



The REMINDER

First Church of Christ, Congregational, Glastonbury, Connecticut

Member of United Church of Christ

An open, welcoming and affirming congregation

August 2016

Dear Friends,

*It doesn't have to be
the blue iris, it could be
weeds in a vacant lot, or a few
small stones; just
pay attention, then patch
a few words together and don't try
to make them elaborate, this isn't
a contest but the doorway
into thanks, and a silence in which
another voice may speak.*

I love this poem of Mary Oliver.

Peaches. This photo that I took last August would probably not be quite as easy to capture this year, this August. Did you read/hear how that horrific cold snap over February's Valentine's Day weekend nearly wiped out Connecticut's entire peach crop for this year?? A killing freeze destroyed upwards of 90% of this year's potential harvest. *(Take a look at this picture online at the electronic version of this Reminder – aren't the colors and textures simply AMAZING?? Can't you almost taste a sweet and juicy peach??)*



The doorway to thanks. The voices of some of our children and youth singing at a New Britain Bees baseball game, then enjoying a carousel ride at the summertime ball park, then eating nachos, and fried dough – and enjoying the joy, the laughter, the care, the over-used-but-still-appropriate word “fellowship” of a beloved family called, “First Church.” *Fellowship???* Brown bag lunches, Sunday morning **Spark!** service, Wednesday morning friends at Mobile Foodshare, meetings to plan for the arrival of people looking for safety, for hope, for a future...for their children...and indeed for the world.

A silence in which another voice may speak. Perhaps that voice is the voice of God?? Is God saying, “It doesn't have to be an iris?” Can beauty be seen every day in the lives of the members of First Church??...I think all of you know how much I love gardening, and the unbelievable and eye-stunning variety and beauty I see in flowers (“*How did you do that, God, our Creator?? You must have had oodles of fun creating this world of colorful birds, butterflies and flowers!!!*”) This summer, I can hear the voice of God as people gather **to give out food, loiter in our Meetinghouse with friends, sign-up to take a meal to a church member, bring in school supplies for children in Glastonbury (and wherever else!!), immediately respond to the Google-link for furnishings for the Al Abas family, gather weekly in prayer to pray for the world, stop and listen as someone answers your question “How are you?” with tears streaming from their face.**

This isn't a contest but the doorway into thanks. Summertime. August. Everyday. A time to stop, notice peaches, an iris and perhaps even a weed in a vacant lot. Each of them may be that doorway to thanks – that doorway to the voice of God. A time to see in our neighbors' eyes – hopes, dreams, joys, sorrows, yearnings, aches, care, compassion and love.

Summertime is a time to stop, notice, give thanks, hold, care and love – love God, and one another, our neighbor, and God's precious, fragile and beautiful world!

Wishing you and those you love a wonderful month of August,



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 Service at 9:00 a.m.

Church School: 9:15 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*
- Wes Grove, *Facilities Manager*
facilities@glastonburyfirst.org, ext. 121
- Peggy Hartman, *Director of Handbell Program and Childrens' Choirs*
- Andrew Wicks, *Interim Director of Children and Youth Ministries*
youth@glastonburyfirst.org, ext. 113

THE REMINDER submission deadline:
Wednesday, August 10: September 2016 issue

Welcome to Elizabeth!

We are thrilled to announce our new Director of Children and Youth Ministries, Elizabeth Gleich, who will join us **effective September 1, 2016!** The Search Committee was struck by the unique combination of skills, personality and experience Elizabeth will bring to First Church. We found her to be thoughtful, curious, engaging, creative, compassionate, confident, centered and calm — someone who will be a strong addition to our pastoral staff and a capable leader for our children and youth.

In order for the congregation to get to know Elizabeth, we asked her a few questions.



Family: I have a mom and a dad, and two sisters, Mary (28) and Anne (21). I'm the middle child! All of them currently live in Minnesota.

Hometown: Hastings, MN.

Hobbies and hidden talents: I LOVE to garden, ride my bike, read, and go camping. My hidden talent? I've played the trumpet for the past 14 years (since 4th grade).

Schools attended: I attended high school in St.

Paul, MN. Then I went to the College of St. Benedict in central MN, and then Yale Divinity School in New Haven, CT. For the past year I've been in NYC doing a year of hospital chaplaincy training at New York-Presbyterian Hospital.

What never fails to make you laugh: Funny YouTube videos. Also, my little sister, Anne.

Biggest challenge you've overcome: I spent four months in India during my junior year of college - that was a challenge! I think studying abroad anywhere is difficult, but living in India was particularly difficult for me. It is an amazing place, but it was so different than where I had ever lived.

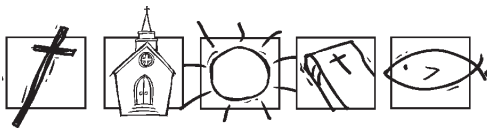
Favorite way to relax: I like taking long walks. Also, Netflix.

