



# The REMINDER

First Church of Christ, Congregational, Glastonbury, Connecticut

Member of United Church of Christ

An open, welcoming and affirming congregation

## October 2017

### ***Below is an excerpt from David Taylor's Homecoming Sunday sermon, "Opening Doors and Building Bridges!"***

Well friends, ***it is Friday***, and in this beloved family of faith, we are bodies broken by cancer and disease, addiction and old age; we have broken hearts, broken families, broken minds, broken hopes and dreams, broken spirits...***but Sunday's comin'***.

***It's Friday***, and in this richest of all the nations, 1 in 5 children live in poverty without adequate food, health care, home or education...***but Sunday's comin'***.

***It's Friday***, and in this nation, we still see torch carrying white supremacists, neo-Nazis and members of the KKK espousing words of hatred, bigotry, homophobia, and anti-Semitism – yelling words like, "Jews will not replace us!"...***but Sunday's comin'***.

***It's Friday***, and every 3 days, another 20 children under the age of 18 die from gun violence; that's every 3 days, another Newtown because of our nation's obsession with guns...***but Sunday's comin'***.

***It's Friday*** because there are far too many states which still have no anti-discrimination laws to protect our gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender sisters and brothers...***but Sunday's comin'***.

***It's Friday***, when God's amazingly beautiful yet oh-so fragile creation is threatened by the truly catastrophic effects of global warming, and the "fake news/hoax" attitude of climate change deniers threaten the very existence of this planet and threaten the lives of our children and grandchildren...***but Sunday's comin'***.



***And it's Friday*** when we retreat from our nation's inspiring heritage of welcoming the immigrant, the refugee, and the dreamers who bring such richness to this melting pot of a nation – and who have truly made America great – again and again and again and again!...***but Sunday's comin'!***

Well, I have news for you – Sunday isn't ***comin'*** – Sunday is ***here!*** So, look out world, for ***we*** are here – ***First Church*** is here!

Friends, out in the world it may be Friday, and far too often it is Friday in our own lives and in the lives of our fellow First Church members, but Sunday is here – and this is ***our*** day!

This is ***our*** day to say that every child of God is welcome to this place of peace and grace – this place where ***all*** are safe to sing or laugh or shed a tear!

This is ***our*** day to open our hearts, open our doors, and in the coming year to dream of and to build some ***new*** and even more beautiful and perhaps even life-saving bridges to one another and to God's children who are in need!

And so, let us go forth from this place to build bridges of hope and understanding, bridges of peace and justice, bridges of inclusion, compassion and love!

## 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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[programadmin@glastonburyfirst.org](mailto:programadmin@glastonburyfirst.org), ext. 115
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[publications@glastonburyfirst.org](mailto:publications@glastonburyfirst.org), ext. 112
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- 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:**  
Tuesday, October 10: November 2017 issue

## Steward Spotlight On: Chelsea Cooper

**Hometown:** Originally from Farmington but now lives in Glastonbury

**Family:** Husband Seth, daughters Emerson (7 1/2), Maeve (5) and Cassidy (5)

**How long have you been a member of First Church?** 4 years

**Favorite thing(s) about First**

**Church:** The community feel and all of the outreach work

**What is your job?** Just went back to work after being home for 6 years with the girls as a part time math tutor at Nayaug School

**Skill that helps most on your job:** Patience

**Pet peeve:** Rudeness and lack of consideration for others

**Favorite day of the year:** December 23

**Schools attended:** UCONN

**What never fails to make you laugh:** My husband

**What you are most thankful for:** My family

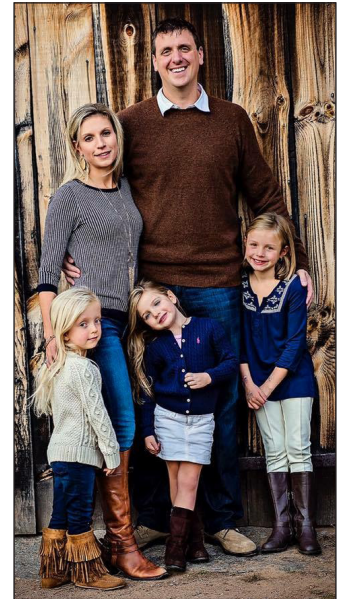
**Favorite way to relax:** Running

**What you would order for your last meal:** Fried calamari

**Where you worked as a teenager:** Taxi driver on Martha's Vineyard

**Favorite vacation spot:** Martha's Vineyard

**Favorite charity:** Ronald McDonald House



## Happy 15th Anniversary to David!



It is with thankful hearts that we honor and celebrate David on his 15th year anniversary as our Senior Pastor, having begun his ministry here on October 13, 2002. He is an inspiration to so many! Without a doubt, his loving personality, enthusiasm and passion in everything that he does has touched so many of us, from the youngest to the Golden Members.

