



# The REMINDER

First Church of Christ, Congregational, Glastonbury, Connecticut

Member of United Church of Christ

An open, welcoming and affirming congregation

## November 2017

**Dear Friends,**

In a September sermon, we told the story of the Houston police officer who lost his life in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey. As Sergeant Perez set off to do his job early that August Sunday morning, his final words to his wife were, **“We’ve got work to do.”**



Truer words could not be spoken in these challenging and tragic times as people of faith attempt to respond to the seemingly endless headlines about hurricanes, fires, earthquakes, monsoons and famines. Indifference and apathy are not an option.

Likewise, the tragic mass shooting in Las Vegas has left so many people asking the same question – over and over again – **“What can we do? What can we do?”** We look forward to exploring with you what people of faith can actually do to try and weaken the stranglehold that guns have on our society – and to lessen the number of people, so many of them children, who needlessly die because of our nation’s obsession with guns.

Meanwhile, with all the divisiveness in our nation, with all the war and violence in our nation and around the world, and with natural disasters overwhelming areas both at home and abroad, it would be easy to lose hope. But we would rather think that it is precisely the time to roll up our sleeves and to do the work that God calls us to do.

And one way that we can respond to some of our nation’s and our world’s recent tragedies is through our various special offerings which share our love – God’s love – with people who are in need. For instance, if you gave to this year’s Easter offering, which includes a generous gift from this family of faith to **One Great Hour of Sharing**, you are already showing love to the people of Puerto Rico and Texas, and you are also showing love to refugees in the Middle East.



Grants from the United Church of Christ disaster relief fund, supported by our **OGHS** offering, have already been sent to these areas of immense need both here at home and around the world. Our partner churches are administering these funds to help people with food, shelter and safety.

We can support and show our love to the storm-tossed and war-ravaged people of the world by giving generously to the network of churches in those areas that are sharing our love with those in need. And we do this through **OGHS**. In addition, our upcoming Thanksgiving (please see the enclosed letter about this year’s offering) and Christmas offerings (which will be given to **HELO Haiti, Glastonbury Fuel Bank, Manchester Area Conference of Churches, Hands on Hartford, and the Horace Bushnell Children’s Food**

**Pantry**) will also be sharing our gifts and our love with the people both near and far!

We have also said recently that as people of faith we are perhaps being called **to live more simply, to give more generously, and of course, to love always!** Throughout the year, with our gifts to First Church’s special offerings at Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter, we are proclaiming, **“We have work to do!”**

Faithfully,

*David and Kate*



## First Church of Christ, Congregational

United Church of Christ  
2183 Main Street  
Glastonbury, CT 06033

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

### Sunday Morning Schedule

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

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

Phone Number: 860-633-4641

Fax Number: 860-633-5826

Email: [firstchurch@glastonburyfirst.org](mailto:firstchurch@glastonburyfirst.org)

Website: [www.glastonburyfirst.org](http://www.glastonburyfirst.org)

### Staff

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

**THE REMINDER submission deadline:**  
Friday, November 10: December 2017 issue

## Steward Spotlight On: Charlie Lawes



**Hometown:** Originally from West Hartford (before it was hip); Glastonbury since 1989

**Family:** Kate and Sam (25); Emma (23); and, Abby (20)

**How long I've been a member of First Church:** Married in the church in 1988; regular attendees since 1997

**Favorite thing about First Church:** Sense of inclusiveness, community

**First Church activities I've participated in:** Church School

teacher; Family Mission Immersion Day; potato washing (hundreds); Media Ministries

**Why I support First Church:** I believe in its message, and its mission

**Pet peeve:** Closed-minded thinking

**What you cannot live without:** NPR

**Hobbies and hidden talents:** These are so well hidden, even I can't find them. I am a bit of a jack of all trades (master of none).

**Biggest challenge you've overcome:** Being traumatized by canines in my youth

**Favorite snack:** Chips

**Schools attended:** Conard High School; U. of Richmond; Colorado College; UCONN School of Law

**What never fails to make you laugh:** Anything from the mind of Larry David

**Funniest person you know:** Abby Lawes

**Favorite season of the year and why:** Autumn - kiss that heat and humidity goodbye

**Favorite musical artist or group:** Grateful Dead (in its various forms)

**Favorite movie:** *A River Runs Through It*

**What you are most thankful for:** When our kids get together

**Favorite way to relax:** Reading the newspaper

**What touches your heart:** Random acts of kindness

**What you would order for your last meal:** Pasta Puttanesca

**Childhood memory:** Travelling by being stuffed in the back of a Ford station wagon with my sisters (fun for all seasons)

**Where you worked as a teenager:** Tunxis Pharmacy; the Athlete's Foot; Red Oak Hill Swim Club

**Favorite vacation spot:** Nantucket

**Comfort food:** Clam Chowdah

**What you are most proud of:** The accomplishments and continued interest of my children in the arts

**Favorite charity:** Planned Parenthood

**Your hero:** Still looking

**Favorite quote or scripture passage:** "Whenever you feel like criticizing any one,...just remember that all the people in this world haven't had the advantages that you've had." (from the great American novel)

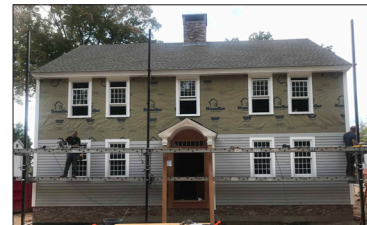


# Micah House and Chapel Update: November 2017

Thanksgiving is upon us – a traditional time when families, friends and strangers gather together to thank God for the many blessings in our lives. At First Church, we give thanks by celebrating the ongoing “work” of opening the doors of our hearts and love for one another and by building inclusive bridges that reflect the diversity found in the world today.

