



Southport Congregational Church

United Church of Christ

524 Pequot Avenue

Southport, Connecticut 06890

office@southportucc.org

Rev. Paul Whitmore, Senior Minister

Rev. Laura Whitmore, Associate Minister

SUNDAY SERVICE OF WORSHIP

March 6, 2022

Church Year Service

Rev. Paul Whitmore, Rev. Laura Whitmore, Julianne Center, Student Minister

Oladele Ogunsuyi, Tamberlyn Chapman, Jeffrey Earls, Deacons

Jeff and Traci Provost, Antependium

PRELUDE

“Ocean Meditation” *Martinez*

Elaine DeGrood, piano

“Adagio” from ‘Moonlight Sonata’, *Beethoven*

Rachel Dorset, handbells

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN**

“Let All Things Now Living”

(page 12)

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Oladele Ogunsuyi

Leader: In every season of our lives, let us worship God with hearts full of awe and wonder.

People: **For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven.**

Leader: In each new heartbeat of hope and in every day of our life, time is God’s gift, offered to us.

People: **Let us receive every hour as a blessing and recognize every day as a chance to deepen our relationship with God. Let us awaken to the dawning of God breaking forth into the world...and to the whispers of God’s peace.**

*THE INVOCATION & LORD’S PRAYER (*Trespases*)

*GLORIA PATRI

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.*

OPPORTUNITIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Paul Whitmore

CHILDREN’S SERMON

Rev. Laura Whitmore

*HYMN

“Come Thou Long Expected Jesus”

**Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set they people free;
From our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee.**

**Born thy people to deliver, born a child, and yet a king,
born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.**

Advent

Rev. Laura Whitmore

The Christian Year commences with the *Advent* Season. It begins with the Sunday nearest November 30, and lasts through Christmas Eve. It’s the season of preparation for the ADVENT, the coming of the Messiah, the birth of JESUS CHRIST. When we think of the greatest miracle and mystery of the ages, the Incarnation, the “WORD” becoming Flesh...God coming into the world in human form, it’s plain to see that we need a time of reflection and preparation to be ready to receive our God this way. Advent provides us with four weeks to prepare our hearts for the celebration of the birth of the Christ Child. Slowly our church begins to fill with the sights, sounds and smells of Advent. Purple is the color used through the Advent Season. It has long been the color of royalty and the church uses it to call her members to prepare for the birth of the King. The music we hear and sing prepares us for Christ’s birth.

We mark the season of Advent, in our own church, in many ways. The Scripture readings, sermons and musical selections begin to focus on preparing ourselves for the birth of the Christ Child. Other notable changes are the visual transformations in our sanctuary. Candles, reminding us that Christ is the light of the world, are put in all the windows. Poinsettias, the traditional flower, begin to adorn the altar and wreaths hang on our doors and in our Sanctuary. The Advent Wreath becomes a focal point for four weeks, calling us to put our lives in order.

Leader: Christians around the world wait in hopeful expectation for the advent of Christ.

People: **We live in hope for our families, our church and for our world.**

Leader: Because we're a people who believe, a people who have seen, and a people who have received the promises of Christ, even in the midst of darkness and imperfection, we live with real hope, with real peace, with real love, and with real joy in our hearts, as we remember again the greatest gift of love given to this world, the gift of Christ.

People: **We live our lives more abundantly when we live lives filled with hope, peace, love and joy and we welcome the light of Christ into our hearts.**

Advent concludes with our Christmas Eve Candlelight services. During this time, we let the Scriptures speak for themselves as we listen to the story of the birth of Jesus, sing the songs that we have known all of our lives and reconfirm our belief that Christ came into this world to shine God's love upon it. This is a glorious way to usher in the Christmas season, and we are reminded that, through the exchange of gifts, we celebrate the ultimate gift – Jesus Christ.

