



# Sunday Notes

June 7, 2020



What does our understanding of God and our faith in Jesus have to say about what is happening in the world? How do we make sense of it? This week's worship will provide a reminder that we are never alone, and we are stronger together. We will feature a special children's message by professional storyteller Val Tutson, which is a real treat. Also, stay tuned for an email in the next day or two regarding an opportunity for personal prayer and reflection as we are working on the development of a "Black Lives Matter Prayer Walk" on our labyrinth.



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## Happening Today

### Church School

Our Church School is available in an online platform, where our students explore our bible stories through games, videos, readings and prayer together. We have lessons on Sunday mornings at 10 am. For more information, please reach out to Lauren at [lauren.dube@whfirstchurch.org](mailto:lauren.dube@whfirstchurch.org). Our older congregants are invited to join us by reading stories, sharing games, and just checking in!

### Sunday Morning Bible Study

Sundays at 10 am via Zoom meeting

We will be studying the book of Genesis. Please join us any Sunday morning that you are available. Join by computer [here](#), Meeting ID: 740 403 746, Password: 694795; One tap mobile +16465588656, 740403746#; by phone +1 646 558 8656.

### Sunday Morning Cyber Coffee Hour at 11 am

Please join others who will gather following morning worship for a "virtual" coffee hour via Zoom! Join by computer [here](#), Meeting ID: 924 416 446, Password: 899935; One tap mobile +16465588656, 924416446#; by phone +1 646 558 8656.

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## Events

### Zoom Instructions

Many of our events are happening online with the Zoom platform. For **instructions on how to join a Zoom meeting**, click [here](#). For those hosting meetings, here is information on [Host Controls](#) and [Running a Meeting and Screen Share](#).



Continue your support of the Town That Cares Fund by participating in this safe FunD run, June 5th-8th, sponsored by the Celebrate West Hartford, Town of West Hartford. The Fair has been cancelled, but the need for funds for our neighbors is greater than ever.

For a registration fee of \$20.00 + \$2.20 processing fee, registrants will receive a special commemorative T-shirt and a contribution will be made to the Town That Cares & Leisure Services Scholarship Funds. List *First Church* as the fundraiser on the form and First Church Outreach Team will get the t-shirt to you as notified by the town of your participation. Walk anytime or participate in spirit, from your couch! To Register or donate go to:

<https://bit.ly/wehafundrun>. Encouraged by the First Church Outreach Team.

### Parent Group

The Faith Formation workgroup will host an online parent group on Monday nights at 7:30 pm. This is a space to express frustrations, share creative ideas, and seek support around parenting during the pandemic. For the log-in credentials, please email Lauren at [lauren.dube@whfirstchurch.org](mailto:lauren.dube@whfirstchurch.org).

### Church School Mid-Week Check-Ins

In an attempt to foster an adaptive sense of community during a time of isolation, we will have "check-in" lessons throughout the week, on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 10 am. We also have a third check-in time on Wednesdays at 6 pm for our families that cannot make morning meetings. 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.

## Salute The Class of 2020!

Please join us for a "parade" on the evening of Wednesday, June 10th, between 6 and 7 pm to salute our graduating seniors (Rain date is June 11th). This parade will be a bit non-traditional. Our graduating high school and college seniors will be standing, appropriately distanced from one another, in our church parking lot to receive your well-wishes. We know church members are interested and invested in our young people and this is an opportunity to honor this milestone in their lives. You can enter the parking lot via the Farmington Avenue entrance and exit via the driveway onto Isham Road.

Ideas to consider:

- hang signs from your vehicles
- bring noise makers & pom poms
- using a mask and gloved hand, drop a card in a basket by the rotunda doors
- any other creative things you can imagine to safely salute our seniors!

Saluting them in this way seems even more important this year when traditional types of ceremonies are not possible. We will record some of this event, as well as the awarding of scholarships for our high school seniors and will include video footage in our June 14th worship. Send comments or questions to Amie Giguere at [amie.giguere@whfirstchurch.org](mailto:amie.giguere@whfirstchurch.org).

Our Class of 2020 High School seniors include: **Corina Chang, Marisa Ciafone, Robert Schunder, and Dasha Skitkowski**. College seniors include: **Kyla Barry, Rachael Edlund, Abigail Mitchell, Rachel Schunder, and Zack Wilkins**.

## Men's Fellowship

Friday, June 19th, at 9 am via Zoom

Join the men of First Church for a time of sharing, lively discussion, and supporting one another and our church. We usually meet each month in the JPW Library for coffee and an occasional guest speaker, but because of the pandemic, we will meet via Zoom. For more information or the Zoom link, contact Joseph Tobin at [jmtobin@gmail.com](mailto:jmtobin@gmail.com) or 860-916-1923.

