



The REMINDER

First Church of Christ, Congregational, Glastonbury, Connecticut

Member of United Church of Christ

An open, welcoming and affirming congregation

March 2017

A Beautiful Love – A Lenten Series

Wednesdays, March 8 and 29, from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

A Time of Faith, Fellowship and Food

Let us come together to hear some stories of how two wonderful organizations are making a difference in this world – making a difference by sharing God’s beautiful love!

Wednesday, March 8: Beth Stafford
Manchester Area Conference of Churches

Fresh milk for children, a chef-prepared hot meal for the homeless and hungry, a “grocery store-like” shopping experience at a food pantry, a well-stocked clothing thrift shop, support for obtaining a job – all of this and so much more – love – is offered each and every day by MACC. MACC is one of the organizations that First Church enthusiastically supports with time, talent and treasure. This church-based social service agency is often one of our Mission Immersion Day sites, as well as the destination each year for our Confirmation Class service day project. Come hear the stories of MACC’s many ministries, as told by their dynamic executive director, Beth Stafford. The Board of Deacons will provide a simple meal of soup and bread.



Wednesday, March 29: Martha Page and Elaine Robedee
Hartford Food System



While Foodshare is perhaps the most well-known of our area’s organizations fighting food insecurity, Hartford Food System is another critical component in the effort to reverse the systemic causes of hunger. Founded in 1978, Hartford Food System is dedicated to finding long-term solutions for access to affordable and healthy food in the city of Hartford. To help make this happen, they implement programs that improve access to nutritious and affordable food, help consumers make informed food choices, advocate for a robust and economically sound food system, and promote responsible food policies at all levels of government. To hear more about these critical programs, come and hear from Hartford Food System Executive Director Martha Page and Director of Development Elaine Robedee! The Board of Christian Service will host a simple meal of soup and bread.

Please call the church office, 860-633-4641, to sign up for one or both of these dinners.

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*
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- 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:
Friday, March 10: April 2017 issue

Our Church Needs You!



Our Church has a variety of boards and committees that help enrich our Church programs, events, and worship services. These dedicated boards and committees are currently recruiting new members. So please consider saying "Yes!" if you are asked to join a committee or board. Now is the time for you to get involved!

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

If you are interested 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; a church officer; a current board or committee member; David; Kate; or Elizabeth. Thank you to all the volunteers who make First Church such a wonderful place! We are truly blessed.

Stewardship Update – Thank You!

Just a short note of thanks from your Stewardship Committee. Our pledge goal was \$750,000 and the current 2017 Stewardship campaign total is **\$749,900!** If you have not yet pledged please contact Rebecca Fleahman, our Church office manager, by e-mail or phone (rebeccafleahman@glastonburyfirst.org or 860-633-4641). We are so thankful for your continued support of First Church!



Prospective Member Gathering April 2



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, April 2, 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, April 9, 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, April 30, 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 April 2. 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.

“A Beautiful Love” Sermon Series, Lent, Holy Week and Easter Services

Our church theme for 2016 – 2017 is “*The Beloved Community – A Beautiful Love!*” The sermons that were offered at First Church during the fall touched upon how a beloved community is characterized by traits such as faith, hope, love, joy, generosity, inclusion and kindness. In the coming weeks of this new year, we are offering a sermon series on God’s beautiful love for us and for this world, and how each of us is called to share God’s love with ourselves, with one another and with the world. We invite you to come and hear one or all of these sermons!

March 1 *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.

March 5 *A Beautiful Love...for the Journey* – Kate VanDerzee-Glidden preaching
8:00 a.m. Chris Stone, baritone; **10:00 a.m.** Mallet Ringers, Chancel Choir

March 12 *A Beautiful Love...for Jesus* – David Taylor preaching
8:00 a.m. Michael Ersevum, baritone; **10:00 a.m.** Cantate, Cantabile and Chancel Choirs

March 19 *A Beautiful Love...for Creation* – David Taylor preaching
8:00 a.m. Arwen Norman, soprano; **10:00 a.m.** Cherub, Caroler and Chancel Choirs

March 26 *A Beautiful Love...for Neighbor (ONE service at 10:00 a.m.)*
Kate VanDerzee-Glidden and David Taylor preaching; *Spark!* Band and Chancel Choir
First Church will celebrate a beautiful love for our neighbors during this blended service.

April 2 *A Beautiful Love...for the Church* – David Taylor preaching
8:00 and 10:00 a.m. Wayne Rivera and Chris Stone; **10:00 a.m.** Cantabile and Chancel Choirs

April 9 *Palm and Passion Sunday*



8:00 a.m. Soloist; **10:00 a.m.** Caroler, Cantate, Cantabile and Chancel Choirs

Traditional Palm Sunday Processional followed by the reading of the Passion narrative

Celebrate Christ’s triumphant entry into Jerusalem and relive the events of His suffering and death. The service will end with “*Jesus Walked that Lonesome Valley*” and the congregation leaving in silence.