We thank God for his continuing faithful service and committed leadership at First Church!



## Micah House and Chapel in Progress. . . October 2017



*“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

Dear Friends,

In our denomination, the United Church of Christ, there is an understanding that all members are called by their baptism to ministry, while some are set apart for authorization for ordained ministry. Elizabeth has been on the journey toward ordination for a number of years. Born and raised in Minnesota, where she graduated from the College of St. Benedict, Elizabeth immediately matriculated to Yale Divinity School and earned her Masters of Divinity in 2015. Recently Elizabeth wrote her ordination paper and defended it before the members of the New Haven Association Committee on Ministry, since her home church is the Church of the Redeemer in New Haven.

On **October 8 at 3:00 p.m. at the Church of the Redeemer**, Elizabeth will appear before an Ecclesiastical Council, which is a gathering of lay delegates and clergy from the New Haven Association. At this meeting, Elizabeth will share her faith journey and then answer questions about her beliefs and theology. Members of First Church are welcome to attend this Ecclesiastical Council.

Upon successful completion of this approval process with the New Haven Association, First Church’s Council will vote to call for a congregational meeting, at which time the congregation would consider offering Elizabeth an official “call” to become an ordained minister on staff here. It is our hope and expectation that Elizabeth would be ordained into Christian ministry, here at First Church, sometime in the first half of 2018.

This is an exciting journey, and we are grateful to be walking it with Elizabeth!

Faithfully,

*Diana Ruddick*

Church President

# Background for the Doors and Rainbow Bridge on the Meetinghouse Lawn



It has been said that *“to dream is the beginning of reality.”* Well, a little over two years ago, First Church began to dream of an additional sacred space for worship, education, community and interfaith dialogue, and engagement in mission.

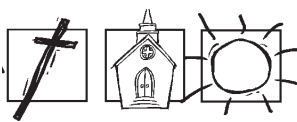
This space will be dedicated to these powerful words of the prophet Micah, *“What does the Lord require of you, but to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?”*

As we all can now see, this dream is becoming a wonderful reality! And so, as construction continues to a 2018 completion, it was decided that our theme for the coming year would be Micah’s inspiring words. But we also knew we wanted to capture these words with a contemporary interpretation. What exactly does it mean, in 2017, to *“do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with God?”*

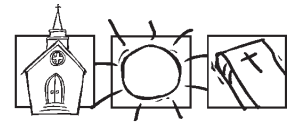
Well, we began to notice that around New England some United Church of Christ congregations began installing colorfully painted wooden doors on their front lawns – with the words, *“God’s Doors Are Open to All!”* We thought, First Church’s doors are open to all! But not only is this family of faith committed to being open, welcoming and affirming, we are also wholeheartedly committed to going out these same doors into God’s world!

As a beloved community, we are committed to building bridges – bridges to one another – always reaching out to our fellow members with God’s awesome and amazing love. This beloved community is committed to opening doors to welcome people into our fellowship, but then swinging those doors wide open out into our state, nation and world. Together, we will continue to build bridges which bring hope and love into the world!

And so, for about a month, all who walk, run or drive by this very special corner of Main Street, will visibly see and come to know, this congregation’s deep and unwavering commitment to open our doors to all, to build bridges of love and compassion into the world, and to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with our God!



## 2018 Stewardship Campaign



Our stewardship goal for 2018 is \$775,000. This goal 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 open doors and build bridges to share God’s beautiful love with one another and with the world! 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

# Opening Doors and Building Bridges!

As members of the First Church family of faith, we have many ways to truly make a difference in the lives of God's children who are in need – both near and far! Throughout the 2017-2018 church year, with our generous gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing, to various special appeals, and to our Church School's annual mission project, we can truly live out the words of the prophet Micah "to do justice and to love kindness!"

