

# The Weekly Word from First Church of Christ



**Show Me Your  
Ways and Truth**



**Do Good, Speak Out,  
Be Generous, Seek Justice!**

## FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONGREGATIONAL

*Member of the United Church of Christ*

*An open, welcoming and affirming congregation*

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Podcasts: <http://firstchurchglastonbury.podbean.com/>

### Today at First Church

**December 23, 2018**

8:00 a.m.

*Worship Service & Child Care, Micah Chapel*

10:00 a.m.

*Worship Service & Child Care*

10:15 a.m.

Church School

11:30 a.m.

Pageant Rehearsal, Meetinghouse



### Church School Schedule

<u>Kindergarten &amp; 1st grade</u>	Christmas Movie Youth Room Pamela Husband
<u>2nd grade</u>	Christmas Movie Youth Room Pamela Husband
<u>3rd grade</u>	Christmas Movie Youth Room Pamela Husband
<u>4th grade</u>	Christmas Movie Youth Room Pamela Husband
<u>5th grade</u>	Christmas Movie Youth Room Pamela Husband

**Attention Parents:** We are in Unit 3, "Isaiah: Fulfilling the Prophecy," and our schedule is below. Please note: some classes are combined for this unit.

Child care is provided in the Crib and Toddler Rooms. Preschool is in Room 105. Children in grades 6-8 can participate in the movie showing in the Youth Room.

The kindergarteners and first graders will go to Cherub Choir as part of their Church School experience. Please pick up your children at 11:30 a.m. in Room 112.

Church School runs until 11:30 a.m. today. If the service ends earlier than that, please enjoy some time in Schultz Hall before picking up your children. Thanks for your cooperation!

The complete unit schedule is posted throughout the church and online.

**Purchase SERRV Products:** The Board of Christian Service is again offering SERRV products for sale *during coffee hour*. Come and browse the beautiful handmade items! SERRV is a nonprofit organization that promotes the social and economic progress of people in developing regions of the world by purchasing and marketing their handcrafts in a just and direct manner. A significant amount of the retail cost of items is returned to those economically impoverished artisans. The items are beautiful so buy a present or two and support a good cause at the same time! Cash and checks are accepted.



## A Baby for the World Gift Giving

If you plan to come to our **4:30 p.m. Christmas Eve service on December 24**, please bring **diapers, baby food, blankets, wipes or formula** to the service!

Think of them as gifts to baby Jesus, and all babies everywhere who need our love, support and care. During the offertory, all of the children will be invited to come forward to the manger and donate their gifts in the designated boxes. These boxes will remain for the later services so that older children and adults may also donate items. All items will be donated to babies in the Greater Hartford area through Covenant to Care. Thank you!

## Senior High Fellowship Silver Lake Retreat: Register by January 15!

**When:** Friday, January 25 – Sunday, January 27

**Where:** Silver Lake Conference Center-Sharon, CT

**Who:** All students in 9th – 12th Grade

**Cost:** \$150 covers lodging, food and transportation

**Depart:** Friday, January 25 at 6:30 p.m. (First Church parking lot) **Eat Dinner First!**

**Return:** Sunday, January 27 at noon (parking lot)

**Registration deadline: January 15**

Permission slips are available outside Elizabeth's office or on the church website.

## Communion for the Homebound

If you are homebound, and would like to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion, a member of the pastoral staff would be happy to come to your home. Please be in touch with Kathy Ciolkosz at the church office 860-633-4641 and let her know of your interest.

## Ezdehar's Syrian Dinners Are Back - Join Us January 12!

On **Saturday, January 12**, First Church will host a Syrian dinner lovingly prepared by Ezdehar and the other members of the Al Abas family. If you have yet to experience her cooking, now's your chance! **Please join us at 6:00 p.m. in Schultz Hall.** The cost is \$35 per person, payable at the dinner in cash or by check (made out to First Church, "Syrian dinner" on the memo line). **To reserve your spot, please contact Diana Ruddick, 860-463-3049 or [dianakate525@gmail.com](mailto:dianakate525@gmail.com) before January 8.** We would appreciate volunteers to help on the day of the dinner. Here's an outline of how we get ready:

1:30-3:30 p.m. — help Ezdehar chop vegetables, assemble dishes

3:30-5:00 p.m. — more prep and table set up

5:00-7:00 p.m. — prep and serving

7:00-8:30 p.m. — cleanup

## Extra Butterbraids for Sale

If you have not yet picked up your pre-ordered Butterbraids or would like to purchase one, please see Cynthia Wilcox in the kitchen during coffee hour today.

*Music at the Meetinghouse Presents...*

## **Grayson Hugh, the Blue-Eyed Soul Legend**



## *Back to the Soul*

**Saturday, February 23, 2019**

**7:30 p.m.**

A donation of \$15 per person is suggested. \$25 family maximum.

## Offering Envelopes Available

Please pick up a 2019 box of offering envelopes in Schultz Hall. Please print your first and last name if you contribute cash so it can go on your statement.

## Family Promise Update

What better way to celebrate Jesus' birth than by volunteering to help families that find themselves homeless during this holiday season? ***Our next host week is coming up – December 30 to January 6.*** Sign up at this link: <http://signup.com/go/eCgXbYU> or contact one of the volunteer coordinators: Kate Ersevim: [ersevim@cox.net](mailto:ersevim@cox.net) / 860-985-8075 or Tara Conway / Amy Woodruff: [tara.amy1407@gmail.com](mailto:tara.amy1407@gmail.com) / 860-462-9548.

