



# The REMINDER

First Church of Christ, Congregational, Glastonbury, Connecticut

Member of United Church of Christ

*An open, welcoming and affirming congregation*

August 2017

Dear Friends,

*Even the smallest things can have a giant impact.*



Lucas preparing the soil!

*A word.  
A smile.  
A gesture.  
A question.  
An act of kindness.  
A moment of silence.*

*May our words,  
Our steps,  
Our energy,  
Our silence,  
Be our prayers.*

*Planted as seeds without knowing what will grow.*

*But may they grow what is needed to nourish life.*

(Author unknown, from the Young Clergy Women International Facebook page)



Andrew eating a string bean!

**Nourishing life in simple ways.** Sometimes simple is all I can do since life gets overwhelming, stressful and challenging. The author is right – small things can have a giant impact.

I love gardening – getting my hands dirty, weeding and feeling accomplished, watching my flowers and vegetables grow, bringing the beautiful flowers inside for us to admire, and I absolutely love having Lucas and Andrew help me plant, water and marvel at what is growing. Nourishing life in simple ways can make a giant impact.

**Nourishing life in simple ways is what we are called to do as Christians.**

**Nourishing life** is standing for hours sorting thousands of pounds of carrots or potatoes or onions at the Foodshare warehouse in an attempt to help hungry people in Connecticut get nutritious food in their homes.

**Nourishing life** is working to scrape off very old bricks so that they become part of the Micah House and Chapel and stay a cherished part of our church community and town.

**Nourishing life** is bringing in your extra fruit, veggies, flowers and herbs to share with your friends at church. Our newly formed nature group is starting a farm stand this summer! The stand will start July 30 and any produce can be dropped off before church at the designated table on the front lawn. If you have questions, please contact Sally Riddell (860-657-8715 or [grammasal@att.net](mailto:grammasal@att.net)) or Susan Lambert (860-432-8690 or [sjlambert@hotmail.com](mailto:sjlambert@hotmail.com)). We are excited about this new way of enjoying and sharing God's bounty with one another!

**Nourishing life** is donating school supplies and food to children and families who are struggling to make ends meet.

**Nourishing life is what we are called to do.** Friends, we need to continue to plant, feed, share, inspire, pray, act and love in big ways and in small. The world needs us.

Summer blessings and peace,

*Kate*



Sorting carrots at the Foodshare warehouse.

## 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

Through September 3:  
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](mailto:firstchurch@glastonburyfirst.org)  
Website: [www.glastonburyfirst.org](http://www.glastonburyfirst.org)

### Staff

- The Rev. David Taylor, *Senior Pastor*  
[davidtaylor@glastonburyfirst.org](mailto:davidtaylor@glastonburyfirst.org), ext. 118
- The Rev. Kate VanDerzee-Glidden, *Associate Pastor*, [katev@glastonburyfirst.org](mailto:katev@glastonburyfirst.org), ext. 120
- Angela Salcedo, *Director of Music Ministries*  
[angelasalcedo@glastonburyfirst.org](mailto:angelasalcedo@glastonburyfirst.org), ext. 116
- The Rev. Gordon Bates, *Minister of Visitation*
- Karin Carlino, *Church School Administrator*  
[ceadmin@glastonburyfirst.org](mailto:ceadmin@glastonburyfirst.org), ext. 115
- Kathy Ciolkosz, *Administrative Assistant*  
[kathyc@glastonburyfirst.org](mailto:kathyc@glastonburyfirst.org), ext. 110
- Valerie Escalera, *Program Administrator*  
[programadmin@glastonburyfirst.org](mailto:programadmin@glastonburyfirst.org), ext. 115
- Susan Feller, *Publications Specialist*  
[publications@glastonburyfirst.org](mailto:publications@glastonburyfirst.org), ext. 112
- Rebecca Fleahman, *Office Manager*  
[rebeccafleahman@glastonburyfirst.org](mailto:rebeccafleahman@glastonburyfirst.org), ext. 122
- Cheryl Foley, *Child Care Provider*
- Elizabeth Gleich, *Director of Children and Youth Ministries*  
[elizabeth@glastonburyfirst.org](mailto:elizabeth@glastonburyfirst.org), ext. 113
- Wes Grove, *Facilities Manager*  
[facilities@glastonburyfirst.org](mailto:facilities@glastonburyfirst.org), ext. 121
- Peggy Hartman, *Director of Handbell Program and Childrens' Choirs*

