

CONGREGATIONAL
CLARION

First Congregational Church
Salt Lake City, UT

MARCH 2008

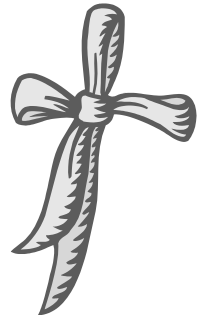


HAPPY EASTER

WORSHIP SERVICES

**Worship Service and Sunday School at 11:00am
Nursery Provided**

- March 2** "God's People: Blind"
1 Samuel 16: 1-13
John 1-12, 35-41
- March 9** "God's People: Doubters"
Ezekiel 37: 1-14
John 11: 1-43
- March 16** PALM SUNDAY
"God's People: The Crowd"
Psalm 118: 1-2, 12-29
Matthew 21: 1-11
- March 20** MAUNDY THURSDAY
COMMUNION – Service at 7:30pm
"God's People: Washed"
Exodus 12: 1-4, 5-10
John 13: 1-17
- March 21** GOOD FRIDAY – Service at Noon
"God's People: Alone?"
- March 23** EASTER SUNDAY
"God's People: Alive!"
Jeremiah 31: 1-6
Colossians 3: 1-4
Matthew 28: 1-10
- March 30** "Peace Be With You"
1 Peter 1:3-9
John 20: 19-31



First Congregational Church
2150 S. Foothill Drive
Salt Lake City, Utah 84109



Phone: (801) 487-1357 Fax: (801) 466-1331

Web Address: www.firstcongregationalslc.org

Email: firstcongo@qwestoffice.net

Church Hours: Tuesday – Thursday: 8:30am - 3:00pm

Friday: 8:00am - Noon

Worship Hour: Sundays at 11:00am

Interim Minister.....	Pastor Al Hammond
Moderator.....	Alice Stephenson
1st Assoc. Moderator.....	Wendy Haupt
2nd Assoc. Moderator.....	Paul Kelley
Treasurer.....	Gerry Pala
Financial Secretary	Herb & Sandra Shipman
Asst. Fin. Secretary	Pam Dropek
Church Clerk.....	Cathy Rockwell
Board of Trustees.....	Scott Hansen
Board of Deacons.....	Marge Kimes
Outreach Board.....	Ken Rockwell
Stewardship Board.....	Pam Dropek
Christian Education.....	Robin Smith
Membership & Church Development.....	Scott Brown
Parish Nurses.....	Diane Forster-Burke & Marge Kimes
Sunday School Superintendent.....	Annette Tomlinson
Camp Fellowship for Youth.....	Mary Wittke & Tom Hohler
Garden of Grace	Scott & Jeanne Hansen
Choir Director.....	Devon Durkee
Organist.....	Edna Hamilton & Bob Dobson
Church Secretary.....	Kristi Hanson

REFLECTIONS FROM THE PASTOR....

By Pastor Al Hammond

EASTER LILIES

Easter Lilies. What is Easter without lilies, without flowers, without the wonderful array of colors and smells of fresh flowers blooming everywhere? Yet, I wonder if we will have another snowstorm on Easter, covering up the flowers, dampening our spirits, making spring appear to be some ancient, misleading myth. Glorious symbols of new life, the flowers also remind us of how precarious life can be. Still, when least expected those supposedly delicate flowers suddenly push through the snow, asserting their combination of beauty and power.

Resurrection Sunday. There is no record of it snowing long ago in Jerusalem. Yet, for the followers of Jesus, it was a dark and lifeless morning: the Messiah was dead leaving little reason for hope. Perhaps all the promises of God were little more than misleading myths. In spite of the healings, the radical teaching of God's unconditional love, and the promises of a new life, life is precarious, even the life of Jesus. But, more than any flower poking through the snow, the empty tomb declared that God, love, life and new life, have a combined beauty and power beyond the comprehension of the world.

