



# The REMINDER

First Church of Christ, Congregational, Glastonbury, Connecticut

Member of United Church of Christ

An open, welcoming and affirming congregation

## February 2016

Monday, 11 January 2016

**Dear Friends,**

Yesterday afternoon I was enjoying some conversation time with my daughter, Meg, and I was telling her that after yesterday morning's worship service I saw at least one car drive up after an immediate trip to a store, the occupant quickly hopping out to drop off a bag of hats, socks and mittens for kindergarteners in Hartford.

Meg, the executive director of a non-profit, after-school program of tutoring and athletics called **Capitol Squash**, observed, **"Oh, we are making sure that our 4th and 5th graders have warm coats – some do not."**

As we move in the church year from the season of **Epiphany** to the season of **Lent**, and as the unseasonably warm days inevitably turn to more normal cold days, **let us never, ever forget** that there are children in this state who are cold, and children in this state who are hungry. **Totally unacceptable.** While responding to the immediate need for clothes and food, let us also, as a family of faith, set ourselves to doing what we possibly can to explore the systemic and root causes of this injustice. I look forward to doing that with you in the coming months.



I ended yesterday's sermon with this benediction:

*Friends, from my office window overlooking our back parking lot, with all the coming and goings of the people of this beloved family of faith, day after day, week after week, month after month, I see **winner after winner after winner** – I get to see the **winner**s that make up this congregation!*

*And the **winner** is... someone pulling up to the back lobby door to drop off size 5 or 6 mittens, socks, hats and gloves; or canned goods for Hartford and Manchester food pantries...*



*And the **winner** is... someone directing traffic or distributing food off of the mobile Foodshare truck...*

*And the **winner** is someone carpooling into Hartford to read, tutor and mentor at the Fred Wish School...*

*And last night I saw **27 winners** get off a plane at Bradley Airport after a week at Back Bay Mission sharing God's love in Biloxi, Mississippi...*

*And in April our senior high youth will be **winner**s as they travel to Washington, DC for their mission trip, and a college-aged member visits orphaned children in Nepal...*

*And at coffee hour in just a few minutes, some of you will be **winner**s as you support the **Hands on Hartford** lunch, sign-up for a mission immersion day, buy a special card to support the **Children's Wellness Center**, or consider volunteering to read at **Fred Wish School**, or attend a meeting to organize our sponsorship of a refugee family...and someone will be a **winner** simply because they paused for a moment to give a person a hug or to hold the door for the next person...*

*This beloved family of faith is **filled to overflowing** with winners – **filled to overflowing** with winners who sing, ring, teach, advise, visit, care, knit, organize, give and serve!*

*And the winner is....God's amazing love!!*

*And let the people say, Amen!*

## 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](mailto:firstchurch@glastonburyfirst.org)

Website: [www.glastonburyfirst.org](http://www.glastonburyfirst.org)

### Staff

- The Rev. David Taylor, *Senior Pastor*  
[davidtaylor@glastonburyfirst.org](mailto:davidtaylor@glastonburyfirst.org), ext. 118
- The Rev. Kate VanDerzee-Glidden, *Associate Pastor*, [katev@glastonburyfirst.org](mailto:katev@glastonburyfirst.org), ext. 120
- Angela Salcedo, *Director of Music Ministries*  
[angelasalcedo@glastonburyfirst.org](mailto:angelasalcedo@glastonburyfirst.org), ext. 116
- Jack Farrell, *Director of Children and Youth Ministries*; [jack@glastonburyfirst.org](mailto:jack@glastonburyfirst.org), ext. 113
- The Rev. Gordon Bates, *Minister of Visitation*
- Karin Carlino, *Church School Administrator*  
[ceadmin@glastonburyfirst.org](mailto:ceadmin@glastonburyfirst.org), ext. 115
- Kathy Ciolkosz, *Administrative Assistant*  
[kathyc@glastonburyfirst.org](mailto:kathyc@glastonburyfirst.org), ext. 110
- Valerie Escalera, *Program Administrator*  
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- Susan Feller, *Publications Specialist*  
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- Rebecca Fleahman, *Office Manager*  
[rebeccafleahman@glastonburyfirst.org](mailto:rebeccafleahman@glastonburyfirst.org), ext. 122
- Cheryl Foley, *Child Care Provider*
- Wes Grove, *Facilities Manager*  
[facilities@glastonburyfirst.org](mailto:facilities@glastonburyfirst.org), ext. 121
- Peggy Hartman, *Director of Handbell Program and Childrens' Choirs*