**THE REMINDER** submission deadline:  
Thursday, August 10: September 2017 issue



## Micah House and Chapel Update August 2017

In the the New Testament, there is a story of Jesus feeding 5,000 people with only five loaves of bread and two fish. In Matthew 14:13-21, Jesus told the Disciples: *"Bring them here to me," he said. <sup>19</sup>And he directed the people to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the people. <sup>20</sup>They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over. <sup>21</sup>The number of those who ate was about five thousand men, besides women and children.*

As Jesus fed his followers, the Micah House and Chapel will provide spiritual food to First Church's members and the surrounding community. This miracle continues to amaze visitors, friends and congregation members!! Take a moment and look outside when you are visiting church or attending Sunday worship services. The First Church live cam shows an up-to-the minute live action of the work towards revitalizing the historic Thomas Hale Homestead into the Micah House and Chapel.



George Fay, the project's contractor, and his team have begun the next phase of renewal and construction. The building was lifted, the chimney stabilized, the new foundation poured and settled and there are now walls on all four sides of the house. Praise the Lord!!

People are asking – how can I help? Volunteers are needed to help clean off 250-year-old bricks. Anyone can help, no previous experience needed! In the coming weeks we need to clean up hundreds of salvaged bricks for reuse on the Micah House concrete foundation. Volunteers can contact Jonathan Russell at [cjic5@cox.net](mailto:cjic5@cox.net) for this project.

Just as a reminder, for safety's sake, please don't talk to the contractors as they work on the Micah House and Chapel. Everyone is excited and curious about the construction but distracting a contractor from their work is a potential safety hazard! Please direct all questions to Jonathan Russell, Mick Gifford or Walt Briggs who continues to provide hands-on financial and construction oversight. Estimates of sweat-equity cost savings to date exceed \$40,000.

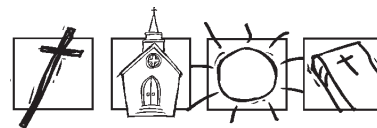
The Micah House and Chapel at the Thomas Hale Homestead is God's miracle and will be a legacy that serves First Church today and for future generations!!

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





# 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.*

## United Church of Christ News

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

### **Silver Lake 60th Anniversary Celebration, August 26, 2017 from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.:**

Connect with old friends and make new ones. Join us for a day of celebration, music, food, camp activities and worship as we celebrate Silver Lake's 60th Anniversary. More information and registration are online at: <http://www.silverlakect.org/60thanniversary>.



**Reflections from the Connecticut Conference Annual Meeting (by Lois Kulas):** The 150th annual meeting of the Connecticut Conference, UCC, took place in Hartford the last weekend in June. For the first time, the annual Connecticut Conference meeting was held jointly with the Rhode Island and Massachusetts Conferences. While some concerns were expressed, each of the three state conferences voted strongly in favor of taking the next step toward possibly joining together as one. The vote was based on faith that the move may be beneficial. However, specifics have yet to be worked out, including structure, operation specifics, financial arrangements and name. The affirmative vote has granted Conference leaders permission to develop a formal, detailed, *Together as One* proposal for a new, three-state conference, which will be brought before next year's joint annual conference meeting.

Connecticut also voted in support of the two resolutions presented at the Connecticut portion of the conference. The first resolution recommended churches mark **Transgender Remembrance Sunday**, which would be the **Sunday prior to November 20**, recognized internationally as Transgender Day of Remembrance. In the resolution, it was noted: *transgender people are a minority who are victims of verbal and physical abuse which has resulted in cases of murder (1200 transgender people, more than 200 each year have been reported killed over the last five years) and suicide (41 percent of transgender people living in the United States have attempted suicide) out of proportion to their numbers due to ignorance, prejudice, and a lack of understanding or education among the majority.* One person stood up to say we need to do even more in support of and as allies of transgender people.

The second resolution recommended the Connecticut UCC Conference become an **"Accessible to All" Conference**. In the resolution, it was stated: *The United States Census Bureau records show that 19 percent of respondents report having a disability and an increasing senior population will experience difficulties with mobility, vision, and hearing and a study conducted by the National Organization on Disability and the Kessler Foundation found that people with disabilities are 35 percent more likely to never attend a worship service than their non-disabled peers.*

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.