The Micah House and Chapel at The Thomas Hale Homestead is our congregation’s “work” that continues to amaze visitors, friends and congregation members!! George Fay, the project’s contractor, and his team have nearly completed the rebuilding of the exterior of the Hale House and the exterior shell of the new Micah Chapel. Here are some of the construction highlights:

- Installation of a new foundation for the Hale House and Micah Chapel
- Completion of the exterior framing and roofs for the Hale House and Micah Chapel
- Installation of windows, siding and exterior trim
- Restoration of the exterior chimney
- Restoration of the three first floor fireplace hearths
- Installation of rough framing for the interior partitions and stairs



The project is making a concerted effort to reclaim all materials from the Hale House in this project. For example, beautiful chestnut planks from the original exterior and interior sheathing for the house were salvaged and delivered to a local saw mill to be replaned (a process used to flatten, reduce the thickness and give a smooth surface to a rough piece of lumber) for the new chapel floor. All the fieldstone used for the original foundation has been sorted and will be used for various stone walls in the final landscaping. Also, where practical the contractor will reinstall all the trim, wall panels and doors from the Hale House, which are currently being stored in a trailer on site.



Over the next months, the construction team will install a new fire sprinkler, heating and cooling duct work, electrical and plumbing systems and insulation for the building. Once these items are installed, the finishing touches, sheet rock, trim and painting, will be initiated.

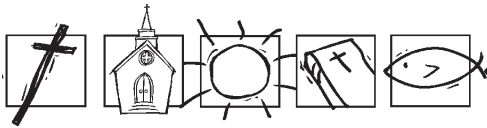
Just as a reminder, for safety’s sake, please don’t talk to the contractors as they work on the Micah House and Chapel. Everyone is excited and curious about the construction but distracting contractors from their work is a potential safety hazard! Please direct all questions to Jonathan Russell, Mick 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. People are asking – how can I help? Please contact Jonathan Russell at [cjic5@cox.net](mailto:cjic5@cox.net) to learn of volunteer opportunities.

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 an up-to-the minute, live action view of the work towards revitalizing the historic Thomas Hale Homestead into the Micah House and Chapel. This project, dedicated to God, has captured the imagination of our beloved family of faith and the surrounding community. The Micah House and Chapel at the Thomas Hale Homestead is God’s miracle and will be a legacy that serves 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*

## Process for Elizabeth’s Ordination

On October 16, your Church Council met and voted to call a **congregational meeting on Sunday, November 19, following the 10:00 a.m. worship service** to act upon the recommendation that First Church extend a call to Elizabeth Gleich to assume the position of Associate Pastor for Children and Youth Ministries. If First Church votes to issue a call to Elizabeth, the New Haven Association of the Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ is prepared to conduct an **ordination service at First Church, Glastonbury, on the afternoon of Sunday, December 3, at 3:00 p.m.** We urge you to save both dates, and look for a mailing to the congregation arriving soon which gives additional details about these exciting events!



# Worship



## 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!

## Greater Hartford Multi-Faith Prayer Breakfast

Since 1997, the Greater Hartford Multi-Faith Prayer Breakfast has reached across religious boundaries to find and celebrate those beliefs that many faith traditions share. A light breakfast will be served, and uplifting, spiritual music will be played. Archbishop LeRoy Bailey, Jr. will be the main speaker, reflecting on how we are called to "love thy neighbor across the street." The breakfast will be **Thursday, November 9 from 7:00-8:45 a.m.** at the Artists Collective, 1200 Albany Ave., Hartford. For more information, go to <http://ghpb.weebly.com/>.

## Celebrate the Al Abas Family!

Time sure flies when you're having fun, or if you've been very busy. It's hard to believe that the Al Abas family celebrated their one year anniversary here in Glastonbury this past July!! Mark your calendars for **Sunday, November 12**. The family will be part of our worship service, and we will also thank the dedicated Committee members for all they have done. **After the 10:00 a.m. worship service, the family will be in the church Parlor sharing their story with us** (from the good days, to the war, to their time in Jordan and then finally of their experiences this past year...) and answering questions. Please come and share this special time with us and the Al Abas family!

## Glastonbury Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

This year the annual Glastonbury Community Interfaith Thanksgiving Service will be held on **Tuesday, November 21, at 7:00 p.m. at the Lutheran Church of St. Mark's**. As in previous years, the different faith communities of the town will come together and offer prayers, songs and sacred words, all focusing on the theme of giving thanks amidst often troubling times in our world.



### November 5

8:00 and 10:00 a.m.

*All Saints' Sunday with Communion*

David Taylor preaching

### November 9

7:00 a.m.

*Greater Hartford Multi-Faith*

*Prayer Breakfast*

Artists Collective,

1200 Albany Ave., Hartford

### November 12

8:00 and 10:00 a.m.

10:00 a.m. *Reception of New Members;*

*Celebration of the Al Abas family's first anniversary in America!*

Kate VanDerzee-Glidden preaching

### November 19

8:00 and 10:00 a.m.

*Thanksgiving Sunday*

David Taylor preaching

**Congregational Meeting 11:30 a.m.**

### November 21

7:00 p.m.

*Interfaith Thanksgiving Service*

Lutheran Church of St. Mark's

### November 26

8:00 and 10:00 a.m.

Elizabeth Gleich preaching

## We Need You: Time and Talent Forms Available!



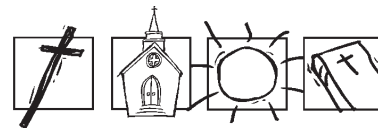
### Are You Able?

