



**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






December 20, 2015

8:00 a.m. **Worship Service & Child Care**
 9:15 a.m. Puppet Troupe Rehearsal, Meetinghouse
 10:00 a.m. **Worship Service & Child Care**
 10:15 a.m. Church School
 11:00 a.m. Cherub Choir, Room 112
 6:00 p.m. Pageant Rehearsal, Meetinghouse



Church School Schedule

Attention Parents: We are in our unit called “Journey to Bethlehem,” 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 John & Christine Szalkiewicz
	<u>2nd grade</u> <i>yellow</i>	Storytelling Room 111 Susan Crisafulli
	<u>3rd grade</u> <i>purple</i>	Storytelling Room 111 Susan Crisafulli
	<u>4th grade</u> <i>red</i>	Art Room 103 Judy Harding
	<u>5th grade</u> <i>green</i>	Art Room 103 Judy Harding

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.



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 (860-633-3595 or nmishri@gmail.com), member of the Board of Christian Service.

Food Collection

Our donations for our neighbors in need go to Horace Bushnell Children’s Food Pantry in Hartford and MACC. **In December, we are collecting peanut butter, oatmeal and other items people are willing to donate.** Thanks for your help!

Serve Lunch January 18

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

Volunteer at Mobile Foodshare or Help Deliver Food

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 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.

Please Join Our Baby for the World Gift Giving on Christmas Eve

At **4:30 p.m. on December 24**, our youth 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.

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.**

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!



Pageant Rehearsals



Christmas PAGEANT

TODAY! 6:00-8:00 p.m., Pageant Rehearsal
Tuesday, December 22: 6:00-8:00 p.m.,
Pageant Rehearsal
Thursday, December 24: Call for the
Pageant is **3:00 p.m.**, Pageant is at **4:30 p.m.**

Purchase SERRV Handcrafts

The Board of Christian Service will offer products from SERRV for sale **during Common Fellowship TODAY**. You're sure to find wonderful Christmas gifts for the people on your list! Through SERRV orders, artisans and farmers in more than 30 countries earn a fair income, send their children to school, develop vital community projects like water wells and medical clinics, and improve their skills through training. This is the last day for sales!

Donate to The Wellness Center



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! A table will be set up during Common Fellowship for donations. Donations are accepted in the form of cash or checks – please make checks payable to First Church with *Children's Wellness Center* written in the memo line. On display at the table are handmade *Thank You* cards created by our very own Sarah Lieschke-Bodge! Thank you for supporting the Church School Mission Project and helping our children help Hartford's children lead healthy, sustainable lives!

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.



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

Choir Rehearsals Update

Thursday, December 24: Christmas Eve Warm-Up Schedule

Caroler and Cherub Choirs:	4:00 p.m. for 4:30 p.m. Service
Cantate, Cantabile Choirs and Mallet Ringers:	7:00 p.m. for 8:00 p.m. Service
Chancel Choir:	9:45 p.m. for 11:00 p.m. Service



There will be no choir rehearsals the week of Christmas.
Rehearsals resume the week of January 4.

This Week at First Church

Tuesday, December 22, 2015

9:45 a.m. Prayer and Share, Parlor
6:00 p.m. Pageant Rehearsal, Meetinghouse

Wednesday, December 23, 2015

10:15 a.m. Mobile Foodshare

Thursday, December 24, 2015

Office closed

4:30 p.m. Christmas Pageant
8:00 p.m. Candlelight Worship
11:00 p.m. Candlelight Worship



Friday, December 25, 2015

Merry Christmas!

Sunday, December 27, 2015

10:00 a.m. Worship Service & Child Care
(One Service)



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.

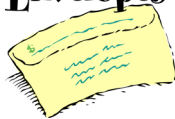
We hope to encourage their love of reading by spending time with each child reading books, talking about what excites them and what they have learned from the stories. Books appropriate for their grade level and skills are provided. It is rewarding to see their progress and how proud they are when they 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.



Offering Envelopes Are Here!

Please pick up a 2016 boxed set of offering envelopes in Schultz Hall. They are no longer

Offering Envelopes



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!

Church Office Holiday Schedule



December 24-25 Office closed
December 28-31 Open 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
January 1 Office closed
Regular office hours resume on **January 4**.

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, *Office Manager*

Wes Grove, *Facilities Manager*

Angela Salcedo, *Director of Music Ministries*

Kathy Ciolkosz, *Administrative Assistant*

Cheryl Foley, *Child Care Provider*

Karin Carlino, *Church School Administrator*

The Rev. Gordon Bates, *Minister of Visitation*

Susan Feller, *Publications Specialist*

Jack Farrell, *Director of Children and Youth Ministries*

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

Valerie Escalera, *Program Administrator*