



The REMINDER

First Church of Christ, Congregational, Glastonbury, Connecticut

Member of United Church of Christ

An open, welcoming and affirming congregation

April 2017

Dear Friends,

In my younger years, a few centuries ago, when I was in high school, I was pretty fast. Pretty fast on my feet, that is. I ran track – indoor and outdoor. Short distances and hurdles were my specialties. I undoubtedly obtained that quickness from being the youngest of four, and having to master the art of getting away from my older siblings when I undeniably annoyed them. Can you imagine that??!???

The apostle Paul said, *“Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses...let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.”*

Well, in looking at the upcoming months of April and May here at First Church, we will not only need speed, but also endurance, as we run the race that has been set before us. There are so many exciting, meaningful, significant and **faithful** opportunities to follow Jesus the pioneer in sharing God’s love with one another and with our neighbors in the world!

As you look inside this issue of **The Reminder** – the month of April is simply **NOT** the “cruellest month” (sorry, T.S. Eliot!), but rather, it is a month **filled** with **mission and hope, learning and fellowship, caring and joy, music and praying, serving and doing!!**

With speed **AND** endurance, together let us run the race of love and compassion that God and Jesus have set before us!!

Faithfully,

One Great Hour to Share!

In worship recently, these words were sung,

*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 between the ecumenical development and relief program, **One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS)**, 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. Through their mission work in the Hartford area, projects have been accomplished, real need has been addressed, and lifetime friendships have been forged!

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, *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*
- Elizabeth Gleich, *Director of Children and Youth Ministries*
elizabeth@glastonburyfirst.org, ext. 113
- Wes Grove, *Facilities Manager*
facilities@glastonburyfirst.org, ext. 121
- Peggy Hartman, *Director of Handbell Program and Childrens' Choirs*

THE REMINDER submission deadline:
Monday, April 10: May 2017 issue

A Beautiful Love – A Lenten Supper Hartford Food System

Wednesday, March 29, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

A Time of Faith, Fellowship and Food

While Foodshare is perhaps the most well-known of our area's organizations fighting food insecurity, Hartford Food System is another critical component in the effort to reverse the systemic causes of hunger. Founded in 1978, Hartford Food System is dedicated to finding long-term solutions for access to affordable and healthy food in the city of Hartford. To help make this happen, they implement programs that improve access to nutritious and affordable food, help consumers make informed food choices, advocate for a robust and economically sound food system, and promote responsible food policies at all levels of government. To hear more about these critical programs, come and hear from Hartford Food System Executive Director Martha Page and Director of Development Elaine Robedee! The Board of Christian Service will host a simple meal of soup and bread. Please call the church office, 860-633-4641, to sign up.

Stewardship Update – Thank You!

Just a short note of heartfelt and joyful thanks from your Stewardship Committee. Our pledge goal was \$750,000 and the current 2017 Stewardship campaign total is **\$751,872!**



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 at rebeccafleahman@glastonburyfirst.org or 860-633-4641, ext 122) and we are so thankful for your continued support of First Church!

Prospective Member Gathering April 2



The Church Growth and Membership Committee cordially invites those persons who have worshipped here and would like to make First Church their church home to attend the next prospective member gathering **on Sunday, April 2, at 11:30 a.m.** At that time, church leaders will greet you and tell you about the many wonderful programs and ministries of our congregation. Please consider becoming part of our church family and sharing more fully in our life together. **Prospective members are then asked to attend a second session on Sunday, April 9, 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 can share about their own religious upbringing. **New members will join on Sunday, April 30, 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 April 2. 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.

Lent, Holy Week and Easter Services and our Season of Celebration

March 26 *A Beautiful Love...for Neighbor (ONE service at 10:00 a.m.)*
Kate VanDerzee-Glidden and David Taylor preaching; *Spark!* Band and Chancel Choir
First Church will celebrate a beautiful love for our neighbors during this blended service.

April 2 *A Beautiful Love...for the Church* – David Taylor preaching,
Commission youth mission trippers (10:00 a.m.)
8:00 and 10:00 a.m. Wayne Rivera, soloist; **10:00 a.m.** Cantabile and Chancel Choirs



April 9 *Palm and Passion Sunday*
8:00 a.m. Ginger Kousen, soprano; **10:00 a.m.** Cantate, Cantabile and Chancel Choirs
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."