**THE REMINDER submission deadline:**  
Wednesday, February 10: March 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!

## Sunday Morning Worship Services

8:00 and 10:00 a.m.

### February 7

*Last Sunday after Epiphany - Transfiguration Sunday*

**Family Communion Sunday**

Kate VanDerzee-Glidden and David Taylor preaching

8:00 a.m. Peggy Hartman, oboe

10:00 a.m. Cantate, Cantabile and Chancel Choirs

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

**Ash Wednesday, February 10**

Services at noon and 7:00 p.m.

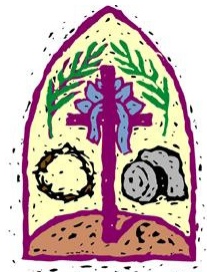
### February 14

*First Sunday in Lent*

Kate VanDerzee-Glidden preaching

8:00 a.m. Lola Elliott-Hugh, mezzo-soprano

10:00 a.m. Chancel Choir



### February 21

*Second Sunday in Lent*

David Taylor preaching

8:00 a.m. Wayne Rivera, tenor

10:00 a.m. Caroler, Cherub and Chancel Choirs

### February 28

*Third Sunday in Lent*

David Taylor preaching

8:00 a.m. Vance Harris, bass

10:00 a.m. Puppet Troupe and Chancel Choir

## Ash Wednesday Services

The solemn season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, **February 10, with services held at noon and 7:00 p.m.** It is a time for reflection and prayer, with a musical selection by a soloist at the 12:00 p.m. service and the Chancel Choir providing the music at the 7:00 p.m. service. The receiving of ashes is an ancient ritual of repentance which reminds us of our mortality and symbolizes our dependence on God's steadfast love and mercy.

## New Greeters and Ushers Invited

Would you like to be a greeter. . .or help usher at one of our Sunday morning worship services? We are ever so thankful for the warm welcome our Sunday morning greeters extend to everyone coming through our doors, as well as for the head ushers and ushers who help in seating and participate in the offertory. The Board of Deacons invites anyone who would love to be a greeter, head usher, or usher to please make a note in the fellowship pew pad, speak to the host at the Welcome Table in Schultz Hall or call Kathy Ciolkosz at the church office (860-633-4641). We would love to add your name to our list!

## Be Strong and Courageous – A Lenten Series

Two Evenings, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

A Time of Faith, Fellowship and Food

*Let us come together to hear some stories of one person making a difference in this world – making a difference by sharing God’s amazing love!*

**Wednesday, February 24: Eunice Medwinter**

**Bloomfield Backpack Project**



In a recent letter to supporters, Eunice Medwinter, the founder of the Bloomfield Backpack Project, reported that the year 2015 closed with eighty-seven families enrolled in the backpack program. Each week the project sends home 13-15 pounds of food, delivering approximately 36,540 pounds of food during 2015. Come hear the story of Eunice’s vision, commitment and hard work in establishing this exciting program, and First Church’s role in helping her dream to become a reality! The Board of Deacons will host a simple meal of soup and bread.

**Wednesday, March 9: Elisabeth Kennedy**

**HELO Haiti**

On a church mission trip, Elisabeth Kennedy fell in love with the children of Haiti. They won her heart, and she knew God was calling her to do all that she can for them. So, in 2007, she founded HELO, an orphanage, with a Haitian pastor she had met on one of her trips. Come hear the stories of these precious children and how their lives are being transformed by having a place to call home where love, education and opportunities abound! The Board of Christian Service will host a simple meal of soup and bread.



