

***Welcome to this service of worship  
on the eighteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time.***

As Jesus Christ welcomes each one of us, we hope you sense the friendly welcome of this congregation of God's people.

[\*]If you are comfortable doing so, it is appropriate to stand.

**Bold type** signifies congregational response.

**WE GATHER IN JESUS' NAME**

PRELUDE *God So Loved the World* Stainer

WELCOME Mildred McNeill

LIGHTING A CANDLE FOR PEACE

We light a candle in our midst to stand as a beacon of hope, calling us and all the world from darkness to light, from violence to peace.

**Lord make us instruments of your peace.**

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

With patience and love, we come as one family.

**We are one body, united in God.**

Come! Speak of truth, told in love.

**We gather to listen, and to share our stories.**

We are God's children, parts of God's purpose.

**We rejoice in our gifts, and thank God for this grace.**

Come! Now is the time to worship.

\* HYMN #150 *Come, Christians, Join to Sing*

CALL TO CONFESSION

Like a nursing mother who cannot forget her child, like a father who welcomes the prodigal son home, so God cannot turn away from us. Though we come, week after week, admitting we have turned from God's ways and have not loved our neighbors as ourselves, God is merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love. Therefore, knowing we are beloved children of God, we can admit our failings before God and one another in order to be forgiven, receive new life, and begin again. Let us pray together.

(Ann J. Deibert)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Have mercy on us, O God.**

**Wash away the thoughts and erase the actions that**

**lead us away from you. Teach us your wisdom,**

**and put a new spirit within us. Fill us with your joy and**

**strengthen us with your presence that we may offer your justice and mercy to a world in need. Amen.**

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The Mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting

**And God's righteousness extends to children's children.**

As far as the east is from the west,

so far does he remove our transgressions from us.

**We believe the good news of the Gospel.**

**In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Amen.**

\*GLORIA PATRI Hymnal p. 579

COMMISSIONING OF THE INTERIM PASTOR Rev. John Merz

MUSICAL SELECTION *Precious Lord, Take My Hand*  
Ralph Harris, piano solo

**WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD**

SCRIPTURE Matthew 11:7-19 Pew Bible NT p. 11

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

MEDITATION "What Did You Expect?" Rev. Russ Feroe

**WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD**

\*HYMN #516 *Lord, We Have Come at Your Invitation*

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Ephesians)

There is one hope, one calling, to which we are called.

**The hope in our lives is Jesus Christ.**

There is one hope, one calling, to which we are called.

**The call we must answer is God's**

There is one faith, one hope, one Lord of us all.

**The Lord of our lives is Jesus Christ.**

There is one baptism, one Father, one Mother of us all.

**The creator who calls us is God.**

We are one body, one family, one church,

**Woven by the Spirit with bonds of peace.**

With all of God's children throughout the earth,

**We are one body in unity and love.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

MINUTE FOR MISSION Covenant to Care Lois Maxwell, speaker

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

*The Lord's Prayer is found on the top of page 16 of the Hymnal, traditional version using "debts" and "debtors".*

OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Cross Medley* Cankey/ arr. Smith  
(the congregation may remain seated)

\*DOXOLOGY Avery and Marsh Hymnal p. 593

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow. Praise God, all creatures here below. Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**God of all grace, transform our gifts into works of ministry. Transform our lives into your presence in the world. Through our giving may we grow in the knowledge of Christ and be strengthened in his ministry, so that others may come to know themselves as your children. Amen.**

## WE CELEBRATE AT THE TABLE

### INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

### PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**  
Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them to the Lord.**  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

### THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

*All who put their trust in Christ are invited to receive the Sacrament, no one is excluded.*

Today we will go to the table to receive the Lord's Supper. You may come down the center aisle, receive a piece of bread from one of those serving and dip it in the cup (the cup holds grape juice, unfermented wine) and eat. (This is called Intinction.) There will be less congestion if you return to your seat by going around the side aisles. If you are uncomfortable coming to the table the servers will bring the elements to you when others have been served.

