



The REMINDER

First Church of Christ, Congregational, Glastonbury, Connecticut

Member of United Church of Christ

An open, welcoming and affirming congregation

October 2016

The Beloved Community – A Beautiful Love!

The following is the Stewardship Moment of Sharing that Sean O'Brien gave to the congregation during our Homecoming Sunday service on September 11.

Good morning and thank you so much for allowing me to speak with you this morning, I feel truly blessed.

Our story of how we were introduced to First Church is actually pretty neat! When my first son, Alex, was born, it was important to my wife to have him baptized and me, not so much. I hadn't really been a religious guy since I was confirmed.

I come from a big Irish/Italian family and our family gatherings resemble a scene from "My Big Fat Greek Wedding." We were living in Westford, MA, at the time, which is about an hour and 45 minutes north of here. We decided that it would be easier for us to drive down here rather than have the entire family come to us.

Kristen called around to churches here in Connecticut to see if any of them would baptize our son and many said an affirming "NO"... Then Kris called First Church and spoke with Kate. She said without hesitation an affirming "yes." Kris met Kate before the baptism and only sung her praises. Skeptical, I came down the day of the baptism a little nervous, but I knew it would be ok. When I walked into First Church, I remember the warm feel, Kate's warm smile, the big hello, comforting hug and the wonder in my son's eyes when he saw and heard the bell choir.

Kate gave a beautiful sermon about a man and his dog, Dakota, which got me choked up. Then she performed a beautiful baptism and sent us on our way with a simple cross to commemorate the day.

I left feeling like I had just gotten a massage for my soul!



We went back to Massachusetts, and three years later I was recruited back to Connecticut. Again time had gone by, and I wasn't feeling like getting up for church on Sunday. It was just one more thing to do. Kris begged me to come, telling me it was important for our family.

So I did, and each week I left church feeling good.

About a year ago my faith was challenged. My niece suffered a horrible physical trauma, which landed her in the

Neurological ICU at Connecticut Children's hospital for four days. I had so much anger, so many emotions.

When the news broke, Kate and David both immediately reached out offering prayers and words of comfort.

First Church of Christ, Congregational

United Church of Christ
2183 Main Street
Glastonbury, CT 06033

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

Sunday Morning Schedule

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

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

Phone Number: 860-633-4641

Fax Number: 860-633-5826

Email: firstchurch@glastonburyfirst.org

Website: www.glastonburyfirst.org

Staff

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

THE REMINDER submission deadline:
Monday, October 10: November 2016 issue

We quietly turned to First Church for support. I remember coming to church and listening to Kate and David's inspirational sermons, each offering little pieces of hope, each helping me restore my faith in God, each helping me restore my faith in humanity.

Coming to First Church has helped me realize again how to live a full, peaceful and vibrant spiritual life. Help and support one another, give hope...show compassion...show love....

Since then I have been blessed to become a part of the Church Growth & Membership Committee, Kristen has been involved as a Church School teacher, my kids are excited to go to Church School and we look forward to spending time with the beautiful people who fill this church.

I am so grateful to have found First Church and am proud to call this open and affirming church our home. If there is anyone visiting today...questioning if this church might be the right fit...I am here to tell you that no matter where you are on your journey there is a place for you here at this table!

So, please support First Church however you can and help our vibrant community thrive! Thank you and God bless!



Steward Spotlight On: Brian Thompson

Hometown: Glastonbury

Family: Amy and I have three girls—Olivia (17), Caroline (14), and Grace (12)...we have two male cats (Calvin and Hobbs) but I am totally outnumbered.

How long I have been a member of First Church: Confirmed in high school, so 30 years!

Favorite thing(s) about First Church: Mission outreach.
First Church activities I've participated in: Stewardship Committee, Vice President and President.

Why I support First Church: To help the church make a difference in our own community and beyond.

My job: In-house Counsel at The Hartford.

Pet peeve: Selfish people.

What you cannot live without: My family.



Continued on page 3

Steward Spotlight on Brian Thompson continued

Favorite day of the year: Christmas.

Hidden talent: Spinning a basketball.

Favorite snack: Space is limited and the list is very long...

