



Of Note:

- **Communion Sunday:**
July 3 & August 7
- **Bible Camp, July 5-7**



The Carillon

“Summertime Worship” Rev. Tom Lenhart

Dear Friends,

The words “summertime” and “worship” aren’t often seen in the same sentence. Most of us, including the clergy, attend worship less frequently during the summer vacation months. We are all pulled in a different direction by the call of family gatherings, picnics, outdoor concerts and plays. And often on summer Sundays, we find ourselves on the road or at the seashore, in the mountains or camping in the woods where a familiar church is not always handy.

But summer should be a time for worship. FCC will be open for business every Sunday this summer. We will have a wonderful variety of thoughtful and engaging preachers covering for me while I am away, including Katy Cates, Margaret Mahaney and Bob Hacker as well as David Tucker, who serves as the registrar of the Metropolitan Association of the UCC, and our own Doug Heintzman. I urge you to come when you can. The services in the Parish Hall are informal and intimate and wonderfully enriching -- God even sends cool cross breezes wafting through the room.

Summer worship, however, occurs not simply in a church building. Worship by definition is a time of reverence for the divine and a time of connection with God, creation and our fellow human beings. So it need not be confined to a particular place, time or format. Because we connect with God through thought, emotion and imagination, the opportunities for a worship experience are

almost without limit. An Episcopal priest I know once talked about doing the dishes at the family cabin in Vermont. How she had discovered in the warmth of the water and in its soothing sounds, a time of connection with something transcendent. For her washing dishes became a moment of worship.

There is a rocky island 20 miles off the Maine called Monhegan. At most 20 families live there year round. In the summer the population grows not only with summer residents and tourists who come by boat for the day but by artists, from the Wyeth family to amateurs, who come to paint in the glorious summer light. The ocean side of the island has majestic headlands. You can stop and look out to sea as far as the horizon, knowing that the nearest land to the east is Portugal. To get to the headlands, you must pass through a forest area called “the Cathedral of the Pines.” It is a small open space surrounded by pines that tower to over a hundred feet. Most who enter that opening in the woods pause for a few moments in silence and – I submit-- in worship. For in that place -- as I can personally attest -- there is a connection to creation and the divine that is palpable.

Worship spaces and experiences can be found in many forms and places. To have such an experience we need simply to slow down and lift our spirits outward and upward beyond the demands of the moment.

Just for a moment we need to stop and appreciate the blessings we have -- our beautiful earthly home, and the love and support of our families and our friends -- and from where those blessings come. The rest will take care of itself.

And worship is good for you -- good for the soul and equally good for your health. Much evidence

has shown that meditation and worship slow our heart rates, reduce our blood pressure and alleviate stress. Aren't those the things we hope for on vacation -- at least between skydiving and bungee jumping? So this summer I urge each of you to find a cathedral in the pines, a temple at the beach, a chapel in a mountain meadow or a pew among the flowers in your yard.

Finally, I hope if you are away that you take time to worship at a different church. There is no one right way to worship. Even if the way another church structures its worship does not appeal to you, you will come back with renewed awareness of what is important in worship. And you may actually find something new and different that does enrich your worship. One of the things I am looking forward to this summer is sitting in the back pew of some churches I never been to before -- opening myself to worshipping in new ways. Bring back your summer worship discoveries and just maybe those new ideas will renew and refresh the worship we love here in our sacred space.

Have a great and blessed summer!

Peace and Blessings,

TOM

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New this summer!! Faith and Art Workshops

What did we do in the past?

Usually church attendance is lower during the summer months, with only a few children present. Therefore we don't offer a Sunday School program. The children usually played outside at the playground or stayed inside to read a book or do something else. Parents were monitors.

What is new?

This summer we are offering a Sunday School class in which all age groups stay together and work on a theme. The theme for the summer will be "Art and Faith". Art is way of telling a human story. We hope to learn about different people from different religious backgrounds and tell their stories by using art as a Medium. Each Sunday will be standing on it's own. No sign-up sheets either! Anybody is welcome, your visiting cousins, friends, neighbors, the more children present the more we can learn and share! And I'm sure there will be a moment for you this summer too to play outside as well!

Any questions...Please contact Florence at 238-4411.