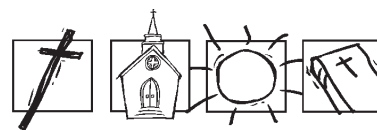
The Keynote address was given by the Rev. Dr. John Dorhauer, author, theologian, and ninth General Minister and President of the UCC. Rev. Dr. Maritza Angulo de Gonzalez, pastor of Manantial de Gracia "Spring of Grace," UCC in New Britain, was preacher for the opening worship. Joelle A. Murchison, Associate Vice President and Chief Diversity Officer at the University of Connecticut received the **2017 Living Water Award** for "guiding efforts to define, assess, and promote diversity, inclusion, and educational and employment access and opportunity." **Next year's Tri-Conference will be held June 15 – 16, 2018 in Springfield, MA.**

## First Church's Willing and Able 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.



## Christian Service



### Opportunities to Volunteer with Foodshare!



Foodshare's vision is for a community where all people can get the food they need. 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.

There are **three ways to get involved** with Foodshare here at First Church.

1. **Volunteer when the Mobile Foodshare truck comes to our back parking lot every other Wednesday morning at 10:00 a.m.** This is a "farmer's market" style food distribution of fresh produce and other foods, and it takes many volunteers to serve everyone who comes. If you are interested in participating (adults, youth and children are welcome!), contact Sally Riddell at 860-657-8715.
2. **Volunteer at Foodshare's Regional Market in Hartford on alternating Wednesday mornings** to help sort and package the produce that gets given out on the Mobile Foodshare truck at various sites across the state. **Volunteers gather in the church parking lot at 8:00 a.m. to drive in together, and the shift is from 8:30-11:30 a.m.** If you are interested in learning more, please contact Jim Hartung at [ctsdncmfolk@gmail.com](mailto:ctsdncmfolk@gmail.com) or 860-430-2123.
3. **Volunteer to 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 [jdugan1967@gmail.com](mailto:jdugan1967@gmail.com) or Paul Fraleigh at 860-643-1571.

### 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 binder, 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 through August 10.** Thanks in advance for your support of our town's children!

### 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 August, we're asking for contributions of **soup, pasta, sauce** and other items people are willing to donate. Please bring food that is not expired or open. Thank you!



### Homemade Syrian Dinner and Cultural Experience!

Enjoy a delicious multi-course home-cooked Syrian meal by Ezdehar Al Wadi. 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, August 20, at 6:00 p.m. in Schultz Hall.**

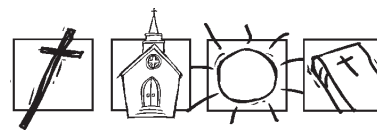
The cost of this delicious feast and cultural experience is \$25 per person. Please make out your check to "First Church of Christ," with "Syrian Dinner" in the memo section. Please note this covers the cost of the meal and the presentation and is not tax deductible.

Spread the word to your friends in the First Church community and join us for this special evening! Seating is limited to 35, so **RSVP to Lisa Hurley at [lisahurley@snet.net](mailto:lisahurley@snet.net) or 860-335-5850 or Danae Dwyer at [danaedwyer@me.com](mailto:danaedwyer@me.com) by Wednesday, August 16.** Payments should be brought to the dinner and given to Lisa or Danae.





# Children's Ministries



## Summer Church School 2017!

This summer all children 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.

Date	Unit	Room	Station	Main Idea
30-Jul	Calling the Disciples	206	Art	Long ago Jesus called people to be his followers, to learn from him and to teach others. Jesus calls us today to witness the good news that he brought and to share Jesus' story with others
06-Aug			Games	
13-Aug	Doubting Thomas	205	Art	Thomas didn't believe that Jesus had returned until he saw him with his own eyes and touched Jesus' wounds. Jesus teaches us that we can believe in him and his love even if we don't see him.
20-Aug			Games	

## Be Part of the 2017 – 2018 Church School Program!

Last 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 2017 – 2018 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](mailto: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.

## 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 17 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](mailto:programadmin@glastonburyfirst.org) so that your child can be included in the ceremony.

