



Sunday Notes

August 9, 2020



Looking Towards Sunday: Tropical storm Isaias has moved through Connecticut and many of us were taken by surprise and are still without power today. This is a photo of trees down in Bushnell park. As I am thinking about Sunday, I'm wondering about how this storm has re-ordered your priorities this week. This Sunday I'll be preaching on Romans 10:5-15 in which Paul assures the early Christians that although there is much to be anxious about, God in Christ is reconciling the world -- Paul asks them to refocus their energy less on what they have to do, and more on who they are as Christians. Faith can change what seems impossible.



Cyber Coffee Hour this week: Our vice-moderator Eleanor Wight will be leading the cyber coffee hour this week (if she has power) while I am on vacation. Question for discussion will include what are you hoping improves in the future and why?

Member perks! First Church has power! The Academy is continuing their summer program, and we also have WiFi! As you know the building is closed to the public due to the pandemic, but you can come to the church and park in our lot to use the WiFi if you need to. Make sure to avoid crowding cars.

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'll be having church school and check-ins every Sunday, Tuesday, and Thursday at 10 am until schools are open again. This lesson works best on a computer if you have access to one.

Submit prayer requests [here](#).

Sun Is Shining Series

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: 8/11 – 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

Give Online!

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.

Text Alerts

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

Drive-By, Drop off Food Collection

August 25th and 29th, September 22nd and 26th, 10 am to 12 pm

The Drive-By, Drop off Food Collection this Summer has been a success but contributions are still needed.

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 list of items needed is on the flyer - download flyer to post at home](#) or take it to the grocery store with you. Loaves and Fishes welcome baked goods, too. 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.

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!