Christmastide

Julianne Center

Christmastide begins with Christmas morning and continues through the eve of Epiphany, January 5. There are usually two Sundays in this season and it is strictly an observance of the birth of Jesus, the Christ. White is the color used for the antependia and stoles because it is the color of perfection, purity, joy, and holiness.

HYMN

“Joy to the World”

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And Heaven and nature sing, And Heaven and nature sing,
And Heaven, and Heaven, and nature sing.**

SCRIPTURE READING: *Luke 2:1-7*

“In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be enrolled. This was the first enrollment, when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be enrolled, each to his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to be delivered. And she gave birth to her first-born son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.”

At this time of year, we are reminded of the tensions we live with every day. We want peace, but parts of our world are at war. We hope for the destruction of the powers of evil, for the righteousness and justice of God, for the dawning of God's peace over all the nations and the undoing of the machines of war. For Christians, this hope has been intensified by the coming of the Messiah, and only by experiencing these tensions and the expectations of the whole laboring together to achieve this, can our participation in the dying and rising of Christ be made real.

RESPONSIVE READING

Tamberlyn Chapman

Leader: For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder;

People: And his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace. And of His kingdom, there shall be no end.

Leader: Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness from this time forth and forevermore.

This ancient Jewish understanding of the Messiah sheds new light on our celebrations of Christmas and the days immediately following it. Christmas is far richer and deeper than a sentimental remembrance of the birth and childhood of Jesus. "Joy to the World, the Lord has Come" means that Jesus has come into our lives and that we have accepted him as our savior. Because we understand Christmas this way, our worship services here at Southport Congregational Church are capable of addressing the deepest places of our human need and then celebrate our most profound experiences.

HYMN

"Silent Night"

Silent night holy night, all is calm all is bright.

'Round yon virgin Mother and Child,

Holy infant so tender and mild.

Sleep in heavenly peace,

sleep in heavenly peace.

Epiphany

Rev. Laura Whitmore

The season of Epiphany begins on January 6th and lasts until the third Sunday before Lent. Epiphany Sunday marks the coming of the wise men to represent the races of humanity. The season of Epiphany is the time of the Christian year that we emphasize missionary work because when the wise men found Christ, it was the first appearance of Jesus to the Gentiles, or non-Jews. And as the wise men returned to their own countries and told everyone about the Messiah whom they had found, they began the missionary work of spreading the Good News to the world.

SCRIPTURE READING: *Matthew 2:1-11 selected verses*

“After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, ‘Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him.’ When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.”

HYMN

“We Three Kings of Orient Are”

**We three kings of orient are, bearing gifts we’ve traverse afar
Field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.
O, star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, sill proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.**

The Sundays following Epiphany, we use the color green as we move from Christ’s own baptism through his teachings, his miracles and the wonders he performed in his earthly ministry. We listen to scripture and hear Christ’s words and we understand that Christ is still speaking to us in our own time and place.

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Paul Whitmore

CALL TO OFFERING

To give towards your **2022 Stewardship Pledge Contribution** or make a **plate donation**, please text as follows:

Text: 860-854-1995

\$ *amt* Pledge

\$ *amt* Plate

To give by **Venmo**, use @southport_congregational

To give **online**, please visit our website at southportucc.org

To **mail** us your offering or pledge, please send a check to:
Southport Congregational Church, PO Box 366, Southport, CT 06890

Thank you!

Go tell it on the mountain over the hills and everywhere;
Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

While Shepherds kept their watching o’er silent flocks by night
behold throughout the heavens there shone a holy light.

Go tell it on the mountain over the hills and everywhere;
Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

*DOXOLOGY

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host: Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.
Amen.***

*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Our faith in you reveals itself in the generosity with which we give. Accept these offerings as a sign of love for you, and our commitment to honor you in or world. Amen

Pre-Lent*Oladele Oguynsui*

The Sundays following Epiphany and preceding Lent, we look to the earthly life of Jesus. We see him as a young boy teaching in the Temple. We see him as a powerful preacher bringing God’s word into the world. We see him as a healer and miracle worker, who restores people to health. We see him as a teacher with profound wisdom, and we see him as our Savior.

