



The REMINDER

First Church of Christ, Congregational, Glastonbury, Connecticut

Member of United Church of Christ

An open, welcoming and affirming congregation

February 2018

Dear Friends,

In worship recently we shared these words of Mahatma Gandhi,

Remember that all through history the ways of truth and love have always won. There have been tyrants, and for a time they can seem invincible, but in the end they always fall. Think of it--always.

With every caring phone call or note card, with every prayer shawl knitted, with every canned good brought in for a food pantry or with every casserole or cupcake made for a Hands on Hartford lunch, ***love wins!***

Here at First Church we have staked our claim on this belief – that ***love wins – always!***

And the approaching season of Lent, which begins with Ash Wednesday (ironically, or serendipitously, on February 14!) is history's most dramatic marker of this reality – the love of Christ, which was victorious on Easter Day, has won over the powers of death, destruction, evil, hate, bigotry, racism, injustice. By our lives and by our actions, we proclaim this truth – ***love wins, always!***

We invite you to take part in this “***victory celebration***” throughout the year – by joining in our worship of God, by caring for one another through one of our many small group ministries, and by participating in a mission activity of love into God's world!

Lots of love to you all,

David and *Kate*

Worship and Lenten Series

February 4 *Family Communion Sunday* – David Taylor preaching

8:00 a.m. Wayne Rivera, tenor; **10:00 a.m.** Cantate, Cantabile and Chancel Choirs

February 11 Kate VanDerzee-Glidden preaching

8:00 a.m. Arwen Norman, soprano; **10:00 a.m.** Cherub and Chancel Choirs, Puppet Troupe

February 14 *Ash Wednesday services held at noon and 7:00 p.m.*

12:00 p.m. Chris Stone, soloist; **7:00 p.m.** Chancel Choir



The solemn season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday. It is a time for reflection and prayer. The receiving of ashes is an ancient ritual of repentance which reminds us of our mortality and symbolizes our dependence on God's steadfast love and mercy.

February 18 The Reverend Kent Siladi, the Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ's Conference Minister, will preach at both services on February 18. Kent has been the Conference Minister since June 2013, and his installation was held here at First Church on September 28, 2013. Kent will be preaching on our Lenten theme, *Be the Church*.

8:00 a.m. Ginger Kousen, soprano, Lola Elliott-Hugh, mezzo-soprano; **10:00 a.m.** Jubilate Ringers, Chancel Choir

February 25 David Taylor preaching

8:00 a.m. Chris Stone, baritone; **10:00 a.m.** Caroler and Chancel Choirs, Mallet Ringers



First Church of Christ, Congregational

United Church of Christ
2183 Main Street
Glastonbury, CT 06033

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

Sunday Morning Schedule

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

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

Phone Number: 860-633-4641

Fax Number: 860-633-5826

Email: firstchurch@glastonburyfirst.org

Website: www.glastonburyfirst.org

Staff

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

THE REMINDER submission deadline:
Saturday, February 10: March 2018 issue

Calling All Volunteers!



Would you like to be more involved in our vibrant First Church community? Perhaps you are already involved but would like to try something new? We will soon begin recruiting new members for all of our boards and committees. So many opportunities are available and this is a great time to think about 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; Christine Roberge, Vice Chair of Human Resources, at (860) 430-1572 or roberge.happyface@gmail.com; any 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.

Prospective Member Gathering March 4

The Church Growth and Membership Committee cordially invites those persons who have worshipped here and would like to make First Church their church home to attend the next prospective member gathering **on Sunday, March 4, at 11:30 a.m.** At that time, church leaders will greet you and tell you about the many wonderful programs and ministries of our congregation. Please consider becoming part of our church family and sharing more fully in our life together.

