



The REMINDER

First Church of Christ, Congregational, Glastonbury, Connecticut

Member of United Church of Christ

An open, welcoming and affirming congregation

March 2016

Lent, Holy Week and Easter Services



Fourth Sunday in Lent, March 6

8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. services,

David Taylor and Kate VanDerzee-Glidden preaching

4:30 p.m. **Spark!** service (see page 2 for more information)



Fifth Sunday in Lent, March 13

8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. services, David Taylor preaching

Palm and Passion Sunday, March 20

8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. services

Traditional Palm Sunday Processional followed by the reading of the Passion narrative with Tableaus
Celebrate Christ's triumphant entry into Jerusalem and relive the events of His suffering and death. After the festive beginning of the service, the pastors will read the Passion story while church members of all ages form living pictures of the various events, including the last supper, Jesus in the garden of Gethsemane, the betrayal and the crucifixion. A *tableau vivant* is French for "living picture." The service will end with Chris Stone singing "Jesus Walked that Lonesome Valley" and the congregation leaving in silence.

Maundy Thursday, March 24

Meal of the Upper Room, 12:15 p.m.

Join us for this solemn and spiritual observance of the last supper that Jesus shared with his disciples in the upper room, on what is now known as Maundy Thursday. Gather in the Meetinghouse for words of preparation, and then proceed in silence to Schultz Hall for readings, the meal and the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Participants eat in silence so that they may prayerfully taste the foods and listen to the reading of the Holy Scripture. Ginger Kousen, soprano, will sing. Please call the church office if you are interested in attending. *This event is sponsored by the Board of Deacons and the Board of Lay Life and Ministry.*

Service of Tenebrae & Holy Communion, 7:30 p.m.

A solemn service of lessons and hymns accompanied by the gradual extinguishing of lights, symbolic of the flight of the disciples and the passion of our Lord. Special music will be sung by the Chancel Choir.

Good Friday, March 25

There will be a *Stations of the Cross* service at St. James Episcopal Church at noon and a worship service at 7:00 p.m. The *Good Friday* service at St. Mark's Lutheran Church will be at 7:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday, March 27

Outdoor Sunrise Service, 6:30 a.m.

9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. services

We are happy to welcome back the Constitution Brass to celebrate the miracle of the Risen Christ with hymns, organ and brass selections. These two services will include festive anthems by our Jubilate Ringers, Chancel and Cherub Choirs at the 9:00 a.m. service and the Chancel, Cantate, Cantabile Choirs and Mallets at the 11:00 a.m. service. David Taylor will preach, **Thine is the Glory!** Childcare will be available.

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
- The Rev. Gordon Bates, *Minister of Visitation*
- Karin Carlino, *Church School Administrator*
ceadmin@glastonburyfirst.org, ext. 115
- Kathy Ciolkosz, *Administrative Assistant*
kathyc@glastonburyfirst.org, ext. 110
- Valerie Escalera, *Program Administrator*
programadmin@glastonburyfirst.org, ext. 115
- Susan Feller, *Publications Specialist*
publications@glastonburyfirst.org, ext. 112
- Rebecca Fleahman, *Office Manager*
rebeccafleahman@glastonburyfirst.org, ext. 122
- Cheryl Foley, *Child Care Provider*
- Jenny Giguere, *Interim Director of Senior High Fellowship*; jennygiguere@cox.net, 860-965-3868
- Wes Grove, *Facilities Manager*
facilities@glastonburyfirst.org, ext. 121
- Peggy Hartman, *Director of Handbell Program and Childrens' Choirs*
- Andrew Wicks, *Interim Director of Junior High Ministries*; youth@glastonburyfirst.org, ext. 113

THE REMINDER submission deadline:
Thursday, March 10: April 2016 issue



Sunday, March 6

4:30 p.m.



Join us as we learn how encounters with Jesus can make you the person God wants you to be. Drama, music and praise are a wonderful way to worship together. A light supper of soup and bread will be offered following our service.