## Serving Lunch at Center City Church on January 21

On Monday, January 21, we provide the food and servers for this Hands on Hartford lunch meal. ***You can sign up in Schultz Hall during fellowship time on January 6, 13 or 20.*** For questions or to sign up, contact Jaime Guilmette, [jbguilmette@yahoo.com](mailto:jbguilmette@yahoo.com) or 860-798-4963 or Judy Rozie-Battle, 860-819-6435 or [jrbattle@aol.com](mailto:jrbattle@aol.com).

## Worship at Micah Chapel

Throughout the Advent seasons, our 8:00 a.m. worship services have been held in the Micah House and Chapel. The Board of Deacons has prepared this beautiful space for these worship services. It was wonderful to worship together for the first time in this inspiring space! Please join us!

## Wish School Kindergarten Hats, Mittens and Socks Collection



Hats, mittens and socks (size 5-6) are needed to keep the Fred Wish School kindergarteners warm this winter. ***Donations can be put in the collection boxes located in the narthex and back lobby of the church. We will be collecting items until the end of January.*** Please contact Sally Riddell at [sally.m.riddell@gmail.com](mailto:sally.m.riddell@gmail.com) if you have any questions. Thank you!

## Join CTUCC Advocate Corps!

The 2019 ***Connecticut Legislative Session starts on Wednesday, January 9.*** Take a moment to consider the following questions. Are you curious about the legislative issues that Connecticut Conference of the UCC is working on at our state Capitol? Would you like your voice to be heard at the Capitol? Would you like a script and fact sheet emailed to you so you know exactly what to say to your State Senator and State Representative on issues? If you answered yes to any of these questions, then you should consider joining the CTUCC Advocate Corps!

During this legislative session, the CTUCC Advocate Corps might work on issues, such as the minimum wage, paid family medical leave, access to original birth records by adult adoptees, hydraulic fracking waste, gun safety, mass incarceration, quality affordable healthcare and opposing casino expansion in Connecticut. The CTUCC Advocate Corps is open to both clergy and lay leaders. If you want to learn more, please contact Michele Mudrick at [michelem@ctu.org](mailto:michelem@ctu.org).

## Submit Your Winter Photos!

First Church Outside would like to invite all church members, including children, to be a part of our second nature photography show! This time our theme will be “The Beauty of Winter.” During those times when you think you just can’t take winter anymore, take a step back and try to appreciate the beauty winter has to offer. Please submit your favorite 8x10-inch winter photo and include your name, photo location, subject and, if you are a child, your age. There is a collection box in the church office where ***photos can be dropped off through Sunday, December 30.***

Remember, you don’t need a fancy camera, phone cameras do a great job as well. And please don’t think your photos aren’t good enough, everyone’s unique perspective is beautiful! We can’t wait to see all of your photos! If you have questions, please contact Tracy Kavanaugh at [lilypadprints@gmail.com](mailto:lilypadprints@gmail.com) or 413-250-3838.

# This Week at First Church

## Monday, December 24, 2018

3:00 p.m. Youth arrive for Pageant  
4:30 p.m. **Christmas Pageant**  
8:00 p.m. **Candlelight Worship Service**  
11:00 p.m. **Candlelight Worship Service**

**Tuesday, December 25, 2018: Christmas**

## Wednesday, December 26, 2018

8:30 a.m. Foodshare warehouse, off-site

## Sunday, December 30, 2018

10:00 a.m. **Worship Service & Child Care**

## Church Office Holiday Schedule

December 24-25 Office closed  
December 26-28, 31 Open 9:00 a.m.  
to 1:00 p.m.  
January 1 Office closed



## Christmas Worship Services



### Monday, December 24

#### 4:30 p.m. **Christmas Eve Pageant**

Our Senior High Fellowship will present the story of the birth of Jesus with music and pageantry at this service designed especially for youngsters. Children will be able to take the headdress of a shepherd, angel or king in the narthex before the service begins, and then they will process to the manger, all at one time, for our offertory. The Caroler and Cherub Choirs will provide the special music.

#### 8:00 p.m. **Christmas Eve Service of Candlelight, Music and the Word**

Invite your family and friends to celebrate the joy of the coming of Christ in this candlelight service! The Cantate, Cantabile and Mallets Choirs will perform at this service.

#### 11:00 p.m. **Christmas Eve Service of Candlelight, Music and the Word**

Celebrate with family and friends the coming of Christ in this beautiful, candlelight service! The Chancel Choir will provide the special music for this service with prelude music beginning at 10:40 p.m.

#### **December 30 – First Sunday after Christmas, One Service at 10:00 a.m.**

This informal service will include carol singing, scripture reading and storytelling. Come casually dressed and celebrate the Christmas season and the new year with your church family. Special music performed by Johan Hartman.

### MINISTERS

*All the members of the church*

*Pastor Emeritus The Rev. Dr. Carl F. Schultz, Jr. (1932 - 2012)*

### PASTORS

The Rev. David T. Taylor, *Pastor*; The Rev. Kate VanDerzee-Glidden, *Pastor*;

The Rev. Elizabeth Gleich, *Associate Pastor for Children and Youth Ministries*

Rebecca Fleahman, *Office Manager*

Wes Grove, *Facilities Manager*

The Rev. Gordon Bates, *Minister of Visitation*

Peggy Hartman, *Director of Handbell Program and Children's Choirs*

Angela Salcedo, *Director of Music Ministries*

Kathy Ciolkosz, *Administrative Assistant*

Karin Carlino, *Church School Administrator*

Valerie Escalera, *Program Administrator*

Susan Feller, *Publications Specialist*

Cheryl Foley, *Child Care Provider*