## JOIN US FOR A SERVICE OF FAREWELL FOR ERIC ANDERSON

Eric Anderson is known by many around First Church. He has blessed us with his music, preaching and presence. Recently Eric has accepted the position of pastor of the Church of the Holy Cross, UCC, in Hilo, Hawaii. Eric has been a valuable member of the CT Conference United Church of Christ staff for 17 years, and he will be missed throughout the state and especially here at First Church. A time of farewell will be celebrated on **Sunday, February 21, here at the First Church of Christ at 3:00 p.m.** All are invited to attend the service, followed by a reception in Schultz Hall.

## *Update on the 2015 Stewardship Pledge Campaign*

Happy New Year from your Stewardship Committee!! As of January 11, 2016 (the deadline for submitting articles for the *Reminder*) our pledge total was \$714,080, and we are cautiously optimistic that once all pledges have been received, we will meet (and exceed!) our pledge goal of \$716,000!

There is still time to make your pledge, and it is as easy as calling (860-633-4641 ext 122) or e-mailing ([rebeccafleahman@glastonburyfirst.org](mailto:rebeccafleahman@glastonburyfirst.org)) Rebecca Fleahman, our Church office manager. **Every pledge counts**, so please add your support to enable us to set a new fundraising high for First Church!

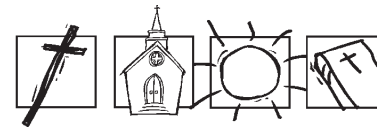
We received 18 new pledges and 100 members were able to increase their pledge enabling us to be within striking distance of our goal. A heartfelt thank you to every person that pledged support of First Church—without each of you we simply would not have the same outreach and ministries. Thank you, thank you, thank you!!!!

Your Stewardship Committee



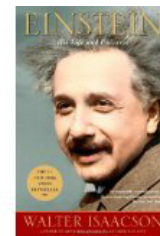


# Adult Opportunities

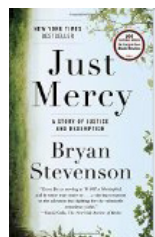


## Biography Book Group

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 for our upcoming selections. On **Tuesday, March 8 at 4:00 p.m.**, we'll meet to talk about *Einstein: His Life and Universe* by Walter Isaacson. From the book synopsis, "...Based on newly released personal letters of Einstein, this book explores how an imaginative, impertinent patent clerk—a struggling father in a difficult marriage who couldn't get a teaching job or a doctorate—became the mind reader of the creator of the cosmos, the locksmith of the mysteries of the atom, and the universe. His success came from questioning conventional wisdom and marveling at mysteries that struck others as mundane. This led him to embrace a morality and politics based on respect for free minds, free spirits, and free individuals." Join us to talk about this epic 20th-century scientific thinker. The **May 10** biography selection is *Fierce Patriot: The Tangled Lives of William Tecumseh Sherman* by Robert O'Connell. We hope you will join us in the Lehman Library for these book discussions. Call or e-mail Valerie Escalera at 860-633-4452 or [miguel.escalera@sbcglobal.net](mailto: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: **March 13: *Just Mercy***, Bryan Stevenson and **May 15: *Our Souls at Night***, Kent Haruf (note change in May date due to Mothers Day). Our next selection, *Just Mercy*, is an Oprah-recommended Top Ten Read and has been described as a "life-changing work that will change the way Americans view our justice system." Join us! If you have any questions, contact Amy Thompson at [thompson.amy72@gmail.com](mailto:thompson.amy72@gmail.com).

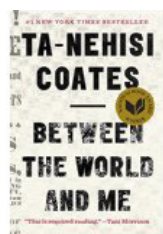
## Women's Theological Reflection Group

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](mailto:baronas@hartford.edu) for further information.