### THANKSGIVING AFTER COMMUNION

Eternal God,  
we give you thanks for this holy mystery  
in which you have given yourself to us.  
Grant that we may go into the world  
in the strength of your Spirit,  
to give ourselves for others  
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

### \*PASSING OF THE PEACE

\*Hymn #508 *For the Bread Which You Have Broken*

### \* BENEDICTION

### \*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

*Go in Peace*

**Go in peace and the peace of God be with you this day.  
Go in peace and the peace of God be with you alway.  
Celebrate and share the joy! Celebrate New Life!  
Go in peace and the peace of God be with you alway.**

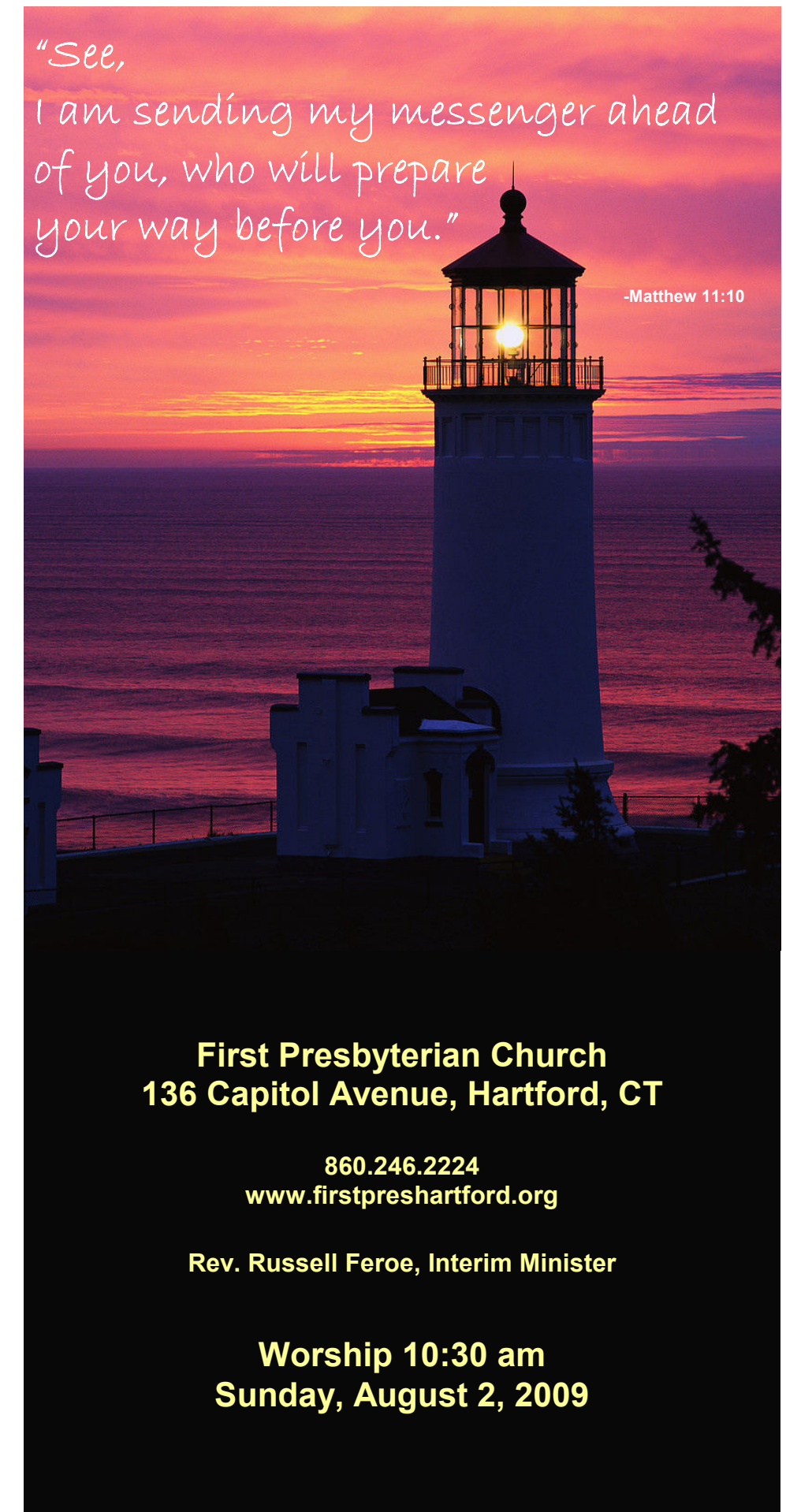
### POSTLUDE

*Rondo*

Purcell

*"See,  
I am sending my messenger ahead  
of you, who will prepare  
your way before you."*

-Matthew 11:10



## THE SERVICE

**Flowers:** The flowers are given today by the Deacons in celebration of the Covenanting of Rev. Feroe as Interim Minister.  
**Liturgist:** Mildred McNeill  
**Greeter:** Gretchen Fuchs  
**Ushers:** Marian Cooke, Joan Grant, Tom McNeill, George Rawitscher

**Communion by Intinction Steward:** June O'Neil.



Members, friends, and visitors are invited to join us as our guests for refreshments and fellowship in Hodge Hall immediately following worship. Parish Life is hosting.