## Little City Sprouts



This year, our Church School mission project will benefit "**Little City Sprouts**," a farm to preschool program of Hartford Food System. This innovative program provides 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 aims to encourage preschoolers across the Hartford to get excited about adopting healthy lifestyles and eating patterns.

The program was developed after a 2012 study conducted in Hartford 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.

All year long you can support our children's mission project by making a gift to Little City Sprouts through First Church. You can make a gift to honor someone's birthday or a special holiday, or in memory of a loved one – and an acknowledgment card makes a great "stocking stuffer" at Christmas! Checks can be made out to "**First Church**," with memo line, "**Church School mission project**." And don't forget to support our children's bake and craft sales on Sunday mornings!

## Special Appeal for Hurricane Recovery Work

The news from the devastation of Hurricanes Harvey and Irma continues to unfold in tragic ways. As members of the United Church of Christ we have always been committed to providing immediate support to the hardest hit parts of the world through natural and human-caused disasters. We are committed to long-term relief efforts, and by filling gaps in services through the following provisions: spiritual care, community organizing, repair and reconstruction of homes, tools, building materials and volunteer coordination.

UCC Disaster Ministries is already gearing up for our long-term recovery work and your contributions means providing community support for holistic recovery, repairing house and home for families and children.



The United Church of Christ "**Emergency USA Fund**" ensures that 100% of the funds received will be used in direct emergency relief efforts. To assist in hurricane recovery efforts, you may donate by making a check out to "**First Church**," with memo line, "**Hurricane Recovery**."

## Special Appeal for the Famine in East Africa

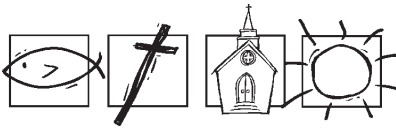


A concerted global effort continues to reach out to millions who are at risk of severe malnutrition and starvation in four famine-stricken areas of East Africa – Somalia, South Sudan, Nigeria and Yemen. To date, United Church of Christ Disaster Ministries has forwarded \$140,000 for mobile clinics, therapeutic feeding and medicines, food, nutrition supplements, safe water, sanitation, fast-maturing seeds, farming tools and support to keep pupils and teachers in school in South Sudan and drought-stricken Somalia, Ethiopia and Kenya.

More than twenty million people face starvation. International aid officials have stated that this is one of the biggest humanitarian disasters since World War II.

Increased investment in international humanitarian assistance is critical to assist these people in crisis. In addition, we see that continued funding for peacebuilding programs that prevent violent conflict are critical pieces that help address root causes of poverty and famine.

Thanks for doing your part through your prayers and generous contributions. Your One Great Hour of Sharing gifts are already at work, but to make a special donation, please make a check out to "**First Church**," with the memo line, "**East Africa Famine**."



# 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.*

## Opportunities to Volunteer with Foodshare!



Foodshare's vision is for a community where all people can get the food they need. As the region's food bank they work toward that vision by getting food donations from the food industry and distributing them to 300 food pantries, community kitchens, homeless shelters and other partner programs.

There are **three ways to get involved** with Foodshare here at First Church.

1. **Volunteer when the Mobile Foodshare truck comes to our back parking lot every other Wednesday morning at 10:00 a.m.** This is a "farmer's market" style food distribution of fresh produce and other foods, and it takes many volunteers to serve everyone who comes. If you are interested in participating (adults, youth and children are welcome!), contact Sally Riddell at 860-657-8715.
2. **Volunteer at Foodshare's Regional Market in Hartford on alternating Wednesday mornings** to help sort and package the produce that gets given out on the Mobile Foodshare truck at various sites across the state. **Volunteers gather in the church parking lot at 8:00 a.m. to drive in together, and the shift is from 8:30-11:30 a.m.** If you are interested in learning more, please contact Jim Hartung at [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.

## 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 [grammasal@att.net](mailto:grammasal@att.net).



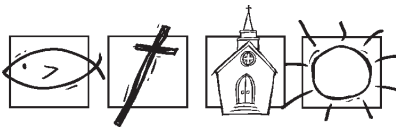
## Help Serve or Bring Food for Hands on Hartford Lunch

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 9**. You can sign up in Schultz Hall during coffee hour. For more information or to volunteer, please contact Sharon Conway at [sconway@massmutual.com](mailto:sconway@massmutual.com) and 860-463-6503.