Lent*Julianne Center*

At the heart of the Christian faith is our sharing in the life, suffering, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus Christ – all which occurs during the season of *Lent*. We proclaim that “the word became flesh and dwelt among us.” (*John 1:14*) Jesus Christ was born into human history in the fullness of time for our salvation.

In our world, he lived and taught, suffered and was put to death; but God “raised him from the dead and made him sit at the right hand...and God has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills in all.”

Through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we are delivered from sin and death, and by the Holy Spirit we are born into eternal life with God. This is what we confess and this is what we continually renew in our worship during Lent. Since the beginning of Christian Worship, these events have given shape and meaning to the week, the whole year, and even to each day of the Christian Community’s life. Purple is the color used during Lent; the color which calls us to self-exploration and preparation.

Ash Wednesday developed as a day of penitence to mark the beginning of Lent – the forty days of preparation for the celebration of Easter. Ash Wednesday is a particular time for new beginnings in the faith, a time for returning to prayer and meditation. This is also a time when we put away our transgressions and failures of the past, in light of who we are yet to become by the grace of God, in the future. Lent continues from Ash Wednesday for forty days, not including Sundays.

Lent is observed in commemoration of the forty days fast of Jesus; a season of penitence as we remember the suffering of Christ and the price he paid for our redemption. It is also considered the revival season of the Church, as Christians seek, through worship, prayer, music, education and mission, to reach a higher plane of spiritual living and to renew their commitment to the fellowship of Christ's Church.

The final week of the Lenten Season, called *Holy Week*, is filled with symbolic days and Christian worship events. Holy Week begins with *Palm Sunday*. This is the Sunday before Easter and it is the day that we remember Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem, when the crowd waved palm branches and sang "Hosanna to the King!" We give out palms on this Sunday as symbolic reminders that Christ made that journey for us.

HYMN

"All Glory, Laud and Honor"

**All glory, laud and honor, to Thee, Redeemer, King,
to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.
The people of the Hebrews with palms before Thee went;
our prayer and praise and anthem before Thee we present.**

Lent Continued

Jeffrey Earls

The Thursday evening before Easter is called *Maundy Thursday*. The title derives from the Latin word "mandatum novum" which means "a new commandment," because on this night Jesus gives the commandments of "drink this cup and break this bread, in remembrance of me." The Board of Deacons provide a very moving and dramatic worship service this evening, which includes a traditional Seder meal – the Jewish ceremonial meal eaten during Passover and at which Jesus had his Last Supper. We move from celebrating our Jewish heritage to the spiritual base of our faith. The Deacons reenact the moving and powerful events of the Last Supper through a candle-light service where Jesus' last words to his Disciples are shared. In this service, we relive, with the disciples, that meal in which Jesus spoke the unforgettable words with the breaking of the bread and the sharing of the cup – "This is my body," "This is my blood of the new covenant" – and command that we forever "Do this in remembrance of me." We experience anew that which was enacted on this extraordinary evening, and during the service of Tenebrae (shadows), we recall the growing darkness of the next hours' events: betrayal in the garden, arrest, the condemnation of the trial and the crucifixion.

On *Good Friday* we recall the crucifixion and death of Christ. The name "Good Friday" is a variation on the name "God's Friday," where the word "good" was used to replace the word "God," which was often viewed as too holy for the average person to say. On this day, in our church, we hold a prayer vigil from noon until 6 p.m., when members of our congregation come and meditate in the Chapel and pray for our church, our community and our world. Our Chapel is bare except for the cross, draped in a black cloth. It's on this day, that the reality of Jesus' death is met and our own shortcomings are encountered. We keep watch and pray as we move through the time of burial and rest in the tomb.

