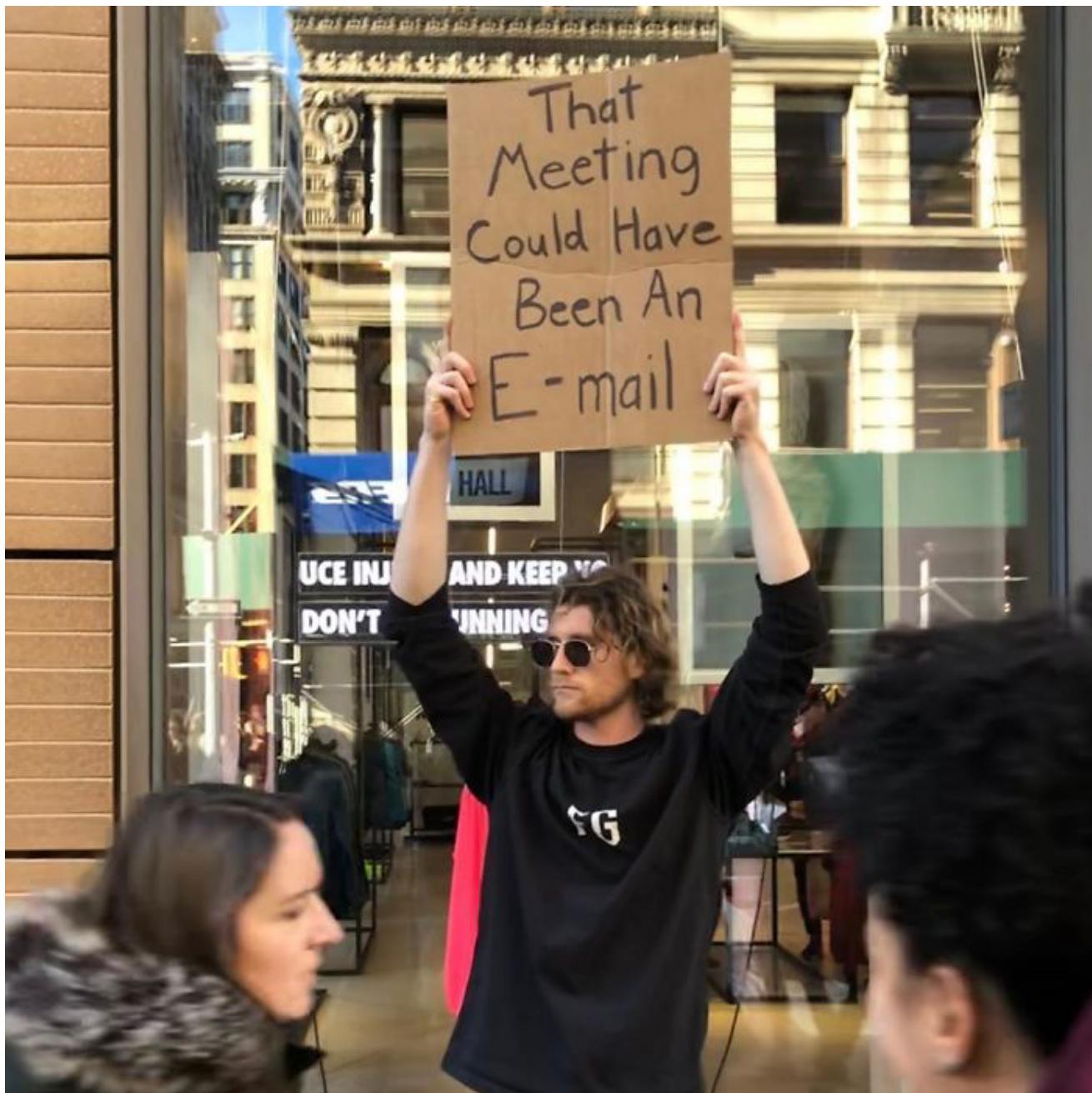




Faith First - Love Always

SUNDAY, MARCH 17, 2024
FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT
TEN O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING



The First Congregational Church of Greenwich declares itself to be open and affirming; open to all for participation, membership, leadership and employment, and affirming of all who wish to join us as children of God. We continue to give thanks for God's guidance in our journey of faith.

We welcome you this day and are glad you made the choice to join us for this worship service. May it be a blessing to you.