## Thursday Morning Study Group



The February study activity of TMSG will find them continuing the exploration of the origins of Islam on **February 4**, having read *Muhammad: A Prophet for Our Time* by Karen Armstrong. Following that will be the study of advice on the hazards and hopes of black male life from a father to his son. *The New York Times* bestselling selection, *Between the World and Me* by Ta-Nehisi Coates, will provide the basis for the group's discussions on February 11 and 18. This will be followed by a long look back into Judaism's history by studying the life of King David while using Geraldine Brooks' new book, *The Secret Chord: A Novel*, as the guide. This will be for February 25 and on into March. 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.

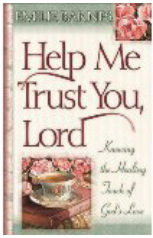
## Potpourri

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!

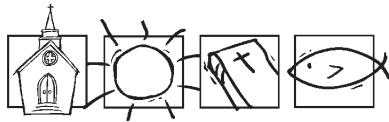


# Adult Opportunities

## 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 February, we will continue discussing 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.



## Caring Ministry



### Calling Knitters and Crocheters!



Knitters and crocheters will gather on **Monday, February 15, 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.



## Children's Ministries



### Children's Ministries Calendar

#### February 7

Family Communion Sunday: Communion will be at the beginning of the service and all children are welcome to participate

#### February 14

Church School will be in session; February 13-16 – public school holiday weekend



#### February 28

The Puppet Troupe will perform during worship!

## Family Communion Sunday on February 7

On **February 7**, First Church will be joining in **Family Communion Sunday**. At First Church, we practice two sacraments, and Holy Communion is one of them! **At First Church, ALL are welcome to our table, no matter who you are!**



Communion is a time of remembrance, praise and thanksgiving, confession, fellowship and commissioning. The sacrament of Communion recognizes the gifts that we have been given, and it reminds us to be thankful for all the blessings of the table, of our kinship and fellowship with one another.

Communion will be served at all services. In our denomination, children are always welcome to the table. Parents may choose to include their children as their personal beliefs guide them. We celebrate together to remember that *whoever you are and wherever you are in life's journey, you are welcome here!*

## Are You Ready for Camp at Silver Lake?!?!

Registration for summer 2016 at Silver Lake Conference Center is open. Log on to the Silver Lake registration site (<https://www.ultracamp.com/clientlogin.aspx?idCamp=399&campCode=slc>) to find conferences for 4th through 12th graders, CIT training weekend, biking adventures, the National Youth Event, a trip to Mexico with Simply Smiles, and more! It's all waiting for you! If you register by January 31, you can take \$50 off\* (some exclusions apply) your registration fee! Use coupon code **JAN2016** at checkout!



# Children's Ministries



## Our Children Helping Support Hartford's Children



THE LOUISE EARLE LOOMIS  
**CHILDREN'S**  
WELLNESS CENTER

Our Church School Mission Project, *The Children's Wellness Center*, needs your support! We've set a fundraising goal of \$10,000 *and we've got a long way to go!* With a focus on creating safe and secure places for Hartford's low-income families, *The Children's Wellness Center* strives to develop healthy lifestyles through nutritional education (*a teaching kitchen*), through physical education (*large exercise space*) and through encouragement of a joyful childhood (*indoor*

*playground*) – goals that aren't much different from First Church's mission! **Please visit our table during Common Fellowship to learn how to donate to this mission project.** Thank you for your continued support, and thank you for supporting our children so that they can support Hartford's children.

## Unit 5: "The Good Samaritan"

**Bible Story Reference:** Luke 10:25-37






**Bible Verse:** "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself." (Luke 10:27)

**Main Idea:** Through the story of the Good Samaritan, Jesus teaches us to love God and other people. When we follow Jesus' teachings, we show God's love to other people, whether they live close to us or far away.

**Objectives:** Children will have the opportunity to:

- explore the story of the Good Samaritan;
- answer for themselves the question, "Who is my neighbor?"
- experience being a good neighbor.



