



The REMINDER

First Church of Christ, Congregational, Glastonbury, Connecticut

Member of United Church of Christ

An open, welcoming and affirming congregation

January 2017

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

January 1

Celebration of Holy Communion
One service at 10:00 a.m.

Kate VanDerzee-Glidden preaching

January 8

Epiphany Sunday

David Taylor preaching



A Light to the Nations

January 15

First Sunday after Epiphany
One service at 10:00 a.m.

A Celebration of our Church's
Mission in the World

Music: *Spark!* band

January 22

Second Sunday after Epiphany

Kate VanDerzee-Glidden and
David Taylor preaching

Music:

8:00 a.m. Peggy Hartman, oboe

4:30 p.m. *Spark!* service

January 29

Third Sunday after Epiphany

David Taylor preaching

Music:

8:00 a.m. Stanley Battle, baritone

Dear Friends,

What will "the beloved community" at First Church look like in 2017?!

...intergenerational mission trip to Back Bay Mission...Hands On Hartford luncheon...lively *Spark!* worship...Thursday Morning Study Group...Prayer and Share...Women's Theological Reflection Group...Gordon Bates book signing...Potpourri Breakfast...Senior High Winter Retreat at Silver Lake...cooking station during Church School...helping schools in East Africa...Family Communion...dumpsters at the Micah House and Chapel...a Godspell production...Cantate Choir...Mallet Bell Ringers...Confirmation Service Day at Manchester Area Conference of Churches...

...overflowing baskets of non-perishable food in the narthex and back lobby...super science station in church school...families packing backpacks in Bloomfield...carloads of mentors and tutors heading into Fred Wish School in Hartford...Mission Immersion Day...rebuilding Hartford...Vacation Bible School planning...Biography Book Group...Junior High Fellowship playing sardines...Lenten Bible Study...Maundy Thursday Service of Tenebrae...Meal of the Upper Room...joyous Easter Services...Senior High mission trippers, 42 strong, traveling to Biloxi, Mississippi...

...Season of Celebration: Gold and Silver Members brunch, Music Celebration Sunday, Confirmation Sunday, High School Senior Sunday, Justice Sunday, Children Celebration Sunday...Craigville Senior High Retreat over Memorial Day Weekend...Naubuc Green Birthday Party presented by the Board of Lay Life and Ministry...Music in the Meetinghouse concerts...Heads Up! Hartford mission week...bake sales for School Safe Zones in East Africa...soup and bread and cards for elderly members...Chancel Choir rehearsals...Palm Sunday Passion reading with moving tableaux...

...Mobile Foodshare volunteers gathering every other Wednesday morning...the Refugee Resettlement Committee continuing its great work...English language tutors volunteering with the Al Abas family...One Great Hour of Sharing offering generously given to...knitting prayer shawls...walking to fight hunger with Foodshare...signing up children for an amazing week during the summer at Silver Lake...serving the community with our rummage sale...Good Samaritans serving the needs of the First Church congregation...Puppet Troupe performing during Sunday morning worship...

That's the beloved community here at First Church! That's God's beautiful love being shared with one another, with the community, and with the world! And that's only HALF of 2017!

First Church - a beloved community with a beautiful love!!

Faithfully,

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

Website: www.glastonburyfirst.org

Staff

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

THE REMINDER submission deadline:
Tuesday, January 10: February 2017 issue

Church Growth & Membership



The Church Growth and Membership Committee congratulates you, the First Church family, for the great job that you are doing in helping to make First Church a

friendly, welcoming church community to all of our visitors and new members. We have taken note of some of the things that are being done that have helped to create this environment with the hopes that we all can throw our arms open even further based on some of these ideas and suggestions from others:

* **Wear your nametags.** By wearing your nametag, you make it easier for someone to identify you, and it's more comfortable for your fellow parishioners to greet you even when they may have a momentary loss for names.

* **Be proactive in passing the pew pads** during the church service and take note of who signs the pew pad. If you are not familiar with the name, please introduce yourself to them after the worship service. Even if you do know the person, please say good morning to them.

* **When passing the peace, be enthusiastic!** It's such a warm feeling when someone does that to you. Don't be bashful. Feel free to cross the aisle to greet the people sitting on the other side.