Resurrection Sunday. Will it be cold and snowing or full of fresh flowers within our hearts? Holy week takes us from Palm Sunday's excitement of the triumphant entry into Jerusalem to the puzzling words of the Last Supper to the gloom of Good Friday, ending with the utter loneliness of waking up Saturday without Jesus.

Resurrection Sunday, this year. Join us as we celebrate the event that changed history, that demonstrated God's unconditional love for us. Let us join our voices together as we announce that life triumphs over all the cold, all the loneliness, all the doubt of the world: proclaiming Jesus lives!

Come, sing out that He is Risen! He is risen indeed!

AL HAMMOND – CONTACT INFORMATION

I will be in the office mornings. (It is a good idea to call and confirm) I will also be available other times by appointment. Please let me know if you would like to meet or have me visit. (Home, hospital, etc....)

After hours please contact me at Home (801) 274-1935, Cell (801) 891-4944 or email at interim.pastor@earthlink.net

FROM THE SECRETARY

By Kristi Hanson

APRIL CLARION DEADLINE IS
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19, 2008

PLEASE HAVE YOUR ARTICLES IN ON TIME



Stewardship Reflections

As we dedicate our offerings, we present and dedicate ourselves once more, we proclaim our trust in God's provisions, and we remember the first fruits offering of the cross.

--Michele Hershberger, "*Giving*" Magazine

OFFICE HELP NEEDED

I will be out of the office March 20 (Thursday) and March 21 (Friday) for our annual Easter Moab Trip. I am looking for someone to come answer the phone. Office hours are Thursday 8:30am – 3:00 and Friday 8:00am – Noon. Please call the office at 487-1357 if you are able to volunteer. Thank You.

Lent and Easter at FCC

Lent is traditionally forty days (representing the days Jesus spent in the desert after His baptism) of fasting and prayer in preparation for Holy Week (which includes Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday.) Join us to honor Lent and Easter:

<u>When</u>	<u>Where</u>	<u>What</u>
Wed. Mar. 12 , 6:30 PM	Gym	Activity: “TBA” and Potluck (1 ½ hours)
Sun. Mar. 16, 11:00 AM	Sanctuary	Palm Sunday Service
Thurs. Mar. 20, 7:30 PM	Sanctuary	Maundy Thursday Service
Fri. Mar. 21, Noon	Chapel	Good Friday Service
Sun. Mar. 23, 11:00 AM	Sanctuary	Easter Service

EASTER EGG HUNT ON EASTER SUNDAY

On Sunday, March 23rd, an Easter Egg Hunt will be held following worship service. Wrapped candy is needed and can be brought to the church. Don't forget your Easter Baskets.





“Look for the Rainbows” **Stewardship Drive Begins**

The apostle Paul wrote a beautiful letter from his prison cell in Rome to the Christians at Philippi. Paul gave words of encouragement and instructions for living in harmony with others and in obedience to God. In Phil 4: 8-9, we read these words: “Whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable...think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me, put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.”

First Congregational Church begins its annual Stewardship Drive in April. Stewardship is about living beautiful, fulfilling lives as individuals and as a congregation through use of God-given Time, Talent, Thoughts, and Treasure. This year’s theme is “Look for the Rainbows.” The Stewardship Board invites you to participate with us as we think about and search for ways to put into practice all those things which are excellent and praiseworthy through our worship, Christian education, outreach, fellowship and service.

Watch your mail for a packet of inspirational materials during the week of April 6th. We’ll kick off the drive on April 13th. Carl Watt will introduce our theme and help you catch the stewardship spirit. On April 20th, Bill Thatcher will share personal thoughts on stewardship, and Pastor Al Hammond will present a special stewardship sermon. Our drive culminates on April 27th with “Consecration Sunday.” Together, we will rejoice in the accomplishments of our church family highlighted in a pictorial presentation, and we will dedicate with renewed energy our intentions to serve Christ through offerings of time, talent, and treasure.