April 13 *Maundy Thursday*
12:15 p.m. *Meal of the Upper Room*, Ginger Kousen, soprano
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. 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 16 *Easter Sunday*
6:30 a.m. *Outdoor Sunrise Service*
9:00 a.m. Jubilate Ringers, Cherub and Chancel Choirs
11:00 a.m. Cantate and Cantabile Choirs, Mallet Ringers and Chancel Choir
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. Kate VanDerzee Glidden will preach. Childcare and coloring sheets will be available.



April 23 Confirmands leading worship
8:00 and 10:00 a.m. Music Scholarship Winners
4:30 p.m. *Spark!* Service

April 30 David Taylor preaching, new members join, Gold and Silver Members Brunch
8:00 a.m. Stanley Battle, baritone; **10:00 a.m.** Puppet Troupe and Chancel Choir

On May 7, 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 7 *Justice Sunday* – Youth mission trippers leading service; **Music:** Chancel Choir

May 14 *Music Celebration Sunday* – **The Book of Godspell: Lessons and Music;** Chancel, Cantate and Cantabile Choirs and Jubilate Ringers

May 21 *Confirmation Sunday;* **Music:** Cherub and Chancel Choirs

May 28 *Memorial Day;* **Music:** Chancel Choir

June 4 *High School Senior Celebration Sunday;* **Music:** Caroler and Chancel Choirs

June 11 *Children's Celebration Sunday;* **Music:** Puppet Troupe, Cherub Choir



Building a Legacy



Micah House and Chapel Update

Whether you are visiting church or attending a Sunday worship service, it's impossible to take your eyes off the Hale House! The Building Committee recently completed the interior demolition work and has moved towards working on the outside. In the near future, the wood clapboard siding and windows

will be removed by self-help crews. A full building permit will soon be issued and a large trailer and dumpster are now located on the property. The goal remains to hand the building over to contractor George Fay in early April so he can begin the renovation and construction. THANK YOU for supporting this transformational mission project!



“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



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.

Al Abas Family Update

Since First Church began hosting the Al Abas family of Syrian refugees last July, the family has happily embraced life in Glastonbury. The five children, ages 8 through 19 are all doing well in the town's schools, mother, Ezdehar, a great cook, is developing a career in cooking/catering, and Walid and Mohammad are helping with expenses working part-time at Max Amore. The family loves Glastonbury but now fears they may not be able to stay here with Zeyad, the father, unable to find full-time employment. In Syria, Zeyad worked in construction, including operating a business constructing formwork for concrete foundations. His experience includes carpentry and painting. Zeyad's English is improving but not yet fluent. He will soon have a driver's license. The Next Street Driving School generously donated Safe Driving classroom instruction that Zeyad needs to obtain his driver's license. Once Zeyad has his license, he can use the car generously donated for transportation. Until then, Zeyad can get to work with help from First Church volunteers.

Our refugee volunteers have been assisting with the job search, but we're hoping to find some good leads from the wider First Church community. If you have ideas that may lead to an opportunity for employment, please contact Paul Fraleigh (860-643-1571, paul@fraleigh-gray.com) or John Dugan (860-989-9430, jdugan1967@gmail.com).

Walk Against Hunger May 7

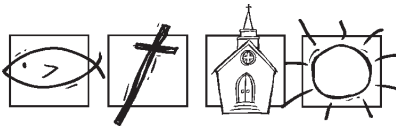


Foodshare's 34th Annual Walk Against Hunger on **May 7** is the region's largest antihunger event raising funds and awareness to fight hunger. It will be held at Liam E. McGee Memorial Park, 140 Garden Street, Hartford. **Check-in is at 12:30 p.m. and the walk steps off at 2:00 p.m.** FREE Parking at 690 Asylum Avenue. Bring along your friends and family and be a part of this event.

Serving Lunch April 24

On **Monday, April 24**, we will provide the food and servers for this lunch meal at Center City Church. Please sign up during coffee hour or contact Suzanne Schwartz at 860-430-1350 or stonehill126@gmail.com.





Christian Service



Foodshare Volunteer Opportunity – We Need You!

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.