## 3rd Grade Bible Recognition

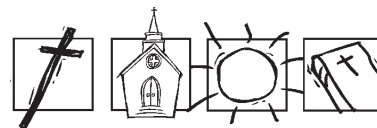
First Church has a special tradition of giving all third graders their own personal Bibles. This presentation will be held on **September 24 at the 10:00 a.m. worship service.** All incoming third graders will be recognized. If your child has not received a Bible yet and is older than third grade, we would like to extend this special invitation for them to receive a Bible. Please contact Valerie Escalera at [programadmin@glastonburyfirst.org](mailto:programadmin@glastonburyfirst.org) or call the church office at 860-633-4641 to make this arrangement.







## Children's Ministries



### Important Church School Dates!

#### Sunday, August 27

***Christian Education Volunteer Orientation at 6:30 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 2017 – 2018. 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 10

***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.

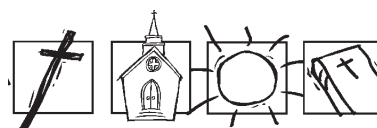
#### Sunday, September 17

***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.



## Youth Ministry



### Confirmation Class Specifics

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.



A letter was mailed in early July to all incoming 9th graders and their parents. Please contact David Taylor or Kate VanDerzee-Glidden in the church office with questions or for more information.

### Heads Up! Hartford Recap



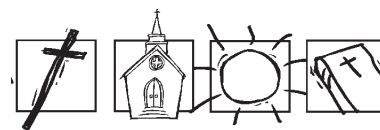
Students and SHF alumni from First Church participated in Heads Up! Hartford from June 22 – 29. This program gathers together urban and suburban church youth from Greater Hartford for a week of interdenominational mission and service, as well as cross-cultural exchange. In the evenings, students led 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! Congratulations to Victoria Johnson and Vivian Krause for winning the Macy Reid Award. This award is in memory of Macy Reid, who was a longstanding member of our congregation and was integral to the creation of Heads Up! Hartford many years ago. Vivian and Victoria were recognized for showing a

deep faith in God, a passion for compassion, having a sense of humor even through tough times, a strong sense of justice and a willingness to work very hard toward a shared goal.





## Youth Ministry



### Senior High Summer

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



**Wednesday, August 9, 6:00-8:15 p.m.**

Come and have fun with your SHF buddies at **Hartford Launch Trampoline Park** for an evening of jumping and laughing! **Meet at 91 Brainard Rd, Hartford, CT 06114 at 6:00 p.m.** Please pick up permission slips in box outside Elizabeth's office, and bring them back **by August 6 with your \$20 payment.**

**Sunday, September 10, 4:30-7:30 p.m.**

Rally Day! What more is there to 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 15, 6:30-8:00 p.m.**

Come for a summer catch up and say “hi” to your JHF buddies and welcome in the new 6th graders! Gather at the church for some pizza, games, and maybe even ice cream sundaes!

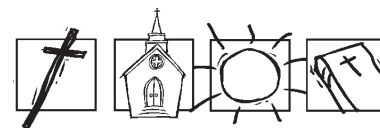


**Sunday, September 10, 12:00-2:00 p.m.**

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



## Music Ministry



### Family Night: Hartford Yard Goats – August 28



On **Monday, August 28, at 6:30 p.m.**, the Cantate and Cantabile Choirs will be singing the National Anthem at the Hartford Yard Goats Baseball Park. This will be a fun-filled church family event. The Yard Goats will be playing against the Boston Red Sox

Farm Team. **Tickets are on sale in the church office for \$8 each and must be paid for by August 15. Paid tickets will be available at the “will call” window at the box office that evening.** The proceeds from this event help to support our yearly Choir Camp.

### Choir Camp, August 20-23

The Cantate, Cantabile and Mallet Ringers Choirs will attend Choir Camp 2017 from **August 20-23**

at Silver Lake Conference Center in Sharon, CT. 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. **Health forms were emailed to all the camp choristers and should be filled out and returned to the church office by August 1 along with your final camp payment.** If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact Angela Salcedo, Director of Music Ministries at ([angelasalcedo@glastonburyfirst.org](mailto:angelasalcedo@glastonburyfirst.org)).