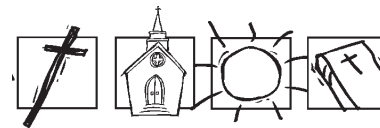
		Sunday 2/7	Sunday 2/14	Sunday 2/21	Sunday 2/28	Sunday 3/6
	Kindergarten & 1st grade <i>pink</i>	Science Room 205 Linda Sill	Games Room 110 Karen Simmons	Storytelling Room 111 Deborah Willard	Art Room 103 Sandi Philbrook	Movie Room 102 Victor Grin
	2nd grade <i>yellow</i>	Movie Room 102 Victor Grin	Science Room 205 Linda Sill	Games Room 110 Karen Simmons	Storytelling Room 111 Deborah Willard	Art Room 103 Sandi Philbrook
	3rd grade <i>purple</i>	Movie Room 102 Victor Grin	Science Room 205 Linda Sill	Games Room 110 Karen Simmons	Storytelling Room 111 Deborah Willard	Art Room 103 Sandi Philbrook
	4th grade <i>red</i>	Storytelling Room 111 Deborah Willard	Art Room 103 Sandi Philbrook	Movie Room 102 Victor Grin	Science Room 205 Linda Sill	Games Room 110 Karen Simmons
	5th grade <i>green</i>	Storytelling Room 111 Deborah Willard	Art Room 103 Sandi Philbrook	Movie Room 102 Victor Grin	Science Room 205 Linda Sill	Games Room 110 Karen Simmons

**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



## Junior High Fellowship Schedule

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

**Monday, February 8:** Regular Session  
**Monday, February 22:** Regular Session  
**Friday, March 4 - Sunday, March 6:**  
Winter Retreat at Silver Lake

## Senior High Fellowship Schedule

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

*\*Denotes special time*

**\*Sunday, February 7:** Super Bowl Sunday  
(Watch 1st half at the Giguere's home)  
**\*Sunday, February 14:** No SHF  
(Presidents' Day holiday weekend)  
**Sunday, February 21:** Regular session  
**Sunday, February 28:** Regular session

## Important Youth Mission Trip Dates!



The Senior High Fellowship will head down to Washington, DC, from April 17-23 for our annual mission trip. In preparation, we will hold a series of Mission Focused SHF Sessions. These are regular SHF sessions, open to all, but they are mandatory for Mission Trip participants, which encourage youth to think about missions as a spiritual practice, using our trip theme as a case study.

**Sunday, January 31:** Mission Focused SHF, 6:00-8:00 p.m.,  
*Payment #2 due (\$150).*  
**Sunday, March 6:** Mission Focused SHF, 6:00-8:00 p.m.  
**Wednesday, April 6:** *Final payments due!*  
**Sunday, April 10:** Mission Focused SHF, 6:00-8:00 p.m.  
**Saturday, April 16:** Mission Trip kick-off dinner.  
**Sunday, April 17:** Mission Trip Commissioning during worship!  
**April 17-23:** Mission Trip departure and return.  
**May 8:** Mission Trippers lead worship.

## Confirmation Class Schedule

Our nine month 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.

Our regular class sessions will be Wednesday from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. in the Youth Room. *\*Denotes Special Time*

**Wednesday, February 3:** Regular Class Session  
**\*Wednesday, February 10:** Ash Wednesday  
Worship Service 7:00 p.m.  
**Wednesday, February 17:** Regular Class Session  
**\*Saturday, February 27:** Service Day at MACC  
(Manchester Area Conference of Churches  
8:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m.)

## Support Our Youth Mission Trip Through SHARES!

We encourage everyone in the First Church family to help support our SHF youth on their mission trip to Washington, DC, in April! **Coming in March, please visit the Youth Table to contribute to the mission trip by purchasing "Shares" for \$20 each.** This is a great way to support our Youth Mission Outreach and to participate in their efforts! There's no limit to the number you can buy, and all donations will be included in your First Church giving statement. You'll receive a share certificate and be included in our year-end report to shareholders of mission activities. If you have any questions, please contact Jack Farrell at [jack@glastonburyfirst.org](mailto:jack@glastonburyfirst.org), and be sure to look for our table at Common Fellowship in March and April!

