



The REMINDER

First Church of Christ, Congregational, Glastonbury, Connecticut

Member of United Church of Christ

An open, welcoming and affirming congregation

April 2018

Dear Friends,

In 1968, when I was 16 years old, it was unusual for me to be at my church in Worcester, Massachusetts on a Thursday evening. Sunday evening, yes. Thursday evening, not so much. We were making banners for the upcoming Palm Sunday procession through the downtown city streets to demonstrate Jesus' concern for the poor. I vividly recall the associate pastor, Bob, coming into our banner making workshop to tell us the news – the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. had been assassinated in Memphis.



On the night before his death on that Memphis motel balcony, King said,

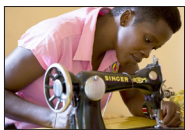
Like anybody, I would like to live - a long life; longevity has its place. But I'm not concerned about that now. I just want to do God's will. And He's allowed me to go up to the mountain. And I've looked over. And I've seen the Promised Land. I may not get there with you. But I want you to know tonight, that we, as a people, will get to the Promised Land.

Well, fifty years later, we still want to do God's will. The Promised Land of justice, peace, freedom and equality is still our dream. And we will get to the Promised Land when we faithfully seek to fulfill the mandate of the prophet Micah, "to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with God." During this Easter season, let us rise up to be the church that seeks to fulfill King's dream of a world of justice, peace and freedom!

Faithfully,
Sam

One Great Hour to Share!

One of our favorite songs to promote the **One Great Hour of Sharing** offering includes these words,



*When the wind and the rain of the hurricane left me homeless on the street
Did you give me clothes and shelter, did you bring me food to eat
When the warlords came and I fled the flames, when they made me a refugee
Did you feel my racing heartbeat, hear my cries of agony
When I was lost and lonely and wandering in despair
My greatest time of need was your one great hour to share.*



Once again, First Church's annual Easter offering is **our** one great hour to **share**, and our gifts will be divided among the ecumenical development and relief program, **One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS)**, and a \$2,000 contribution each to the award-winning youth mission program, **Heads Up! Hartford**, and the family homeless shelter in Hartford, **South Park Inn**.

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. Through their mission work in the Hartford area, projects have been accomplished, real need has been addressed, and lifetime friendships have been forged! And since 1982, **South Park Inn**, located on the South Green in Hartford, has had as its mission to assist homeless people to improve their life situation by providing temporary and long-term housing and supportive services.

As we feel blessed by God's love in our lives, may we make our generous Easter offering our "**one great hour to share!**"

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.
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, *Pastor*
davidtaylor@glastonburyfirst.org, ext. 118
- The Rev. Kate VanDerzee-Glidden, *Pastor*
katev@glastonburyfirst.org, ext. 120
- The Rev. Elizabeth Gleich, *Associate Pastor
for Children and Youth Ministries*
elizabeth@glastonburyfirst.org, ext. 113
- 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*
- Wes Grove, *Facilities Manager*
facilities@glastonburyfirst.org, ext. 121
- Peggy Hartman, *Director of Handbell Program
and Children's Choirs*

THE REMINDER submission deadline:
Tuesday, April 10: May 2018 issue

Micah House and Chapel Update: April 2018

It's time to dust the snow off our shoulders and smile because the tulip, hyacinth, crocus and daffodil bulbs are peeking their heads above the chilly ground. The days are getting longer and another New England winter is in the books. Spring has sprung and the Micah House and Chapel at The Thomas Hale Homestead is almost ready for its grand opening!!

The Building Committee is busy working on the Micah House interior. The original Hale House trim, paneling, flooring and doors have been moved out of the storage trailer and back into the Micah House and Chapel. The majority of the original flooring has been reinstalled in the Micah House. The historic wide-board sheathing has been planed at a local woodworking shop and is being used for the chapel flooring. The trim work in the north and south parlors is complete, with the chapel trim work to be finished shortly. Work is being done to fit out the bathrooms and kitchen.



Just as a reminder, for safety's sake, please don't talk to the contractors as they work on the Micah House and Chapel. Please direct all questions to Jonathan Russell, Mick Gifford or Walt Briggs, who continue to provide hands-on financial and construction oversight. Estimates of sweat-equity cost savings to date exceed \$60,000!!

Take a moment to look outside when you are visiting church or attending Sunday worship services. Even better – check out the First Church live webcam at: <http://www.glastonburyfirst.org/micah-house-and-chapel-thomas-hale-homestead>, which shows in real time the current work towards revitalizing the historic Thomas Hale Homestead into the Micah House and Chapel.

The rebirth of Micah House and Chapel at The Thomas Hale Homestead is our beloved faith community's vision that will serve First Church today and for future generations!!

“God has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?” ~ Micah 6:8

Worship Services

March 29

Maundy Thursday

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

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.*

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

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.



April 1

Easter Sunday

6:30 a.m. Outdoor Sunrise Service on the Micah House and Chapel Lawn

9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. 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 Mallet Ringers at the 11:00 a.m. service. David Taylor will preach, *Come Church, Arise – Again and Again!* Childcare will be available.