Schools attended: University of Richmond, Catholic University, UConn.

What never fails to make you laugh: Donald Trump's hair.

Funniest person you know: My wife.

Favorite season of the year and why: Early summer—right when kids get out of school. By early June, everything is green and warm in Connecticut and the entire summer is before us!

Favorite musical artist or group: U2.

Favorite movie: *Parenthood* with Steve Martin (Amy and I saw this in 1989 on our first date!)

Biggest fear: President Donald Trump.

What you are most thankful for: My family.

Favorite way to relax: Watching sports.

What touches your heart: Simple acts of random kindness.

What you would order for your last meal: Pizza.

Where you worked as a teenager: Waiter at Market Place Restaurant (used to be in Glen Lochen Mall).

Favorite vacation spot: Coral Gables, FL in February or March with Amy (this photo was from a family trip this summer to Montreal).

What you are most proud of: My children.

Favorite charities: First Church, Save the Children, United Way.

Your hero: My parents.

Favorite quote or scripture passage: *Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends.*



2017 Stewardship Campaign

Our stewardship goal for 2017 is \$750,000. This goal, a 4% increase, will enable us to maintain our current mission programs, ministries and staffing. As has been shared in recent years, every gift is important to support First Church, and each family is different. Some pledges might need to remain the same or even decrease if financial circumstances require that. But for many, a significant increase might indeed be possible, which will be needed to enable First Church to continue to do all that it does to share God's beautiful love! If everyone kept their pledge at the same level, we would actually be going "backwards" as a congregation.

The question is often asked, "How much should I pledge?" Based on the request that each member or family consider contributing from 3% to 5% of family income, the following chart is helpful as each of us considers our pledge to support the church's mission. Thank you for prayerfully considering a significant increase to your pledge to support the work of this beloved community!

If Family Income is:	3% Pledge		5% Pledge	
	Annual Total	Average Per Week	Annual Total	Average Per Week
\$25,000	\$750	\$15	\$1,250	\$24
\$50,000	\$1,500	\$29	\$2,500	\$48
\$75,000	\$2,250	\$43	\$3,750	\$72
\$100,000	\$3,000	\$58	\$5,000	\$96
\$125,000	\$3,750	\$72	\$6,250	\$120
\$150,000	\$4,500	\$87	\$7,500	\$144
\$175,000	\$5,250	\$100	\$8,750	\$168
\$200,000	\$6,000	\$115	\$10,000	\$192
\$250,000	\$7,500	\$144	\$12,500	\$240
\$300,000	\$9,000	\$173	\$15,000	\$288

Update on the Micah House and Chapel

Dear Friends,

The campaign to raise the funds needed to create the Micah House and Chapel ended on August 31. At the time of this writing, pledges have been received in the amount of \$901,000. We invite all who have not yet made a pledge or supplemented their original pledge to make a contribution.

The capital campaign goal was to raise \$950,000. Our church leaders will decide how to address any deficit that might arise during the Micah House construction. We expect ground breaking for the building to occur in the early spring of 2017.

Thanks to all who have supported and will continue to support this project. We believe that the Micah House and Chapel will be a legacy that serves the First Church's mission today and for future generations.

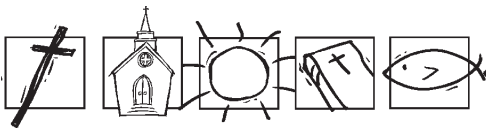
Faithfully yours,

The Capital Campaign Committee

Laura Cahill, Marti Curtiss, Jeff MacDonald, George Norman, Diana Ruddick, David Taylor and Earl Thompson

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

Building a Legacy



Worship



Sunday Morning Worship Schedule

Remember that our Sunday morning worship times are at **8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.** The 8:00 a.m. service is 45 minutes long and is a more intimate service of prayers, music, Scripture and a sermon. The 10:00 a.m. service is our celebration of our church's life and ministry as a vibrant and vital community of faith! Childcare will be available during both services, while Church School will take place during the 10:00 a.m. service. We are an open, welcoming and affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ, and all are welcome to join us!

Save the Date!