It takes many people to keep our church vibrant, and First Church is blessed by all of you who give so freely of your time, money and energy. Thank you! Each fall we have our **Time and Talent** form available and encourage parishioners to fill it out so we know where you feel called to serve. These forms will be **available at church starting on Sunday, October 29** during worship in the *Bulletin* and then at other times in the back lobby and the narthex. If you have filled it out in the past and your interests haven't changed, then you don't need to fill it out again, because we have that information stored in our database. There are so many ways to get involved here at church, and we look forward to working with you!





# Stewardship



## *Service of Celebration on October 29!*

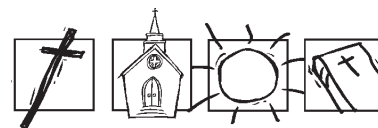
On **October 29**, we will celebrate the life and ministry of our church and how we are called to open doors and build bridges! Thanks to everyone's generosity, the future of First Church is bright, and we will continue our ministry of love to our members, to our community and to the world!! While we are on our way to reaching our goal of \$775,000, specific numbers were not available at press time.

Every pledge counts! Please be sure to return your pledge commitment to the church office if you have yet to do so. This will cut down on the phone calls Stewardship Committee members need to make. Thank you to everyone for sharing your time, talents and treasure with our wonderful faith community!! We have been truly blessed by the faithful and generous love of all of our members!

*Your Stewardship Committee*



# 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.*

## Join Us on Family Mission Immersion Day November 11

Come one, come all, to share God's love in the world! **Spend some time on November 11** volunteering your time to help others. If you can spare just a few hours, you can:

- **Put together Christmas packages** for children and families on the Cheyenne River Lakota Sioux Reservation through Hawkwing
- Work on **home repair jobs** through Habitat for Humanity
- Serve a **warm meal to the hungry** in Middletown at St. Vincent DePaul Soup Kitchen
- **Sort and package fresh produce** which is given out at Mobile Foodshare sites at Foodshare's Regional Market in Hartford



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](mailto:lisa.hapgood@yahoo.com) or 860-614-9380.

## **SERRV** Handcrafts Return!

The Board of Christian Service will again this year offer SERRV products for sale **during coffee hour starting Sunday, November 19. The SERRV table will be displayed each Sunday through December 17, and will also be available at the Cookie Walk on Saturday, December 2.** Come and browse the beautiful handmade items. You're sure to find things that will make wonderful Christmas gifts for everyone on your list!

Established in 1949, SERRV is a non-profit organization that promotes the social and economic progress of people in developing regions of the world by purchasing and marketing their handcrafts in a just and direct manner. Through SERRV orders, artisans and farmers in more than 30 countries are lifted out of poverty. They are given a voice and treated with respect. They earn a fair income, send their children to school, develop vital community projects like water wells and medical clinics, and improve their skills through training. First Church has offered SERRV products at Christmastime for many years. The Board of Christian Service continues to offer these products to support the important work of SERRV.



# 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 or [sally.m.riddell@gmail.com](mailto:sally.m.riddell@gmail.com).
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 [ctsdncmfolk@gmail.com](mailto:ctsdncmfolk@gmail.com) or 860-430-2123.
3. **Volunteer to collect food from ShopRite in East Hartford**, bringing 500 to 1,000 lbs of meat, produce, baked goods and groceries weekly to shelters and soup kitchens in Hartford. To help, please contact John Dugan at 860-659-2193 or [jdugan1967@gmail.com](mailto:jdugan1967@gmail.com) or Paul Fraleigh at 860-643-1571.

## Collecting Turkeys and Twenties November 19



Foodshare is the heart of greater Hartford's fight against hunger, and each year First Church members and friends bring in turkeys and raise money to help our neighbors in need. **On November 19, help us reach our goal of 250 turkeys this year!** The need is up so please help if you are able. You are also invited to donate \$20 to Foodshare. **Please make checks payable directly to Foodshare.** Please bring your **FROZEN** turkeys and checks to the church's back lobby on **Sunday, November 19 before noon.** There will be volunteers there to help. If you have questions, contact Linda Sill at [LindaSinCT@yahoo.com](mailto:LindaSinCT@yahoo.com) or 860-430-1676.

## Reading Changes Lives: Volunteering at Wish Elementary 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. It is rewarding to see their progress and how proud they are when they begin to read to us. **Volunteers are asked to spend two hours weekly on a day of their choice. We are assigned two students and spend 30 minutes with each child.** If you are interested or have questions, please contact Sally Riddell at 860-657-8715 or [sally.m.riddell@gmail.com](mailto:sally.m.riddell@gmail.com).



## 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 willing to help individuals in the congregation who might be having trouble finding the right people or the adequate resources to do various "odd" jobs around the house or yard. 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 or Kate VanDerzee-Glidden.





# Christian Service



## Homemade Syrian Dinner and Cultural Experience!



Enjoy a delicious multi-course home-cooked Syrian meal by Ezdehar Al Wadi. 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, November 11, 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. Seating is limited to 35, so **RSVP to Diana Ruddick at [dianakate525@gmail.com](mailto:dianakate525@gmail.com) by Wednesday, November 8**. Payments should be brought to the dinner and given to Diana.

## Potluck to Celebrate Al Abas Anniversary

To celebrate the one year anniversary of the arrival in Glastonbury of the Al Abas family, the Refugee Committee is holding a potluck dinner in **Schultz Hall on Saturday, October 28 from 5:00-7:00 p.m.** Everyone is invited to attend! You may **sign up by calling the church office at 860-633-4641**. We are asking attendees to bring either a main dish or side dish. Please be aware that **NO PORK PRODUCTS** should be used due to the family's dietary restrictions. The church will provide beverages and dessert. Let's show our Al Abas friends that we are happy that they are here and part of our beloved community. Questions? Contact Nancy Pacht at [nrwp0503@yahoo.com](mailto:nrwp0503@yahoo.com).