Prospective members are then asked to attend a second session on Sunday, March 11, at 11:30 a.m. In this small group setting one of our Pastors will provide more background about First Church and the United Church of Christ, and those attending can share their own religious upbringing. **New members will join on Sunday, March 18, at the 10:00 a.m. worship service.** If you would like to learn more about making First Church your church home, please join us on March 4. Please speak to one of the Pastors or contact Kathy Ciolkosz in the church office at 860-633-4641, extension 110, or kathyc@glastonburyfirst.org.



Micah House and Chapel Update: February 2018

The holiday season is now a memory, having celebrated the birth of Jesus Christ as a welcoming, diverse and inclusive congregation. We are now deep into a traditional New England winter with freezing temperatures, cold winds and lots of snow. Yet the warmth next door moves us forward towards the birth of The Micah House and Chapel at The Thomas Hale Homestead!!

George Fay, the project's contractor, and his team have completed the rebuilding of the exterior of the Hale House and the exterior shell of the new Micah Chapel. In January 2018, the construction highlights are:

- High R-value insulation system was installed from attic to basement;
- Heating system became operational; and
- Sheet rock was installed and taped.

Once these items are completed, the construction team will begin installing the flooring and trim.



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 \$60,000!!

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

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

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

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

Over the first weekend in June, our church will be celebrating the completion and opening of the Micah House and Chapel at The Thomas Hale Homestead, as well as our church's 325th birthday! Plans are underway for a two-day celebration including tours, music, food, history and lots of fun and fellowship with our church community and the wider Glastonbury community. Watch the *Reminder* for more details as plans are made. **Save the dates: June 2 and 3!** For more information, or if you are interested in helping that weekend, contact Suzanne Schwartz at stonehill126@gmail.com or Nancy Pacht at nrwp0503@yahoo.com.

Update on the 2018 Stewardship Pledge Campaign

Happy New Year from your Stewardship Committee!! As of January 16, 2018 our pledge total is \$780,000, so this is the number that will be used for the 2018 operating budget.

We are very pleased to have exceeded our goal! We would still welcome pledges, so if you would like to pledge, it is as easy as calling (860-633-4641, ext 122) or emailing (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 22 new pledges and 120 members were able to increase their pledges. A heartfelt thank you goes out 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 2018 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 or contact Suzy Fisher at suzy.o.fisher@gmail.com or Vance Harris at vwhref01@gmail.com. We would love to add your name to our list!

First Church Online – Podcasts and Facebook!

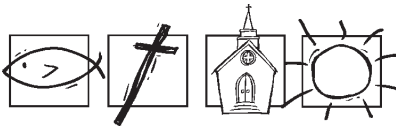
Each Sunday we gather as the body of Christ to be together in community and to listen, sing, pray, share and be inspired to go out into the world in love. If you miss a Sunday, you can still listen to the sermon online. Go to <http://firstchurchglastonbury.podbean.com/>. And did you know that we have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



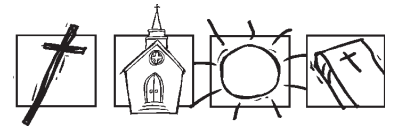
United Church of Christ News and Events

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

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



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.

Serving Together at our Mission Immersion Day!

Come one, come all, to share God's love in the world! Spend some time on **Saturday, February 3** volunteering and helping others. If you can spare just a few hours, we invite you to sign up! For more information or to **sign up for this mission experience**, contact Phil Resor at philresor@gmail.com or 860-301-5066.



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.

- 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.
- 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 ctsdncmnfolk@gmail.com or 860-430-2123.
- 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 or Paul Fraleigh at 860-643-1571.

Reading Changes Lives: Volunteering at Wish School



Fred Wish School is an Elementary School on Barbour Street in Hartford. During the past several 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. Books appropriate for their grade level and skills are provided. **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 sally.m.riddell@gmail.com.

Food Collection

First Church has a long tradition of collecting food items. Our donations go to Horace Bushnell Children's Food Pantry in Hartford and Manchester Area Conference of Churches (MACC). **In February, we're asking for contributions of soup, canned veggies and other items people are willing to donate.** Please bring food that is not expired or open. Thank you!

