



# The REMINDER

First Church of Christ, Congregational, Glastonbury, Connecticut

Member of United Church of Christ

*An open, welcoming and affirming congregation*

## February 2017

Dear Friends,



We often spend time reflecting on life and ministry and what a great privilege it is to work and serve with all of you. Our work is varied, challenging and rewarding.

We meet with parishioners to hear their joys, their challenges and their faith. We give prayer shawls knit and blessed by our volunteers. We celebrate lives well lived and people who inspire us daily.

We spend time with our youth in our Confirmation class. We share some of our journey with them, and we learn a lot from them.

We plan and lead worship services where our spirits are renewed by all of you – your presence, your smiles, your singing, your prayers!



We meet with our various boards and committees. We reflect on past experiences and events. And we dream about future work we can do together.

We stop by mission activities and have the privilege of seeing you all in action – reaching out to our neighbors and sharing God's love!

Like you, we work, we think, we cry, and we laugh. Together, we are God's beloved community striving for a world that is loving, just and inclusive.

Recently, a small group of parishioners were meeting with us about one of our upcoming Spark! services. One of our faithful members agreed to write a prayer for the service. Below are her words – faithful and loving.



***Loving God, we cannot know what lies ahead for us on the path of life.  
Except this: you will be there.***

***Thank you for not giving up on us, even when you call and call and we do not answer.  
Thank you for the chance to know you better and show you better.  
Help us to turn our gratitude for your many blessings into loving service.***

***You show us how to fix our own tangled nets of sadness and confusion by reaching out to others.***

***We're grateful for the opportunity to help those who need homes, and shelter, and food, and love.  
We pray that anyone who sees our good work will feel your love. They will know you by our actions.***

***God, when you ask, "Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?"***

***Let our answer always be, "Here I am, Lord. I will go where you lead me.  
I will hold your people in my heart."***

May the words of this prayer inspire us always.

Peace,

*David and Kate*

## First Church of Christ, Congregational

United Church of Christ  
2183 Main Street  
Glastonbury, CT 06033

*The Rev. Dr. Carl F. Schultz, Jr., Pastor  
Emeritus (1932 - 2012)*

### Sunday Morning Schedule

Worship Services at 8:00 and 10:00 a.m.

Church School: 10:15 a.m.  
Childcare is provided

Phone Number: 860-633-4641

Fax Number: 860-633-5826

Email: [firstchurch@glastonburyfirst.org](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:**  
**Friday, February 10: March 2017 issue**

## Sunday Morning Worship Services 8:00 and 10:00 a.m.

### February 5

#### *Fifth Sunday after Epiphany*

#### **Family Communion Sunday**

David Taylor preaching

8:00 a.m. Ginger Kousen, soprano

10:00 a.m. Cantate, Cantabile and Chancel Choirs



### February 12

#### *Sixth Sunday after Epiphany*

Elizabeth Gleich preaching

8:00 a.m. Vance Harris, bass

10:00 a.m. Jubilate Ringers, Caroler, Cherub and Chancel Choirs

### February 19

#### *Seventh Sunday after Epiphany*

David Taylor preaching

8:00 a.m. Beth Flynn, Ginger Kousen and Arwen Norman

10:00 a.m. Chancel Choir

### February 26

#### *Eighth Sunday after Epiphany - Transfiguration Sunday*

Kate VanDerzee-Glidden preaching

8:00 a.m. Lola Elliott-Hugh, mezzo-soprano

10:00 a.m. Jubilate Ringers, Chancel Choir

## Calling All Volunteers!

Would you like to get more involved in this vibrant church community? If so, this is your time! It takes a tremendous amount of people power for our programs, events and worship services to become the fulfilling experiences that they are. We are currently recruiting new members for our boards and committees. We offer so many opportunities...what interests you?

Please consider becoming involved in one of the following groups: Trustees (oversees our property and building), Youth Ministry, Christian Education, Deacons (focuses on worship), Music, Christian Service (concentrates on mission and outreach work), Lay Life and Ministry (organizes and runs church fellowship events), Church Growth and Membership (welcomes people to our church), Adult Education, Media, or Stewardship, among others.