## 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. In November, we're asking for contributions of **cranberry sauce, boxed stuffing** and whatever other items people are willing to donate. Please bring food that is not expired or open. Thank you!



## Support Our Giving Trees

In November, look for our giving trees in Schultz Hall. If you are able, take a tag and support area children and families during the Christmas season. Look for more details in the *Bulletin* and at the sign near the trees. Thanks!



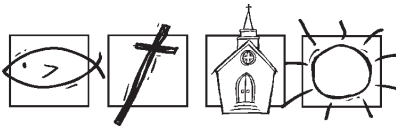
# Library Update



## Borrow Children's Books From the Church Library

Now that the books in the Lehman Library are neatly organized and displayed, stop by to browse the shelves for books that you may find helpful in sharing with children about topics that reflect the church's basic teachings. Books are shelved by broad topics (i.e., *Christian Values, Praying with Children, Caring for the Earth, Diversity, Self Identity* and *Understanding Illness and Death*).

To borrow items, simply write your name and the date on the card in the back of each book, and leave the cards in the small taupe box located on the counter farthest from the library door. If you have any questions, please contact Karen Fecko at [kfecko@cox.net](mailto:kfecko@cox.net).



# Children's Ministries



## Church School Unit 3: "Good News!"

**Bible Story References:** Matthew 1:18-24, Luke 1:2-56, Luke 2:1-7

**Bible Verses:** *For nothing will be impossible with God.* (Luke 1:37)

*"She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus."* (Matthew 1:21)

*"My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior."* (Luke 1:46-47)

**Main Idea:** The first people to hear the good news of Jesus each had a special role to play in introducing the news to the world. Each of us is called to share the Good News of God's Son, Jesus.

**Objectives:** By the end of this unit children will:

- Develop the necessary Bible skills to locate the birth stories in the books of Matthew and Luke;
- Learn that ordinary people were chosen by God to play a role in Jesus' coming;
- Discover ways to share the good news with others through word and deed;
- Learn the difference between Matthew's and Luke's accounts of Jesus' birth;
- Explore ways we can share good news today.



	<u>Sunday 11/19</u>	<u>Sunday 11/26</u>	<u>Sunday 12/3</u>	<u>Sunday 12/10</u>	<u>Sunday 12/17</u>
<u>K &amp; 1st grade</u>	Games Room 110 Judy Harding	Music Room 206 Peggy Hartman	Storytelling Room 110	Art Room 103 Adam Garrity	Cooking Room 205 Chelsea Cooper
<u>2nd grade</u>	Cooking Room 205 Chelsea Cooper	Games Room 110 Judy Harding	Art Room 103 Adam Garrity	Storytelling Room 110	Music Room 206 Peggy Hartman
<u>3rd grade</u>	Cooking Room 205 Chelsea Cooper	Games Room 110 Judy Harding	Art Room 103 Adam Garrity	Storytelling Room 110	Music Room 206 Peggy Hartman
<u>4th grade</u>	Art Room 103 Adam Garrity	Cooking Room 205 Chelsea Cooper	Music Room 206 Peggy Hartman	<b>Remain in Service with families</b>	Games Room 110 Judy Harding
<u>5th grade</u>	Art Room 103 Adam Garrity	Cooking Room 205 Chelsea Cooper	Music Room 206 Peggy Hartman	<b>Remain in Service with families</b>	Games Room 110 Judy Harding

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

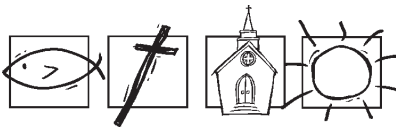
Church School runs until 11:10 a.m. each Sunday. If worship gets out earlier than that, please enjoy some time in Schultz Hall before picking up your children. Thanks for your cooperation!



## Bloomfield Backpack Project

In partnership with Foodshare and other churches, we will be providing backpacks filled with 11 pounds of nonperishable food to 100 Bloomfield children in need. **On the second Thursday of every month from 5:30 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! Contact Bryce Grissom at [brycegrissom@gmail.com](mailto:brycegrissom@gmail.com) for more information or feel free to sign up on the poster outside of the Children and Youth Ministries office. The remaining 2017-18 dates are **November 9, December 14, January 11, February 8, March 8, April 12, May 10 and June 14.**





# Children's Ministries



## The 2017-2018 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, Advent calendar sales and your donations and memorial gifts all go to support the Church School Mission Project. If you would like to make a contribution to this special project, please make your check payable to "First Church of Christ," with "**Little City Sprouts**" in the memo line. Thank you for your continued support and for responding to God's call to share love near and far!

### Church School Updates

#### November 5

**Preschool, Kindergarten, & 1st Grade Bake Sale**  
Proceeds benefit **Little City Sprouts**

#### November 12

**Advent Calendars Sale Begins**  
Proceeds benefit **Little City Sprouts**

#### December 10

**Advent Workshop, 3:00-4:30 p.m.**

### Advent Calendar Sale!

The Board of Christian Education will be holding an advent calendar sale **during coffee hour on November 12, 19 and 26 and December 3**. There will be chocolate and paper calendars that will range in price from \$5 to \$8. All proceeds will benefit the Church School Mission Project, **Little City Sprouts**.



