



# Sunday Notes

October 18, 2020



## Looking Towards Sunday

Have you ever had to stop yourself in the middle of a story and back up, to tell another story that gives it context? I'm preaching on 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10 "A Rumor of Faith" -- the rumor of the Thessalonians' faith has reached Paul, and he is delighted. Paul encourages them using words we will be emphasizing in our upcoming stewardship campaign: "we always give thanks for your work of faith, and labor of love, and steadfastness of hope." How is your faith in this season? Join us for inspiration and encouragement!



## Congregational Meeting During Cyber Coffee Hour

Sunday, October 18, 2020 at 11:15 am via Zoom

Join by computer [here](#), Meeting ID: 924 416 446, Password: 899935; One tap mobile +16465588656,924416446#; by phone +1 646 558 8656. Notice is hereby given that a Congregational Meeting for the First Church of Christ Congregational of West Hartford, Connecticut, UCC, will be held to address the following items of business:

1. To approve the minutes of the Congregational Meeting held on November 3, 2019 (First Church Academy Budget Meeting for 2019 – 2020).
2. To consider and vote on matters related to the annual budget of the First Church Academy for Young Children for the September 1, 2020 to August 31, 2021 fiscal year.
3. In accordance with the By-laws of First Church, action will be taken only on matters included in this Call to Meeting.

Notice given on September 29, 2020

Charlie Goodwin, Secretary of the Church

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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](#).

### Church School

The church school will continue meeting on Sundays at 10 am throughout the fall. There will be equal asynchronous lessons available for our families. Keep an eye out for exciting new opportunities to connect with the church school this fall, including faith at home kits!

### Awakening the Spirit Book Group

Monday, October 19th, at 12 pm via Zoom

We are currently reading [Christ in Crisis?: Why We Need to Reclaim Jesus](#) by Jim Wallis. Led by Minister of Spiritual Life Susan Izard. Books are available at the JPW Library via curbside service on Mondays from 4 to 5 pm or by appointment. To join this discussion, contact Jennifer deSimas, Library Director at [jwebsterdir@whfirstchurch.org](mailto:jwebsterdir@whfirstchurch.org).

### Bible Study

Tuesday, October 20th, at 6 pm via Zoom meeting (new meeting day and time)

We will be reading Exodus and all are welcome to join us! For more information, please contact Jim Warner at [jwarneriv@gmail.com](mailto:jwarneriv@gmail.com). Please note that the group will not meet on Tuesday, November 3rd.

### Text Alerts

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

### **Hallelujah Halloween**

Saturday, October 31st, from 5-7:30 pm on the Front Lawn

Get your Halloween costumes ready! This year, the Youth Group will host a socially distanced Trick-or-treat opportunity on Halloween night. Costumes are suggested; Masks are required! Congregants are encouraged to donate pre-packaged treats for our youth to hand out! Please reach out to Pastor Amie or Lauren for more information.

### **Virtual Halloween Organ Recital**

Saturday, October 31st, at 7 pm

The Phantom will be joining us for a livestreamed (or, in his case, deadstreamed) concert on the First Church YouTube channel on Halloween night, October 31st, at the early witching hour of 7 pm. Included in the festivities this year will be a return of the 1910 silent movie, *Frankenstein*, complete with organ accompaniment. In addition to some of your Halloween favorites, the Phantom plans to recreate the eerie "Pictures at an Exhibition," complete with a Hut on Fowl's Legs, the home of the Russian witch, Baba Yaga.

### **Food for Thought Book Group**

Thursday, November 5th, at 5:30 pm via Zoom

We will discuss [This Tender Land](#) by William Kent Krueger. "1932, Minnesota: four orphans journey into the unknown and cross paths with others who are adrift, from struggling farmers and traveling faith healers to displaced families and lost souls of all kinds. An enthralling, big-hearted epic about dreams, family, forgiveness, and starting over." All are welcome! Books are available at the JPWL via curbside service on Mondays from 4 to 5 pm or by appointment. Please contact Jennifer to join the group.

### **Faith on Film: [Dawnland](#)**

Tuesday, November 10th, from 5 to 6:30 pm via Zoom

Followed by Q&A with Senior Film Advisor Christopher Newell (Passamaquoddy Tribe). For decades, child welfare authorities have been removing Native American children from their homes to "save them from being Indian." In Maine, the first official Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) in the United States began a historic investigation into the practice. *Dawnland* goes behind-the-scenes as this historic body grapples with difficult truths, redefines reconciliation, and charts a new course for state and tribal relations. *Dawnland* won an Emmy® Award for Outstanding Research in 2019. Register [HERE](#) to receive a link to stream the event.

