



The **REMINDER**

First Church of Christ, Congregational, Glastonbury, Connecticut

Member of United Church of Christ

An open, welcoming and affirming congregation

March 2018

Be the Church! – A Lenten Series

Wednesdays, February 28, March 14 and 21 from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

A Time of Faith, Fellowship and Food



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

Some of your fellow church members will informally share their thoughts on questions such as, "What was your faith upbringing in your childhood and youth? What impact does that upbringing have on your life today? How do you see your faith guiding you as you go through your day-to-day life? How do you see your faith influencing what you do each day at work, at school or at home? How do you see your faith influencing you on how you spend your time each week, such as making church a priority in your life?"

Following these brief presentations, we will engage in a time of questions, answers and conversation together.

Wednesday, February 28

Ron Kimmel

Russ Morin

Wednesday, March 14

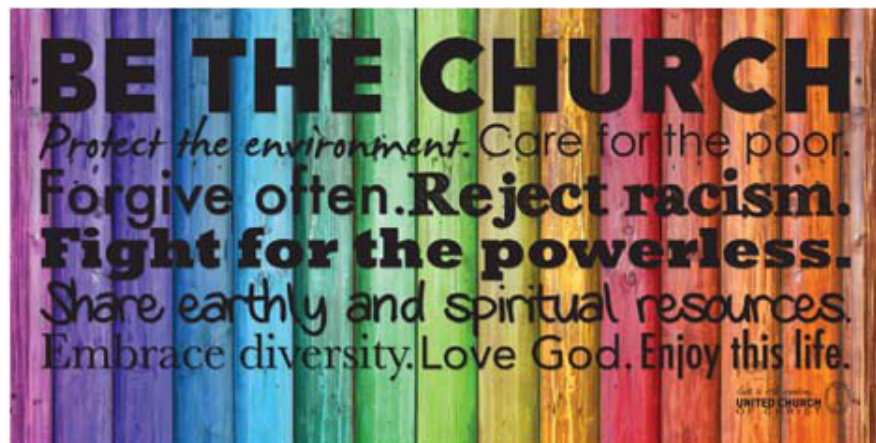
John McNab

Arwen Norman

Wednesday, March 21

Sarah and Greg Brown

Lisa Hapgood



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

Come to be fed and inspired as your fellow church members share their thoughts, their faith and their lives!

First Church of Christ, Congregational

United Church of Christ
2183 Main Street
Glastonbury, CT 06033

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

Sunday Morning Schedule

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

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

Phone Number: 860-633-4641

Fax Number: 860-633-5826

Email: firstchurch@glastonburyfirst.org

Website: www.glastonburyfirst.org

Staff

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

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

Calling All Volunteers!



Would you like to be more involved in our vibrant First Church community? Perhaps you are already involved but would like to try something new? We are now recruiting new members for all of our boards and committees. So many opportunities are available and this is a great time to think about what interests you.

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

If you have an interest in joining a specific board or committee, contact Lisa Charles, Chair of Human Resources, at (860) 338-4816 or lisacharles@cox.net; Christine Roberge, Vice Chair of Human Resources, at (860) 430-1572 or roberge.happyface@gmail.com; any church officer; a current board or committee member; David; Kate; or Elizabeth.

Thank you to all the volunteers who make First Church such a wonderful place! We are truly blessed.

Prospective Member Gathering March 4

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

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





“Be the Church – Doing Justice, Loving Kindness, and Walking Humbly With God!” Lent, Holy Week and Easter Services

- March 4** *March Fourth into Madness?!?* – David Taylor preaching
8:00 a.m. Stanley Battle, baritone; 10:00 a.m. Chancel Choir
- March 11** *Love God!* – Elizabeth Gleich preaching
8:00 a.m. Alex Laliberte, soprano; 10:00 a.m. Cantate, Cantabile and Chancel Choirs
- March 18** *Enjoy this Life!* – Kate VanDerzee-Glidden preaching. New members join.
8:00 a.m. Chancel Choir Small Ensemble; 10:00 a.m. Mallet Ringers and Chancel Choir



- March 25** *Palm and Passion Sunday*
8:00 a.m. Arwen Norman, soprano; 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.



- March 29** *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 1** *Easter Sunday*
6:30 a.m. *Outdoor Sunrise Service on the Micah House and Chapel Lawn*
9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. 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. David Taylor will preach, *Come Church, Arise – Again and Again!* Childcare will be available.



