



The REMINDER

First Church of Christ, Congregational, Glastonbury, Connecticut

Member of United Church of Christ

An open, welcoming and affirming congregation

September 2017

Dear Friends,

Backpacks and school supplies hanging on the church's back door...a home-cooked meal for someone recently hospitalized...a homeless family needing bedding to set up a new apartment – plus a little boy needing clothes, and of course toys... emergency relief funds for those enduring the tragedy of famine in East Africa... children learning at Vacation Bible School...babysitting to help a young church family juggling life's challenges...a listening ear, or a texting conversation, to “be there” for someone struggling...supporting a Syrian refugee family...sorting beans (or carrots or turnips!) at the regional market for Foodshare.



*Our church theme for the coming church year is inspired by the words of the Old Testament prophet Micah, “**Do Justice, Love Kindness, Walk Humbly With God – Opening Doors and Building Bridges!**”*

Last year's theme was “**Building the Beloved Community – A Beautiful Love!**” Well, day in and day out, this family of faith – this beloved community we call First Church – shares a beautiful love with one another and with a world that is often hurting. God's world hurts when doors are closed, when walls are built, when hearts are closed, when communities are divided, when nations are at war or threatening war, when children across the river are hungry – hungry for food, hungry for education, hungry for hope.




As we joyfully anticipate celebrating our church's 325th anniversary in 2018, and with much excitement look forward to a springtime dedication of the Micah House and Chapel, our call as God's people remains crystal clear. Our call as God's people is to open the doors of our church and open the doors of our hearts, and to build bridges of love, hope, compassion, and justice to God's children everywhere – sitting in the pew next to us on a Sunday morning, learning in a classroom in Hartford, or living in a refugee camp halfway across the globe.

With particular thanks to Wes Grove, Brian Davis, and Keith Miller – and a cadre of “**rainbow painters**” – for a month this fall we will visibly proclaim First Church's prophetic witness to God's awesome and amazing love with an installation of doors and a bridge on the Meetinghouse's front lawn!

May all who walk or drive by First Church truly know of our congregation's steadfast commitment to try to make this world a little more just, a little more peaceful, and a little more loving for **all** of God's children!



With 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

Through September 3:

Worship Service at 9:00 a.m.

Church School: 9:15 a.m.

Homecoming, September 10:

One service at 10:00 a.m.

Beginning September 17:

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

Church School: 10:15 a.m.

Childcare is provided

Phone Number: 860-633-4641

Fax Number: 860-633-5826

Email: firstchurch@glastonburyfirst.org

Website: www.glastonburyfirst.org

Staff

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

THE REMINDER submission deadline:
Sunday, September 10: October 2017 issue



Steward Spotlight On: Jacquelyn Mumford

Hometown: Newtown, CT

Family: Husband, Aaron; Daughter, Abigail (age 1)

How long you've been a member of First Church: 18 months

Favorite thing about First Church: Community

First Church activities I've participated in: I'm still new and working on my Church resume, but I recently joined the Board of Christian Service

Why I support First Church: To help make this world more compassionate

Job: Stay-at-home mom

What you like best about your job: Having fun with my daughter

What you like least about your job: No weekends or vacations!

Skill that helps most on your job: I have fun doing anything

What you cannot live without: Black coffee

Favorite day of the year: Christmas Eve

Hobbies: Arts & crafts, ballet

Hidden talent: Awesome at edging when painting a room

Biggest challenge you've overcome: Becoming a mother, no one can ever prepare you

Favorite snack: Corn chips and sour cream

Schools attended: Newtown High School & Central Connecticut State University (where I met my husband)

What never fails to make you laugh: My husband

Childhood nickname: Jack-o-lantern

Favorite season of the year and why: Fall, I love the colors, the crisp air, and the delicious flavors

Favorite musical artist or group: Natalie Merchant

Favorite movie: *Hocus Pocus*

Biggest fear: Spiders and that stupid snake in our basement that was coiled around the pipes in the ceiling

What you are most thankful for: My family and friends

Favorite way to relax: Relax? See occupation!

What touches your heart: People being nice

What you would order for your last meal: Strip Steak (medium rare), rack of lamb, pork tenderloin, lobster (that has been picked for me), sweet potato au gratin, ice cream sundae

Childhood winter memory: Cut-your-own Christmas tree with the family, for some reason I feel like it was uphill both ways

Where you worked as a teenager: Windham/Tolland 4H Camp

Favorite vacation spot: Italy

What you are most proud of: My awesome family

Your hero: My daddy

Favorite quote or scripture passage: Matthew 19:14: *Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."* My heart smiles every time I hear this.





Micah House and Chapel Update September 2017

The heart of summer is upon us in all its amazing glory – flowers in full bloom, the touch of warm days and clear blue skies, long days and short nights, family picnics, hot dogs and hamburgers, the beach and vacation. While we have all been enjoying summer, the Building Committee has been moving forward with the renovation of the Micah House and Chapel at the Thomas Hale Homestead.

