



**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](mailto:firstchurch@glastonburyfirst.org)  
 Website: [www.glastonburyfirst.org](http://www.glastonburyfirst.org)

**Today at First Church: First Sunday of Advent**






**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



**Church School Schedule**

**Attention Parents:** We are starting our unit called “Journey to Bethlehem,” and the schedule is below. Please note: some classes are combined for this unit.

	<u>Kindergarten &amp; 1st grade</u> <i>pink</i>	<b>Music</b> <b>Room 206</b> <b>Peggy Hartman</b>
	<u>2nd grade</u> <i>yellow</i>	<b>Games Room 110</b> <b>John &amp; Christine Szalkiewicz</b>
	<u>3rd grade</u> <i>purple</i>	<b>Games Room 110</b> <b>John &amp; Christine Szalkiewicz</b>
	<u>4th grade</u> <i>red</i>	<b>Storytelling</b> <b>Room 111</b> <b>Susan Crisafulli</b>
	<u>5th grade</u> <i>green</i>	<b>Storytelling</b> <b>Room 111</b> <b>Susan Crisafulli</b>

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.





## Spark! Sunday Afternoon Service December 6

**Spark!**, our new worship service, had a rousing debut in October. These monthly services (on the *first Sunday of each month at 4:30 p.m.*) are spiritually moving, feature contemporary music and allow parishioners to interact in meaningful ways throughout the service.

Children are always welcome, but childcare will be provided for the littlest among us for those who desire it. **On December 6, we will gather for a time of fellowship after the worship service and eat a simple meal of soup and bread together.** We are an open, welcoming and affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ, and all are welcome to join us!

### 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 by spending time with each child reading books, talking about what excites them and what they have learned from the stories. Books appropriate for their grade level and skills are provided. It is rewarding to see their progress and how proud they are when they begin to read to us. 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](mailto: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](mailto: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.**

### Knitters and Crocheters: Save the Date!

Knitters and crocheters will gather on **Monday, December 14 (not December 21), from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.** at the church in the Lehman Library. Whether you are new to the group or would like to learn to knit or crochet, all are welcome for handicrafts and fellowship. Yarn is provided. Bring a #11 or #13 pair of knitting needles, or a medium to large crochet hook, and receive some instruction. If you have questions, call Co-Chairs Judy Burr at 860-643-9368 or Liz Webb at 860-593-7831. Meetings are usually held on the third Monday of the month.

### 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! Below are the rehearsal dates. Contact Jack Farrell at [jack@glastonburyfirst.org](mailto:jack@glastonburyfirst.org) to sign up!

**Sunday, December 13: 5:00-6:00 p.m.,**

Costume fittings and read-through

**Sunday, December 20: 6:00-8:00 p.m.,**

Pageant Rehearsal

**Tuesday, December 23: 6:00-8:00 p.m.,**

Pageant Rehearsal

**Thursday, December 24: Call for Pageant 3:00 p.m.,** Pageant is at **4:30 p.m.**



## Advent Family Workshop

**Sunday, December 13  
3:00 – 5:00 p.m. Schultz Hall**

Join us for crafts, fun and refreshments while exploring how countries around the world celebrate Christmas!

*All are welcome!*

## 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!

## 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 in this trip by December 5.**

### *Please join us for upcoming Music at the Meetinghouse events...*

**MOSTLY BAROQUE PLAYERS**

*A Program of Sacred Music*

Saturday, March 19, 2016 at 7:30 p.m.

**ANGELA R. SALCEDO, ORGANIST**

*An Organ Recital featuring Calvin Hampton's "Five Dances" and the Music of D'Grigny, Bach and Widor*

Saturday, April 9, 2016 at 7:30 p.m.

**ELM CITY GIRLS' CHOIR**

*New Haven's Premiere Female A Cappella Choir*

Saturday, June 4, 2016 at 7:30 p.m.

## We Need Your Time & Talent!

*Time & Talent* forms are available in the back lobby and the narthex to fill out if we don't have one on file from you or if your interests have changed. There are so many ways you can help!



**Are You Able?**

# This Week at First Church

## **Tuesday, December 1, 2015**

7:30 a.m. Potpourri, Kitchen  
 9:45 a.m. Prayer and Share, Parlor  
 12:00 p.m. Memorial Committee,  
 Lehman Library  
 7:00 p.m. Jubilate Ringers, Meetinghouse

## **Wednesday, December 2, 2015**

5:00 p.m. Caroler Choir  
 6:00 p.m. Confirmation Class, Youth Room  
 6:30 p.m. Music Board, Lehman Library

## **Thursday, December 3, 2015**

9:30 a.m. Thursday Morning Study Group,  
 Lehman Library  
 4:00 p.m. Cantate Choir  
 5:00 p.m. Ribbon Work  
 5:00 p.m. Mallets Bell Choir  
 6:00 p.m. Cantabile Choir  
 7:15 p.m. Chancel Choir

## **Friday, December 4, 2015**

7:00 p.m. SH and JH Fellowship Lock-In

## **Saturday, December 5, 2015**

9:00 a.m. Cookie Walk, Schultz Hall  
 9:00 a.m. SH/JH Fellowship Lock-In ends  
 1:00 p.m. Spark! Band Rehearsal,  
 Meetinghouse

## **Sunday, December 6, 2015**

### **Second Sunday of Advent with Communion**

**8:00 a.m. Worship Service & Child Care**  
 8:30 a.m. Board of Lay Life and Ministry,  
 Room 202  
**10:00 a.m. Worship Service & Child Care**  
 10:15 a.m. Church School  
 11:00 a.m. Cherub Choir, Room 112  
 11:20 a.m. Board of Christian Education,  
 Lehman Library  
**4:30 p.m. Spark! Worship & Child Care**

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

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.

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 American 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 (**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.