Meditation: *Encounters With Jesus*

Scriptures: *1 John 4:7-12, 2 Corinthians 5:16-21*

Songs: *To God Be the Glory, Let the Praises Ring,*

How Deep the Father's Love For Us, and Take My Life and Let It Be

Lenten Series:

Be Strong and Courageous – One Life Makes a Difference

6:00-8:00 p.m., Fellowship and Food

Wednesday, March 9

Elisabeth Kennedy, HELO Haiti

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! 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. Please sign up by calling the church office at 860-633-4641.



Stewardship Update: Thank You – We Did It!

Just a short note of thanks from your Stewardship Committee. Our pledge goal was \$716,000 and the current 2016 Stewardship campaign total is **\$718,080!** Pledges continue to roll in (if you have not yet pledged feel free to contact Rebecca Fleahman, our Church office manager, by e-mail or phone (rebeccafleahman@glastonburyfirst.org or 860-633-4641, ext 122) and we are so thankful for your continued support of First Church!

A Prayer for Our Mission in the World

The following pastoral prayer was offered in worship on Sunday, January 17 by Katharyn Laudone, after her participation in the mission trip to Back Bay Mission, Biloxi, Mississippi earlier in the month.

Dear Heavenly Father,

We thank you for this day, for this time to gather here and reflect on one mission of the church. We learn from your word of your great love for us, and we learn of Jesus' mission to love us, to heal the sick, to feed the hungry and to care for the needy.

We thank you for all that Christ taught us and for the good works the church has accomplished over the years. Though we recognize this church building as a holy sanctuary, a meetinghouse and a shelter from the cold, help us to remember that the church is also Christ's body. We the people, his body, need to continue his mission for the church. We learn this lesson from Paul's conversion on the road to Damascus. Jesus' voice from heaven informed Saul that the Christian people he was persecuting were in fact Jesus' own body.

We the people of the church, here today, are his mind, his eyes, his ears, his mouth, his hands, his feet, his heart and his spirit. May we keep this visual image in focus and remember who we are.

Now we are the body of Christ and each one of us has a part of it. If one part suffers, every other part suffers with it. If one child is hungry, we are all hungry. If one part is honored, every part rejoices! When we make others smile, we make you smile.

We witnessed this past week in Biloxi with The Back Bay Mission and we ask that you please continue to bless their good work. We are so grateful for that opportunity to serve there, for our safe travels, for the safety of the working crews, for the beautiful weather to complete the outdoor jobs, and for the fellowship and fun times we shared. We helped each other to rebuild a home, to clean and paint others, to feed the hungry, to provide hot showers and clean clothes and to help restore some dignity for the needy and homeless.

We are together, one with you Lord, yet you call each of us by name. You treasure each of us individually and bless us with unique gifts. While we were there, each contributed and reflected your image in different ways, from delivering pastries to performing lifesaving CPR skills. We acknowledge the beauty of this diversity within our church.

We have also learned from Mother Teresa who once said, "I know I am touching the living body of Christ in the broken bodies of the hungry and suffering." Help us to recognize and appreciate that all people, those helping and those being helped, are made in your image and likeness.

Now we are home again in Glastonbury and we see that your good work continues here. There are opportunities in the church, in our communities, at our work places, in our homes and in our neighborhoods. And the people are willing. We only need look to those who are sitting to the right and left of us to see your face. It is a kind of beauty that is possible with your help, oh Lord, and we are so grateful for it!

In closing, we ask for your wisdom and guidance as we continue to serve so that the mission of your church, the body of Christ, may be built up.

In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Calling All Volunteers for Boards and Committees!

Would you like to get more involved in this vibrant church community? If so, this is your time!

It takes a tremendous amount of people power to make our programs, events and worship happen. Currently we're recruiting new members for our boards and committees. Some of our boards and committees include:



Are You Able?

Trustees (focuses on our property and building), **Youth Ministry**, **Christian Education**, **Deacons** (focuses on worship), **Music**, **Christian Service** (focuses on mission and outreach work), **Lay Life and Ministry** (organizes church fellowship events), **Church Growth and Membership** (welcomes people to our church), **Adult Education**, **Media**, **Stewardship**, etc.