“In the sixth hour darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour. And at the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice, ‘Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?’—which means, ‘My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?’ With a loud cry, Jesus breathed his last. The curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. And when the centurion, who stood there in front of Jesus, heard his cry and saw how he died, he said, ‘Surely this man was the Son of God!’”

It’s interesting to note that, according to the ancient historian, Tertullian, this was a "cosmic" or "world event." Phlegon, a Greek author from Caria, writing a chronology soon after 137 AD, reported that in the fourth year of the 202nd Olympiad (i.e. 33 AD) there was "the greatest eclipse of the sun" and that it became night in the sixth hour of the day [i.e. noon] (identical to Gospels claim of darkness during the sixth hour) so that stars even appeared in the heavens. There was a great earthquake in Bithynia, and many things were overturned in Nicaea." Jesus is believed to have died in the ninth hour – or three o’clock in the afternoon. In approaching the worship services of Holy Week, we should think of each event not as an independent entity but rather as a continually unfolding unified drama of our salvation, leading up to Easter Sunday.

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

(Please take the elements in unison with the Ministers.)

Communion is gluten-free and non-alcoholic so that all may be included.

SOLO

“Were You There?”

Beau Allen

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble. Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?

Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?

Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble. Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?

Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble. Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

SCRIPTURE READING: *Luke 24:1-9*

Rev. Paul Whitmore

“But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices which they had prepared. And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in they did not find the body. While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel; and as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, ‘Why do you seek the living among the dead? Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and on the third day rise.’ And they remembered Jesus’ words, and returning from the tomb they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest.”

Easter

Easter Sunday begins with our Beach service at 8 a.m. at Sasco Hill Beach, led by our Confirmation Class and then with our Church Service at 10 a.m. Our songs rise to the heavens as we share this special time of celebration when we recall the words of Saint Paul, “For this perishable nature must put on the imperishable, and this mortal nature must put on immortality. When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: ‘Death is swallowed up in victory.’ ‘O death, where is thy victory? O death, where is thy sting?’ The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

On Easter morning we are overwhelmed by God’s victory and by the enormity of God’s mercy and love. We proclaim Christ crucified, dead and buried, risen and exalted as the head of the church – the Savior of humanity and the Lord of all! The faith of the whole church now comes into focus in the continuing life and communion with Christ. Our faith lives in expectant hope of the Kingdom of God. Whatever life we have is a reflection of the life of God made visible in Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit.

SCRIPTURE READING: *Matthew 28:1-10*

“After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb. There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.

The angel said to the women, ‘Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples: ‘He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.’”

HYMN

“Christ the Lord is Risen Today”

**Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia
Sons of men and angels say, Alleluia
Raise you joys and triumphs high, Alleluia
Sing, ye heavens and earth reply, Alleluia**

Eastertide

Tamberlyn Chapman

The joy of the message of Easter permeates the entire period from Easter morning through Pentecost. This is known as the “Great Fifty Days.” While Easter is the Sunday of all Sundays, the glory of the resurrection runs through the days and weeks of Eastertide as a never-ending celebration. We read scriptures about the disciples witnessing the experience of the Risen Lord. While the period of Lent was somber, reflective, and watchful, Eastertide is exuberant and full of “Alleluias” and “Glorias”. This is also the time in which we celebrate Confirmation Sunday, when our ninth-grade students declare their faith to our church family and are welcomed in as adult members of the Church of Jesus Christ. Because Confirmation is the affirmation of the child’s

Baptismal vows, it is historically appropriate for the Church to perform many Baptisms during Eastertide. The sacrament of baptism is a sign and seal of the covenant of grace, of union with Christ and his resurrection, and our calling to be with God for all of time. It declares that the children of Christian parents belong, with us who believe, to the membership of Christ's Church, and that Christ claims them as his own.

