

Welcome to this service of worship. *As Jesus Christ welcomes each one of us, we hope you sense the friendly welcome of this congregation of God's people. We light the Peace Candle to stand as a beacon of hope, calling us and all the world from darkness to light, from violence to peace.*

[*]If you are comfortable doing so, it is appropriate to stand.
Bold type signifies congregational response.

WE GATHER IN JESUS' NAME

PRELUDE *Andantino* Vierne

(Those who have announcements are asked to please move to the front pews at this time.)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL INTROIT

CALL TO WORSHIP

Our hearts are glad, our spirits rejoice!

God, the foundation of our lives, is worthy of our thanks and praise.

Our hearts are glad, our spirits rejoice!

God, the cornerstone of our lives, brings order to our chaos.

God, the rock and redeemer of our lives, calls us to faith and honor.

Our hearts are glad, our spirits rejoice!

God, the enduring good news of our lives, gives us strength and peace.

Let us worship the God who is not moved, but endures forever.

* HYMN #481 *Praise the Lord, God's Glories Show*

*PRAYER OF PRAISE

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires, known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration

of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

*RESPONSE *I Love You Lord*

I love you, Lord, and I lift my voice to worship you. O my soul rejoice! Take joy, my King, in what you hear: May it be a sweet, sweet sound in your ear.
(Repeat)

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

ANTHEM *O Praise the Lord* Moschetti

O praise the Lord with all your heart and soul.
Arise, arise, arise, O faithful spirit; adorn yourself with grace and love. Let us give to God our Father, praise glory, and honor. Now sing thanks to the Lord our God with gratitude and praises.

SCRIPTURE Matthew 13:1-8 Pew Bible NT p. 13-14

MESSAGE "Giving Birth" Rev. John Merz

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

* HYMN # 426 *Lord, Speak to Me, That I May Speak*
(vs. 1, 2, 3, 5)

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 HYMN #391 (vs. 1,2, 4) *Take My Life*
(The congregation may remain seated.)

*RESPONSE #244 *Let Us with a Gladsome Mind*

Let us with a gladsome mind praise the Lord who is so kind: for God's mercies shall endure, ever faithful, ever sure.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

All Things come of thee, O Lord,
And of thine own have we given thee. Almighty God, receive these gifts which we bring, together with the offering of our lives, that together they may be used to bring good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, and to let the oppressed go free, through Jesus our Lord. Amen.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

*HYMN # 423 *Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun*

*BENEDICTION

* RESPONSE #438 *Blessed Be the Tie that Binds*

Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love: the fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.

POSTLUDE *O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing* Gläser/Eliot

SERVICE

- Flowers:** The flowers are given by Sam Hamilton in celebration of Sandy Hamilton.
- Acolyte:** Solana Gadson
- Greeters:** Jane Carroll, June O'Neil.
- Liturgist:** TBA
- Ushers:** June O'Neil, Keith Rhoden, Jr., Clifford Riley, Pauline Robertson.

Members, friends, and visitors are invited to join us as our guests for coffee and fellowship in Hodge Hall immediately following worship. **Jean Nesbitt** and her daughter Pam are hosting today.



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 our visitors to feel a part of the family. "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)."

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.

All of our services and activities are open to non-members.

Membership and Baptism— First Presbyterian Church, Hartford invites you to commit to membership as witness to your 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. Also, if you have an interest in baptism please see or e-mail Pastor Feroe at rferoe@sbcglobal.net or speak with one of the session members or other elder.

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.

ASSISTED LISTENING SYSTEM AVAILABLE

Anyone who has difficulty in hearing and understanding the service is encouraged to use the assisted listening system. This is a wireless system so users can sit anywhere in the sanctuary. Receivers are available near the entrance to the sanctuary. Many of you have used a similar system at the Bushnell or Hartford Stage.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

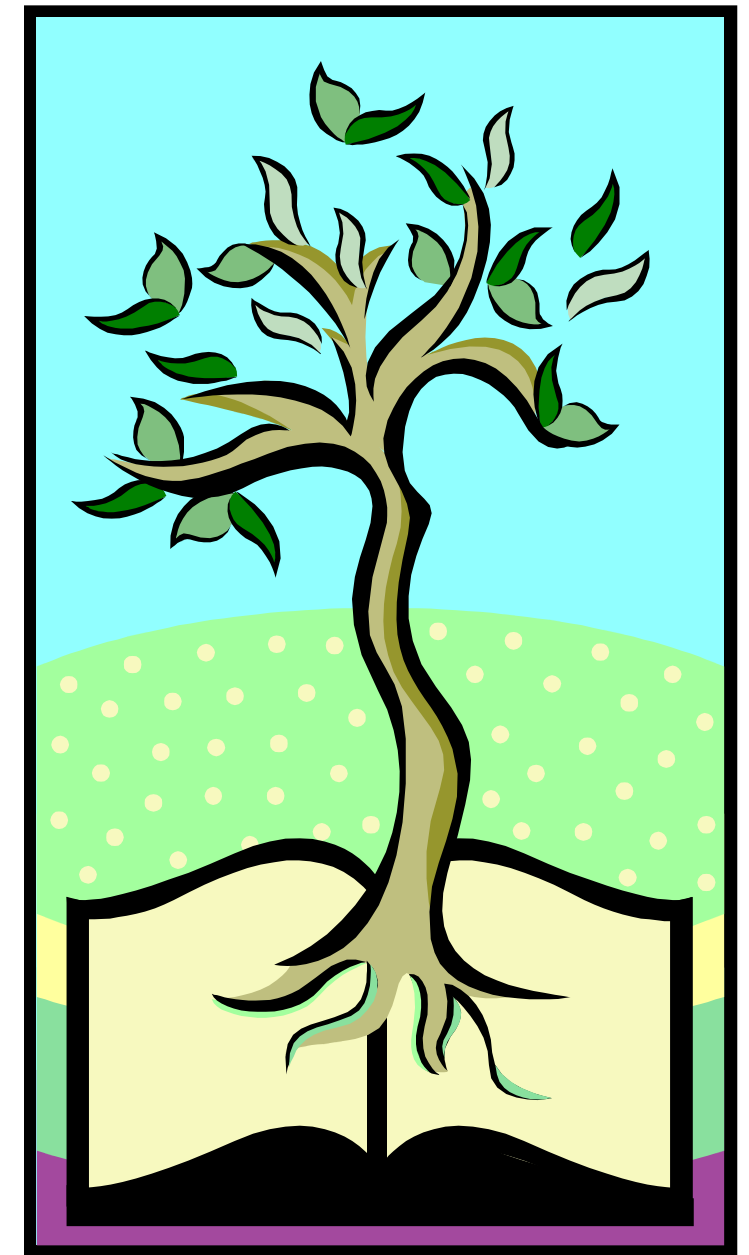
Rev. Russell Feroe, Interim Minister. Office Hours 8:30 am – 12:00 noon Tue., Wed., Thu. E-mail: rferoe@sbcglobal.net or call: 860-904-6467 anytime.

Dianne Ney, Music Director; Ruth Van Anden, Office Mgr.; John Du Pont, Sexton.

Office Hours: M – F 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM
(Closed 12:00 – 1:00 PM).



We are a member church of the Presbyterian Church (USA), Synod of the Northeast, Presbytery of Southern New England.



First Presbyterian Church

136 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, CT
Rev. Russell Feroe, Interim Minister

Worship 10:30 AM
Sunday, November 15, 2009