## SHF Super Bowl Sunday Event!



**Super Sunday**

**On Sunday, February 7,** Sr. High Fellowship will meet at the regular time, 6:00-8:00 p.m. at **Jenny Giguere's house, 1559 Main Street** (1.5 miles south of the church, same side).

Watch the first half of the Super Bowl and enjoy the commercials!

Bring a snack to share if you are able.

Please RSVP to Jack at [jack@glastonburyfirst.org](mailto:jack@glastonburyfirst.org) or 860-633-4641 ext. 113.



# Youth Ministry



## Junior High Fellowship Silver Lake Retreat!

**When:** Friday, March 4 through Sunday, March 6

**Where:** Silver Lake Conference Center in Sharon, CT

**Who:** Any students in 6th through 8th grade

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



**Depart:** Friday, March 4 at 6:00 p.m. (First Church parking lot) **Eat Dinner First!**

**Return:** Sunday, March 6 at noon (First Church parking lot)

**Registration Deadline: February 22, 2016 at 5:00 p.m.**

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



*It was a very merry Christmas Eve! Thank you again to all who made the Christmas story come to life.*



# Music Ministry



## Congratulations

We congratulate **Jamie Martin** and **Liza Giguere** for receiving their "Dark Blue Ribbon" as part of the Royal School of Church Music Program awards. Each ribbon color represents the various levels of musicianship achieved by the chorister according to the following graded program; Light Blue (Level 1); Dark Blue (Level II); Red (Level III); Purple (Level IV); and Black (Level V).



*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*





## Music Ministry



### 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 Board of Music will also have for sale *Munson's Chocolate Hearts* (\$2.00 each) at the **Board of Music table 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!



## 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.*

### 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 or contact Tina Sparrow at [tsparrow21@gmail.com](mailto: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.

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

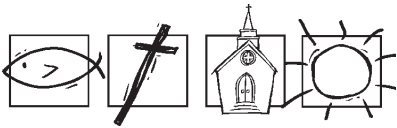
### Serve Lunch February 15 at Center City Church

**On Monday, February 15**, 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 [shartc@cox.net](mailto:shartc@cox.net) or Suzanne Schwartz at 860-430-1350.

### 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 (February 3 and 17)** in our back parking lot. 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.



# Christian Service



## 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. At the Board of Christian Service’s December meeting, this initiative was enthusiastically endorsed. A committee has been established and is starting the process of sponsoring a family. If you are interested in learning more, please contact Nagy Mishriky (860-214-5240 or [nmishri@gmail.com](mailto:nmishri@gmail.com)), member of the Board of Christian Service and the Refugee Resettlement Committee.

## 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](mailto:grammasal@att.net).

## Bloomfield Backpack Project

Come help to feed the hungry and then share a quick meal together during this service and supper opportunity! 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.** **Anyone and everyone** is welcome to join us on any date that works for you!



Contact Karen Vigeant at [Karenvigeant@outlook.com](mailto:Karenvigeant@outlook.com) or 860-432-4985 to sign up or feel free to sign up on the poster outside of the Christian Education office. Upcoming dates are **February 11, March 10, April 14, May 12 and June 9.**

## Gloves for Foodshare Participants



Our Senior High Fellowship donates funds each year at their Christmas party for a cause or mission that matters to them. This year the funds purchased gloves for those who attend Mobile Foodshare in our parking lot. While Mobile Foodshare provides necessary food for its patrons, we noticed that they were without necessary outerwear such as hats, gloves and mittens, and when it came time to choose a cause to donate to, the youth chose Mobile Foodshare and donated generously! Many people were without gloves for the winter, and from the generosity of our Senior High youth, in partnership with the Board of Christian Service, many more of our Mobile Foodshare guests will have hats, gloves and mittens to protect them from the cold this winter! Our Mobile Foodshare volunteers recently distributed the gloves.



