



Sunday Notes

August 23, 2020



Looking towards Sunday:

This Sunday we are highlighting Silver Lake Sunday -- Silver Lake Camping and Conference Center, is a ministry of the Southern New England Conference, UCC. This year of course, everything has been different, the Pandemic has rendered the usual camping season "Silver Lake at home" <https://www.silverlakect.org/silver-lake-at-home>; and for the first time in its history, the site has been closed. Nevertheless, we can still celebrate all things camping and look forward to better days ahead; our online worship service will be camp themed complete with a bear hunt, for children of all ages. I am preaching on Romans 12:1-8 which contains Paul's words: "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds..." My sermon title is "God's Values."

Don't miss this! Mark your calendar for next Sunday, August 30th at 11 am, for cyber coffee hour:

In light of the Black Lives Matter protests and challenges around our country and in our community this summer, and the request from a local group "Concerned Parents of Color" to the town, to rename Goodman Green; our own previous church historian, Barbara Lewis has taken a new and thoughtful look at our church's history with enslaved people. She will lead us through a power point presentation and give us time for questions and discussion as we consider what the legacy of slavery means for our own community. This is an educational event only; no official action will be taken at this gathering. All are welcome!



Happening Today

Summer Bible Study

Sundays at 10 am via Zoom meeting

We are studying Exodus and would love you join us. Led by Jim Warner. Contact Jim at jwarneriv@gmail.com.

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.

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](#).

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, it will be available on our YouTube Channel [here](#) on Tuesday nights at 5 pm. 8/25 - Still Kicking and the Big City Horns. Watch for updates on our website and Facebook pages.

37th Foodshare Virtual Walk Against Hunger September 13th - 19 th

The Foodshare Virtual Walk Against Hunger support Foodshare's efforts to raise awareness of and resources for the issue of food insecurity in Hartford and Tolland counties. Funds raised from the Walk help support not only Foodshare, but the partner programs that help them serve the growing number of people in Greater Hartford who struggle with hunger. Our Team *First Church Striders* hope you will be able to join the Virtual Walk Against Hunger which will be a weeklong event this year. We encourage you to walk or run a 1.5-mile route of your choice. If you cannot make the walk, please support our walkers by going to the Foodshare website to make your donation or you may send a check to the church marked as a donation for Foodshare. To join our team and support Foodshare, please go to the Foodshare website at <https://bit.ly/FCStriders>. Thank you for your support.

Lunch & Learn: *COVID-19 and Global Climate Change: An Untold and Evolving Story*

Sunday, September 20th, at 12 pm via Zoom

For decades, we have seen a steady stream of viruses and other microorganisms transferred from vertebrate animals to humans, most recently in the COVID-19 pandemic. But the coronavirus is simply one manifestation of what will be a long string of adverse health and economic consequences of global warming, population pressures, and loss of species diversity. How can we mitigate current trends in climate deterioration and together save this planet -- and our species?

[Register here](#).

Sten H. Vermund is Dean of the Yale School of Public Health and holds the Anna M.R. Lauder chair in Public Health. A pediatrician and infectious disease epidemiologist, Sten's research focuses on diseases of low- and middle-income countries and on U.S. health disparities. He served as principal investigator of the HIV Prevention Trials Network from 2006-2012 and is a member of the National Academy of Medicine. As with many others at Yale, his recent work has focused on the COVID-19 pandemic.

A Special Workshop for All Educators and Caregivers

The ABCs of Racism: Starting and Sustaining Anti-Racist Conversation and Action with Kids

Saturday, September 26th, from 10 am to 12 pm via Zoom

Mama, why is that lady brown?

How come the Asian kids are so good at math?

Why did the police kill Mr. Phil?

What will happen if immigration comes to take my family away?

Kids notice a lot about the world – including race, inequity, and injustice. They sense that these things matter, and they have questions many of the adults in their lives are not prepared to answer. The JPWL invites all caregivers and educators to a special interactive Zoom workshop with Wee The People, Boston-based racial justice educators, to explore the barriers that prevent adults from talking about race and racism with kids. Participants will examine the social science of race awareness in children, and identify strategies to start and sustain antiracist conversations and action with kids. [Please register here](#).

Wee The People was co-founded by racial justice educators Tanya Nixon-Silberg and Francie Latour. Wee The People is grounded in the belief that if kids can understand fairness, they can understand justice - and that adults play a huge role in connecting kids' sense of fairness in their own lives to larger issues of injustice in the world.

Announcements

Covenant to Care

One of our Covenant to Care families is looking for used size 6 and 8 boy's clothing for their children. If you have anything in good condition that you would like to donate, please let us know. We are happy to pick up from you. Please contact Janice Carter Hall at 860-305-0940 or Carole Carter at 860-690-1338.

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.

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. 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:

- [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

- *The Adventures of Sparrowboy*
- *All American Boys (for teens)*
- *Antiracist Baby (board book)*
- *Dear Martin (for teens)*
- *Happy: A Beginner's Book of Mindfulness*
- *Peg + Cat: The Eid al-Adha Adventure*
- *Pete the Cat and the Supercool Science Fair*
- *You Matter*

For Adults

- *Ambassadors of Reconciliation: New Testament Reflections /Restorative Justice/Peacemaking*
- *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents*
- *Christ in Crisis?: Why We Need to Reclaim Jesus*
- *God and the Pandemic: A Christian Reflection on the Coronavirus and Its Aftermath*
- *It's Not All Downhill From Here: A Novel*
- *Radical Amazement: Contemplative Lessons from Black Holes, Supernovas, and Other Wonders of the Universe*
- *This Tender Land: A Novel*

DVDs

- *Harriet*
- *Just Mercy*
- *Knives Out*
- *Little Women*
- *Parasite*

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 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!