Serving Lunch February 19

On Monday, February 19, we provide the food and servers for this lunch meal at Center City Church through Hands on Hartford. To sign up, please contact Sharon Conway at sconway@massmutual.com or 860-463-6503 for questions or to volunteer.





Christian Service



Dear Friends,

Our faith challenges us to be kind, faithful and loving people who share what we have with others. Whether it is the prophets in the Old Testament or Jesus and the Apostle Paul in the New Testament, our call is clear. It is our responsibility to be generous, to serve and to share God's love with others.

We are blessed to be part of a congregation that takes that call seriously. One way we share God's love is by giving to people who are in need.

Thank you to all of you who have also generously responded to the Famine and Hurricane Relief appeals. \$8,064 was donated for East Africa Famine Relief, and \$8,108.85 was given in response to the Hurricane Relief appeal.

In addition, you all and our guests at Thanksgiving and Christmas gave generously to our Thanksgiving and Christmas offerings. We received \$9,948 for our Thanksgiving offering, which has been given to Back Bay Mission, the Bloomfield Backpack Project, Hurricane Disaster Recovery work and Integrated Refugee and Immigrant Services (IRIS). For our Christmas offering, we gave away \$16,527 to Glastonbury Fuel Bank, Manchester Area Conference of Churches (MACC), Horace Bushnell Children's Food Pantry, HELO Haiti and Hands on Hartford.

Your big hearts, open spirits and caring hands inspire us, and we give thanks for each one of you!

Blessings,

Kate and David

First Church's "Good Samaritans!"

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 various "odd" jobs around the house or yard. Please contact Kate VanDerzee-Glidden or David Taylor.



Children's Ministries



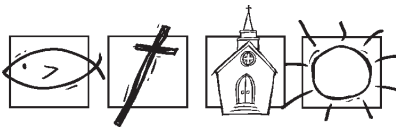
Summer Camp at Silver Lake!



Many First Church children, youth and adults have experienced the wonders and fun of Silver Lake, a conference center run by the CT Conference of the UCC in Sharon, CT. We hold our annual youth retreats there, and many of our church folks have gone to summer camp there over the years. Come and enjoy *God's Backyard* this summer, with various camps for youth in grades 4-12. **SAVE \$50! Register by January 31 and use code *EARLY18* at checkout. Dates are available June 24 through August 11.** For information, go to <http://www.silverlakeect.org>. If you're unsure or need convincing, talk to Elizabeth, Kate or David or ask any of the youth who have gone before.

Andrew Wicks, a First Church member and former Director of Children and Youth Ministries, is a life-long Silver Laker. We asked him to share a few words with us.

"Silver Lake is God's Backyard and each summer it welcomes young people from 4th grade through high school for week long camp sessions. Youth love it because there are so many fun things to do, from swimming and sailing to Quidditch and theater. Parents love it because it's a safe and caring Christian community that builds leadership, independence and lifelong friendships. Church leaders love it because students get an immersive experience in an intentional Christian community. For me, Silver Lake is a sacred home away from home, a church in the great outdoors and a formative place to which I return to each summer as an adult, hoping to share the same gifts that were given to me. I encourage you to explore the many options available for your son or daughter to join in the Silver Lake community this summer!"



Children's Ministries



A Call for Recipes!



To raise money for our Church School mission project, *Little City Sprouts*, the Church School is creating a church-wide cookbook! *Little City Sprouts* is program that helps preschoolers in Hartford to have better access to education about nutrition, gardening and sustainability. The focus of our fundraiser is on healthy eating and education, but we know that some recipes also warm the heart and feed the soul, so all recipes are welcome! Submit your recipes to <https://tinyurl.com/churchcookbook> and click on "contribute recipe." At this link you can also pre-order a cookbook! You can also email your recipes to ceadmin@glastonburyfirst.org. Questions? Email Catie Resor at catieresor@gmail.com. Thanks in advance for your support!