* **Greet new neighbors** and invite them to church with you on a Sunday.

* **Invite a friend** to worship, a church event, Music at the Meetinghouse, small group event, etc.

* **At coffee hour time, be on the lookout for people you don't know** or have never seen before. Extend a warm welcome and greet them.

* **You can take visitors to the Welcome Table in Schultz Hall** and introduce them to the person at the table, who will be very happy to take it from there.

We have a lot to be proud of at First Church, and it is through the kind of ideas above that we are maintaining that warm and hospitable feeling.

Thank you for all of your great efforts!



Sunday Afternoon Service January 22

Please join us for a spiritually moving service that features contemporary music, on **Sunday, January 22 at 4:30 p.m.** Together, we will sing, pray, listen and grow. Children are always welcome, and childcare will be provided for the littlest among us for those who desire it. We will gather for a time of fellowship after the worship service and eat a simple meal of soup and bread together. We are an open, welcoming and affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ, and all are welcome to join us!



Micah House Dream to be Fulfilled in 2017

Building a Legacy

After lying dormant for more than nine years and after months and months of preparation, the dream of revitalizing the historic Thomas Hale Homestead into the Micah House and Chapel is on track to be realized in 2017! Alleluia!



The TPZ Commission approved the project on November 15 and even congratulated the congregation on such a visionary and worthwhile re-use of the historic property. Many thanks to the great folks at Milone and MacBroom for the wonderful plans.

An enthusiastic construction manager, George Fay, has been selected and is totally committed to the project! Jonathan Russell and Walt Briggs have volunteered to serve as project manager and assistant project manager, respectively, to provide hands-on

oversight. The \$950,000 authorized by the congregation has been reached thanks to the dedication of the Fundraising Committee, under the direction of Earl Thompson. THANK YOU to all who have pledged! Members of the Building Committee continue to save the congregation THOUSANDS of dollars by providing hands-on demolition of parts of the Hale House, with special care being given to preserve anything that is reusable.



During the upcoming weeks interior demolition will continue, interior design plans will be finalized, a full building permit will be applied for and a dumpster and storage trailer will arrive on the property. Weather permitting, the hope is to turn the building over to George Fay in March or early April to begin the renovation and

construction. Self-help inside and outside work will continue from now until March when we turn the building over to George Fay. Anyone interested in joining these efforts, contact Jonathan Russell at 860-944-5519 or cjjc5@cox.net.



As we close 2016 and begin 2017, special recognition is given to two “Micah House” angels: Brian Davis, architect extraordinaire, without whom this project would never have existed, and Jonathan Russell, project manager, who has taken this dream step by step closer to reality.

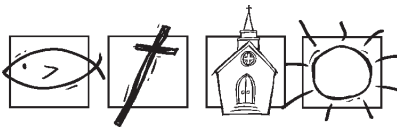
“God has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?” ~ Micah 6:8

Building the Beloved Community: Stewardship Progress

As of Friday, December 9, we have received \$727,601 towards our goal of \$750,000. We have yet to hear from 39 members who pledged in 2016, so we are hopeful we will achieve our goal. If you are interested in pledging, please contact Rebecca Fleahman, Office Manager, at rebeccafleahman@glastonburyfirst.org or 860-633-4641. Thanks for your continued support!

The end of the year is rapidly approaching. According to IRS regulations, any donations received or postmarked by December 31, 2016 will be reflected in your year-end giving statement. If they do not meet these requirements, they will be reflected in your 2017 giving statement. In addition, if you are contributing stock, please contact Rebecca in the church office so your donation can be properly identified and to receive the account and DTC number at Morgan Stanley Smith Barney. Pledge giving has been very strong through November and the church is counting on your continued generous contributions to close the remaining \$39,961 gap necessary to meet our 2016 operating budget. Your financial offerings enable First Church to provide youth programs, worship services, outreach programs and music programs. In addition, payment by year-end ensures your tax deductible donation for 2016. Please call Rebecca in the church office with any questions. ~ Peter Charles, Treasurer

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!



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.