April 13 *Maundy Thursday*



12:15 p.m. Meal of the Upper Room, Ginger Kousen, soloist

Join us for this solemn and spiritual observance of the last supper that Jesus shared with his disciples in the upper room, on what is now known as Maundy Thursday. Gather in the Meetinghouse for words of preparation, and then proceed in silence to Schultz Hall for readings, the meal and the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Participants eat in silence so that they may prayerfully taste the foods and listen to the reading of the Holy Scripture. Ginger Kousen, soprano, will sing. Please call the church office if you are interested in attending. *This event is sponsored by the Board of Deacons and the Board of Lay Life and Ministry.*

7:30 p.m. Service of Tenebrae & Holy Communion, Chancel Choir

A solemn service of lessons and hymns accompanied by the gradual extinguishing of lights, symbolic of the flight of the disciples and the passion of our Lord. Special music will be sung by the Chancel Choir.

April 16 *Easter Sunday*



6:30 a.m. Outdoor Sunrise Service

9:00 a.m. Jubilate Ringers, Cherub and Chancel Choirs

11:00 a.m. Cantate and Cantabile Choirs, Mallet Ringers and Chancel Choir

We are happy to welcome back the Constitution Brass to celebrate the miracle of the Risen Christ with hymns, organ and brass selections. These two services will include festive anthems by our Jubilate Ringers, Chancel and Cherub Choirs at the 9:00 a.m. service and the Chancel, Cantate, Cantabile Choirs and Mallets at the 11:00 a.m. service. Kate VanDerzee Glidden will preach. Childcare will be available.



Micah House and Chapel Update

Building a Legacy

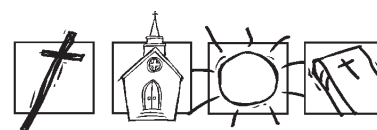


Work in the Hale House continues in preparation for a spring ground breaking on construction of the Micah House and Chapel. Self-help work crews completed removal of plaster and lath throughout the house by early January and are now carefully removing moldings, trim, doors and paneling for possible reinstallation or reuse. The team is also removing the chestnut wall planks with the hope of repurposing them into flooring for the chapel.

Throughout demolition teams are discovering artifacts. Perhaps most interesting is the discovery of a 1766 George III copper half-penny, found in the door frame between the first floor kitchen and southeast sunroom. It was common in those days to install a commemorative coin during construction. The considerable wear on the coin and its being minted in Ireland suggest installation much later than 1766. The team is also saving hundreds of old nails. Geoff Dellenbaugh researched the coin and nails and discovered that the many cut nails used throughout the home were possibly made by Connecticut prisoners beginning around 1780. These two artifacts, together with other construction techniques date the building circa 1780. While it's likely a home was first built on the site in 1714, the structure we see today apparently dates from much later in the century, with the kitchen ell being added sometime in the 1800s.



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.

Al Abas Family Update



Over many decades, First Church has a rich tradition of “welcoming the stranger” as exhorted by our Biblical tradition. Aided by First Church volunteers and neighbors, the Al Abas family is making great progress settling into their new life, six months after arriving at JFK Airport.

The five children and young adults have earned praise from their teachers. Walid and Mohammad made GHS honor roll first semester, while helping support the family working part time at Max Amore. Three of the children are receiving orthodontic care, graciously offered pro bono by Dr. Risinger here in town.

Zeyad, the father in the family, is starting a painting business, with help from local contractor, Paul Cesana. (Church members

and friends, keep this in mind if your home decor can use some touching up.) Mom Ezdehar is a wonderful cook and is exploring supplementing their income by hosting teas and dinners for the public. Her first events, which have included presentations on Syrian culture, have earned rave reviews. Zeyad is working on getting his driver's license so he can put the Thompsons' donated minivan back on the road.

Early this month, the family and First Church members participated in IRIS's 5K Run for Refugees followed by a rally at the New Haven Green, as seen in the group photo. With First Church friends, the family made signs the day before to show their support for all refugees. Look for an article in the *Courant* this month by Susan Campbell, which will share some of the Al Abas family's story based on her recent interview. Thank you for your continued support and prayers.



Christian Service



Foodshare Volunteer Opportunity – We Need You!

Hunger is an invisible problem, so most people are unaware of how large a problem it is. In Hartford and Tolland counties alone, the area served by Foodshare, there are 137,000 people who cannot be sure where their next meal is coming from. The majority of these 137,000 people are either children or seniors, and the majority of the rest are working full-time jobs (or two). Foodshare's vision is for a community where all of these people can get all of the food they need. And 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.