Family Communion Sunday on February 4

On **February 4**, 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!*



Volunteer Feedback Forum on February 25

The Board of Christian Education cordially invites all Church School volunteers to their **Volunteer Feedback Forum** which will be held on **February 25 at 11:15 a.m. in the Lehman Library**. This is an informal gathering to discuss our Church School program – enjoyable moments, suggestions, challenges – anything is up for discussion! Your feedback is very important to us in making decisions that ensure that our Church School program remains vibrant. See you there!

Church School Mission Project

Opening Doors and Building Bridges: One Preschooler at a Time



What if you could help end both hunger AND obesity for families right next door in the city of Hartford? What if you could help preschoolers learn how to grow vegetables or how to cook a healthy meal? *Little City Sprouts* is a Farm to Preschool program of Hartford Food Systems, providing preschool children with the opportunity to know about, grow and taste fresh, healthy food through food-related field trips,

gardening, nutrition and cooking lessons designed for them. The program encourages preschoolers across the city of Hartford to get excited about adopting healthy lifestyles.

The program began in April 2015 and was developed after a study conducted in Hartford in 2012 found that a shocking 37% of preschool children were overweight or obese. *Little City Sprouts* encourages healthy nutrition habits at a young age, as these habits will shape child development and continue into adulthood. First Church's support will help *Little City Sprouts* expand their reach and broaden their efforts to impact the lives of many more Hartford "sprouts" and their families! Thank you for donating to this important Church School Mission Project!

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



Money collected from children's offerings, bake sales and your donations and memorial gifts all go to support the Church School Mission Project. If you would like to make a contribution to this special project, please make your check payable to "First Church of Christ," with "Little City Sprouts" in the memo line. Thank you for your continued support!



Church School Unit 5: "Three Women of Faith"

Bible Story References: Acts 16:11–15, 40; Acts 18:1–4; Acts 9:36–42; Romans 16:3

Bible Verses: *We are ambassadors for Christ.* (2 Corinthians 5:20)

She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. (Acts 9:36)

(Many others) provided for them out of their resources. (Luke 8:3)

Main Idea: Lydia, Dorcas and Priscilla are wise and courageous women of faith who showed their love of God and Jesus through their faith and service. These women can be role models reflecting the image of God for all of us.

Objectives: Children will have the opportunity to:

- become familiar with the stories of Priscilla, Lydia and Dorcas;
- understand the importance of hospitality;
- understand that women had an important role in the spreading of the Gospel;
- understand that these women used their skills and resources in service to God;
- discover that these women can be role models for everyone;
- discover that it was revolutionary for women to have a significant role in the life of faith;
- come to know other women as spiritual leaders.



	<u>Sunday 2/4</u>	<u>Sunday 2/11</u>	<u>Sunday 2/18</u>	<u>Sunday 2/25</u>	<u>Sunday 3/4</u>
<u>K & 1st grade</u>	Cooking Room 205 Chelsea Cooper	Storytelling Room 111 Emily Daigle	Science Room 206 Emma McCandless	Art Room 103 Alison Couture	Games Room 110 Kimberly Cox
<u>2nd grade</u>	Games Room 110 Kimberly Cox	Cooking Room 205 Chelsea Cooper	Storytelling Room 111 Emily Daigle	Science Room 206 Emma McCandless	Art Room 103 Alison Couture
<u>3rd grade</u>	Games Room 110 Kimberly Cox	Cooking Room 205 Chelsea Cooper	Storytelling Room 111 Emily Daigle	Science Room 206 Emma McCandless	Art Room 103 Alison Couture
<u>4th grade</u>	Art Room 103 Alison Couture	Games Room 110 Kimberly Cox	Cooking Room 205 Chelsea Cooper	Storytelling Room 111 Emily Daigle	Science Room 206 Emma McCandless
<u>5th grade</u>	Art Room 103 Alison Couture	Games Room 110 Kimberly Cox	Cooking Room 205 Chelsea Cooper	Storytelling Room 111 Emily Daigle	Science Room 206 Emma McCandless