## 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



## Get Your Tool Belts Ready for the Adult Mission Trip!



Are you ready to spend a week working to spread God's love on the Gulf Coast? Our 13th annual intergenerational Mission Trip to Biloxi, Mississippi, will take place **January 7-13, 2018**.

Participants must be at least 18 years old. The work is varied, and participants don't have to have construction skills. If you are interested in learning more, look at the goldenrod flyer around the church, on the church website or in the September *Reminder* for details and the registration form, which should be returned to the church office with a **\$100 deposit by September 30**. If you have questions, contact Diana Ruddick at 860-463-3049 or [dianakate525@gmail.com](mailto:dianakate525@gmail.com).

## Save the Date: Mission Immersion Day, November 11



On **Saturday, November 11**, 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. Some activities take just a few hours, so we hope you will consider signing up! Our four sites include packing holiday gift packs for children on the Cheyenne River Lakota (Sioux) Indian Reservation in South Dakota through Hawkwing, working on a Veterans' home build in East Hartford through Habitat for Humanity, sorting fresh produce at the Foodshare warehouse in Hartford and serving a hot lunch meal at St. Vincent DePaul Soup Kitchen in Middletown. We would love to have you involved! For more information or to sign up, 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.

## 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 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. Thank you!

## 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, October 7, 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 will be limited to 35. Please **contact Diana Ruddick at [dianakate525@gmail.com](mailto:dianakate525@gmail.com) or 860-463-3049** for more information.

## Rummage Sale October 20 & 21

Save the date! Our rummage sale is coming up on **October 20 and 21**. We are looking for donations, so while you're doing your fall cleaning, please be sure to save items for our sale, which supports a variety of Board of Christian Service projects. We can use clothing, household items and small furniture (no sofas). For more information, to volunteer, or if you have items that need to be stored now, please contact Nancy Higgins at [nnhigg@att.net](mailto:nnhigg@att.net) or 860-633-6604. Thank you!





# Children's Ministries



## Church School Unit 2: "Rebekah"

**Bible Story Reference:** Genesis 24; 25:19-26

**Bible Verse:** "My people, you are my witnesses and my chosen servants. I want you to know me, to trust me, and understand that I alone am God. I have always been God; there can be no others." (Isaiah 43:10, CEV)

**Main Idea:** Rebekah was a strong and determined woman who was chosen by God. God chooses us, as God chose Rebekah. Like Rebekah, we can show hospitality and kindness to others. God gives us opportunities to serve, and we can recognize these opportunities.

**Objectives:** In this unit children will learn:

- God chooses and calls each of us.
- We can learn to show hospitality and kindness to others as a way of sharing God's love.
- God gives us many opportunities to serve, and we can recognize and respond to those opportunities.
- No matter what God calls us to do, we can trust that God will be with us.



	<u>Sunday 10/15</u>	<u>Sunday 10/22</u>	<u>Sunday 10/29</u>	<u>Sunday 11/5</u>	<u>Sunday 11/12</u>
<u>K &amp; 1st grade</u>	Movie Room 102 Kara Hetes	Games Room 110 Dan, Cam & Shaw	Science Room 205 Mary Baronas	Art Room 103 Tracy Kavanaugh	Storytelling Room 111 Karen Henry
<u>2nd grade</u>	Storytelling Room 111 Karen Henry	Movie Room 102 Kara Hetes	Games Room 110 Dan, Cam & Shaw	Science Room 205 Mary Baronas	Art Room 103 Tracy Kavanaugh
<u>3rd grade</u>	Storytelling Room 111 Karen Henry	Movie Room 102 Kara Hetes	Games Room 110 Dan, Cam & Shaw	Science Room 205 Mary Baronas	Art Room 103 Tracy Kavanaugh
<u>4th grade</u>	Art Room 103 Tracy Kavanaugh	Storytelling Room 111 Karen Henry	Movie Room 102 Kara Hetes	Games Room 110 Dan, Cam & Shaw	Science Room 205 Mary Baronas
<u>5th grade</u>	Art Room 103 Tracy Kavanaugh	Storytelling Room 111 Karen Henry	Movie Room 102 Kara Hetes	Games Room 110 Dan, Cam & Shaw	Science Room 205 Mary Baronas

**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.

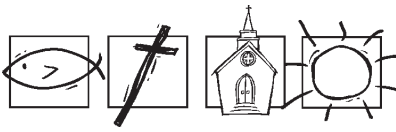
Church School runs until 11:10 a.m. each Sunday. If worship gets out earlier than that, please enjoy some time in Schultz Hall before picking up your children. Thanks for your cooperation!



