



The REMINDER

First Church of Christ, Congregational, Glastonbury, Connecticut

Member of United Church of Christ

An open, welcoming and affirming congregation

January 2016

“I hereby command you: Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.”

~ Joshua 1:9

Sunday Morning
Worship Services
8:00 and 10:00 a.m.

January 3

Epiphany Sunday

Celebration of Holy Communion

Kate VanDerzee-Glidden preaching

4:30 p.m. **Spark!** Service



January 10

First Sunday after Epiphany

The Baptism of Christ

David Taylor preaching

January 17

Second Sunday after Epiphany

A Celebration of Our Church's
Mission - Report from Recent
Mission Trip to Back Bay Mission,
Biloxi, Mississippi

January 24

Third Sunday after Epiphany

Kate VanDerzee-Glidden preaching

January 31

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

David Taylor preaching

Dear Friends,

Set yourself earnestly to discover what you are made to do, and then give yourself passionately to the doing of it. ~ Martin Luther King, Jr.

Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure....It is our Light, not our Darkness, that most frightens us....You are a child of God. Your playing small does not serve the world. There is nothing enlightening about shrinking. We were born to make manifest the glory of God that is within us. It is not just in some of us; it is in everyone. ~ Nelson Mandela

With the arrival of the month of January, we are in the season of the church year called Epiphany, when we celebrate the light to which Nelson Mandela refers.

Mandela and King are both inheritors of the vision of the Old Testament prophet Micah. As people of God, we are called to rise up and face the darkness of our world, and to bring to it the brilliant light of God's love – ***“to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with God.”***

And this beloved family of faith known as First Church is also the heir to Micah's vision of a world where ***the orphan will be loved, the widowed embraced, the stranger welcomed*** – and God is given the glory! When we let the light of Christ's love shine within us, and shine out into the world, then First Church can be ***powerful beyond measure!***

Thank you, God, for a loving family, for caring friends, for amazing snowflakes and the gift of snow days, for hot chili and corn bread on a cold winter day, and for the joyful privilege to share your love with others!!

As this New Year begins – as the season of Epiphany light unfolds – let us, this compassionate and caring family of faith, demonstrate that we are indeed powerful beyond measure!

Let us give ourselves ***passionately*** to the work of Micah – the work of justice, the work of peace, the work of kindness, the work of loving God's children next door in Glastonbury and Hartford and faraway in distant refugee camps! We are beloved children of God and our playing small does not serve the world!

Let us not shrink, let us not hold back, let us not waver in our devotion to manifest the glory of God's love that is within us!

Faithfully,

First Church of Christ, Congregational

United Church of Christ
2183 Main Street
Glastonbury, CT 06033

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

Sunday Morning Schedule

Worship Services at 8:00 and 10:00 a.m.

Church School: 10:15 a.m.

Spark! service at 4:30 p.m.
on the first Sunday of the month

Childcare is provided

Phone Number: 860-633-4641

Fax Number: 860-633-5826

Email: firstchurch@glastonburyfirst.org

Website: www.glastonburyfirst.org

Staff

- The Rev. David Taylor, *Senior Pastor*
davidtaylor@glastonburyfirst.org, ext. 118
- The Rev. Kate VanDerzee-Glidden, *Associate Pastor*, katev@glastonburyfirst.org, ext. 120
- Angela Salcedo, *Director of Music Ministries*
angelasalcedo@glastonburyfirst.org, ext. 116
- Jack Farrell, *Director of Children and Youth Ministries*; jack@glastonburyfirst.org, ext. 113
- The Rev. Gordon Bates, *Minister of Visitation*
- Karin Carlino, *Church School Administrator*
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- Kathy Ciolkosz, *Administrative Assistant*
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- Rebecca Fleahman, *Office Manager*
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- Cheryl Foley, *Child Care Provider*
- Wes Grove, *Facilities Manager*
facilities@glastonburyfirst.org, ext. 121
- Peggy Hartman, *Director of Handbell Program and Childrens' Choirs*

THE REMINDER submission deadline:
Sunday, January 10: February 2016 issue



First Church now has a Facebook page!
Stay up to date with what's going on around
church, and make sure to "like" us!

