



# The REMINDER

First Church of Christ, Congregational, Glastonbury, Connecticut

Member of United Church of Christ

*An open, welcoming and affirming congregation*

## January 2018

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

**January 7**

**Epiphany Sunday  
Celebration of Holy Communion**

Elizabeth Gleich preaching

Music:

8:00 a.m. Elizabeth Flynn

10:00 a.m. Chancel Choir



**January 14**

**Second Sunday after Epiphany**

David Taylor preaching

Music:

8:00 a.m. Stanley Battle

10:00 a.m. Chancel Choir

**January 21**

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

A Celebration of our Church's

Mission in the World;

Back Bay Mission Trippers

leading worship

Music: *Spark!* band

**January 28**

**Fourth Sunday after Epiphany**

David Taylor and

Kate VanDerzee-Glidden preaching

Music:

8:00 a.m. Vance Harris

10:00 a.m. Chancel and Cantabile Choirs

**Dear Friends,**

**What's in a year???**

Well, in 2018 this beloved community we call First Church will be celebrating 325 amazing and awesome years. Simply put, that's a lot of years – and there's no way to adequately capture all that has gone on in the story of First Church's presence on the eastern shores of the Connecticut River. **But, to give you just a "taste"...**

**1693.** Farmers and tradesmen of this community establish the town, and First Church, of Glastonbury.

**1735.** Second Meetinghouse of Glassenbury built.

**1837.** Third Meetinghouse of Glastenbury built.

**1939.** Post hurricane – Fifth Meetinghouse built.

**1950s.** Church sponsors immigrant family from Holland.

**1972.** First Harvest Supper.

**1982.** Church grows – Meetinghouse expanded.

**1994.** First Church votes to become Open and Welcoming.

**2000.** Church sponsors family from Bosnia.

**2003.** Youth go on mission trip to Tennessee.

**2004.** Puppet Troupe established.

**2005.** Church helps to build wells in Malawi.

**2006.** Adult/young adult mission trip is one of the first to go to Back Bay Mission after Hurricane Katrina.

**2006.** Prayer Shawl Ministry expands.

**2007.** Church helps build homes in Haiti.

**2008.** Church School donates more than \$6,000 for books for the children of the Fred Wish Elementary School.

**2008.** Church sponsors family from Iraq.

**2009.** First Mission Immersion Day.

**2013.** Youth go on mission trip to Los Angeles.

**2014.** Church votes to become Open, Welcoming and Affirming.

**2017.** *Godspell* production thrills and inspires the congregation.

**2017.** Ground broken and construction begins for Micah House and Chapel at the Thomas Hale Homestead.

**2018.** ??????????

**2019.** ??????????

**2020.** ??????????

**What awesome, amazing, faith-filled, loving years are now ahead for this beloved family of faith?**

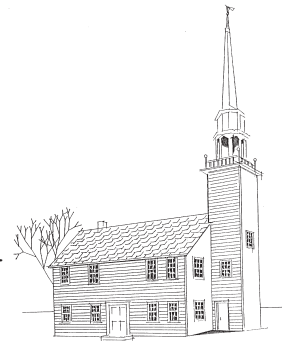
**What doors shall we open, and what bridges shall we build to people in need?**

**How shall we choose to do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with God?**

Friends, let's begin the New Year – 2018 – by writing a little history together!!

**With lots of love,**

*David and Kate*



Second Meetinghouse  
Glassenbury, 1735

## 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, *Pastor*  
[davidtaylor@glastonburyfirst.org](mailto:davidtaylor@glastonburyfirst.org), ext. 118
- The Rev. Kate VanDerzee-Glidden, *Pastor*  
[katev@glastonburyfirst.org](mailto:katev@glastonburyfirst.org), ext. 120
- The Rev. Elizabeth Gleich, *Associate Pastor  
for Children and Youth Ministries*  
[elizabeth@glastonburyfirst.org](mailto:elizabeth@glastonburyfirst.org), ext. 113
- 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
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[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*
- Wes Grove, *Facilities Manager*  
[facilities@glastonburyfirst.org](mailto:facilities@glastonburyfirst.org), ext. 121
- Peggy Hartman, *Director of Handbell Program  
and Childrens' Choirs*

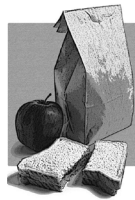
**THE REMINDER submission deadline:**  
Wednesday, January 10: February 2018 issue