## 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 2017-18 dates are **October 12 (for Youth Fellowship), November 9 (for Confirmation Class), December 14, January 11, February 8, March 8, April 12, May 10 and June 14.**





# Children's Ministries



*Dear Parents,*

Church School started on September 17, 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](http://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, Little City Sprouts, 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*

## 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



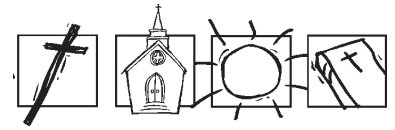
Money collected from children's offerings, bake sales, Advent calendar sales and your donations and memorial gifts all go to support the Church School Mission Project. If you would like to make a contribution to this special project, please make your check payable to "First Church of Christ," with "**Little 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!

## 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!



# Youth Ministry



## Confirmation Class Schedule

Our nine month Confirmation program is open to any interested student in the 9th grade (or above) this 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, September 24:** Commissioning of Confirmation Class during the 10:00 a.m. service
- Sunday, October 1:** Regular Class Session
- Sunday, October 22:** 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, October 1:** Regular Session
- Sunday, October 8:** Regular Session (Columbus Day weekend)
- \***Friday night, Saturday & Sunday, October 13–15:** Apple Fest!
- \***Sunday, October 15:** No Regular Session (Recovering from Apple Fest)
- Sunday, October 22:** Regular Session
- Sunday, October 29:** 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](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 4

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 grade. Regular fellowship sessions are usually the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month during the school year from **6:30 – 8:00 p.m. in the Youth Room.**

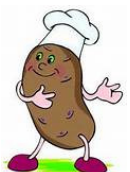
- Monday, September 18:** Regular Session
- Monday, October 16:** Regular Session
- Monday, October 30:** Halloween Party!

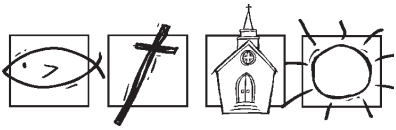
## Help with Our Potato Booth to Support the Mission Trip!



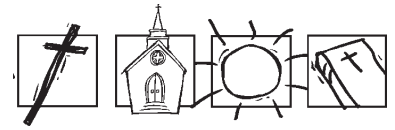
From Friday, October 13 through Sunday, October 15, Glastonbury is in the throes of our annual fair – Apple Fest! The Senior High Fellowship will be running our traditional Potato Booth again this year. Stop by for a delicious baked potato, say “hi” to our awesome youth and drop some cash in the tip jar – all proceeds go toward sending our youth on our Mission Trip to Memphis, TN 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! You can sign up online at <https://tinyurl.com/potato booth2017>. Please contact Elizabeth Gleich with questions at [elizabeth@glastonburyfirst.org](mailto:elizabeth@glastonburyfirst.org). Thank you!





# Youth Ministry



## 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, 2017.**

**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 approximately \$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.

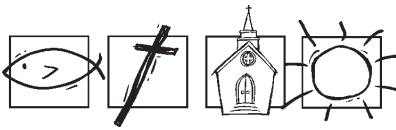


# Music Ministry



## Choir Camp 2017 - Silver Lake Conference Center, Sharon, CT and Singing at the August 28 Yard Goats Baseball Game





# Music Ministry



Music at the Meetinghouse Presents...

**ANDREW SORDS,  
VIOLINIST**



*A Program of Elgar,  
Mendelssohn and Brahms*  
**Saturday, September 30, 2017  
7:30 p.m.**

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

First Church of Christ, Congregational, UCC

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](mailto:angelasalcedo@glastonburyfirst.org) or 860-633-4641.

**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



# Adult Opportunities



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

Attention all nature lovers! In the spring, we formed a new group which gathers monthly for a time of fellowship and learning. We have also started taking on special projects, including our Sunday morning farm stand and hikes. Stay tuned for our next hike date! 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.