Here at First Church, we have the Mobile Foodshare truck come to our back parking lot every other Wednesday. Now we have a new opportunity to go to the Foodshare Regional Market in Hartford on **alternating Wednesday mornings (April 5 and 19) from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m.** to help sort and package the produce so it all gets given out to our neighbors. **People gather in the church parking lot at 8:00 a.m. to drive in together.** If you are interested in learning more, please contact First Church member Jim Hartung at ctsdncmnfolk@gmail.com or 860-430-2123.

Rummage Sale April 21-22

Save the date! Our spring rummage sale is coming up on **April 21 and 22**. We are looking for donations, so while you’re doing your spring cleaning, please be sure



Save Your Items for Our Rummage Sale

to save items for our sale. We can use clothing, household items and small furniture (no sofas). For more information, to volunteer, or if you have items that need to be stored now, please contact Nancy Higgins (nnhigg@att.net or 860-633-6604) or Suzanne Schwartz (stonehill126@gmail.com or 860-430-1350). Thanks!

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 April, we’re asking for contributions of **tuna, pasta sauce, cereal** and other items people are willing to donate. Please bring food that is not expired or open. Thank you!



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 12 and 26)** 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.

Our “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 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. To find out 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.



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 will be accompanied by a slide show and stories of her family's four year journey from Syria to a refugee camp in Jordan, and finally to Glastonbury in July 2016, when our church sponsored them. The dinner is **Sunday night, April 30 at 6:00 p.m. in Schultz Hall**. Ezdehar's first three dinners have sold out, and people have been delighted with the experience.

The cost of this delicious feast and cultural experience is \$25 per person. Please make out your check to "First Church of Christ," with "Syrian Dinner" in the memo section. Please note this covers the cost of the meal and the presentation and is not tax deductible. Spread the word to your friends in the First Church community and join us for this special evening! Seating limited to 25, so **RSVP to Lisa Hurley at lisahurley@snet.net or Danae Dwyer at danaedwyer@me.com or 860-967-2269 by Wednesday, April 26**. Payments should be given directly to Danae or Lisa.

Carol's Closet Collection

The Board of Christian Service (BCS) needs your assistance. Several churches, including First Church of Christ, help St. James Church with "Carol's Closet." The Closet collects nonperishable paper products and other items for folks in need. **There will be a collection box in the back lobby April 1-12**. If you have questions, please contact Amy Grove at ajacksongrove@cox.net. Thank you!

The Board of Christian Service would like your help collecting the following items:

- adult incontinence pads (men's and women's)
- toothbrushes (soft brushes)
- bars of soap (unscented preferred)
- shampoo (11 oz. to 12.5 oz. sized bottles preferred)
- toilet tissue (preferably the 4-pack). If purchasing packages larger than the four-pack, we request that they be individually wrapped.
- deodorant
- toothpaste
- paper towels



Serving Together at Family Mission Immersion Day April 29



Come one, come all, to share God's love in the world! Spend a few hours on **Saturday, April 29** volunteering your time to help others. We will have four sites – making soup, cards and cookies for our parishioners who could use a little cheer; working in the soup kitchen and thrift store at Manchester Area Conference of Churches; serving lunch at St. Vincent DePaul soup kitchen in Middletown and working on fixing up a house in Hartford through Rebuilding Together Hartford (RTH). Please read below about a wonderful opportunity to be a part of our RTH team.

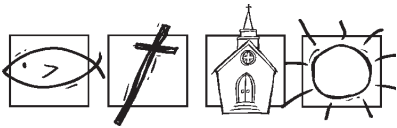
For more information about this Mission Immersion Day or to sign up, go to the table during coffee hour or contact Tina Sparrow at tsparrow21@gmail.com or 860-430-9484.

April 29 Mission Day with Rebuilding Together Hartford

For the 5th year in a row, on National Rebuilding Day a team from First Church will work on homes in Hartford. This year our team will work side-by-side with over 500 other volunteers who together will repair more than 20 homes on five blocks in the northeast section of Hartford. **First Church is taking on a home, so there is plenty to do and we need your help!** Our work will help the homeowners stay in their home by making it safer and more energy efficient.

Join our team for a free lunch, a t-shirt, your photo with the homeowners, new friends and a lot of fun – ask any of the past volunteers. The work scope includes carpentry, plumbing, electrical, roofing, yard work, trash removal and more. Everyone can do something, so don't think for a moment that you can't – bring your enthusiasm and we will put you to work. More details will follow about how to register on the Rebuilding Together website, but our work crew number is limited so reserve your spot now by contacting Dave Liscinsky at david.liscinsky@cox.net or 860-816-3708, Bruce Fleahman at bfleahman@yahoo.com or call the Church office at 860-633-4641.