CHILDREN IN WORSHIP

God puts the wiggle in children and calls it good... and so do we!

At First Church, we believe the way we welcome children in worship directly affects the way they respond to God, to the church, and to one another.

To welcome children as they are in worship, we have our **PrayGround**, located in the Chapel (right side of the Meetinghouse), where children and



others of all ages can engage in worship through movement, sensory materials, and prayerful play. The presence of all God's children is a gift to the church, which offers hope for all.

Scan the QR code for FAQ and tips about our PrayGround.



GET THE FAMILY MINISTRY NEWSLETTER

Using your smartphone camera, scan the QR code here to sign up for our weekly Family Ministry newsletter. You can read about Church School, Regional Youth Ministry, and more!

SUPPORTING FIRST CHURCH

Using your smartphone messaging app, text **FCCCOG Donate** to **73256** or click [HERE](#) to access the online giving webpage, or scan this QR code to donate.



*First Church is a mask-friendly community of faith.
Anyone who prefers to wear a mask at church should feel comfortable doing so.*

Faith First-Love Always

ORDER OF WORSHIP

The flowers on the altar are in memory of Catherine G. Weigner,
given by sons Stephen and Ronald.

PRELUDE

Preamble

Louis Vierne (1870-1937)
Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organ

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Reverend Cydney Van Dyke

Please sign and pass the red Fellowship Pad found at the end of your row near the center aisle, then pass it back to the center aisle, noting the names of those worshiping near you so you may greet them at the end of worship. If you are the person on the center aisle, please remove the completed sheet and place it in the plate during the offering.

†CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Here in this place, there are no foreigners,
All: **for all are welcome in God's house.**
One: Here in this worship, there is only acceptance,
All: **for love is the language of faith.**
One: Here in our lives, there are no divisions,
All: **for God dwells in each of us.**
One: Come, let us worship in unity and love.

†CHORAL INTROIT

†HYMN

My Hope Is Built On Nothing Less
353 Glory To God Hymnal (purple)

†PRAYER FOR WHOLENESS (in unison)

Rock of salvation, you give children to the barren and strength to the feeble; you exalt the poor and lift up the needy. We praise your holy name from morning to night, yet we build walls that separate us: from you, from one another, from the world, even from ourselves.

Teach us to pray and praise without pause, confessing hope ceaselessly. Guide us in our efforts to encourage one another, to work together for good in the world, and to prepare for the day of the Lord. Amen.

Moment of silence for personal reflection

†Please rise in body or in spirit

†ASSURANCE OF GRACE

†PASSING OF THE PEACE

God makes peace within us. Let us claim it. God makes peace between us. Let us share it.

One: God has received us, pardoned us, and loved us; let us forgive each other in love and share the peace of Christ with a hand to hand, eye to eye, and heart to heart greeting.

May the peace of Christ be with all of you.

All: And also with you.

†RESPONSE (remain standing)

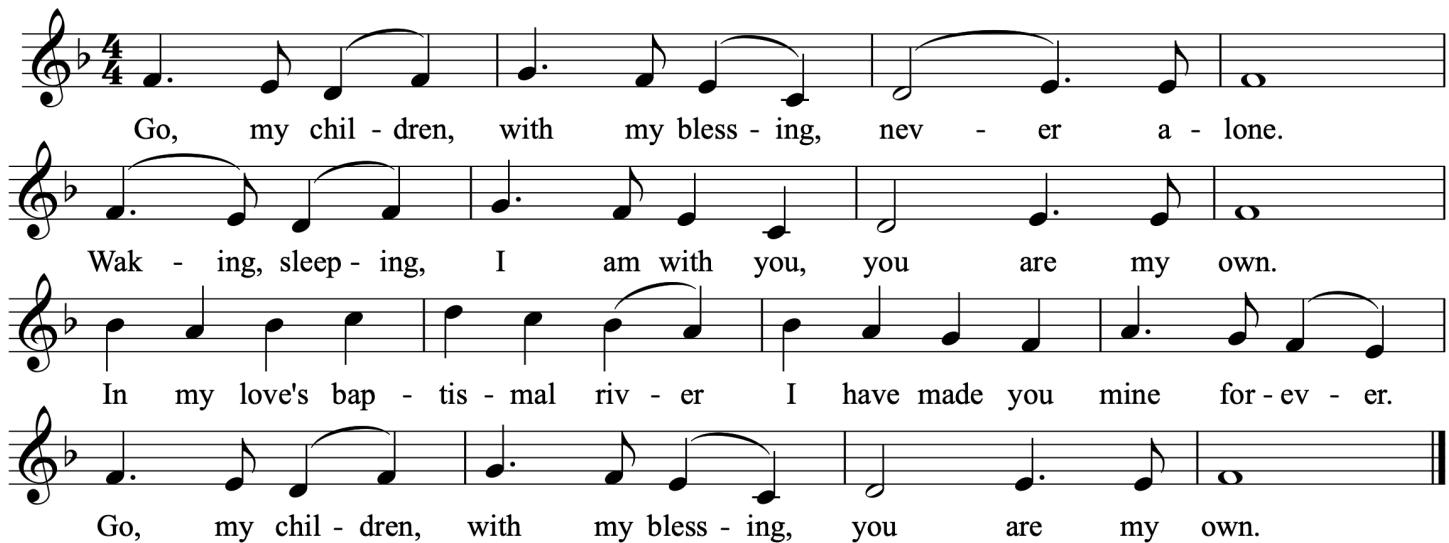
I've Got Peace Like A River (1st verse only)
623 Glory To God Hymnal (purple)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

