they particularly appreciate spices, staples like sugar and flour, and paper products.

What's new with Outreach: Watch for Mission 1! We will participate in the United Church of Christ's Mission 1

Continued on the next page

Continued from the previous page

Hunger Project from 11/1/11 through 11/11/11. During these 11 days, it is our goal to collect 1,111 items of non-perishable food to be donated to the three local food pantries with which we work most closely.

Watch for the Angel Tree: As Christmas approaches, we decorate our mitten tree with warm hats and mittens, and buy gifts for children who are clients of the Waterbury Family Services Department. This year, we plan to add another opportunity – the Angel Tree, a program of prison fellowship. Through the Angel Tree program, we will be assigned a group of inmates whose hometown is close to Cheshire (probably Meriden or Waterbury). We will work with their families to select gifts that their children need, and then offer members of the congregation the chance to purchase one or more of the gifts which will be given to the child on behalf of the incarcerated parent.

Christmas can be an especially difficult period for kids whose parent is serving time in prison. Angel Tree ministry reaches out to these children with the love of Christ. It starts with a gift and leads to lives transformed by Jesus Christ. Opportunities to serve in this important ministry include contacting families, buying and wrappings gifts, and gift delivery. Susan Harris is coordinating this project. One prisoner wrote: “Thank you for your help. You made my kids very happy and proud of me at Christmas. Please tell them I love them.”

New ‘Salt and Light’ Guidelines: The Board of Outreach has written and approved new guidelines for our Salt and Light Grants, clarifying and sharpening their focus. These will be posted on line and available on the Outreach bulletin board in the Parlor.



Concert for Malawi

The annual (and much anticipated) Malawi Concert is scheduled for the afternoon of Sunday, November 20. Mark your calendars!

Also, please think about helping with our accompanying silent auction. If you have a vacation house, or tickets, or something you think folks in our church would like, please let us know! All funds raised go to our families in Malawi and the money from last year’s concert fed many people. Be a part of our good works!

Let Pete or Carol Ploch know what you’d like to contribute.



Hospitalized?

If you are hospitalized or going in a nursing home, or you know someone in the congregation who is, please tell the church office. We want to reach out, but federal law prohibits health care facilities from disclosing the names of patients.



Visit our web site often:
www.cheshirecongregational.org

Ever Thankful For the Opportunity

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

As I write this, it is about six weeks since my return to you from my sabbatical. How wonderful it was to receive your many warm expressions of “welcome home.” I am deeply appreciative for the coverage provided by John Afman, Peggy Allen, and Barbara Barlok, as well as Jeff’s support. I am ever thankful for the opportunities allowed by this time apart, which completes the sabbatical for which I became eligible in 2008. While I have shared some parts of what I did in a sermon and in several meetings, I wanted to share more broadly of my time apart in this space.

My 12 weeks away was a combination of three weeks of vacation and the nine weeks of sabbatical. I began with a trip to Italy with the Greater Middletown Chorale, led by our own Joe D’Eugenio. We toured Rome, Florence, and Venice, where the Chorale gave concerts in each city, as well as singing Mass at St. Mark’s in Venice. In Rome, we toured the Vatican, saw the jail where Peter and Paul were imprisoned; visited the Pantheon, where Paul preached. We also worshipped in the fourth largest basilica in Italy, Santa Maria Maggiore.

Returning home, I began sabbatical time with a focused study on my two topics of interest: temporary sanctuary installations used to create sacred space that invite the Holy Spirit to speak through atmospherics,

and Wellness Care Ministry across the lifespan. I have learned much about both which I plan to share with appropriate groups, boards and committees.

On Sundays, I worshipped in UCC churches that are comparable to ours: the large church, downtown church, or a church on the green. Even in such a selected grouping, I experienced a diversity of worship practices, which I have already shared with our Worship Service Study group.

In addition, I read a lot, journaled, hiked and walked. I studied the creative process and reflected on how it works for me. Gardening became my intentional spiritual discipline: there is a lot to learn from dirt, plants, water, and sunlight! And I spent time with our two grandchildren, who are themselves growing like weeds.