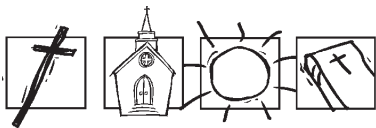


## Calling Knitters and Crocheters

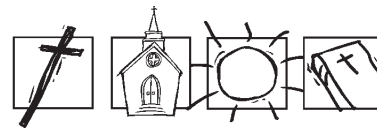
Do you knit? Crochet? Enjoy fellowship and the opportunity to help and support others? If the answer is YES to any of the above, come join us! Newcomers are always welcome. The First Church Prayer Shawl Ministry will be meeting **Monday, October 16 in the Lehman Library from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.** Yarn 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).

## Come Join the Latter Day Marthas

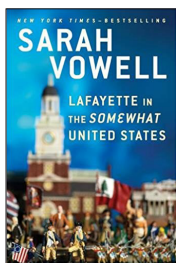
What can happen when a few women decide to sit around a table and discuss frankly their own spiritual direction? A most beautiful thing. The birth of a new community fortified by authenticity, tolerance and vulnerability. A refreshingly raw group of women, not religiously pretty, but gorgeous in their 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 (October 12 and 26) 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.



# Adult Opportunities



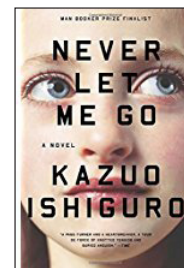
## Biography Book Group



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.

## 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

## Thursday Morning Study Group

TMSG will be looking at the role of mentors in our lives and in those of others on **October 5** using the recent book by Melissa Francis titled *Lessons From The Prairie* as a lighthearted guide to our discussions. On **October 12 and 19** we will each be picking an interesting text from a classic author to study each in the perspective of their place in the history of literature. On Thursdays **October 26, November 2 and 9**, David Taylor will lead us in an exploration of the question, “*Does the Artist Make the Studio, or Does the Studio Make the Artist?*” Or is it some 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 as we hear 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 to these studies and discussions whether or not you have read the material. Please contact Forbes Warren at [fwarren2@cox.net](mailto:fwarren2@cox.net) with any and all questions. We meet in the **Lehman Library at 9:30 a.m. on most Thursdays.**

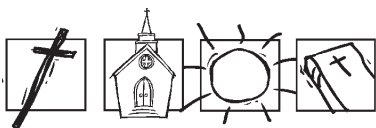


## Women’s Theological Reflection Group

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.

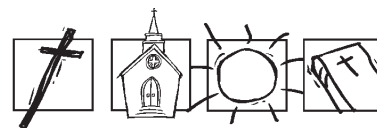
## Potpourri

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

## 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.

## Discover Ancient Hindu Wisdoms for a Connected World

All are invited to a lecture by Dr. Amrutur V. Srinivasan on **Tuesday, October 3 at 7:00 p.m. at the Congregational Church in South Glastonbury Social Hall**, 949 Main Street, sponsored by their Adult Faith Enrichment Team. The presentation will explore the rich history of Hinduism and its impact in America. The relevance of basic tenets of Hinduism and its practice in the modern world will provide a basis for further discussion with a focus on: history, core beliefs and values, sacred texts, Hinduism in practice and polytheism. For more information please call 860-633-4651 or visit [www.AVSrinivasan.com](http://www.AVSrinivasan.com).

## Chautauqua 101

### Why Should I Go and How Do I Get There?

The Pulitzer Prize winner historian David McCullough describes the Chautauqua Institution in this way, *“There is no place like it. No resort. No spa. Not anywhere else in the country, or anywhere in the world...it is at once, a summer encampment and a small town, a college campus, an arts colony, a music festival, a religious retreat and the village square ...and there’s no place -- no place -- with anything like its history.”*

**On Wednesday night, October 25, at 7:00 p.m.,** David Taylor will offer a “how to” session for anyone interested in spending some summer time at the historic Chautauqua Institution in western New York state – approximately one hour west of Buffalo (no, it’s not in Lake Erie!) David will be joined by other First Church members who have traveled to what has often been called “Disneyland for adults” – although the activities for children are just as plentiful. (David’s girls Emily and Meg loved going there when they were young, and continue to love it as adults!) At this evening “Chautauqua primer,” David will give an overview of the “who, what, where, when, why” for those who would like to consider some vacation time at this place of great beauty, recreation, the arts, and learning. The fine print: David receives absolutely **NO** commission if you decide to go!