### Support Our Giving Tree!

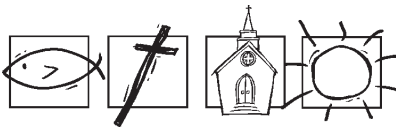
This year, the Board of Christian Education's **Giving Tree will go up in Schultz Hall on Sunday, November 12**. Please help us support local families and the Glastonbury Department of Social Services by taking a yellow star from the tree. When you return your gift, please make sure to include the tag in the bag or taped to the box, and please do not wrap the gift. The **last day for bringing in gifts is December 3**. Last year, Glastonbury Social Services was very appreciative of our support, so thank you in advance!



### Annual Advent Workshop Sunday, December 10



Save the date! The annual Advent Workshop will be held on **Sunday, December 10, from 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.** in Schultz Hall. Get ready for the holiday season by attending this special family event! Stay tuned for more details.



# Children's Ministries



## Bake Sale on November 5

On **November 5 during coffee hour**, the Preschool, Kindergarten and 1st Grade classes will be having a bake sale! All proceeds benefit our Church School Mission Project, *Little City Sprouts*. Please stop by and purchase a tasty treat!

## Church School Mission Project Fundraiser, November 14



Come support the Board of Christian Education's Church School Mission Project, *Little City Sprouts*, while having a delicious meal with our church community! On **Tuesday, November 14**, the Board of Christian Education will be holding a fundraiser to support this

year's Mission Project. **20% of all purchases made at Firehouse Subs in Glastonbury between 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.** will be donated to *Little City Sprouts*. Firehouse Subs is located on Main Street across the street from Whole Foods. You can call ahead at 860-430-1800 and your order will be ready to pick up when you arrive to pick up or eat in the restaurant. Come support a wonderful cause and have a great meal for lunch and/or dinner!



# Youth Ministry



## Confirmation Class Schedule



*Our nine month Confirmation program is open to any interested student who entered the 9th grade (or above) in the fall. Our Confirmation program aims to help young people explore and articulate their faith as they prepare to reaffirm their baptism and become full members of First Church.*

*All we require is your willingness to jump on this journey! Together, we use a combination of service projects, mentoring relationships, activities, and structured class time to explore our own personal faith, the church, and the world in which we live.*

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

\*Denotes Special Time

**\*November 5:** Mentor Session #1 (4:00 – 6:00 p.m.)  
**November 12:** Regular Class Session

## Junior High Fellowship Silver Lake Retreat!

We are so excited for our JHF retreat! We will have time to relax, play, pray, eat and have lots of fun! Here are some specifics! And, as always, contact Elizabeth at [elizabeth@glastonburyfirst.org](mailto:elizabeth@glastonburyfirst.org) if you have questions.

**When:** Friday through Sunday, November 10 – 12

**Where:** Silver Lake Conference Center in Sharon, CT

**Who:** Any students in 6th through 8th grade

**Cost:** \$130 covers your lodging, food and transportation

**Depart:** Friday, November 10 at 6:00 p.m. (First Church parking lot) Eat Dinner First!

**Return:** Sunday, November 12 at noon (First Church parking lot)

**Registration Deadline:** November 5



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



## Thanks for Apple Festival Success!

Thank you so much to everyone who helped out with the successful Potato Booth sales at the Apple Festival! We couldn't have done it without your support and help! We especially thank the various congregants who came out to support the booth and the dedicated volunteers from the Board of Youth Ministry. All the proceeds help us take our annual Mission Trip – this year in April to Memphis, TN!







# Youth Ministry



## Sr. High Fellowship Schedule

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

*\*Denotes special time*

**Sunday, November 5:** Mission-focused session; first Mission Trip deposit is due (\$100)

**Sunday, November 12:** Regular session

**\*Sunday, November 19:** Youth and families are invited to attend the annual Harvest Supper in Schultz Hall (5:00 – 8:00 p.m.)

**Sunday, November 26:** Regular session

## Jr. High Fellowship Schedule

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

*\*Denotes Special Time*

**\*November 10 – 12:** Silver Lake Retreat

**\*November 13:** No JHF Session

**\*Sunday, November 19:** Youth and families are invited to attend the annual Harvest Supper in Schultz Hall (5:00 – 8:00 p.m.)

**Monday, November 27:** Regular Session

## Join Our Senior High Fellowship Mission Trip to Memphis

**Who can go?** This trip is open to any ninth through twelfth graders, as well as our faithful volunteer advisors.

**When will we go?** During GHS April Break, **Sunday, April 8, to Saturday, April 14, 2018.**

**What organization will we work with?** First Congregational Church, Memphis is an active UCC congregation in the heart of Memphis. We'll be participating in their advocacy and awareness program, Freedom Journey, where we'll explore the civil rights history of the city of Memphis. We'll learn about peace and social justice, and hear presentations from people who fight environmental racism in a nearby neighborhood, talk with students who are part of MAGY (Memphis Area Gay Youth), learn about fair trade issues from people who run the congregation's "fair trade" store, and talk to volunteers with the Mid-South Peace and Justice Center about ways to resist violence and war.

**What kind of work will we do?** In addition to learning about social justice, we'll engage in service work throughout Memphis with religiously affiliated non-profits in the city. We'll be serving food at soup kitchens, making sandwiches, and being in fellowship with people who are in need. And, of course, there's always time built in to have fun, see the area and get to know the community.

**What is the cost?** The cost will be \$600 per participant. **A \$100 deposit is due on November 5.** Financial assistance is available. Please contact Elizabeth Gleich at [elizabeth@glastonburyfirst.org](mailto:elizabeth@glastonburyfirst.org) for further details.