With the gift of such intentional time away from routines and the ongoing needs of ministry, I was able to reconnect with my call and reground myself in the key scriptures that speak to my faith, my ministry, and my walk with Jesus.

I am energized for our common ministry that lies ahead.

In Christ,
Alison



New Church Office Hours

Starting immediately, the church office will be open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Bereavement Support

First Congregational Church will offer a Bereavement Support Group beginning November 3, ending with the Quiet Christmas service on December 15. We will meet in Room 10 on consecutive Thursday evenings (except for Thanksgiving) from 7 to 8:30 p.m. The group will be facilitated by three Stephen Ministers – Jan Cowles, Frank Scinto, and Jan Garthwait – following the book series “Journeying Through Grief” by Kenneth C. Haugk.

This group is open to anyone struggling with the loss of a loved one. We will offer a safe, confidential, quiet, peaceful place to share the burdens of loss with one another. It is sometimes in the sharing of the pain that some healing can begin. Please join us if you are grieving, no matter how recent or distant the loss. If you have questions, feel free to call any of the leaders or speak to Alison McCaffrey or Jeff Braun.

Church Calendar Online

You may now keep up with all upcoming events at First Congregational Church by going online. Visit www.cheshirecongregational.org and select “Calendar” from the boxes at the top of the home page.

It’s a quick and easy way to keep up with everything that’s happening in our church, from the times of worship services to special events.

Milestones

in the life of our church family

Deaths

James F. Clouse, Sr., September 4.

Lectionary for October

Sunday, October 2: Exodus 20: 1-20; Psalm 19; Psalm 80: 7-15; Philippians 3: 4-14; Matthew 21: 33-46.

Sunday, October 9: Exodus 32: 1-14; Psalm 23; Psalm 106: 1-23; Isaiah 25: 1-9; Philippians 4: 1-9; Matthew 22: 1-14.

Sunday, March 16: Exodus 33: 12-23; Psalm 96: 1-13; Psalm 99; 1 Thessalonians 1: 1-10; Matthew 22: 15-22.

Sunday, October 23: Deuteronomy 34: 1-12; Psalm 1; Psalm 90: 1-17; Leviticus 19: 1-18; 1 Thessalonians 2: 1-8; Matthew 22: 34-46.

Sunday, October 30: Joshua 3: 7-17; Psalm 43; Psalm 107: 1-7, 33-37; Micah 3: 5-12; 1 Thessalonians 2: 9-13; Matthew 23: 1-12.

—
Visit our web site often:
www.cheshirecongregational.org

Christian Education in October

Caroll's Corner: Here we are in Fall. I love this time of year. The cool weather comes in and my gardens turn red, yellow and orange. It's time for the harvest. It's the time to reap what we have sown and have tended to all spring and summer. I attend county fairs where I browse all the fruits, vegetables and flowers that were entered by exhibitors. I love to go through and see the pickles, jellies and jams made from their harvest.

When I look at my now beautiful but dwindling garden my mind goes back to the spring when the soil was coming alive and I'm reminded of the work that went into my now finished product. It is true that we do reap what we sow...and even what we don't.

I remember the garden in the spring. The ground was hard and brown. When the time was right I had to turn and prepare the soil in order for it to except the tiny seeds. Being as busy as I am most of the time, I don't always get to prepare every garden before the weeds and other unwanted vegetation emerge. I hadn't planted what we call weeds, but they came up anyway.

I was reaping what I had not sown. We do reap whether we sow or not. We will either get a healthy abundant crop from what was sown or we will get the weeds that come from indifference and neglect. If we just look the other way and pretend a beautiful crop will grow or nothing will

grow just because we haven't planted... it's just not the case.

This season reminds me of stewardship. Luke 12: 48b says "From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who had been entrusted with much, much more will be asked.