### Assisted listening devices and large print

bulletins, bibles and hymnals are available near the entry to the sanctuary. The wireless listening system, similar to those used at the Bushnell and Hartford Stage, allows users to sit anywhere in the sanctuary.



**Nursery Care** is provided during the service in the Buchanan Room for children **up to age 4**. An usher will direct you to the location. **Shannon Hopkins** is the nursery director. **Augusta Jara** is the assistant.

**The Abiding Memorials Book** is open to the abiding gift given to the glory of God and in loving memory of **Robert H. Perkins**, born December 4, 1918, died November 8, 2004.

**Offering Envelopes** are available in the pews for the convenience of those who may have forgotten their assigned envelope or for those who wish to use an envelope for a cash gift. If you wish your contribution to be used for a specific cause, please indicate that on the envelope.

*This is a welcoming Church*, embracing sisters and brothers without regard to age, race, ethnic background, sexual orientation, family status, economic situation or theological viewpoint. We want you to feel a part of the family. There is a variety of materials near the entrance to acquaint you with the Church. **We encourage you to sign the guest book in the entry and to use the yellow card in the pews to register your attendance and enable us to add you to our newsletter mailing list. Please place yellow cards in the offering plates.**

*“Following the risen Christ, and seeking to make the Church a true community of hospitality, the mission of More Light Presbyterians is to work for the full participation of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender*

*people of faith in the life, ministry and witness of the Presbyterian Church (USA).”*

**Membership:** All of our services and activities are open to non-members. We invite people to commit themselves to membership as a witness to their faith in Christ, and the mission of Christ as lived out in the life of this congregation. We receive members by affirmation of faith, or by reaffirmation or transfer of membership. You may speak with Pastor Feroe or one of the elders about membership.

### TODAY

Ralph Harris, organist, jazz performer

### THIS WEEK

Mondays 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM Farmer's Market

### NEXT SUNDAY

Holly Billings, organist  
Solana Gadson, Youth Liturgist Ruth Bergman, violin

### LOOKING AHEAD

Tues. August 18 6:30 PM Stewardship meeting  
7:30 PM Session meeting

### BIO FOR RUSSELL FEROE

Russ grew up in Reading, Pennsylvania, mid-way between Philadelphia and Lancaster, graduated from Lehigh University in Bethlehem, and attended Union Seminary in New York City. He married Louise in 1968 after she graduated from Wheaton College, in Norton, Massachusetts. Louise went on to get her PhD in philosophy from the New School for Social Research in New York City. The Feroes have two grown children, Beth, a social worker in Cleveland, Ohio, and Peter, who recently graduated from NYU with Masters degree in Urban Planning and is looking for a job.

Russ has served a variety of churches in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and New York, from large suburban to small urban, most recently two interim positions in Westchester County, New York. His interest is in urban congregations facing the challenges of trying to continue faithful ministry in their cities.

Louise had a long career at Mercy College, Dobbs Ferry, NY, where she was eventually called as president. She left there to accept the position as Senior Vice-Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs for the Connecticut State University System.

Both Louise and Russ enjoy spending their free time sailing on Long Island Sound in their sailboat that is kept at Clinton, CT.

## Church Announcements

For other opportunities and announcements please see the bulletin board(s) in Hodge Hall and office annex.

### Food Pantry Donations

Items that are always needed include: coffee, sugar, toiletry items (shampoo, soap, toilet paper, disposable diapers of all sizes); canned or dry pink, pinto, or red kidney beans; orange & apple juice; canned tuna & salmon; canned fruits & vegetables; Chunky Soups, spaghetti and medium grained rice (in smaller containers, if possible) and boxed macaroni and cheese.

### New SNAP (Food Stamp) Guidelines

Monthly income up to \$1,671 per month for one person, \$2,158 for two. Money in the bank and your home's worth is not counted- just your income and expenses. Low-income people with savings or retirement accounts can now qualify. Also, no lien on your house or repayment required. Benefits are used and paid like a credit or debit card. More info 1-800-842-1508.

### National Night Out

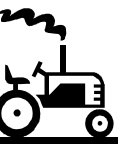
Tuesday, August 4, 5:00 – 8:00 PM, Pope Park. BBQ, police officer & residents soft ball game, music and more. See posting in Hodge Hall.

### Family Festival Day

Saturday, Aug. 15 from noon to dusk, Keney Park. See posting in Hodge Hall.

### Farmers' Market at FPC

Begins next Monday, July 13 from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM. The Farmers' Market will be open Mondays through the summer until late October.