## Ordination Thank You!

I would like to thank all the folks that witnessed and participated in my Ordination and Installation on December 3. It truly was one of the most special days of my life. I am incredibly grateful to this amazing congregation that made it so wonderful and am so appreciative of all the ushers, deacons, reception hosts and singers who made it so great. I am honored to serve you all as Associate Pastor for Children and Youth Ministries!  
~ The Rev. Elizabeth Gleich



## Brown Bag Lunch January 17



Please join us on **Wednesday, January 17 at noon**. Bring a bag lunch and we'll provide the beverages and dessert. Kate recently finished a continuing education class at Yale Divinity School (YDS) in the area of medicine and theology. The class, offered through the recently launched Lifelong Learning Program at YDS, explored the challenges of contemporary medicine from a theological perspective and included topics such as suffering, healing, burn out and AIDS. The course was developed and taught by S. Mark Heim, visiting professor at YDS, Samuel Abbot, Professor of Theology at Andover Newton Theological School, and Benjamin Doolittle, '94 M.Div., a YDS alumnus who is Associate Professor of Medicine and Director of the Internal Medicine Pediatrics Residency Program at the Yale School of Medicine. A group of 15 pastors participated in this program, and Kate is excited to share some of her learnings with the gathered group. Call the church office (860-633-4641) to sign up.

# Micah House and Chapel Update: January 2018

The fall leaves have been raked, the hustle and bustle of the holidays is almost past, and the cold winds and snow of the winter months are upon us. During the months when our faith community waits for the signs of spring, progress at the Micah House and Chapel at The Thomas Hale Homestead will continue to provide the warmth of First Church's next-door miracle to our congregation and community.

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. Construction highlights are completion of the exterior trim and siding, a beautiful brick landscaping wall, installation of patio stone pavers, connection of the fire line to the MDC main line and installation of plumbing, electrical, HVAC and fire sprinkler systems. Additional work needs to be done, but the Micah House interior is taking shape with sheetrock, trim and painting on the agenda.



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 continue 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 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***

## ***Building the Beloved Community: Stewardship Progress***

As of Friday, December 8, we have received \$733,423 towards our goal of \$775,000. We have yet to hear from 49 members who pledged in 2017, 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](mailto: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, 2017 will be reflected in your year-end giving statement. If they do not meet these requirements, they will be reflected in your 2018 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 \$48,131 gap necessary to meet our 2017 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 2017. Please call Rebecca in the church office with any questions. ~ Steve Jackson, Treasurer

*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!*

## *Greetings from the Board of Deacons*

The Board of Deacons is our Board of the Month in January! As I write this, Christmas is fast approaching and the Deacons are in the thick of things. We're preparing not only for Christ's arrival but for YOU attending all the wonderful services offered at First Church.

Deacons are responsible for every aspect of worship, including finding ushers and greeters to welcome you to worship, cutting bread and filling juice cups so that you might partake in Communion, and preparing the sanctuary so that the lights are on, the microphones are working, the candles are lit and all is ready for us to worship together. Each Sunday, a Deacon of the Day is "on duty" handling all these behind the scenes details.

During Advent, we are especially busy with setting up the Christmas tree in the sanctuary, recruiting families to light the Advent wreath, lighting the globe candles along the pews (and switching the candles out after EVERY service) and arranging for the luminaries to be put out on Christmas Eve.

So if you ever wondered who did these little tasks, most likely it is a Deacon. While this doesn't sound very glamorous, it has the cumulative effect of making First Church a warm and welcoming place to worship. It is a team effort for sure!

That team is devoted to making First Church an awesome place, and they are AWESOME. My heartfelt thanks goes to each and every member of the Board of Deacons: Julia Anderson, Carl Baker, Judi Barber, Lynn Baronas, Jill Carpenter, Melissa Clair, George Dixon, Valerie Escalera, Jenny Giguere, Vance Harris, Alex Richter, Kathleen Ross and Cheryl Zebold, Vice Chair.

Wishing all a joyous Christmas season and a wonderful New Year!

*~ Suzy Fisher, Chair Board of Deacons*

## *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. Please contact the church office if you need one.
- \* **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!

### **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!





# 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 3

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! We will have four sites to choose from, including sorting and packaging produce at the Foodshare warehouse in Hartford, serving a hot meal to the hungry in Middletown at St. Vincent DePaul, serving a meal and helping in the pantry at Manchester Area Conference of Churches and making soup and cards and delivering them 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 Phil Resor at [philresor@gmail.com](mailto: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.