# Music Ministry

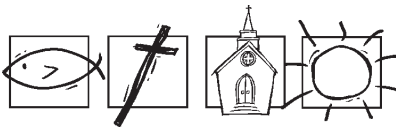


## Choir Sleepover November 3 – 4



On **Friday, November 3**, there will be a Cantate and Cantabile Choirs Sleepover. This fun-filled event will entail an evening of baking Christmas Cookies for the "Cookie Walk" fundraiser, followed by playing board games and watching a movie. **Choristers should arrive at 6:00 p.m. on Friday evening.** We will order pizza for dinner, and pancakes and sausages will be served for breakfast, followed by a 45-minute choir rehearsal. **The sleepover will end at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday morning. The cost for the sleepover is \$5 per chorister to cover breakfast and pizza.** Mrs. Salcedo is looking for a total of six parents to help chaperone. Please contact her at the church office (860-633-4641) if you are interested in chaperoning or need more information.





# Music Ministry



## 500<sup>TH</sup> Reformation Anniversary FESTIVAL HYMN SERVICE



**Sunday, October 29, 2017, 4 PM**  
**The Lutheran Church of Saint Mark**  
75 Griswold Street, Glastonbury

Congregational Chorales, Organ Solos, and Choir Anthems  
Music by Bunjes, Hogan, Distler, Bach, Rutter, Karg-Elert, and Martin Luther

The combined Adult Choirs of

The First Church of Christ Congregational  
Angela Salcedo, *Director of Music Ministries*

The Lutheran Church of Saint Mark  
Martin Smith, *Minister of Music*

St. James' Episcopal Church  
James R. Barry, *Minister of Music*

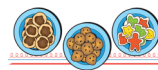
All are welcome  
Free-will offering to benefit Carol's Closet  
✝

## Butterbraids are Back!



Pre-sale orders for our delicious winter pastry will be held on **November 5 and 12**. This is part of our Cookie Walk fundraiser. If you are ready to fill your freezers once again with these breakfast or dessert pastries that bake in 25 minutes, stop by the Board of Music table and order one or more! They will be available for pick-up at the Cookie Walk on December 2.

## Cookie Walk



### and Christmas Bazaar

**Saturday, December 2, 2017**

**9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.**

**Volunteers Needed!!**

\* TO BAKE DELICIOUS COOKIES

\* TO HELP AT THE EVENT

Please contact Courtney King at [kcrpking@aol.com](mailto:kcrpking@aol.com)

### Festive Holiday Cookies and More



- \* Butterbraids
- \* Hand crafted wood items
- \* Fresh evergreen wreaths
- \* Dog bone wreaths
- \* Handmade quilt, table runners and hand towels
- \* First Church Choirs CD: "Praise and Thanksgiving"
- \* SERRV products

Cookie Walk proceeds to benefit the First Church music programs.

**Children's Choirs will sing carols at 9:30 a.m.**

*Music at the Meetinghouse Presents...*

## WEST END STRING QUARTET



*An Evening of Intimate Voices*

**Saturday, November 4, 2017**  
**7:30 p.m.**

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

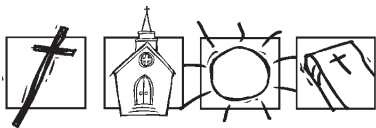
*First Church of Christ, Congregational, UCC*  
2183 Main Street, Glastonbury, CT 860-633-4641

## Boston Choir Trip

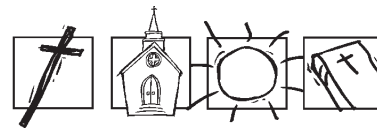
**December 16, 8:00 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.**

The Cantate and Cantabile Choirs will travel to Boston on **Saturday, December 16**, to sing Christmas Carols at Faneuil Hall Marketplace. The trip will entail a morning visit to the Boston Science Museum, lunch at Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Christmas shopping and singing on the grounds of the Marketplace from 2:00-3:00 p.m. **Please confirm your child's participation on this trip by December 4.**



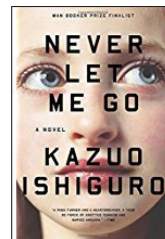


# Adult Opportunities



## 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, November 12 at 4:00 p.m.** to discuss *Never Let Me Go* by Kazuo Ishiguro. If you have any questions, contact Amy E. Thompson at [thompson.amy72@gmail.com](mailto:thompson.amy72@gmail.com).



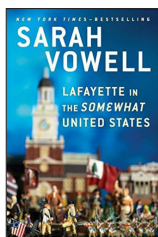
More selections and dates are:

**Sunday, January 14:** *An Exaltation of Larks*, Suzanne Laqueur

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

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

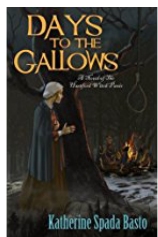
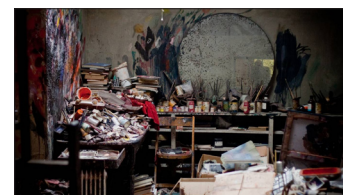
## Biography Book Group



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 of our upcoming selections. On **November 14 at 4:00 p.m.** we will discuss the 2015 *New York Times* bestselling 'biography' novelette by Sarah Vowell: *Lafayette in The Somewhat United States*, a highly regarded bio and accounting of the life of this close friend of George Washington, focusing greatly on their relationship during the Revolutionary War. For our **January 16** gathering we will read *Elephant Company: The Inspiring Story of an Unlikely Hero and the Animals Who Helped Him Save Lives in World War II* by Vicki Croke. This is the remarkable story of James Howard "Billy" Williams, "whose uncanny rapport with the world's largest land animals transformed him from a carefree young man into the charismatic war hero known as Elephant Bill. . . Part biography, part war epic, and part wildlife adventure, *Elephant Company* is an inspirational narrative that illuminates a little-known chapter in the annals of wartime heroism (Amazon.com)." Please call or email Valerie Escalera at 860-633-4452 or [miguel.escalera@sbcglobal.net](mailto:miguel.escalera@sbcglobal.net) with any questions.