Your hero: My favorite professor at my college at St. Ben's, Anna Mercedes. She's the one who first taught me about feminist theology.

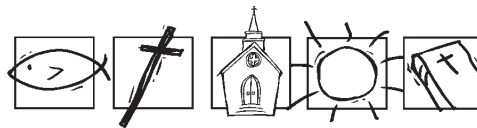
Favorite movie: *Keeping the Faith* or *Drop Dead Gorgeous*.

What you are most thankful for: For life! Also for my fiancé, Elliott.

Favorite vacation spot: Any lake anywhere (particularly in MN or ME).



Worship



Fall Worship Schedule

On **September 11**, Homecoming Sunday, we will once again welcome the Hot Cat Jazz Band for our annual festival service of celebration and homecoming picnic. We will have **one service at 10:00 a.m.**

Then, on **Sunday, September 18**, our regular **Sunday morning schedule will begin, with two worship services, at 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.** The 8:00 a.m. service will be 45 minutes long, and it will be a more intimate service of prayers, music, and the word – scripture and a sermon. The 10:00 a.m. service will be our traditional celebration of our church’s life and ministry as a vibrant and vital community of faith! Childcare will be available during the 10:00 a.m. service, and Church School will take place during the 10:00 a.m. service.

Our **Spark!** service will continue this year, and we will gather on a Sunday afternoon various times throughout the year. This intergenerational church-wide service will be joyful, interactive and meaningful. After the service, we will gather for a time of fellowship and food. We will also be integrating our **Spark!** band into our Sunday morning worship on occasion.

It is a privilege to gather weekly to sing, pray, share, listen and be inspired to share God’s love in the world.



Summer Communion Will Use Gluten-free Wafers



The Board of Deacons has been looking for a new bread element to serve at Communion to better serve our members and visitors with food allergies and food sensitivities. Currently, we use rice bread that we place in a separate cup in the center of the tray. We are aware, however, that cross-contamination can easily occur as people take bread from the tray. The Deacons have found a gluten-free Communion wafer that makes it possible for people to safely take Communion. Not only are the wafers gluten-free, but they also avoid all common food allergens. They are free of gluten, wheat, dairy, egg, yeast, soy, nuts, corn, casein and salt. The ingredients are: filtered water, sweet rice flour, potato flour, organic palm fruit oil, potato starch, modified cellulose and sunflower lecithin.

During August and September, Communion is served by intinction on the first Sunday of the month. We will use the new gluten-free wafers for all who wish to take Communion. You will see only the new wafers in the bread tray. By using gluten-free wafers, we are truly being open and welcoming to all people!

“Bring A Friend Or Neighbor to Church” Sundays!

The First Church Growth & Membership Committee is excited to announce our annual BAFON Sundays, **beginning on Homecoming Sunday, September 11, and the following Sunday, September 18.** Bringing a friend or neighbor to a service is a wonderful way to share in the excitement of all that is First Church, from mission trips to inspiring sermons, fellowship to service opportunities, Bible studies to book clubs, choirs to children’s messages! Exciting things are in the works for these special Sundays in September!

We hope that each member of our community will consider spreading the good news by bringing a friend or neighbor during this time. Keep your eye out for more news as we reach out to share all that is special about our wonderful faith community!



Summer Worship Schedule

Through and including Sunday, September 4, one worship service at 9:00 a.m.

Sunday, August 7

Preacher and Worship Leader: Kate VanDerzee-Glidden
Special Music: Vance Harris and Elizabeth Flynn

Sunday, August 14

Preacher: Pam Vollinger
Worship Leader: Kate VanDerzee-Glidden
Special Music: Elizabeth Flynn

Sunday, August 21

Preacher: Kathy Ciolkosz
Worship Leader: David Taylor
Special Music: Chris Stone

Sunday, August 28

Preacher and Worship Leader: David Taylor
Special Music: Ginger Kousen

Sunday, September 4

Preacher and Worship Leader: David Taylor
Special Music: Wayne Rivera
Guest Organist: Suzanne Gates

Sunday, September 11 - Homecoming Sunday One service at 10:00 a.m.

Preacher: Kate VanDerzee-Glidden
Worship Leaders:
David Taylor and Kate VanDerzee-Glidden
Special Music: Hot Cat Jazz Band

Church Picnic Following Worship



Church Office Summer Hours (through September 2): Monday through Thursday, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., and Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. The office will be **closed on Monday, September 5** in celebration of Labor Day. For emergency pastoral contact after office hours, call 860-633-4641 and press 5.

Pastoral Coverage: Throughout the summer, depending on their vacation schedules, David Taylor, Kate VanDerzee-Glidden, Gordon Bates and Sally Brown will be providing pastoral care for the church. If at any time you are in need of pastoral care, please contact the church office, and they will secure the help that you need.