During the singing of the response, children will depart for Church School or return to their seats.

RESPONSE

Go, My Children



Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone.
Waking, sleeping, I am with you, you are my own.
In my love's baptismal river I have made you mine for ever.
Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own.

ANTHEM

Be Still, My Soul

Arr. Joel Raney

Palmer Handbell Quartet

Angela Stevens, Pat Geismar, Lynn Hawxhurst, Sally Steinmetz

†Please rise in body or in spirit

FIRST LESSON

Mark 13:1-8
New Revised Standard Version
Pat Mendelsohn

As he came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, “Look, Teacher, what large stones and what large buildings!” Then Jesus asked him, “Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left here upon another; all will be thrown down.”

When he was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked him privately, “Tell us, when will this be, and what will be the sign that all these things are about to be accomplished?” Then Jesus began to say to them, “Beware that no one leads you astray. Many will come in my name and say, ‘I am he!’ and they will lead many astray. When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed; this must take place, but the end is still to come. For nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. This is but the beginning of the birth pangs.

SOLO

Over My Head
Traditional Spiritual
Hanna Golodinskii, soprano

SECOND LESSON

Mark 13:24-37
New Revised Standard Version

“But in those days, after that suffering,
the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light,
and the stars will be falling from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

“Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels and gather the elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert, for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake, for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening or at midnight or at cockcrow or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

MESSAGE

Signs, Signs, Everywhere There's Signs

Reverend Patrick Collins

†HYMN

The Days Are Surely Coming

357 Glory To God Hymnal (purple)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER (in unison)

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.

CALL TO OFFERING

Steve Weigner

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

And I Saw A New Heaven

Edgar Bainton (1880-1956)

The Chancel Choir

†DOXOLOGY

Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow

606 Glory to God Hymnal (purple)

†PRAYER OF DEDICATION

†HYMN

Guide My Feet

741 Glory To God Hymnal (purple)

†BENEDICTION

†CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Shalom To You

Shalom to you, now, shalom my friends. May God's full
mercies bless you my friends. In all your living
and through your loving Christ be your shalom, Christ be your shalom.

†POSTLUDE

Fanfare

Healey Willan (1880-1968)

†Please rise in body or in spirit

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Join us for Community Hour in the Auditorium following worship this morning where you can greet one another, have a cup of coffee, and a light snack. Hosts for March are members of the Personnel committee.

COMMUNITY HOUR



CHURCH SCHOOL SCHEDULE

- Mar 17: Regular Church School
- Mar 24: All-Ages Worship - Palm Sunday
- Mar 31: All-Ages Worship - Easter Sunday 9 & 11 a.m.

CHOIR REHEARSALS TODAY

Cherub: K-2nd grade - Carol Woodman, director
Silver Door (Preschool level) 11:15-11:45

Celebration Singers: 3-6th grade - Craig Symons, director
3rd floor Music Room 11:15-12:00

Genesis Choir: 7-12th grade - Danny Young, director
3rd floor Choir Room 11:15-12:15



BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING



Sue Asselin, Parish Nurse is available for blood pressure screenings and health consultations following today's worship service, in her office to the right of the Auditorium stage. During the week, she is available by appointment by calling 203-637-1791 ext. 821.

