



**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: Second Sunday of Advent* December 6, 2015**

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**, followed by a light meal



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> | Art Room 103 Judy Harding |
|  | <u>2nd grade</u> <i>yellow</i> | Music Room 206 Peggy Hartman |
|  | <u>3rd grade</u> <i>purple</i> | Music Room 206 Peggy Hartman |
|  | <u>4th grade</u> <i>red</i> | Games Room 110 John & Christine Szalkiewicz |
|  | <u>5th grade</u> <i>green</i> | Games Room 110 John & Christine Szalkiewicz |

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 TODAY!

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. *We will gather today 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!

Our Meetinghouse Chrismon Tree

Chrismon is Latin for “Christ monogram”. Chrismons are unique symbols that represent various aspects of Jesus’ life and ministry. Over 50 years ago, in a small Lutheran Church in Virginia, the idea of decorating the Christmas tree in their house of worship with symbols of Christ to give the tree special meaning was born. The idea quickly spread to other churches. Many different materials have been used to design the symbols over the years. Ours are counted cross stitched in blue, gold and red with gold trim. Information identifying the various symbols is available near the tree. We pray that it will enhance your worship experience during this Holy Season.

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!



Poinsettia Orders Due December 7

For your convenience, extra poinsettia order forms are available in the narthex and Schultz Hall. They can also be downloaded from

the home page of our website.

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.*

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.*

The Pageant Needs You!

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 to sign up!

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.

Lessons and Carols Rehearsals

Saturday, December 12: Run-Through

8:00-8:30 a.m. Jubilate Ringers

8:30-9:00 a.m. Mallet Ringers

9:00-11:00 a.m. Cantate/Cantabile Choirs

9:30-11:30 a.m. Chancel Choir

Sunday, December 13: Warm-Up

8:45 a.m. Chancel, Jubilate
and Mallet Ringers

9:10 a.m. Cantate/Cantabile Choirs



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 17.**

Family Advent Workshop



Sunday, December 13

3:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Schultz Hall

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

All are welcome!

SH Fellowship Mission Trip

Have you seen the news about refugees and migrants around the world? Here is YOUR chance to help! Bring your friends and come to Washington, DC, during GHS April Break, Sunday, April 17, to Saturday, April 23!

This trip is open to any ninth through twelfth graders, as well as our faithful volunteer advisors. Andrew Wicks, our former Director of SHF, and Jack Farrell, our Director of Children and Youth Ministries, will lead the trip. We will work with various agencies involved in helping refugees, immigrants and migrants here in the U.S. During the week, our work teams will work at various sites, meeting the needs of the host agency. And of course, there will be time built in to have fun, see the area and get to know the community. The cost will be \$400 per participant (financial assistance is available). Please contact Jack Farrell (jack@glastonburyfirst.org) for further details or to sign up.

This Week at First Church

Monday, December 7, 2015

5:45 p.m. Youth Board, Youth Room
 6:00 p.m. Mission Immersion Day
 Leadership, Lehman Library
 7:00 p.m. Board of Christian Service,
 Room 204
 7:00 p.m. Board of Deacons, Parlor
 7:00 p.m. Board of Trustees, Room 202

Tuesday, December 8, 2015

9:45 a.m. Prayer and Share, Parlor
 7:00 p.m. Jubilate Ringers, Meetinghouse

Wednesday, December 9, 2015

10:15 a.m. Mobile Foodshare
 5:00 p.m. Caroler Choir
 6:30 p.m. Music Board, Room 202
 7:00 p.m. Refugee Resettlement
 Committee, Lehman Library

Thursday, December 10, 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

Saturday, December 12, 2015

8:00 a.m. Rehearsal for Lessons & Carols

Sunday, December 13, 2015

**8:00 a.m. Worship Service & Child Care
 Quiet Christmas**
**10:00 a.m. Worship Service & Child Care
 Lessons & Carols**
 12:00 p.m. Spark! Meeting, Lehman Library
 3:00 p.m. Advent Workshop, Schultz Hall
 6:00 p.m. SHF Christmas Party, Youth Room



“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 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 gifts with yellow stars is **TODAY**.

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 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.