The Al Abas Family in Glastonbury

This month will mark six months that the Al Abas family, refugees from Syria, have lived in Glastonbury. The last month has been full of big changes on the employment front. Almost immediately after Zeyad finished his seasonal work at Killam & Bassette Farm in South Glastonbury, he started a full-time position at Langan VW right in town. Zeyad will be doing odd jobs and car detailing. Although Zeyad is both hardworking and personable, finding a full-time position so quickly would not have happened were it not for the persistent efforts of several church members who worked diligently with Zeyad by helping him to develop a resume, fill out job applications, drive him to interviews, and the like.

In an additional stroke of both good luck and real persistence, if you happen to go to Max Amore for dinner in Glastonbury, you may run in to Walid or Mohammad, since they are both working in the kitchen after school several days per week. As their restaurant skills improve, they are hoping that you may see them in the dining room as well. Their work will help to supplement the family income since supporting a family of seven is no small feat.

Everyone in the family is continuing to work on their English skills. All five children report that they love going to school in Glastonbury because their teachers are so nice and they are making new friends. Meanwhile, Zeyad and Ezdehar continue with English Language Learner classes in the evenings. Church members continue to volunteer to drive the parents on nights when classes are in Wethersfield. And while mom and dad are at class, other volunteers help the children with their homework.

In November, the whole family attended the Interfaith Thanksgiving Service that was held at First Church this year. They celebrated their first Thanksgiving dinner with a church family.

Volunteer carpenters and electricians installed a new sliding glass door for the landlord in exchange for a rent reduction. The door will enable larger furniture and appliances to go in and out of the more than 100 year old house.

Thanks to the continuing efforts of our nurse volunteers, the family continues to have their health and dental needs monitored and care is arranged when needed. Other volunteers continue to help the family with grocery shopping including trips to Mobile Foodshare, the local food pantry, and Carols's Closet for paper goods. The family is fully outfitted with warm coats, hats and gloves (thanks to many generous donations from church members), and they even have snow shovels and ice melt at the ready. Thanks for your continued support and prayers!

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 (January 4 and 18)** 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.

Thanks for the Donations to Carol's Closet!



Carol's Closet, Glastonbury's paper pantry that was started by volunteers from St. James, is a true interfaith effort in our town. We support Carol's Closet through giving a monetary

donation, collecting needed items and volunteering our time. In November, members and friends of our church spent an hour packing the bags for people who come to get the needed items. The items given out aren't covered by SNAP (formerly food stamps) and include things like toilet paper, toothbrushes, shampoo, etc. Thanks for your generosity!



Christian Service



Thanks for Your Generosity!



We are blessed with a generous congregation. Thanks to you, we collected 120 turkeys and more than \$3,400 for Foodshare on Thanksgiving Sunday and gave away more than 110 presents to children and families in Glastonbury, Hartford and Manchester through our Giving Tree program.

Thank You!
THANK YOU!



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 at least three sites, including sorting and packaging produce at the Foodshare warehouse in Hartford, serving a hot meal to the hungry in Middletown at St. Vincent DePaul, and making soup and cards to deliver to people in our congregation. For more information or to sign up for this mission experience, go to the table during coffee hour in January or contact Tina Sparrow at tsparrow21@gmail.com or 860-430-9484.

Serving Lunch January 16

On Monday, January 16, 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 in January or contact Suzanne Schwartz at 860-430-1350 or stonehill126@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 January, we're asking for contributions of crackers, canned meat and other items people are willing to donate.** Please bring food that is not expired or open. Thank you!



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.

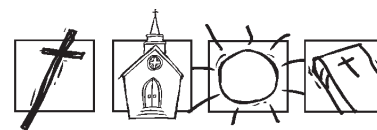
First Church's "Good Samaritans!"



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



Church School Unit 4: "Zacchaeus"

Bible Story Reference: Luke 19:1-10

Bible Verses: "The Son of Man came to look for and to save people who are lost."
(Luke 19:10, CEV)

Main Idea: Jesus loved and called Zacchaeus to come to him. Zacchaeus' life was changed because he said "yes" to Jesus. Jesus also loves and calls children, and their lives can be changed by saying "yes" to Jesus.



Objectives:

During this unit, children will

- Learn to think about how they can become more like what God wants them to be by learning from Jesus;
- Begin to understand that knowing Jesus can change their lives;
- Learn that Zacchaeus was transformed because he met Jesus and understood what Jesus was teaching;
- Learn that Jesus was sent by God to help those who are the least, the last, and the lost.