First, the Capital Campaign Committee has great news to report. The campaign fundraising goal is \$950,000. There have been payments from congregation members and friends = \$780,000 with \$175,000 in outstanding pledges. Add both numbers together and campaign payments and pledges = \$955,000 which exceed the capital campaign goal. Praise the Lord!!

Since April 3, 2017, George Fay has been the project's contractor and his team has begun a new phase of renewal and construction. The building frame has taken shape – four walls, a new roof and the foundation poured for the Micah Chapel. The excitement grows every day for this transformational church project.



There is even more exciting news to share regarding the saving and reuse of stones that were part of the original Hale House “dry foundation.” These stones are located by the trailer behind the house and are stacked on pallets. Jonathan Russell almost singlehandedly sorted and stacked 15 tons of stone with plans to use all of the stone for the new building retaining walls and patio landscaping. This is another wonderful example of our volunteer efforts at work. Estimates to date indicate a cost savings for our sweat-equity in excess of \$60,000.

People are asking – how can I help? Volunteers have helped in so many ways thus far. In the coming months volunteers will be needed to sort and clean the chestnut planks which will be planed for the chapel flooring. In addition, volunteers will be needed to prepare the original trim and doors for painting prior to reinstallation in the Hale House. Anyone can help, no previous experience needed! Volunteers can contact Jonathan Russell via email at cjje5@cox.net for this project.

And just as a reminder, for safety's sake, please don't talk to the contractors as they work on the Micah House and Chapel. Everyone is excited and curious about the construction, but distracting contractors from their work is a potential safety hazard! Please direct all questions to Jonathan Russell, Mick Gifford or Walt Briggs, who continue to provide hands-on financial and construction oversight.

This Micah House and Chapel is a miracle that continues to amaze visitors, friends and congregation members. Take a moment and look outside when you are visiting church or attending Sunday worship services. The First Church live webcam shows up-to-the-minute live action of the work towards revitalizing the historic Thomas Hale Homestead into the Micah House and Chapel. The Micah House and Chapel at the Thomas Hale Homestead is God's miracle and will be a legacy that serves First Church today and for future generations!!

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

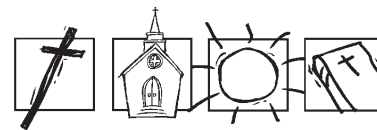


“Bring A Friend Or Neighbor to Church” Sundays!

The First Church Growth & Membership Committee is excited to announce our annual BAFON Sundays, **on Homecoming Sunday, September 10, and September 17**. Bringing a friend or neighbor to a service is a wonderful way to share in the excitement of all that is First Church, from mission trips to inspiring sermons, fellowship to service opportunities, Bible studies to book clubs, choirs to children's messages! Exciting things are in the works for these special Sundays in September! We hope that each member of our community will consider spreading the good news by bringing a friend or neighbor during this time. Keep your eye out for more news as we reach out to share all that is special about our wonderful faith community!



Summer Reflections



Dear Friends,



For many people, the summer of 2017 will be remembered by the eclipse. Well, in my family, the eclipse was easily eclipsed by the engagement of our younger daughter Meg to fellow Glastonbury resident and First Church member Phil Mitchell! What made this even more special was the fact that their engagement was announced as Phil joined us for our annual continuing education trip to the Chautauqua Institution in western New York. An August 2018 wedding at First Church is planned!



The rest of the summer was spent – as it is for many of you – with family and friends and enjoying the wonder and the beauty of God’s creation! My time at Chautauqua, for instance, offers me a sacred place for renewal and re-creation, while at the same time a place for reading, writing, study and planning for the upcoming church year, which is now upon us! In addition to enjoying the lectures, worship, symphony, theater and dance, I also enjoy bike rides and walks around the beautiful grounds and gardens! Thank you for this gift of time!

Warmest regards,
David

Dear Friends,



Recently we returned from our family vacation on the Bruce Peninsula. Most Americans have no clue where “the Bruce” is, and I was one of them until six months ago! “The Bruce” is a long trip – close to 700 miles away – and is a peninsula in Ontario, Canada that lies between the Georgian Bay and the main basin of Lake Huron.



My parents, Rob, the boys and I saw some breathtaking natural beauty and saw a part of Canada that was new to us. It was the simple things on our vacation that the boys enjoyed – hiking, swimming, seeing wind turbines, playing, running, jumping, watching ducks and boats, eating ice cream and going on a boat ride.

Life is busy and full and, just like Andrew and Lucas, I hope I remember to notice the simple things, and then with joy share them with others. May your days be filled with simple beauty, abundant peace and contagious joy.