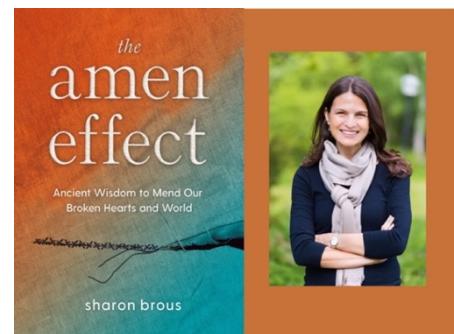
FAITH FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES

THE AMEN EFFECT

Wednesdays 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. First Church Lounge

Join us Wednesday evenings Lent for an engaging discussion on an inspiring book about the power of community by one of our country's most prominent rabbis.

Sharon Brous, a leading American rabbi, makes the case that the spiritual work of our time, as instinctual as it is counter-cultural, is to find our way to one other in celebration, in sorrow, and in solidarity. To show up for each other in moments of joy and pain, vulnerability and possibility, to invest in relationships of shared purpose and build communities of care. Books can be purchased through all major booksellers. If you'd like Pastor Patrick to order a copy, please let the office know.



Rabbi Brous acknowledges the reality and inevitability of loss and suffering in life, and how that can affect our emotional and spiritual well-being. Through powerful personal stories, she offers some guidance and wisdom on how to cope with grief and pain, and how to find hope and joy in the midst of adversity.

WIRED WORD BIBLE STUDY

Using the Wired Word's curriculum, each week we'll discuss a topic or headline from the week's news and ask ourselves how our faith applies through guided questions and discussion. Learn more at thewiredword.com Join Pastor Patrick for lunch on Thursdays at noon in the lounge. BYO lunch optional.



THE RUMMAGE ROOM

Shopping hours are Monday through Thursday from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m., with the same hours for donation drop off. Needs this week are: Anything spring! (Donations have been low recently - time for some spring cleaning and support the Rummage Room!)



CARING FOR ONE ANOTHER AT EASTER- FLOWER DELIVERY

The Caring Ministries Committee coordinates delivery of Easter flowers to church members and friends experiencing illness, bereavement, or who may just have difficulty getting to in-person worship with us. It's an opportunity to show our church family that we are thinking of them at Easter time by remembering them with flowering plants. It's also a great opportunity to model kindness in action for our children! We need helping hands to deliver the flowers on Palm Sunday, March 24, and would appreciate your help. Please contact Sue Asselin at susana@fccog.org by 3/18 if you can deliver a flower.

FINAL LENTEN RECITAL - THIS WEDNESDAY

A poster for Lenten Organ Recitals. It features a background image of a cross on a hill at sunset. Text on the poster includes: "Lenten Organ Recitals", "Wednesdays 12:15 - 12:45 p.m.", "Free admission", "February 21 - Marnus Lively-Greylng St. Barnabas Episcopal, Greenwich", "February 28 - Nathan Lively-Greylng St. John's Lutheran, Stamford", "March 6 - Kevin Bailey First Presbyterian Church, Stamford", "March 13 - Terence Flanagan First Presbyterian Church, New Canaan", and "March 20 - Jamie Hitel Christ Church, Greenwich".

KNIT & NOSH - COME AND JOIN US!

HELP US PRODUCE CHERISHED PRAYER SHAWLS

Have you always wanted to learn how to knit? Are you an avid knitter who'd like some company? We are a friendly and welcoming group of knitters of all abilities. Our aim is to produce many colorful and comforting Prayer Shawls, to distribute to those experiencing a crisis or loss. We host a free, open to the community, workshop on the 4th Wednesday of every month - the next one is **Wednesday, March 27 at 7 pm - in Rick's Room** of First Church. We invite everyone to join us in creating these shawls, knitting into them our prayers, love and support. No expertise needed as we use very forgiving yarn, larger needles and one basic stitch. Come join the fun!

Contact Angela Stevens for more information angelamessinastevens@gmail.com



FINAL PERFORMANCES IN FIRST MUSIC & ARTS CONCERT SERIES

BREVE

Ensemble BREVE –
The Magic of the German Baroque –
Telemann, Bach, & Handel
Sunday, April 7, 2024 - 4 p.m.