Here at First Church, we have the Mobile Foodshare truck come to our back parking lot every other Wednesday. Now we have a new opportunity to go to the Foodshare warehouse in Hartford on alternating Wednesday mornings to help sort and package the produce so it all gets given out to our neighbors. **Starting March**

8, we hope to send five to ten volunteers to the warehouse to sort produce from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. People will gather in the church parking lot at 8 a.m. to drive in together. If you are interested in learning more, please contact First Church member Jim Hartung at ctsdncmnfolk@gmail.com or 860-430-2123.

Rummage Sale April 21-22

Save the date! Our spring rummage sale is coming up on



April 21 and 22. We are looking for donations, so while you're doing your spring cleaning, please be sure to save items for our sale. We can use clothing, household items and small furniture (no sofas). Call Nancy Higgins at 860-573-6092 or Suzanne Schwartz at 860-430-1350 or stonehill126@gmail.com with any questions.

Food Collection

First Church has had a long tradition of collecting food items for our neighbors in need. Our donations go to Horace Bushnell Children's Food Pantry in Hartford and Manchester Area Conference of Churches (MACC). Please continue to bring in food for our neighbors in need. There are two baskets at church (one in the back lobby and one in the narthex) where the food is collected. In March, we're asking for contributions of **oatmeal, canned veggies** and other items people are willing to donate. Please bring food that is not expired or open. Thank you!



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 (March 1, 15 and 29)** 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.

Our "Good Samaritans!"



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

You are Invited to a Homemade Syrian Dinner and Cultural Experience!

Enjoy a delicious multi-course home-cooked Syrian meal by Ezdehar Al Abas. The dinner will be accompanied by a slide show and stories of her family's four year journey from Syria to a refugee camp in Jordan, and finally to Glastonbury in July 2016, when our church sponsored them. The dinner is **Saturday night, March 25 at 6:00 p.m. in Schultz Hall.**

The cost of this delicious feast and cultural experience is \$25 per person. Please make out your check to "First Church of Christ," with "Syrian Dinner" in the memo section. Please note this covers the cost of the meal and the presentation and is not tax deductible. Spread the word to your friends in the First Church community and join us for this special evening! Seating limited to 25, so **RSVP to Lisa Hurley at lisahurley@snet.net or Danae Dwyer at danaedwyer@me.com or 860-967-2269 by Wednesday, March 22.** Payments should be made at the dinner or directly to Danae or Lisa.

Carol's Closet Collection

The Board of Christian Service (BCS) needs your assistance. Several churches, including First Church of Christ, help St. James Church with "Carol's Closet." The Closet collects nonperishable paper products and other items for folks in need.

The Board of Christian Service would like your help collecting the following items:

- adult incontinence pads (men's and women's)
- toothbrushes (soft brushes)
- bars of soap (unscented preferred)
- shampoo (11 oz. to 12.5 oz. sized bottles preferred)
- toilet tissue (preferably the 4-pack). If purchasing rolls larger than the 4-pack, we request that they be individually wrapped.
- deodorant
- toothpaste
- paper towels

There will be a collection box in the back lobby April 1-12. If you have questions, please contact Amy Grove at ajacksongrove@cox.net. Thank you!



Mission Immersion Day Success!



On **Saturday, February 4**, more than 45 church members of all ages participated in our recent Mission Immersion Day. Parishioners served at four different sites in the Hartford area, including serving lunch and organizing in the thrift shop at Manchester Area Conference of Churches, making soup, cards and cookies for members of our congregation, sorting fresh produce at Foodshare's warehouse

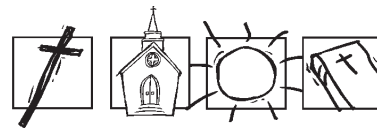
in Hartford and serving lunch at St. Vincent de Paul in Middletown.

Thanks to all who participated! This beloved community of faith is continually finding ways in which to share God's beautiful love with neighbors both near and far! And in so doing, our own sense of community is enriched and expanded as we work together with friends – old and new! **Our next Mission Immersion Day will be April 29!**





Music Ministry



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 and the first Sunday in March.** Your candy will be available for pick up two weeks before Easter. **Choristers are asked to return their order forms no later than March 9.** A \$50 gift card will be awarded to the chorister who sells the most candy. Thank you for your support of Choir Camp!

Music Celebration Sunday: May 14, 2017 at 10:00 a.m.