Church Growth & Membership

The Church Growth and Membership Committee congratulates you, the First Church family, for the great job that you are doing in helping to make First Church a friendly, welcoming church community to all of our visitors and new members. We have taken note of some of the things that are being done that have helped to create this environment with the hopes that we all can throw our arms open even further based on some of these ideas and suggestions from others:

- * **Wear your nametags.** By wearing your nametag, you make it easier for someone to identify you, and it's more comfortable for your fellow parishioners to greet you even when they may have a momentary loss for names.
- * **Be proactive in passing the pew pads** during the church service and take note of who signs the pew pad. If you are not familiar with the name, please introduce yourself to them after the worship service. Even if you do know the person, please say good morning to them.
- * **When passing the peace, be enthusiastic!** It's such a warm feeling when someone does that to you. Don't be bashful. Feel free to cross the aisle to greet the people sitting on the other side.
- * **Greet new neighbors** and invite them to church with you on a Sunday.
- * **Invite a friend** to worship, a church event, Music at the Meetinghouse, small group event, etc.
- * **At Common Fellowship time, be on the lookout for people you don't know** or have never seen before. Extend a warm welcome and greet them.
- * **You can take visitors to the Welcome Table in Schultz Hall** and introduce them to the person at the table, who will be very happy to take it from there.



We have a lot to be proud of at First Church, and it is through the kind of ideas above that we are maintaining that warm and hospitable feeling.

Thank you for all of your great efforts!

~ Your Church Growth and Membership Committee

Quiet Little Flames of Hope and Peace

Excerpts from the sermon given on Sunday, December 6, by Kate VanDerzee-Glidden and David Taylor

What is it about this time of year? Isn't this supposed to be a time of great joy and peace?

Well, December 2 was the 35th anniversary of the murder of three Maryknoll sisters and a lay missionary, Jean Donovan, from Westport, Connecticut, who were working with the poorest of the poor in El Salvador.

On December 6, 2002, three Glastonbury High School seniors and a father of three children were tragically killed in an automobile accident. And 35 years ago on December 8, John Lennon was gunned down in New York City outside of the Dakota apartment building. On December 7, 1941, our nation's peace was tragically disrupted by the surprise attack on Pearl Harbor. And on December 14, the events of 2012 in Newtown, Connecticut, will be somberly remembered by our nation.

But now, sadly, we have another "anniversary" to solemnly remember each year – the mass shooting in San Bernardino, California. Has nothing changed? Or, more importantly, will nothing change?

Colorado Springs, Charleston, Chattanooga, Aurora, Virginia Tech, Fort Hood, Newtown.

Author Kathryn Matthews has written, *"In the midst of loneliness and despair; poverty and war; in the face of communal depression and personal heartache...churches [need to] throw open their doors and their hearts to all of God's precious children and offer them a place, a community, where the quiet little flames of hope can be fanned into the fires of justice and peace."*

Every era in human history has known darkness, every age has lived in the tragic shadow of evil and death, and every period in human history has known injustice, hatred and despair. But the choice is always, always, always ours.

Do we give in to the darkness, give in to the hatred, give in to the injustice, give in to the warfare, give in to the oppression, give in to the fear, or give in to the despair?

Or rather, do we choose to be the light that shines in the land of deep darkness, to be the light that guides the way to peace?

Do we choose to be candles of hope and courage to an often dark and dangerous world?

And do we truly choose to be, both as individual persons of faith, but also as a community, those quiet little flames of hope and peace? The choice is always ours!

It has been said that Christmas is particularly a time for children – a time of great peace and joy. But that peace is all too often shattered for so many of the world's children.

There are children of God of all ages who daily experience the horrors of war. There are innocent, beautiful children everywhere who are hungry this day. There are children and youth in this community and in so many others who feel the need to escape life's darkness through alcohol and drugs. There are more than 25 million children in this world who are homeless refugees.

There are children in Connecticut, the richest state in the richest country in the world, who arrive at school on Monday morning hungry – unable to learn and reach their fullest potential. There are more than 3,000 children under the age of 20 who, each year, die of gun violence in the United States. That's 20 more children, every three days, who are the innocent victims of our nation's obsession with guns.

There are members of this beloved family of faith who are grieving the loss of a loved one during this hallowed and gracious time of the year.