	<u>Sunday 1/1</u>	<u>Sunday 1/8</u>	<u>Sunday 1/15</u>	<u>Sunday 1/22</u>	<u>Sunday 1/29</u>
<u>K & 1st grade</u>	No Church School	Games Room 110 Jessica Bean	Cooking Room 205 Bryce Grissom	Art Room 103 Susan Crisafulli	Storytelling Room 111 Kathy McGuire
<u>2nd grade</u>	No Church School	Storytelling Room 111 Kathy McGuire	Games Room 110 Jessica Bean	Cooking Room 205 Bryce Grissom	Art Room 103 Susan Crisafulli
<u>3rd grade</u>	No Church School	Storytelling Room 111 Kathy McGuire	Games Room 110 Jessica Bean	Cooking Room 205 Bryce Grissom	Art Room 103 Susan Crisafulli
<u>4th grade</u>	No Church School	Art Room 103 Susan Crisafulli	Storytelling Room 111 Kathy McGuire	Games Room 110 Jessica Bean	Cooking Room 205 Bryce Grissom
<u>5th grade</u>	No Church School	Art Room 103 Susan Crisafulli	Storytelling Room 111 Kathy McGuire	Games Room 110 Jessica Bean	Cooking Room 205 Bryce Grissom

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!

Thank You!

For all the volunteers who stepped up during the Christmas season to help with activities and events like the Christmas Pageant, and to all the youth who volunteered their time and talents and made the Christmas Pageant such a success, **thank you, thank you, thank you!** We could not have had such success with the Pageant, the Advent Family Workshop, the Christmas Eve Gift Giving, or the Giving Tree without your help! Your outpouring of generosity – especially during this incredibly busy season – is inspiring! We are truly blessed to have you supporting the vision and mission of First Church.

Sincerely, *Elizabeth Glavin*



Children's Ministries



Family Communion Sunday

On February 5, First Church will be joining in Family Communion Sunday. This will be a meaningful service in which God's children of all ages will participate in communion. In order to prepare for this special occasion, on January 29 the Deacons will be visiting all of the Church School classes to talk about the meaning of Communion.



Here at First Church we practice two sacraments, and Holy Communion is one of them. The sacrament of Communion allows us a taste of God's Kingdom, which is a place where all are welcome at the table. Communion is a time of remembrance, praise and thanksgiving, confession, fellowship and commissioning. It provides us with an opportunity to remember and recall Jesus' final meal and his invitation to follow.

Our Communion is served at both services, and is for everyone who loves and seeks to follow God. In our denomination, children are always welcome to eat the bread and drink the juice; however, their participation is dependent on their parents' wishes.

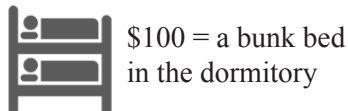
Church School Mission Project: School Safe Zones

What do you expect to find at your children's school building? A roof? Classrooms? Bathrooms? Clean water flowing from faucets? Drinking fountains? Teachers? We would never dream of sending our children to a school without a solid building structure, plumbing and electricity. But this is the reality for many students worldwide, including in East Africa.



Schools are the bedrock of a community's health, well-being and future. They are a centering point and a place to learn and commune for the greater good. Yet the challenges that impoverished schools face can be steep. When a community struggles with limited access to clean water and sustainable food sources, it is often reflected in the school buildings. A vibrant learning environment requires infrastructure, supplies and dedicated teachers.

Each year our Church School partners with a non-profit to help provide vital funding for programs serving the neediest among us. 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!