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

Plans are coming together as we look forward to celebrating the completion and opening of the Micah House and Chapel at The Thomas Hale Homestead, as well as our church’s 325th birthday! This two-day celebration will include tours of the completed structure, several concerts, picnics and lots of fun and fellowship with our church community and the wider Glastonbury community. Stay tuned for more details. **Save the dates: June 2 and 3!** For more information, or if you are interested in helping that weekend, contact Suzanne Schwartz at stonehill126@gmail.com or Nancy Pacht at nrwp0503@yahoo.com.

Micah House and Chapel Update: March 2018

The rebuilding of the exterior of the Hale House and the exterior shell of the new Micah Chapel are both complete. Due to the frigid temperatures in early January, the completion of the insulation was delayed, which delayed the sheetrock installation. All that is behind us now with the insulation, sheetrock installation, and taping all completed in February. The finish trim and flooring are all set to begin.



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 contractors 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 is our beloved faith community's vision that will serve First Church today and for future generations!!

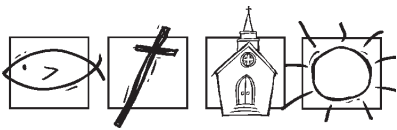
“God has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?” ~ Micah 6:8

United Church of Christ News

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

Our denomination has wonderful resources for pastors and for lay people. If you would like to start your day off with a **simple devotion**, you would go to http://www.ucc.org/feed_your_spirit and then click on “Daily Devotional.” These short and meaningful words inspire many people to live faithful, justice focused and loving lives.

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



Christian Service



First Church is a place where we are constantly serving our neighbors in need. It is our call and our privilege to spread God's love in our church community, in Glastonbury, in Hartford, in other Connecticut towns and cities, throughout our nation and all around the world.

Save the Date for the Next Mission Immersion Day!



Come one, come all, to share God's love in the world! Spend some time on **Saturday, April 21** volunteering and helping others. If you can spare just a few hours, we invite you to sign up! For more information or to **sign up for this mission experience**, go to the table during coffee hour or contact Lisa Hapgood at lisa.hapgood@yahoo.com or 860-614-9380.

Save the Date for our Next Hands on Hartford Lunch

On Monday, April 9, we will provide the food and servers for this lunch meal at Center City Church through Hands on Hartford. Sign up during coffee hour starting in mid-March or contact Jackie Mumford at jacquelynmumford@gmail.com or 860-288-4337 with questions or to volunteer.



Service Trip with Simply Smiles

As hundreds of past participants will attest, the volunteer service trip to the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Reservation with Simply Smiles is a life-changing opportunity. Adult participants will live and work with Simply Smiles on the Reservation in South Dakota. On the trip, participants will be based in the town of La Plant doing home construction projects, working on town-wide events and helping at daily camps, all while learning about the rich Lakota culture! The trip will be **May 12-19, 2018**. If you are interested in learning more, contact Charlie Kuchenbrod at charliek@ctucc.org.

First Church's "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 up and running, and they are 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. If you are interested in seeing if your household task or project is something they would be able and willing to take on, at no charge, please contact David Taylor, Kate VanDerzee-Glidden or Elizabeth Gleich.

Reading Changes Lives: Volunteering at Wish School

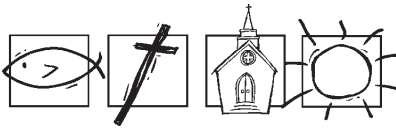


Fred Wish School is an Elementary School on Barbour Street in Hartford. During the past several years, volunteers from First Church have been helping the kindergarteners with basic reading skills. We hope to encourage their love of reading by spending time with each child reading books, talking about what excites them and what they have learned from the stories. Books appropriate for their grade level and skills are provided. **Volunteers are asked to spend two hours weekly on a day of their choice. We are assigned two students and spend 30 minutes with each child.** If you are interested or have questions, please contact Sally Riddell at 860-657-8715 or sally.m.riddell@gmail.com.

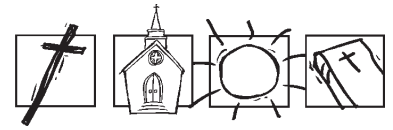
Food Collection



First Church has a long tradition of collecting food items. Our donations go to Horace Bushnell Children's Food Pantry in Hartford and Manchester Area Conference of Churches (MACC). **In March, we're asking for contributions of unopened, unexpired oatmeal, tomato sauce, canned veggies and other items people are willing to donate.** Thanks!