April 8

Kate VanDerzee-Glidden preaching

Music 8:00 a.m. Chris Stone, baritone; **10:00 a.m.** Quartet

April 15

David Taylor preaching

Music 8:00 a.m. Vance Harris, bass; **10:00 a.m.** Chancel Choir

April 22

Earth Day Celebration, Confirmation Class leading worship

Music 8:00 a.m. Elizabeth Flynn, soprano; **10:00 a.m.** Mallet Ringers and Chancel Choir

April 29

David Taylor preaching, Gold and Silver Members Brunch

Music 8:00 a.m. Peggy Hartman, oboe; **10:00 a.m.** Puppet Troupe and Caroler and Chancel Choirs

On May 6, we will start our *Season of Celebration* with **ONE service at 10:00 a.m.** These are all church celebrations, and we look forward to being together for worship!

May 6

Justice Sunday – Youth mission trippers leading service; **Music:** Cherub and Chancel Choirs

May 13

Music Celebration Sunday – David Taylor preaching;

Music: Chancel, Cantate and Cantabile Choirs, Mallet Ringers and Jubilate Ringers

May 20

Confirmation Sunday; **Music:** Chancel Choir

May 27

Memorial Day – Kate VanDerzee-Glidden preaching; **Music:** Chancel Choir

Micah House and Chapel Opening and First Church's 325th Birthday Celebration, June 2–3

2018 marks the 325th anniversary of the founding of First Church and of our town. To commemorate this, we are planning a special weekend on June 2-3. That weekend we will also celebrate the completion of the Micah House and Chapel. The celebration will **begin on Saturday at 10:45 a.m. with the opening of our new chapel** and continue throughout the day with tours, activities for children and mini-concerts. The day will end with an **outdoor concert at 6:30 p.m. with the Hot Cat Jazz Band and an ice-cream social.** On Sunday, we will start with a **festive church service at 10:00 a.m. followed by a potluck picnic and a concert by our own SPARK! band.** All activities for the weekend are free and open to the public. Stay tuned for more details. Contact Suzanne Schwartz at stonehill126@gmail.com or Nancy Pacht at nrwp0503@yahoo.com if you have any questions.



Caring for our Earth

We are thinking spring! After the cold temperatures, beautiful snow blankets and ice jams of winter, the temperatures warm and we begin to see new life all around us. This month we celebrate Earth Day, a time for each of us to focus on our individual responsibilities to keep this planet safe and clean for all future generations. On our Children’s shelves we have several books on “Caring for our Earth.” Children can learn at a very early age how they can be involved if we take the time to read to them and talk about how they can help. Parents and grandparents, take a few minutes and become familiar with the books available to check out in our church library. If you have any questions, please call our Library Volunteers, Wanda Bates, Karen Fecko or Katharyn Laudone.

MEMORIAL COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Memorial Committee is the Board of the Month for April. We are a small committee that meets several times per year. At those meetings, members vote on whether to supply available funds for church needs which would otherwise not have funding. The church monitors are one visible example of how those funds have been used recently. The Memorial Committee also oversees the Memorial Garden. When you get a chance, take a walk into the garden to see what our many volunteers have done to maintain its serene grounds. Memorial funds may be donated at any time to remember and honor loved ones. Thank you to all who have given or plan to give monetary gifts to this fund. If you have any questions, please contact Dale Baker, Memorial Committee Chair, at bakerfamilyglastonbury@cox.net or 860-659-2034.



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.



Because Every Child Deserves a Home

Family Promise of Central Connecticut is an affiliate of a national network of over 4,500 congregations and 170,000 volunteers that helps provide temporary housing to families who find themselves homeless. While a day program works with the families to help them on a path to securing affordable housing, “host” congregations provide the comforts of a “home” setting from 5:00 p.m-7:00 a.m. each day.

Four times a year, for a week at a time, each host congregation provides evening meals, companionship and lodging to “guest” families in their place of worship. Volunteer support at each host congregation ranges from setting up beds and rooms in the church for the families to sleep, providing dinner, interacting with families during the evening and sleeping at the church overnight.

The First Church Family Promise Exploratory Committee is currently in the process of gauging potential interest and will be presenting their findings to the Boards of Christian Service and Trustees and then the Church Council sometime this spring. For more information or to express potential volunteer interest, please contact anyone on the Exploratory Committee, including coordinators Kate and Tara.

Kate Ersevim: ersevim@cox.net / 860-985-8075

Tara Conway: teacher@taraconway@gmail.com / 860-462-9548

Committee Members: Nagy Mishriky, Nancy Tandon, Lois Kulas, Lorie Martin, Ellen McNab, Michael Ersevim, Amy Woodruff

For more information about Family Promise in general, please visit the following websites:
www.fpcct.org (Connecticut affiliate) or www.familypromise.org (national chapter)

Food Collection



First Church has a long tradition of collecting food items. Our donations go to Horace Bushnell Children’s Food Pantry in Hartford and Manchester Area Conference of Churches (MACC). **In April, we’re asking for contributions of unopened, unexpired tuna, pasta sauce, cereal and other items people are willing to donate.** Thanks!



Christian Service



Mission Immersion Day on April 21!



Come one, come all, to share God's love in the world! Spend time on **Saturday, April 21** volunteering and helping others. If you can spare just a few hours, we invite you to sign up to serve a meal and help at South Park Inn homeless shelter in Hartford, build at a Habitat for Humanity house in East Hartford or make soup and cards and then deliver them to friends and members of our congregation. For more information or to sign up for this mission experience, go to the table during coffee hour or contact Lisa Hapgood at lisa.hapgood@yahoo.com or 860-614-9380.

