



**FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST,
CONGREGATIONAL**

Member of the United Church of Christ
An open, welcoming and affirming congregation
 2183 Main Street, Glastonbury, CT 06033
 860-633-4641

Television Ministry: **LIVING THE WORD**,
 Sundays, 7:30 a.m. and noon, Cox Cable Channel 15
 E-mail: firstchurch@glastonburyfirst.org
 Website: www.glastonburyfirst.org






***Today at First Church: Thanksgiving Sunday* November 22, 2015**

8:00 a.m. **Worship Service & Child Care**
 10:00 a.m. **Worship Service & Child Care**
 10:15 a.m. Church School
 11:00 a.m. Cherub Choir, Room 112
 11:30 a.m. Congregational Meeting, Meetinghouse
 6:00 p.m. Senior High Fellowship, Youth Room



Church School Schedule

Attention Parents: We are in our unit called “**Out of Egypt**,” and the schedule is below. Please note: some classes are combined for this unit.

	<u>Kindergarten & 1st grade</u> <i>pink</i>	Games Room 110 Alex Kimmel & Aaron Swahn
	<u>2nd grade</u> <i>yellow</i>	Storytelling Room 111 Kathy McGuire
	<u>3rd grade</u> <i>purple</i>	Storytelling Room 111 Kathy McGuire
	<u>4th grade</u> <i>red</i>	Movie Room 102 Bryce Grissom
	<u>5th grade</u> <i>green</i>	Movie Room 102 Bryce Grissom

Preschool is in Room 105.

Children in grades 6-8 can choose between Puppet Troupe in 302/303, and Explore 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 11:10 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.)

*Please note that the monies collected in the envelopes with this logo are used to support the 2015-2016 Church School Mission Project, **The Children's Wellness Center**. We suggest a donation of \$1 per week.*



FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONGREGATIONAL CALL TO SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING NOVEMBER 22, 2015 (11:30 a.m. TODAY)

To the members of the First Church of Christ, Glastonbury:

You are hereby notified of, and cordially invited to attend, a Meeting of the Congregation to be held in the Meetinghouse on Sunday, November 22, 2015 at 11:30 a.m., to hear and act upon the following matters:

- 1. To establish a Building Committee to finalize plans and specifications, to obtain the required building permits and authorizations, and to solicit bids and enter into construction contracts necessary for building The Micah Center at Hale House.*
- 2. To establish a Capital Campaign Committee with the anticipated goal of raising the sum of Seven Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$700,000) to be used in the construction of The Micah Center at Hale House.*
- 3. To transact any other business relating to the above proper to come before the meeting.*

Daniel L. Martin, Church Clerk

TODAY! Turkeys and Twenties!

Foodshare is the heart of greater Hartford's fight against hunger, and each year First Church members and friends bring in turkeys and raise money to help our neighbors in need. **Please help us reach our goal of 250 turkeys this year!** If you have questions, contact Nagy Mishriky at nmishri@gmail.com or Jon Brown at 860-657-9223 or brownjre@cox.net.

Reading Changes Lives! Volunteer at Wish School

Volunteers from First Church have been helping kindergarten students at Fred Wish Elementary School in Hartford with basic reading skills. We hope to encourage their love of reading. Volunteers spend two hours weekly on a day of their choice. If you are interested or have questions call Sally Riddell at 860-657-8715 or email at grammasal@att.net.

Bloomfield Backpack Project: Service and Supper!



Come help to feed the hungry and then share a quick meal together! In partnership with Foodshare and other local churches, we will be providing backpacks filled with 11 pounds of nonperishable food to 100 Bloomfield children in need. Come join us on the **2nd Thursday of the month from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m.** All are welcome to join us on any date that works for you! Contact Karen Vigeant at 860-432-4985 or karenvigeant@outlook.com to sign up or feel free to sign up on the poster outside of the Christian Education office. Upcoming dates are: **December 10, January 14, February 11, March 10, April 14, May 12 and June 9.**

Offering Envelopes Are Here!

Please pick up a 2016 boxed set of offering envelopes in Schultz Hall. They are no longer labeled or numbered, so please remember to print your first and last name if you contribute cash so it can be included on your giving statement. Thank you!

The Pageant Needs You!



Christmas PAGEANT

We need shepherds, sheep, kings, angels, techies and more for this year's Christmas Pageant, which takes place at our **4:30 p.m. service on Christmas Eve.** We're looking for students from grades six through

twelve to help portray the roles in this joyous event! Contact Jack Farrell at jack@glastonburyfirst.org to sign up!

Church School Mission Project

This year's Church School Mission Project is about helping support healthy lifestyles for children of low-income families in Hartford. **The best way to support our goal of raising \$10,000 is through our weekly Children's Offering donations!** Be the family that gets us there and make your Children's Offering donations!