Much love,
Kate

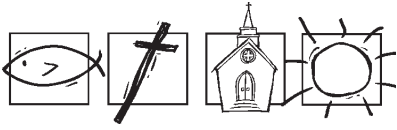
Dear Friends,



What an incredible summer it has been! For most folks, the summer is a bit slower than the rest of the year. But for me, as soon as the church program year ended, in addition to planning ahead to this coming year with youth and children, I set my sights on a rather big, upcoming “life event”—my wedding! On July 22, Elliott and I were married at a small (compared to ours!) UCC church in Waterford, Maine, near where Elliott grew up. It was a beautiful, sunny day with many of our friends and family from all over the country present. We were blessed to have a couple of weeks to honeymoon in Prince Edward Island, which was, unbelievably, even more gorgeous than Western Maine. I am extremely grateful to start my new family with Elliott, and am energized to do God’s work with the wonderful people here at First Church.



Love,
Elizabeth



Christian Service



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

Al Abas Family Update

July 14 marked the one year anniversary of the Al Abas family's long journey to Glastonbury to escape the horrors of the war in Syria. With dedicated help from First Church volunteers, co-sponsors with IRIS, the family is off to a good start in their new home. Father Zeyad now has a driver's license and is making good use of their donated minivan, which greatly enhances his possibilities of obtaining full time work. He will be working temporarily for Renaissance Painting in town during August, and has earned funds from projects for a number of First Church members and friends. Having transportation, he is now pursuing leads for full-time employment. Mom Ezdehar has impressed us with her cooking skills, demonstrated nearly monthly at her delicious First Church dinners organized with the help of First Church members. The next dinner will be on September 23, and stay tuned for future dates! When the children are back in school, Ezdehar will be interested in finding part-time work, preferably in a kitchen. All five children are doing very well in the Glastonbury schools, and Mohammad, Majd and Sedra have earned Honor Roll recognition. Sara, who turned eight years old in August, was in the cast of the musical *Big*, recently presented by Glastonbury Youth and Family Services. Despite the relatively higher cost of living in Glastonbury, the family is very happy with their First Church friends, welcoming neighbors and landlord, and plan to stay in town. With their landlord's agreement, they will repaint their house in exchange for a reduction in rent.

IRIS, Integrated Refugee and Immigrant Services of New Haven, with whom First Church has co-sponsored the family, is very pleased with the Al Abas family's progress and success in adapting to life in their new home. IRIS will next be assisting the family with applying for their Green Cards to obtain permanent resident status. In other respects, IRIS's involvement with the family is completed, as is the organized work of the First Church Refugee Committee. According to IRIS's policy, the focus leading up to and after the first year is on helping the family gain their independence. The Refugee Committee and the dozens of First Church volunteers will continue the great relationships developed with the family and be quick to lend a helping hand when needed and appropriate. A celebration will be planned soon to mark the Al Abas family's successful transition to life in America.

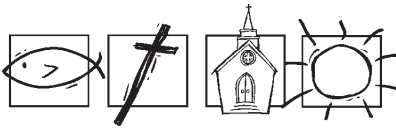
Reading Changes Lives: Volunteering at Wish Elementary School

Fred Wish School is an Elementary School on Barbour Street in Hartford. During the past five 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.



Donations Requested for Covenant to Care

A family has just moved into a new apartment from a shelter and is in need of twin size sheets and a DVD player. There is also a little boy who is in need of size 5T clothing including pants, shorts, long and short sleeve shirts, size 12 toddler sneakers and some toys (for age 3). **Please put items in the box in the back lobby.** If you have questions, contact Jaime Guilmette at 860-798-4963 or jbguilmette@yahoo.com for more information. Thank you!



Christian Service



Opportunities to Volunteer with Foodshare!



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

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

- 1. Volunteer when the Mobile Foodshare truck comes to our back parking lot every other Wednesday morning at 10:00 a.m.** This is a "farmer's market" style food distribution of fresh produce and other foods, and it takes many volunteers to serve everyone who comes. If you are interested in participating (adults, youth and children are welcome!), contact Sally Riddell at 860-657-8715.
- 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 or 860-430-2123.
- 3. Volunteer to collect food from ShopRite in East Hartford,** bringing 500 to 1,000 lbs of meat, produce, baked goods and groceries weekly to shelters and soup kitchens in Hartford. To help, please contact John Dugan at 860-659-2193 or jdugan1967@gmail.com or Paul Fraleigh at 860-643-1571.

Carol's Closet Collection

The Board of Christian Service needs your assistance. Several places of worship, including First Church, assist St. James Church with "Carol's Closet." The Closet collects nonperishable items for folks in need.

The Board of Christian Service would like your help collecting:

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



BCS will have a **collection box in the back office lobby through September 13.** If you have questions, please contact Amy Grove at ajacksongrove@cox.net. Thank you!

Thank You for the School Supplies!



Thank you to everyone who gave school items! Because of your support, Glastonbury Social Services is able to help about two hundred Glastonbury students through the Back to School Program this year.

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.



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 September, we're asking for contributions of **tuna, canned fruit or fruit cups with no added sugar** and other items people are willing to donate. Please bring food that is not expired or open. Thank you!



Children's Ministries



Be A Part of the 2017 – 2018 Church School Program!