If you have an interest in joining a specific board or committee, call or email Lynn Baronas, chair of Human Resources (860-543-3301 or baronas@hartford.edu), our church officers, board or committee members or pastors. Thank you to all the volunteers who make First Church such a wonderful place!

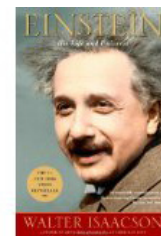


Adult Opportunities

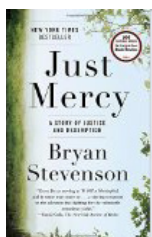


Biography Book Group

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 email 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: **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.

Thursday Morning Study Group

The March study activity of TMSG will find them on **March 3** completing the life of Old Testament's David and his effect on modern Judaism's impact on world activities using the current *New York Times* bestseller by Geraldine Brooks, *The Secret Chord*, as a text. Next in line is the question: How does the recent discovery of Harper Lee's novel *Go Set a Watchman* relate to her earlier successful *To Kill a Mockingbird* as it relates to the characters? This quandary will be discussed on **March 10 and March 17**. On **March 25 and into April** will be a study of a Muslim who is disillusioned by modern Islam as we use the text *Heretic: Why Islam Needs a Reformation Now* by Ayaan Hirsi Ali. She is a fellow at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government. 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.



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."

(If you'd like to read more of Lorie's article about TRG, which was published in the United Church News publication, ConnTact, in April of 2012, go to http://ctucc.org/news/20120417_ct1204_grappling.html). 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.



Adult Opportunities

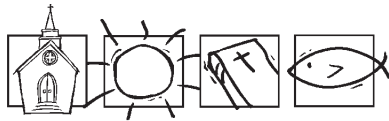
Prayer and Share



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 Donna Smith at 860-633-4428 (feel free to leave a message).

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, March 21, from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.** at the church in the Lehman Library. Whether you are new to the group or would like to learn to knit or crochet, all are welcome for handicrafts and fellowship. Yarn is provided. Bring a #11 or #13 pair of knitting needles, or a medium to large crochet hook, and receive some instruction. If you have questions, call Co-Chairs Judy Burr at 860-643-9368 or Liz Webb at 860-593-7831. Meetings are usually held on the third Monday of the month.



Children's Ministries



One Great HOUR OF SHARING

On **March 20**, we will be collecting donations for One Great Hour of Sharing during worship. In Church School, children were given banks to take home to collect donations beginning February 21, and these banks will be used to help collect donations from church members during worship on March 20. OGHS is a non-profit, ecumenical ministry that provides for the needy all over the world. This group represents the disaster relief, refugee response and long-term development work of ten Protestant denominations, including our denomination, the United Church of Christ. Most of their focus is overseas, but they also recognize and support similar needs in the United States. OGHS responds to a new disaster on average every 2.5 days! Through the sharing of their coins, the children learn about serving others by helping to provide kids around the world with clean water, medical supplies, tools, education, shelter and literacy programs. For more information on OGHS, please visit www.onegreathourofsharing.org. Thank you for your continued generosity! You are a blessing to our Church!

On **March 20**, we will be collecting donations for One Great Hour of Sharing during worship. In Church School, children were given banks to take home to collect donations beginning February 21, and these banks will be used to help collect donations from church members during worship on March 20. OGHS is a non-profit, ecumenical ministry that provides for the needy all over the world. This group represents the disaster relief, refugee response and long-term development work of ten Protestant denominations, including our denomination, the United Church of Christ. Most of their focus is overseas, but they also recognize and support similar needs in the United States. OGHS responds to a new disaster on average every 2.5 days! Through the sharing of their coins, the children learn about serving others by helping to provide kids around the world with clean water, medical supplies, tools, education, shelter and literacy programs. For more information on OGHS, please visit www.onegreathourofsharing.org. Thank you for your continued generosity! You are a blessing to our Church!