The Book of Godspell: Stories and Songs

Our upcoming Music Celebration Sunday will feature the lessons and music from Act I of the well-known musical ***Godspell***. We are excited to open up this day to those singers and participants who attended our ***Godspell*** workshop. This service will feature singing, ringing, costumes and staging, all to bring the Gospel alive in word and song. Our Jubilate Ringers will set the tone of this service with a medley of ***Godspell*** favorites. So, mark your calendars for a worship service you will not want to miss! We hope all will be inspired and want to participate in the full production of this musical in March of 2018.

Rehearsals for soloists and the select chorus will begin on March 5** with weekly rehearsals on **Sundays from 12:00 - 3:00 p.m.** in the sanctuary and **Thursday evenings from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.** in Schultz Hall.



Rehearsals for participants chosen to sing with the regular chorus will begin on Thursday, March 2, during the Chancel Choir's regular Thursday evening choir rehearsals for 45 minutes **from 7:15 - 8:00 p.m.**

**All soloists will be part of the select chorus.

Mandatory rehearsals for all participants including Chancel, Cantate and Cantabile Choirs are listed below:

Saturday, April 29	10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Wednesday, May 3	6:30 - 9:00 p.m.
Thursday, May 4	6:30 - 9:00 p.m.
Saturday, May 6	10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Sunday, May 7	12:00 - 3:00 p.m.
Monday, May 8	6:30 - 9:00 p.m., Dress Rehearsal
Thursday, May 11	6:30 - 9:00 p.m., Dress Rehearsal
Sunday, May 14	8:00 a.m. call, performance at 10:00 a.m.

Music at the Meetinghouse Presents...

MERRIMACK VALLEY RINGERS



Ring into Spring Concert!

**Saturday, April 29, 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*

*Please join us for the final Music at the Meetinghouse
concert of the season...*

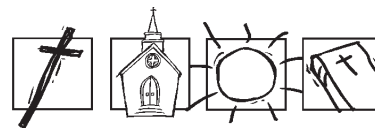
GREATER MIDDLETOWN CHORALE

Vocal Alchemy

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



Children's Ministries



Church School Unit 6: "Easter - Peter's Story"

Bible Story Reference: John 18:15-27; 21:1-19

Bible Verses: Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." (John 21:15)

Main Idea: Following Jesus is not always easy. Peter was afraid and told people that Jesus was not his friend; later Jesus forgave him. We remember that Jesus loves us and forgives us.

Objectives: By the end of this unit children will:

- hear and respond to the story of Peter following and later denying Jesus;
- hear and respond to the story of Jesus forgiving Peter while they ate breakfast on the beach;
- hear how Peter's story is an example of God's love and forgiveness for us;
- experience activities that will help them learn about receiving forgiveness and caring for others;
- consider ways Peter's actions in the Easter story speak to us today.



"Jesus restores Peter"
John 21:15-19

	<u>Sunday 3/5</u>	<u>Sunday 3/12</u>	<u>Sunday 3/19</u>	<u>Sunday 3/26</u>
<u>K & 1st grade</u>	Cooking Room 205 Emily Daigle	Art Room 103 Lisa Hapgood	Games Room 110 Chelsea Cooper	Storytelling Room 111 Kimberly Cox
<u>2nd grade</u>	Storytelling Room 111 Kimberly Cox	Cooking Room 205 Emily Daigle	Art Room 103 Lisa Hapgood	Games Room 110 Chelsea Cooper
<u>3rd grade</u>	Storytelling Room 111 Kimberly Cox	Cooking Room 205 Emily Daigle	Art Room 103 Lisa Hapgood	Games Room 110 Chelsea Cooper
<u>4th grade</u>	Games Room 110 Chelsea Cooper	Storytelling Room 111 Kimberly Cox	Cooking Room 205 Emily Daigle	Art Room 103 Lisa Hapgood
<u>5th grade</u>	Games Room 110 Chelsea Cooper	Storytelling Room 111 Kimberly Cox	Cooking Room 205 Emily Daigle	Art Room 103 Lisa Hapgood

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!

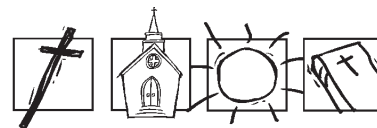


Vacation Bible School Kickoff March 19! Save the Dates: July 31 - August 4

On Sunday, **March 19**, we will be kicking off Vacation Bible School registration! **Save the dates for VBS: July 31-August 4.** The theme this year is *Hero Central*. Stop by the registration table during coffee hour to register your child. All past participants are encouraged to wear their VBS t-shirts to worship and Church School that day.