Because there are children in this world, each and every day we must find ways to be "quiet little flames of hope and peace."

And we are those quiet little flames when we...

...distribute fresh produce off the mobile Foodshare truck and bring in items for area food pantries.

...reach out in love to the youth of Glastonbury.

...knit prayer shawls and visit shut-ins.

...sponsor and extravagantly welcome a refugee family to Glastonbury.

...tutor and mentor students at a Hartford elementary school.

...contact our elected officials to say "enough is enough" with gun violence.

Friends, we have no choice. God is calling us. We can and we must be those quiet little flames of hope, courage and peace. We must – for there are children in this world.

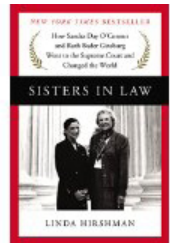


Adult Opportunities

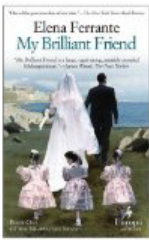


Biography Book Group

The Biography Book Group meets every other month to review a book and enjoy fellowship in an informal setting. We invite you to join us whether it is for just one selection or for every book. Come to the Lehman Library on **Tuesday, January 12** and join us for a discussion of the newly released *Sisters in Law: How Sandra Day O'Connor and Ruth Bader Ginsburg Went to the Supreme Court and Changed the World* by Linda Hirshman. "The author tells the fascinating story of the intertwined lives of Sandra Day O'Connor and Ruth Bader Ginsburg, the first and second women to serve as Supreme Court justices. The relationship between Sandra Day O'Connor and Ruth Bader Ginsburg – Republican and Democrat, Christian and Jew, western rancher's daughter and Brooklyn girl – transcends party, religion, region and culture. Strengthened by each other's presence, these groundbreaking judges have transformed the Constitution and America itself, making it a more equal place for all women. *Sisters in Law* combines legal detail with warm personal anecdotes that bring these very different women into focus as never before" (Amazon.com review). Call or e-mail Valerie Escalera at 860-633-4452 or Miguel.escalera@sbcglobal.net with any questions.



Second Sunday Book Club



The Second Sunday Book Club meets at **4:00 p.m. every other month on the second Sunday in the Lehman Library**. All are welcome. Meetings and books for this year are as follows: **January 10: *My Brilliant Friend***, Elena Ferrante; **March 13: *Just Mercy***, Bryan Stevenson; **May 15: *Our Souls at Night***, Kent Haruf (note change in May date due to Mothers Day). Please join us on **January 10** to discuss *My Brilliant Friend*, the first of a highly-acclaimed trilogy by Italian novelist Elena Ferrante. Considered the "best known least known" author of her generation, Ferrante - likely a pseudonym - writes with "passion and urgency about intensely personal matters that will have you loathe to put it down," according to *The New Yorker*. Join us for a trip to Naples in the cold New England winter! If you have any questions, contact Amy Thompson at thompson.amy72@gmail.com.

Women's Theological Reflection Group

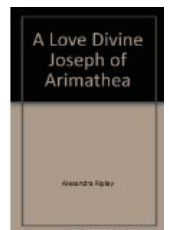
Perhaps you've heard or read about the Women's Theological Reflection Group, affectionately known as "TRG," and wondered, "What is TRG, anyway?" Thank you to First Church member Lorie Martin for this terrific description of the purpose and spirit of TRG:

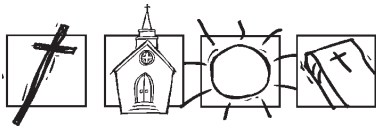
"[TRG] is a group of women who intentionally gather and attempt to grapple with important issues of faith, and seek to see how these issues are woven into the fabric of their lives. They trust one another to be honest, make allowances for their differences, hold each other up and say prayers together. There is a lot of laughing. We nod and shake our heads. There is some sighing. Okay, sometimes we cry. We leave better for having been there and glad there will be a next time."

We hope you will mark your calendars to join us around the table for one or more of our TRG gatherings, which take place on the **third Wednesday of each month, from 8:00 to 9:00 a.m. in the Lehman Library**. Feel free to contact Lynn Baronas at 860-543-3301 or baronas@hartford.edu for further information.