If you have an interest in joining a specific board or committee, contact Lisa Charles, Chair of Human Resources, at (860) 338-4816 or [lisacharles@cox.net](mailto:lisacharles@cox.net); Christine Roberge, Vice Chair of Human Resources, at (860) 430-1572 or [roberge.happyface@gmail.com](mailto:roberge.happyface@gmail.com); a church officer; a current board or committee member; David; Kate; or Elizabeth. Thank you to all the volunteers who make First Church such a wonderful place! We are truly blessed.

## Update on the 2017 Stewardship Pledge Campaign

Happy New Year from your Stewardship Committee!! As of January 13, 2017 our pledge total is \$744,000, so this is the number that will be used for the 2017 operating budget.

However, if you would like to help us reach our original goal of \$750,000, there is still time to make your pledge. It is as easy as calling (860-633-4641, ext 122) or emailing ([rebeccafleahman@glastonburyfirst.org](mailto:rebeccafleahman@glastonburyfirst.org)) Rebecca Fleahman, our church office manager. **Every pledge counts**, so please add your support to enable us to set a new fundraising high for First Church!



We received 20 new pledges and 121 members were able to increase their pledge, enabling us to be within striking distance of our goal. A heartfelt thank you to every person that pledged support of First Church — without each of you we simply would not have the same outreach and ministries. Thank you, thank you, thank you!!!!

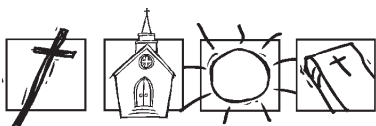
Your Stewardship Committee

*The 2017 boxed sets of offering envelopes have arrived and are on the table near the driveway in Schultz Hall. Please remember they are not numbered. You must print your first and last name so your cash contribution can be included on your giving statement. Thank you!*

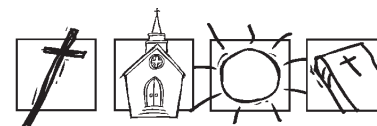
## New Greeters and Ushers Invited



Would you like to be a greeter or help usher at one of our Sunday morning worship services? We are ever so thankful for the warm welcome our Sunday morning greeters extend to everyone coming through our doors, as well as for the head ushers and ushers who help in seating and participate in the offertory. The Board of Deacons invites anyone who would love to be a greeter, head usher, or usher to please make a note in the fellowship pew pad, speak to the host at the Welcome Table in Schultz Hall or call Kathy Ciolkosz at the church office (860-633-4641). We would love to add your name to our list!



## Lay Life Events



### BUNCO is Back!



Friday, February 10

Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

First game starts at 7:30 p.m.

**Snacks! Prizes! Fellowship!**

The Board of Lay Life & Ministry is excited to bring back the action-packed dice game, BUNCO! You can sign up at our table during coffee hour until February 5. Never played? It's a cinch to learn! Pick up a copy of the instructions at the sign-up table. Let the good times roll! After February 5, please call or email Sandi Philbrook at 860-659-1269 or [novakgrl@sbcglobal.net](mailto:novakgrl@sbcglobal.net) if you'd like to join in the fun and laughter. No childcare is offered.

### INTO THE WOODS... and back to First Church for ICE CREAM SUNDAES!

Sunday, March 5, 2:00 p.m. performance

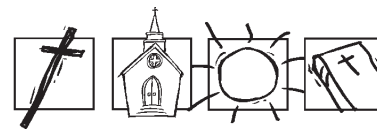
Save the date! The Board of Lay Life & Ministry will be taking orders for tickets to the March 5 performance of the Glastonbury High School Drama Club's production of *Into the Woods* at 2:00 p.m. Afterwards, all are invited to return to the church for "make your own ice cream sundaes." A sign-up table will be set up in Schultz Hall soon with more details. Mark your calendar now!







# 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.*

## Save the Date - Mission Immersion Day on February 4



Come one, come all, to share God's love in the world! Spend time on **Saturday, February 4**, volunteering and helping others. If you can spare just a few hours, we invite you to sign up! We will feature four sites, including sorting and packaging produce at the Foodshare warehouse in Hartford, working in the pantry, thrift store and soup kitchen at Manchester Area Conference of Churches (MACC), serving a hot meal to the hungry in Middletown at St. Vincent DePaul and making soup and cards and then delivering them to people in our congregation. For more information or to sign up for this mission experience, please contact Tina Sparrow at [tsparrow21@gmail.com](mailto:tsparrow21@gmail.com) or 860-430-9484.