1. **Volunteer when the Mobile Foodshare truck comes to our back parking lot every other Wednesday morning at 10:00 a.m.** This is a "farmer's market" style food distribution of fresh produce and other foods, and it takes many volunteers to serve everyone who comes. If you are interested in participating (adults, youth and children are welcome!), contact Sally Riddell at 860-657-8715.
2. **Volunteer at Foodshare's Regional Market in Hartford on alternating Wednesday mornings** to help sort and package the produce that gets given out on the Mobile Foodshare truck at various sites across the state. **Volunteers gather in the church parking lot at 8:00 a.m. to drive in together, and the shift is from 8:30-11:30 a.m.** If you are interested in learning more, please contact Jim Hartung at [ctsdncmnfolk@gmail.com](mailto:ctsdncmnfolk@gmail.com) or 860-430-2123.
3. **Volunteer to collect food from ShopRite in East Hartford**, bringing 500 to 1,000 lbs of meat, produce, baked goods and groceries weekly to shelters and soup kitchens in Hartford. To help, please contact John Dugan at 860-659-2193 or [jdugan1967@gmail.com](mailto:jdugan1967@gmail.com) or Paul Fraleigh at 860-643-1571.

## Reading Changes Lives: Volunteering at Wish School

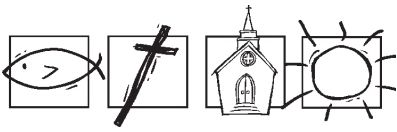
Fred Wish School is an Elementary School on Barbour Street in Hartford. During the past several years, volunteers from First Church have been helping the kindergarteners with basic reading skills. We hope to encourage their love of reading by spending time with each child reading books, talking about 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](mailto: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 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!

## Serving Lunch January 15

**On Monday, January 15**, we provide the food and servers for this lunch meal. You can **sign up in Schultz Hall during coffee hour on December 31, January 7 or 14**, or contact Sharon Conway at [sconway@massmutual.com](mailto:sconway@massmutual.com) and 860-463-6503 for questions or to volunteer.



# Christian Service



## Thanks for Your Generosity!



We are blessed with a generous congregation. Thanks to you, we collected 152 turkeys and more than \$3,600 for Foodshare on Thanksgiving Sunday and gave away 75 presents to children and families in Glastonbury, Hartford and Manchester through our various Giving Tree programs.

## First Church's

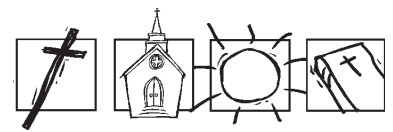
## "Good Samaritans!"



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 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!

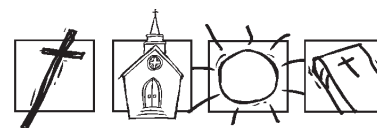


## Bloomfield Backpack Project

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](http://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](mailto:bryce.grissom@gmail.com). The remaining 2018 dates are **January 11, February 8, March 8, April 12, May 10 and June 14.**



# Children's Ministries



## Church School Unit 4: "Jesus and the Children"

**Bible Story Reference:** Mark 10:13-16

**Bible Verse:** "Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs." (Mark 10:14)

**Main Idea:** Jesus proclaimed through his words and actions that children are valued by God. Children have important roles to play in the community of faith.

**Objectives:**

Children will have the opportunity to:

- hear the story of Jesus welcoming the children;
- experience being a valued part of the faith community;
- see that we are all, young or old, children of God;
- see that every person is someone of worth;
- see that children have things to teach adults.



	<u>Sunday 1/7</u>	<u>Sunday 1/14</u>	<u>Sunday 1/21</u>	<u>Sunday 1/28</u>
<u>K &amp; 1st grade</u>	Games Room 110 Kathy McGuire	Movie Room 102 Bryce Grissom	Storytelling Room 111 Susan Crisafulli	Art Room 103 Judy Burr
<u>2nd grade</u>	Art Room 103 Judy Burr	Games Room 110 Kathy McGuire	Movie Room 102 Bryce Grissom	Storytelling Room 111 Susan Crisafulli
<u>3rd grade</u>	Art Room 103 Judy Burr	Games Room 110 Kathy McGuire	Movie Room 102 Bryce Grissom	Storytelling Room 111 Susan Crisafulli
<u>4th grade</u>	Storytelling Room 111 Susan Crisafulli	Art Room 103 Judy Burr	Games Room 110 Kathy McGuire	Movie Room 102 Bryce Grissom
<u>5th grade</u>	Storytelling Room 111 Susan Crisafulli	Art Room 103 Judy Burr	Games Room 110 Kathy McGuire	Movie Room 102 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.