Sunday, November 6, 4:30 p.m.
Featuring the **Spark! Band**
All Saints Sunday
Soup and Bread Supper
following the service

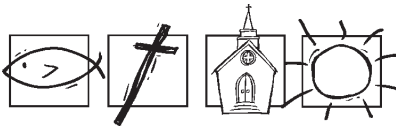
World and Family Communion Sunday, October 2



On **October 2**, Christians around the world celebrate communion and remember how connected we all are to one another. To honor this, we move communion to the first part of the service so our children can participate in this meaningful sacrament. In our service, there will be various languages spoken and breads shared.

There are only two sacraments that we practice at First Church, and Holy Communion is one of them. Sacraments are ritual actions in worship which, according to Scripture, were instituted by Jesus.

Communion is a time of remembrance, praise and thanksgiving, confession, fellowship and commissioning. It allows us to recall and remember Jesus' final meal and his invitation to follow him. Served at both services, our Communion is for everyone who loves Jesus and seeks to follow Him. In our denomination, children are welcome to eat the bread and drink the juice. Parents may decide whether or not their children participate.



Christian Service



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

The Al Abas Family in Glastonbury

The Al Abas family continues to get accustomed to life in Glastonbury as the summer winds down and the new school year moves in to higher gear. Zeyad (Dad) and Walid, Mohammad and Majd (the boys) have all been working part-time at Killam and Bassett Farm in South Glastonbury to help with the harvest season. Majd (Glastonbury High School), Sedra (Smith Middle School) and Sara (Buttonball) have all started school with backpacks filled with school supplies, and likely many hopes and dreams for what the new school year will bring.

The older boys (Mohammad and Walid) are in the process of enrolling at Glastonbury High School. Not to be outdone by their children, Mom (Ezdehar) and Dad (Zeyad) are enrolled in English Language Learning (ELL) classes in the evening, two nights per week at Glastonbury High School.

The whole family is enjoying being welcomed by the faith community at the mosque in Berlin. Thanks to the generous efforts of several highly skilled church members who donated their labor, improvements to the Al Abas's rental home have led to a reduction in their monthly rent and will make the home even more comfortable for this large family. A critical next step is to find full-time employment for Zeyad, who has experience in building construction, including owning his own firm, as well as permanent part-time work on weekends and after school for Walid and Mohammad.

Once again, the activity outlined above has been made possible by countless hours and days spent by First Church's team of volunteers dedicated to God's work of welcoming a family in need. A big THANK YOU to all who are contributing to this united effort, with their time, talents and donations!

Bloomfield Backpack Project



In partnership with Foodshare and other local churches, we will be providing backpacks filled with 11 pounds of nonperishable food to 100 Bloomfield children in need. **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 Meredith Krauss at meredana@aol.com for more information or feel free to sign up on the poster outside of the Christian Education office. The 2016-17 dates are **October 13, November 10, December 8, January 12, February 9, March 9, April 13, May 11 and June 8.**

Adult Mission Trip

Are you ready to spend a week working to spread God's love on the Gulf Coast?

If so, keep reading! We invite anyone 18 and older to spend a meaningful and fun week, **January 1-7, 2017**, with other church folks at Back Bay Mission in Biloxi, Mississippi. The work is varied, and participants don't have to have construction skills. If you are interested in learning more, look for the green flyer around the church or on the church website or contact Diana Ruddick at 860-463-3049 or dianakate525@gmail.com.



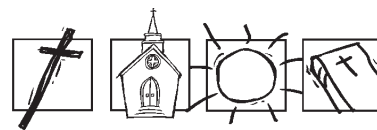
Volunteering at Wish Elementary School

Fred Wish School is an Elementary School on Barbour Street in Hartford. During the past four years, volunteers from First Church have been helping the kindergarteners with basic reading skills. We hope to encourage their love of reading by spending time with each child reading books, talking about what excites them and what they have learned from the stories. 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 grammasal@att.net.



Christian Service



Mobile Foodshare



Mobile Foodshare is a “farmer’s market” style food distribution service that provides fresh produce and other food items to between 90 and 150 lower income people. Foodshare sponsors this service, and it takes place **every other Wednesday (October 12 and 26)** in our back parking lot. If you are interested in volunteering (adults, youth and children are welcome), contact Sally Riddell at 860-657-8715.