Children's Ministries



One Great HOUR OF SHARING

On April 9, we will be collecting donations for One Great Hour of Sharing during worship. In Church School, children were given banks to take home to collect donations

beginning March 5, and these banks will be used to help collect donations from church members during worship on April 9. OGHS is a non-profit, ecumenical ministry that provides for the needy all over the world. This group represents the disaster relief, refugee response and long-term development work of ten Protestant denominations, including our denomination, the United Church of Christ. Most of their focus is overseas, but they also recognize and support similar needs in the United States. OGHS responds to a new disaster on average every 2.5 days! Through the sharing of their coins, the children learn about serving others by helping to provide kids around the world with clean water, medical supplies, tools, education, shelter and literacy programs. For more information on OGHS, please visit www.onegreathourofsharing.org. Thank you for your continued generosity! You are a blessing to our Church!

Children's Ministries Calendar

Sunday, March 12

4th and 5th grade bake sale **Bake Sale**

Sunday, March 19

Puppet Troupe performs in worship; VBS Kick-off



A Journey Through Holy Week



Lenten Family Workshop

Sunday, April 2
3:00 - 5:00 p.m.

The CE Board warmly welcomes **EVERYONE** to come explore the events of Holy Week. The journey begins in the Meetinghouse, where we will learn about and celebrate Palm Sunday.

Our journey continues through hands-on activities:

- The Last Supper - sample a seder meal
- The Garden - prayer using a labyrinth
- Betrayal - experience through a game
- Crucifixion - learn through art
- Empty tomb

Come join us for an afternoon of fun and faith, to learn about the meaning of Lent and Easter! All ages are welcome!



Hope to see you there!



Church School Mission Project: School Safe Zones



CWS

Church World Service

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

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



\$100 = a bunk bed in the dormitory



\$600 = a latrine for improved sanitation

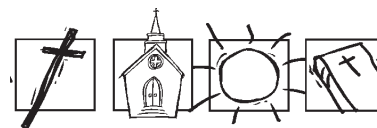


\$1,500 = a catchment system for clean water

Money collected from children's offerings, bake sales 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!



Youth Ministry



IMPORTANT YOUTH MISSION TRIP DATES!

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

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

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

Saturday, April 8: Mission Trip kick-off dinner

April 9-15: Mission Trip departure and return

May 7: Mission Trippers lead worship

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.

Sunday, March 5: Regular Session

Sunday, March 12: Regular Session

Sunday, March 19: Regular Session

Sunday, March 26: Mission Focused Session, *final payments due*

JUNIOR HIGH FELLOWSHIP SCHEDULE

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

Monday, March 13: Regular Session

Monday, March 27: Regular Session

SUPPORT YOUTH MISSION TRIP THROUGH SHARES!

We encourage everyone in the First Church family to help support our SHF youth on their mission trip to Biloxi, MS in April! **Please visit the Youth Table from March 5 through April 2 to contribute to the mission trip by purchasing “Shares” for \$20 each.** This is a great way to support our Youth Mission Outreach! 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. For questions, please contact Patti Jagoe at ctsdncmnfolk@gmail.com or Elizabeth Gleich at elizabeth@glastonburyfirst.org, and be sure to look for our table during coffee hour!

CONFIRMATION CLASS

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

***Wednesday, March 1:** Ash Wednesday service 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, March 12: Regular Class Session

***Sunday, March 26:** Mentor Session #2, 4:00-6:00 p.m.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST & EGG HUNT, SATURDAY, APRIL 15



“Hop” on over to this “egg-citing” annual pancake feast in Schultz Hall where “every bunny” is invited! We’ll begin serving **pancakes at 9:00 a.m. with a second seating available after the kids join Peter Rabbit at 9:45 a.m. for an Easter Egg Hunt**, rain or shine. This all ages event is sponsored by the Junior High Fellowship and the Youth Board to benefit the Senior High Mission Trip fund. Your suggested donation of \$5 per person (family maximum of \$25) is much appreciated! **Attention Flapjack Flippers & Syrup Slingers:** We need your help! We are looking for Junior and Senior High students, parents, alumni or anyone else who’d like to help us with this tasty fundraiser. Interested? Contact Brenda Gottschalk 860-930-9506 or mbgottschalk@cox.net. Thanks!

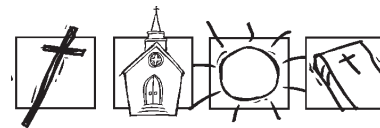


INSPIRATIONAL GREETING CARDS AVAILABLE TO SUPPORT YOUTH MISSION TRIP: \$1 EACH

Each year our youth create a thematic image that reflects our coming year. Individual cards are available for \$1 (or you can purchase sets of 10) by contacting Elizabeth Gleich at elizabeth@glastonburyfirst.org.



