



Sunday Notes

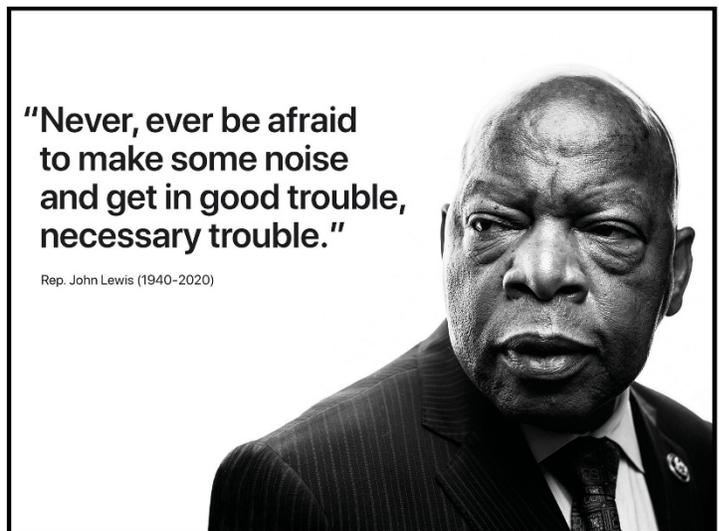
July 26, 2020



Looking towards Sunday

The death of Representative John Lewis late last week is the loss of another leader and witness to many of the key events of the Civil Rights movement in this country. The struggle he gave a face to, a struggle for the dignity of all people, is a struggle we find rooted in scripture. This week I will be continuing to preach on Romans 8, this time including Paul's frequently quoted words: "We know that all things work together for good for those who love God..." Words that remind us that there are forces at work in the world beyond our own control, and we are invited to the great work that God is doing even now in our lives. What would you be doing, if you had the courage?

*If you would like to learn more about Representative John Lewis click [here](#).



At the cyber coffee hour this week at 11am we will be hearing an update from Dawne Quinn, Director of First Church Academy for Young Children. The Academy opened in a limited capacity on June 15th, and is helping to support working families by providing quality child care even in these challenging days of pandemic restrictions.

Safety Tip

Through the community outreach officer at the Fire Department, we have been asked to pass along the information that everyone is encouraged to wear masks when they are in West Hartford Center. This is very important for community health and safety; and the town does not want to begin making citations or charging fines. If you do not have a mask and need one, or if you know someone who does, you can contact Troy Shipley, Community Support Officer at the West Hartford Fire Department at 860-614-8237 (primary) or 860-819-0880 (alt.).

Happening Today

Summer Bible Study

Sundays at 10 am via Zoom meeting

The Bible Study group is meeting by Zoom to study Exodus, and would love to have you join them. Led by Jim Warner, the group meets via Zoom Sunday mornings at 10 am. For more information, please contact Jim at jwarneriv@gmail.com.

Cyber Coffee and Conversation

Sundays at 11 am via Zoom meeting

Join us for reflections on the Sunday morning worship themes, check-in, and discussion. Make your own coffee or tea and drink it where you are. Visitors welcome! Join by computer [here](#), Meeting ID: 924 416 446, Password: 899935; One tap mobile +16465588656,924416446#; by phone +1 646 558 8656.

Upcoming 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](#).

Church School and Mid-Week Check-Ins

We will take a break the remainder of July and resume again on Tuesday, August 4th at 10 am.

Submit prayer requests [here](#).

Text Alerts

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

Outdoor Carillon Concert Series

Thursday evenings in July (weather permitting) from 6 to 7 pm on the Front Lawn

Bring a chair or blanket AND your own refreshments to the lawn of the church. We ask family groups to space out 6 feet apart to practice social distancing. Our concert lineup: 7/30 - Jon Lehrer.

First Church READS

Mondays through August 10th, at 7 pm via Zoom

After watching Black Lives Matter rallies and speeches on TV you may be asking "What can I do? Where do we start?" Here's one answer: Join Jennifer deSimas for a six-week Zoom book study of Ijeoma Oluo's [So You Want to Talk About Race](#). Oluo "offers straightforward clarity that readers of all races need to contribute to the dismantling of the racial divide" so they can move beyond talk and into action. Pick up your book - they are free to use (or purchase one for \$10) at the JPW Library pick-up Monday afternoons or by appointment. To join this group, please [register here](#).