## Thursday Morning Study Group

On Thursdays **November 2 and 9**, David Taylor will continue our exploration of the question, *"Does the Artist Make the Studio, or Does the Studio Make the Artist?"* Or is it a combination? What is the interplay between a creative person's work and the space from which that work is generated? The workshops and studios of some of the world's most famous artists and sculptors are almost as fascinating as their art! Come join us for presentations on artists such as Andy Warhol, Jackson Pollock, Daniel Chester French, Claude Monet, Pablo Picasso and Auguste Rodin. Their work spaces will be explored, as well as their magnificent works of artistic creation!



All are welcome. Please contact David Taylor at [davidtaylor@glastonburyfirst.org](mailto:davidtaylor@glastonburyfirst.org) with any questions about the art series. Then, on **November 16 and 30**, TMSG will look back on the effect of witchcraft on the New England Christianity movement of the 17th century using Portland author Katherine Spada Basto's *Days to the Gallows: A Novel of the Hartford Witch Panic* as a reference. Highly regarded by the *New York Times*, and rated 5 stars on [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com), we will use this underpublicized local subject as the focus of our discussions. Please contact Sally Brown with any questions at [saldaybrown@aol.com](mailto:saldaybrown@aol.com). We meet in the **Lehman Library at 9:30 a.m. on most**

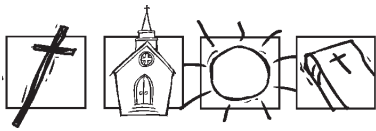
## Women's Theological Reflection Group

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

## Potpourri

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





# Adult Opportunities



## Join with Other Nature Lovers: First Church Outside Group!



Attention all nature lovers! In the spring, we formed a new group that gathers monthly for a time of fellowship and learning. We have also started taking on special projects, including our summer Sunday morning farm stand and hikes. **Our next hike is on Sunday, November 5. Meet us at church at 1:00 p.m.** and we will head over to Roaring Brook Reservoir in East Glastonbury.

We meet the **second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.** We hope you can **join us on November 14!** Anyone is welcome to join! Whether you enjoy nature photography, hiking, feeding the birds, gardening or just sitting outside and taking in all that God has created, we want you. If you have questions or want to get involved, please contact Tracy Kavanaugh at [lilypadprints@gmail.com](mailto:lilypadprints@gmail.com) or 413-250-3838.



## Brown Bag Lunch on November 15!



Please join us on **Wednesday, November 15 at noon** for *Walther Grunder's Experiences in WWII*. Bring a bag lunch and we'll provide the beverages and dessert.



Walther served during World War II in the Air Corps, which later became the Air Force. He will recount his experiences during the war when he enlisted, trained and became a navigator on numerous missions in Italy. As we honor and remember our veterans on Veterans' Day, join us to hear one of our own veterans tell his story. Walther remains active in veterans' affairs today. RSVP to the church office at 860-633-4641.

## 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, November 20 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 medium to large crochet hook. Don't know how to knit or crochet? We can teach you. If you don't have needles, we have some we can provide. Come share your knitting, and our company! Questions? Contact [kathysalk@gmail.com](mailto:kathysalk@gmail.com). **We now have morning Prayer Shawl meetings, too!** If you are interested, please email Sonmi at [szzmanto@gmail.com](mailto:szzmanto@gmail.com) for dates and times.

## Prayer and Share

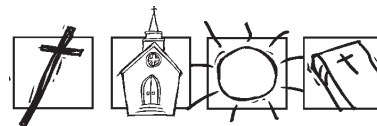
Come join us for a time of prayer, sharing, strengthening your faith and forming friendships. Being part of a small group within a large church fosters a feeling of belonging and caring. We learn and grow from our study/discussions and from each other. **All are welcome to join us in the Parlor each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

## Come Join the Latter Day Marthas

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



# General Info Corner



## SAVE THE DATE

**for the next  
Prospective Member Gathering  
Sunday, October 29, 2017**

The Church Growth and Membership Committee would like to cordially invite those persons who have worshipped here and would like to make First Church their church home to attend the next prospective member gathering. Please consider becoming part of our church family and sharing more fully in our life together.

**The next gathering of prospective members will be on Sunday, October 29, at 11:30 a.m.** At that time, church leaders will be present to greet you and to tell you about the many wonderful programs and ministries of our congregation.

Prospective members are then asked to **attend a second session on Sunday, November 5, 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 will have an opportunity to share their own religious upbringing.

**New members will join on Sunday, November 12, 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 October 29.** If you need more information, 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](mailto:kathyc@glastonburyfirst.org).

## ALL SAINTS' DAY

On **Sunday, November 5**, we will observe *All Saints' Day*. As part of our morning services of worship, we will remember those members of First Church who have died in the past year.

It is a time to thank God for the gift of their lives and to thank God for the promise of the gospels that those we love live on in God's care. It is a time to remember and to thank God for the truth that we are "surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses."



### IN MEMORIAM

**November 1, 2016 – October 31, 2017**

- |                    |                      |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| Elizabeth Archer   | Marj Juul            |
| Robert Bowden      | Christine (Tambling) |
| James B. Carroll   | Marineau             |
| Mildred Dainty     | Bertha Nollman       |
| Kay Earle          | Miriam Oberz         |
| Ruth Griswold      | Janice Raff          |
| Elizabeth Hadfield | Robert (Bob) Reed    |
| Richard Hegwood    | Altje Rovers         |
| T. John Hill, Jr.  | Barbara Thompson     |

## 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.

Please contact Susan Bonitsky at [kowsz@juno.com](mailto:kowsz@juno.com).