Thursday Morning Study Group

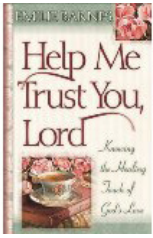
On **January 15 and 22**, TMSG will be discussing the Christian impact Joseph of Arimathea had on the origins of our faith. To help us out, we are reading Alexandra Ripley's historical novel, *A Love Divine: Joseph of Arimathea*, which was published in 1996 to wide acclaim. Next, we will look at the origins of Islam by reading Karen Armstrong's second biography (2006) of Muhammad, *Muhammad: A Prophet for Our Time*. This book will be discussed on **January 28 and February 4**. Following that, we will study the advice on the hazards and hopes of black male life from a father to his son. We will use as reference the NYT best selling and current book selection, *Between the World and Me*, by Ta-Nehisi Coates. It is a book about which Toni Morrison states, "This is required reading." That subject will be central for our **February 11 and 18 meetings**. We meet **every Thursday in the Lehman Library from 9:30 until 11:00 a.m.** For more information, please call Forbes Warren at 860-633-3982.





Adult Opportunities

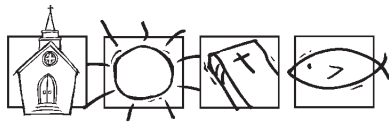
Prayer and Share



Prayer and Share meets **Tuesday mornings from 9:45 to 11:00 a.m. in the Parlor**. Come join us for a time of prayer, sharing, strengthening your faith and forming friendships. Being part of a small group within a large church fosters a feeling of belonging and caring. We learn and grow from our study and from each other. In January, we will discuss Emilie Barnes' *Help Me Trust You, Lord: Knowing the Healing Touch of God's Love*. Barnes, the bestselling author of more than 35 books, shares how our Savior will mend your broken heart and give you lasting peace and strength to go on. All are welcome. For more information, please call Nancy Higgins at 860-633-6604 or Dianne Schweigler at 860-633-6326.

Potpourri

What is Potpourri? It's breakfast and fellowship on the **first and third Tuesdays of each month at 7:30 a.m.** The church kitchen is alive with coffee, conversation and a delicious breakfast cooked up by Al Reid! No reservations necessary, come anytime, a place is always set for you!



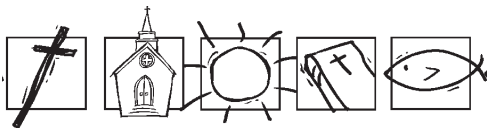
Caring Ministry



Calling Knitters and Crocheters!



Knitters and crocheters will gather on **Monday, January 18, 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.

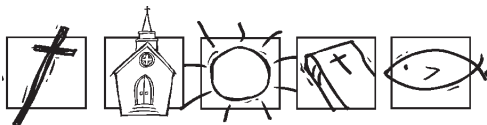


Lay Life



Harvest Supper Thank You!

A big SHOUT OUT to everyone that came out to support our 43rd Annual Harvest Supper & Talent Show. The food was fabulous and the fellowship outstanding. The members of the Board of Lay Life and Ministry would also like our talented entertainers to take another bow. Your jokes, puppeteering, music and song, dancing and magic tricks were so appreciated!



Worship



Spark! Sunday Afternoon Service

Spark!, our new worship service, is going strong, and we invite you to come be a part of it! 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. We invite you to worship with us on **January 3**. We are an open, welcoming and affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ, and all are welcome to join us!





Children's Ministries



Simply Smiles Update: YOU Made a Difference!

Our Church School Mission Project last year raised funds to help Simply Smiles in one of their initiatives to eradicate an infectious disease in Oaxaca, Mexico, where hunger and poverty exist as well. This project aims to diagnose, treat, educate and build sanitary facilities for the affected population, many of them children.

Simply Smiles Senior Program Manager Zach Gross recently returned from their Mexico projects, where they held their third medical testing and fifth treatment of parasitic intestinal worms in November 2015. Thousands of people received a month's worth of food staples, as well as a dose of medication. He reports that their latest round of testing shows that the infection rate is now at 20% across this region – down from 48% just two years ago! They will continue to treat the whole population until the infection rate decreases to 10%, which the World Health Organization deems the level at which treatment can occur on a case-by-case basis. The ultimate goal is a 0% infection rate and bright, hopeful and healthy futures for children in Oaxaca, Mexico!