Christian Service



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.

It is wonderful to see the impact our every other week distribution of food had on so many of our neighbors during 2017. Because of the work of Foodshare, the support of the Board of Christian Service and the many amazing, dedicated, hardworking and good humored volunteers, **First Church distributed 53,349 meals during 2017**, with an average attendance of 119 individuals. Thank you all!



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 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 or Paul Fraleigh at 860-643-1571.



Children's Ministries



A Call for Recipes!



To raise money for our Church School mission project, **Little City Sprouts**, the Church School is creating a church-wide cookbook! **Little City Sprouts** is a program that helps preschoolers in Hartford to have better

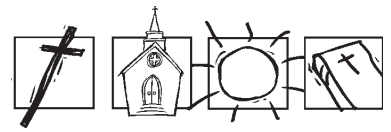
access to education about nutrition, gardening and sustainability. The focus of our fundraiser is on healthy eating and education, but we know that some recipes also warm the heart and feed the soul, so all recipes are welcome! Submit your recipes to <https://tinyurl.com/churchcookbook> and click on "contribute recipe" or you can email your recipes to ceadmin@glastonburyfirst.org. **The deadline to submit recipes is March 4. You can pre-order a cookbook during coffee hour for \$10!** Thanks in advance for your support!

One Great HOUR OF SHARING

In Church School, children were given **One Great Hour of Sharing banks to take home to collect donations beginning February 25, and these banks will be used to help collect donations from church members during worship on March 25.** 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



Summer Camp at Silver Lake!



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

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

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

Bloomfield Backpack Project

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

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.

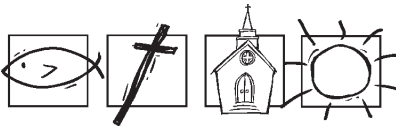


The program began in April 2015 and was developed after a study conducted in Hartford in 2012 found that a shocking 37% of preschool children were overweight or obese. **Little City Sprouts** encourages healthy nutrition habits at a young age, as these habits will shape child development and continue 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. We're already over halfway to our \$10,000 goal, so thank you for your continued support!



Children's Ministries



Church School Unit 6: "Easter Go and Tell"

Bible Story Reference: Matthew 28:1-10, 16-20

Bible Verses: *Go therefore and make disciples of all nations.* (Matthew 28:19)

Main Idea: The resurrected Jesus told his disciples to go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them and teaching them to obey all that Jesus commanded. Jesus combined his instructions with a promise: "Remember, I am with you always." (Matthew 28:20)

Objectives: Children will explore the following concepts:

- Jesus rose from the dead.
- Through Jesus, God offers new life to people everywhere.
- Jesus expected his followers to continue the work he started.
- What Jesus told his followers applies to Jesus' disciples today.
- Each of us has unique abilities we can use to tell the good news of Jesus.



	<u>Sunday 3/11</u>	<u>Sunday 3/18</u>	<u>Sunday 3/25</u>	<u>Sunday 4/1</u>	<u>Sunday 4/8</u>
<u>K & 1st grade</u>	Science Room 205	Storytelling Room 111	Art Room 103	EASTER (no Church School)	Games Room 110
<u>2nd grade</u>	Games Room 110	Science Room 205	Storytelling Room 111	EASTER (no Church School)	Art Room 103
<u>3rd grade</u>	Games Room 110	Science Room 205	Storytelling Room 111	EASTER (no Church School)	Art Room 103
<u>4th grade</u>	Art Room 103	Games Room 110	Science Room 205	EASTER (no Church School)	Storytelling Room 111
<u>5th grade</u>	Art Room 103	Games Room 110	Science Room 205	EASTER (no Church School)	Storytelling Room 111

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 11! Save the Dates: July 30 - August 3

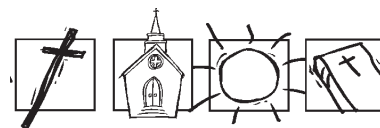


On Sunday, **March 11**, we will be kicking off Vacation Bible School registration! The theme this year is *Rolling River Rampage*. Stop by the registration table during coffee hour to register your child. All past participants are encouraged to wear their VBS t-shirts to worship and Church School that day. For questions, please email Karin at ceadmin@glastonburyfirst.org.