Update on the Micah House and Chapel

Dear Friends,

We are excited to report continuing support and progress towards making the Micah House project a reality. A congregational meeting was held on June 1 to hear reports from the Building and Capital Campaign Committees for the building of The Micah House and Chapel at the Thomas Hale Homestead. Detailed contractor estimates were provided by the Building Committee that increased the project costs to \$950,000. After considerable discussion, the congregation approved a motion to extend the time frame for the Capital Campaign Committee to fundraise for the Micah House until August 31, 2016 and the time period for payment of pledges until December 31, 2018.

To date, the "Building a Legacy" capital campaign has received \$889,000 in commitment towards the new \$950,000 campaign goal. If you have already returned your pledge card or made a supplemental pledge – thank you!! While progress has been made towards reaching the capital campaign goal, additional funds must still be raised in support of this project. We ask all who have not yet made a commitment, to give faithful consideration in making a donation. The success of the capital campaign requires the generous support of all who are able to contribute.

This project is about "Building a Legacy" for future generations, about the mission of our beloved church, and about being a good neighbor to the Glastonbury community.

Faithfully yours,

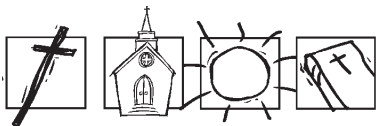
Earl Thompson
Chair, Capital Campaign Committee

Jonathan Russell
Chair, Building Committee

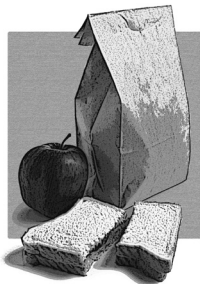
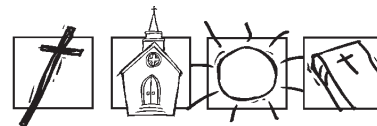
Building a Legacy



"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



Adult Opportunities



BROWN BAG LUNCH

We have one more brown bag lunch this summer! Bring a packed lunch and head over to Schultz Hall on August 17 from noon – 1:15 p.m. We'll provide the dessert, beverages and a guest speaker. Please RSVP to the church office (860-633-4641)!

Wednesday, August 17 – George Norman
What's Life Like Aboard a Sub, You Ask?

George Norman retired from the Navy after 27 years, where he served on five submarines and was the Captain of two Ohio class subs. He will talk about life on a submarine to include the daily routine, how the crew learns to get along (and how they handle it when they don't), what they do for entertainment, how they manage their separation from family, how they manage their spiritual well-being and a host of other topics.



You are Invited for Summer Food, Fellowship, Friendship, Faith – and of course, MUSIC!!!



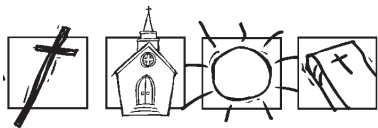
Please join First Church for a Saturday morning open rehearsal at Tanglewood!

- Date:** *August 20* (Berlioz, Saint-Saens, Prokofiev)
- Departure Time:** *8:00 a.m.*, leave the First Church parking lot. We will attempt to coordinate carpooling, so we will need to know who is coming and who is willing to drive.
- Return Time:** *approximately 4:00 p.m.*
- Cost:** *\$13, \$23 or \$33* (pay when you go).
- RSVP:** *Call the church office (860-633-4641) by noon on Tuesday, August 16.*
- What to Bring:** A picnic lunch, clothes for the weather.
- Weather Cancellation:** We will contact you if the trip is cancelled due to inclement weather.

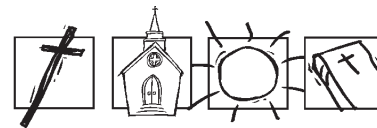


Women's Theological Reflection Group

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 Lynn Baronas at 860-543-3301 or baronas@hartford.edu for further information.

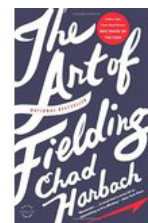


Adult Opportunities

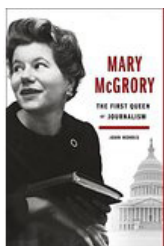


Thursday Morning Study Group

The Thursday Morning Study Group is on recess until **Thursday, September 8, when we will meet in the Lehman Library.** Members seem to be enjoying the wonderful novel *The Art of Fielding* as the summer weeks fly by. It is our way of looking at the way an unexpected event in the life of one person can have an effect on the lives of other people. We will then take another look at Islam by reading Dr. Zuhdi Jasser's current (2012) book, *A Battle for the Soul of Islam: An American Muslim Patriot's Fight to Save His Faith.* Dr. Jasser founded The American Islamic Forum for Democracy (AIFD) to engage Muslims in advocacy for the separation of mosque and state. That will engage the group on Constitutional concerns for the discussions of **September 22 and 29.** This will be followed by eventful October Thursday discussions prepared by David Taylor, soon to be announced. All are welcome even if the suggested reading material has not been read, as the studies and discussions are universal in nature. For more information, please email Forbes Warren at fwarren2@cox.net.