Besides distributing food to needy people in our parking lot twice a month, our volunteers collect food from ShopRite in East Hartford, bringing 500 to 1,000 lbs of meat, produce, baked goods and groceries weekly to shelters and soup kitchens in Hartford. If you would like to help, please contact John Dugan at 860-659-2193 or Paul Fraleigh at 860-643-1571.

Help Serve or Bring Food for our Hands on Hartford Lunch

Four times a year, we provide food and servers for a meal for the hungry in Hartford at Center City Church through Hands On Hartford. Our first meal of this program year will be **Monday, October 10**. You can sign up in Schultz Hall during coffee hour. For more information or to volunteer, please contact Suzanne Schwartz at 860-430-1350 or stonehill126@gmail.com.

Bring Food for our Ongoing Collection

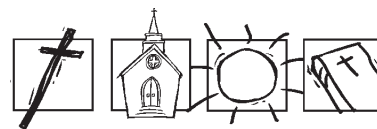
First Church has a long tradition of collecting food items for our neighbors in need. Our donations go to Horace Bushnell Children’s Food Pantry in Hartford and Manchester Area Conference of Churches (MACC). **In October, we’re asking for contributions of peanut butter, jelly, oatmeal and other items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

Mission Immersion Day

On **Saturday, November 12**, we are looking for individuals and families (children are welcome) to volunteer at various sites that serve children and families in need throughout the Greater Hartford area. One of our sites is **Habitat for Humanity**. The house we will work on will be in Hartford county, and the work will include **general carpentry, painting and home repairs**. All equipment and safety gear you need for the day is provided, and no previous experience is necessary. Volunteers must be at least 16 years old. We will also be going to **Hawkwing**. Hawkwing provides essential services and support for the people of the Cheyenne River Lakota (Sioux) Indian Reservation in South Dakota, one of the poorest areas in the US. We will **pack holiday gift packs** for each child from birth to age 18 for their annual holiday giveaway. Adults and youth age 11 and up accompanied by a parent/guardian are welcome to attend. We will have at least one other site, and more details will be available soon. Some activities take just a few hours, so we hope you will consider signing up! For more information or to sign up, go to the table during Common Fellowship or contact Linda Sill at LindaSinCT@yahoo.com or 860-430-1676.



Children's Ministries

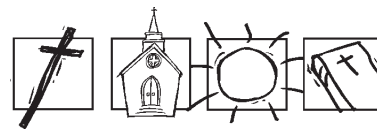


Thank You, Summer Church School Volunteers!

Thank you to all of the volunteers who made our Summer Church School program such a great success. Dozens of volunteers helped to lead stations and shepherd from June to September. We appreciate every one of our volunteers, from teachers to program curriculum designers to supply organizers. Despite summer vacations, Vacation Bible School, summer camp and summer fun, our children got a chance to stay together and continue building the beloved community that makes First Church a family!!



Children's Ministries



Message from Elizabeth

I am so happy that I have begun my time here at this wonderful congregation as the Director of Children and Youth Ministries. I started working on September 1, and it's been a thrilling first few weeks getting ready for the kick off of Homecoming Sunday, Rally Day and the program year. Everyone has been incredibly helpful and supportive as I get my bearings, for which I thank you all! I look forward to getting to know all the children, youth and families of First Church. You all seem like amazing people. We have a really exciting year ahead of us in the Church School and in the Junior and Senior High Youth Fellowships: our Church School Mission Project, the upcoming JHF Retreat in November, our SHF mission trip to Biloxi in April and more! I'm grateful to be loving God and the world together this year, and for some years to come.

Dear Parents,

Church School started on September 18, and we're so excited that the beginning of Church School is here! We're coming off the momentum of a successful summer of Vacation Bible School and Summer Church School, and we're continuing the fun, excitement and faith. We're especially thankful for all our volunteers who will be teaching and assisting in our classrooms this year!