Children's Ministries Calendar

Sunday, March 6

One Great Hour of Sharing collection during worship

Sunday, March 13

4th and 5th grade bake sale

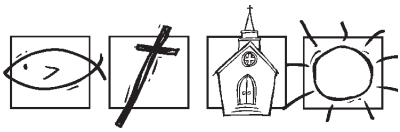
Bake Sale

Sunday, March 20

Palm/Passion Sunday - grades 4 and up stay in the service

Sunday, March 27

Easter - no Church School



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 *with your generous support we've raised over \$4,000!!* 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 see conceptual designs of these spaces and 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 6: "The Lord's Supper"

Bible Story Reference: Matthew 26:17-30, Mark 14:12-31, Luke 22:1-20






Bible Verse: "Do this in memory of me."

Main Idea: Jesus gave his disciples, and us, a way to remember him and all that he taught us.

Objectives: By the end of this unit the children will experience:

- the Lord's Supper through their sense of sight and visualization;
- the Lord's Supper through the telling and hearing of the story.



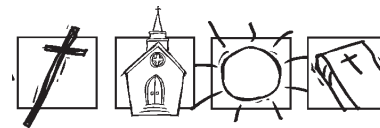
		Sunday 3/13	Sunday 3/20	Sunday 3/27	Sunday 4/3	Sunday 4/10
	<u>Kindergarten & 1st grade</u> <i>pink</i>	Cooking Room 205 Susan Bonitsky	Games Room 110 Emily Keel	EASTER	Art Room 103 Adam Garrity	Music Room 204 Jessica & Andy Bean
	<u>2nd grade</u> <i>yellow</i>	Music Room 204 Jessica & Andy Bean	Cooking Room 205 Susan Bonitsky	EASTER	Games Room 110 Emily Keel	Art Room 103 Adam Garrity
	<u>3rd grade</u> <i>purple</i>	Music Room 204 Jessica & Andy Bean	Cooking Room 205 Susan Bonitsky	EASTER	Games Room 110 Emily Keel	Art Room 103 Adam Garrity
	<u>4th grade</u> <i>red</i>	Art Room 103 Adam Garrity	Palm Sunday Stay in Service	EASTER	Cooking Room 205 Susan Bonitsky	Games Room 110 Robin Kohs & Cheryl Zalewski
	<u>5th grade</u> <i>green</i>	Art Room 103 Adam Garrity	Palm Sunday Stay in Service	EASTER	Cooking Room 205 Susan Bonitsky	Games Room 110 Robin Kohs & Cheryl Zalewski

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



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, March 13:** Mission Focused SHF, 6:00-8:00 p.m.
- Sunday, April 10:** Mission Focused SHF, 6:00-8:00 p.m., *final payments due!*
- 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

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, March 6:** Regular Session
- Sunday, March 13:** Mission Focused SHF
- Sunday, March 20:** Regular Session
- Sunday, March 27:** No SHF – Easter Sunday

JR. 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. **Denotes special time*

- Monday, March 14:** Regular Session
- *Saturday, March 26:** Pancake Breakfast/Easter Egg Hunt
- Monday, March 28:** Regular Session

SHF GOOD FRIDAY LOCK-IN



Vigil

All SHF youth are invited to join us on Good Friday as we hold an all-night vigil (**8:00 p.m. through 9:00 a.m. on March 25 – 26**) spending time with each other, ourselves and God. Stick around Saturday morning for some delicious pancakes served up by the Junior High Fellowship. Permission slips will be available on the First Church website and at SHF.

CONFIRMATION CLASS SCHEDULE

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

- Wednesday, March 2:** Regular Class Session
- Wednesday, March 16:** Mentor Session
- *Thursday, March 24:** Maundy Thursday Tenebrae Service (7:30 p.m.)
- Wednesday, March 30:** Rehearsal for leading worship services on April 3

PANCAKE BREAKFAST & EGG HUNT, SATURDAY, MARCH 26



“Hop” on over to this “egg-citing” annual pancake feast in Schultz Hall where “every bunny” is invited! We’ll begin serving **pancakes at 9:00 a.m. with a second seating available after the kids join Peter Rabbit at 9:45 a.m. for an Easter Egg Hunt**, rain or shine. This all ages event is sponsored by the Junior High Fellowship and the Youth Board to benefit the Senior High Mission Trip fund. Your suggested donation of \$5 per person (family maximum of \$25) is much appreciated! **Attention Flapjack Flippers & Syrup Slingers:** We need your help! We are looking for Junior and Senior High students, parents, alumni or anyone else who’d like to help us with this tasty fundraiser. Interested? Contact Cheryl Zalewski 860-930-9506 or cherylzalewski@sbcglobal.net. Thanks!