## Serving Lunch February 20

On **Monday, February 20**, we will provide the food and servers for the lunch meal at Center City Church through Hands on Hartford. Please sign up during coffee hour or contact Suzanne Schwartz at 860-430-1350 or [stonehill126@gmail.com](mailto:stonehill126@gmail.com).



## Our "Good Samaritans!"

The First Church family of faith has many talented people, and some of these talents include "handyperson" skills and abilities. Our "Good Samaritan" group is willing to help individuals in the congregation who might be having trouble finding the right people or the adequate resources to do the job – various "odd" jobs around the house or yard. To find out if your household task or project is something they would be able and willing to take on, at no charge, please contact David Taylor or Kate VanDerzee-Glidden.

## Reading Changes Lives!



Fred Wish School is an Elementary School on Barbour Street in Hartford. During the past four years, volunteers from First Church have been helping the kindergarteners with basic reading skills. We hope to encourage their love of reading by spending time with each child reading books, talking about what excites them and what they have learned from the stories. Volunteers are asked to spend **two hours weekly on a day of their choice**. We are assigned two students and spend 30 minutes with each child. If you are interested or have questions, please contact Sally Riddell at 860-657-8715 or [grammasal@att.net](mailto:grammasal@att.net).

## 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 (February 1 and 15)** in our back parking lot. If you are interested in volunteering (adults, youth and children are welcome), contact Sally Riddell at 860-657-8715.



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

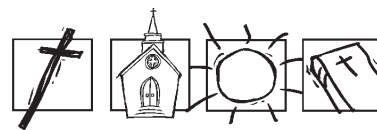
## Food Collection

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





## Music Ministry



### Congratulations

We congratulate **Anna Stone** and **Aiden Palen** for receiving their Light Blue Ribbons in November and December of 2016 as part of the RSCM Program. Each ribbon color represents the various levels of musicianship achieved by the chorister according to the following graded program; Light Blue (Level 1); Dark Blue (Level II); Red (Level III); Purple (Level IV); and Black (Level V).



### Jubilate Ringers "Rang the Red Kettle"



After an anxious morning of deciding whether it was possible to perform during a snow storm on December 17, the Jubilate Ringers had a great time

playing Christmas carols at the Glastonbury Boulevard Stop & Shop for the Salvation Army Red Kettle collection. People going shopping stopped to listen and gave generously to the kettle. We've already signed up for next year! The Salvation Army assists more than 4.5 million people annually during the Thanksgiving and Christmas season.



*Music at the Meetinghouse Presents...*

### SILENT FILM *SPEEDY*



*Peter Krasinski,  
Improvisation Specialist*

**Saturday, February 25, 2017  
7:30 p.m.**

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

*First Church of Christ, Congregational, VCC*



*Please join us for more upcoming  
Music at the Meetinghouse events...*

### MERRIMACK VALLEY RINGERS

*Ring into Spring Concert*

**Saturday, April 29, 2017, 7:30 p.m.**

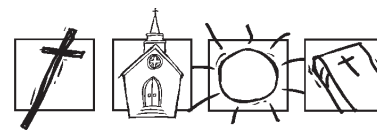
### GREATER MIDDLETOWN CHORALE

*Vocal Alchemy*

**Saturday, June 3, 2017, 7:30 p.m.**



# Children's Ministries



## Church School Unit 5: "Lost and Found"

**Bible Story Reference:** Luke 15

**Bible Verses:** "There is more happiness in heaven because of one sinner who turns to God than over ninety-nine good people who don't need to." (Luke 15:7, CEV)

**Main Idea:** In the parables of the lost sheep, the lost coin, and the forgiving father, Jesus teaches us that God's love is always there for us, no matter where we go or what we do.

### Objectives:

By the end of this unit children will:

- hear and experience the stories of the lost sheep, the lost coin, and the forgiving father;
- discover that God's love is always there for us.