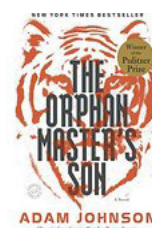
Biography Book Group



The Biography Book Group will be on summer break until September, when we invite you to join us to discuss *Mary McGrory: The First Queen of Journalism* by John Norris. This is an “entertaining biography of the trailblazing Washington columnist and first woman to win the Pulitzer Prize for commentary. Mary McGrory achieved national syndication and reported on American politics for five decades. From her first assignment reporting on the Army–McCarthy hearings to her Pulitzer-winning coverage of Watergate and controversial observations of President Bush after September 11, McGrory humanized the players on the great national stage while establishing herself as a uniquely influential voice (*Amazon.com*).” We’ll meet to enjoy an informal discussion of this book on **Tuesday, September 13 at 4:00 p.m. in the Lehman Library.** Call or email Valerie Escalera at 860-633-4452 or miguel.escalera@sbcglobal.net with any questions.

Second Sunday Book Club Summer Read

The Second Sunday Book Club will spend the summer reading the 2012 Pulitzer Prize winner for fiction, *The Orphan Master's Son*, by Adam Johnson. “An epic novel and a thrilling literary discovery, *The Orphan Master's Son* follows a young man's journey through the icy waters, dark tunnels, and eerie spy chambers of the world's most mysterious dictatorship, North Korea,” according to Amazon. We will meet at **4:00 p.m. on Sunday, September 11 (Homecoming Sunday) on the Hale House lawn** if the weather holds. We hope to see you there to discuss this and other great reads you've enjoyed this summer! If you have any questions, contact Amy E. Thompson at thompson.amy72@gmail.com.



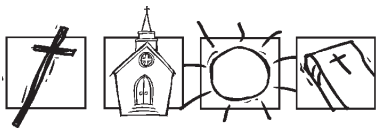
Prayer and Share

Prayer and Share meets **Tuesday mornings from 9:45 to 11:00 a.m. in the Parlor.** Come join us for a time of prayer, sharing, strengthening your faith and forming friendships. Being part of a small group within a large church fosters a feeling of belonging and caring. We learn and grow from our study and from each other. We will continue discussing Emilie Barnes' *Help Me Trust You, Lord: Knowing the Healing Touch of God's Love.* Barnes, the bestselling author of more than 35 books, shares how our Savior will mend your broken heart and give you lasting peace and strength to go on. All are welcome. For more information, please call Nancy Higgins at 860-633-6604 or Donna Smith at 860-633-4428 (feel free to leave a message).

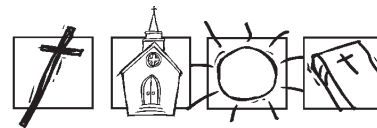
Potpourri



What is Potpourri? It's breakfast and fellowship on the **first and third Tuesdays of each month at 7:30 a.m.** The church kitchen is alive with coffee, conversation and a delicious breakfast cooked up by Al Reid! No reservations necessary, come anytime, a place is always set for you!



Adult Opportunities



Adult Mission Trip to the Gulf Coast January 1-7



What is the history of these mission trips? Back Bay Mission is a social service agency of the United Church of Christ, serving the poorest citizens of the Biloxi, Mississippi, area since 1929. First Church sent a senior high work camp group there in February, 2005 – six months before Hurricane Katrina devastated the Gulf Coast. In January, 2006, alumni members of the 2005 trip, along with a number of adults, went to Biloxi to assist with recovery efforts, and the adult mission trip tradition was born. BBM has now expanded its effort to help house homeless vets.

Who can go? Anyone over 18 years of age. Because sleeping capacity at Back Bay Mission is fixed, we are limited to 40 work campers.

What kind of work will we do? Sometimes we work on new construction, other times on renovation. We could be installing insulation, hanging, taping and mudding drywall, installing exterior siding, roofing or painting.

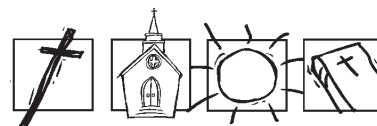


Do I have to be skilled in construction work? Not at all. There are a number of repeat campers with specialized skills who serve as crew leaders and patient teachers, and they match the jobs to be done with the inventory of skills our group has. People who'd rather not operate a nail gun or a table saw still have the opportunity to contribute by serving at a local soup kitchen, organizing the food bank, helping keep the work sites tidy or preparing meals for our group.

For more information: Watch the *Weekly Word* and *September Reminder* for more details. You may also contact Diana Ruddick at 860-463-3049 or dianakate525@gmail.com.



Children's Ministries



Summer Church School 2016!

This summer all children will have the opportunity to attend Church School classes on Sunday mornings, where our children will learn about important Bible stories through fun, hands-on activities. Childcare will be provided throughout the summer as well! All children (entering Preschool and higher) will meet together. For more information, please contact Karin Carlino at ceadmin@glastonburyfirst.org. Thank you!