Youth Ministry



IMPORTANT YOUTH MISSION TRIP DATES!



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

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

Sunday, March 25: Mission Trip Commissioning, 10:00 a.m. worship! Mission Focused SHF, 6:00-8:00 p.m.
Saturday, April 7: Mission Trip kick-off brunch, 11:00 a.m.
April 7-14: Mission Trip departure and return
May 6: Mission Trippers lead worship

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 4: Regular Session
Sunday, March 11: Regular Session
Sunday, March 18: Regular Session
Sunday, March 25: Mission Focused Session

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 12: Regular Session
Monday, March 26: Regular Session

SUMMER MISSION CAMP

Heads Up! Hartford's 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. Our youth have loved it! Heads Up! Hartford camp dates for 2018 are **Thursday, June 21, to Thursday, June 28**. Registration forms are coming soon to headsuphartford.org. Contact Linda Sill with questions at lindasinact@yahoo.com.

CONFIRMATION CLASS

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

***Saturday, March 3:** Mission Outreach Day, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Sunday, March 11: Regular Class Session
***Sunday, March 18:** Mentor Session #2, 4:00-6:00 p.m.
***Thursday, March 29:** Service of Tenebrae, 7:30 p.m.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST & EGG HUNT, SATURDAY, MARCH 31



"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 Board of Youth Ministry 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 Marianne Anderson at 860-918-2747 or marianne Maio@att.net. Thanks!



INSPIRATIONAL GREETING CARDS AVAILABLE TO SUPPORT THE YOUTH MISSION TRIP

Each year our youth create a thematic image that reflects our coming year. You can purchase sets of 10 for \$15 during coffee hour in March or by contacting Elizabeth Gleich at elizabeth@glastonburyfirst.org.



Youth Ministry



SUPPORT OUR YOUTH MISSION TRIP THROUGH SHARES!

We encourage everyone in the First Church family to help support our SHF youth on their mission trip to Memphis in April! **Please visit the Youth Table during March to contribute to the Mission Trip by purchasing “Shares” for \$20 each.** This is a great way to support our Youth Mission Outreach and to participate in their efforts! There’s no limit to the number you can buy, and all donations will be included in your First Church giving statement. You’ll receive a share certificate and be included in our year-end report to shareholders of mission activities. If you have any questions, please contact Patti Jagoe at ctsdncmnfolk@gmail.com or Elizabeth Gleich at elizabeth@glastonburyfirst.org, and be sure to look for our table during coffee hour in March and April!

SNOW CANCELLATIONS!

For weekday events, if the Glastonbury schools have a snow closing or early dismissal, any evening programs would be cancelled. For weekend and other snow closings, students and parents will be notified through our email lists. **Snow closings will also be posted on WFSB 3, NBC 30 and WTNH 8.** *As always, if you determine it is not safe to drive to a program, please stay home. We urge extra caution and discretion with young drivers.*



Music Ministry



Music at the Meetinghouse Presents...
ACOUSTIC EIDOLON



*A Blend of Celtic,
Flamenco and Americana*
Saturday, April 28, 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*

Congratulations!



We congratulate **Ella and Madelyn Muller** for receiving their Light Blue Ribbons as part of the Royal School of Church Music Program. Each ribbon color represents the various levels of musicianship achieved by the chorister according to the following graded program; Light Blue (Level 1); Dark Blue (Level II); Red (Level III); Purple (Level IV); and Black (Level V).

Handbell Festival April 29



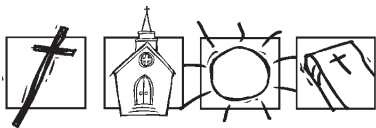
The Mallets and Jubilate Ringers will be participating in a Handbell Festival on **Sunday, April 29 at St. Mary’s Church in Willimantic.** All are invited to attend the **Handbell Festival concert at 7:00 p.m.** that evening. Thank you to Peggy Hartman for organizing this event, which is a fundraiser for the L. Cameron Johnson

Memorial Organ Competition sponsored by the Northeastern CT Chapter of the AGO. Other bell choirs participating are the Simsbury United Methodist Church and Storrs Congregational Church.