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! **Please visit the Youth Table from March 6 through April 10 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. For questions, please contact Patti Jagoe at ctsdncmnfolk@gmail.com or Andrew Wicks at youth@glastonburyfirst.org, and be sure to look for our table at Common Fellowship!



Youth Ministry



HEADS UP! HARTFORD

Heads Up! Hartford is a not for profit, 501(c)3 volunteer association whose mission is to create a loving, supportive, fun and productive environment at a summer mission work-camp for high school students. This faith based initiative brings urban and suburban students in the greater Hartford area together to break down the barriers between them as they improve their city through integrated work groups. Heads Up! Hartford camp dates for 2016 are **Thursday, June 23, to Thursday, June 30**. Registration forms are coming soon to headsuphartford.org.

SILVER LAKE THIS SUMMER!

Attention parents of children in 3rd grade and up! Sign-ups are now on for Silver Lake Conference Center's amazing summer programs. Silver Lake is a ministry of the Connecticut Conference of the UCC and has hosted youth for summer camps since 1957. Each week throughout the summer they offer opportunities for children going into 4th grade to 12th grade, as well as several conferences for families, from baking to boating, ropes courses to theatre, weaving to wilderness survival, hiking and biking. Scholarships are available. For more information or to register, go online to www.silverlakect.org.



Music Ministry



Congratulations



We congratulate **Kayla and Valerie St. Laurent** for receiving their "Light 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 I); 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

Handbell Festival and Concert on March 6



The Mallets and Jubilate Ringers will be participating in a Handbell Festival on **Sunday, March 6 at St. Mary's Church in Willimantic**. All are invited to attend the **Handbell Festival concert at 7:00 p.m.** that evening. Thank you to Peggy Hartman for organizing this event, which is a fundraiser for the L. Cameron Johnson Memorial Organ Competition sponsored by the Northeastern CT Chapter of the AGO. Other bell choirs participating are the Simsbury United Methodist Church and Manchester High School.

Munson's Candy Pick-Up

Thank you to everyone who supported the 2016 Choir Camp fundraiser by ordering your Easter candy through our Munson's Candy sale. The candy will be **available for pick-up on March 13 and 20**, and there will also be some additional candy for sale on those dates. We appreciate your support!



Music Ministry



You are Invited to "Elijah" Performance

On **Thursday, April 14**, the Chancel Choir will not be rehearsing. Instead, they will be taking a trip to The Bushnell Center for the Performing Arts to see Mendelssohn's epic oratorio, "Elijah." This full-scale symphonic performance will be presented by the 170 professional quality voices of the Hartford Chorale, along with the Hartford Symphony Orchestra and Connecticut Children's Chorus. Baritone Stephen Bryant will perform his signature role as the prophet Elijah. If you would like to join the First Church Chancel Choir to take advantage of the group discounts, and see a not-to-be-missed performance, **contact Arwen Norman by Sunday, March 13** at gnanorman@me.com.



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.

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 (March 2, 16 and 30)** 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.

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.

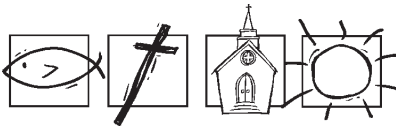
Volunteer at Wish School

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.

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





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. We now have an active Refugee Resettlement Committee, along with an even greater number of other church family members willing to provide support in areas including housing, transportation, employment, education, health care, public benefits and others. The committee has met several times, and submitted a self-assessment form as required. Members are expecting to attend a training session at IRIS later this month in preparation for being assigned a refugee family to settle here in Glastonbury. 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 and the Refugee Resettlement Committee, or John Dugan or Rosemary Richter, co-chairs of the Refugee Resettlement Committee.