Music Ministry



2017 Music Scholarships

First Church is pleased to offer music scholarships of up to \$1,000 to student musicians in the First Church family or the Glastonbury community to defray the cost of private lessons. The selection process will focus on an applicant's interest in classical music, especially music appropriate for sacred settings. Through these scholarships, the Board of Music seeks to encourage the appreciation and performance of church music through formal education and to foster church musicians, both professionals and lay volunteers. Applications are now available in the church office, the choir room, and on our website, <http://www.glastonburyfirst.org>. **Applications and personal statements must be received at the church office by noon on Tuesday, May 9, 2017**, addressed to The Music Scholarship Committee, First Church of Christ, Congregational, 2183 Main Street, Glastonbury, CT 06033, or emailed to kathyc@glastonburyfirst.org. Questions should be directed to Bruce Munshower, Chair of the Music Scholarship Committee, at bruce.munshower@gmail.com.

Music at the Meetinghouse Presents...

MERRIMACK VALLEY RINGERS



Ring into Spring Concert!

**Saturday, April 29, 2017
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

Choir Camp for Cantate, Cantabile and Mallets Choirs, August 20-23



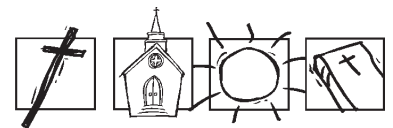
The Cantate, Cantabile and Mallets Choirs will attend Choir Camp 2017 from **August 20-23**, to be held at Silver Lake Conference Center in Sharon, CT. Located in scenic Litchfield County near the northwest corner of the state, this camp offers a fabulous week with an amazing lake and lots of extracurricular 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 are available on the church website, as well as in the church office and choir room. Please contact Angela Salcedo (angelasalcedo@glastonburyfirst.org) if you are interested in chaperoning.

Thanks for Your Support!

The Board of Music thanks everyone who supported our 2017 Choir Camp fundraiser by ordering Easter candy through the Munson's candy sale!



Children's Ministries



Vacation Bible School: July 31 - August 4



Save the dates for VBS: **July 31-August 4**. The theme this year is *Hero Central*. Get ready for an action-packed 5-day super hero training camp where kids discover their strength in God! Grab your cape and get ready to fly with epic music, spectacular science, crafty crafts, heroic recreation, and fantastic Bible stories! You can register online at <http://www.glastonburyfirst.org/vacation-bible-school> or contact Elizabeth at elizabeth@glastonburyfirst.org.



Church School Unit 7: "Symbols of Holy Week"

Bible Story References: Matthew 21:1-17, 26-27; Mark 11:1-11, 14-15; Luke 19:28-40, 22-23; John 12:12-19, 13-19

Bible Verse: *Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.* (Luke 23:34a)

Main Idea: Using symbols can help double children's learning potential as they engage different areas of the brain by both seeing and hearing Bible stories. The symbols used to tell the story of Holy Week will help children comprehend and tell others the story of the last days of Jesus' life.



Objectives: Children will use the symbols of Holy Week to:

- Learn the events of Holy Week;
- Recognize the stories related to the events of Holy Week;
- Create a way to share the story of Holy Week with others through symbols;
- Review the four Gospel accounts of Holy Week and compare the symbols used.

	<u>Sunday 4/2</u>	<u>Sunday 4/9</u>	<u>Sunday 4/16</u>	<u>Sunday 4/23</u>	<u>Sunday 4/30</u>
<u>K & 1st grade</u>	Art Room 103 Alison Couture	Games Room 110 Michael Couture	EASTER Remain in service	Storytelling Room 111 Victor Grin	Cooking Room 205 Jessica Bean
<u>2nd grade</u>	Cooking Room 205 Jessica Bean	Art Room 103 Alison Couture	EASTER Remain in service	Games Room 110 Michael Couture	Storytelling Room 111 Victor Grin
<u>3rd grade</u>	Cooking Room 205 Jessica Bean	Art Room 103 Alison Couture	EASTER Remain in service	Games Room 110 Michael Couture	Storytelling Room 111 Victor Grin
<u>4th grade</u>	Storytelling Room 111 Karen Simmons	Remain in Service	EASTER Remain in service	Art Room 103 Alison Couture	Games Room 110 Michael Couture
<u>5th grade</u>	Storytelling Room 111 Karen Simmons	Remain in Service	EASTER Remain in service	Art Room 103 Alison Couture	Games Room 110 Michael Couture

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!