Youth Ministry



SUMMER MISSION CAMP

Heads Up! Hartford is a not for profit, 501(c)3 volunteer association whose mission is to create a loving, supportive, fun and productive environment at a summer mission work-camp for high school students. This faith-based initiative brings urban and suburban students in the greater Hartford area together to break down the barriers between them as they improve their city through integrated work



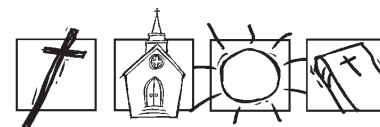
groups. Heads Up! Hartford camp dates for 2017 are **Thursday, June 22, to Thursday, June 29**. Registration forms are coming soon to headsuphartford.org.

ARE YOU READY FOR CAMP AT SILVER LAKE???

Many First Church youth have experienced the wonders and fun of Silver Lake Summer Camp, a conference center run by the CT Conference of the UCC in Sharon, CT. Come and enjoy God's Backyard this summer, with various camps for youth in grades 4-12. If you're unsure or need convincing, talk to Elizabeth or ask any of the youth who have gone before. **Dates are available June 18 through August 12.**

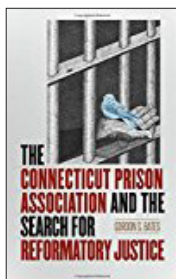


Adult Opportunities



Thursday Morning Study Group

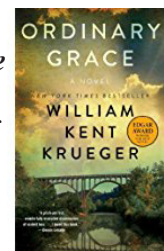
The Thursday Morning Study Group will discuss *Cutting for Stone* by Abraham Verghese on **March 2 and 9**. "Marion and Shiva Stone are twin brothers born of a secret union between a beautiful Indian nun and a brash British surgeon. Orphaned by their mother's death and their father's disappearance, bound together by a preternatural connection and a shared fascination with



medicine, the twins come of age as Ethiopia hovers on the brink of revolution" (Amazon.com). Then, TMSG will begin a global look at four different areas of the world where it is not unusual to have many people live to over 100! We will be using author Dan Buettner's *Blue Zones*, the 2nd edition of his very popular research travels. We will then look forward to the first week of a study of the Connecticut prison system using Gordon Bates' recently published book, *The Connecticut Prison Association and the search for Reformatory Justice* beginning with the March 30 meeting. Gordon will be with us for both meetings as schedule permits. All are welcome. Please email Sally Brown if you have questions. TMSG gathers in the **Lehman Library at 9:30 a.m. on Thursdays**. Please contact Sally Brown via email at saldaybrown@aol.com for more information.

Second Sunday Book Club

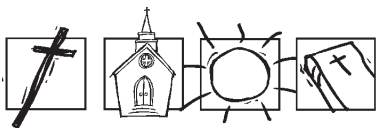
The Second Sunday Book Club's March selection is *Ordinary Grace* by William Kent Krueger. "*Ordinary Grace* is a brilliantly moving account of a boy standing at the door of becoming a young man, trying to understand a world that seems to be falling apart around him. It is an unforgettable novel about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



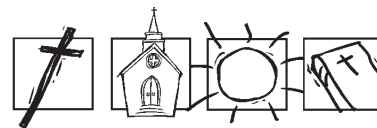
Prayer and Share



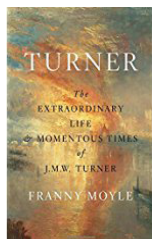
Come join us for a time of prayer, sharing, strengthening your faith and forming friendships. Being part of a small group within a large church fosters a feeling of belonging and caring. We learn and grow from our study/discussions and from each other. Yearning for a more joyful outlook on life? We are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



Adult Opportunities



Biography Book Group



The Biography Book Group meets every other month to review a book and enjoy fellowship in an informal setting. We invite you to join us for any of our upcoming selections. The March biography selection is **Turner: The Extraordinary Life and Momentous Times of J.M.W. Turner** by Franny Moyle. We hope you will enjoy reading about this British artist whose visionary work set the stage for a revolution in landscape painting. "Over the course of his lifetime, Turner strove to liberate painting from an antiquated system of patronage. Bringing a new level of expression and color to his canvases, he paved the way for the modern artist. Turner was very much a man of his changing era. In his lifetime, he saw Britain ravaged by Napoleonic wars, revived by the Industrial Revolution, and embarked upon a new moment of Imperial glory with the ascendancy of Queen Victoria. His own life embodied astonishing transformation. Born the son of a barber in Covent Garden, he was buried amid pomp and ceremony in St. Paul's Cathedral" (Amazon.com). We will meet on **Tuesday, March 14 at 4:00 p.m. in the Lehman Library** to enjoy a discussion of this artist and biography. Call or email Valerie Escalera at 860-633-4452 or miguel.escalera@sbcglobal.net with any questions.

