



# Sunday Notes

August 30, 2020



## Looking towards Sunday:

Back to school has never looked like this before -- hybrid and online models continue to roll out. Many of us are facing unprecedented weeks ahead as we collectively work together to begin our fall programs and activities -- safely. In order to lift up some of your experiences and challenges in August we have been doing a series in our recorded worship called "Pandemic Voices" which is my sermon title this week. I'm preaching on Romans 12:9-21 which echoes Paul's great theological themes of how to live with goodwill within the community and without. How do we do this in the time of Covid? It looks a lot different this year...



## Today's Cyber Coffee Hour Program: Reconsidering the Legacy of Slavery

During this pandemic:

- Black Lives Matter protests and conversations are happening around our country and in our community. What can we do as a congregation?
- A request has been made from a local group "Concerned Parents of Color" to the town, to rename Goodman Green, in light of the fact that Timothy Goodman was a slave owner. And to create a public space on the green which, in addition to honoring Timothy Goodman's gift, would also be a space set aside for reflection on our history and intentional welcome of the full diversity of our community.

Join our previous church historian, Barbara Lewis, who 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 community. This is an educational event, focusing on how slavery evolved in the 17th, 18th, and 19th centuries in Connecticut and how Church/Town acceptance and resistance to slavery impacts the history of West Hartford. Of course, we'll end with conversation about what this legacy means today and in the future. All are welcome!

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## Happening Today

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### 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](mailto:jwarneriv@gmail.com).

### Church School

The church school will continue meeting on Sundays at 10 am throughout the fall. Starting September 13th there will be equal asynchronous lessons available for our families as well. Because the schools are reopening, the Tuesday and Thursday check in times will stop. Keep an eye out for exciting new opportunities to connect with the church school this fall, including faith at home kits!

### 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.

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## Upcoming Events

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### 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](#).

### **In-Person Worship for Homecoming Sunday**

Sunday, September 13th, at 10 am in the Meeting House

At this time, we are planning for an in-person worship experience in our Meeting House for Homecoming Sunday. Everyone will enter through the front doors of the Meeting House on South Main Street, temperatures will be checked, and masks will be worn at all times when in the building. Preregistration is required as the number of seats are limited. [Click here to register](#). We will also offer an online service posted on our website [here](#).

### **BYOE Homecoming Picnic**

The Spirit team is hosting a "Bring-Your-Own-Everything" Picnic on the front lawn after worship on Sunday, September 13th. There will be music by *The Jolly Beggars* and an opportunity for socially distanced fellowship. Bring your own chair, mask and food, and the Spirit team will provide sanitized ice cream cups to celebrate the start of the program year!

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

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.

### **The Work of GHIAA**

Wednesday, September 23rd, at 7 pm via Zoom

First Church's GHIAA (Greater Hartford Interfaith Action Alliance) team is pleased to present Cesar Aleman and Derrick Everett. They are community organizers who recently joined GHIAA at the Center for Leadership and Justice. They will discuss how GHIAA differs from the vital work being done by the many charities in the Hartford region. While food and clothing drives are necessities in our current societal structure, GHIAA's goal is to build relational power among local residents and leaders so they can address the social justice issues in their own communities, thus forging broader positive changes. [Register here](#) to join us.

### **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.

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## Announcements

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### 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.

### Photos Needed

We are updating our website and we're in the need of photos. If you got married in our sanctuary and you'd be willing to share a wedding photo or two we'd appreciate it. Or if you had any other special event at the church please send those too...i.e. baptism, reception, other event. Please email them to Suzanne at [suzanne.nardi@whfirstchurch.org](mailto:suzanne.nardi@whfirstchurch.org).

### 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](mailto: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.

### 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!

### Text Alerts

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

Submit prayer requests [here](#).