Ascensiontide

Jeffrey Earls

On the fortieth day of Eastertide, we celebrate *Ascensiontide*, which marks the Ascension of our resurrected Lord to heaven, where he is crowned with honor and glory and acknowledged King of Kings and Lord of Lords. The season of Ascensiontide begins 40 days after Easter on a Thursday and lasts for ten days. It's a time to remember that God fulfilled the promise that the disciples would be gifted with the power of the Holy Spirit, allowing them to go out into the world and spread the Good News of Jesus Christ.

SCRIPTURE READING: *Luke 24:50-53*

"And Jesus led them out as far as to Bethany, and he lifted up his hands and blessed them. And it came to pass, while he blessed them, he was parted from them, and carried into heaven. And they worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and were continually in the temple praising and blessing God."

HYMN

"Blessed Assurance"

**Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! O, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God, born of his Spirit, washed in His blood.
This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long;
This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.**

Pentecost

Julianne Center

In the Old Testament, the "Feast of Pentecost" was 50 days after Passover. The Christian Church adopted this term when, on the Feast of Pentecost, the disciples and apostles of Jesus were in an upper room waiting to be "clothed with power from on high" (Luke 24:49). When the promised Holy Spirit descended upon them, they were all filled and began to speak the word of God. Many spoke in tongues, prophesied and later performed healings, and the Holy Spirit gave them the power to witness to their faith in Jesus Christ in such an effective manner, that thousands of people accepted Christ as their Lord and Savior. This meant that the church which had always existed in the mind of God, was now a visible reality on earth. And so, we tend to think of this day as the "birthday of the Church." Red is the color used for Pentecost as the symbol of the Holy Spirit and of the fervor given to the church through the power of God.

SCRIPTURE READING: *Acts 2:1-4*

"And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, the disciples were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing, mighty wind, and it filled all the entire house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit."

Trinity Sunday marks the beginning of the second half of the Christian year. During the first half of the year, there has been a focus on the growing understanding of God as Creator, then as Son, in the person of Jesus Christ, then as Holy Spirit. Now the revelation of the Trinity is complete and we worship God as the Triune God. The season of Trinity lasts until the end of the Christian Year – the day before Advent. The color is green, which speaks to us of nature, growth and life. It’s the longest season of the Christian Year and the focus is on how God works in our lives. This is a time of instruction, training and practice in Christian Discipleship and missionary work.

During this time, our church celebrates the priesthood of all believers with Laity Sunday, our church’s focus on helping our neighbors through Mission Sunday, and our celebration and understanding of the importance of passing on our Christian Heritage to our children through the celebratory Church School and Welcome Sundays.

And now, we have come to the end of our service. We have shared in the events from Advent to Easter Sunday. All year long, we share in a spiritual journey, as we kneel at the manger, listen on a hillside, walk the streets of Jerusalem, hear the roar of the mob, stand beneath the cross, and witness the resurrection! Let the glory of our Christian Year fill us with thanksgiving, with grace, with hope, with peace and with love as we go into the world, sharing God’s love with one another and living out Christ’s commandment to “Love the Lord your God, with all your heart and all your mind and all your soul and to love your neighbor as yourself.” Amen.

*HYMN

“Leaning on the Everlasting Arms”

(page 13)

*BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

“A Gaelic Blessing”

Senior Choir

Deep peace to you,
Deep peace to you,
Deep peace of the earth to you,
Deep peace of the stars to you,
Deep peace of the night to you.
Moon and stars pour light on you,
Deep peace of Christ, of Christ the light of the world to you,
Deep peace of Christ to you.