Walk Against Hunger May 5



Foodshare's 35th Annual Walk Against Hunger on **Saturday, May 5** is the region's largest antihunger event raising funds and awareness to fight hunger. It will be held at Dunkin' Donuts Park, home of the Hartford Yard Goats. Step up to the plate and help make an impact on hunger in Greater Hartford! **Check-in starts at 8:30 a.m. and the walk steps off at 10:00 a.m.** FREE parking available. Bring along your friends and family and be a part of this event.



You are Invited to a Homemade Syrian Dinner and Cultural Experience!

Enjoy a delicious multi-course home-cooked Syrian meal by Ezdehar Al Abas. The dinner is **Saturday night, April 14 at 6:00 p.m. in Schultz Hall**. The cost of this delicious feast and cultural experience is \$35 per person. Please bring checks to the dinner written to "First Church of Christ," with "Syrian Dinner" in the memo section, or cash is also accepted. Please note this covers the cost of the meal and is not tax deductible. Spread the word to your friends in the First Church community and join us for this special evening! To RSVP or find out more, please contact Diana Ruddick at dianakate525@gmail.com, Danae Dwyer at danaedwyer@me.com or 860-967-2269, or Kathleen Milazzo Swahn at 860-983-4729 (call or text) or kathleenswahn729@gmail.com. Many hands make light work and volunteers are welcome – please let us know if you can help (1:30 – 3:30 p.m.: Work with Ezdehar to help chop and prepare; 3:30 – 5:00 p.m.: More prep and table set up; 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.: Prep and serving; or 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.: Clean up).

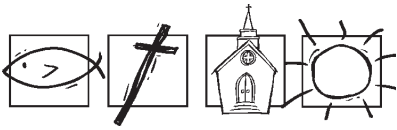
Service Trip with Simply Smiles

As hundreds of past participants will attest, the volunteer service trip to the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Reservation with Simply Smiles is a life-changing opportunity. Adult participants will live and work with Simply Smiles on the Reservation in South Dakota. On the trip, participants will be based in the town of La Plant doing home construction projects, working on town-wide events and helping at daily camps, all while learning about the rich Lakota culture! The trip will be **May 12-19, 2018**. If you are interested in learning more, contact Charlie Kuchenbrod at charliek@ctucc.org.

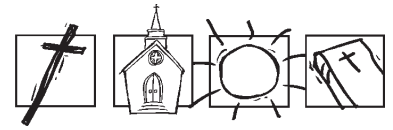
First Church's "Good Samaritans!"

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, Kate VanDerzee-Glidden or Elizabeth Gleich.





Christian Service



Foodshare Warehouse Volunteer Opportunities

Hunger is an invisible problem, so most people are unaware of how large a problem it is. In Hartford and Tolland counties alone, the area served by Foodshare, there are 137,000 people who cannot be sure where their next meal is coming from. The majority of these 137,000 people are either children or seniors, and the majority of the rest are working full-time jobs (or two). Foodshare’s vision is for a community where all of these people can get all of the food they need. And as the region’s food bank, they work toward that vision by getting food donations from the food industry and distributing them to 300 food pantries, community kitchens, homeless shelters and other partner programs.



In addition to the Mobile Foodshare truck coming to our back parking lot every other Wednesday, we have volunteer opportunities to go to **Foodshare’s Regional Market in Hartford on alternating Wednesday mornings (April 4 and 18)** to help sort and package the produce that gets given out on the Mobile Foodshare truck at various sites across the state. **Volunteers gather in the church parking lot at 8:00 a.m. to drive in together, and the shift is from 8:30-11:30 a.m.** If you are interested in learning more, please contact Jim Hartung at ctsdncmnfolk@gmail.com or 860-430-2123.

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 (April 11 and 25)** 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. To help, please contact John Dugan at 860-659-2193 or Paul Fraleigh at 860-643-1571.

Save the Date for our Next Hands on Hartford Lunch

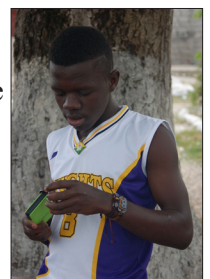
On Monday, April 9, we will provide the food and servers for this lunch meal at Center City Church through Hands on Hartford. Sign up during coffee hour or contact Jackie Mumford at jaquelynnumford@gmail.com or 860-288-4337 with questions or to volunteer.

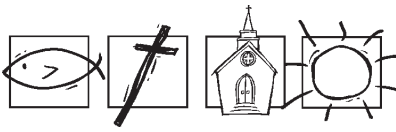


Telemaque’s Update from HELO Haiti

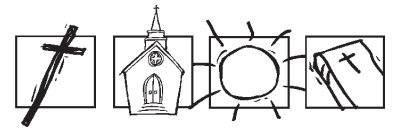


HELO Haiti sent an update about Telemaque, the young student supported years ago by the Church School Mission Project. They thank everyone for all the opportunities this support has provided for him. As you can see, Telemaque has grown so much! He is doing very well and works hard in school and in vocational classes, including “art plastique” writing and designing on glass. He is proud of being selected for a photography workshop, and shows talent in karate.





Children's Ministries



Church School Unit 7: "Mary Magdalene"

Bible Story Reference: Mark 16:1-11

Bible Verses: *Do not be alarmed...He [Jesus] has been raised; he is not here.* (Mark 16:6)

Main Idea: Mary was the first to hear the good news of Jesus' resurrection. She was afraid and found it hard to believe that Jesus was really alive. But when she saw Jesus herself, she ran to tell the others. Like Mary, we too can tell others the good news of Jesus. In this unit the children will hear and experience the story of the empty tomb through different means and tell the story in a variety of ways.