Bloomfield Backpack Project



In partnership with Foodshare and other local churches, we will be providing backpacks filled with 11 pounds of nonperishable food to 100 Bloomfield children in need. **On the second Thursday of every month from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m.**, we send groups of kids and adults to pack the backpacks for the children. All are welcome at this meaningful mission opportunity! Contact Meredith Krauss at meredana@aol.com for more information or feel free to sign up on the poster outside of the Christian Education office. Remaining dates are **April 13, May 11 and June 8.**



Please note that the monies collected in the envelopes with this logo are used to support the Church School's Mission Project. We ask that you consider having your child give \$1 each week to help other children who are desperately in need. Thank you.



Children's Ministries



One Great HOUR OF SHARING

On April 9, we will collect donations for One Great Hour of Sharing during worship. In Church School, children were given banks to take home to collect donations beginning March 5, and these banks will be used to help collect donations from church members during worship on April 9. 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, April 9

OGHS Collection, 4th grade and up stay in the service

Thursday, April 13: Bloomfield Backpack Project

Sunday, April 16

Easter: No Church School, coloring sheets will be available

Sunday, April 30

Teacher Talk and Tea; Puppet Troupe performs in worship




A Journey Through Holy Week

Lenten Family Workshop

Sunday, April 2

3:00 - 5:00 p.m.

The CE Board warmly welcomes EVERYONE to come explore the events of Holy Week. The journey begins in the Meetinghouse, where we will learn about and celebrate Palm Sunday.

Our journey continues through hands-on activities:

- The Last Supper - sample a seder meal
- The Garden - prayer using a labyrinth
- Betrayal - experience through a game
- Crucifixion - learn through art
- Empty tomb

Come join us for an afternoon of fun and faith, to learn about the meaning of Lent and Easter! All ages are welcome!



Hope to see you there!



Church School Mission Project: School Safe Zones



What do you expect to find at your children's school building? A roof? Classrooms? Bathrooms? Clean water flowing from faucets? Drinking fountains? Teachers? We would never dream of sending our children to a school without a solid building structure, plumbing and electricity. But this is the reality for many students worldwide, including in East Africa. Schools are the bedrock of a community's health, well-being and future. A vibrant learning environment requires infrastructure, supplies and dedicated teachers.

This year's Church School Mission Project is School Safe Zones through Church World Service. Through the School Safe Zones program, we will be helping to revitalize a school in East Africa. Our goal is raise \$10,000 for this special project. Here are just a few examples of how we can help!



\$100 = a bunk bed in the dormitory



\$600 = a latrine for improved sanitation

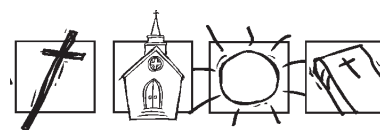


\$1,500 = a catchment system for clean water

Money collected from children's offerings, bake sales and your donations and memorial gifts all go to help create a safer school for children in Africa. If you would like to make a contribution to this special project, please make your check payable to "First Church of Christ," with "School Safe Zones" in the memo line. **Get your Easter presents early—stop by the table during coffee hour on April 2 and 9 to purchase crafts and honey in support of School Safe Zones!** Thank you for your continued support and for responding to God's call to share love near and far!



Youth Ministry



IMPORTANT YOUTH MISSION TRIP DATES!

The Senior High Fellowship will head down to Biloxi, MS, from **April 9-15** 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 26: Mission Focused SHF, 6:00-8:00 p.m., *final payments due!*

Sunday, April 2: Mission Trip Commissioning, 10:00 a.m. worship!

Saturday, April 8: Mission Trip kick-off dinner

April 9-15: Mission Trip departure and return

May 7: Mission Trippers lead worship

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 Biloxi, MS in April! **Please visit the Youth Table through April 2 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!