### Take The Plunge Now, Join The Choir!



*Take the plunge now join the choir! Fa, la, la, la, la, la, la, la!*

*Sing and ring your heart's desire! Fa, la, la, la, la, la, la, la!*

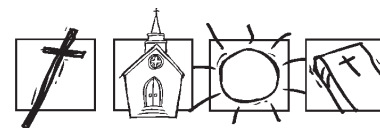
*Praise your God through song and ringing! Fa, la, la, la, la, la, la, la!*

*Sign up now, rejoice with music! Fa, la, la, la, la, la, la, la!*

Fall is a great time to join our Music Ministry, especially if you were able to recognize this very familiar Christmas tune! We have choirs for all ages here at First Church. There is power in numbers, and the more voices and ringers that participate, the more we affirm the resonating message that music inspires a deeper faith. Please contact Angela Salcedo, Director of Music Ministries, if you are interested or have any questions at [angelasalcedo@glastonburyfirst.org](mailto:angelasalcedo@glastonburyfirst.org) or 860-633-4641.



# Music Ministry



## Fall 2017 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>11:00-11:30 a.m.</i>	<i>September 17</i>
<i>Carolers (Grades 2-3)</i>	<i>Wednesdays</i>	<i>4:30-5:15 p.m.</i>	<i>September 13</i>
<i>Cantate (Grade 4-6)</i>	<i>Thursdays</i>	<i>4:00-5:00 p.m.</i>	<i>September 14</i>
<i>Cantabile (Grades 7-12)</i>	<i>Thursdays</i>	<i>6:00-7:00 p.m.</i>	<i>September 14</i>
<i>Chancel</i>	<i>Thursdays</i>	<i>7:15-8:30 p.m.</i>	<i>September 7</i>
<i>Jubilate Ringers</i>	<i>Tuesdays</i>	<i>7:00-8:30 p.m.</i>	<i>September 12</i>
<i>Mallet Ringers (Grades 5-12)</i>	<i>Thursdays</i>	<i>5:00-6:00 p.m.</i>	<i>September 14</i>
<b>OPTIONAL: RSCM RIBBON LEVEL WORK</b>			
<i>Light Blue and Dark Blue Ribbon</i>	<i>Thursdays</i>	<i>5:00-5:30 p.m.</i>	<i>October 5</i>
<i>Red and Purple Ribbon</i>	<i>Thursdays</i>	<i>5:30-6:00 p.m.</i>	<i>October 5</i>

## Meet Our 2017 First Church Music Scholarship Recipients



L-R: Mai Vestergaard, Alex Richter, Sofia DiNatale

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 2017, we received eleven applications, heard auditions for nine, and awarded four scholarships to the following recipients. 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 them will be sharing their extraordinary talents with us in a worship service at some time in the coming year. When you experience that, we are sure you will agree that they each possess a gift and musical talent that is worthy of our encouragement.

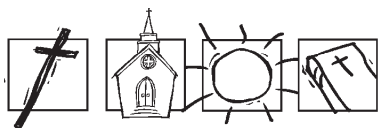
**Sofia DiNatale**, who just completed 10th grade at Glastonbury High School, auditioned on piano, which she has been studying for seven years, and also studies cello. In addition to being in the Jazz Band and Chamber Ensemble at GHS, she is a member of the Glastonbury Youth Orchestra and Connecticut Youth Symphony. She has given concerts and participated in festivals and competitions in Connecticut, as well as performed at Carnegie Hall. Sofia intends to continue her music studies in college and hopes to attend a music conservatory.

**Teryn Kuzma** is a student at the University of Connecticut with a double major in Speech, Language, and Hearing Science and Music, with a concentration in Vocal Performance. She hopes to combine the two in a career. Teryn has been a regular performer in her church and school choirs and has received her Performance Certificate from the Hartt School of Music. Teryn also plays the 55-string Ukrainian bandura, and is a founding member of the newly formed Women's Bandura Ensemble of North America.

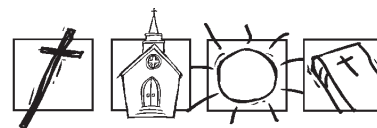
**Alex Richter** just completed his sophomore year at GHS and is a member of our First Church family, where he has already performed on cello in string ensembles, including at the open house event last winter. Alex has been studying cello since age nine and is taking lessons with a private teacher as well as at school. Last summer, and again this year, Alex participated in the Elm City Chamber Festival. He has been a member of the New England Music Festival orchestra and a winner of the American Protege Contest, which resulted in an opportunity to perform at Carnegie Hall last year during the Christmas season.