As a reminder, please make sure you have filled out a **registration card** for your children this year. We need to keep an accurate and updated list of the children attending our program. Registration cards are available in a couple of places: 1) Online at www.glastonburyfirst.org/enrollment-church-school, and 2) Outside the Christian Education offices.

Throughout this year the children will learn about our Church School Mission Project, The School Safe Zones through Church World Service, and they are invited to participate in our ongoing mission work with the Bloomfield Backpack Project. We are called to share God's love with our neighbors near and far, and these mission opportunities help us all do exactly that!

This year, **Church School will take place during our 10:00 a.m. service.** Please feel free to enjoy some fellowship time in Schultz Hall following services if Church School is not finished by then. Kindergarteners and first graders will continue to go to Cherub Choir as part of their Church School experience, and they can be picked up in Room 112.

We're excited about making this year another great year of learning, singing, dancing, puppeting, rejoicing, drawing, building community, reaching out to neighbors, worshipping and making new friends!

Blessings, Elizabeth and your faithful Church School leaders

Church School Mission Project: School Safe Zones

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

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

Each year our Church School partners with a non-profit to help provide vital funding for programs serving the neediest among us. This year's Church School Mission Project is School Safe Zones through Church World Service. Through the School Safe Zones program, we will be helping to revitalize a school in East Africa. Our goal is raise \$10,000 for this special project. Here are just a few examples of how we can help!



\$100 = a bunk bed
in the dormitory



\$600 = a latrine
for improved sanitation

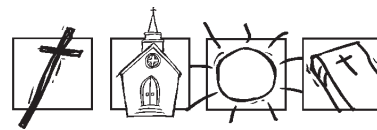


\$1,500 = a catchment system
for clean water

Money collected from children's offerings, bake sales, Advent calendar sales and your donations and memorial gifts all go to help create a safer school for children in Africa. If you would like to make a contribution to this special project, please make your check payable to "First Church of Christ," with "School Safe Zones" in the memo line. Thank you for your continued support and for responding to God's call to share love near and far!



Children's Ministries



Church School Unit 2: "Joseph"

Bible Story Reference: Genesis 37 and 45

Bible Verses: "You plotted evil against me, but God turned it into good."
(Genesis 50:20, GNT)

Main Idea: God is always with us--in bad times and in good times.

Objectives:

Children will explore these concepts -

- God worked through Joseph.
- God works through people like you and me to bring about good.
- God is with us always.
- God turned evil into good.



	<u>Sunday 10/16</u>	<u>Sunday 10/23</u>	<u>Sunday 10/30</u>	<u>Sunday 11/6</u>	<u>Sunday 11/13</u>
<u>K & 1st grade</u>	Games Room 110	Storytelling Room 111	Science Room 205	Music Room 206	Art Room 103
<u>2nd grade</u>	Art Room 103	Games Room 110	Storytelling Room 111	Science Room 205	Music Room 206
<u>3rd grade</u>	Art Room 103	Games Room 110	Storytelling Room 111	Science Room 205	Music Room 206
<u>4th grade</u>	Music Room 206	Art Room 103	Games Room 110	Storytelling Room 111	Science Room 205
<u>5th grade</u>	Music Room 206	Art Room 103	Games Room 110	Storytelling Room 111	Science Room 205

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!

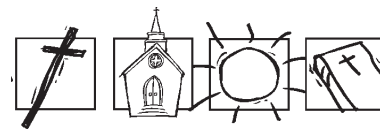
We Need YOU to Help With Church School!



We are always looking for volunteers to participate in the Church School program! If you haven't taught Church School in a while, our Rotation Model Curriculum (RMC) provides you with all the activities and supplies for a whole unit! Sign up to be a Station Leader, Explore teacher or Puppet Skit Leader! If any of these roles interest you, please contact Karin Carlino at ceadmin@glastonburyfirst.org. Thank you to all of the volunteers who have already stepped up to help fill these positions! Together we can create a safe, nurturing environment for our children to learn about their faith.



