



Sunday Notes

August 2, 2020



A theme for this week's worship is Loaves and Fishes! We will hear the story of the miracle of the loaves and fish as told in Matthew's gospel. We will also hear our first in a series of Pandemic Voices: Dottie Stone will share about her experience with the Loaves and Fishes ministry.

As an extension of coffee and conversation we will have communion together beginning at 11:30 am. Please gather communion elements for yourself. May we be open to experiencing miracles!



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 resume 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.

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](#).

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

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

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 jwebster@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.

August Reach Out – Freshplace

Freshplace is an innovative client-choice/fresh food/case management food pantry in the Upper Albany and Asylum Hill neighborhoods in Hartford. Freshplace provide at-risk families with fresh fruits, vegetables, meat, and dairy products in addition to pantry staples. Clients are guided in making selections that accommodate their health, cultural, religious, and familial needs. There are also comprehensive intake and referral services, increasing access to food stamps, health and crisis intervention programs, public assistance, and educational services. Freshplace also provides a community hub and resource, assisting in the revitalization of the Upper Albany neighborhood, supporting the network of existing area food pantries, and creating a center for community involvement. Freshplace is a collaborative project among Chrysalis Center, the Junior League of Hartford and Foodshare. For more information visit the Freshplace website at <https://chrysaliscenterct.org/> or donate to the Chrysalis Center, Inc. 255 Homestead Avenue, Hartford, CT 06132 Phone: 860-263-4400. – 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.