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 2: Regular Session

***Sunday, April 9 – April 15:** Mission Trip to Biloxi!

***Sunday, April 16:** Easter, no SHF

Sunday, April 23: Regular Session

Sunday, April 30: 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*

***Monday, April 3:** Regular Session

***Saturday, April 15:** Pancake Breakfast

Monday, April 24: Regular Session

CONFIRMATION CLASS

Our regular class sessions will be Sundays from 4:30-6:00 p.m. in the Youth Room. **Denotes Special Time*

***Sunday, March 26:** Mentor Session #2 (4:00-6:00 p.m.)

***Sunday, April 2:** Regular Class Session (4:00-6:00 p.m.)

***Thursday, April 13:** Service of Tenebrae (7:30 p.m. in the Meetinghouse)

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

***Sunday, April 23:** Confirmation Class leads worship

PANCAKE BREAKFAST & EGG HUNT, SATURDAY, APRIL 15



“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 Brenda Gottschalk 860-930-9506 or mbgottschalk@cox.net. Thanks!



INSPIRATIONAL GREETING CARDS AVAILABLE TO SUPPORT YOUTH MISSION TRIP: \$1 EACH

Each year our youth create a thematic image that reflects our program year. Individual cards are available for \$1 (or you can purchase sets of 10) by contacting Elizabeth Gleich at elizabeth@glastonburyfirst.org.



Youth Ministry



SUMMER MISSION CAMP

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 2017 are **Thursday, June 22, to Thursday, June 29. Registration forms, due May 1,** are at headsuphartford.org.

ARE YOU READY FOR CAMP AT SILVER LAKE?!?!

Many First Church youth have experienced the wonders and fun of Silver Lake Summer Camp, a conference center run by the CT Conference of the UCC in Sharon, CT. Come and enjoy God's Backyard this summer, with various camps for youth in grades 4-12. If you're unsure or need convincing, talk to Elizabeth or ask any of the youth who have gone before. **Dates are available June 18 through August 12.**

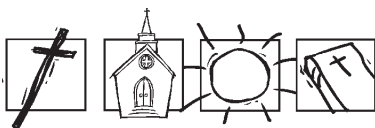
SCHOLARSHIP AVAILABLE

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.

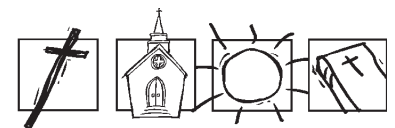


SHF RETREAT, MAY 26 – 28

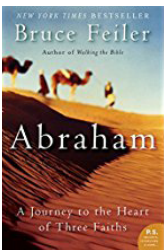
All students in grades 9 – 12 are invited to attend this fabulous, fun and faithful weekend on the Cape. Permission forms will be available soon on the church website. Stay tuned for more information.



Adult Opportunities



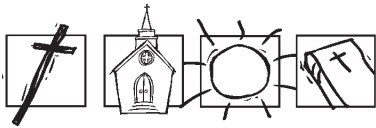
Thursday Morning Study Group



The planned study of plans for reformatory justice using The Reverend Gordon Bates' recently published *The Connecticut Prison Association and the Search for Reformatory Justice* has been **postponed until September 14 and 21** so that members can read the book completely over the summer instead of selected passages. In April, the group will continue the concerted look at those things common with Christianity, Islam, and Judaism on **April 6**. This study uses author Bruce Feiler's popular book, *Abraham: A Journey to the Heart of Three Faiths*, as a study guide. The Easter week recess takes us to **April 20**, when Pastor Taylor will sponsor a **four-week program titled *Love Those Landscapes!***, using various artworks located in Connecticut museums and beyond as a suggested guide. This will carry us **through Thursday, May 11**. All are welcome. The Thursday Morning Study Group gathers in the **Lehman Library at 9:30 a.m. on most Thursdays**. Please contact Sally Brown via email at saldaybrown@aol.com for more 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 (April 13 and 27) at 5:45 p.m. in the Lehman Library.** Please contact Danae Dwyer at danaedwyer@me.com or 860-967-2269 for further information.