POSTLUDE

“Sarabande” Handel

Elaine DeGrood, piano

~~~~~

## 717 Let All Things Now Living

*Unison*

1. Let all things now liv - ing a song of thanks - giv - ing to  
 2. By law God en - forc - es. The stars in their cours - es, the

God our Cre - a - tor tri - um - phant - ly raise; who fash - ioned and  
 sun in its or - bit o - be - dient - ly shine; the hills and the

made us, pro - tect - ed and stay - ed us, by guid - ing us on to the  
 moun - tains, the riv - ers and foun - tains, the depths of the o - cean pro -

end of our days. God's ban - ners are o'er us, pure light goes be -  
 claim God di - vine. We, too, should be voic - ing our love and re -

fore us, a pil - lar of fire shin - ing forth in the night: till  
 joic - ing with glad ad - o - ra - tion, a song let us raise: till

shad - ows have van - ished, all fear - ful - ness ban - ished, as  
 all things now liv - ing u - nite in thanks - giv - ing, to

for - ward we trav - el from light in - to Light.  
 God in the high - est, ho - san - na and praise.



**CHURCH SCHOOL** will meet today in the Chapel with Melissa Ogunsuyi and Jo Anne Parady. Childcare for infants through 3 years old will be in Room 5 this morning with Alina Bogatikova and Ella Schott.

**OUR 11<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL WOMEN'S RETREAT "Whatever Is True"** will be held on **March 11** (6 p.m. - 10 p.m.) and **March 12** (8 a.m. - 3 p.m.), with the option of attending one or both days. In order to participate, you must **pre-register by today, March 6** by emailing Pam at [ppoling@southportucc.org](mailto:ppoling@southportucc.org).

**PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS LUNCHEON** – All friends of SCC who are considering membership are **invited to attend a luncheon** hosted by the Board of Deacons, next **Sunday, March 13**, immediately following worship. This is a special opportunity for those on their faith journey to meet with others doing the same, as well as members of SCC. **New Members will be received into the Congregation on Sunday, March 20, during worship.** If you are interested in becoming a member of SCC, would like to attend the luncheon, or need more information, please contact Pam in the Church Office at [ppoling@southportucc.org](mailto:ppoling@southportucc.org).

**FAMILY MISSION TRIP TO RED SHIRT TABLE - JULY 3 TO JULY 9.** Join us for a family vacation you won't forget! We now have a long-term lease in a building in Hermosa, South Dakota about 25 minutes north of the Reservation. Let's spend a week together sharing your joy and love with the children of Red Shirt Table (Native America Indian Reservation). Play games, help them learn, become a friend, and bring hope to those who struggle. In addition, you will learn about Native American culture and visit some of the country's historic sites including Mount Rushmore, Crazy Horse monument and the site of the massacre at Wounded Knee. *Due to the sensitive nature of the Rez, the minimum age is 7.* The cost is \$900 per person. You will be responsible for your airfare. Please contact Laura at [lwhitmore@southportucc.org](mailto:lwhitmore@southportucc.org) for more information. **Registration is due today, March 6!**

**CAROUSEL DONATIONS ARE NEEDED** Our beloved Carousel Thrift Shop is short on inventory because the goods have been flying out the door! As a result, decorative items, select furniture and artwork are needed. The Shop has new donation hours: Tuesday through Saturday, from 10:30 a.m. until noon. If these times are not suitable, please contact Store Manager Susan Kunkel at [carousel@southportucc.org](mailto:carousel@southportucc.org) for an appointment.

**LET'S GET BACK TOGETHER!** The Fellowship Committee invites you to attend three very fun events. We would love to see you at each one:

**March 18: Trivia Night for Everyone!**

Adults will compete in teams of 1-4 people in Fellowship Hall and children and youth will compete in teams of 1-4 in the Chapel. \$10/Team Entry Fee Beer, Wine, Beverages, and Pizza will be served. RSVP to Pam at [ppoling@southportucc.org](mailto:ppoling@southportucc.org) by March 13.