	<u>Sunday 4/15</u>	<u>Sunday 4/22</u>	<u>Sunday 4/29</u>	<u>Sunday 5/6</u>
<u>K & 1st grade</u>	Music Room 206 Pamela Husband	Storytelling Room 111 Victor Grin	Art Room 103 Carol & Andrew Kimmel	Games Room 110 Michael Couture
<u>2nd grade</u>	Games Room 110 Michael Couture	Music Room 206 Pamela Husband	Storytelling Room 111 Victor Grin	Art Room 103 Carol & Andrew Kimmel
<u>3rd grade</u>	Games Room 110 Michael Couture	Music Room 206 Pamela Husband	Storytelling Room 111 Victor Grin	Art Room 103 Carol & Andrew Kimmel
<u>4th grade</u>	Art Room 103 Carol & Andrew Kimmel	Games Room 110 Michael Couture	Music Room 206 Pamela Husband	Storytelling Room 111 Victor Grin
<u>5th grade</u>	Art Room 103 Carol & Andrew Kimmel	Games Room 110 Michael Couture	Music Room 206 Pamela Husband	Storytelling Room 111 Victor Grin

Please note: The Preschool Room is in Room 105. Puppet Troupe is in Rooms 302/303. EXPLORE is in the Youth Room. Some classes are combined for this Unit.

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!



Vacation Bible School July 30 - August 3



The theme this year is *Rolling River Rampage!* Stop by the *registration table during coffee hour on April 22* to register your child. For more information, please email Karin at ceadmin@glastonburyfirst.org.

Summer Camp at Silver Lake!



Many First Church children, youth and adults have experienced the wonders and fun of Silver Lake, a conference center run by the CT Conference of the UCC in Sharon, CT. We hold our annual youth retreats there, and many of our church folks have gone to summer camp there over the years. Come and enjoy *God's Backyard* this summer, with various camps for youth in grades 4-12. **Dates are available June 24 through August 11.** For information, go to <http://www.silverlakeect.org>. If you're unsure or need convincing, talk to Elizabeth, Kate or David or ask any of the youth who have gone before.



Children's Ministries



Church School Mission Project

Opening Doors and Building Bridges: One Preschooler at a Time!

What if you could help end both hunger AND obesity for families right next door in the city of Hartford? What if you could help preschoolers learn how to grow vegetables or how to cook a healthy meal?



Little City Sprouts is a Farm to Preschool program of Hartford Food Systems, providing preschool children with the opportunity to know about, grow and taste fresh, healthy food through food-related field trips, gardening, nutrition and cooking lessons designed for them. The program encourages preschoolers across the city of Hartford to get excited about adopting healthy lifestyles.

Little City Sprouts encourages healthy nutrition habits at a young age, as these habits will shape child development and continue into adulthood. First Church's support will help *Little City Sprouts* expand their reach and broaden their efforts to impact the lives of many more Hartford "sprouts" and their families! Thank you for donating to this important Church School Mission Project!

- \$25 – exposes 250 children to a new fruit or vegetable (like yellow squash!)
- \$200 – provides 1000 copies of home educational materials (English & Spanish)
- \$350 – provides 3 new 2.5' x 6' garden beds
- \$550 – provides a field trip for apple picking in Glastonbury
- \$1,500 – provides a multi-generational, day-long family nutrition event



Money collected from children's offerings, bake sales and your donations and memorial gifts all go to support the Church School Mission Project. If you would like to make a contribution to this special project, please make your check payable to "First Church of Christ," with "Little City Sprouts" in the memo line. We're already three-quarters of the way to our \$10,000 goal, so thank you for your continued support!

Cookbook Fundraiser Update: Please pick up your cookbooks after coffee hour on April 15! You may also purchase a cookbook at the table for \$10. All proceeds go to this mission project.



Youth Ministry



SUMMER MISSION CAMP



Heads Up! Hartford's 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. Our youth have loved it! Heads Up! Hartford camp dates for 2018 are **Thursday, June 21 to Thursday, June 28**. Registration forms are coming soon to headsuphartford.org. Contact Linda Sill with questions at lindasinact@yahoo.com.

SCHOLARSHIP AVAILABLE



If you are a confirmed member of First Church, a senior in high school, planning to attend a four year college and can demonstrate need for financial aid, you may be eligible for the Frank Roswell Fuller Scholarship. If you meet the eligibility requirements of the Fuller Scholarship Fund, you may **request an application packet by May 15** by writing to financial-aid@trincoll.edu and inquiring about the Frank Roswell Fuller Scholarship Fund.

SHF RETREAT MAY 25

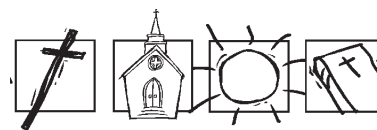
All students in grades 9 – 12 are invited to attend this fabulous, fun and faithful weekend on the Cape from **May 25-27**.



Permission forms will be available soon on the church website. Stay tuned for more information.



Youth Ministry



IMPORTANT YOUTH MISSION TRIP DATES!



The Senior High Fellowship will be traveling to Memphis, TN for the annual SHF Mission Trip **April 7-14**. We'll be learning about civil rights and racial and social justice and doing service work in the city of Memphis.