Youth Ministry



Confirmation Class Schedule

Our nine month Confirmation program is open to any interested student entering 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*

Sunday, October 2: Regular Class Session
Sunday, October 23: Regular Class Session

Senior 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.**

**Denotes special time*

Sunday, September 25: Regular Session
Sunday, October 2: Regular Session
Sunday, October 9: Regular Session
 (Columbus Day weekend)
***Friday night, Saturday & Sunday,**
October 14–16: Apple Fest!
***Sunday, October 16:** No Regular Session
 (Recovering from Apple Fest)
Sunday, October 30: Halloween Party!



Junior High Fellowship Silver Lake Retreat!



We are so excited for our JHF retreat in November! 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 if you have questions.

When: Friday through Sunday, November 11 – 13
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 11 at 6:00 p.m. (First Church parking lot) Eat Dinner First!
Return: Sunday, November 13 at noon (First Church parking lot)
Registration Deadline: November 4, 2016

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

Junior 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.**

Monday, September 26: Regular Session
Monday, October 10: Regular Session
 (Columbus Day)
Monday, October 24: Halloween Party!

Help with Our Potato Booth to Support the Mission Trip!



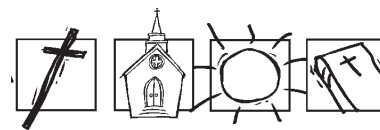
From Friday, October 14 through Sunday, October 16, Glastonbury is in the throes of our annual fair – Apple Fest! The Senior High Fellowship will be running our traditional Potato Booth again this year. Stop by for a delicious baked potato, say “hi” to our awesome youth and drop some cash in the tip jar – all proceeds go toward sending our youth on our Mission Trip to Back Bay Mission in Biloxi, Mississippi in April!

We need your help to operate this booth! Anyone interested in volunteering, both youth and parents, please sign up at the table in Schultz Hall after church. We need help setting up the booth, picking up potatoes, washing them and, of course, staffing the booth throughout the weekend. Families are also asked to bring in a case of bottled water (16.9 oz bottles) in support of our efforts! Please contact Elizabeth Gleich with questions at elizabeth@glastonburyfirst.org. Thank you!





Youth Ministry



Join Our Senior High Fellowship Mission Trip to Biloxi April 9-15!

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 9, to Saturday April 15, 2017.**

What organization will we work with? Back Bay Mission is a nonprofit community ministry of the United Church of Christ serving the people of the Mississippi Gulf Coast. It has been a force for good since 1922, meeting the needs of those suffering from poverty and its effects. Our church has a long standing relationship with Back Bay and they host our annual Adult/Alumni trip each January.

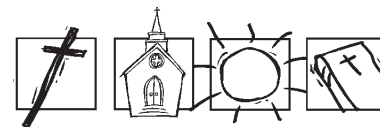


What kind of work will we do? Our group will be divided into work teams working at various sites throughout the week. Typically, work with Back Bay Mission includes construction. Their housing restoration program helps low-income families stay in their homes by making necessary renovations and repairs. We will also help staff the food pantry for emergency assistance clients and volunteer at Micah Day Center, which serves homeless clients with laundry and showering facilities. 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 approximately \$550 per participant. **A \$100 deposit is due on November 6.** Financial assistance is available. Please contact Elizabeth Gleich at elizabeth@glastonburyfirst.org for further details.



Music Ministry



Take The Plunge Now, Join The Choir!



*Take the plunge now join the choir!
Fa, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la!*

*Sing and ring your heart's desire!
Fa, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la!*

*Praise your God through song and ringing!
Fa, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la!*

*Sign up now, rejoice with music!
Fa, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la!*

Fall is a great time to join our music ministry, especially if you were able to recognize this very familiar Christmas tune! We have choirs for all ages here at First Church. There is power in numbers, and the more voices and ringers that participate, the more we affirm the resonating message that music inspires a deeper faith. Please contact Angela Salcedo, Director of Music Ministries, if you are interested or have any questions at angelasalcedo@glastonburyfirst.org or 860-633-4641.

Music at the Meetinghouse Presents...

NAVY BAND NORTHEAST



Crosswinds Trio Top Brass Quintet

Saturday, October 1, 2016

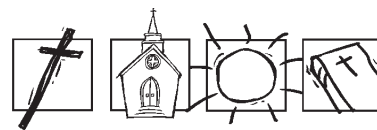
7:30 p.m.