## Our Television Ministry

For a number of years, First Church's Sunday worship service has been broadcast over the public access channel of Cox Cable. When this media ministry first began, there were financial resources set aside for personnel to first tape and then edit the services for delayed presentation on the Cox channel. In time, this taping and editing was wonderfully and faithfully picked up by a small group of volunteers. Until recently, the taping was done first by Jim Jackson alone, then later Paul Giguere joined the team. But throughout this process, Jim Jackson has been our sole editor of the services to prepare them for broadcast by Cox. Thank you, Jim, for your faithful service! This ministry was committed to reaching shut-ins, the elderly, potential new members and the general public.

But throughout this wonderful ministry, we have had no way of knowing the breadth of its outreach. We are aware, however, of the hours and hours of volunteer effort that have been needed to put into this work. Moreover, our Media Committee has begun the exploratory work of possible other, albeit computer-based, means of transmitting our service to church members and to the community, i.e., livestream, a YouTube channel, Facebook.

Therefore, we have made the difficult, but we believe prudent, decision to cease the broadcasting of our services on Cox Cable. Our sermons can still be heard on podcasts by visiting our website. We look forward, at some time in the future, to announcing some new ways to view and experience our worship of God here at First Church. Meanwhile, the in-person, "live" participation in our Sunday morning worship is probably still the best way to experience the beautiful love of God in this beloved community!

THE FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONGREGATIONAL  
2183 MAIN STREET, GLASTONBURY, CONNECTICUT 06033-2208  
CHURCH OFFICE 860-633-4641

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# Come, Ye Thankful People, Come Harvest Supper

featuring Church Talent



**Sunday, November 19, 2017**  
**5:00 – 8:00 p.m.**

**Dinner in Schultz Hall**  
**Entertainment in the Meetinghouse**

**Please stop by our table during coffee hour with your ideas and questions!**  
**The Board of Lay Life and Ministry will provide baked ham and roasted turkey.**

*Bring a dish of your choice. . . What is your favorite?*

*Roasted vegetables or a green bean casserole? Carrots or squash? A different protein?  
Potatoes (sweet or white) or rice pilaf? Your specialty bread? (pumpkin, cranberry, banana, etc.)  
Or delicious dessert? (we request finger foods this year like cupcakes, brownies, bars or cookies)*

**We have the categories to fill, so please stop by our table on Sundays,  
call the church office at 860-633-4641, or email Donna Daniels at [donna.daniels@snet.net](mailto:donna.daniels@snet.net)**





*November 2017*

*Dear Friends,*

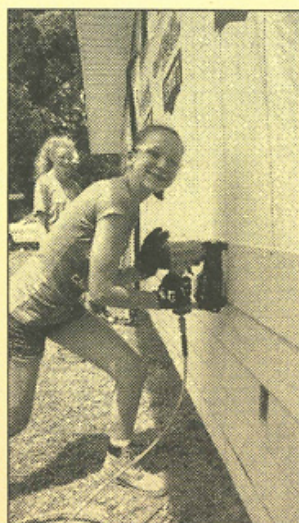
As we move through this beautiful autumn season, we have become so aware of our world's unrelenting natural disasters, as well as the difficult circumstances in which many people daily live – be it in a nearby Connecticut community or a refugee camp across the oceans.

We are reminded of these words of 20th century Jewish theologian, Abraham Heschel,

*A religious person is one who holds God and humanity in one thought at one time, at all times, who suffers harm done to others, whose greatest passion is compassion, whose greatest strength is love and the defiance of despair.*

Each year, First Church defies the world's despair – both near and far – by exhibiting its great strength of love through the support of our Thanksgiving offering which supports four worthy efforts.

The ***Bloomfield Backpack Project*** was started by Eunice Medwinter, a member of First Congregational Church of Bloomfield, when she saw a need. Eunice wanted to do her part to make sure the children in Bloomfield had enough to eat over the weekends, and so she contacted Foodshare and started the Bloomfield Backpack Project. Eunice began in 2009 and, since then, our church has helped financially and continues to send teams of volunteers to pack the backpacks once a month.



***Back Bay Mission*** has been a lasting source of hope and help for thousands of children, adults and families along the Mississippi Gulf Coast since 1922. For nearly 100 years, Back Bay Mission has provided innovative solutions and compassionate responses to those suffering at the hands of social injustice and economic hardship. One of its most recent endeavors was the construction of housing for veterans. Our church has been working with Back Bay Mission for 13 years. This past year our senior high youth fellowship traveled to BBM for their annual mission trip.





*Integrated Refugee and Immigrant Services*, a New Haven-based agency, with whom we have resettled refugees in the past, is leading the effort to help settle Syrian refugees here in Connecticut, including the Al Abas family. Church member and Glastonbury resident Chris George is the executive director of IRIS.



The United Church of Christ “*Emergency USA Fund*” has been established to provide relief and emergency aid to the people and communities devastated by all of the recent domestic storms. These funds will provide necessary support to those communities as they clean up and rebuild, and as volunteer mission teams travel to

the area to help in this restoration effort.



As each of us seeks to hold God and suffering humanity in one thought at all times, please help us reach our goal of \$8,000. ***Please give generously – may our greatest passion be compassion!*** Your ***Thanksgiving offering contribution*** can be sent to the church office at any time, or simply put in the offering plate on Sunday mornings, with checks made out to “***First Church***” with the memo line, “***Thanksgiving offering.***”

*Peace,*

*Paul* and *Kate*