### 350 Web Address Correction

The correct web address for the climate crisis response and International Day of Climate Action (October 24) is [www.350.org](http://www.350.org) (not dot com).

### Deacons

The meeting originally scheduled for September 20 has been moved to October 11. Reminders will go out but please also mark your calendars.

### Welcome

Rev. John Merz, our moderator of Session, who is representing the Presbytery of Southern New England in the Commissioning Service. Also, Ralph Harris filling in for Dianne while she's on vacation. He is also our guest musician today.



## First Presbyterian...Who Are We?

The downtown First Presbyterian Church, founded in 1851, is a richly diverse group of people from both city and suburbs, committed to ministry to and with the people of the City of Hartford.

We are building a warm and caring community that spiritually nurtures people in worship, education, fellowship and active involvement in mission.

We believe that the Church is called to reflect the kingdom of God which embraces all believers. We invite, accept and welcome into our membership and leadership people who differ by age, race, ethnic background, sexual orientation, family status, economic situation and theological viewpoint. This diverse group energetically and cooperatively participates in the life of this congregation, its mission and its leadership. We are committed to our Presbyterian traditions of representative government and reformed theology, while open to working collaboratively in mission and ministry with other faith traditions.

First Presbyterian Church  
136 Capitol Avenue  
Hartford, CT 06106  
860.246.2224  
fpchartfordct@sbcglobal.net  
www.firstpreshartford.org



### Covenant to Care

“Covenant to Care for Children is a nonprofit, private agency working with faith communities to meet the needs of abused, neglected, and impoverished children and teens.

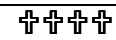
*Mission:* Covenant to Care for Children mobilizes and channels the generosity of caring and faithful people to advocate for, mentor and provide direct assistance to Connecticut’s children and youth who are neglected, abused or at-risk.

Our main initiative, Adopt A Social Worker, matches social workers with faith communities to assist in providing the basic goods to meet the material needs of children. Last year, an estimated 27,850 children in Connecticut received basic necessities through the Adopt A Social Worker program. With the help of more than 200 faith communities and over 1,000 volunteers and donors we have served more than 500,000 children since the agency was founded in 1987.”

### Hymn Sing Sundays



On the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month the service at First Presbyterian begins with a hymn sing at 10:20. A leader will introduce 3 hymns for us to warm up our voices as we sing hymns that are favorites of our members / guests... or ones we don’t get to sing too often or that are new. The hymn sing was a suggestion from the members during our Revitalization surveys. Please feel free to speak with Holly Billings, Rusty Spears, Tom McNeill, George Blick or Anita Marchant. We welcome your feedback.



#### SESSION

<u>Class of 2010</u>	<u>Class of 2011</u>	<u>Class of 2012</u>
Holly Billings	Susan Corrigan	Jane Murray
Alice Evans	Gladys Wiafe	Yaa Okoampa-Sykes
Juliana Mantey	Robin Herrera	Julius Aboagye
Samuel Hamilton	Mildred McNeill	(open)

#### THE BOARD OF DEACONS

<u>Class of 2010</u>	<u>Class of 2011</u>	<u>Class of 2012</u>
Gretchen Fuchs	Michael Asare	Michael Adzenyah
Keith Rhoden, Jr.	Lloyd Brooks	Cynthia McPherson
Carolyn Perkins	Susan Labins	Jean Nesbitt

Holly Billings is Clerk of Session

Keith Rhoden, Jr. is Deacon Moderator

## Intercessions

*In our First Presbyterian Church cycle of prayers, we pray this week for:*

- Jane Carroll
- Ed Carty
- Jim & Cathy Clifton
- Bill & Marian Cooke
- Rob Moir
- Shirley Garren
- Ruth Moir
- Bob Hager
- John Brash
- Jim McNeish
- Ulyne Cort – recuperating at home after a hospitalization.
- Kristin Moir Harvey – as she continues treatment for leukemia.
- Lola Jackson and family (Joan Grant’s family).
- Helen Boldi – Corinna Tamburini’s mother.
- Pat Welch– Lianne Doherty’s sister-in-law.
- Kate Anderson – recovering after hip replacement.
- Ed Carty’s sister-in-law Lila is now back at home.
- Chuck Wickham and Robert Machia, each are battling cancer. They are co-workers of Sue Labins.
- William (Ray) Smith – has cancer. He is Jane Carroll’s neighbor.
- George Christinat– living with ALS. He is Keith Rhoden, Jr.’s neighbor.
- The future of First Presbyterian Church.
- United Parish of Fall River, MA (Rev. Ruth Chartier);
- Han Mah Ecumenical Church, Seoul, Korea (Rev. Shin Ahn).