Our God has given generously to all of us. We are a grand church and a grand people. We can and do make great change is our world and community by the gifts of time and money that we so generously give. Let us continue to give and give joyfully. Let us plan and prepare our soil for the seeds that will grow into an abundance of fruit. We have been entrusted with much and if we are good stewards of what we have been blessed with, God will surely bless us with more. God is a good God and will make a way for His people to do His work.

*Peace and Blessings friends,
Your servant in Christ Jesus
Caroll*

Malawi Concert

Attention to all Vacation Bible School attendees. Your singing voices are requested to sing at this year's Malawi concert that will be held in November. We have been asked to sing "Jesus Makes a Difference Every Day" and "I'll Adjust My Attitude to Gratitude". If you would be interested in singing for this very special event please see either Caroll Cyr or Kim Tabor for more information.

Continued on the next page

Continued from the previous page

Thank you to 70+ Volunteers! I am pleased to announce that including our nursery care workers and substitutes we have over 70 volunteers teaching our children this year!!! This does not include Stepping Stones or any youth or confirmation volunteers. They are giving of their time and talents to serve our church and our children. Please thank them as you pick up your children. Send a note of thanks every once in awhile just to let them know they are appreciated. Thank you volunteers you are a blessing and inspiration to all of us.

Sunday School Class Placement & Other Changes:

We have changed some of the placements of our classrooms. Please take note so that you will know where to pick up your child(ren) at the end of services.

9 a.m. Service

Children ages 3&4 will be in rooms 3/4 in the Nursery wing.
Grades K-2 will be in room 5 in the Nursery wing.
Grades 3&4 will be in room 1 in the Nursery wing.
Grades 5&6 will be in rooms 8/9
Grades 7&8 will be in room 10.

11 a.m. Service

Children ages 3&4 will be in rooms 3/4 in the Nursery wing.
Grades K-2 will be in room 5 in the Nursery wing.
Grades 3-6 will be in rooms 8/9
Grades 7&8 will be in room 10.

***Parents of children in Kindergarten will have the choice to send their child to the PS 3&4 class or to move them up to the grade (K-2)1&2 class. You know your child best and which class would suit them better. Please let their teachers know when you either drop them off or pick them up. Thank you.*

All Children in Grades 5 and over will stay in church for Communion the first Sunday of the month. There will be no Sunday school for those grades on Communion Sunday.

We are also changing our 4th grade Bible presentation to a 3rd grade Bible presentation and our 4th grade Communion Breakfast will now take place in 5th grade. We are excited about the changes and know that they will better suit the needs of our children and families.

Operation Christmas Child:

Once again we are happy to participate in Samaritans Purse Operation Christmas Child. Please start saving shoeboxes and think about a boy or girl that you can fill a box for. More information will be forthcoming; just keep in mind that collection week is November 14 - 21, 2011. We already have adorable homemade teddy bears that will be included in the boxes.

UNICEF:

Once again our church school will be involved in the UNICEF program. For those who wish to participate, please find boxes outside the C.E. office or in the parlor. Please return boxes by Nov. 6.

A Letter from Promise

The following letter has been received by the Board of Outreach from Promise Mchenga, a Malawian student who has been supported by the church:

I am so grateful that I have been part of your thoughts in different stages of my way into graduate school. I have started my graduate studies well. I am very excited taking this course as I get prepared in skills to become a better servant.

One of the common questions from both students and professors I am often receiving is: Where is Malawi? The following time I meet some of them, they ask me again; where did you say you come from? These questions remind me a few things. First, I have come to realize that not many people know about Malawi, and a few people wonder of its existence on the map. Second, I have always learned to count it a blessing to be one in a very small number of Malawians stepping on the corridors of graduate schools. Finally, I have learned that we can be ambassadors in seemingly little things. One friend, who inquired of Malawi, has already shown an interest in going to Malawi to serve victims of HIV/AIDS and poverty.

Promise Mchenga



Time to Start Knitting

Fall is here, and that means it's time to start knitting those hats, mittens and scarves for the homeless people served by Midnight Run as well as our own mitten tree. A great deal of yarn that belonged to

the late Anne Giddings has been donated to the church by her husband, Bob Giddings. It is available to any and all knitters.