This past year's Church School program was such a huge success because of all our wonderful Church School volunteers! We couldn't have accomplished all the events, fundraisers and church school classes without you! We encourage everyone to consider signing up to teach or shepherd for the 2017 – 2018 Church School year. We have some great lessons ready for you, so come see what the Church School classes are all about! Email Karin Carlino at ceadmin@glastonburyfirst.org, or sign up on the schedule outside the CE Offices!

Try Something New. . . Teaching Church School is a great way to connect with children, families and fellow church members. There is an added benefit of connecting with God as well! We wish to welcome ANYONE who wishes to lead or assist with our Rotation Model program, Explore class or puppet troupe. Lesson plans are fun and easy to follow and all supplies are prepared ahead of time.

Important Church School Dates!

Sunday, September 10: *Homecoming Sunday! Worship service at 10:00 a.m. with the picnic to follow.*

There will be **registration for Church School** before and after the service. Every child needs to be registered each year.

Sunday, September 17: *The new Church School year begins during the 10:00 a.m. worship service!*

Current three-year-olds will be promoted to Preschool on this day. Again, there will be **registration for Church School** before and after the service.

Sunday, September 17: *Christian Education Volunteer Orientation at 11:30 a.m. in Schultz Hall.*

This meeting is mandatory for all of the wonderful First Church volunteers who plan to be involved with our Christian Education and Youth Programs in 2017 – 2018. This will be the time for you to meet other volunteers, hear more specifics about the curriculums we implement and to review strategies for working with children. Refreshments will be provided and there will be childcare available in the Crib and Toddler room.

Three-Year-Old Promotion Ceremony



One of the many traditions we have here at First Church is a promotion ceremony for our three-year-olds. This is an annual ceremony where the children are "promoted" from the Crib and Toddler rooms into our Preschool classroom. Each child will receive a certificate as we welcome him or her into the Church School program. We will be promoting all current three-year-olds on **Sunday, September 17 at the 10:00 a.m. worship service**. Parents of three-year-olds who were baptized and/or who have been attending church in the Crib and Toddler rooms will receive a letter explaining the promotion ceremony. If you are new to the church and have a child who is or will soon be three years old, please call or email Valerie Escalera at 860-633-4641 or programadmin@glastonburyfirst.org so that your child can be included in the ceremony.

Summer Church School 2017!

This summer all children have the opportunity to attend Church School classes on Sunday mornings, where our children are learning about important Bible stories through fun, hands-on activities. All children (entering Preschool and higher) will meet together. For more information, please contact Karin Carlino at ceadmin@glastonburyfirst.org. Thank you!

Date	Unit	Room	Station	Main Idea
27-Aug	Teach us to Pray	206	Games	Prayer is talking with God. There are many ways to talk with God and many different kinds of prayers. Jesus taught his disciples to pray and gave them an example that we still use today. We call this example the Lord's Prayer.
03-Sep			Movie	



Children's Ministries



Church School Unit 1: "The Ten Commandments"

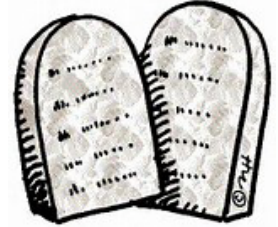
Bible Story Reference: Exodus 20:1-17

Bible Verse: "Give me understanding, that I may keep your law and observe it with my whole heart." (Psalm 119:34)

Main Idea: God made a covenant that we know as the Ten Commandments with the Israelites. Today these laws help us know how to love and worship God and help us know how to treat others with justice and kindness.

Objectives: In this unit children will learn:

- God gave the Israelites a set of laws, or rules, called the Ten Commandments that were to help them establish a new life, a new community;
- God's rules are as important today as they were in Old Testament times;
- Laws and rules are a part of everyday life and are intended to improve our lives and make us safe;
- Following the Ten Commandments helps us make choices about things we say and do.



	<u>Sunday 9/17</u>	<u>Sunday 9/24</u>	<u>Sunday 10/1</u>	<u>Sunday 10/8</u>
<u>K & 1st grade</u>	Storytelling Room 111	Cooking Room 206	Games Room 110	Art Room 103
<u>2nd grade</u>	Art Room 103	Storytelling Room 111	Cooking Room 206	Games Room 110
<u>3rd grade</u>	Art Room 103	Storytelling Room 111	Cooking Room 206	Games Room 110
<u>4th grade</u>	Games Room 110	Art Room 103	Storytelling Room 111	Cooking Room 206
<u>5th grade</u>	Games Room 110	Art Room 103	Storytelling Room 111	Cooking Room 206

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!



Thank You, VBS Volunteers!

Thank you to our VBS volunteers. We had an awesome time during the week of July 31 at Hero Central! We give thanks for the time and effort contributed by our committee members, adult volunteers and many youth helpers!





Children's Ministries



The 2017-2018 Church School Mission Project Building Bridges and Opening Doors: 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 educational materials for home available in English and 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 event which involves children and families in healthy garden and nutrition activities.



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!

