



# Sunday Notes

June 14, 2020



---

## Looking towards Sunday:

This Sunday we will be recognizing our church's graduates. This has been an upside down year for them as they prepare to receive their degrees while maintaining pandemic protocols. I'm thinking about the advice that gets passed around at commencements-- the speeches, the cards, the goodbyes in the yearbooks, etc. In Romans 5:1-8, Paul offers advice for how to live a life of faith. It isn't what you might think: first he says, look at suffering, either your own, or the suffering in the world, or the suffering of Christ. A life of faith pays constant attention to suffering; it's how we gage what matters. Join us for worship!



Bonus discussion question for virtual coffee and conversation at 11 am: what is the best and worst life advice you have received?

## We'd like to see you in (virtual) worship!

Next Sunday, June 21st, is Father's Day. We would love to include images of the Fathers in your hearts and lives -- those who you are honoring this year in our recorded worship experience. Whether it is an old photo or a snapshot offered in celebration of a new father in your family this year. We will include these images in a special tribute to fathers during the worship service.

Three easy steps:

1. Locate a photo of the father or father figure you are remembering this year.
2. If it is a physical photo either scan it or take a picture of it with your phone.
3. Send it in an email identifying who is in the picture to [Jim.boratko@whfirstchurch.org](mailto:Jim.boratko@whfirstchurch.org) by Thursday, June 18th at midnight with the subject line Father's Day Sunday.

Fathers and father figures of all kinds are welcome!  
We'll "see" each other in worship!

Erica

---

## 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.

---

## 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](#).

Submit prayer requests [here](#).

## 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.

## Men's Fellowship

Tuesday, June 16th, 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.

## Faith on Film: *Just Mercy*, June 28th

The JPWL invites you a discussion of "*Just Mercy*" (rated PG-13) with your church community. Here's what to do:

- Watch *Just Mercy* [for free on YouTube](#) and other platforms ([more info here](#)) by June 28th.
- Join in via Zoom on Sunday, June 28th, at 12:30 pm to discuss the film. [Register here for the Zoom link](#).

"Just Mercy" (2019) is a legal drama directed by Destin Daniel Cretton, starring Michael B. Jordan and Jamie Foxx, that tells the true story of Walter McMillian, who, with the help of young defense attorney Bryan Stevenson, appeals his murder conviction. The film is based on Stevenson's award-winning memoir, [Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption](#).

## First Church READS

Monday evenings, July 6th - August 10th, from 6:30 to 8 pm via Zoom

As we dig more deeply into understanding race in the United States, the JPW Library invites you to a six-week, church-wide book discussion. [So You Want to Talk About Race](#) by Ijeoma Oluo is an "actionable exploration of today's racial landscape that offers straightforward clarity that readers of all races need to contribute to the dismantling of the racial divide." Books are free to use (or you may purchase one for \$10, if you wish) and will be available via JPW Library pick-up. To join the group, [register here](#).

## 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@deeppeacect.com](mailto:nancy@deeppeacect.com) for links and fees.

---

## Announcements

---

### 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.

The JPWL staff is here to answer your Library needs. Contact us with questions or requests:

by Phone: 860-232-3893 (starting in July, a staff member will be working at the library every day)

by Email: [jpwebster@whfirstchurch.org](mailto:jpwebster@whfirstchurch.org)

### Curbside Service at the JPWL!

- [Search the JPWL Catalog](#)
- Contact us via phone or email (above) and let us know what you would like to borrow
- We will provide book recommendations or reference help, if needed
- Contact us to arrange a time to pick up or drop off library materials
- Books may be borrowed for three weeks. Renew or return your book (at the curb) at that time.
- To renew books online, click on "my account" in the upper right corner on the [JPWL Catalog](#) page and follow the prompts.

### 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.

### 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.