Consider Fasting from Carbon for Lent!



Over the past few years, thousands of people (initiated by the UCC) have welcomed a day-by-day opportunity to fast from carbon as their Lenten discipline. Living at a time when our actions - along with the actions of only a few generations - have threatened creation as we know it by the excessive burning of fossil fuel, it is fitting to engage in a

spiritual discipline of fasting from carbon. Visit <http://www.macucc.org/carbonfast> to sign up.

Third Annual Shrimp Boil & Auction Saturday, May 14, 6:00 to 8:30 p.m., Schultz Hall

If you come to the Shrimp Boil just for the food and fellowship, you won't be disappointed. But you could miss providing a winning bid on such items as the following:

- **A week in Sedona, Arizona for a family up to six at a time of your choosing, staying at an award-winning resort on the famous Oak Creek.**
- **Ten yards of mulch from E. A. Quinn.**
- **A foursome of golf at the Glastonbury Hills Country Club or the Blackledge Country Club in Hebron.**
- **Spa or salon treatments.**
- **Fall leaf cleanup at your home by church volunteers.**

Last year the auction netted almost \$10,000, which was divided equally among the Back Bay Mission, the Adult Mission Trip and the Youth Mission Trip.

Our search for auction items is in full swing, and we need your help to make this year's auction as successful as the last. Do you have a vacation home or condo you might donate for a week or weekend? Are there goods or services you might donate? Are you connected with others here at church (a book club, study group, a board, a committee, etc.) that you might join with to make donations to the auction? Is there a favorite business that you frequent that might provide a donation? Donations are tax deductible.

More details of auction items and the menu will follow. In the meantime, save the date:

Saturday, May 14, 2016 from 6:00 – 8:30 p.m.

Cost: Adults \$15; children ages 6 – 12 \$10; children under 6 free

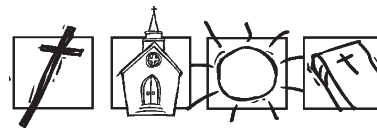
Tickets will go on sale in April



Contact Brian Thompson (bthompson@thehartford.com) with questions about the auction or to make a donation of goods or services. If you would like to help plan the event, please contact Earl Thompson (ethompson19@comcast.net) or Diana Ruddick (dianakate525@gmail.com).



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

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.

Prayer Corner

Prayers of Joy:

Cynthia Wilcox gives thanks for all the prayers surrounding her during her surgery and healing time. They were a comfort to her.

Prayers of healing and wholeness for:

Barbara Harding Audrey Hernandez
Lois Harwick Chris Hernandez

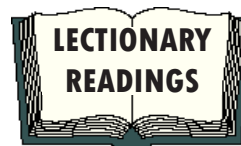


Prayers of sympathy to:

Tom and Susan Morway on the death of Tom’s father, Sperry E. Morway, Jr., on January 24.

Family and friends of Dorothy and Rick Standish on the loss of Dorothy’s mother, Margaret Lombardi Cutrer, on February 1 in Fort Worth, Texas.

Family and friends of Alice Weil, who died on February 3 at Avery Heights in Hartford. Alice was a valued First Church member since 1979, and had been a tremendous support to her family and her husband, the Reverend Arthur Weil, not only while he was an Associate Pastor at First Church from 1979 to 1987, but until his death in 2013. A celebration of her life will take place March 5 at 1:00 p.m.



March 6, 2016 - *Fourth Sunday in Lent*

Joshua 5:9-12; 2 Corinthians 5:16-21
Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32; Psalm 32

March 13, 2016 - *Fifth Sunday in Lent*

Isaiah 43:16-21; Philippians 3:4b-14
John 12:1-8; Psalm 126

March 20, 2016 - *Palm/Passion Sunday*

Luke 19:28-40; Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29
(Liturgy of the Palms)
Isaiah 50:4-9a; Philippians 2:5-11; Luke 22:14-23:56
or Luke 23:1-49; Psalm 31:9-16
(Liturgy of the Passion)

March 27, 2016 - *Easter*

Acts 10:34-43 or Isaiah 65:17-25;
1 Corinthians 15:19-26 or Acts 10:34-43; John 20:1-18
or Luke 24:1-12; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

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

U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Hartford, Conn.
Permit No. 5063
Non-Profit Organization

Return Service Requested.