Date	Unit	Room	Station	Main Idea
31-Jul	Breakfast on the Beach	206	Art	After the Resurrection, the disciples recognized Jesus in familiar places and in familiar activities. We, too, can experience the hope and love of Jesus in everyday activities such as walking, talking and eating
07-Aug			Storytelling	
14-Aug	Paul	205	Cooking	God's call turned Paul from a persecutor of Christians to a follower of Jesus. God calls each of us to be followers of Jesus and promises to be with us.
21-Aug			Games	

Childcare Available on Sundays

First Church is blessed with a hired childcare provider, Cheryl Foley, who is here each week to look after our infants and toddlers during the Sunday service, along with a wonderful team of volunteers.



Children's Ministries



Be Part of the 2016 – 2017 Church School Program!

This year's Church School program was such a huge success because of all our wonderful Church School volunteers! We couldn't have accomplished all the events, fundraisers and church school classes without you! We encourage everyone to consider signing up to teach or shepherd for the 2016 – 2017 Church School year. We have some great lessons ready for you, so come see what the Church School classes are all about! Email Karin Carlino at ceadmin@glastonburyfirst.org, or sign up on the schedule outside the CE Offices!

Try Something New. . . Teaching Church School is a great way to connect with children, families and fellow church members. There is an added benefit of connecting with God as well! We wish to welcome ANYONE who wishes to lead or assist with our Rotation Model program, Explore class or puppet troupe. Lesson plans are fun and easy to follow and all supplies are prepared ahead of time.

Important Church School Dates!

Monday, August 29

Christian Education Volunteer Orientation at 7:00 p.m. in Schultz Hall.

This meeting is mandatory for all of the wonderful First Church volunteers who plan to be involved with our Christian Education and Youth Programs in 2016 – 2017. This will be the time for you to meet other volunteers, hear more specifics about the curriculums we implement and to review strategies for working with children. Refreshments will be provided and there will be childcare available in the Crib and Toddler room.



Sunday, September 11

Homecoming Sunday! Worship service at 10:00 a.m. with the picnic to follow.

There will be **registration for Church School** before and after the service. Every child needs to be registered each year.

Sunday, September 18

The new Church School year begins during the 10:00 a.m. worship service!

Current three-year-olds will be promoted to Preschool on this day. Again, there will be **registration for Church School** before and after the service.

Three-Year-Old Promotion Ceremony



One of the many traditions we have here at First Church is a promotion ceremony for our three-year-olds. This is an annual ceremony where the children are "promoted" from the Crib and Toddler rooms into our Preschool classroom. Each child will receive a certificate as we welcome him or her into the Church School program. We will be promoting all current three-year-olds on **Sunday, September 18 at the 10:00 a.m. worship service.**

Parents of three-year-olds who were baptized and/or who have been attending church in the Crib and Toddler rooms will receive a letter explaining the promotion ceremony. If you are new to the church and have a child who is or will soon be three years old, please call or email Valerie Escalera at 860-633-4641 or programadmin@glastonburyfirst.org so that

your child can be included in the ceremony.

3rd Grade Bible Recognition

First Church has a special tradition of giving all third graders their own personal Bibles. This presentation will be held on **September 25 at the 10:00 a.m. worship service.** All incoming third graders will be recognized. If your child has not received a Bible yet and is older than third grade, we would like to extend this special invitation for him or her to receive a Bible. Please contact Valerie Escalera at programadmin@glastonburyfirst.org or call the church office at 860-633-4641 to make this arrangement.





Children's Ministries



Thank You from Family Life Education!

Dear Members of the Parish,

On behalf of the children and families we serve, I wish to extend my deepest appreciation for mounting a special fund drive in support of our new Children's Wellness Center. Your gift of \$7,400 means a great deal to Family Life Education and to the future of this community. We are extremely grateful for your confidence in our organization and in this important project.



As you may be aware, America confronts a life-threatening public health problem that will only grow if not addressed appropriately at all levels of society. The epidemic of childhood obesity sweeping our nation means this is the first generation since U.S. Census data have been recorded to have a shorter life expectancy than their parents. Unfortunately, many urban children do not have safe places to play indoors or outdoors, meaning they are not in a position to develop their gross motor skills or strengthen their muscles like other children in suburban areas. Their families also lack access to affordable fresh foods, and are in need of education about preparing New England produce and cooking nutritiously. For children to stay well, it means incorporating exercise/movement into a daily routine, eating more nutritiously and ensuring children have the educational opportunities to develop the critical thinking and problem-solving skills to be successful in school—and in life.

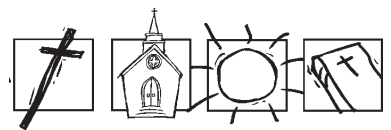
With your gift, you are not only helping us to undertake much needed renovations for the new facility but also inspiring others to join Family Life Education in making the planned Children's Wellness Center a reality. In addition, you are supporting the healthy growth and development of a new generation of children—our most precious resource as a nation and as a city. I thank you for your generosity and support.