Thank you to all who donated last year to help with this important work!

Family Communion Sunday

On February 7, First Church will be joining in Family Communion Sunday. This will be a meaningful service in which God's children of all ages will participate in communion. In order to prepare for this special occasion, on January 31 the Deacons will be visiting all of the Church School classes to talk about the meaning of Communion.

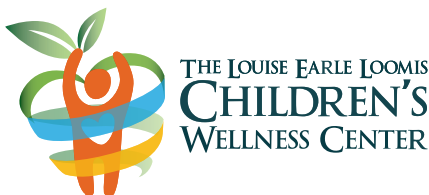


Here at First Church we practice two sacraments, and Holy Communion is one of them. The sacrament of Communion allows us a taste of God's Kingdom, which is a place where all are welcome at the table. Communion is a time of remembrance, praise and thanksgiving, confession, fellowship and commissioning. It provides us with an opportunity to remember and recall Jesus' final meal and his invitation to follow.

Our Communion is served at both services, and is for everyone who loves God and seeks to follow Him. In our denomination children are always welcome to eat the bread and drink the juice; however their participation is dependent on their parents' wishes.

Our Children Helping Support Hartford's Children

The Church School Mission Project this year focuses on an initiative of the Family Life Education organization based in Hartford and driven by the need to educate families about health and wellness. We've set a fundraising goal of \$10,000 for *The Children's Wellness Center*, and we need your help to reach that goal!



Support for the Mission Project continues to come in through weekly children's offerings, bake sales, memorials and more! Special postcards and handmade cards will be written in honor of memorial gifts to support the Mission Project. Please make checks payable to "First Church of Christ" with *Children's Wellness Center* in the memo line.

Are you still unsure of *The Children's Wellness Center's* vision? While they are working on so many fronts to help low-income families in Hartford to become educated in healthy life practices, *The Children's Wellness Center* focuses on providing space for children to develop healthy lifestyles in a secure and safe environment – not much different from First Church's goal for our children here! With facilities that house a *teaching kitchen* for parents, an *indoor playground* for children in their physical development stages, and a large *exercise space* for many types of exercise activities, *The Children's Wellness Center* is striving to make health and wellness a priority for all ages! Thank you for supporting our children so that they can support Hartford's children.



Children's Ministries



Thank You!

For all the volunteers who stepped up during the Christmas season to help with activities and events like the Christmas Pageant, and to all the youth who volunteered their time and talents and made the Christmas Pageant such a success, *thank you, thank you, thank you!* We could not have had such success with the Pageant, the Advent Family Workshop, the Christmas Eve Gift Giving, or the Giving Tree without your help! Your outpouring of generosity – especially during this incredibly busy season – is inspiring! We are truly blessed to have you supporting the vision and mission of First Church.

Sincerely,

Jack Jamell

Unit 4: "Calling the Disciples"






Bible Story Reference: Mark 1:16-20

Bible Verse: "And Jesus said to them, "Follow me and I will make you fish for people." And immediately they left their nets and followed him."

Main Idea: Long ago Jesus called people to be his followers, to learn from him and to teach others. Jesus calls us today to witness to the good news that Jesus brought and to share Jesus' story with others.

- Objectives:** Children will hear the story in a variety of ways so that they:
- discover the first disciples that Jesus called were ordinary fishermen;
 - discover Jesus calls people today to follow and be disciples;
 - experience ways we can follow Jesus;
 - discover Jesus calls people who are less than perfect to be his disciples;
 - experience the story of Jesus calling the first disciples;
 - discover different ways of sharing Jesus' story with others.