(G)race Speaks

Wednesday, July 29th, at 3:30 pm via Zoom

We've created some great memories Zoom-travelling together this summer. The pandemic has created this new opportunity for us to "visit" other churches and hear other voices, and through "(G)race Speaks" we've gotten a glimpse of what is happening in communities beyond West Hartford and we've heard how people of faith are thinking about their circumstances. Our final destination is Wednesday, July 29: Goldsboro, North Carolina. We're visiting the Rev. Dr. William Barber II at Greenleaf Christian Church to hear his Sunday, July 12 sermon: "[Let God Open Your Eyes](#)" [Matthew 9:27-31](#). This worship service is very much in the style of the historically Black church.

Rev. Barber is the president and senior lecturer of [Repairers of the Breach](#). An author, preacher, and professor of public theology and activism, he is the chief architect of the "[Forward Together Moral Movement](#)" and the [Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival](#). Watch Rev. Barber's sermon prior to the meeting and join the Zoom gathering Wednesday, July 29th at 3:30 pm. Sign up for the discussion [HERE](#).

Sun Is Shining Series

Coming to a Screen Near You in August!

The Sun Is Shining Series in August on Tuesday nights has become a tradition in the last few years. We are happy to announce that it will continue this year, although it will not be held outdoors on the labyrinth. Instead, we will be livestreaming the event from our Facebook page on Tuesday nights at 5 pm. Tentative line up: 8/4 - Ed Fast and Congabop, 8/11 - 1974, 8/18 - Dan Liparini Jazz Group, 8/25 - Still Kicking and the Big City Horns. Please watch for precise details, updates and changes on our website and Facebook pages in August.

Announcements

Covenant to Care

The backpacks are coming...the backpacks are coming! It's hard to believe we are thinking about back-to-school already! This year we need to fill 32 backpacks for our Covenant to Care children. Come to the church on either July 28th or August 1st to pick up your backpack to fill (outside the Rotunda) between 10 am and 12 pm. There will be age/grade appropriate suggestion cards included with each backpack. Backpacks are due back to church (again, outside the Rotunda) on August 22nd. If you are not available on one (or both) of these dates, Janice or Carole will be happy to drop one off to you or pick it up when you have it ready (before the 22nd). Your support is greatly appreciated!! You can reach Janice Carter Hall at 860-305-0940 or Carole Carter at 860-690-1338.

Drive-By, Drop off Food Collection this Summer at First Church

July 28th, August 1st, 25th and 29th, September 22nd and 26th, 10 am to 12 pm

On the 4th Tuesday and Saturday of the summer months & including September, volunteers will be at the Rotunda Entrance parking lot to collect your donations for the West Hartford Food Pantry and Loaves and Fishes Meals to Go. The need is still great; the West Hartford Food Pantry has been distributing twice as many food bags as the previous year. With the cancellation of its soup kitchen, Loaves and Fishes distributes Meals to Go to its clients on a weekly basis. [The list of items needed is on the flyer - download flyer to post at home](#). You are encouraged to stop by the church any of the times listed this summer when volunteers will be at the church to receive the items. If you are unable to come to the church, but want to contribute, please call Jenny Clark at 860-402-4851 or Dottie Stone at 860-521-0554. Thank you.

JPWL staff is here to answer your Library needs. One family recently borrowed 28 books, which we were happy to select for them, based on their requests! Contact us with questions or requests by phone at 860-232-3893 (although the building is closed, JPWL staff are at the library every weekday) or by email at jpwebster@whfirstchurch.org.

Curbside Service at the JPWL: It's "a thing!"

- [Search the JPWL Catalog](#)
- Contact us via phone or email to set up a date for curbside pick-up
- No library card? No problem! We will issue you one - give us a call.

New at the JPW Library

For Kids:

Parker Looks Up
Bear Came Along
All American Boys (for teens)

Adult Fiction:

The Vanishing Half
The Book of V.: A Novel
Afterlife

Adult Non-Fiction:

Parenting Forward: How to Raise Children with Justice, Mercy, and Kindness
Everything Is an Emergency: An OCD Story in Words & Pictures
Don't Look Away: Embracing Anti-bias Classrooms
Living Between Worlds: Finding Personal Resilience in Changing Times

July Reach Out - Hands On Hartford

Hands On Hartford is a social service nonprofit organization that serves Hartford's neediest residents in the areas of food, housing, and health. Founded in 1969 as Center City Churches, the agency has had a longstanding commitment to providing respectful, comprehensive services with help from volunteers and community partnerships.

Hands on Hartford MANNA Food and Neighborhood Services program provides direct relief to thousands of Hartford neighbors each month. Through Community Meals, Community Pantry and the Backpack Nutrition Program for children, they provide meals and groceries to individuals and families facing food insecurity. MANNA also provides vital support through community connections, referrals, security deposit & utility assistance, basic health screening, nutrition education and employment & education expense assistance. For more information or to donate: info@handsonhartford.org or call 860-728-3201. Thank you for your support.

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.