**Mai Vestergaard** is a Glastonbury resident who attends the University of Connecticut. In addition to her music studies at UConn, Mai studies with a private teacher in New Haven. She auditioned on violin, and also studies viola. She has performed as a soloist with the West Hartford Symphony Orchestra, as well as participated in Eastern Honors and All-National Symphony Orchestras. This summer she is studying Chamber Music in Austria at AlpenKammerMusic. Mai has a double-major at UConn in Music and Pharmaceutical Sciences.





## Adult Opportunities



### Brown Bag Lunch: August 8: 11:30 a.m.-12:45 p.m. Memories of Morocco with Samantha LaFargue!



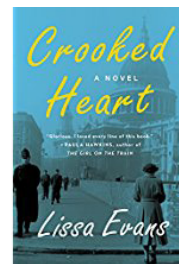
Once again, escape the heat, enjoy the church's air conditioning, see some old friends, make some new ones and learn something new about this wonderful world in which we live! Bring a bag lunch and we will provide the beverages and dessert.

RSVP to the church office (860-633-4641) and join us to hear about Samantha's experiences while she lived and studied in Morocco during her spring semester.

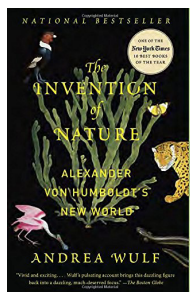


### Thursday Morning Study Group

The Thursday Morning Study Group is on summer break but we are busily reviewing three studies to consider for September. We will be looking at an unlikely alliance between a small time con artist and a young orphan World War II evacuee using the novel by Lissa Evans titled *Crooked Heart*, which we will discuss on **September 7**. Following that, the group will take up Gordon Bates' study: *The Connecticut Prison Association and the Search for Reformatory Justice*. Gordon will join us on **September 14 and 21** to discuss his book. On **September 28**, we will look at one positive way to start the day by considering Admiral William H. McRaven's little book, *Make Your Bed: Little Things That Can Change Your Life...And Maybe the World*. You are invited to join these discussions whether or not you have read the reference materials. We meet in the **Lehman Library at 9:30 a.m. on the scheduled Thursdays**. Please contact Sally Brown via email at [saldaybrown@aol.com](mailto:saldaybrown@aol.com) for more information.



### 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. On **Tuesday, September 12 at 4:00 p.m.** we will discuss *The Invention of Nature: Alexander Von Humboldt's New World* by Andrea Wulf. "Alexander von Humboldt (1769-1859) was the most famous scientist of his age, a visionary German naturalist and polymath whose discoveries forever changed the way we understand the natural world. Among his most revolutionary ideas was a radical conception of nature as a complex and interconnected global force that does not exist for the use of humankind alone. (Amazon.com)." Join us to talk about this award winning and *New York Times* 10 Best Books of the Year selection. On **November 14 at 4:00 p.m.** we will discuss the 2015 *New York Times* bestselling 'biography' novelette by Sarah Vowell: *Lafayette in The Somewhat United States*. It is a highly regarded bio and accounting of the life of this close friend of George Washington focusing greatly on their relationship during the Revolutionary War. This promises to be a fun biography to read. We hope you will join us in the Lehman Library for this book discussion. Call or email Valerie Escalera at 860-633-4452 or [miguel.escalera@sbcglobal.net](mailto:miguel.escalera@sbcglobal.net) with any questions.

### Second Sunday Book Club

The Second Sunday Book Club meets on the **second Sunday of every other month in the Lehman Library at 4:00 p.m.** to discuss a selected book as well as other great reads we are enjoying. We hope you will join us for one of our upcoming meetings this year! We will meet on **Sunday, September 10 at 4:00 p.m.** to discuss *The Nix* by Nathan Hill, soon to be made into a film starring Meryl Streep! If you have any questions, contact Amy E. Thompson at [thompson.amy72@gmail.com](mailto:thompson.amy72@gmail.com).