### **SAVE THE DATE! Greater Hartford Multifaith Prayer Breakfast: *The Role of Faith Communities in Social Justice***

Thursday, November 12th, from 7 to 8:30 am via Zoom

Since 1997, the Greater Hartford Multifaith Prayer Breakfast has reached across religious boundaries to find and celebrate those beliefs we share, to pray for the city of Hartford, and to affirm and support caring volunteers and staff involved in life-enriching services. This year we are gathering separately but together in spirit.

The program will feature speakers from the Greater Hartford Interfaith Action Alliance (GHIAA), who will speak about the important work they do for Greater Hartford. Admission is free, but donations are gratefully accepted via the registration link for the Greater Hartford Multifaith Prayer Breakfast and for GHIAA. You are all welcome to join us! To Register, go to <https://ghpb.weebly.com/> and follow the prompts.

### **First Church READS: Book Discussion & Author Q&A**

Thursday, November 19th, from 6 to 7 pm via Zoom

Zoom Book Chat and Q&A with Dr. Amy-Jill Levine on her latest book, [The Sermon on the Mount: A Beginner's Guide to the Kingdom of Heaven](#). In her new book, Amy-Jill Levine, Professor of New Testament Studies at Vanderbilt University Divinity School, introduces the major topics in the Sermon on the Mount. She explains historical and theological contexts, and shows how Jesus' words echo his Jewish tradition, speaking forward even now to reach hearts and minds. The passage contains, Levine thinks, some of Jesus' most profound and most memorable teachings. Books are available through the JPW Library and may be picked up via curbside service Monday afternoons between 4 and 5 pm or by appointment. Please contact the library to arrange an alternate time: 860-232-3893 or [jpwebster@whfirstchurch.org](mailto:jpwebster@whfirstchurch.org). Register [here](#) to join this exciting series! Weekly discussions of this book will take place each Monday at 12 pm at the Awakening the Spirit Zoom meetings with Rev. Susan Iazard starting November 2nd.

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## Announcements

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### News from Your Covenant to Care Team:

The Annual **Hat and Mitten Drive** begins October 1st and will continue through the end of the year. Marked boxes will be available in the Narthex to collect your donations. If you continue to worship from home, we will be happy to pick up your donations. Any new or used winter outerwear or clothing in good condition is welcome.

Our **Food Collection for Thanksgiving Baskets** will begin October 27th and October 31st from 10-12 outside the Rotunda. Members of the Outreach Team will be there to take your donations. Beginning November 1st, there will be marked buckets in the Narthex for your food donations. If you continue to worship from home, we will be happy to pick up your food donations from you. If you would like to help, please use the following guide: Find the first letter of your last name to see the suggested donation:

A-D: Juice, tea and coffee

E-H: Gravy and Cranberry Sauce, Spanish Food (ie Goya Products)

I-L: Rice and potatoes

M-P: Breakfast cereals and juice boxes

Q-T: Canned fruits and vegetables

U-Z: Bread and roll mix; stuffing mix

Please contact Janice Carter Hall at 860-305-0940 or Carole Carter at 860-690-1338 if you have any questions or need us to pick up your contributions.

### 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.

### GHIAA Update

As of September 30th, we have \$4,890 toward the \$5,000 fund we need to fulfill our 2020 pledge to the Greater Hartford Interfaith Action Alliance (GHIAA). We are just \$110 short with one more quarter to go. So if you are at all able to help us out, please contribute, making sure to mark your check or online donation "GHIAA Pledge." -- **With grateful thanks** from your GHIAA Core Team (Rev. Erica Avena, Linda Bronstein, Lindsay Day, Jennifer deSimas, Lauren Dube, Rev. Amie Giguere, Ryan Mannix, Terry Schmidt, and Bob Sitkowski).

### October Reach Out - Journey Home

Journey Home has spent more than a decade committed to ending chronic homelessness in the Greater Hartford region. They have been able in less than two years to match 72% of those experiencing chronic homelessness to housing, which means they have been housed or will be housed very soon. *A Hand Up*, a Program of Journey Home, works to support those who are currently transitioning from homelessness to housing by connecting them to donations of household goods and furniture. Together they are filling a huge gap because clients are often moving into housing after experiencing homelessness with nothing but what they can carry on their back. Yet, many people have excess furniture and household items in their homes without a place to put them other than the landfills. Together with your support they will be able to end homelessness. For more information or to donate : Journey Home, 255 Main Street 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, Hartford Ct 06106 Tel: 860-808-0336 website <https://journeyhomect.org/>. Thank you for your support!

**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). [Search the JPWL Catalog](#).

Submit prayer requests [here](#).