### BROWN BAG LUNCHES

Our popular brown bag lunches return this fall for more fun opportunities for you to learn about your fellow parishioners! Bring a bag lunch and head over to Schultz Hall on **October 4 and November 15 from 12:00 – 1:15 p.m.** We’ll provide the beverages, dessert, and a guest speaker! Each month will feature a different church member offering a presentation on an interesting topic.

### Wednesday, October 4: *A Journey to the Bruce Peninsula of Canada – A Family Vacation with Rob and Kate VanDerzee-Glidden*

Come see photos from their trip deep into Ontario to the Bruce Peninsula, a popular Canadian vacation spot that lies between Lake Huron and the Georgian Bay. There were ragged cliffs, bright blue water, unique rock formations and lots of boats and ducks for Andrew and Lucas.

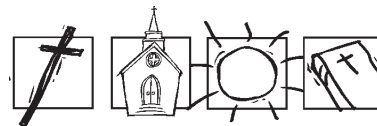


### Wednesday, November 15: *Walther Grunder’s Experiences in WWII*

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.



# General Info Corner



## Prayer Corner

### Prayers of joy for:

Jason and Juri Bonitsky on the birth of their son, Jackson Rei, on August 22 in Japan. He joins big brother, Alexander Kei. Proud grandmother is Susan Bonitsky. Congratulations and best wishes to the Bonitsky family!

Janelle (Laudone) and Dave Rader on the birth of their son, Gideon Eric Rader, on August 23. Proud grandparents are Katharyn and Vincent Laudone. Congratulations and best wishes to the Rader and Laudone families!

### Prayers of healing and wholeness for:

Barbara Harding     Audrey Hernandez  
Lois Harwick        Chris Hernandez



### Prayers of sympathy for:

Cynthia Wilcox and Charley Smith, on the recent death of Cynthia's aunt, Barbara Dean Downie, of Waterford.

Andrew Wicks and Rachel Hanson, on the death of Rachel's brother, who passed away unexpectedly on September 4.

## Library Update

Named to honor the memory of a former pastor, our Lehman Library is located on the second floor of our educational wing near the back stairway. Over the past six years, a small group of volunteers have worked diligently to clean out, update and reorganize with the intent to make our library more user friendly and to make the room more inviting and comfortable for the many meetings and study groups held there.

Our library shelves are filled with books for children, youth, teachers and adults on many, many topics. You may check out and return books at the back counter. We hope that you will come and browse.

We will be happy to answer questions and help where we can! - Katharyn Laudone, Karen Fecko and Wanda Bates, Library Volunteers

## Blessing of the Animals



Bring Fido, Fifi and your other furry friends to our Blessing of the Animals on **Sunday, October 8 at 1:00 p.m.!**

Join us for this brief service on the Micah House lawn as we welcome and bless companion animals that bring so much joy into our lives. For safety, please bring dogs on a leash, cats in a carrier or on a leash, and keep other animals appropriately within your control.

## **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).

## 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

## FOR HOSPITALIZATION:

**Hospitals can't release information to us, so if you or a loved one is hospitalized and would like a visit, please make note of the following.**

For Hartford Hospital, inform them that you are from First Church of Christ, Congregational in Glastonbury. For St. Francis Hospital, tell them Code 17 for First Church.

In addition, if you would like the church to know of any upcoming hospitalization, please call the church office at 860-633-4641 to inform the pastoral staff.

U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Hartford, Conn.  
Permit No. 5063  
Non-Profit Organization

Return Service Requested.

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

### October 1

Elizabeth Gleich preaching

*World and Family Communion Sunday*

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

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

### October 8

Kate VanDerzee-Glidden preaching

8:00 a.m. Chancel Choir TTBB

10:00 a.m. Chancel Choir

12:00 p.m. *Blessing of the Animals*  
on the Micah House Lawn

### October 15

David Taylor preaching

8:00 a.m. Stanley Battle, baritone

10:00 a.m. Chancel and Caroler Choirs, Mallet Ringers

### October 22

David Taylor preaching; *Children's Sabbath*

8:00 a.m. Chris Stone and Ginger Kousen

10:00 a.m. Chancel Choir, Puppet Troupe, Jubilate Ringers

### October 29, One Service at 10:00 a.m.

*A Celebration of First Church's Life and Ministry*

David Taylor and Kate VanDerzee-Glidden preaching  
Chancel and Cantabile Choirs and *Spark!* Band

## Homecoming Sunday Faith and Fellowship 2017!