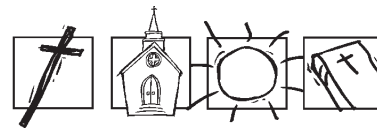
Munson’s Candy Fundraiser



Thank you to everyone who supported the 2018 Choir Camp fundraiser by ordering your candy through the Munson’s Chocolates sale to fill your Easter baskets. **The candy will be available for pick up on Sunday, March 18.** We appreciate your support!



Adult Opportunities



Millennial Fellowship Has Launched

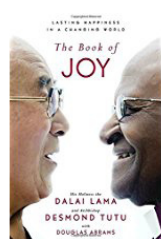
Are you a 20-something or an early 30-something? Whether you're a young professional joining First Church, a recently returned graduate living in your parents' basement or a young at heart 80s kid, this is the group for you. We hope you join us for monthly volunteering, social events and faith conversations over a pint at a local brewery. **Join us for our next event on March 2 at 6:00 p.m. at First Church for fun, get-to-know-you games and discussion (think: throwback to high school youth group), then we'll walk to Plan B in the center for some food.** Feel free to invite your friends or anyone you think would enjoy the group! For more information about this event or about the group, contact Elizabeth Gleich at elizabeth@glastonburyfirst.org or Kate VanDerzee-Glidden at katev@glastonburyfirst.org. Looking forward to being in fellowship with you!

You are Invited to a Moms' Group!

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



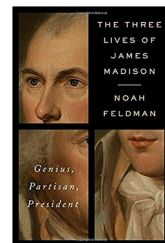
Thursday Morning Study Group



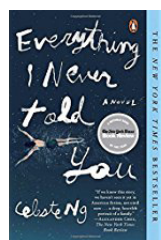
The Thursday Morning Study Group will consider two study questions this month! First, on **March 1 and 8**, we will ask "Where on earth do we find joy?" Second, on **March 15 and 22**, we will consider "Is the true history of Jesus recorded in the Bible?" For the first question, we suggest as a reference the book *The Book of Joy: Lasting Happiness in a Changing World*, a collection of relevant writings of the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu as gathered by author Douglas Abrams. For the second question, we will use *Jesus the Rabbi Prophet: A New Light on the Gospel Message* by Jacques Baldet. Then, on **March 29** the group will take its Easter recess for Maundy Thursday, but will be looking forward to a study regarding intergenerational bullying by reading the book and watching the recent film *Wonder* off-site. None of the references listed above are necessary to read for us to enjoy the wide ranging discussions which take place in the **Lehman Library on Thursday mornings from 9:30-11:00 a.m.** for our wide ranging conversations. All are welcome. For answers to your questions please contact Sally Brown at saldaybrown@aol.com or Forbes Warren at 860-633-3982.

Biography Book Group

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



Second Sunday Book Club



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



Adult Opportunities



Nature Lovers Unite – Come Join Us!



Attention all nature lovers! Come join our First Church Outside group! **We meet on the third Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.** Come to our meeting on **March 20** - anyone is welcome to join! Whether you enjoy nature photography, hiking, feeding the birds, gardening or just sitting outside and taking in all that God has created, we want you! More hikes are being planned for the spring. To get on our “Hikers’ Distribution List,” send an email to bruce.munshower@gmail.com. If you have questions or want to get involved with First Church Outside, please contact Tracy Kavanaugh at lilypadprints@gmail.com or 413-250-3838.

Church Photography Show – We Need Your Pictures!

But ask the animals, and they will teach you, or the birds of the air, and they will tell you; or speak to the earth, and it will teach you. In his hand is the life of every creature and the breath of all mankind. -- Job 12:7-8, 10

In celebration of the beautiful and ever changing natural world that God has given us, First Church Outside would like to invite all church members, including children, to be a part of a nature photography exhibit we are putting on at church. We would love for anyone who would like to participate to **submit an 8 x 10-inch print of your favorite nature photo** you have already taken or go out and explore the beauty of nature and take a brand new one. Please submit only one photo per person. When submitting your photo please include your name, where the photo was taken/what it’s a picture of and, if you are a child, your age. First Church Outside will be mounting all of your photos and hanging them around church for everyone’s enjoyment.