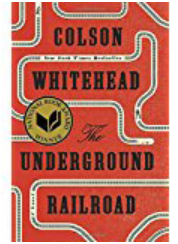


Adult Opportunities

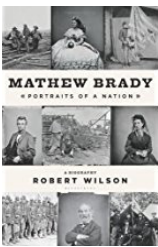


Second Sunday Book Club

The Second Sunday Book Club's May selection is *Underground Railroad* by Colson Whitehead. "Like the protagonist of Gulliver's Travels, Cora, a slave, encounters different worlds at each stage of her journey—hers is an odyssey through time as well as space. As Whitehead brilliantly re-creates the unique terrors for black people in the pre-Civil War era, his narrative seamlessly weaves the saga of America from the brutal importation of Africans to the unfulfilled promises of the present day" (Amazon.com). We will meet in **Lehman Library on Sunday, May 7 at 4:00 p.m.** to discuss this and other great reads. If you have any questions, contact Amy E. Thompson at thompson.amy72@gmail.com.



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 any of our upcoming selections. The May selection is *Mathew Brady: Portraits of a Nation* by Robert Wilson. "In the 1840s and 1850s, 'Brady of Broadway' was one of the most successful and acclaimed Manhattan portrait galleries with many photographs of dignitaries. But it was during the Civil War that he became the founding father of what is now called photojournalism and his photography became an enduring part of American history. The Civil War was the first war in history to leave a detailed photographic record, and Mathew Brady was the war's chief visual historian.

Mathew Brady will be the biography of an American legend--a businessman, an accomplished and innovative technician, a suave promoter, a celebrated portrait artist, and, perhaps most important, a historian who chronicled America during its finest and gravest moments of the 19th century" (Amazon.com). **We will meet on Tuesday, May 9, at 4:00 p.m. in the Lehman Library** to enjoy a discussion of this biography. Call or email Valerie Escalera at 860-633-4452 or miguel.escalera@sbcglobal.net with any questions.

Women's Theological Reflection Group

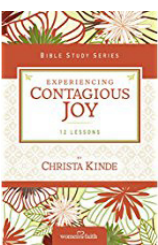
We invite all interested First Church women to join us on the **third Wednesday of each month** to discuss a variety of faith questions, reflect on our personal journeys and share friendship and community. In the past, we discussed prayer, healing, faith journeys, doing justice, finding quiet time, our 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**. We will meet throughout the summer. Please contact Danae Dwyer at danaedwyer@me.com or 860-967-2269 for further information.

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!



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. Yearning for a more joyful outlook on life? We are discussing Christa Kinde's book from the Women of Faith Study Guide Series, *Contagious Joy*. In this study, we will take a careful look at this uniquely Christian characteristic of joy. Joy is our strength and our song. And although joy isn't exactly the same as happiness or glee, it leads conveniently into them. **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 and to reserve your copy of the book.



Caring Ministry



Calling Knitters and Crocheters!



Knitters and crocheters will gather on **Monday, April 17, from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. in the Lehman Library.** For years, our prayer shawl ministry has enhanced the life of our First Church community. The group gathers monthly for fellowship, inspiration and a time to knit. If you cannot attend meetings, we would still welcome the donation of your shawls. Patterns and needles can be provided by our group. As always, newcomers are always welcome. 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, please contact Judy Burr at jaburr@cox.net or 860-643-9368. All 2017 meetings except the June meeting are planned for the third Monday of the month as follows: **May 15 and June 12.**



General Info Corner



Prayer Corner



Prayers of joy for:

The birth of Charlotte Marie Sullivan on February 16. Charlotte is the daughter of Katelyn (Billings) and Rob Sullivan. Our congratulations and best wishes to Katelyn and Rob.

Prayers of healing and wholeness for:

Barbara Harding Audrey Hernandez
Lois Harwick Chris Hernandez

Prayers of sympathy for:

Family and friends of Jill and Brian O'Connor on the death of Jill's mother, Joan Thompson, on February 28.

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 call the church office at 860-633-4641 to inform the pastoral staff.

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

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!

Missing Black Wool Winter Coat

Before you put your men's black winter coat away, please check the label! A men's dress black wool above-the-knee coat with a Canadian brand name and leather gloves in the pocket has been missing since Christmas Eve. Please contact the church office at 860-633-4641 if you accidentally took this coat home instead of yours. There are still two coats hanging up in the narthex. Please stop by the office if you are missing a men's gray herringbone or black coat.

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.

THE FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONGREGATIONAL
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CHURCH OFFICE 860-633-4641 FAITHLINE 860-633-4116

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March Madness: Confirmation class service day, David's birthday, Foodshare Regional Market volunteers, and youth activities!