3rd Grade Bible Recognition



First Church has a special tradition of giving all third graders their own personal Bibles. This presentation will be held on **September 24 at the 10:00 a.m. worship service**. All incoming third graders will be recognized. If your child has not received a Bible yet and is older than third grade, we would like to extend this special invitation for him or her to receive a Bible. Please contact Valerie Escalera at programadmin@glastonburyfirst.org or call the church office at 860-633-4641 to make this arrangement.



Youth Ministry



New Confirmation Class Begins in the Fall



Our nine-month Confirmation program is open to any interested student entering the 9th grade (or above) in the fall. Parents do not need to be First Church members in order for students to enroll, and students who are not yet baptized can choose to do so during the year. 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 will be using 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.

There will be an **orientation meeting for prospective confirmands and their parents on Wednesday, September 20 at 7:00 p.m. in Schultz Hall**. If you know someone who is interested in this opportunity, we always welcome new faces. Please contact David Taylor or Kate VanDerzee-Glidden in the church office with questions or for more information.



Youth Ministry



All Sixth through Eighth Graders
are Invited to...

Junior High Fellowship Rally Day! Sunday, September 10, 2017

12:15 to 12:45 p.m. – Youth and parent
meeting (in the Meetinghouse)
12:45 to 2:00 p.m. – Youth only

Please bring:

A great attitude and your friends!

A registration form must be filled
out in order to attend Rally Day. The
forms are available before and after church on
Homecoming Sunday, on the website and on the
Youth Room door.



All Ninth through Twelfth Graders are Invited to...

Senior High Fellowship Rally Day! Sunday, September 10, 2017, 4:30–7:30 p.m.

Hosted by Vincent and Katharyn Laudone
Meet at First Church promptly at 4:30 p.m., returning at 7:30 p.m.

Please bring: bathing suit, towel, and your friends
AND Freshmen: Chippy, Dippy & Snacky Things
Sophomores: A Selection of Fresh Beverages
Juniors: Side Dishes (Green/Pasta Salad, etc.)
Seniors: Delicious Desserts!

The Youth Board will provide the rest!

A registration form and permission form must be
filled out in order to attend Rally Day. The forms are available
before and after church on Homecoming Sunday, on the website
and on the Youth Room door.

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.**

**Denotes Special Time*

***Sunday, September 10:** Parent Meeting
(12:15 – 12:45 p.m. for youth and parents) and
Rally Day (12:45 – 2:00 p.m. for youth)
Monday, September 25: Regular 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 to 8:00 p.m. in the Youth Room.**

**Denotes special time*

***Sunday, September 10:** Rally Day at the Laudones' house.
Meet at church at 4:30 p.m. and return to church at 7:30 p.m. (See
announcement above for more details!)

***Sunday, September 17:** Mandatory parent and student meeting
6:00 – 7:00 p.m., session to follow 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Sunday, September 24: Regular session

Save the Date! Youth Mission Trip April 8-14



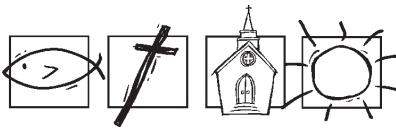
The Senior High Fellowship Mission Trip is open to all high school students. This
year, we are heading to Memphis, TN, from **April 8 – 14, 2018** for a week of learning
and service work. We'll be staying at and working with First Congregational Church
of Memphis, learning about civil rights and racial and social justice, and doing service

work in the community of Memphis. Information will be available in September at our Senior High Fellowship
meetings, especially at the **parent meeting on September 17 at 6:00 p.m.** We hope you can join us!

Help with Our Potato Booth to Support the Mission Trip!



Attention students and adults! We need your help at the Apple Fest Potato Booth on **Friday, October 13,
Saturday, October 14 and Sunday, October 15!** This is an awesome fundraiser for our youth mission trip! Join
us for a few hours during the Apple Fest or help us out with prep on Thursday and Friday. It's a great time for
fall fellowship food fair fun!!! Sign-ups will begin in September during Senior High Fellowship and in Schultz
Hall during coffee hour. Stay tuned! Also, please consider donating water bottles to sell at our booth! **Thanks!**



Music Ministry



Fall 2017 Choirs Rehearsal Schedule

Choir rehearsals in the fall will begin after Labor Day. The following is the timetable for fall rehearsals and RSCM Ribbon Work (Royal School of Church Music Ribbon Program). Please note the starting dates for each of the choirs listed below.