The First Church Family: Loving, Serving and Singing

Board of Christian Service: *Hands-On, First Church!!*

Our hands get dirty, and cold, and wet, but together, they're strong and gentle, capable and creative, and always busy!

Our hands scramble eggs, allocate funds, deliver food, hammer nails, and turn the pages of the books that we read to Hartford's school children. Our hands ferry frozen turkeys and "baked beans and oatmeal." Our hands help label goods for the Rummage Sale, and place fruits and vegetables from the Foodshare Mobile Truck into the hands of others; they decorate December's Giving Tree and showcase fair-trade SERRV products to help others across the world.

Together, with you, our hands serve!

In 2015, thanks to your generous support of First Church, the Board of Christian Service distributed donations to the following organizations.

Adelbrook – Cromwell, CT
Adult/Alumni Mission Trip – Back Bay Mission – Biloxi, MS
Andover Newton Theological School – Newton Centre, MA
Back Bay Mission – Biloxi, MS
Backpack Project – Bloomfield, CT
Carol's Closet – Glastonbury, CT
Christian Activities Council – Hartford, CT
Church World Service
Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ (Missionary Society of CT)
Families in Crisis Inc. – Hartford, CT
Family Life Education – Hartford, CT
FISH – Glastonbury, CT
Foodshare – Windsor, CT
Fred Wish – Hartford, CT
Glastonbury ABC House – Glastonbury, CT
Glastonbury Fuel Bank – Glastonbury, CT
Hands on Hartford – Hartford, CT
Hartford East Association, United Church of Christ, CT
Hartford Food System – Hartford, CT
Hawkwing - Cheyenne River Reservation, SD
Heads Up! Hartford – Hartford, CT
HELO – Haiti
Horace Bushnell Children's Food Pantry – Hartford, CT
Intercommunity Mental Health – East Hartford, CT
Integrated Refugee and Immigrant Services (IRIS) – New Haven, CT
Interval House – Hartford, CT
Manchester Area Conference of Churches (MACC) – Manchester, CT
Mercy Housing and Shelter Corporation – Hartford, CT
Our Church's Wider Mission, United Church of Christ
One Great Hour of Sharing
Open Hearth – Hartford, CT
Parish Relief Fund – First Church, Glastonbury, CT
Silver Lake Conference Center – Sharon, CT
South Park Inn – Hartford, CT



Our congregation has a history of giving generously to our special offerings. Thanks to you, we collected \$11,746 for our Easter offering. \$1,500 of that went to Heads Up! Hartford, and the balance went to One Great Hour of Sharing. The Thanksgiving 2015 offering yielded a collection of \$8,712. These funds were donated in equal parts to Back Bay Mission Syrian Refugee Crisis and the Bloomfield Backpack Project. For the Christmas 2015 offering, parishioners gave \$13,945 and equal amounts were donated to the Glastonbury Fuel Bank, Horace Bushnell Food Pantry, Manchester Area Conference of Churches, Integrated Refugee and Immigrant Services (IRIS) and HELO Haiti. During this past year we collected \$34,403 with our special offerings.



As a church, we also distributed an additional \$41,204 to various organizations (Fidelco Guide Dog, Back Bay Mission and the Adult/Alumni Back Bay Mission Trip, Rebuilding Together Hartford, Glastonbury MLK Community Initiative, Hartford Prayer Breakfast, Silver Lake, The Coalition, Simply Smiles and the Youth Mission Trip) in order to spread God's love in the world. These dollars came from our annual Church School mission project, Vacation Bible School mission project, Shrimp Boil, Council Discretionary Fund and Thompson Mission Fund.