There will be a special collection box in the church office where photos can be **dropped through Sunday, April 8**. This will give us plenty time to mount, label and hang all of your photographs. You will receive your photograph back after the exhibit is taken down in May. We will be kicking off the photography show with an **opening reception on Earth Day, April 22, after church** that everyone will be invited to, even if you don’t have a photo on display. Please consider submitting a photo as we would love to see what you find beautiful! Don’t worry that your photo needs to be taken with a fancy camera, camera phone photos do a great job as well. We can’t wait to see all of your photos! If you have questions, please contact Tracy Kavanaugh at lilypadprints@gmail.com or 413-250-3838.



Potpourri



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

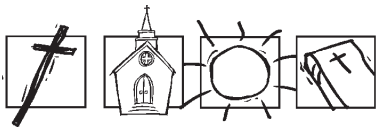
Come Join the Latter Day Marthas

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

Calling Knitters and Crocheters

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





Adult Opportunities



Prayer and Share

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

Women's Theological Reflection Group

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



General Info Corner



Lenten and Easter Books

During Lent, Pope Francis asks Christians to revive enthusiasm for their faith. How will we be enthusiastic disciples of Christ during our Lenten journey? Whether we give up something, give more to those in need, or take on a new challenge, books in the church's Lehman Library may offer guidance.

Book categories for adults and children include Lent, Easter, Jesus, spiritual life and prayer. Examples are displayed in book holder stands on the shelves. Take a look and check out a book! If you have questions, please call Katharyn Laudone, Wanda Bates or Karen Fecko.

Prayer Corner



Prayers of joy:

The birth of Evan Jacob Rowell on February 2 to Anne (Fecko) and Ken Rowell of Norwell, Massachusetts. Proud grandparents are Karen and Rich Fecko.

Prayers of sympathy:

Jon-Ann Higgins on the passing of her mother, Martha Dell, on February 11.

Family and friends of Theresa Stephenson, who died on February 12. She leaves her six children: Samantha LaFountain, Casey Pepin and her husband Ryan, Kayla Eisenman and her husband Kraig, Matthew Stephenson, Kylei Stephenson, and Colby Stephenson. Terry's memorial service was held here on February 19.

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.

Altar Flowers Requested

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



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!



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Mission Immersion Day Success! Thank You!



On Saturday, February 3, more than 55 church members of all ages participated in our Mission Immersion Day. Parishioners served at four different sites in the Hartford area, including preparing and serving lunch at the 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. Thank you to all who participated! **Our next Mission Immersion Day will be on April 21.** Hope you can join us!



Jesus Lives!

Let us Rejoice!

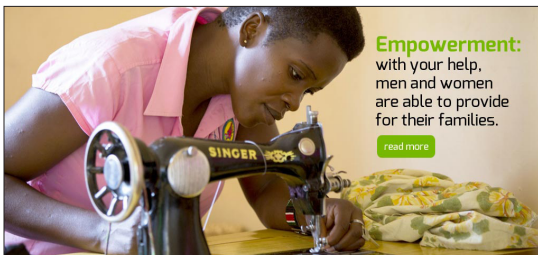
Dear Friends,

Last fall we shared the story of a little girl, Janiyah, who questioned a man sitting on a sidewalk. When he responded that he had no home, but was going to be OK, a wave of sadness washed over Janiyah as she asked if that meant he was homeless.

“She’s always had a soft spot for the homeless,” her Mom told a reporter.

Janiyah went into her purse to take out a few dollars from her allowance money and handed it to the man, suggesting he take the money to get some food at a nearby McDonald’s.

Her Mom went on to say, *“Janiyah has always had a big heart.”*



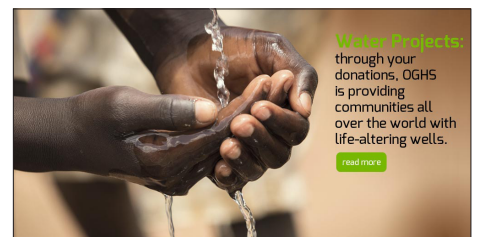
Empowerment:
with your help,
men and women
are able to provide
for their families.

[read more](#)

And the times in which we live demand big hearts. The times in which we live demand our **big** hearts because the alternative – **little** hearts – is completely unacceptable!

Children of God – young and old, near and far, hungry or homeless, lost or alone – need our big hearts. This nation – and this world – need our big hearts.