CHOIR NAME	DAY OF REHEARSAL	REHEARSAL TIME	FIRST REHEARSAL
<i>Cherub (K-Grade 1)</i>	<i>Sundays</i>	<i>11:00-11:30 a.m.</i>	<i>September 17</i>
<i>Carolers (Grades 2-3)</i>	<i>Wednesdays</i>	<i>4:45-5:30 p.m.</i>	<i>September 13</i>
<i>Cantate (Grade 4-6)</i>	<i>Thursdays</i>	<i>4:00-5:00 p.m.</i>	<i>September 14</i>
<i>Cantabile (Grades 7-12)</i>	<i>Thursdays</i>	<i>6:00-7:00 p.m.</i>	<i>September 14</i>
<i>Chancel</i>	<i>Thursdays</i>	<i>7:15-8:45 p.m.</i>	<i>September 7</i>
<i>Jubilate Ringers</i>	<i>Tuesdays</i>	<i>7:00-8:30 p.m.</i>	<i>September 12</i>
<i>Mallet Ringers (Grades 5-12)</i>	<i>Thursdays</i>	<i>5:00-6:00 p.m.</i>	<i>September 14</i>
OPTIONAL: RSCM RIBBON LEVEL WORK			
<i>Light Blue and Dark Blue Ribbon</i>	<i>Thursdays</i>	<i>5:00-5:30 p.m.</i>	<i>October 5</i>
<i>Red and Purple Ribbon</i>	<i>Thursdays</i>	<i>5:30-6:00 p.m.</i>	<i>October 5</i>

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!

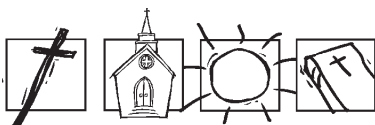
Praise your God through song and ringing! Fa, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la!

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

Fall is a great time to join our Music Program, 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.

Reformation Hymn Service, October 29, 4:00 p.m.

The choirs of First Church, St. Mark's Lutheran and St. James Episcopal will be leading a Reformation Hymn Service at **St. Mark's Lutheran Church on Sunday, October 29 at 4:00 p.m.** On Reformation Sunday 2017, we celebrate the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther nailing the 95 theses on the door of the Wittenberg Cathedral and launching a world-changing reformation. The service will entail congregational participation in the singing of Luther's most beloved hymns, anthems with texts written by Luther, as well as new hymns inspired by this great hymn singing tradition.



Adult Opportunities



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**. We will meet throughout the summer. Please contact Danae Dwyer at danaedwyer@me.com or 860-967-2269 for further information.

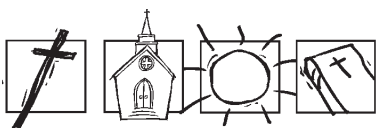
Historic Agreement Signed at First Church



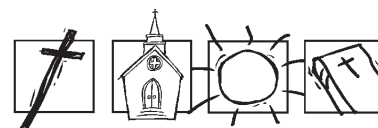
Leaders from Andover Newton Seminary and Yale Divinity School signed an historic agreement at a ceremony at First Church on July 20. After two years of working to develop a formal affiliation, leaders of Andover Newton and Yale Divinity School began a new era of theological education on Sterling Divinity Quadrangle at Yale University in New Haven. Andover Newton Seminary is the oldest graduate school in the United States, founded outside Boston in 1807, while Yale Divinity School was founded in 1822. Like the town of Glastonbury, First Church was founded in 1693. Kate VanDerzee-Glidden and David Taylor are graduates of Andover and Yale, respectively.

At the signing ceremony, it was noted that during the Revolutionary War some classes of Yale College were held, for safety reasons, in a home on Main Street in Glastonbury while the British blockaded New Haven Harbor. As Andover Newton moves its faculty and staff to Yale, both graduate schools will recommit themselves to the goal of keeping world-class ministerial education affordable. This affiliation is an enormous step toward fulfilling a goal, embraced by both schools, to make seminary essentially tuition-free for any of their students with demonstrated need by 2022.

The signatories pictured are, left to right, Martin B. Copenhaver, President, Andover Newton; Stephen Murphy, Vice President of Finance and Chief Financial Officer, Yale University; Linda Campanella, Chair, Andover Newton Board of Trustees; and Gregory E. Sterling, Dean, Yale Divinity School. Photo by James R. Anderson.



Adult Opportunities



Join with Other Nature Lovers: First Church Outside Group!



Attention all nature lovers! In the spring, we formed a new group where we gather monthly for a time of fellowship and learning. We have also started taking on special projects, including our summer Sunday morning farm stand. Thanks to all who donated flowers, herbs, vegetables and fruit! 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! Our next meeting is **Tuesday, September 19 at 7:00 p.m.** If you have questions or want to get involved, please contact Tracy Kavanaugh at lilypadprints@gmail.com or 413-250-3838.

Calling All Hikers and Walkers: First Church Outside seeks to have us encounter nature in many ways. One way is taking in the sights, sounds and smells experienced when walking by a stream, or in a meadow or forest. To see who may be interested in hiking, we are having a kick-off event at **J.B. Williams park on Sunday, September 24 at 2:00 p.m.** There will be several trails marked and mapped for you to choose from, as “hiking” may be anything from a relaxed stroll on flat ground to a fast paced climb of a hill or mountain. All ages are welcomed. Please sign up by contacting the church office or by contacting Bruce Munshower at bruce.munshower@gmail.com.