# General Info Corner



### 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



# General Info Corner



## SAVE THE DATE: FAMILY BINGO NIGHT

Friday, February 19, 6:30-8:30 p.m.



Looking for something fun to do on a Friday night?  
All ages invited!

Childcare available. Details to follow.

### 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.

## SAVE THE DATE for the next Prospective Member Gathering Sunday, March 13

The Church Growth and Membership Committee would like to cordially invite those persons who have worshipped here and would like to make First Church their church home to attend the next prospective member gathering. Please consider becoming part of our church family and sharing more fully in our life together.

**The next gathering of prospective members will be on Sunday, March 13 at 11:30 a.m.** At that time, church leaders will be present to greet you and to tell you about the many wonderful programs and ministries of our congregation. Prospective members are then asked to **attend a second session on Sunday, April 3, at 11:30 a.m.** In this small group setting one of our Pastors will provide more background about First Church and the United Church of Christ, and those attending will have an opportunity to share their own religious upbringing.

**New members will join on Sunday, April 10, at the 10:00 a.m. worship service.**

If you would like to learn more about making First Church your church home, **please join us on March 13.** If you need more information, please speak to one of the Pastors or contact Kathy Ciolkosz in the church office at (860) 633-4641, extension 110 or [kathyc@glastonburyfirst.org](mailto:kathyc@glastonburyfirst.org).

## Prayer Corner



### Prayers of Joy for:

The mission work and safe return of our volunteers who spent the week of January 3 at Back Bay Mission in Mississippi.

### Prayers of healing and wholeness for:

Barbara Harding    Audrey Hernandez    Liz Webb  
Lois Harwick      Chris Hernandez      Alice Weil

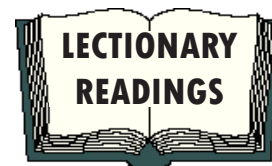
### Prayers of sympathy to:

Carol Loomis and her family on the death of her father, William Long, on December 22.

Ethan Reid and his family on the death of his father, Dr. Paul Reid, on December 29.

Family and friends of Sally Whipple, who died on January 7. Sally was a Golden Member, having joined First Church in 1964. Throughout her time here, she participated in our women's fellowship events, assisted at memorial service receptions, and faithfully served on the Boards of Deacons, Christian Service, Lay Life and Ministry, and the Memorial Committee. Her memorial service was held on January 16.

Family and friends of Sallie and Bill Graves on the loss of their son, Douglas Cameron Graves, who died on January 10. His memorial service will be held at First Church on January 30 at 11:00 a.m.



### February 7, 2016 - *Transfiguration*

Exodus 34:29-35; Psalm 99;  
2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2; Luke 9:28-36, (37-43)

### February 14, 2016 - *First Sunday in Lent*

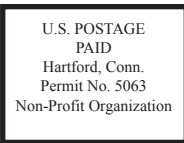
Deuteronomy 26:1-11; Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16;  
Romans 10:8b-13; Luke 4:1-13

### February 21, 2016 - *Second Sunday in Lent*

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18; Psalm 27; Philippians 3:17-4:1;  
Luke 13:31-35 or Luke 9:28-36, (37-43a)

### February 28, 2016 - *Third Sunday in Lent*

Isaiah 55:1-9; Psalm 63:1-8;  
1 Corinthians 10:1-13; Luke 13:1-9



Return Service Requested.



# Sunday, February 7 4:30 p.m.



Come celebrate with joyful song and praise the lives of people who have made a difference in this world – and in your life!

Kate and David will deliver the message: “Be Strong and Courageous – One Life Can Make a Difference!”

Sing with gusto these familiar songs, “*Shine, Jesus, Shine!*,” “*I Saw the Light*” and “*This Little Light of Mine!*” Kate Ersevum and Eric Anderson will lead our singing, and Eric will offer one of his recent compositions, “*Lift the Veil, Moses.*”