Deborah Booth, recorder, Jeremy Rhizor, violin
Lisa Terry, viola da gamba/baroque cello
Stephen Rapp, harpsichord



Pavlo Gintov, piano
Sunday, May 5, 2024 - 4 p.m.
Ukrainian-born pianist Pavlo Gintov brings his fiery energy to the Steinway piano in the First Church Auditorium.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE



Sunday, March 24, Palm Sunday
10:00 a.m. Palm Procession and All - Ages Worship

Thursday, March 28, Maundy Thursday
6:00 p.m. Dinner/Communion in Auditorium
7:00 p.m. Service of Tenebrae with Foot Washing

Friday, March 29, Good Friday
9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Vacation Bible School Greenwich YMCA

12:30 p.m. Community Cross Walk

7:30 p.m.
Combined Good Friday Service - First Congregational Church

Saturday, March 30
Egg Dyeing & Egg Hunt in Auditorium
10:00 a.m. Egg Dyeing
11:00 a.m. Egg Hunt

Easter Sunday
Sunday, March 31
6:30 a.m. Sunrise Service - Greenwich Point
9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. Festival Easter Services - Meetinghouse



**Friday, March 29
9:00 a.m. - 11:30**

A special Good Friday Vacation Bible School including feet washing, a swim at the YMCA pool & a pancake lunch!

K-Grade 5: \$25
Children under 5: must be accompanied by a guardian
Grades 6-12: welcome to attend as CITs and for High School service hours
Scholarships Available

Drop off and pick up at the Greenwich YMCA (50 East Putnam Avenue)
Our Minister of Care and Connection, Jenny Byxbe, looks forward to seeing you there!

RSVP no later than March 25
Email Jenny@2cc.org



**2024 Lenten Offering and Lenten Project
RISE AGAINST HUNGER MEAL PACKING EVENT
SUNDAY APRIL 28 AT 10AM**

Feed the hungry and help those in trouble. Then your light will shine out from the darkness, and the darkness around you will be as bright as the noon.
Isaiah 58:10

Our Lenten Offering this year will underwrite one of First Church's favorite events... the meal packing event for Rise Against Hunger!

We will pack 20,000 meals to support Rise Against Hunger's simple vision of a world without hunger. Rise Against Hunger distributes meals in 38 countries to schools, health clinics and communities hit by disaster. The meals help keep children in school and aid communities in the short term as they develop long term food security.

Please join us for a fun, energized, music filled morning when we will experience the joy of working together to help the least among us!

• No need to register. • Families are welcome. • Bring friends to show them First Church in action!

We will be underwriting the cost of the 20,000 meals as our Lenten Offering this year.

Please consider a Lenten Gift toward underwriting the cost of meals - every donation makes a difference! Scan the QR code below and choose Rise Against Hunger as the donation category.



EASTER FLOWERS AND BRASS

The Deacons invite contributions for flowers & brass in the Meetinghouse this Easter.
You may give to either one or both. Any amount is welcome.

Please deliver this completed form with your check to the Church Office
(payable to *The First Congregational Church of Greenwich*)
on or before Monday, March 25 at 12 noon in order to be included in the bulletin listing.

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Please accept my contribution to the (check one or both):

Easter Flower Fund Easter Brass

In MEMORY of:

In HONOR of:

By:

Enclosed is my check in the amount of \$_____

(Please print names legibly to minimize spelling errors.)

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF GREENWICH

108 Sound Beach Avenue Old Greenwich CT 06870
203-637-1791 • www.fccog.org

Ministers - All Members Of The First Congregational Church Of Greenwich

Senior Pastor	Reverend Patrick Collins
Associate Pastor	Reverend Cydney Van Dyke
Minister of Music	Dr. Craig Scott Symons
Director of FCCOG Church School/Regional Youth Ministry	Khaleigh Laicher
Parish Nurse	Susan Asselin, RN
Church Office Coordinator	Wendy Spezzano
Financial Administrator	Greg Girolamo
Administrative and Communications Colleague	Carolyn Samuel
Livestream Director	Daniel Lepoutre
Audio Technician	Bob Small
Database Administrative Assistant	Sue Wilder
Facility Manager	Julio Yika
Sexton	Curtis Gay
Director of First Church Preschool	Beth Genovese
Assistant Director of First Church Preschool	Kayla Vozzella
Preschool Administrative Assistant	Karina Germosen
Pastor Emerita	Reverend Sally Colegrove



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
a just world for all