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 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



Senior High Fellowship

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

- Sunday, January 8:** Regular session
- Sunday, January 15:** Regular session
- Sunday, January 22:** Regular session
- *Fri. - Sat., January 27 – 29:** Silver Lake Retreat
- Sunday, January 29:** No SHF

Junior High Fellowship

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, January 9:** Regular Session
- Monday, January 23:** Regular Session

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)!*



Senior High Mission Trip

Coming up **April 9-15**, the Senior High Fellowship youth will be traveling to Biloxi, MS for the annual SHF Mission Trip. We’ve been focusing on the importance of doing mission work, and the imperative to work for both charity and justice. Through teambuilding exercises, critical small group discussions and some soul-searching within our group, we’re ready to go to Mississippi, one of the poorest states in our nation, to be in fellowship with folks who have suffered from numerous natural disasters and systemic poverty. By working with Back Bay Mission, our group will focus largely on rebuilding efforts in the area. We have two mandatory Mission Trip Focus sessions coming up, so please save these dates: **February 26 and March 26**. While mandatory for all Mission Trippers, these sessions are also open to all SHF youth, and we strongly encourage non-Mission Trip youth to get involved as well!



Confirmation Class

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. Together, we use 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.

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

- Sunday, January 8:** Regular Class Session
- Sunday, January 22:** Class will attend the **SPARK!** service and dinner



Senior High Fellowship Silver Lake Retreat!

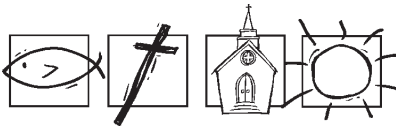
When: Friday, January 27, through Sunday, January 29
Who: All students in 9th – 12th Grade

Where: Silver Lake Conference Center in Sharon, CT
Cost: \$130 covers your lodging, food and transportation



Depart: Friday, January 27 at 6:30 p.m. (First Church parking lot) **Eat Dinner First!**
Return: Sunday, January 29 at noon (First Church parking lot)
Registration Deadline: January 18, 2017

Permission slips are available in the Youth Room or on the Church website. Unfortunately, refunds will not be issued for cancellations.



Music Ministry



Thanks for Cookie Walk Success!

The Board of Music would like to thank all who helped to bake, organize and officiate at the Cookie Walk fundraiser. A special thank you goes to those members who donated their unique handmade crafts; to the Cantabile and Cantate Choirs for providing the music; and to all the families who supported this event.



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, UCC
2183 Main Street, Glastonbury, CT 860-633-4641*

Extra Butterbraids for Sale

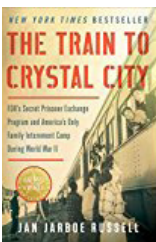
The Music Program has 5 extra Butterbraids for sale. If you are interested, see Angela Salcedo, Director of Music Ministries, after church!



Adult Opportunities



Thursday Morning Study Group

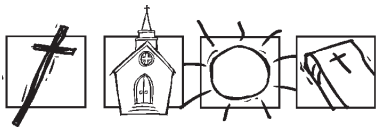


The Thursday Morning Study Group will return January 12 from a holiday recess to look at the facts about German immigrant internment, as well as the widely publicized internment of Japanese immigrants and their American-born children during WWII. We will use a 2015 book by author Jan Jarboe Russell titled *The Train To Crystal City: FDR's Secret Prisoner Exchange Program and America's Only Family Internment Camp During World War II* as our guide for this interesting study. We may also have a guest who was in that camp at age six with us for our discussions. **We will discuss this topic on two Thursdays, January 12 and 19.**

This will be followed on **January 26 and February 2** by a look at the origin of the words in the Marine hymn "on the shores of Tripoli," using Brian Kilmeade and Don Yaeger's book *Thomas Jefferson and the Tripoli Pirates: The Forgotten War That Changed American History*. TMSG gathers in the **Lehman Library at 9:30 a.m. on Thursdays**. All are welcome for these studies. Please contact Sally Brown via email at saldaybrown@aol.com for more information.

Potpourri

What is Potpourri? It's breakfast and fellowship on the **first and third Tuesdays of each month at 7:30 a.m.** The church kitchen is alive with coffee, conversation and a delicious breakfast cooked up by Al Reid! Come anytime, a place is always set for you!



Adult Opportunities

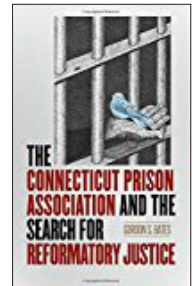


Book Signing and Presentation by Gordon Bates



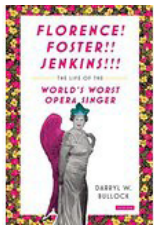
On **January 29 at 3:00 p.m. in Schultz Hall**, Gordon Bates, our Minister of Visitation, will speak about his recently completed book to be released in early 2017. Published by Wesleyan University Press, Gordon draws upon his three decades of work with the Connecticut Prison Association (CPA) to describe 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. **Gordon’s book can be pre-ordered before January 1 on Amazon.com for a reduced price of \$25.00.** After January 2, the book will begin to arrive in bookstores in Connecticut and elsewhere for the market price of \$38.00.



