



Whoever you are,
wherever you are on your life's journey,
you are welcome at First Church!



2011 – 2012 PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES

Shaping Up . . .



Worship is the heartbeat of First Church! We gather to grow in faith, to be inspired and challenged, and to find a Christian center for our lives. We are an open and affirming congregation and celebrate the diversity of our membership.

Sunday worship is at 10 AM. Children begin with their families in the Meeting House and after a Children's Sermon go to our innovative "Christian Education Center" on the 4th floor, or the Preschool Center on the 2nd floor. However, on the 1st Sunday of every month children begin in their classrooms, and later rejoin their family for worship and celebration of Holy Communion.

Music enhances our worship experience in its many expressions: an awesome organ, our Adult Choir, our Whitechapel Handbell Choir, our Children's Choir, and a number of ensembles.



Special Worship Events: Taizé Worship once a month, A Summer Soulstice Celebration, Carillon Concerts, a Blessing of the Animals, and others.

Starting Young . . .

We are a community of learning as we teach and practice our faith. Education and Christian Formation are offered for all ages – and with inviting variety.



Church School runs concurrent with worship for all children from Preschool & Kindergarten through 8th Grade. Adult supervised childcare is available each week for our youngest children. **Confirmation Class** is offered for youth, as well as our Junior (Grades 5-7), and Senior (Grades 8-12) Youth Ministry. We also sponsor one of the oldest **Boy Scout** troops in the country!

First Church Nursery School has been serving the community with an impressive menu of programs since 1941, and we are proud of the many children who are nurtured in our care.



Going Deeper . . .

Faith keeps growing as long as we do! Our special focus on **Spiritual Life** provides Lectio Divina, Knitting Ministry, Labyrinth Walks, Christian Meditative Yoga, Women's Retreats, and "Journeymen" - our men's group.



**JOHN P. WEBSTER
LIBRARY**
Resources for Faith & Life

Book groups of all sorts are provided by our unique **John P. Webster Library:**

- **Christian Classics** – Monday afternoons
- **Soup and Scripture** – Tuesday evenings
- **Food for Thought** – 1st Thursday of every month

JPW Library Art Gallery exhibits paintings, sculptures, photography and handcrafts from Hartford area artists on a monthly basis. The library hosts fellowship hour after the worship service to welcome the artists and provide the congregation an opportunity to view their creations.

"Living the Questions 2.0" an overview of Christian Faith – led by our Senior Pastor on the 2nd & 4th Wednesday evening of the month from October through May.

"Families, Faith, Fun & Fellowship" – Opportunities for children and adults include field trips, parent forums (with childcare provided), seasonal programs, and more.

Reaching Out . . .

We are fortunate to have received such goodness in life and we encourage active service in our church, community and world as our way of giving back.

Our **Stephen Ministry** equips and supports a program of person-to-person caring. In addition we have a number of ways to reach to our members who are not able to be with us on Sundays – flowers, cards, and phone calls.

Our **Service & Outreach** efforts include hands-on and financial support to a broad variety of needs: Habitat for Humanity, HopeWorks, Covenant to Care, Youth Mission Trips, Alex's Lemonade Stand, Disaster Aid, Silver Lake, and the United Church of Christ – just to name a few.

And we are proud to have among our members those who take their faith with them in daily measure, serving in ways and places that we can never fully know!



Meeting Up . . .



Community, fellowship and family are core to our congregation and we look forward to times to be together! A meal with one another is always popular as our **“Gather Round the Table”** friends have discovered. There are picnics on Homecoming Sunday and Church School Day, Pizza Nights, Pancake Suppers, and Holiday Specials – not to mention our weekly Hospitality Hour.

In addition, we find that being active in the life of the church enriches us in unexpected ways and so we encourage all sorts of involvement: Greeting, Ushering, Volunteering in the office, teaching, singing, ringing, or serving in any number of leadership opportunities.



Going Beyond . . . (Opportunities for Immersion & Travel)

Two opportunities for international travel are a part of our plans this coming year, each offering a broader perspective and experience of faith. Please call for more information!



Sacred Story Journey to Israel and Palestine - late February - led by Dennis Dewey, renowned Biblical Storyteller, and Geordie Campbell.

Pilgrimage to Iona - late April into early May - led by Susan Izard and Cathy Murtha.



First Church is on **FACEBOOK** and **FLICKR**. Check us out!

On your **Facebook** home page, type in the search box: **First Church West Hartford**



To find us on **Flickr**, go to www.flickr.com and search for the GROUP called **“In The Heart of West Hartford.”**

First Church of Christ Congregational

United Church of Christ
12 South Main Street
West Hartford, CT 06107
860-233-9605
www.whfirstchurch.org

John P. Webster Library

860-232-3893
www.jpwlibrary.org

First Church Nursery School

860-232-2106
www.whfirstchurch.org