For more information, call Kathy Duffendack at 203-272-2885.



Seeking Computer Backup

One of the largely unseen people who make First Congregational Church "tick" is our webmaster, Carolyn Brown. It is she who, using her considerable computer-related skills, formats, uploads, and regularly monitors the church web site. We are blessed to have her – and a quick glance at many other Congregational

Church web sites will show you how superior ours is, compared with the norm!



Fortunately, Carolyn continues to do an

excellent job with our web site. The only problem is that she is a one-woman show. She's it. If she is out of town, or unwell, or snowed under with (paying) work, it's sometimes tough for her to keep our web site up-to-date.

Carolyn has asked whether it would be possible for her to have some backup, so that's what this posting is all about. Is there anyone in our congregation with sufficient computer skills to be a "webmaster-in-reserve" for us? The work would be on an "as-needed" basis. If you're that person, please contact the church office at 203-272-5323 for further discussion.

A New Season of Music

Wednesday nights are music rehearsal nights, so check out the schedule below and come and sing:

6:00 - 6:30, Primary Choir; 6:00 - 7:15, Junior Choir; 7:30 - 9:30 Senior Choir

Memorial Music Sunday: November 6, 10 a.m. in the Sanctuary. Every year, this special memorial service honors the memories of those who have passed on. The Senior Choir sings an extended choral work that offers hope, comfort, and inspiration to the congregation. This year's music is a trilogy of pieces for chorus and piano by nationally known composer, Eugenie R. Rocherolle. Eugenie lives in Lyme, CT, and will work with our choir in rendering the three pieces of her sacred trilogy: "A New Song," "Shepherd Lord," and "Clap Ya' Hands." Virgil Thomson's "My Master Hath a Garden" will also be sung.

Candlelight Lessons and Carols: Sunday, December 18, 4 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

This year's Candlelight Lessons and Carols service matches scripture with music to tell the story of Christ's birth through song and word. Traditional carols, anthems, and hymns also will be sung by our Senior Choir and congregation. Please join us in the beauty of a winter afternoon for this festive candlelight service.

We Say Thanks

To all my wonderful friends at First Church—Thank you for all the cards, calls and beautiful flowers given to me on my birthday. Bobbie Porter delivered the flowers and we had a great "one-on-one" visit. Thank you again, love and prayers,

Sharon Perry

Youth Group News

We've kicked off our new year and our new schedule. Check out the new opportunities with the youth group.

FUEL - Our Wednesday night youth group that meets the first and third Wednesday of each month. A time to engage deep questions, hopes, and our sense of humor. A place where faith and life intersect. All High School and Middle School youth are welcome.

S.A.W. - Service Along the Way (S.A.W.) is a chance to lay our hands on the world's deep needs. Our first S.A.W. event will have us join hundreds of other teens in Danbury to serve a neighborhood in need.

We'll bring help and hope to people in need through projects such as painting, home repairs, landscaping, beautifying city parks, and clearing vacant lots. Put October 15 on your calendar. Middle School and High School Students are welcome. You can sign up at church, youth group (FUEL), or by emailing Todd.

Internationally Acclaimed South African Zulu Song and Dance Troupe

Thula Sizwe!

Coming to First Congregational Church this month



Thula Sizwe (the name means “hush, and listen”) is a South African a capella vocal group who perform in the ancient Zulu call-and-response style. While they sing – they dance! They dance to the drum, to clapping hands, and to the sounds of their own voices. And while they dance – the audience can never sit still! Their music reaches across racial and class divisions to share their intricate rhythms and harmonies with all audiences.

Sunday, October 23

7 p.m.

At the Church

An unforgettable one-night-only event

Suggested donation: \$15

Funds raised go to support the disadvantaged and AIDS-related causes



The public is welcome! Tell your friends and neighbors!

Contact the church office at 203-272-5323

For more information about the group, visit
www.thulasizwe.com