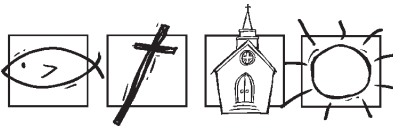
Church School runs until 11:10 a.m. each Sunday. If worship gets out earlier than that, please enjoy some time in Schultz Hall before picking up your children. Thanks for your cooperation!

## 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 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*





# 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 7:** Regular session

**Sunday, January 14:** Regular session

**Sunday, January 21:** Mission-focused session

**\*Fri. - Sat., January 26 – 28:** Silver Lake Retreat

**Sunday, January 28:** 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 8:** Regular Session

**Monday, January 22:** Regular Session

## Senior High Mission Trip



Coming up **April 7-15**, the Senior High Fellowship will be traveling to Memphis,

TN 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 team-building exercises, critical small group discussions and some soul-searching within our group, we're prepared to go to Memphis! It will be a wonderful week of learning and service work. We'll be staying with First Congregational Church of Memphis, learning about civil rights and racial and social justice and doing service work in the city of Memphis. We have three mandatory Mission Trip Focus sessions coming up, so please save these dates: **January 21, February 26 and March 25**. While mandatory for all Mission Trippers, these sessions are also open to all SHF youth, and we strongly encourage non-Mission Trip youth to attend as well!

## Senior High Fellowship Silver Lake Retreat!

**When:** Friday, January 26 through Sunday, January 28

**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 26 at 6:30 p.m. (First Church parking lot) **Eat Dinner First!**

**Return:** Sunday, January 28 at noon (First Church parking lot)

**Registration Deadline:** January 19, 2017

*Permission slips are available outside Elizabeth's office or on the Church website. Unfortunately, refunds will not be issued for cancellations.*

## 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)
- Your email inbox (we will email you immediately when a decision is made)
- First Church's website and Facebook page
- *Our cancellations will no longer be on the radio*

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 home!*** ***Safety first, always (especially with younger drivers)!***

## 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.*

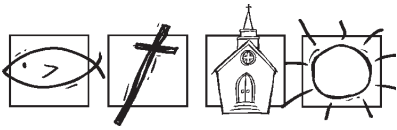
Our regular class sessions will be **Sundays from 4:30 – 6:00 p.m. in the Youth Room.**

**Sunday, January 7:** Regular Class Session

**Sunday, January 21:** Regular Class Session







# 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.



## Jubilate Ringers "Rang the Red Kettle"

On December 2, 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. The Salvation Army assists more than 4.5 million people annually during the Thanksgiving and Christmas season.



Music at the Meetinghouse Presents...

## SONATA SWING QUARTET

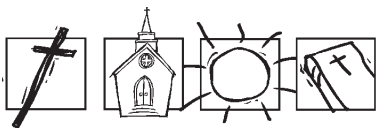


### "Bolling" You Over

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



# Adult Opportunities



## Women's Theological Reflection Group

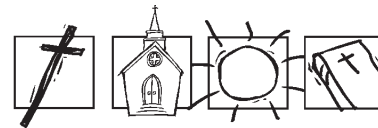
We invite all interested First Church women to join us on the **third Wednesday of each month** to discuss a variety of faith questions, reflect on our personal journeys and share friendship and community. In the past, we discussed prayer, healing, faith journeys, doing justice, finding quiet time, our 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.

## 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. Although we usually meet on the third Monday of each month, to avoid conflict with Martin Luther King Day, we will be meeting **Monday, January 22 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](mailto:kathysalk@gmail.com). We now have a **Morning Prayer Shawl Group** as well. If you are interested, please contact Somni at [szzmanto@gmail.com](mailto:szzmanto@gmail.com) for dates and times.



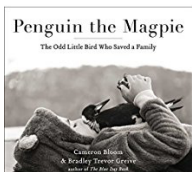
# Adult Opportunities



## You are Invited to a New 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 January 3 in the Quiet Room here at church!** If you have questions, please contact Chelsea Cooper at 860-614-2381 or [chelsnelson@yahoo.com](mailto:chelsnelson@yahoo.com).