Free concert

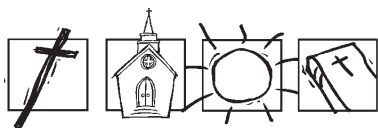
First Church of Christ, Congregational, UCC



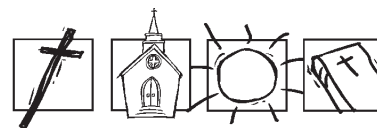
Music Ministry



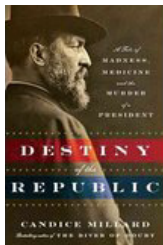
Choir Camp 2016, Incarnation Center, Ivoryton, CT



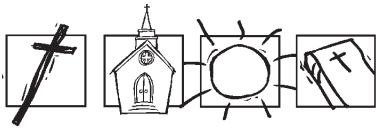
Adult Opportunities



Biography Book Group



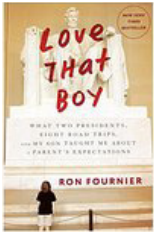
The Biography Book Group meets every other month to review a book and enjoy fellowship in an informal setting. We invite you to join us for any of our upcoming selections. The November biography selection is *Destiny of the Republic: A Tale of Madness, Medicine and the Murder of a President* by Candice Millard. The 20th President of the United States, James A. Garfield, is largely remembered today as the President assassinated after only four months in office. This biography shows us the remarkable man he was. Born into abject poverty in rural Ohio, he became a wunderkind scholar through his brilliance and work ethic. After serving in the Union army during the Civil War, he was elected to Congress. In 1880, a deadlocked Republican convention elected him as its nominee – against his will. The drama of his short Presidency is vividly told in this remarkable biography. Join us on **Tuesday, November 8 at 4:00 p.m. in the Lehman Library** to talk about James Garfield. We hope you will join us for these fun and interesting book discussions. Call or email Valerie Escalera at 860-633-4452 or miguel.escalera@sbcglobal.net with any questions.



Adult Opportunities



Thursday Morning Study Group



In October, the TMSG will consider Ron Fournier's recent book, *Love That Boy: What Two Presidents, Eight Road Trips, and My Son Taught Me About a Parent's Expectations*, in which he explores how parenting a child with Asperger's has taught him about unconditional love. Next, beginning on October 20, David Taylor will lead us in a feast for the eyes! TMSG gathers in the **Lehman Library at 9:30 a.m. on Thursdays**. Please know that all are welcome for these studies, even if the study guides have not been read. For more information, please email Forbes Warren at fwarren2@cox.net.

The World's Greatest Works of Art – 70 Miles Away or Less!

So, you don't have an unlimited travel budget to fly to the **Louvre** in Paris, the **Hermitage** in St. Petersburg, or the **Tate** in London?? Well, take a tour of some of the world's greatest works of art by traveling no farther than the library on the second floor of First Church!

For **four Thursdays (October 20 and 27 and November 3 and 10 from 9:30-11:00 a.m.)** you can treat yourself to a "*feast for the eyes*" as the Thursday Morning Study Group gathers to learn more about some wonderful works of art – each of which can be visited at one of New England's world-renowned galleries! Living in central Connecticut, we have access to some truly spectacular museums – with some magnificent art in each of them.

We will hear class presentations on those works of art which are among the most famous at each of five museums (**The Wadsworth Athenaeum, the New Britain Museum of American Art, the Worcester Art Museum, the Center for British Art at Yale and the Yale University Art Gallery**) reachable by a mere *hop, skip and a jump* from Glastonbury! Who knows, after learning about some of these paintings, some of us might just hop in a car to see them up close and personal! Please call the church office (860-633-4641) to sign up, and get ready to be "*wowed!*"

Second Sunday Book Club

The Second Sunday Book Club's fall selection is *The Last Painting of Sara de Vos*, by Dominic Smith. Described by the New York Times as a novel that "begins as a mystery about a crime, but ends as a mystery of the heart," this selection is a combination of historical fiction and contemporary story expertly woven into "fiction that keeps you up at night," according to the Boston Globe. We will meet in **Lehman Library on Sunday, November 13 at 4:00 p.m.** to discuss this and other great reads. Selections for the remainder of the year are: **January 8: *H is for Hawk***, Helen Macdonald; **March 12: *Ordinary Grace***, William Kent Krueger; **May 7: *Underground Railroad***, Colson Whitehead. If you have any questions, contact Amy E. Thompson at thompson.amy72@gmail.com.