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

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



Bloomfield Backpack Project

In partnership with Foodshare and other churches, we provide backpacks filled with 11 pounds of nonperishable food to 100 Bloomfield children in need. **On the second Thursday of every month from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.**, we send groups of kids and adults to pack the backpacks for the children. All are welcome at this meaningful mission opportunity! Sign up at tinyurl.com/glastonburyfirst-backpack or on the poster outside of the Children and Youth Ministries office. If you have questions or want more information, please contact Bryce Grissom at bryce.grissom@gmail.com. The remaining 2018 dates are **February 8, March 8, April 12, May 10 and June 14.**



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 12: Regular Session
Monday, February 26: Regular Session

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 4:** Super Bowl Sunday (Watch 1st half together at location TBA)
Sunday, February 11: Regular session
Sunday, February 18: No SHF (Presidents' Day holiday weekend)
Sunday, February 25: Mission-focused session, *final payment (\$250) due*

Important Mission Trip Dates!



The Senior High Fellowship will be traveling to Memphis, TN for the annual SHF Mission Trip **April 7-14**.

We've been focusing on the importance of doing mission work, and the imperative to work for both charity and justice. Through team-building exercises, critical small group discussions and some soul-searching within our group, we're prepared to go to Memphis! We'll be learning about civil rights and racial and social justice and doing service work in the city of Memphis.

Sunday, February 25: Mission Focused SHF, 6:00-8:00 p.m.
Final payment due (\$250).
Sunday, March 25: Mission Trip Commissioning, 10:00 a.m.;
Mission Focused SHF, 6:00-8:00 p.m.
Saturday, April 7: Mission Trip kick-off brunch, 11:00 a.m.
April 7 – 14: Mission Trip departure and return.
May 6: Mission Trippers lead worship, 10:00 a.m.

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 11: Regular Class Session
***Wednesday, February 14:** Ash Wednesday Service, 7:00 p.m.
Sunday, February 25: Regular Class Session



Support Our Youth Mission Trip Through SHARES!

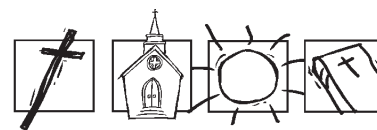
We encourage everyone in the First Church family to help support our SHF youth on their mission trip to Memphis in April! **Coming in March, please visit the Youth Table to contribute to the Mission Trip by purchasing "Shares" for \$20 each.** This is a great way to support our Youth Mission Outreach 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, 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.



Music Ministry



Music at the Meetinghouse Presents...

SONATA SWING QUARTET



“Bolling” You Over
Saturday, February 10, 2018
7:30 p.m.

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

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

And please join us
for more upcoming
Music at the Meetinghouse...

ACOUSTIC EIDOLON
A Blend of Celtic, Flamenco
and Americana

Saturday, April 28, 2018, 7:30 p.m.

ROSS TUCKER AND
THE HOT CAT JAZZ BAND
Blues, Beatles, Buffett and more...

Saturday, June 2, 2018
extended concert 6:30-8:30 p.m.
with an ice-cream social

Caroling in Boston!

On December 16, the Cantate and Cantabile Choirs enjoyed a day of singing Christmas carols at the Faneuil Hall Marketplace in Boston. They sang a half hour program beginning at 3:00 p.m. Their day entailed spending time at the Boston Museum of Science, shopping and eating delicious food at the marketplace and the surrounding area restaurants. The weather was warmer than expected and it was a wonderful day of fellowship. Thank you to all who came to hear the choristers sing!