		Sunday 1/3	Sunday 1/10	Sunday 1/17	Sunday 1/24	Sunday 1/31
	<u>Kindergarten & 1st grade</u> <i>pink</i>	Science Room 206 Amanda Garrity	Games Room 110 Cecilia Krause	Storytelling Room 111 Carol Tiroff	Art Room 103 Judy Burr	Cooking Room 205 Beverly & Spencer Miller
	<u>2nd grade</u> <i>yellow</i>	Cooking Room 205 Beverly & Spencer Miller	Science Room 206 Amanda Garrity	Games Room 110 Cecilia Krause	Storytelling Room 111 Carol Tiroff	Art Room 103 Judy Burr
	<u>3rd grade</u> <i>purple</i>	Cooking Room 205 Beverly & Spencer Miller	Science Room 206 Amanda Garrity	Games Room 110 Cecilia Krause	Storytelling Room 111 Carol Tiroff	Art Room 103 Judy Burr
	<u>4th grade</u> <i>red</i>	Storytelling Room 111 Carol Tiroff	Art Room 103 Judy Burr	Cooking Room 205 Beverly & Spencer Miller	Science Room 206 Amanda Garrity	Games Room 110 Cecilia Krause
	<u>5th grade</u> <i>green</i>	Storytelling Room 111 Carol Tiroff	Art Room 103 Judy Burr	Cooking Room 205 Beverly & Spencer Miller	Science Room 206 Amanda Garrity	Games Room 110 Cecilia Krause

Please note: The Preschool Room is in Room 105. Puppet Troupe is in Rooms 302/303. EXPLORE is in the Youth Room.

Church School runs until 11:10 a.m. each Sunday. If worship gets out earlier than that, please enjoy some time in Schultz Hall before picking up your children. Thanks for your cooperation!



Youth Ministry



SENIOR HIGH FELLOWSHIP SCHEDULE

Senior High Fellowship is open to any student in 9th – 12th grade. We meet on **Sunday nights from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.** in the Youth Room. *Denotes special time

- Sunday, January 3:** Regular session
- Sunday, January 10:** Regular session
- Sunday, January 17:** Movie and Meal (MLK weekend)
- *Fri. - Sat., January 22 – 24:** Silver Lake Retreat
- Sunday, January 31: Mission Focus**
(mandatory for Mission Trip participants!);
Mission Trip second deposit due

JUNIOR HIGH FELLOWSHIP SCHEDULE

Junior High Fellowship is open to any young person in 6th – 8th grades. Regular fellowship sessions are the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month during the school year from **6:30 – 8:00 p.m.** in the Youth Room.

- Monday, January 11:** Regular Session
- Monday, January 25:** Regular Session

CONFIRMATION CLASS SCHEDULE

Our nine month Confirmation program is open to any interested student entering the 9th grade (or above) in the fall. Our Confirmation program aims to help young people explore and articulate their faith as they prepare to reaffirm their baptism and become full members of First Church. All we require is your willingness to jump on this journey! Together, we use a combination of service projects, mentoring relationships, activities, and structured class time to explore our own personal faith, the church, and the world in which we live.

Regular class sessions meet twice a month on Wednesday evenings in the Youth Room from **6:00 – 7:30 p.m.**

- Wednesday, January 6:** Regular class session
- Wednesday, January 20:** Regular class session

SENIOR HIGH MISSION TRIP

Coming up **April 17–23**, the Senior High Fellowship youth will be traveling to Washington, DC for the annual SHF Mission Trip. We've been focusing on building empathy for and trying to understand the epidemic of violence that has displaced so many **migrants, immigrants, internally displaced persons and refugees** in the world today. Through teambuilding exercises, critical small group discussions and some soul-searching within our group, we're ready to go to the nation's capital and integrate ourselves in mission work that will be tangibly relevant to the type of work thousands of nonprofits and their employees and volunteers are engaged in every day to prepare safe places for immigrants, migrants and refugees coming to the United States from abroad. We have two **mandatory Mission Trip Focus sessions** coming up, so please save these dates: **January 31 and March 6**. While mandatory for all Mission Trippers, these sessions are also open to all SHF youth, and we are strongly encouraging non-Mission Trip youth to get involved as well!



YOUTH SNOW CANCELLATIONS!

Sometimes the weather outside is *truly* frightful, so in the event of a snow storm, please use the following media for information regarding fellowship cancellations:

- WFSB 3, NBC 30 and WTNH 8 (snow closings)
- First Church's website and Facebook page
- Your email inbox (we will email you immediately when a decision is made)

We want you and our youth to be safe and to feel safe, so if there is a fellowship event scheduled but the weather gives you pause, **please do not hesitate in choosing to stay at home! Safety first, always (especially with younger drivers)!**

SENIOR HIGH FELLOWSHIP SILVER LAKE RETREAT!