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 Lynn Baronas at 860-543-3301 or baronas@hartford.edu for further information.

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. We are looking into the book of Esther. Although God is never mentioned in the book, we will see that God is at work to save the people of Israel. All are welcome to **join us in the Parlor each Tuesday morning from 9:45-11:00 a.m.** No book purchase is necessary. Please call Dianne Schwegler at 860-633-6326 for more information and to reserve your copy of the study guide questions.



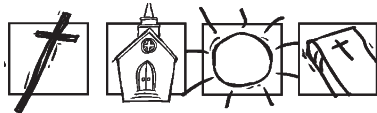
Caring Ministries



Calling Knitters and Crocheters!



Knitters and crocheters will gather on **Monday, October 17 from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. in the Lehman Library.** Whether you are new to the group or would like to learn to knit or crochet, all are welcome for handicrafts and fellowship. Yarn is provided. Bring a #11 or #13 pair of knitting needles, or a medium to large crochet hook, and receive some instruction. If you have questions, call Co-Chairs Judy Burr at 860-643-9368 or Liz Webb at 860-593-7831. All 2016-2017 meetings except the June meeting are planned for the third Monday of the month as follows: **November 21, December 19, January 16, February 20, March 20, April 17, May 15 and June 12.**



General Info Corner



SAVE THE DATE **for the next** **Prospective Member Gathering**

Sunday, October 30

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 30 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 6, 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 13 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 30.** 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.

Prayer Corner

Prayers of joy:

Jacquelyn and Aaron Mumford on the birth of their daughter, Abigail Mae Mumford, on August 24.

Prayers of healing and wholeness for:

Barbara Harding Audrey Hernandez
Lois Harwick Chris Hernandez



Prayers of sympathy:

Paul, Jane, and Tyler Guertin on the death of his wife and their mother, Victoria (Vicky) Guertin, on August 18. An active member of First Church since 1986, Vicki had served on the Youth Board and taught Church School for several years. Her memorial service was held here on August 27.

Christine Priest and her daughters Ashley, Jacqueline and Nicole on the death of Christine's husband and their father, Gregory Priest, on September 6. Greg was also the son-in-law of Nancy and Norman Higgins. His memorial service was held on September 9 at St. Augustine's Church in South Glastonbury.

Charlene and Dick Dann on the death of Charlene's nephew, Matt Lanza, on September 10.

Media Ministries at First Church

Watch a First Church service on television...

"Living the Word," each Sunday at 7:30 a.m. and noon on Cox Cable, Channel 15

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.

IN CASE OF HOSPITALIZATION

If you or a loved one is hospitalized, please make note of the following. There is a change for Hartford Hospital.

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.

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

October 2

The Beloved Community – A Giving Love!

David Taylor preaching; *World and Family Communion Sunday*

8:00 a.m. Vance Harris, bass

10:00 a.m. Chancel, Cantate and Cantabile Choirs

October 9

The Beloved Community – A Faithful Love!

Elizabeth Gleich preaching

8:00 a.m. Lola Elliott-Hugh, mezzo-soprano

10:00 a.m. Chancel Choir

October 16

The Beloved Community – A Forgiving Love!

Kate VanDerzee-Glidden preaching

8:00 a.m. Peggy Hartman, oboe

10:00 a.m. Chancel, Cherub and Caroler Choirs

October 23

The Beloved Community – A Challenging Love!

David Taylor preaching; *Children's Sabbath*

8:00 a.m. Wayne Rivera, tenor

10:00 a.m. Chancel and Cantabile Choirs

October 30, one service at 10:00 a.m.

A Celebration of First Church's Life and Ministry!

David Taylor preaching

Chancel Choir and the *Spark!* Band

Homecoming Sunday Faith and Fellowship 2016!