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 (March 9 and 23) at 5:45 p.m. in the Lehman Library.** Please contact Danae Dwyer at danaedwyer@me.com or 860-967-2269 for further information.

Women's Theological Reflection Group

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



Caring Ministry



Calling Knitters and Crocheters!



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



General Info Corner



Prayer Corner

Prayers of healing and wholeness for:

Barbara Harding Audrey Hernandez
Lois Harwick Chris Hernandez



Prayers of sympathy for:

Family and friends of Barbara Thompson, who died on January 22. Her life and faithful service to this church were celebrated with a memorial service here on February 4. Barbara was a Golden Member, having joined First Church in 1956 along with her husband, Bob, who died several years ago. Throughout her 61 years as a member, she was active for over 25 years in the Prayer Group, was a Senior High Fellowship advisor, took part in the Health Cabinet, was a Reiki volunteer, served on the Memorial Committee, and was certified in the Stephen Ministry, which later became our Support Team Ministry. She touched many lives, especially while on staff as our Parish Visitor for many years.

Family and friends of Miriam Oberz, who died in New Hampshire on January 30. She had been a First Church member since 1960 and had coordinated the ladies sewing circle here for many years. Her memorial service was held on February 7 at the Mulryan Funeral Home and officiated by Gordon Bates.

Family and friends of Jan Pikula on the death of her mother, Helen Butcher, who died in Massachusetts on February 4 at the age of 100. Helen was the grandmother of Robin Kohs and great-grandmother of Stephen, Sarah and Lauren Kohs.

Thanks for Observing Our Driveway Fire Lanes!

As we are in the midst of another program year with lots of activities and events at the church, we offer this gentle reminder to observe the **"No Parking – Fire Lane"** signs in our church driveway. Cars should not be left parked, unattended, in these "No Parking" areas. With cars sometimes parked in the "Limited Mobility" area of the driveway, fire trucks and other emergency vehicles would have difficulty responding if our driveway has cars parked on both sides. In addition, there is a safety concern, especially for children who might be running out from behind cars as other cars are entering and leaving our church property. Thanks for helping to make our church a safe place for all!

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 call the church office at 860-633-4641 to inform the pastoral staff.

Snow Cancellations!

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

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

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



March 5, 2017 - First Sunday in Lent

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7; Psalm 32;
Romans 5:12-19; Matthew 4:1-11

March 12, 2017 - Second Sunday in Lent

Genesis 12:1-4a; Psalm 121; Romans 4:1-5, 13-17;
John 3:1-17 or Matthew 17:1-9

March 19, 2017 - Third Sunday in Lent

Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 95;
Romans 5:1-11; John 4:5-42

March 26, 2017 - Fourth Sunday in Lent

1 Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 23;
Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41

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Mission Immersion Day, cooking, book signing and Bunco!



Alleluia!

*He isn't here,
but has
been raised.*

-Luke 24:6

March 2017

Dear Friends,

Why is Easter so late?? How late can Easter be?? What determines when Easter falls??

Well, the answer to the first question is determined by the answer to the last question! In case you forgot, *"In 325 CE, the Council of Nicaea established that Easter would be held on the first Sunday after the first full moon occurring on or after the vernal equinox."* Now we all are ready to answer what could be the final Jeopardy question!

This year Easter **IS** rather late - April 16 to be precise. In case you are interested, the latest Easter can occur is April 25, and that will next happen in 2038 - 95 years since the last occurrence. But in just two years, 2019, Easter dawn might be on the balmy side, with the Day of Resurrection happening on April 21!

But, in reality, "Easter," when it is defined as new life, the promise of hope, the promise of God's love - can occur each and every day of the year, as we, by our lives and by our gifts, offer new life, new hope, and God's love to God's children both near and far!

Once again, First Church's annual Easter offering will be divided between the

ecumenical development and relief program, **One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS)**, and a \$2,000 contribution to the award-winning youth mission program, **Heads Up! Hartford**. They are both life-giving, hope-gifting, and love-granting efforts of the church of Jesus Christ!

When you give generously to our Easter offering, you know that throughout the year your dollars are being used immediately, directly and responsibly to help people in need. Please make your check out to **"First Church"** with the memo line, **"Easter Offering."**

In addition to responding to domestic and international disaster relief appeals following the world's hurricanes, floods, earthquakes and tornadoes, **OGHS** also supports self-help, development and refugee assistance in more than 80 nations. And, since its inception eleven years ago, **Heads Up! Hartford** has been bringing together youth from urban and suburban churches. Through their mission work in the Hartford area, projects have been accomplished, real need has been addressed, and lifetime friendships have been forged!