Performers in “A Christmas Carol”

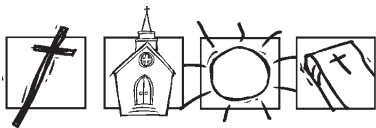


During the month of December, two of our children’s choir members, as well as another active young person in our church, performed in *A Christmas Carol*. Jordyn Schmidt (Cider Child & Want), Timmy McGuire (School Boy) and Alex O’Brien (Tiny Tim) all enjoyed being part of Hartford Stage’s production. On December 10, many members of our congregation were in the audience as all three First Church kids took the stage.

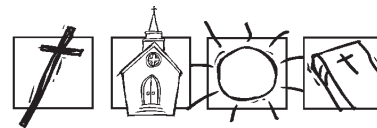


Munson’s Candy Fundraiser

The Cantate and Cantabile Choir members will be selling **Munson’s candy** for Easter as their Choir Camp fundraiser to help defray the cost of the camp. This is a great opportunity to get organized and order your favorite chocolates early, before the Easter rush to fill baskets. **Order forms will be available at the Board of Music table during the month of February.** Your candy will be available for pick up two weeks before Easter. Thank you for your support of Choir Camp!



Adult Opportunities



Millennial Fellowship Has Launched

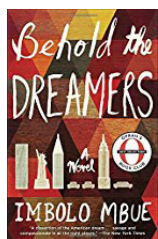
Are you a 20-something or an early 30-something? We are intentionally gathering together a group of millennials for our own fellowship. Our monthly events will focus on team building, community service, faith formation and fun. Whether you're a young professional joining First Church, a recently returned graduate living in your parents' basement or a young at heart 80s kid, this is the group for you. We hope you join us for monthly volunteering, social events and faith conversations over a pint at a local brewery. **Our next gathering is working at Manchester Area Conference of Churches (MACC) on our church's Mission Immersion Day, February 3.** For more information about this event or about the group, contact Kate VanDerzee-Glidden at katev@glastonburyfirst.org or Elizabeth Gleich at elizabeth@glastonburyfirst.org.

You are Invited to a Moms' Group!

A newly formed Moms' Group has started, and we invite you to come! Raising children in this current world is a privilege and often a challenge, so we are coming together to support each other and to take action on issues that affect us and the world we live in. Inspired and encouraged by our faith, we are looking forward to meeting new friends, sharing ideas, taking action and providing opportunities for our children to help us create a more just and peaceful world. We meet on the first Wednesday of the month. **Come join us on February 7 in the Quiet Room here at church!** If you have questions, please contact Chelsea Cooper at 860-614-2381 or chelsnelson@yahoo.com.



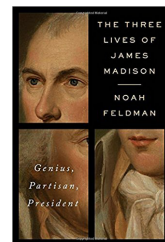
Thursday Morning Study Group



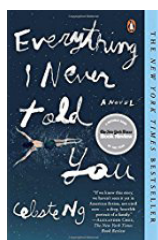
As the Thursday Morning Study Group continues into the year 2018, we are reminded that we are a "study" or "discussion" group rather than a "book" group. We pick topics that seem relevant to us in the current year that we want to discuss and, for those who have the time and interest, choose published reference material that seems to augment personal knowledge of the topic at hand. That material is usually, but not limited to, a recommended fiction or nonfiction book. For instance, we will begin the month on February 1 considering two questions. The first is, "*What's to be done with the 'Dreamers' and those young immigrants affected by DACA?*" The second is, "*What should today's Christians actively be doing in our daily lives?*" Suggested reference material for the first study (**February 1 and 8**) is the 2017 *New York Times* bestselling novel *Behold the Dreamers* by Imbolo Mbue. Referenced for the second question (**February 15 and 22**) is the novel published in 1896 which has sold over 30 million copies titled *In His Steps*, by Charles Sheldon, which is the modern introduction to "*What Would Jesus Do?*" (*WWJD*). Neither reference, although relevant, needs to be read in order to join us in the **Lehman Library on Thursday mornings from 9:30-11:00 a.m.** for our wide ranging conversations. For answers to your questions please contact Forbes Warren at 860-633-3982 or Sally Brown at saldaybrown@aol.com.