	<u>Sunday 2/5</u>	<u>Sunday 2/12</u>	<u>Sunday 2/19</u>	<u>Sunday 2/26</u>
<u>K &amp; 1st grade</u>	Movie Room 102 Linda Sill	Art Room 103 Judy Burr	Games Room 110 Cecilia Krause	Storytelling Room 111 Donna & Katie Bengtson
<u>2nd grade</u>	Storytelling Room 111 Donna & Katie Bengtson	Movie Room 102 Linda Sill	Art Room 103 Judy Burr	Games Room 110 Cecilia Krause
<u>3rd grade</u>	Storytelling Room 111 Donna & Katie Bengtson	Movie Room 102 Linda Sill	Art Room 103 Judy Burr	Games Room 110 Cecilia Krause
<u>4th grade</u>	Games Room 110 Cecilia Krause	Storytelling Room 111 Donna & Katie Bengtson	Movie Room 102 Leah Schneider	Art Room 103 Judy Burr
<u>5th grade</u>	Games Room 110 Cecilia Krause	Storytelling Room 111 Donna & Katie Bengtson	Movie Room 102 Leah Schneider	Art Room 103 Judy Burr

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

Church School runs until 11:10 a.m. each Sunday. If worship gets out earlier than that, please enjoy some time in Schultz Hall before picking up your children. Thanks for your cooperation!

## Church School Mission Project Fundraiser February 9



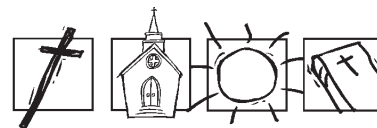
Come support the Board of Christian Education's Church School Mission Project, *School Safe Zones*, while having a delicious meal with our church community! On **Thursday, February 9**, the Board of Christian Education will be holding a fundraiser to support this year's Mission Project. **20% of all purchases made at Firehouse Subs**

in Glastonbury between 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. will be donated to *School Safe Zones*. Firehouse Subs is located on Main Street across the street from Whole Foods. You can call ahead at 860-430-1800 and your order will be ready to pick up when you arrive to pick up or eat in the restaurant. Come support a wonderful cause and have a great meal for lunch and/or dinner!





## Children's Ministries



### Children's Ministries Calendar

#### February 5

Family Communion Sunday: Communion will be at the beginning of the service and all children are welcome to participate

#### February 19

Church School in session: February 18-21 – public school holiday weekend

## Family Communion Sunday on February 5

On **February 5**, First Church will be joining in **Family Communion Sunday**. At First Church, we practice two sacraments, and Holy Communion is one of them! **At First Church, ALL are welcome to our table, no matter who you are!** Communion is a time of remembrance, praise and thanksgiving, confession, fellowship and commissioning. The sacrament of Communion recognizes the gifts that we have been given, and it reminds us to be thankful for all the blessings of the table, of our kinship and fellowship with one another.



Communion will be served at all services. In our denomination, children are always welcome to the table. Parents may choose to include their children as their personal beliefs guide them. We celebrate together to remember that *whoever you are and wherever you are in life's journey, you are welcome here!*

## Church School Mission Project: School Safe Zones



**CWS**

Church World Service

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

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



\$100 = a bunk bed in the dormitory



\$600 = a latrine for improved sanitation



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

Money collected from children's offerings, bake sales, Advent calendar sales and your donations and memorial gifts all go to help create a safer school for children in Africa. If you would like to make a contribution to this special project, please make your check payable to "First Church of Christ," with "School Safe Zones" in the memo line. Thank you for your continued support and for responding to God's call to share love near and far!

## Are You Ready for Camp at Silver Lake?!?!?

Many First Church youth have experienced the wonders and fun of Silver Lake Summer Camp, a conference center run by the CT Conference of the UCC in Sharon, CT. Come and enjoy God's Backyard this summer, with various camps for youth in grades 4-12.

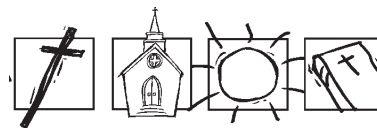
**SAVE \$50! Register by January 31 and use code EARLY17 at checkout.** <http://www.silverlakect.org>. If you're unsure or need convincing, talk to Elizabeth or ask any of the youth who have gone before. **Dates are available June 18 through August 12.**

## Bloomfield Backpack Project

Come help to feed the hungry and then share a quick meal together during this service and supper opportunity! In partnership with Foodshare and other local churches, we will be providing backpacks filled with 11 pounds of nonperishable food to 100 Bloomfield children in need. Come join us on the **2nd Thursday of the month from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m.** **Anyone and everyone** is welcome to join us on any date that works for you! Contact Meredith Krauss at [meredana@aol.com](mailto:meredana@aol.com) to sign up or feel free to sign up on the poster outside of the Christian Education office. Upcoming dates with openings for volunteers are **February 9, March 9, April 13, May 11 and June 8.**



# Youth Ministry



## Junior High Fellowship Schedule

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

**Monday, February 13:** Regular Session

**Monday, February 27:** Regular Session

## Important Mission Trip Dates!

The Senior High Fellowship will head down to Biloxi, MS, from April 9-15 for our annual mission trip. In preparation, we will hold a series of Mission Focused SHF Sessions. These are regular SHF sessions, open to all, but they are mandatory for Mission Trip participants, which encourage youth to think about missions as a spiritual practice, using our trip theme as a case study.