Sunday, March 25: Mission Focused SHF, 6:00-8:00 p.m., *final payments due!*

Sunday, March 25: Commissioning, 10:00 a.m. worship

Saturday, April 7: Mission Trip kick-off lunch, 11:00 a.m.

April 7-14: Mission Trip departure and return

May 6: Mission Trippers lead worship

SR. HIGH FELLOWSHIP

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, April 1:** Easter, no SHF

***Sunday, April 7 – April 14:** Mission Trip to Memphis

***Sunday, April 15:** No SHF

Sunday, April 22: Regular Session

Sunday, April 29: Regular Session

JR. HIGH FELLOWSHIP

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

***Saturday, March 31:** Pancake Breakfast

***Monday, April 9:** No JHF

Monday, April 23: Regular Session

SUPPORT YOUTH MISSION TRIP THROUGH SHARES!

We encourage everyone in the First Church family to help support our SHF youth on their mission trip to Memphis in April! **Please visit the Youth Table through March 29 to contribute to the mission trip by purchasing “Shares” for \$20 each.** This is a great way to support our Youth Mission Outreach! 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 Elizabeth Gleich at elizabeth@glastonburyfirst.org, and be sure to look for our table during coffee hour!

CONFIRMATION CLASS



Our regular class sessions are on Sundays from 4:30-6:00 p.m. in the Youth Room.

**Denotes Special Time*

***Thursday, March 29:** Service of Tenebrae (7:30 p.m. in the Meetinghouse)

***Wednesday, April 18:** Worship rehearsal (7:00-8:00 p.m.)

***Sunday, April 22:** Confirmation Class leads worship

Sunday, April 29: Regular class session

PANCAKE BREAKFAST & EGG HUNT, SATURDAY, MARCH 31

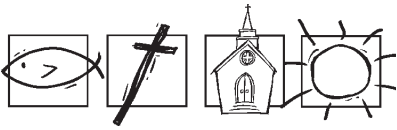


“Hop” on over to this “egg-citing” annual pancake feast in Schultz Hall where “every bunny” is invited! We'll begin serving **pancakes at 9:00 a.m. with a second seating available after the kids join the Easter Bunny at 9:45 a.m. for an Easter Egg Hunt**, rain or shine. This all ages event is sponsored by the Junior High Fellowship and the Board of Youth Ministry 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 Marianne Anderson at 860-918-2747 or marianne maio@att.net. Thanks!



INSPIRATIONAL GREETING CARDS AVAILABLE TO SUPPORT THE YOUTH MISSION TRIP

Each year our youth create a thematic image that reflects our coming year. You can purchase sets of 10 for \$15 during coffee hour or by contacting Elizabeth Gleich at elizabeth@glastonburyfirst.org.



Music Ministry



Music at the Meetinghouse Presents...

ACOUSTIC EIDOLON



*A Blend of Celtic,
Flamenco and Americana*
Saturday, April 28, 2018
7:30 p.m.

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

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

Congratulations!



We congratulate **Katelyn Kavanaugh** for receiving her Light Blue Ribbon as part of the Royal School of Church Music Program. 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). For the Light Blue Ribbon, choristers begin to read the notes on the music staff, follow the text along with the music and develop the following rudimentary musical skills: rhythmic notation, ear training with solfege, playing the Orff Instruments, using the hymnal and some Christian education.

First Church Choirs to Participate in the Micah Chapel Celebration

The Chancel, Cantate and Cantabile Choirs, along with the Jubilate and Mallet Ringers will participate in the mini-concerts scheduled throughout the day on **June 2** to celebrate the completion of the Micah House and Chapel and First Church's 325th birthday. Please stay tuned for more information!

Choir Camp for Cantate, Cantabile and Mallets Choirs, August 19-22

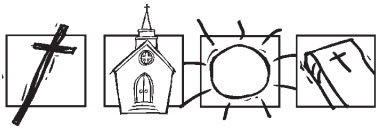
The Cantate, Cantabile and Mallets Choirs will attend Choir Camp 2018 from **August 19-22** at Silver Lake Conference Center in Sharon, CT. Located in scenic Litchfield County near the northwest corner of the state, this camp offers a fabulous week with an amazing lake and lots of extracurricular activities organized by the camp itself. The choristers will have a fun-filled week of singing, ringing, playing games, swimming, boating, low ropes course activities, storytelling, skits over a campfire and great fellowship. Like last year, we are inviting those choristers in Caroler Choir who are moving up to Cantate Choir to join us, so that they can begin to build friendships with the Cantate Choir members. **The total cost per chorister will be \$250, which includes accommodations and meals. A deposit of \$100 to reserve your place at the camp is due by June 1.** Sign up forms will be available on the church website, as well as in the church office and Choir Room. Please contact Angela Salcedo (angelasalcedo@glastonburyfirst.org) if you have questions or are interested in chaperoning.



Handbell Festival April 29



The Mallet Ringers and Jubilate Ringers will be participating in a Handbell Festival on **Sunday, April 29 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 Storrs Congregational Church.



Adult Opportunities



Come Join our Millennial Fellowship Group!

Are you a 20-something or an early 30-something? We are intentionally gathering together a group of millennials for our own fellowship. Our monthly events will focus on team-building, community service, faith-formation and fun. Whether you're a young professional joining First Church, a recently returned graduate living in your parents' basement, or a young at heart 80s kid, this is the group for you. We hope you join us for monthly volunteering, social events and faith conversations over a pint at a local brewery. For more information about the group, contact Elizabeth Gleich at elizabeth@glastonburyfirst.org or Kate VanDerzee-Glidden at katev@glastonburyfirst.org.