Yours sincerely,

Cándida Flores, Chief Executive Officer



Youth Ministry



New Confirmation Class Begins in the Fall

Our nine-month Confirmation program is open to any interested student entering the 9th grade (or above) in the fall. Parents do not need to be First Church members in order for students to enroll, and students who are not yet baptized can choose to do so during the year. Our Confirmation program aims to help young people explore and articulate their faith as they prepare to reaffirm their baptism and become full members of First Church. All we require is your willingness to jump on this journey! Together, we will be using a combination of service projects, mentoring relationships, activities and structured class time to explore our own personal faith, the church and the world in which we live.

There will be an **orientation meeting for prospective confirmands and their parents on Tuesday, September 20 at 7:00 p.m. in Schultz Hall.** If you know someone who is interested in this opportunity, we always welcome new faces. Please contact David Taylor or Kate VanDerzee-Glidden in the church office with questions or for more information.

Heads Up! Hartford Recap



Students and SHF alumni from First Church participated in Heads Up! Hartford from June 23 – 30. This program gathers together urban and suburban church youth from Greater Hartford for a week of interdenominational mission and service, as well as cross-cultural exchange. In the evenings, students led worship and learned about important social issues. Many thanks to the volunteers who helped make the week happen and we appreciate our youth for their great work!



Senior High Summer

Senior High Fellowship summer events are open to any students going into 9th grade and up.



Wednesday, August 3, 12:00-2:00 p.m.

Summer Catch-Up. Come to say hi to your SHF buddies and welcome in the new 9th graders! Gather at the church and we'll stroll down Hebron Ave. for some ice cream and, if the weather is nice, we can relax by the center fountain - a great relaxing chill day to come let us know how summer is going.

Sunday, September 11, 4:30-7:30 p.m.

Rally Day! What more can I say? Be there for games, pool, food, friends, volleyball, apple picking and more!

JHF Summer Fun!

Junior High Fellowship is open to any young person going into 6th – 8th grades.

Thursday, August 4, 12:00-2:00 p.m.

Directly following Vacation Bible School, all JHFers, those helping with VBS and otherwise, are invited to gather at the church for a fun get-together with pizza, games and a summer check-in.



Sunday, September 11, 12:00-2:00 p.m.

JHF Rally Day! Info coming via snail mail and email!



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.

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

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 (August 3, 17, and 31)** in our back parking lot. If you are interested in volunteering (adults, youth and children are welcome), contact Sally Riddell at 860-657-8715.



Besides distributing food to needy people in our parking lot twice a month, our volunteers collect food from ShopRite in East Hartford, bringing 500 to 1,000 lbs of meat, produce, baked goods and groceries weekly to shelters and soup kitchens in Hartford. If you would like to help, please contact John Dugan at 860-659-2193 or Paul Fraleigh at 860-643-1571.

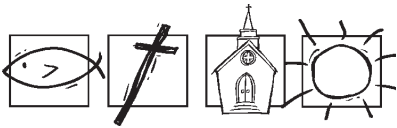
Our "Good Samaritans!"

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 up and running, and they are willing to help individuals in the congregation who might be having trouble finding the right people or the adequate resources to do the job – various "odd" jobs around the house or yard. If you are interested in seeing if your household task or project is something they would be able and willing to take on, at no charge, please contact David Taylor or Kate VanDerzee-Glidden.

School Supply Collection for Glastonbury Children



Each summer Glastonbury Human Services, with the tremendous support of the community, helps about two hundred Glastonbury students through the Back to School Program receive a backpack and school supplies. This year the items needed are backpacks (especially larger sizes), pencils, pens, rulers, markers (unscented), pencil box or pouch that fits inside a notebook, colored pencils, crayons, glue sticks, spiral notebooks (college ruled and wide ruled), ruled composition notebooks, folders, all sizes of three-ring binders, lined filler paper (college ruled and wide ruled), calculators, USB flash drives and book covers. All items should be new. **Place your items in the box in the back lobby up until August 11.** Thanks in advance for your support of our town's children!



Music Ministry



Fall 2016 Choirs Rehearsal Schedule

Choir rehearsals in the fall will begin after Labor Day. The following is the timetable for fall rehearsals and RSCM Ribbon Work (Royal School of Church Music Ribbon Program). Please note the starting dates for each of the choirs listed below.