**Sunday, February 26:** Mission Focused SHF, 6:00-8:00 p.m.  
*payment #2 due (\$150).*

**Sunday, March 26:** Mission Focused SHF, 6:00-8:00 p.m.,  
*final payments due!*

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

**Saturday, April 8:** Mission Trip kick-off dinner, 6:00 p.m.

**April 9 – 15:** Mission Trip departure and return.

**May 7:** Mission Trippers lead worship, 10:00 a.m.

## Senior High Fellowship Schedule

Senior High Fellowship is open to any student in 9th – 12th grades. We meet Sunday nights from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. in the Youth Room.

*\*Denotes special time*

**\*Sunday, February 5:** Super Bowl Sunday  
(Watch 1st half at advisor Kyle Kulas' home)

**Sunday, February 12:** Regular session

**Sunday, February 19:** Regular session  
(Presidents' Day holiday weekend)

**Sunday, February 26:** Mission-focused session, *payment #2 due*

## Confirmation Class Schedule

Our nine month 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.

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

**Sunday, February 12:** Regular Class Session

**\*Saturday, February 25: Mission Outreach Day,**  
8:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

**Sunday, February 26:** Regular Class Session



## Support Our Youth Mission Trip Through SHARES!

We encourage everyone in the First Church family to help support our SHF youth on their mission trip to Biloxi, MS, in April!

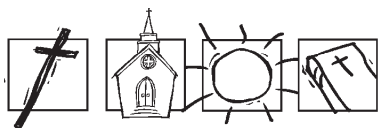
**Coming in March, please visit the Youth Table to contribute to the Mission Trip by purchasing "Shares" for \$20 each.**

This is a great way to support our Youth Mission Outreach and to participate in their efforts! There's no limit to the number you can buy, and all donations will be included in your First Church giving statement. You'll receive a share certificate and be included in our year-end report to shareholders of mission activities. If you have any questions, please contact Elizabeth Gleich at [elizabeth@glastonburyfirst.org](mailto:elizabeth@glastonburyfirst.org), and be sure to look for our table during coffee hour in March and April!

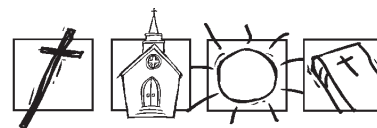


*It was a very merry Christmas Eve! Thank you again to all who made the Christmas story come to life.*

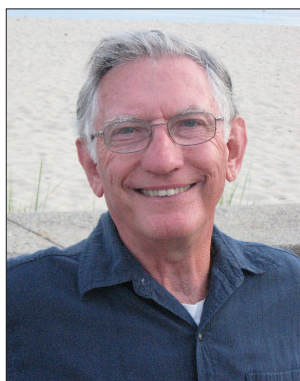




## Adult Opportunities



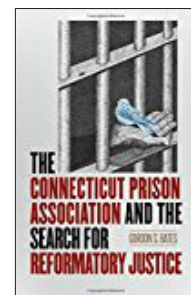
### Book Signing and Presentation by Gordon Bates



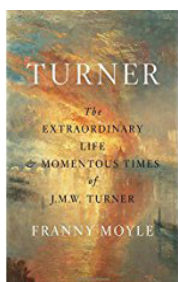
On **January 29 at 3:00 p.m. in Schultz Hall**, Gordon Bates, our Minister of Visitation, will speak about his recently released book. Published by Wesleyan University Press, Gordon draws upon his three decades of work with the Connecticut Prison Association (CPA) to describe the evolution of the police, courts and prisons in Connecticut. The CPA is a private, non-profit agency that was formed in 1875 and is still going strong under the name of Community Partners in Action. The title of Gordon's history is ***The Connecticut Prison Association and The Search for Reformatory Justice***, which covers the years between 1875 and 2000. A separate coffee table book, with the text also written by Gordon, will be published in a few months with photographs that trace the CPA story into the 21st century.