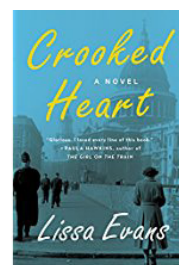
Calling Knitters and Crocheters

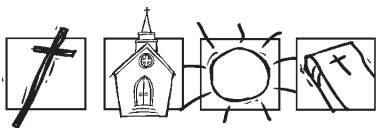


Knitters and crocheters will gather on **Monday, September 18 from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. in the Lehman Library.** Whether you are new to working with yarn or an experienced knitter or crocheter, all are welcome for handicrafts and fellowship. We will provide the yarn. Bring a #11 or #13 pair of knitting needles and receive some instruction in knitting. If you have questions, call Nancy Pacht at 860-659-3935. We meet the third Monday of each month. We’d love for you to join us.

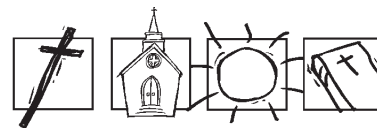
Thursday Morning Study Group

The Thursday Morning Study Group is on summer break but we are busily reviewing three studies to consider for September. We will be looking at an unlikely alliance between a small time con artist and a young orphan World War II evacuee using the novel by Lissa Evans titled *Crooked Heart*, which we will discuss on **September 7**. Following that, the group will take up Gordon Bates’ study: *The Connecticut Prison Association and the Search for Reformatory Justice*. Gordon will join us on **September 14 and 21** to discuss his book. On **September 28**, we will look at one positive way to start the day by considering Admiral William H. McRaven’s little book, *Make Your Bed: Little Things That Can Change Your Life...And Maybe the World*. You are invited to join these discussions whether or not you have read the reference materials. We meet in the **Lehman Library at 9:30 a.m. on the scheduled Thursdays.** Please contact Sally Brown via email at saldaybrown@aol.com for more

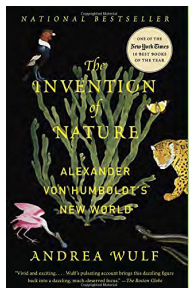




Adult Opportunities



Biography Book Group

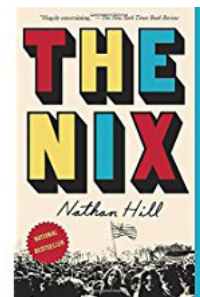


The Biography Book Group meets every other month to review a book and enjoy fellowship in an informal setting. We invite you to join us for any of our upcoming selections. On **Tuesday, September 12 at 4:00 p.m.** we will discuss *The Invention of Nature: Alexander Von Humboldt's New World* by Andrea Wulf. "Alexander von Humboldt (1769-1859) was the most famous scientist of his age, a visionary German naturalist and polymath whose discoveries forever changed the way we understand the natural world. Among his most revolutionary ideas was a radical conception of nature as a complex and interconnected global force that does not exist for the use of humankind alone. (Amazon.com)."

Join us to talk about this award winning and *New York Times* 10 Best Books of the Year selection. 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*. It is 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. This promises to be a fun biography to read. We hope you will join us in the Lehman Library for this book discussion. Call or email Valerie Escalera at 860-633-4452 or miguel.escalera@sbcglobal.net with any questions.

Second Sunday Book Club

The Second Sunday Book Club meets on the **second Sunday of every other month in the Lehman Library at 4:00 p.m.** to discuss a selected book as well as other great reads we are enjoying. We hope you will join us for one of our upcoming meetings this year! We will meet on **Sunday, September 10 at 4:00 p.m.** to discuss *The Nix* by Nathan Hill, soon to be made into a film starring Meryl Streep! If you have any questions, contact Amy E. Thompson at thompson.amy72@gmail.com.



More selections and dates are:

Sunday, November 12: *Never Let Me Go*, Kazuo Ishiguro

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

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 (September 14 and 28) at 5:45 p.m. in the Lehman Library.** Please contact Danae Dwyer at danaedwyer@me.com or 860-967-2269 for further information.

Potpourri

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



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.

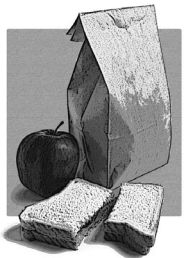
Chautauqua 101 – Why Should I Go and How Do I Get There?



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!



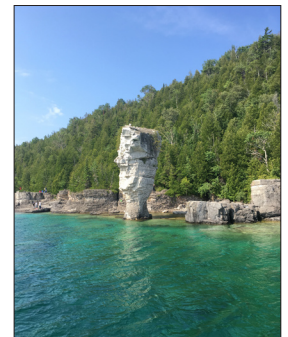
BROWN BAG LUNCHES

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 dessert, refreshment and a guest speaker! Each month will feature a different church member offering a presentation on an interesting topic. Bring a bag lunch and we will provide the beverages and dessert.

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.



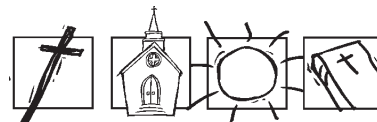
Wednesday, November 15

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 very active in veterans’ affairs today.



General Info Corner



Prayer Corner

Prayers of joy for:

Another successful Vacation Bible School which was held from July 31 through August 4. We are thankful to our VBS volunteers, for their time and effort, and to our many youth helpers and enthusiastic children who attended. It was an awesome week!