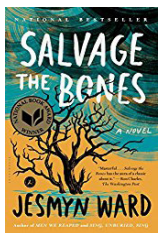
You are Invited to a Moms' Group!

A newly formed Moms' Group has started, and we invite you to come! Raising children in this current world is a privilege and often a challenge, so we are coming together to support each other and to take action on issues that affect us and the world we live in. Inspired and encouraged by our faith, we are looking forward to meeting new friends, sharing ideas, taking action and providing opportunities for our children to help us create a more just and peaceful world. We meet on the first Wednesday of the month. **Come join us on April 4 in the Quiet Room here at church!** If you have questions, please contact Chelsea Cooper at 860-614-2381 or chelsnelson@yahoo.com.



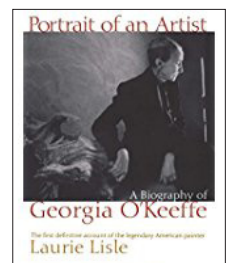
Thursday Morning Study Group

April 5 will find the TMSG completing discussions on the question, "Is the true history of Jesus recorded in the Bible?" Then on the **April 12** we will begin a look at the question, "Can we raise our children to respect others?" with a clear look at bullying in our society today, including sexual harassment. We will then take our group off-site on **April 19** to view the recent film *Wonder*, starring Julia Roberts and Owen Wilson, which is based on best-selling novel of the same name by R.J. Palacio, as our reference. On **April 26**, we will discuss the question, "What are the effects of natural disasters on the poor?" and use the recent novel by Jesmyn Ward, *Salvage the Bones*, as our reference. None of the references listed above are necessary to read for us to enjoy the wide ranging discussions which take place in the **Lehman Library on Thursday mornings from 9:30-11:00 a.m.** All are welcome. For answers to your questions, please contact Sally Brown at saldaybrown@aol.com or Forbes Warren at 860-633-3982.

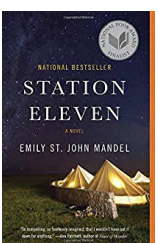


Biography Book Group

The Biography Book Group meets every other month in the Lehman Library to review a book and enjoy fellowship in an informal setting. We invite you to join us for any or all of our upcoming selections. *Portrait of an Artist* by Laurie Lisle is our selection for **May 8**, when we will discuss this biography about artist Georgia O'Keeffe. We hope you will join us at **4:00 p.m. in the Lehman Library**. Please contact Valerie Escalera at 860-633-4452 or miguel.escalera@sbcglobal.net with any questions.



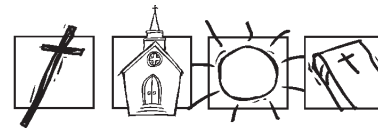
Second Sunday Book Club



The Second Sunday Book Club meets on the **second Sunday of every other month in the Lehman Library at 4:00 p.m.** to discuss a selected book as well as other great reads we are enjoying. We hope you will join us for one of our upcoming meetings this year! Our final selection for this program year will be *Station Eleven* by Emily St. John Mandel, which we will discuss on **Sunday, May 6** (note this is the first Sunday due to Mother's Day). If you have any questions, contact Amy E. Thompson at thompson.amy72@gmail.com.



Adult Opportunities



Nature Lovers Unite – Come Join Us!



Attention all nature lovers! Come join our First Church Outside group! **We meet on the third Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.** Come to our meeting on **April 17** - anyone is welcome to join! Whether you enjoy nature photography, hiking, feeding the birds, gardening or just sitting outside and taking in all that God has created, we want you! More hikes are being planned for the spring. If you have questions or want to get involved with First Church Outside, please contact Tracy Kavanaugh at lilypadprints@gmail.com or 413-250-3838.

To get on our “Hikers’ Distribution List,” or if you have questions about the hikes, please contact Bruce Munshower at bruce.munshower@gmail.com or 860-633-1408, check the new First Church Outside page on the church website under the “Fellowship” tab or click the link on the hikes when they are listed on the Home Page under “Upcoming Events.” The next hike is **April 8 at Mt. Higby in Meriden** (strenuous, 5 miles). Please meet in the church parking lot at **12:30 p.m.**



Church Photography Show – We Need Your Pictures!

But ask the animals, and they will teach you, or the birds of the air, and they will tell you; or speak to the earth, and it will teach you. In his hand is the life of every creature and the breath of all mankind. -- Job 12:7-8, 10

In celebration of the beautiful and ever changing natural world that God has given us, First Church Outside would like to invite all church members, including children, to be a part of a nature photography exhibit we are putting on at church. We would love for anyone who would like to participate to **submit an 8 x 10-inch print of your favorite nature photo** you have already taken or go out and explore the beauty of nature and take a brand new one. Please submit only one photo per person. When submitting your photo please include your name, where the photo was taken/what it’s a picture of and, if you are a child, your age. First Church Outside will be mounting all of your photos and hanging them around church for everyone’s enjoyment.