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. Our January selection is *Florence! Foster!! Jenkins!!!; The Life of the World’s Worst Opera Singer* by Darryl W. Bullock. “Madam Jenkins couldn’t carry a tune in a bucket: despite that, in 1944 at the age of 76, she played Carnegie Hall to a capacity audience and had celebrity fans by the score. Her infamous 1940s recordings are still highly-prized today. In his thoroughly entertaining biography, Darryl W. Bullock tells of Florence Foster Jenkins’ meteoric rise to success and the man who stood beside her, through every sharp note (Amazon.com).” We hope you will join us on **Tuesday, January 10 at 4:00 p.m. in the Lehman Library** for this fun and interesting book discussion. Call or email Valerie Escalera at 860-633-4452 or miguel.escalera@sbcglobal.net with any questions.

Second Sunday Book Club

The Second Sunday Book Club’s winter selection is *H is for Hawk*, by Helen MacDonald. With an award-winning, bestselling memoir about a woman who grapples with the unexpected death of a parent through training a goshawk, we are turning from novels to nonfiction to kick off the new year. We will meet in **Lehman Library on Sunday, January 8 at 4:00 p.m.** to discuss this and other great reads. Selections for the remainder of the year are **March 12: Ordinary Grace** by William Kent Krueger and **May 7: Underground Railroad** by Colson Whitehead. If you have any questions, contact Amy E. Thompson at 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? On Tuesday, January 10, we begin a 12-week Bible study using 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.

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 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!

Knitters and crocheters will gather on **Monday, January 16, 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 2016-2017 meetings except the June meeting are planned for the third Monday of the month as follows: **February 20, March 20, April 17, May 15 and June 12**.



General Info Corner



Prayer Corner

Prayers of joy:

Tiffany (Gray) and Adam Brown on the birth of their son, Kent Graydon Brown, on November 12 in Port Chester, New York. Proud grandparents are Linda and Ralph Gray.

We are truly grateful for the generosity of our congregation for all the giving of Christmas gifts and donations in support of many great causes. We are truly blessed.

Prayers of healing and wholeness for:

Barbara Harding Audrey Hernandez Al Reid
Lois Harwick Chris Hernandez



Prayers of sympathy:

Friends and family of Bill Raff and Holly Fydenkevez on the death of their mother, Janice Raff, on November 20. Janice had been a First Church member since 1967. Her memorial service was held on December 3 at the Glastonbury Funeral Home.

Friends and family of Marjorie Juul, who died on November 29 in Brewster, Massachusetts. A member of First Church since 1975, she lived in Glastonbury until a move to Harwich, Massachusetts, in 2011 to be closer to her daughter. She was a tireless worker for missions, and more. Over the years, she served three terms on the Board of Christian Service, taught Church School, coordinated the memorial receptions held here, and participated in the Board of Lay Life and Ministry, Caring Ministries, Women's Fellowship, and as a Meetinghouse Attendant. She leaves her daughters, Juliet Bongfeldt and Marjorie Sanson. Her memorial service was held on December 10 in Harwich, Massachusetts.

Cornielis Rovers and friends on the death of his mother, Altje Rovers, on November 30. Sponsored by First Church, she and her family arrived from Holland in the mid-1950s. She became a First Church member in 1957. Her memorial service was held on December 5 at the Glastonbury Funeral Home.

Family and friends of Cynthia Wilcox and Charlie Smith on the death of Cynthia's father, Hopson B. Wilcox, of Middletown on December 8.

Family and friends of Robert (Bob) Reed, who died on November 12. His memorial service was held on November 18 here at First Church.

Happy New Year & Happy New Year

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

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.

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*Faith, fellowship and community at the Harvest Supper, Mission Immersion Day, Spark!,
Cooking Class, Confirmation Class, Advent Workshop, Cookie Walk, and Lessons & Carols*