When: Friday, January 22, through Sunday, January 24

Who: All students in 9th – 12th Grade

Where: Silver Lake Conference Center in Sharon, CT

Cost: \$130 covers your lodging, food and transportation.

Depart: Friday, January 22 at 6:30 p.m. (First Church parking lot) **Eat Dinner First!**

Return: Sunday, January 24 at noon (First Church parking lot)

Registration Deadline: January 10, 2016

Permission slips are available in the Youth Room or on the Church website. Unfortunately, refunds will not be issued for cancellations.





Christian Service



First Church is a place where we are constantly serving our neighbors in need. It is our call and our privilege to spread God's love in our church community, in Glastonbury, in Hartford, in other Connecticut towns and cities, throughout our nation and all around the world.

Thanks for Your Generosity!

We are blessed with a generous congregation. Thanks to you, we collected 175 turkeys and more than \$6,500 for Foodshare on Thanksgiving Sunday and gave away 60 presents to children and families in Glastonbury, Hartford and Manchester through our Giving Tree program.



Save the Date -

Mission Immersion Day on February 6

Come one, come all, to share God's love in the world! Spend time on **Saturday, February 6**, volunteering and helping others. If you can spare just a few hours, we invite you to sign up! For more information or to sign up for this mission experience, go to the table during fellowship hour in January or contact Tina Sparrow at tsparrow21@gmail.com or 860-430-9484.



First Church's "Good Samaritans!"



The First Church family of faith has many talented people, and some of these talents include "handyperson" skills and abilities. Our "Good Samaritan" group is up and running, and they are willing to help individuals in the congregation who might be having trouble finding the right people or the adequate resources to do the job – various "odd" jobs around the house or yard. If you are interested in seeing if your household task or project is something they would be able and willing to take on, at no charge, please contact David Taylor or Kate VanDerzee-Glidden.

Serve Lunch at Center City Church

On Monday, January 18, we will provide the food and servers for this lunch meal through Hands on Hartford. Please sign up during Common Fellowship or contact Sharon Conway at sharc@cox.net or Suzanne Schwartz at 860-430-1350.

Refugee Resettlement Update

Over many decades, First Church has a rich tradition of "welcoming the stranger" as exhorted by our Biblical tradition. The Board of Christian Service held an information meeting on November 23, when Chris George, Executive Director of IRIS, spoke to the gathered group. Since that time, a few of our parishioners went to an informational session at IRIS to learn about what it means to sponsor a refugee family. At the Board of Christian Service's December meeting, this initiative was enthusiastically endorsed. A committee is being formed to begin the process of sponsoring a family. If you are interested in learning more, please contact Nagy Mishriky (860-214-5240 or nmishri@gmail.com), member of the Board of Christian Service.



Christian Service



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 January, we're asking for contributions of crackers, canned meat and other items people are willing to donate. Please bring food that is not expired or open. Thanks for your help!**

Mobile Foodshare

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 (January 6 and 20)** in our back parking lot. If you are interested in volunteering (adults, youth and children are welcome), contact Sally Riddell at 860-657-8715.

Volunteering at Wish Elementary School

Fred Wish School is an Elementary School on Barbour Street in Hartford. During the past three years, volunteers from First Church have been helping the kindergarteners 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. It is rewarding to see their progress and how proud they are when they begin to read to us. Volunteers are asked to spend **two hours weekly on a day of their choice**. We are assigned two students and spend 30 minutes with each child. If you are interested or have questions, please contact Sally Riddell at 860-657-8715 or grammasal@att.net.



Music Ministry



Music at the Meetinghouse Presents...

MOSTLY BAROQUE PLAYERS



A Program of Sacred Music
Saturday, March 19, 2016
7:30 p.m.

A donation of \$10 per person is suggested.
\$20 family maximum.

First Church of Christ, Congregational, UCC
2183 Main Street, Glastonbury, CT 860-633-4641

Thank You!



The Board of Music would like to thank all who helped to bake, organize and officiate at the Cookie Walk fundraiser. A special thank you goes to those members who donated their unique handmade crafts; to the Cantabile and Cantate Choirs for providing the music; and to all the families who supported this event.