Gordon began research on the agency's influence on Connecticut's criminal justice system in 2004 after retiring from his position as Minister of Justice for the Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ. The CPA story is told within a national perspective that puts Connecticut's system in its larger context. Copies of Gordon's book will be available at the event or they are now available in most bookstores.

A reception will be provided for those who attend and Gordon will gladly sign copies for those who desire that personal touch.



### Biography Book Group

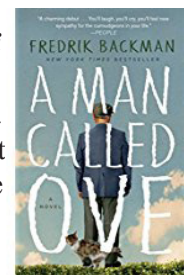


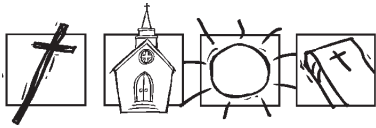
The Biography Book Group meets every other month to review a book and enjoy fellowship in an informal setting. We invite you to join us for any of our upcoming selections. The March biography selection is ***Turner: The Extraordinary Life and Momentous Times of J.M.W. Turner*** by Franny Moyle. We hope you will enjoy reading about this British artist whose visionary work set the stage for a revolution in landscape painting. "Over the course of his lifetime, Turner strove to liberate painting from an antiquated system of patronage. Bringing a new level of expression and color to his canvases, he paved the way for the modern artist. Turner was very much a man of his changing era. In his lifetime, he saw Britain ravaged by Napoleonic wars, revived by the Industrial Revolution, and embarked upon a new moment of Imperial glory with the ascendancy of Queen Victoria. His own

life embodied astonishing transformation. Born the son of a barber in Covent Garden, he was buried amid pomp and ceremony in St. Paul's Cathedral" (Amazon.com). We will meet on **Tuesday, March 14 at 4:00 p.m. in the Lehman Library** to enjoy a discussion of this artist and biography. Call or email Valerie Escalera at 860-633-4452 or [miguel.escalera@sbcglobal.net](mailto:miguel.escalera@sbcglobal.net) with any questions.

### Thursday Morning Study Group

The Thursday Morning Study Group will complete the study of the origin words "on the shores of Tripoli" in the Marine Corps hymn (reference: Brian Kilmeade and Don Yaeger's book ***Thomas Jefferson and the Tripoli Pirates: The Forgotten War That Changed American History***) on **February 2**. Then, we will turn to age-related concerns with the bestselling book and resultant movie titled ***A Man Called Ove*** on **February 9 and 16**. "Fredrik Backman's novel about the angry old man next door is a thoughtful exploration of the profound impact one life has on countless others" (Amazon.com). This will be followed on **February 23 and into March** by the New York Times two-year bestseller by Abraham Verghese titled ***Cutting for Stone***. "Marion and Shiva Stone are twin brothers born of a secret union between a beautiful Indian nun and a brash British surgeon. Orphaned by their mother's death and their father's disappearance, bound together by a preternatural connection and a shared fascination with medicine, the twins come of age as Ethiopia hovers on the brink of revolution" (Amazon.com). All are welcome to enjoy these discussions even if the reference material has not been read. TMSG gathers in the **Lehman Library at 9:30 a.m. on Thursdays**. Please contact Sally Brown via email at [saldaybrown@aol.com](mailto:saldaybrown@aol.com) for more information.



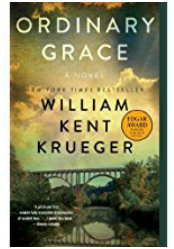


## Adult Opportunities



### Second Sunday Book Club

The Second Sunday Book Club's March selection is *Ordinary Grace* by William Kent Krueger. "*Ordinary Grace* is a brilliantly moving account of a boy standing at the door of becoming a young man, trying to understand a world that seems to be falling apart around him. It is an unforgettable novel about discovering the terrible price of wisdom and the enduring grace of God" (Amazon.com). We will meet in **Lehman Library on Sunday, March 12 at 4:00 p.m.** to discuss this and other great reads. The selection for **May 7** is *Underground Railroad* by Colson Whitehead. If you have any questions, contact Amy E. Thompson at [thompson.amy72@gmail.com](mailto:thompson.amy72@gmail.com).