Once again, First Church’s annual Easter offering is offering our hearts to people near and far who are struggling. Our gifts will be divided between the ecumenical development and relief program, **One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS)**, and a \$2,000 contribution each to the award-winning youth mission program, **Heads Up! Hartford**, and **South Park Inn** in Hartford.



Water Projects:
through your
donations, OGHS
is providing
communities all
over the world with
life-altering wells.

[read more](#)

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 twelve 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!





Since 1982, **South Park Inn**, located on the South Green in Hartford, has had as its mission to assist homeless people to improve their life situation by providing temporary and long-term housing and supportive services. With nowhere else to go, each year nearly 1,500 men, women and children find themselves on South Park Inn's doorstep. South Park Inn provides a continuum of services from street outreach and emergency

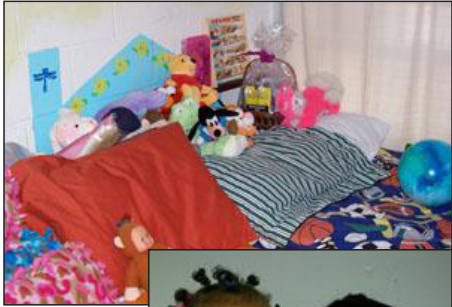
shelter to transitional and permanent housing. While staying at South Park Inn, residents' basic needs are met and they can work to overcome the problems that led to their homelessness.

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.**"

As we feel blessed by God's love in our lives, may we make our generous Easter offering a living demonstration of First Church's "**big heart!**"

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 2017, 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 at Yale Divinity School
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)
Family Life Education – Hartford, 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
Hurricane and Famine Relief
Intercommunity Mental Health – East Hartford, CT
Integrated Refugee and Immigrant Services (IRIS) – New Haven, CT
Interval House – Hartford, CT
Manchester Area Conference of Churches (MACC) – Manchester, CT
Mercy Housing and Shelter Corporation – Hartford, CT
One Great Hour of Sharing
Open Hearth – Hartford, CT
Our Church's Wider Mission, United Church of Christ
Our local refugee family
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 \$13,380 for our Easter offering. \$2,000 of that went to Heads Up! Hartford, and the balance went to One Great Hour of Sharing. The Thanksgiving 2017 offering yielded a collection of \$9,948.

These funds were donated in equal parts to Back Bay Mission, Bloomfield Backpack Project, Integrated Refugee and Immigrant Services (IRIS) and hurricane recovery work. For the Christmas 2017 offering, parishioners gave \$16,527 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 \$39,855 with our special holiday offerings.



As a church, we also distributed an additional \$31,810 to various organizations, including but not limited to School Safe Zones through Church World Service, the Adult/Alumni Back Bay Mission Trip, Rebuilding Together Hartford, Glastonbury MLK Community Initiative, Hartford Prayer

Breakfast, The Coalition, Covenant to Care, the Youth Mission Trip, Veterans of the Cross and SERRV International. These dollars came from many church funding sources and programs.



Together for the budget year 2017, our church proudly gave away \$151,371! 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 and helps to spread God's love in the world!



Additionally, the Board sponsors many events where our church members use their caring hands to serve others. Some of these efforts include an intergenerational mission trip, Mobile Foodshare truck and warehouse sorting, 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 Rick Standish, Chair of the Board of Christian Service, at 860-989-9426 if you would like any further information on any organizations or events supported by the Board of Christian Service.

* Please return by Monday, March 19, 9:00 a.m. *

Easter Flowers and Memorial Donations

YOUR NAME: _____

[Please Print Clearly]

*The Glory of Easter is present in the Meetinghouse on
Easter Sunday and for the ongoing work of our church.*

You may purchase an Easter plant that you may leave for a shut-in to enjoy or take it home and enjoy yourself.

Tulips _____ at \$9.00 = _____

Daffodils _____ at \$9.00 = _____

Hyacinths _____ at \$9.00 = _____

Lilies _____ at \$12.00 = _____

Will leave plant(s)

Will take plant(s)

Please consider giving a donation in memory or in honor of a loved one.



Donation \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

Please indicate if you would like your plant or donation to be in memory or honor of anyone [Please Print Clearly]:

IN MEMORY OF _____

- or -

IN HONOR OF _____

Completed forms should be left in the offering plate, or returned to the Church office with your check, payable to The First Church of Christ, Congregational, or cash.

Plants may be picked up after the 11:00 a.m. service.