## Thursday Morning Study Group

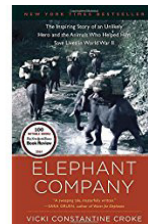


The Thursday Morning Study Group will follow the Christmas/New Year break by opening 2018 with a look at more classic authors at our **January 11** meeting. We will again pick an interesting text from the author's work and study each from the perspective of its place in the history of literature. On **January 18** we will begin the study of animals in our lives. The book by Cameron Bloom, with photos by the author, and Bradley Trevor Greive, titled *Penguin the Magpie: The Odd Little Bird Who Saved a Family*, will be our research text for this two week study. On **February 1** we will begin the study of the immigrant

experience in America by using the Oprah Book Club selection titled *Behold The Dreamers*, a novel by Imbolo Mbue, as our reference text. All are welcome to our **Thursday morning studies in the Lehman Library from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m.** even if the reference material has not been read. For answers to your questions please contact Forbes Warren at 860-633-3982 or Sally Brown at [saldaybrown@aol.com](mailto:saldaybrown@aol.com). TMSG gathers in the **Lehman Library at 9:30 a.m. on Thursdays.**

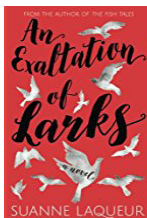
## Biography Book Group

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. For our **January 16** gathering we will read the New York Times Notable Book *Elephant Company: The Inspiring Story of an Unlikely Hero and the Animals Who Helped Him Save Lives in World War II* by Vicki Croke.



This is the remarkable story of James Howard "Billy" Williams, "whose uncanny rapport with the world's largest land animals transformed him from a carefree young man into the charismatic war hero known as Elephant Bill (Amazon.com)." 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**. 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](mailto:miguel.escalera@sbcglobal.net) with any questions.

## Second Sunday Book Club



The Second Sunday Book Club meets on the **second Sunday of every other month in the Lehman Library at 4:00 p.m.** to discuss a selected book as well as other great reads we are enjoying. We hope you will join us for one of our upcoming meetings this year! We will meet on **Sunday, January 14 at 4:00 p.m.** to discuss *An Exaltation of Larks* by Suanne Laqueur. If you have any questions, contact Amy E. Thompson at [thompson.amy72@gmail.com](mailto:thompson.amy72@gmail.com).

More selections and dates are:

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

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

## 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!

# Join with 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 January 16!** 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](mailto:lilypadprints@gmail.com) or 413-250-3838.

## Prayer and Share

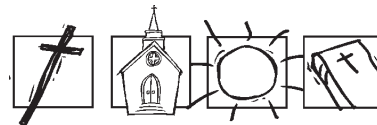
Come join us for a time of prayer, sharing, strengthening your faith and forming friendships. Being part of a small group within a large church fosters a feeling of belonging and caring. We learn and grow from our study/discussions and from each other. **All are welcome to join us in the Parlor each 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.

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



## General Info Corner



### Prayer Corner

#### Prayers of joy:

Elizabeth Gleich on the celebration of her Ordination and Installation here at First Church on December 3.

The birth of Ada Elisabeth Daniels, born on November 16, daughter of Eva and Chris Daniels. Proud grandmother is Donna Daniels.

The birth of Ashley Savannah Pratt, born on November 27, daughter of Steven and Sandra Pratt. Proud grandmother is Carol Pratt, and proud great-aunt is Susan Phillips.



#### Prayers of sympathy:

Donna and Fred Henrikson and their family on the death of Donna's mother, Helen E. Stanley on November 22. "Betty," as she was called by so many, had been a member of First Church since 1981 and loved to sing in the choir. Our condolences to Donna, Fred and family.

Family and friends of Victoria Williams, who died on December 1. Victoria had been a First Church member since 1988.

Janice, Emily and Doug Jones on the death of Janice's mother, Phyllis Simjian, on November 28.

### Books for Comfort, Health and Healing

The Christmas season and the New Year are happy times of family gatherings for many of us. For many others, the season brings stress and sadness. A loved one may have died or we may live far away from family. Transitions in our lives can affect our moods or we may feel an emptiness in our spiritual lives. On our shelves of books for adults in our Lehman Library, we have many resources on health, healing, prayer, spiritual life, caregiving and the loss of a loved one. Please come in and browse. Maybe you will find a book that will bring you comfort. If you need help, please call Karen Fecko, Katharyn Laudone or Wanda Bates.

### 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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***Faith, fellowship and community: youth activities, third graders receiving Bibles, TMSG Art Series, First Church Outside hiking, Church School bake sale, Explore class, Blessing of the Animals, Brown Bag Lunch with Walther Grunder, Mission Immersion Day, Harvest Supper, Lessons & Carols***