The wedding of Elizabeth Gleich and Elliott Munn on July 22 in Maine. Congratulations and best wishes, Elizabeth and Elliott!

The wedding of Karen Simmons and Steve Henry on July 30. Congratulations and best wishes, Karen and Steve!

Prayers of healing and wholeness for:

Barbara Harding Audrey Hernandez
Lois Harwick Chris Hernandez



Prayers of sympathy for:

Donna and John Kidwell on the recent death of Donna's brother, Walter Skowronski, of New Mexico.

Phyllis and Gary Zweifel on the death of Phyllis' sister, Roxanne Hitchcock, on July 16.

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 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 (nnhigg@att.net or 860-633-6604) or Suzanne Schwartz (stonehill126@gmail.com or 860-430-1350). Thank you!

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.

Altar Flowers Requested

Church members are invited to provide flower arrangements for the altar in memory of, in celebration of, or in honor of people, events or accomplishments. Please contact Susan Bonitsky at kowsz@juno.com.

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

IN CASE OF HOSPITALIZATION:

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

For Hartford Hospital, inform them that you are from First Church of Christ, Congregational in Glastonbury.

For St. Francis Hospital, 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.

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Return Service Requested.

Sunday Worship Services

September 3 – One service at 9:00 a.m.

Preacher: Bruce Johnson

Special Music: Wayne Rivera

September 10 – One service at 10:00 a.m.

HOMECOMING SUNDAY

Preacher: David Taylor

Special Music: Hot Cat Jazz Band

Church Picnic Following Worship



September 17 – Services at 8:00 and 10:00 a.m.

Preacher: Kate VanDerzee-Glidden

*Promotion Certificates for 3-year-olds and
First Day of Church School (10:00 a.m.)*

September 24 – Services at 8:00 and 10:00 a.m.

Preachers:

David Taylor and Kate VanDerzee-Glidden
*Bible Presentation to 3rd Graders and
Commissioning of Confirmation Class
and Volunteers (10:00 a.m.)*

HOMECOMING SUNDAY FAMILY PICNIC!

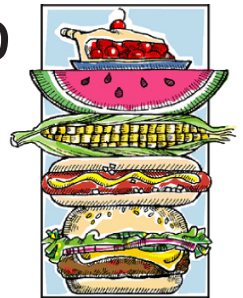
September 10

IMMEDIATELY

FOLLOWING

the 10:00 a.m.

Worship Service



Come join in the fun, games and
fellowship as a new Church Year begins!

We provide the hamburgers, hot dogs
and veggie burgers.

We ask that you please bring
a dish to share.

If your last name begins with

A-H: Salad or Side Dish

I-Z: Dessert



Please drop food off in Schultz Hall before the service.

Bring Family and Friends!

See you there!

Sponsored by the Board of Lay Life & Ministry



13th Annual Adult Mission Trip to the Gulf Coast

January 7 – 13, 2018



“...what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?”

- Micah 6:8



What is the history of these mission trips? Back Bay Mission is a social service agency of the United Church of Christ, serving the poorest citizens of the Biloxi, Mississippi, area since 1929. First Church sent a senior high work camp group there in February, 2005 – six months before Hurricane Katrina devastated the Gulf Coast. In January, 2006, alumni members of the 2005 trip, along with a number of adults, went to Biloxi to assist with recovery efforts, and the adult mission trip tradition was born. BBM has now expanded its effort to help house homeless vets.

Who can go? Anyone over 18 years of age. Because sleeping capacity at Back Bay Mission is fixed, we are limited to 30 work campers.

What kind of work will we do? Sometimes we work on new construction, other times on renovation. We could be installing insulation, hanging, taping and mudding drywall, installing exterior siding, roofing or painting.

Do I have to be skilled in construction work? Not at all. There are a number of repeat campers with specialized skills who serve as crew leaders and patient teachers, and they match the jobs to be done with the inventory of skills our group has. People who'd rather not operate a nail gun or a table saw still have the opportunity to contribute by serving at a local soup kitchen, organizing the food bank, helping keep the work sites tidy or preparing meals for our group.

How much will it cost? The trip will cost \$650 per person, or \$275 for those who will not be flying with us.

Can't go but want to help out? You can make a donation or help underwrite the trip for someone else; please see David Taylor.

Who benefits from these mission trips? We all do: people who live on the Gulf Coast, mission trippers, and all of First Church. There is an ongoing need for volunteers to help people who are still recovering from Katrina or whose homes need rehabilitation. Participating in a work trip is deeply satisfying and truly transformative, and campers return with a deeper sense of Christian fellowship, community and service that enriches our life as a family of faith here at First Church.



How do I sign up? Complete the registration form on the reverse side and return it to the church office by September 15, along with a check for \$100, to confirm your commitment. Names will be added to the roster in the order in which deposits are received.

Want more information? Please contact David Taylor or Diana Ruddick at 860-463-3049 or dianakate525@gmail.com.