### Prayer and Share



Come join us for a time of prayer, sharing, strengthening your faith and forming friendships. Being part of a small group within a large church fosters a feeling of belonging and caring. We learn and grow from our study/discussions and from each other. Yearning for a more joyful outlook on life? We are discussing Christa Kinde's book from the Women of Faith Study Guide Series, *Contagious Joy*. In this study, we will take a careful look at this uniquely Christian characteristic of joy. Joy is our strength and our song. And although joy isn't exactly the same as happiness or glee, it leads conveniently into them. **All are welcome to join us in the Parlor each Tuesday morning from 9:45-11:00 a.m.** Please contact Nancy Higgins at 860-573-6092 or Donna Smith at 860-633-4428 for more information and to reserve your copy of the book.

### 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!



### Women's Theological Reflection Group

We invite all interested First Church women to join us on the **third Wednesday of each month** to discuss a variety of faith questions, reflect on our personal journeys and share friendship and community. In the past, we discussed prayer, healing, faith journeys, doing justice, finding quiet time, our addiction to hurrying and gratitude. We often circulate short articles of interest to those who attend, but there is no homework - the resources we share are for those who wish to learn more about the topic before we meet. We hope to see you at one of our gatherings from **8:00 to 9:00 a.m. in the Lehman Library**. Please contact Danae Dwyer at [danaedwyer@me.com](mailto:danaedwyer@me.com) or 860-967-2269 for further information.



## Caring Ministry



### Calling Knitters and Crocheters!



Knitters and crocheters will gather on **Monday, February 20, from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. in the Lehman Library**. Whether you are new to the group or would like to learn to knit or crochet, all are welcome for handicrafts and fellowship. Yarn is provided. Bring a #11 or #13 pair of knitting needles, or a medium to large crochet hook, and receive some instruction. If you have questions, call Chair Judy Burr at 860-643-9368. All 2017 meetings except the June meeting are planned for the third Monday of the month as follows: **March 20, April 17, May 15 and June 12.**



## General Info Corner



### Prayer Corner



#### Prayers of joy for:

The safe return of our dedicated adults who spent the week of January 1-7 at Back Bay Mission in Biloxi, Mississippi, doing much-needed work on a home on the list for repairs for two years.

#### Prayers of healing and wholeness for:

Barbara Harding      Audrey Hernandez      Al Reid  
Lois Harwick      Chris Hernandez

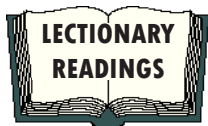
#### Prayers of sympathy for:

Friends and family of Bertha Nollman, who died on January 3, 2017 in Maine. Bertha was a First Church member since 1992 and had been active on the Board of Lay Life and Ministry from 2006-2008. Her memorial service was held here on January 20.

Family and friends of John Hill, who died on January 14 at Covenant Village, Cromwell. He was a Golden Member of First Church, having joined in 1963. Throughout the years, he actively served on the Board of Deacons (1969-1973), as Vice President of our church from 1976 to 1978, and then as President from 1978 to 1980. His memorial service was held on Saturday, January 21.

### 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



#### February 5, 2017 - Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 58:1-9a, [9b-12]; Psalm 112:1-9, (10);  
1 Corinthians 2:1-12, [13-16]; Matthew 5:13-20

#### February 12, 2017 - Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

Deuteronomy 30:15-20 or Sirach 15:15-20;  
Psalm 119:1-8; 1 Corinthians 3:1-9; Matthew 5:21-37

#### February 19, 2017 - Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18; Psalm 119:33-40;  
1 Corinthians 3:10-11, 16-23; Matthew 5:38-48

#### February 26, 2017 - Last Sunday after Epiphany/Transfiguration

Exodus 24:12-18; Psalm 2 or Psalm 99;  
2 Peter 1:16-21; Matthew 17:1-9

### IN CASE OF HOSPITALIZATION:

#### New Procedure for Hartford Hospital

**Hospitals can't release information to us, so if you or a loved one is hospitalized and would like a visit, please make note of the following.**

For Hartford Hospital, inform them that you are from First Church of Christ, Congregational in Glastonbury.

For St. Francis Hospital, inform them of Code 17 for First Church.

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

### Snow Cancellations!

Sometimes the weather outside is *truly* frightful, so in the event of a snow storm, please use the following media for information regarding fellowship cancellations:



- WFSB 3, NBC 30 and WTNH 8 (snow closings)
- First Church's website and Facebook page
- Your email inbox (we will email you immediately when a decision is made)

We want you and our youth to be safe and to feel safe, so if there is a fellowship event scheduled but the weather gives you pause, ***please do not hesitate in choosing to stay at home! Safety first, always (especially with younger drivers)!***

### Altar Flowers Requested



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



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