Refugee Resettlement

Informational Session Tomorrow

The Board of Christian Service invites you to attend an open, informational session to explore the possibility of our congregation once again welcoming and sponsoring refugees into our community. First Church has a rich tradition of "welcoming the stranger" as exhorted by our Biblical tradition. There are more than 10 million refugees in the world at any given time, the current plight of Syrian refugees has once again brought this critical need to our attention. On **Monday, November 23, at 7:00 p.m.**, Chris George, church member and executive director of IRIS, Integrated Refugee and Immigrant Services, will be on hand to offer a step-by-step overview of how a congregation like First Church might sponsor either Syrian refugees, or any other refugees who have been living for years in refugee camps. Come hear more!

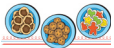
Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

This week, please join the interfaith Glastonbury community as it thanks God in a service of praise and worship! The service will be held on **Tuesday evening at 7:00 p.m. at the Congregational Church of South Glastonbury.** Choirs will sing, voices of many faiths will be heard, and there will be much rejoicing for the diversity of faith in Glastonbury! You are invited to bring an offering of nonperishable food for the Glastonbury Food Bank.

Boston Choir Trip December 19

The Cantate and Cantabile Choirs will travel to Boston on **Saturday, December 19, from 7:30 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.**, to sing Christmas Carols at Faneuil Hall Marketplace. The trip will entail a morning visit to the Boston Science Museum, lunch at Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Christmas shopping and singing on the grounds of the Marketplace from 2:00-3:00 p.m. **Please confirm your child's participation on this trip by December 5.**

Cookie Walk and Christmas Bazaar



Saturday, December 5, 2015

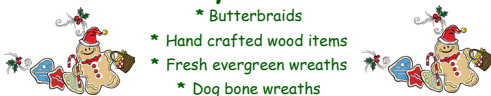
9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Volunteers Needed!!

- * TO BAKE DELICIOUS COOKIES
- * TO HELP AT THE EVENT

Please contact Alison Franklin at amfranklin1@cox.net or sign up on our website www.glastonburyfirst.org

Festive Holiday Cookies and More



- * Butterbraids
- * Hand crafted wood items
- * Fresh evergreen wreaths
- * Dog bone wreaths
- * Handmade quilt, table runners and hand towels
- * First Church Choirs CD: "Praise and Thanksgiving"
- * SERRV products

Cookie Walk proceeds to benefit the First Church music programs.

Children's Choirs will sing carols at 9:30 a.m.

This Week at First Church

Monday, November 23, 2015

6:30 p.m. JH Fellowship, Youth Room
7:00 p.m. Refugee Resettlement Information Session, Lehman Library

Tuesday, November 24, 2015

9:45 a.m. Prayer and Share, Parlor
7:00 p.m. Jubilate Ringers, Meetinghouse
Off-site Community Thanksgiving Service at South Congregational Church

Wednesday, November 25, 2015

10:15 a.m. Mobile Foodshare

Thursday, November 26, 2015

Thanksgiving: Office Closed

Sunday, November 29, 2015

8:00 a.m. **Worship Service & Child Care**
10:00 a.m. **Worship Service & Child Care**
10:15 a.m. Church School
11:00 a.m. Cherub Choir, Room 112
12:00 p.m. Spark! Meeting, Lehman Library
6:00 p.m. SH Fellowship, Youth Room

Stewardship Update

In 2015, we received 305 pledges totaling \$716,000. We currently have received 226 pledges totaling \$641,777. If you have not done so, please complete your pledge as soon as possible or contact the First Church Office Manager (Rebecca Fleahman: e-mail, rebeccafleahman@glastonburyfirst.org, or phone, 860-633-4641, ext. 122) to provide your pledge for 2016. Thank you for your support!!



“So Hallowed and So Gracious is the Time” – Art for the Advent and Christmas Season

For centuries, musicians have been inspired by “our Saviour’s birth” to compose works of great beauty, and those compositions have come to be an important part of our Christmas celebration. Though less familiar than music, the visual arts can also enhance and enrich our experience of the birth of the Christ Child. Through the centuries, artists, painters and sculptors have sought to capture the wonder of the Incarnation. A deeper understanding and appreciation of some of these works of art, and their scriptural origins, can likewise enrich our experience of this holy season.

For four Thursdays, the **Thursday Morning Study Group** will look at works of art, and the artists, whose inspiration came from the Christmas story. There will be presentations by the participants who will reflect on this art, some of which can be found in nearby museums such as the Yale Art Gallery, the New Britain Museum of Art and the Wadsworth Atheneum. **Come one, come all, for this seasonal series on religious and spiritual art!** Please call the church office at 860-633-4641 to reserve your space at the table, and join us on **December 3, 10 and 17.**

MINISTERS

All the members of the church
Pastor Emeritus The Rev. Dr. Carl F. Schultz, Jr. (1932 - 2012)

PASTORS

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

Rebecca Fleahman, <i>Office Manager</i>	Angela Salcedo, <i>Director of Music Ministries</i>	Cheryl Foley, <i>Child Care Provider</i>
Wes Grove, <i>Facilities Manager</i>	Kathy Ciolkosz, <i>Administrative Assistant</i>	Karin Carlino, <i>Church School Administrator</i>
The Rev. Gordon Bates, <i>Minister of Visitation</i>	Jack Farrell, <i>Director of Children and Youth Ministries</i>	Valerie Escalera, <i>Program Administrator</i>
Susan Feller, <i>Publications Specialist</i>	Peggy Hartman, <i>Director of Handbell Program and Children's Choirs</i>	



Caring and Giving with Joy!