There will be a special collection box in the back lobby where photos can be **dropped through Sunday, April 8**. This will give us plenty of time to mount, label and hang all of your photographs. You will receive your photograph back after the exhibit is taken down in May. We will be kicking off the photography show with an **opening reception on Earth Day, April 22, after church** that everyone will be invited to, even if you don’t have a photo on display. Please consider submitting a photo as we would love to see what you find beautiful! Don’t worry that your photo needs to be taken with a fancy camera, camera phone photos do a great job as well. We can’t wait to see all of your photos! If you have questions, please contact Tracy Kavanaugh at lilypadprints@gmail.com or 413-250-3838.



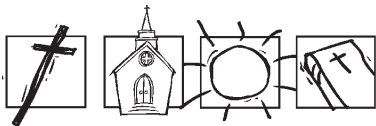
Women’s Theological Reflection Group

We invite all interested First Church women to join us on the **third Wednesday of each month** to discuss a variety of faith questions, reflect on our personal journeys and share friendship and community. In the past, we discussed prayer, healing, faith journeys, doing justice, finding quiet time, our addiction to hurrying and gratitude. We often circulate short articles of interest to those who attend, but there is no homework - the resources we share are for those who wish to learn more about the topic before we meet. We hope to see you at one of our gatherings from **8:00 to 9:00 a.m. in the Lehman Library**.

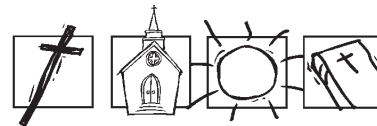
Please contact Danae Dwyer at danaedwyer@me.com or 860-967-2269 for further information.

Come Join the Latter Day Marthas

What can happen when a few women decide to sit around a table and discuss frankly their own spiritual direction? A most beautiful thing. The birth of a new community fortified by authenticity, tolerance and vulnerability. A refreshingly raw group of women, not religiously pretty, but gorgeous in their willingness to share with one another their introspective journeys. Searching has become a lesser part of our communal landscape than finding. We are all Latter Day Marthas (Martha was the sister that just didn’t get it) with one unified front – we desire movement toward God and we want to talk about that. Some of us are stumbling, some are dancing and usually it depends on the day. **You are invited to join our conversations on the second and fourth Thursdays at 5:45 p.m. in the Lehman Library**. Please contact Danae Dwyer at danaedwyer@me.com or 860-967-2269 for further information.



Adult Opportunities



Prayer and Share

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/discussions and from each other. **All are welcome to join us in the Parlor each Tuesday morning from 9:45-11:00 a.m.** Please contact Nancy Higgins at 860-573-6092 or Donna Smith at 860-633-4428 for more information.

Calling Knitters and Crocheters

Do you knit? Crochet? Enjoy fellowship and the opportunity to help and support others? If the answer is YES to any of the above, come join us! Newcomers are always welcome. The First Church Prayer Shawl Ministry will be meeting **Monday, April 16 in the Lehman Library from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.** Yarn will be provided. Bring size 11 or 13 knitting needles, or a large crochet hook. Don't know how to knit or crochet? We can teach you. Come share your knitting/crocheting and our company! Questions? Contact kathysalk@gmail.com. We now have a **Morning Prayer Shawl Group** as well. If you are interested, please contact Somni at szzmanto@gmail.com for dates and times.



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! Come anytime, a place is always set for you!

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST News

Through our connection with our denomination, the United Church of Christ, we participate in a variety of mission, outreach, fellowship and educational opportunities for young and old. Our church gives generously to the state and national settings of our beloved church, and we encourage you to look at the Connecticut Conference (<http://www.ctucc.org/>) and the national United Church of Christ (<http://www.ucc.org/>) websites.

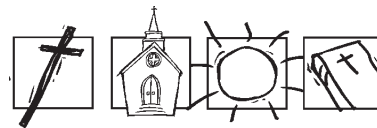
Our denomination has wonderful resources for pastors and for lay people. If you would like to start your day off with a **simple devotion**, you would go to http://www.ucc.org/feed_your_spirit and then click on "Daily Devotional." These short and meaningful words inspire many people to live faithful, justice focused and loving lives.

Catch up with old friends, make new friends, and work hard to prepare Silver Lake Conference Center for the coming summer from **Friday, April 27 to Sunday, April 29!** The **Silver Lake Spring Action Weekend** will include many activities from chopping wood to repairing buildings, moving picnic tables to raking leaves. There's a project for everyone, high schoolers through adult. For more information, email Jennifer Kronholm Clark at jennnc@ctucc.org. Please note any special skills you can contribute. There is no charge for adult volunteers to attend Action; donations to offset the cost of food are welcome.

If you are someone who is longing to make your voice heard about issues affecting the people of our country and world, learn more about how to become involved in the **Justice and Peace Action Network (JPANet)**. The JPANet both educates and engages its members in shaping public policy in keeping with God's vision of a just and loving society. Our work is grounded in General Synod resolutions, consonant with historic UCC witness and formed by a biblical understanding of prophetic ministry. These issue areas are resourced by national staff of the Justice and Witness Ministries and Wider Church Ministries, who work with local UCC advocates to shape coordinated strategy on our common witness. To learn more, visit http://www.ucc.org/join_the_network.



General Info Corner



Prayer Corner

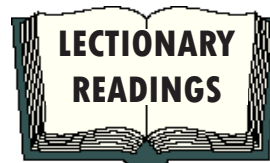
Prayers of sympathy:

Family and friends of Carol Loomis, whose mother Anne Long of Chatham, New Jersey, died on February 19.