Biography Book Group

The Biography Book Group meets every other month in the Lehman Library to review a book and enjoy fellowship in an informal setting. We invite you to join us for any or all of our upcoming selections. On **March 13** we will discuss the newly released biography of James Madison, *The Three Lives of James Madison: Genius, Partisan, President*, by Noah Feldman. *Portrait of an Artist* by Laurie Lisle is our selection for **May 8**, when we will discuss this biography about artist Georgia O'Keeffe. We hope you will join us at **4:00 p.m. in the Lehman Library**. Please contact Valerie Escalera at 860-633-4452 or miguel.escalera@sbcglobal.net with any questions.



Second Sunday Book Club



The Second Sunday Book Club meets on the **second Sunday of every other month in the Lehman Library at 4:00 p.m.** to discuss a selected book as well as other great reads we are enjoying. We hope you will join us for one of our upcoming meetings this year! We will meet on **Sunday, March 11 at 4:00 p.m.** to discuss *Everything I Never Told You* by Celeste Ng, a novel about a Chinese American family living in 1970s small-town Ohio. Our final selection for this program year will be *Station Eleven* by Emily St. John Mandel, which we will discuss on **Sunday, May 6** (note this is the first Sunday due to Mother's Day). If you have any questions, contact Amy E. Thompson at thompson.amy72@gmail.com.



Adult Opportunities



Join Other Nature Lovers: First Church Outside Group!



Attention all nature lovers! In the spring, we formed a new group where we gather monthly for a time of fellowship and learning. We have also started taking on special projects, including our summer Sunday morning farm stand and hikes. Stay tuned for our next hike date! **We meet on the third Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. We hope you can join us on February 20!** Anyone is welcome to join. Whether you enjoy nature photography, hiking, feeding the birds, gardening or just sitting outside and taking in all that God has created, we want you! If you have questions or want to get involved, please contact Tracy Kavanaugh at lilypadprints@gmail.com or 413-250-3838.

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!



Come Join the Latter Day Marthas

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

Reiki Available

Here at First Church there is a group of people trained in giving Reiki. If you know of anyone who is having surgery, if you are or know of a first responder, or if you would enjoy a relaxing, peaceful experience, Reiki is for you! To make an appointment (free of charge) or inquire about Reiki you may contact Lisa Chandler at 860-659-8274 or Donna Kidwell at 860-633-8284.

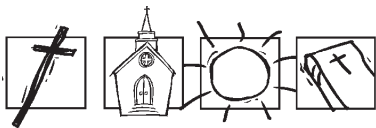
One of the ways that Peggy Huddleston suggests to connect with relaxation, faster healing and less pain in her book, *Prepare for Surgery, Heal Faster* (see book review below), is through receiving Reiki. Reiki is an ancient art of balancing the body's energy flow to reduce stress and promote healing. It can be offered by healing touch or by positioning the hands over the body. Reiki is effective, powerful and efficient, yet safe, gentle and natural. It helps to promote health, healing, happiness, wholeness and well-being on the emotional, mental, spiritual and physical levels. Reiki can reduce stress and pain, restore vitality and speed the healing process.

Library Corner Book Review:

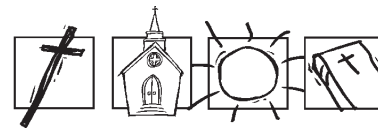
Prepare for Surgery, Heal Faster, by Peggy Huddleston

If the prospect of upcoming surgery makes you anxious, Peggy Huddleston's book, *Prepare for Surgery, Heal Faster*, is a great resource. It provides medically proven mind-body techniques that allow patients to feel calmer, to use less pain medication when recovering and to heal more quickly. There's also a chapter for parents on helping children prepare for surgery, and a list of affirming statements that you can ask your operating room staff to say as you're going under and coming out of anesthesia. Borrow a copy of this book and CD combo a week or more prior to your surgery. Listen to the CD at least four or five times to learn the relaxation techniques and to visualize the healing process, and listen to it after surgery to help control pain and to speed the healing process.