Donate to the Children’s Wellness Center (Family Life Education)

Consider giving a donation to this year’s Church School Mission Project, *The Children’s Wellness Center*, as a Christmas gift to mom, dad, grandparents, grandchildren, aunts, sisters, teachers, bus drivers or anyone else on your list!

Every year the Church School teams up with a local or international mission to help our neighbors near and far. This year’s Church School Mission Project is to help fund a teaching kitchen at the exciting new Children’s Wellness Center in Hartford. The Center promotes overall wellness among lower-income city children from birth through age 12 through three interlocking components: nutrition, exercise/movement and early childhood development. You can help us raise our goal of \$10,000 through children’s offerings, bake sales, Advent calendar sales, and your donations and memorial gifts. If you would like to make a contribution to this special project, please make your check payable to “First Church of Christ,” with *Wellness Center* in the memo line. Acknowledgement postcards are available to provide to loved ones. We appreciate your support of all of our children’s efforts at fundraising as well as your generous gifts.

Support Our Giving Tree: Four Great Causes!

Board of Christian Education: Benefits Families Through Glastonbury Social Services

As with previous years, the Board of Christian Education will benefit Glastonbury Social Services. When you return your gift, please make sure to include the tag in the bag or taped to the box, and please do not wrap the gift. The deadline for returning the gifts with yellow stars is **Sunday, December 6**.

Board of Christian Service: Benefits Covenant to Care, Family Life Education and MACC

The Board of Christian Service will benefit three different organizations. The first is **Covenant to Care**. Our liaison from First Church works with social workers at the Manchester Department of Social Services to assist families who find themselves in a time of crisis or transition.

The second beneficiary is **Family Life Education**, which is located in the Parkville neighborhood of Hartford and is dedicated to building a stronger community by engaging and strengthening families through youth development and support and family services. We are adopting two families and helping with various needs.

The third organization is **Manchester Area Conference of Churches**, which provides food, clothing, outreach and advocacy services for the unmet basic needs in the community.

The tags selected for the Board of Christian Service need to have the unwrapped gifts delivered to First Church no later than **Sunday, December 13**. When you return your gift, please make sure to include the tag in the bag or taped to the box, and please, do not wrap the gift.

Each organization will have a different tag as follows:

Glastonbury Social Services – yellow stars

Family Life Education – green trees

Manchester Area Conference of Churches – blue bells

Covenant To Care – red stockings



Volunteer at Mobile Foodshare or Help Deliver Food to Shelters & Soup Kitchens

Mobile Foodshare is a “farmer’s market” style food distribution service that provides fresh produce and other food items to between 90 and 150 lower income people. Foodshare sponsors this service, and it takes place every other Wednesday in our back parking lot (**November 25, December 9 and 23**). If you are interested in volunteering (adults, youth and children are welcome!), contact Sally Riddell at 860-657-8715.

Besides distributing food to needy people in our parking lot twice a month, our volunteers collect food from ShopRite in East Hartford, bringing 500 to 1,000 lbs of meat, produce, baked goods and groceries weekly to shelters and soup kitchens in Hartford. If you would like to help, please contact John Dugan at 860-659-2193 or Paul Fraleigh at 860-643-1571.

Purchase SERRV Handcrafts



The Board of Christian Service will offer products from SERRV for sale **during Common Fellowship until December 20**. You’re sure to find things that will make wonderful Christmas gifts for the people on your list! SERRV is a non-profit organization whose purpose is to promote 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!

Bring In Items For Our Ongoing Food Collection

First Church has had a long tradition of collecting food items for our neighbors in need. Our donations go to Horace Bushnell Children’s Food Pantry in Hartford and Manchester Area Conference of Churches (MACC). Please continue to bring in food for our neighbors in need. There are two baskets at church (one in the back lobby and one in the narthex) where the food is collected. **In November, we’re asking for contributions of cranberry sauce and boxed stuffing. In December, we’re asking for contributions of peanut butter and oatmeal and other items people are willing to donate.** Please bring food that is not expired or open. Thank you!



Participate in A Baby for the World Gift Giving on Christmas Eve

At **4:30 on December 24**, our Senior High Fellowship will be presenting the story of the birth of Jesus with music and pageantry at this service designed especially for the youth of our congregation. Children will be given the opportunity to dress up as a shepherd or angel, and these headaddresses will be available in the narthex before the service begins.



The children of First Church will remember and celebrate the birth of Jesus by participating in a special offering that will go towards babies in our community who need help. We ask that each child bring one of the following items to this service as an offering during the pageant: baby food, formula, warm blanket, diapers or wipes. The offertory donation 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.