Easter may fall late this year, but as always, we can always be **"Easter people"** - year-round - when we decide to share God's love with God's beloved children who might be in need today. Year-round we get to proclaim **"Christ is Risen!"** when we work for God's new world of justice and peace, hope and love!

Christ is Risen!

Faithfully,

David and *Kate*



Board of Christian Service:

Hands-On, First Church!!

Our hands get dirty, and cold, and wet, but together, they're strong and gentle, capable and creative, and always busy!

Our hands scramble eggs, allocate funds, deliver food, hammer nails, and turn the pages of the books that we read to Hartford's school children. Our hands ferry frozen turkeys and "baked beans and oatmeal." Our hands help label goods for the Rummage Sale, and place fruits and vegetables from the Foodshare Mobile Truck into the hands of others; they decorate December's Giving Tree and showcase fair-trade SERRV products to help others across the world.

Together, with you, our hands serve!

In 2016, thanks to your generous support of First Church, the Board of Christian Service distributed donations to the following organizations.

Adelbrook – Cromwell, CT
Adult/Alumni Mission Trip – Back Bay Mission – Biloxi, MS
Andover Newton Theological School – Newton Centre, MA
Back Bay Mission – Biloxi, MS
Backpack Project – Bloomfield, CT
Carol's Closet – Glastonbury, CT
Christian Activities Council – Hartford, CT
Church World Service
Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ (Missionary Society of CT)
Families in Crisis Inc. – Hartford, CT
Family Life Education – Hartford, CT
FISH – Glastonbury, CT
Foodshare – Windsor, CT
Fred Wish School – Hartford, CT
Glastonbury ABC House – Glastonbury, CT
Glastonbury Fuel Bank – Glastonbury, CT
Hands on Hartford – Hartford, CT
Hartford East Association, United Church of Christ, CT
Hartford Food System – Hartford, CT
Hawkwing – Cheyenne River Reservation, SD
Heads Up! Hartford – Hartford, CT
HELO – Haiti
Horace Bushnell Children's Food Pantry – Hartford, CT
Intercommunity Mental Health – East Hartford, CT
Integrated Refugee and Immigrant Services (IRIS) – New Haven, CT
Interval House – Hartford, CT
Louisiana Flood Recovery Work
Manchester Area Conference of Churches (MACC) – Manchester, CT
Mercy Housing and Shelter Corporation – Hartford, CT
Our Church's Wider Mission, United Church of Christ
One Great Hour of Sharing
Open Hearth – Hartford, CT
Parish Relief Fund – First Church, Glastonbury, CT
Silver Lake Conference Center – Sharon, CT
South Park Inn – Hartford, CT



Our congregation has a history of giving generously to our special offerings. Thanks to you, we collected \$11,656 for our Easter offering. \$1,500 of that went to Heads Up! Hartford, and the balance went to One Great Hour of Sharing. The Thanksgiving 2016 offering yielded a collection of \$7,592. These funds were donated in equal parts to Back Bay Mission, Bloomfield Backpack Project, Integrated Refugee and Immigrant Services (IRIS) and the Louisiana flood recovery work. For the Christmas 2016 offering, parishioners gave \$14,148 and equal amounts were donated to the Glastonbury Fuel Bank, Horace Bushnell Children's Food Pantry, Manchester Area Conference of Churches, Hands on Hartford and HELO Haiti. During this past year we collected \$33,396 with our special offerings.



As a church, we also distributed an additional additional \$30,640 to various organizations (Nepal Water Supply Project, Back Bay Mission, the Adult/Alumni Back Bay Mission Trip, Rebuilding Together Hartford, Glastonbury MLK Community Initiative, Hartford Prayer Breakfast, The Coalition, Carol's Closet, Covenant to Care, One Great Hour of Sharing and the Youth Mission Trip) in order to spread God's love in the world. These dollars came from our annual Church School mission project, Vacation Bible School mission project, Shrimp Boil, Council Discretionary Fund, Interfaith Thanksgiving Service, Covenant to Care Fund and Thompson Mission Fund.

Together for the budget year 2016, our church proudly gave away \$136,876! Think of all the good your generous donations have done throughout our region, state and world. Every dollar, every hour of time, every shared talent makes a difference!



Additionally, the Board sponsors many events where our church members use their caring hands to serve others. Some of the events include an intergenerational mission trip, Mobile Foodshare truck, Fred Wish readers, Mission Immersion Days, Turkey and a Twenty collection, Horace Bushnell and Manchester Area Conference of Churches food collection, Hands on Hartford lunches, the Walk Against Hunger, Giving Tree collection, SERRV sale, Covenant to Care donations and our rummage sales.

Please contact Sharon Conway (860-463-6503) if you would like any further information on any organizations or events supported by the Board of Christian Service.