As noted on the CD cover, "This CD can also be used for general relaxation as it never mentions surgery. Use it to lessen stress, stop tension headaches and migraines, fall asleep if you have insomnia, lower blood pressure, and lessen chemotherapy side-effects." Both the book and CD are in our Lehman Library located on the second floor. If you borrow a copy, please sign the book and CD out and place the card in the metal box on the rear shelf. For more information, contact Karen Fecko, Library Committee, at kfecko@cox.net.



Adult Opportunities



Prayer and Share

Come join us for a time of prayer, sharing, strengthening your faith and forming friendships. Being part of a small group within a large church fosters a feeling of belonging and caring. We learn and grow from our study/discussions and from each other. **All are welcome to join us in the Parlor each Tuesday morning from 9:45-11:00 a.m.** Please contact Nancy Higgins at 860-573-6092 or Donna Smith at 860-633-4428 for more information.

Women’s Theological Reflection Group

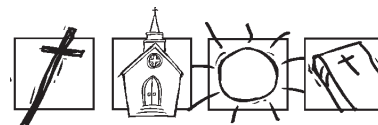
We invite all interested First Church women to join us on the **third Wednesday of each month** to discuss a variety of faith questions, reflect on our personal journeys and share friendship and community. In the past, we discussed prayer, healing, faith journeys, doing justice, finding quiet time, our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

Calling Knitters and Crocheters

Do you knit? Crochet? Enjoy fellowship and the opportunity to help and support others? If the answer is YES to any of the above, come join us! Newcomers are always welcome. The First Church Prayer Shawl Ministry will be meeting **Monday, February 19 in the Lehman Library from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.** Yarn will be provided. Bring size 11 or 13 knitting needles, or a large crochet hook. Don’t know how to knit or crochet? We can teach you. Come share your knitting/crocheting and our company! Questions? Contact kathysalk@gmail.com. We now have a **Morning Prayer Shawl Group** as well. If you are interested, please contact Somni at szzmanto@gmail.com for dates and times.



General Info Corner



Prayer Corner

Prayers of joy:

The safe return of our dedicated adults who spent the week of January 7-13 at Back Bay Mission in Biloxi, Mississippi, doing much-needed work in that area.

Prayers of sympathy:

Sally and Vance Harris on the death of Sally’s mother, Gayle Conant, on December 18 in Rochester Hills, Michigan.



Pam and Chris Carey and family on the death of Pam’s father, William MacKinnon, Jr., who died on December 21 in Southwick, Massachusetts.

Kathy Salk and family on the death of her mother, Toni Oestrich, on December 30.

Donna-Marie and Charles Tennyson and family on the death of Donna-Marie’s brother, Omar Morgan, on January 1 in Jamaica.

Dan and Lorie Martin on the death of Dan’s brother, John, on January 8.

Altar Flowers Requested



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

IN CASE OF HOSPITALIZATION:

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

For Hartford Hospital, inform them that you are from First Church of Christ, Congregational in Glastonbury. For St. Francis Hospital, inform them of Code 17 for First Church.

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

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Be the Church!
- A Lenten Series

Wednesdays, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
February 28, March 14 and 21
A Time of Faith, Fellowship and Food



Let us come together to hear how our church members live out Micah's call "to do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with God" in their jobs and in their lives.

Different church boards will provide a meal of soup and bread to start off the evening. If you are able, please call the church office, 860-633-4641, to sign up for these dinners. Come to be fed and inspired!



Mission in action – our 13th Annual intergenerational mission trip!