



Sunday Notes

March 22, 2020



This Sunday our worship service has moved to an online platform. We want to encourage each of you to keep your distance from people you are not already sharing living space with. Yet in this time when it's so important to keep our distance, it's also so important to come together.



We are continuing our series on the parables of Jesus this Sunday (You can review the series on our webpage). The parable of the tax collector and the Pharisee (Luke 18:9-14) is one of many where Jesus asks us to re-think relationships of power and access. Who is distraught this week? Who is sincere and who is insincere? Where is God? And where are we? The pandemic has created enormous reversals for many of us, I hope you'll join me as we reflect on God's word through this unexpected lens.

Leading Worship

Erica Avena, Interim Senior Pastor; Amie Giguere, Acting Associate Pastor and Jim Boratko, Director of Music

Happening Today

Submit prayer requests [here](#).

Many of our upcoming events are happening online with the Zoom platform. For **instructions on how to join a Zoom meeting**, click [here](#).

Church School

We are moving our lessons completely online through Zoom. Starting at 9:30 am, you can click this [link](#) and join our Zoom classroom. You will need to download the Zoom app on your device ahead of time. You can do that [here](#). Our official lesson will start at 10 am. Last Sunday we had 100% attendance!

Sunday Morning Bible Study

Sundays at 11 am via Zoom meeting

We will be studying the book of Genesis. Please join us any Sunday morning that you are available. Join Zoom Meeting via Computer: <https://zoom.us/j/847366987> or by phone: +1 646 558 8656, meeting ID: 847 366 987; or one tap mobile: +16465588656,847366987#.

Celtic Service

You will be able to find a video of our Celtic service on our website [here](#) on Sunday afternoon.

Events and Announcements

Church School Mid-Week Check-Ins

In an attempt to foster an adaptive sense of community during a time of isolation, we will have similar "check-in" lessons throughout the week, on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 10 am. You can use the same link to join these meetings, where students can listen to stories, play games, and talk together as a community, all lead by Lauren.

The **Awakening the Spirit book group** met with Rev. Susan Izard on Monday afternoon via Zoom, an online meeting platform. Last week twelve people signed in and participated - they had a wonderful meeting! They shared impressions, read aloud, and talked to each other about their current book, "The Last Week" by March Borg and Dominic Crossan. Most of the group signed in on their laptops and desktop computers, but a couple of them logged in on their phones. They later compared the experience to a conference call. The group is already scheduled to meet via Zoom for the next several weeks. Join Zoom Meeting at <https://zoom.us/j/859442717?pwd=VEtjWFhycnNEK3R1YWEyYjIDSThUZZo9>, Meeting ID: 859 442 717, Password: 511886; or by phone: One tap mobile +16465588656,859442717# or call +1 646 558 8656.

Lenten Prayer Workshop Series - Tuesday, March 24th, from 6:30 to 7:45 pm

This week's Prayer Workshop will be accessible through Zoom! Praying in Color is for you if... you want to pray, but words escape you... OR you have trouble sitting still and staying focused... OR if you want a visual, concrete way to pray. Come to the meeting with paper and coloring tools to discover a closer connection to God. You may visit this website beforehand to print a template if you need more than a blank slate to get started! <https://prayingincolor.com>. Options include joining the meeting via computer or by phoning in. Please join us at <https://zoom.us/j/831193120?pwd=c2koZVkyK3KoxMNmdHR1dOSDNMTokrdz09>, Meeting ID: 831 193 120, Password: 455487; or by phone: One tap mobile +16465588656,,831193120# or call +1 646 558 8656. For instructions on how to join a Zoom meeting, click [here](#).

Easter Baskets for Covenant to Care Children

There are just 5 baskets left to claim for the annual Easter Basket project for our Covenant to Care children. Please call or text Janice Carter Hall at 860-305-0940 and she will deliver a basket to you. Each basket has a suggested list of items recommended for that child. Age and gender are noted. Janice will also pick up the baskets from you when ready. Deadline: April 5th. Monetary donations are welcome if you are unable to participate. Janice will purchase the items & prepare the basket. Thank you very much. We didn't want to disappoint the children by canceling this annual project. Outreach Team

Can't make it to church? Give Online!

Making monetary contributions to First Church is quick and easy! Visit our website at <http://www.whfirstchurch.org/donate/give> and click on the blue *Donate Online* button. Checks can be mailed to the church at 12 South Main Street, West Hartford, CT 06107.

A New Way to Give



What is this QR code and why use it?

When you scan this barcode-like QR code image with a smartphone's QR decoder, it will instantly connect you to the mobile version of our donation web page. Try it yourself! To individuals who are familiar with QR codes, it will provide a quick and easy way to access our web page without having to type out a long web address and locate our link. Scan to donate to First Church!

Church Updates

Visit our website [here](#) for up to date information on church happenings and closing information.

Text Alerts

Sign up today to receive [text alerts](#) for quick dissemination of church information, updates and reminders.

Lenten Prayer Cards

Use the new set of Lenten Prayer Cards for daily or weekly devotional material. If you would like a set mailed to you, email Suzanne at suzanne.nardi@whfirstchurch.org.

March Reach Out: The Greater Hartford Interfaith Action Alliance (GHIAA)

On October 28, 2019, our church and 34 other multi-faith congregations and allied institutions gathered to launch the Greater Hartford Interfaith Action Alliance (GHIAA). Those gathered agreed to organize together around the following inaugural five campaigns:

1. Criminal Justice Reform: Clean Slate
2. Housing: Abolishing Welfare Liens in CT & No More Slumlord's
3. Education: Districtwide anti-racism training
4. Healthcare: Medical reclamation & creation of safety-net pharmacy
5. Gun Violence

The Outreach Ministry sponsors a monthly offering to benefit a service organization that helps those in greater need than ourselves. We hope you will be able to support those who need our help. Donations can be made online on our website or by mailing a check to the church with "GHIAA" on the memo line. Thank you for your support.