**April 29: Pickleball Social Event**

Adults can sign-up to play on the Whitmore's Pickleball Court or choose to hang out with friends, drinking a cool beverage, while watching the fun! Food will be available through Food Trucks and beverages will be provided. RSVP to Pam at [ppoling@southportucc.org](mailto:ppoling@southportucc.org) by April 17. The rain date is May 6.

**May 21: The Progressive Dinner Returns!**

This very popular event will return, and we hope you will be there! We will begin with cocktails at the home of one of our members, then break into smaller groups for dinner at assorted homes, and then gather back together for dessert at the Parsonage. RSVP to Pam at [ppoling@southportucc.org](mailto:ppoling@southportucc.org) by May 2.

**ST. GEORGE'S COMMUNITY SUPPER VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED!** On the third Monday of every month, SCC volunteers provide a bagged dinner meal for a community supper hosted by St. George's Episcopal Church in Bridgeport. Our volunteers prepare the meals in advance and deliver to St. George's in the afternoon. SCC provides condiments, cutlery, napkins, juices, snacks, desserts and bags. We need volunteers to provide the sandwiches and fresh fruit. Your meal prep expenses will be reimbursed. If you would like to volunteer for this needed program, please contact our SCC coordinator Hedy Mosier [himosey@yahoo.com](mailto:himosey@yahoo.com) for more information.

**FELLOWSHIP HOUR** is hosted today in Fellowship Hall immediately following worship by Ann Lillis and Carol Lasseter Rice. **Volunteers are needed to provide refreshments for future Sundays.** If you would like to volunteer, they would be more than happy to lend a hand. Please contact Pam at [ppoling@southportucc.org](mailto:ppoling@southportucc.org) to sign up or to answer any questions - thank you!

**CONFIRMATION CLASS** meets this Tuesday, March 8, at 5:30 p.m., in the Youth Room, with dinner gratefully provided by Emma Ryan and family.

**USHERING AND GREETING YOU TODAY** are Deacons Jeff Provost, Jeff Nickell, Beth Santa and Jeffrey Earls, under the direction of Deacon Oladele Ogunsuyi. **USHERS ARE NEEDED** every Sunday - please contact Pam at [ppoling@southportucc.org](mailto:ppoling@southportucc.org) if you would like to volunteer!

**THANKS TO THIS WEEK'S LIVESTREAM "DREAM TEAM"** Techs Jack Waiksnis and Asha Joliet, directed by Mike Messina.

**WE THANK OUR SENIOR CHOIR, HANDBELL SOLOIST Rachel Dorset and GUEST SOLOIST Anne Collin** for today's beautiful music.

**TODAY'S ALTAR FLOWERS** were given by the Flower Committee in celebration of the Church Year Service. If you would like to donate an arrangement for upcoming Sundays, please contact Pam at [ppoling@southportucc.org](mailto:ppoling@southportucc.org).

**THE MEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP** meets every Thursday at 7 a.m. in the Youth Room, led by Rev. Paul Whitmore. All men are welcome to come and grow in faith and fellowship. Email Paul at [pwhitmore@southportucc.org](mailto:pwhitmore@southportucc.org) to be put on the list to receive the email blast about the weekly topic.

**THE WOMEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP** meets every Thursday at 11:30 a.m. in the Youth Room, led by Rev. Laura Whitmore. Join Laura to discuss current events, spirituality, and new psychological ideas and much more. The curriculum runs parallel to the Men's Group, allowing for conversation during the week. Contact Laura at [lwhitmore@southportucc.org](mailto:lwhitmore@southportucc.org) to be put on the list.

**CHOIR REHEARSAL SCHEDULE FOR THIS WEEK:**

- \***SENIOR CHOIR** rehearses in Sanctuary, Sundays, 9:00 a.m., and in Music Room, 11:15 a.m.
- \***THE HANDBELL CHOIR** rehearses on Monday evenings at 6:30 p.m. in the Music Room.
- \***THE CHERUB CHOIR** rehearses on Sundays at 9 a.m. in the Chapel
- \***THE JUNIOR & TEEN CHOIRS** rehearse on Sundays at 9 a.m. in Room 6