SUMMER PREACHING SCHEDULE

July 3	Rev. Margaret Mahaney
July 10	Rev. Katy Cates
July 17	Bob Hacker
July 24	Doug Heintzman
July 31	David Tucker (Registrar Metro Assoc. of the UCC)
August 7	Rev. Margaret Mahaney
August 14	Rev. Katy Cates
August 21	Rev. Katy Cates
August 28	Rev. Margaret Mahaney
September 4	Rev. Margaret Mahaney



Please Sign Up for Altar Flowers!

Dates are open for July and August

The sign-up is located outside the main office.

Vacation Bible School "Galactic Blast"

July 5, 6 & 7

5:30-8:00 pm



All children are invited to become cadets on a voyage into outer space for a cosmic adventure that combines faith and fun. Through exciting missions, camp kids will see space like never before, gain a new perspective on our planet Earth, and learn easy "green" earth tips they can practice at home. For more information, please call Florence Hovy, CE Director, at the church 914-238-4411.



Dear Friends, my sabbatical is finally here. I will be leaving on Monday the 20th for Scotland (and a retreat on Ima) and returning right after Labor Day. I go with high expectations but with some sadness at being away. In my absence we have a wonderful array of preachers for the summer here at FCC. I hope you will come for the informal and intimate summer worship services that we have in the Parish Hall. There will also be pastoral care coverage over the summer provided by our own Rev. Katy Cates or Rev. Margaret Mahaney. They will split the coverage. If you have a pastoral concern or know of someone who does or is in need, please let the church office know and they will contact the right person. There will also be on the church's phone system the name and number of the person each week to call if a pastoral problem arises after office hours or on a weekend. With the exception of the week of July 11th, the office will be able to reach me with any emergencies, though at times not immediately. I hope all of you have a fun and relaxing summer. I look forward to seeing you before you know it-ready to start our new church year.

Tom



Member News

Deaths

Longtime member, Marjory Hale passed away on June 7, 2011.
A Memorial Service at FCC is planned for Thursday, July 21 at 11:00 am.

Longtime member, Alvin Kracht passed away on June 13, 2011.
A private memorial service was held.

Former longtime member, Diane Gamble passed away on June 14, 2011.

Former member, Robert Tredwell passed away on June 18 in Texas.
A service is planned for the fall in Connecticut.

We'd like to express our deep gratitude to all in the church family who offered so much support to us and our family over the loss of our son, Roger. Your prayers, cards, loving hugs and phone calls have given us much needed strength and courage during this difficult time.
Love in Christ, Margaret and Don

July Birthdays

Adults

3 Carol Bishop
6 Mary Howson
7 Jason Chapin
7 Bruce Demaree
9 Paul Strohm
9 Peter Swenson
12 Chris Monahan
15 Li Huang
16 Carl Thorsberg
18 Peggy Ailes
18 Serina Pak-Bilodeau
23 Chris Christensen
28 Mikael Spade

28 Michael Graziano
29 Marion Celiberti
30 Bob Bischoff
31 Florence Smith
31 Ariel Spade

Youth

1 Sammy Blasdell age 6
7 Stephanie Miller age 11
11 Lily Dillane age 1
15 James Blasdell age 9
19 Russell Bailey age 15
21 Katie Thorsberg age 12
28 Jane McKee age 17
29 Luke Bickler age 11



August Birthdays

Adults

3 Bill Seefeld
6 Rob Risley
6 John Smith
7 Pauline Hovy
15 Barbara Cardone
15 Michelle Hovy

17 Pablo Guzmán
21 Jonnie Hodgson
24 Laura Barnard
24 Florence Hovy
24 Ray Potter
24 Betsy Towl
29 Van Porter
29 Henrietta Porter

29 Olga Seham
29 Gabriel Spade
31 Ellen Lewis
31 Judy Strohm

Youth

1 Julie Barnard age 16
8 William Chapin age 9
12 Sammy Seham age 17
27 William Blasdell age 12

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The mission of the First Congregational Church is to be a caring community, seeking to know and love God joyfully by following Jesus Christ, in our worship, fellowship, service, and outreach to God's world.



Please let us know:

- ⇒ If you have a change/correction to name, address, phone number or family circumstance.
- ⇒ If you no longer wish to receive *The Carillon*, please contact the main office.

Happy Reading!