CHOIR NAME	DAY OF REHEARSAL	REHEARSAL TIME	FIRST REHEARSAL
<i>Cherub (K-Grade 1)</i>	<i>Sundays</i>	<i>10:45-11:15 a.m.</i>	<i>September 18</i>
<i>Carolers (Grades 2-3)</i>	<i>Wednesdays</i>	<i>5:00-5:45 p.m.</i>	<i>September 14</i>
<i>Cantate (Grade 4-6)</i>	<i>Thursdays</i>	<i>4:00-5:00 p.m.</i>	<i>September 15</i>
<i>Cantabile (Grades 7-12)</i>	<i>Thursdays</i>	<i>6:00-7:00 p.m.</i>	<i>September 15</i>
<i>Chancel</i>	<i>Thursdays</i>	<i>7:15-8:45 p.m.</i>	<i>September 8</i>
<i>Jubilate Ringers</i>	<i>Tuesdays</i>	<i>7:00-8:30 p.m.</i>	<i>September 13</i>
<i>Mallet Ringers (Grades 5-12)</i>	<i>Thursdays</i>	<i>5:00-6:00 p.m.</i>	<i>September 15</i>
OPTIONAL: RSCM RIBBON LEVEL WORK			
<i>Light Blue and Dark Blue Ribbon</i>	<i>Thursdays</i>	<i>5:00-5:30 p.m.</i>	<i>October 6</i>
<i>Red and Purple Ribbon</i>	<i>Thursdays</i>	<i>5:30-6:00 p.m.</i>	<i>October 6</i>



Meet Our 2016 First Church Music Scholarship Recipients

Each year, the Board of Music offers one or more scholarships to young Glastonbury musicians in an effort to encourage their study of music and to promote and enhance the worship experiences of their generation. In 2016, we received nineteen applications, heard auditions for eleven, and awarded three scholarships to the following recipients.

Prairwaa Madden, who just completed 7th grade at Smith Middle School, has been playing piano for seven years and is currently studying piano at the Hartt School of Music. She has given concerts and participated in festivals and competitions in CT, the US, and abroad. Prairwaa, who also studies violin, is already planning to study music in college, and aspires to be a performer and teacher of others.



David Park, who will be a senior in high school in the fall, has been studying piano for 11 years and plays in his school's jazz band and orchestra, as well as for worship services at his church. In his playing, he strives to connect with his audience in a way that will bring them joy and hope in their listening. He plans to continue studying piano in pursuit of that goal.

Yerim Lee is a 2016 graduate of Glastonbury High School and is a member of our First Church family, where she has performed on violin in several ensembles during our worship services and Music at the Meetinghouse. She has also been a member of the GHS orchestra, where she was selected to participate in various state, regional and New England music festivals. Yerim has studied violin for seven years and plans to continue her study of violin at New York University, where she will be a freshman in the fall.

These scholarships are funded in part from the budget of the Board of Music and from a generous contribution by one of the members of First Church. Their awards will go directly toward the expense of future private lessons to encourage their continued development as serious musicians of their generation. Each of the recipients will be sharing his or her extraordinary talents with us during the 2016-17 school year, and, after listening to their performances, you will agree that they each possess a gift and musical talent worthy of our encouragement.



Music Ministry



Join and Share Your Gift of Song!



September is a great time to join any of our various choirs and share in the wonderful joy of “prayer through music.” Music is a wonderful gift to share and to express praise to God. You can do this through singing or ringing. If you love to sing and feel your voice is not solo quality, I still encourage you to join, because choirs are made up of a variety of voices: some are gentle and blending; strong and resonant; high and low; pure with straight tone; and operatic, lyrical or dramatic. Susanne W. Guy states, “Bacon, lettuce and tomato could not be more different in taste and texture. Yet in combination, they create a sensation.” Our sensation is a wonderful blending choir. The music ministry at First Church is a successful and large component in the spiritual life

of this church family! I hope you will consider joining our music ministry. We have several choirs for all ages meeting at different times throughout the week. Take the plunge and join! ~ Angela Salcedo, angelasalcedo@glastonburyfirst.org or 860-633-4641.

Choir Camp for Cantate, Cantabile and Mallets Choirs

On **August 21-24**, the Cantate, Cantabile and Mallets Choir members will be attending Choir Camp 2016. Choir Camp will be held at the Incarnation Center in Ivoryton, CT. This camp is nestled in a quiet Connecticut town with its quaint New England beauty. It has 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, hiking, storytelling over a campfire and great fellowship. Like last year, we are inviting those choristers in Caroler Choir 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 is \$250, which includes accommodations and meals. **Health forms and final payments are due in the church office by August 1. For more information, please contact Angela Salcedo by e-mail at angelasalcedo@glastonburyfirst.org.**



General Info Corner



Prayer Corner

Prayers of healing and wholeness for:

Barbara Harding Audrey Hernandez
Lois Harwick Chris Hernandez



Prayers of Sympathy:

Valerie and Miguel Escalera, Jr. on the death of Miguel’s father, Miguel (Mike) Escalera, on July 5 in Clinton.

IN CASE OF HOSPITALIZATION

If you or a loved one is hospitalized, please inform the hospital of the code for First Church:

Hartford Hospital – Code C18
St. Francis Hospital - Code 17

In addition, if you would like the church to know of an upcoming hospitalization, please give the church office a call at 860-633-4641 to inform the pastoral staff.

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 by phone 860-633-7128 or email kowsz@juno.com.