## Bring-Your-Own Ice Cream Social

Help us celebrate the end of the school year and church school year by bringing your own ice cream (or any treat!) to our virtual coffee hour on June 21st.

## Vacation Bible School

Due to safety concerns, VBS has been canceled for this summer. We are looking forward to rescheduling when we can safely meet together again. Keep your eyes open for our virtual summer programming!

## Yoga Classes

Nancy Murray has continued to hold the yoga classes via Zoom. We have kept our usual meeting times of Tues. at 7 pm and Wed. and Thurs. 9:15 am. This has been a nice way to connect with our yoga community. The zoom room has no space limitation, so all of the classes have "room!" Nancy is also holding a daily meditation class at 12:15. Email Nancy at [nancy@deepeacect.com](mailto:nancy@deepeacect.com) for links and fees.

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## Announcements

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Submit prayer requests [here](#).

## Walk Our Labyrinth

Refresh your spirit, take a walk on the labyrinth, any time of day. Say this while walking: May I be at peace, May I be at peace, May I be at peace. And may YOU be at peace.

## Have you completed the 2020 census form?

The results of the 2020 Census will help direct billions of dollars of funding for things that our community needs, including health care, emergency response, schools and education programs, and roads and bridges. There's still time to shape the future for our community. You can complete the 2020 Census now online, by phone, or by mail. Visit <https://go.usa.gov/xdKjQ> to complete it today. If you did it already, please encourage others to do it. Thank you.

## Virtual Photos

Please share photos of you and your family including pets, as you are watching church services on-line. We will use them in Social Media posts and to have for future slide shows and any other church publishing. Send them as jpeg's to Amy Melvin at: [amybmelvin@gmail.com](mailto:amybmelvin@gmail.com).

## Text Alerts

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

## JPW Library Now Has Curbside Service!

Here's how it works:

- Search our collection online [here](#).
- Email\* us the title and author of the item(s) at [jpwebster@whfirstchurch.org](mailto:jpwebster@whfirstchurch.org).
- We are also happy to provide book recommendations and basic reference services. Just send your query to the above email address and we'll get back to you as soon as possible.
- Due dates will be approximately one week after we reopen. However, items can also be returned on curbside pickup days.
- Pick up time is Monday afternoons starting at 5 pm. We will adjust this as necessary.
- Just drive up to the rotunda entrance and the materials will be brought to your car. We can place them in your trunk or through an open car window.
- Stay safe! Happy reading!

\*If you don't have email, you can call the library at 860-232-3893, but please be aware that we are not actually present in the library and are only checking phone messages once per day.

## Device Advice

Sheltering-in-place and quarantine orders have sent many of us to our computer screens in search of outside community interaction. If you are having trouble using Zoom, accessing the MyFirstChurch directory, navigating the JPW Catalog, or creating a Facebook page, Jennifer and Karla are available to help you. Contact us at 860-233-3893 or [jpwebster@whfirstchurch.org](mailto:jpwebster@whfirstchurch.org).

## June Reach Out

[Foodshare](#), [Loaves and Fishes Ministry](#), and [Town that Cares](#) continue to need your help. Monetary donations are greatly needed. You can make donations online for these organizations or send a check to the address listed for each on their websites. The church has been a strong supporter for these groups and hopes you will also be able to help them serve those in need.

**The West Hartford Food Pantry** is distributing more than twice the food items than last year. They are particularly short on rice, baked beans and canned fruit. Include those items in your weekly shopping and drop off at Town Hall, particularly Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons. Hours to drop off food donations for West Hartford Food Pantry: Tues 3:30-5:30 pm. Weds. 9-11 am; Fri. 10 am-12 pm. Call the Pantry if you have really large donations. There will be a cart for you to use at the front steps.

## Hello Members & Friends of First Church,

As we continue to be physically apart from one another, we know that the work of First Church continues on – most especially at this time of so much need in our communities. Both the Inreach and Outreach teams are at no loss for people, places, and organizations to support. To keep all these “gardens” tended we ask that you continue to stay current in sending your gifts and pledges. Online giving instructions are below, or you can always use the US Postal Service!

Please note, your donation can be designated for a particular fund, such as the Pastor's Discretionary Fund – used by our clergy to provide for the immediate needs of members and friends, or Music & Fine Arts – among other options. Your donation can also be designated as a non-pledge donation which is gratefully used to support the needs of our community presence as well as building and staffing necessities. Thank you so much for whatever way you have, and will continue, to contribute!

Blessings,  
Eleanor Wight & the Stewardship Workgroup

## Online Giving!

Making monetary contributions to First Church is quick and easy! For peace of mind you can even sign up for auto pay! Visit our website at <http://www.whfirstchurch.org/donate/give> and click on the blue Donate Online button. Watch the video for detailed instructions on [How to Give](#). Checks can be mailed to the church at 12 South Main Street, West Hartford, CT 06107.