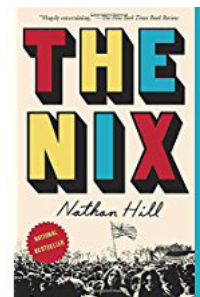
More selections and dates are:

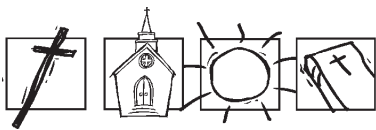
**Sunday, November 12:** *Never Let Me Go*, Kazuo Ishiguro

**Sunday, January 14:** *An Exaltation of Larks*, Suzanne Laqueur

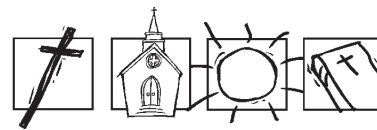
**Sunday, March 11:** *Everything I Never Told You*, Celeste Ng

**Sunday, May 6** (note this is the first Sunday due to Mother's Day): *Station Eleven*, Emily St. John Mandel





## Adult Opportunities



### Adult Mission Trip December 31 – January 6



**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](mailto:dianakate525@gmail.com).

### Join with Other Nature Lovers!



Attention all nature lovers! We are excited to announce the formation of a new group of First Church people who will meet monthly and focus on special projects, fellowship and conservation. We are looking for anyone who enjoys nature and wants to help protect what God has created for us. Whether you enjoy nature photography, hiking, feeding the birds, gardening or just sitting outside and taking in all that God has created, we want you!

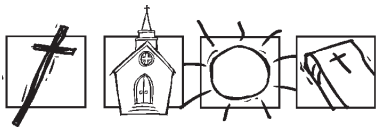
We have many ideas of what this group could do (hikes, building a butterfly garden, programs at church to teach about conservation advocacy, etc.). Our next gathering is on **Tuesday, August 15 at 7:00 p.m.** If you have questions or want to get involved, please contact Tracy Kavanaugh at [lilypadprints@gmail.com](mailto:lilypadprints@gmail.com) or 413-250-3838.

### 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 (August 10 and 24) at 5:45 p.m. in the Lehman Library.** Please contact Danae Dwyer at [danaedwyer@me.com](mailto:danaedwyer@me.com) or 860-967-2269 for further information.

### 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](mailto:danaedwyer@me.com) or 860-967-2269 for further information.



# Adult Opportunities



## 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. **All are welcome to join us in the Parlor each Tuesday morning throughout the summer 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.



# General Info Corner



## Prayer Corner

### Prayers of joy for:

Catherine (McNab) and Paras Ghelani on the birth of their son, Ishaan McNab Ghelani on June 24 in Queens, New York. Proud grandparents are Ellen and John McNab.

### Prayers of healing and wholeness for:

Barbara Harding      Audrey Hernandez  
Lois Harwick         Chris Hernandez



### Prayers of sympathy for:

Diane and David MacKinnon on the death of Diane's brother, Steven Young, on June 24.

Family and friends of Richard Hegwood, who died on June 30. He was the husband of Gretchen Hegwood and father to Colin and Kate Hegwood. He had been a First Church member since 1990.

Ken and Courtney King and family on the death of Ken's father, Kenneth I. King, on June 30.

## “Bring A Friend Or Neighbor to Church” Sundays!

The First Church Growth and Membership Committee is excited to announce our annual BAFON Sundays, beginning on **Homecoming Sunday, September 10, and the following Sunday, September 17.**



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!

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!

## 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, tell them 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.

## 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. Please contact Susan Bonitsky at [kowsz@juno.com](mailto: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



## Summer Worship Schedule

Through and including Sunday, September 3, one worship service at 9:00 a.m.

### **Sunday, August 6**

Preacher and Worship Leader: Bruce Johnson  
Special Music: Wayne Rivera

### **Sunday, August 13**

Preacher: Bruce Johnson, Worship Leader: David Taylor  
Special Music: Ken Kousen

### **Sunday, August 20**

Preacher: David Taylor  
Worship Leaders: Kate VanDerzee-Glidden and David Taylor  
Special Music: Stanley Battle, baritone

### **Sunday, August 27**

Lay Preacher: Vance Harris  
Worship Leaders: David Taylor and Kate VanDerzee-Glidden  
Special Music: Vance Harris

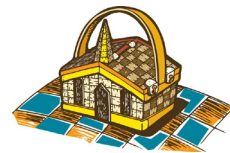
### **Sunday, September 3**

Preacher and Worship Leader: Bruce Johnson  
Special Music: Wayne Rivera

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

Preacher: David Taylor  
Worship Leaders: David Taylor and Kate VanDerzee-Glidden  
Special Music: Hot Cat Jazz Band,  
Chancel Choir and Choir Camp Participants

### ***Church Picnic Following Worship***



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**Church Office Summer Hours (through September 1): 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 4** 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, Sally Brown and Bruce Johnson 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.