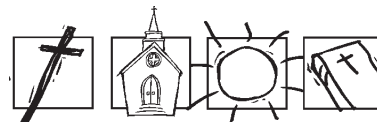
Media Ministries at First Church

Watch a First Church service on television...

“Living the Word,” each Sunday at 7:30 a.m. and noon on Cox Cable, Channel 15



General Info Corner



CT Conference 2016 Annual Meeting Update

On **June 10 and 11**, First Church's delegates and pastors gathered together with others from UCC congregations across the state for the **149th Annual Meeting of the Connecticut Conference, United Church of Christ**. In addition to gathering for fellowship, prayer, inspiration and song, we addressed four resolutions that had been proposed for discussion and vote, and discussed the proposal of potentially combining Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island UCC Conferences into one Southern New England Conference. The next 12 months will be a year of discernment, leading to a vote on whether the three conferences should become one in 2017. Discussion addressed both valid concerns and advantages. The decision will require careful consideration.

The four resolutions discussed, along with their vote results, were:

- 1.) A Resolution of Implementation Recommending Gender Neutral Restrooms In Churches And At Annual Meeting Sites; Passed (Both sides were presented.)
- 2.) Resolution of Implementation to Help Achieve State Mandated Reduction in Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Support the Increase in Renewable Energy Resources in Connecticut; Passed (No opposition presented.)
- 3.) A Resolution of Implementation Calling for Opposition to the Further Legalization of Marijuana in Connecticut; Not passed (Both sides were presented. Despite the dangers associated with increased numbers of users (especially youth) related to legalization, ultimately the vote sided with rejection of the resolution due to concern that it may lead to reversal of decriminalization of possession, leading to further mass incarceration, disproportionately impacting people of color, for non-violent offences.
- 4.) Resolution of Implementation Calling for Support for Enactment of a Minimum Wage of \$15 per Hour; Passed (Both sides were presented.)

The passed resolutions are intended as suggestions to congregations, rather than specific directions. Each church is asked to consider the resolutions, and then take appropriate action according to the wishes of the congregation.

Conference dues were increased from a \$8 per capita rate to a \$10 per capita rate for 2017.

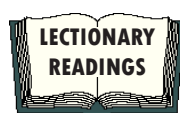
The highlight was a fabulous talk/sermon given by keynote speaker, The Reverend Dr. Yvette Flunder. She urged us to seek justice by getting out there and getting involved. We were energized and inspired by her message and style! One of my favorite lines was this: "Ain't no justice, when injustice has taken the day. But also, there ain't no closet prophets." – Rev. Dr. Yvette Flunder

If you are interested in reading more about the Conference and resolutions, you can find additional information on the CT UCC Conference website: <http://www.ctucc.org/>. A couple minutes of video highlights of the Conference can be seen here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y5rQ011xgfM>.

Respectfully submitted,
Lois Kulas

August 7, 2016 - Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 1:1, 10-20; Psalm 50:1-8, 23-24 or
Genesis 15:1-6; Psalm 33:12-22;
Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16; Luke 12:32-40



August 21, 2016 - Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

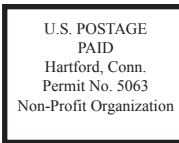
Jeremiah 1:4-10; Psalm 71:1-6 or
Isaiah 58:9b-14; Psalm 103:1-8;
Hebrews 12:18-29; Luke 13:10-17

August 14, 2016 - Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 5:1-7; Psalm 80:1-2, 8-18 or
Jeremiah 23:23-29; Psalm 82;
Hebrews 11:29-12:2; Luke 12:49-56

August 28, 2016 - Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 2:4-13; Psalm 81:1, 10-16 or
Sirach 10:12-18 or Proverbs 25:6-7; Psalm 112;
Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16; Luke 14:1, 7-14



Return Service Requested.

Syrian Family Update



After months and months of planning, First Church welcomed the Al Abas family of seven on July 14! The intentional and careful planning for this act of kindness – of welcoming a refugee family – began last fall as the world, and all of us, became aware of the worldwide refugee crisis.

And so, with meeting after meeting, lots of hard work, and after receiving a final briefing from the caseworkers at Integrated Refugee and Immigrant Services, furniture move-in day took place on a recent Saturday with First Church members turning out with joy and thanksgiving as we set up the home!

With many hands making light work, room after room began to take shape – with the generous donations from so many members and friends giving witness to the community of “tender, responsive hearts” that have come together to offer an extravagant welcome to our guests!

And for the past few weeks at the church, there has been a steady stream of cars pulling up to the back door in response to the Refugee Resettlement Committee’s request for household donations – the response has been overwhelming!! This congregation has been gracious and generous in donating gift cards, pillows, towels, cleaning supplies, lamps, bikes, rugs, trash cans, lawn chairs, dishes....on and on the list goes! Without a doubt, this beloved family of faith has an abundance of gracious, generous, tender and responsive hearts! The family is appreciative, loving and welcoming, and it is a privilege to be walking this journey with them.