Family and friends of Joanne Connolly, who died on February 25 at home. She was a Golden Member, having joined First Church in 1962. Over the years, she had been active in the church's sewing circle, Board of Lay Life and Ministry, Auditing Committee, and Prayer and Share. She leaves her daughters, Pamela Lundberg and Deborah Kilyanczik, and son, Mark Connolly. Her memorial service was held here on March 2 and officiated by David Taylor.

Family and friends of Katie Sevigny, who died on March 19. She was the mother of Jack and Megan Sevigny, daughter of Mick Gifford, and sister of Michael Gifford and Lisa McGill.



April 1, 2018 - Easter

Resurrection of the Lord

Acts 10:34-43 or Isaiah 25:6-9; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24;
1 Corinthians 15:1-11 or Acts 10:34-43;
John 20:1-18 or Mark 16:1-8

April 8, 2018 - Second Sunday of Easter

Acts 4:32-35; Psalm 133;

1 John 1:1-2:2; John 20:19-31

April 15, 2018 - Third Sunday of Easter

Acts 3:12-19; Psalm 4;

1 John 3:1-7; Luke 24:36b-48

April 22, 2018 - Fourth Sunday of Easter

Acts 4:5-12; Psalm 23;

1 John 3:16-24; John 10:11-18

April 29, 2018 - Fifth Sunday of Easter

Acts 8:26-40; Psalm 22:25-31;

1 John 4:7-21; John 15:1-8

Altar Flowers Requested



Church members are invited to provide flower arrangements for the altar in memory of, in celebration of, or in honor of people, events or accomplishments. If you are interested, please contact Susan Bonitsky at 860-633-7128 or email kowsz@juno.com.

IN CASE OF HOSPITALIZATION:

Hospitals can't release information to us, so if you or a loved one is hospitalized and would like a visit, please make note of the following. For Hartford Hospital, inform them that you are from First Church of Christ, Congregational in Glastonbury. For St. Francis Hospital, inform them of Code 17 for First Church. In addition, if you would like the Church to know of any upcoming hospitalization, please give the church office a call at 860-633-4641 to inform the pastoral staff.

Thanks for Observing Our Driveway Fire Lanes!

As we are in the midst of another program year with lots of activities and events at the church, we offer this gentle reminder to observe the "No Parking – Fire Lane" signs in our church driveway. Cars should not be left parked, unattended, in these "No Parking" areas. With cars sometimes parked in the "Limited Mobility" area of the driveway, fire trucks and other emergency vehicles would have difficulty responding if our driveway has cars parked on both sides. In addition, there is a safety concern, especially for children who might be running out from behind cars as other cars are entering and leaving our church property. Thanks for helping to make our church a safe place for all!

First Church Online – Podcasts and Facebook!

Each Sunday we gather as the body of Christ to be together in community and to listen, sing, pray, share and be inspired to go out into the world in love. If you miss a Sunday, you can still listen to the sermon online. Go to <http://firstchurchglastonbury.podbean.com/>. And did you know that we have a church Facebook page where you can hear about upcoming events, see pictures from activities and stay up to date with what's going on? Find us on Facebook, and "like" us!





New Members



Sunday, March 18, was a very exciting day in the life of our church! The Church Growth and Membership Committee would like to join our entire congregation in welcoming all of our newest members, listed below.



Mary D'Anna (18 Willieb Street, Apt. 2, Glastonbury, 908-809-3310) Mary relocated to Glastonbury from Bedminster, NJ in 2017. She has four daughters and five grandchildren. Her youngest daughter lives in Glastonbury. Mary's interests include knitting, needlepoint, cooking and childcare. She is also very interested in mission work. She was very active in her former church as a deacon, coordinator of the Interfaith Hospitality Network, coordinator of the Ships Galley soup kitchen, the Prayer Shawl Ministry and chair of the Mission Committee.

Lauren and Joe Guiditta (121 Boulder Circle, Glastonbury, 860-805-7833) Lauren and Joe have been worshipping with us since 2017 with their children, Simone (6) and Jack (3). Lauren is a stay-at-home mom whose interests include interior design, cooking and organization projects. She was active in her former church as a Sunday School teacher and as secretary on the vestry. Joe is a human resources director for Travelers Insurance. He enjoys baking, cooking and brewing beer. He also has an interest and skill in technology.



Robert (Bob) Henderson (201 Brookside Court, Manchester, 860-432-5952) Bob was born and raised in Glastonbury. The worship style here at First Church is what drew Bob to join. He is a college administrator at Manchester Community College.

Emma McCandless and Karen Prager (246 Valley View Road, Manchester, 814-657-1967 - Emma and 860-549-2197 - Karen) Emma and Karen, along with their children, Teddy (5) and Eli (1 1/2) Prager-McCandless, were attracted to First Church by our worship and preaching style as well as our Music Ministry and Children's Ministry. Emma works for the Achievement Network (ANet) and in her free time she enjoys books and movies, history and education issues. Karen is an administrator for Achievement First Hartford High School. She enjoys birding in her spare time.



Kitai (Ki) Pae (11 Willow Green Way, Glastonbury, 860-633-8316) Kitai is a native of South Korea. He was drawn to First Church by our pastors' preaching and by the warm fellowship he experiences here. Formerly a professor at Central Connecticut State University, Ki is now enjoying retired life.

THE FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONGREGATIONAL
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CHURCH OFFICE 860-633-4641

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March Madness: Confirmation Class & Service Day, Lenten Supper, Youth Fellowship, Serving with Hands on Hartford, First Church Outside Hiking Group, and Potpourri