Munson's Candy Fundraiser

The Cantate and Cantabile Choir members will be selling Munson's Candy for Easter as their Choir Camp fundraiser to help defray the cost of the Camp. This is a great opportunity to get organized and order your favorite chocolates early, before the Easter rush to fill baskets. Order forms will be available at the **Board of Music table during the month of February** and your candy will be available to pick up two weeks before Easter. The Music Board will also have for sale **Munson's Chocolate Hearts** (\$2.00 each) on **February 7 and February 14** for Valentine's Day or Easter Baskets. These are often not available after Valentine's Day. Thank you for your support of Choir Camp!



General Info Corner



Pledge Reminders

As you receive this January issue of *The Reminder*, the end of the year is rapidly approaching. According to IRS regulations, any donations received or postmarked by December 31, 2015 will be reflected in your year-end giving statement. If they do not meet these requirements, they will be reflected in your 2016 giving statement. In addition, if you are contributing stock, please contact Rebecca in the church office so your donation can be properly identified and to receive the account and DTC number at Morgan Stanley Smith Barney. Pledge giving has been very strong through November and the church is counting on your continued generous contributions to close the remaining \$68,000 gap necessary to meet our 2015 operating budget. Your financial offerings enable First Church to provide youth programs, worship services, outreach programs and music programs. In addition, payment by year-end ensures your tax deductible donation for 2015. Please call Rebecca in the church office with any questions.

Peter Charles, Treasurer

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

Prayer Corner

Prayers of joy for:

All our dedicated volunteers who give of their time, talent, and treasure throughout the year!

Prayers of healing and wholeness for:

Barbara Harding	Chris Hernandez
Lois Harwick	Ruth Miller
Audrey Hernandez	Alice Weil



Prayers of sympathy to:

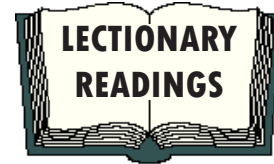
Jack Farrell, on the death of his uncle, Edward Weston, on November 12.

John and Tracy Kavanaugh on the death of John's father, Thomas Kavanaugh, on November 15.

Marion Hallas on the death of her brother, Carl Zirkenbach, on November 29.

John and Judy Burr on the death of John's brother, Jerry, at the end of November.

Carol Ruff on the death of her husband, Edward Francis Ruff, on December 4. Ed was a Golden Member of First Church, having joined in 1958. His memorial service was held here on December 8 and officiated by Rev. David Taylor.



January 3, 2016 - Epiphany Sunday

Jeremiah 31:7-14 or Sirach 24:1-12;
Psalm 147:12-20 or Wisdom of Solomon 10:15-21;
Ephesians 1:3-14; John 1:[1-9], 10-18

January 10, 2016 - First Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 43:1-7; Psalm 29;
Acts 8:14-17; Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

January 17, 2016 - Second Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 62:1-5; Psalm 36:5-10;
1 Corinthians 12:1-11; John 2:1-11

January 24, 2016 - Third Sunday after Epiphany

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10; Psalm 19;
1 Corinthians 12:12-31a; Luke 4:14-21

January 31, 2016 - Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Jeremiah 1:4-10; Psalm 71:1-6;
1 Corinthians 13:1-13; Luke 4:21-30

IN CASE OF HOSPITALIZATION

If you or a loved one is hospitalized, please inform the hospital of the code for First Church:

Hartford Hospital – Code C18
St. Francis Hospital - Code 17

In addition, if you would like the church to know of an upcoming hospitalization, please give the church office a call at 860-633-4641 to inform the pastoral staff.

Snow Closings

Snow closings will be posted on **WFSB 3, NBC 30, and WTNH 8**. As always, if you determine it is not safe to drive to a program, *please stay home*.

Media Ministries at First Church

Watch a First Church service on television...
"Living the Word," each Sunday at 7:30 a.m. and noon on Cox Cable, Channel 15

THE FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONGREGATIONAL
2183 MAIN STREET, GLASTONBURY, CONNECTICUT 06033-2208
CHURCH OFFICE 860-633-4641 FAITHLINE 860-633-4116

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Faith, fellowship and community at the Harvest Supper, Mission Immersion Day, New Members' Reception, Confirmation Class, Cookie Walk and Lessons & Carols