Immediately following the worship service, the Stewardship Board will host a light luncheon. There is no charge for the luncheon. We heartily encourage you to join us on these three successive Sundays for reflection, encouragement, celebration, food and fellowship. We especially hope to see you on Consecration Sunday. Please join us!

HOLY WEEK OBSERVANCES

Everyone is encouraged to participate in worship during Holy Week. These important services recall Jesus’ last week in Jerusalem and the events leading up to his arrest, trial and crucifixion.

Our Maundy Thursday service will take place on Thursday March 20 beginning at 7:30pm in the Fireside Room. Good Friday Services will take place at Noon on Friday, March 21 in the church’s small chapel.



ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES

Adult Education will be meeting at 10:00am on the following Sundays, March 2nd and 9th on the continuation of the Gospel of John taught by Al Hammond. There will be no class on March 16th and 23rd for Holy Week. We will meet again on March 30th, April 6th, April 16th and April 20th on “Servant Leadership – For Servant Leaders of the Bible” taught by Mary Wittke.

FCC EMAIL LIST

The church office would like to update the email list of all of our members and friends. Email is a great way to alert the congregation of any upcoming events or changes or emergencies. Please fill out the form below and mail it into the church office or drop it in the offering plate.

(Please add all email addresses you use)

NAME _____

EMAIL _____ For _____

_____ For _____

_____ For _____

MARCH OUTREACH PROJECTS

March plate offerings designated for Outreach will go to the Indian Walk-in Center. For over 30 years, the Center has provided urban Native Americans in the Salt Lake area with emergency food and clothing, self-sufficiency education, and health care. The Center will also be the recipient of the local share for the Love Loaf campaign, the other half going to World Vision, the Christian humanitarian organization that tackles the causes of poverty and injustice around the world.

Although March has a fifth Sunday, because of special arrangements at the soup kitchen on Easter, the usual fourth-Sunday servers have been given the fifth, and we are off the hook until June 29.

Meanwhile, the annual Scouting for Food drive is coming up on March 29. Remember to put a bag of food out by your door for the Scouts to collect. Then join us for a food sorting session at the Utah Food Bank on Saturday, April 5th, from 10 to noon. Address: 1025 S. 700 West, Salt Lake City. For more info, see Ken Rockwell.

And looking forward to Sunday, May 4, there are plans in the works to hold a special Mexican-themed lunch to raise funds for the Mazahua Mission. Further details forthcoming, including information on what projects we may expect this year's donations to support.

Wanted: Pictures of FCC in action. We are compiling our annual pictorial review of FCC people and events for viewing on Consecration Sunday, and the Stewardship Board needs your help. For a complete portrait of our church year, we need pictures from the Mizahua Mission effort, outdoor service, Rally Sunday, youth activities, men's & women's events, and more. Please send any digital pictures you may have taken during the year to rdropek@msn.com. We need to have your pictures by April 13th to include them in our review. Thanks in advance for you help.

The Church is Alive and Well

We Miss You

We, as a church, are entering our 143 years in the Salt Lake Valley. The life of our church has its ups and downs, but we are still here, alive and well. The search for a new pastor is going well, with a recent spate of interest. The committee is busy reviewing several new applications.

There are many upcoming events that we would like to see you come to. During the remainder of this Lenten Season, there will be a pot luck dinner on February 27, and March 12. Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday Services, ending with our Easter Service and egg hunt.

April brings our Consecration Sunday activities, complete with a slide show and luncheon.

Do you like Mexican food? We're planning a luncheon after church on May 4 to raise money for the Mazahua Mission in Mexico. Then there's Mother's Day, and an opportunity to hear from our seniors.

June 8 is our Outdoor Service and pot luck. Stay tuned for further details.

There are many other activities going on – Men's Breakfast on the first Wednesday, Choir rehearsals on Thursday evening and Sunday morning, outreach opportunities, a day for sewing on Saturday, March 29.

Don't see an activity you would like to do? Let us know your interests. The calendar has room for many additional get-togethers with our church friends.

Alice Stephenson, Moderator