Together for the budget year 2015, our church proudly gave away \$152,117! Think of all the good your generous donations have done throughout our region, state and world. Every dollar, every hour of time, every shared talent makes a difference!



Additionally, the Board sponsors many events where our church members use their caring hands to serve others. Some of the events include an intergenerational mission trip, Foodshare Mobile truck, Fred Wish readers, Mission Immersion Days, Turkey and a Twenty collection, Horace Bushnell and Manchester Area Conference of Churches food collection, Hands on Hartford lunches, the Walk Against Hunger, Giving Tree collection, SERRV sale, Covenant to Care donations and our biannual Rummage Sales.

Please contact Jim Hartung (860-430-2123) or Sharon Conway (860-463-6503) if you would like any further information on any organizations or events supported by the Board of Christian Service.





Alleluia!

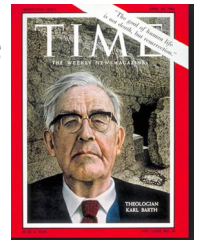
He isn't here,
but has been raised.

—Luke 24:6

March, 2016

Dear Friends,

What possible insight might we - as individual Christians and as the First Church of Christ in Glastonbury, Connecticut - get from a 20th century German theologian who probably spent as many hours writing volumes of dense, philosophical ruminations as sleeping?? (And whose picture appeared on the cover of **TIME** magazine in April of 1962??!!)



Well, Karl Barth once wrote, **"The Christian Church does not exist in Heaven, but on earth and in time."** First Church exists - **here on earth, here and now.** First Church exists not in heaven, but here on this beautiful earth that is nonetheless filled with children of God who deserve to experience a little more of **"heaven on earth"** and the joy and beauty of this life!



And so, what can we do to address the needs of beloved children of God who suffer from deprivation and need, both near and far? What can we do to be the church of Jesus Christ that exists on earth and in time and not in heaven?? Well, I have to believe that Jesus would want his church to be supportive of the two organizations which receive funds from First Church's annual Easter offering.



Once again our Easter offering will be divided between the ecumenical development and relief program, **One Great Hour of Sharing**, and a \$2,000 contribution to the award-winning youth mission program, **Heads Up! Hartford.**

When you give generously to our Easter offering, you know that throughout the year your dollars are being used immediately, directly and responsibly to help people in need. Please make your check out to **"First Church"** with the memo line, **"Easter Offering."**



In addition to responding to domestic and international disaster relief appeals following the world's hurricanes, floods, earthquakes and tornadoes, OGHs also supports self-help, development and refugee assistance in more than 80 nations. And since its inception eleven years ago, **Heads Up! Hartford** has been bringing together youth from urban and suburban churches and through their mission work in the Hartford area, projects have been accomplished, real need has been addressed, and lifetime friendships have been forged!

The Christian Church exists wonderfully, beautifully and faithfully in the here and now of God's beautiful creation - a creation which nonetheless needs our loving and caring presence in order for all of God's children to feel God's justice and peace, hope and love. May this church, First Church of Glastonbury, do its part to help make heaven more of a reality - **here and now!!!**



Faithfully,

Easter Flowers and Memorial Donations

YOUR NAME: _____

[Please Print Clearly]

*The Glory of Easter is present in the Meetinghouse on
Easter Sunday and for the ongoing work of our church.*

You may purchase an Easter plant that you may leave for a shut-in to enjoy or take it home and enjoy yourself.

Tulips _____ at \$7.75 = _____

Daffodils _____ at \$7.75 = _____

Hyacinths _____ at \$7.75 = _____

Lilies _____ at \$8.50 = _____

Will leave plant(s)

Will take plant(s)

Please consider giving a donation in memory or in honor of a loved one.



Donation \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

Please indicate if you would like your plant or donation to be in memory or honor of anyone [Please Print Clearly]:

IN MEMORY OF _____

- or -

IN HONOR OF _____

Completed forms should be left in the offering plate, or returned to the Church office by 9:00 a.m. on Monday, March 14, with your check, payable to The First Church of Christ, Congregational, or cash.

Plants may be picked up after the 11:00 a.m. service.