



Sunday Notes

January 3, 2021



Looking Towards Sunday

Please join us for virtual worship at 10 am Sunday morning as we reflect on our "Wisdom Anchors." Susan Izard will be preaching. All are welcome!

Cyber Coffee and Conversation

Sundays at 11 am via Zoom

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

The church school will continue meeting on Sundays at 10 am. Our Church School lessons will continue with special "worship-at-home" opportunities for our families! Please reach out to Lauren Dube at lauren.dube@whfirstchurch.org to receive a link to our virtual classroom.

Awakening the Spirit Book Group

Monday, January 11th, at 12 pm via Zoom

We will begin our next book [Thomas Berry: A Biography](#) by Mary Evelyn Tucker, John Grim, and Andrew Angyal after the New Year. As a cultural historian, Thomas Berry (1914–2009) sought a broader perspective on humanity's relationship to the earth in order to respond to the ecological and social challenges of our times. This first biography of Berry illuminates his remarkable vision and its continuing relevance for achieving transformative social change and environmental renewal. Led by Minister of Spiritual Life Susan Izard. Books are available at curbside service on Mondays from 2 to 3 pm or by appointment. To join this discussion, contact Jennifer deSimas, JPW Library Director at jpwebsterdir@whfirstchurch.org.

Bible Study

Tuesdays from 6 to 7 pm via Zoom

In keeping with the season, we are reading the Book of Luke, and the beloved story of Jesus' birth. All are welcome. Click [here](#) to register.

Food for Thought Book Group

Thursday, January 7th, at 5:30 pm via Zoom

We will discuss the highly praised [The Vanishing Half](#) by Brit Bennett. "The Vignes twin sisters will always be identical. But after growing up together in a small, southern black community and running away at age sixteen, everything has changed: their families, their communities, their racial identities. Many years later, one sister lives with her black daughter in the same southern town. The other secretly passes for white, and her white husband knows nothing of her past. Still, even separated by so many miles and just as many lies, the fates of the twins remain intertwined." Books are available through the JPW Library, and may be picked up by appointment or via curbside service Monday afternoons from 2 to 3 pm. Click [here](#) to join the discussion.

Save the Date!

Sunday, January 17th, at 5 pm via Zoom

The JPW Library is delighted to announce that our next *Living in Spirit* lecture will feature Civil Rights Activist Dr. Bernard LaFayette, Jr. Dr. LaFayette, Chairman of both the Selma Center for Nonviolence, Truth, & Reconciliation, and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, was a colleague and friend of Dr. Martin, Luther King, and one of the first Freedom Riders. [Please register here for the webinar.](#)

Announcements

The Stewardship Workgroup will be providing periodic updates about the 2020 Pledge Campaign. At the time of this writing, we have gratefully received 107 pledges. Our goal is to reach the same level of contribution as last year. Overall, in 2019, 130 pledges were received. We have a way to go! Even though there wasn't a physical Consecration Sunday this year, pledging can easily be done online by going to our website at whfirstchurch.org/donate/pledge, by clicking the link in the article below, or by mail. We ask our community of faith to support the mission of the Church by giving as generously as possible. With thanks, The Stewardship Workgroup

Pledge Online!

So far, half of the pledges have been made online! It's quick and easy, just follow this [link](#). If you would prefer to mail your pledge card and haven't received one, please contact Suzanne at suzanne.nardi@whfirstchurch.org.

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 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.

New Way to Give with Txt2Give!

Text "GIVE" to (860) 222-7870. Choose the fund you would like to donate to and follow the text prompts. It's amazingly fast and simple! View the instructional video [here](#).

January Reach Out – South Park Inn

South Park Inn's Emergency Shelter provides a safe, temporary residence to individuals that are literally homeless. The shelter welcomes individuals from all walks of life and has space to accommodate up to 85 men, women, and children every night. They are open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year, never closing their doors. Their emergency shelter, veterans' programs, respite, and supportive housing provide personalized support to each of the men, women and children that enter their doors. South Park Inn offers many services, including nutritious meals, personal hygiene supplies, laundry facilities, and bus passes for transportation. South Park Inn's goal is to provide a safe, temporary place to stay as individuals identify the supports and opportunities that lead to their own, long-term housing solutions. For more information or to donate: www.southparkinn.org. Thank you for your support.

Drive By Drop Off Food Drive

Donations for the West Hartford Food Pantry and Loaves & Fishes Meals-to-Go Program can be left Mondays during the JPWL curbside pick-up from 2 to 3 pm. The next Saturday drop off date is January 9th, from 10 am to 12 pm when volunteers will be at the Rotunda Entrance to collect your donations.

We're here for YOU!

The John P. Webster Library is offering CURBSIDE SERVICE Mondays from 2 to 3 pm, and by appointment. We have many new books for children, tweens, teens, and adults. Fiction, non-fiction, and more. Books on social justice, LGBTQ+ issues, environmental concerns, relationships, health -- contact us with questions or requests! By Phone: 860-232-3893. By Email: jpwebster@whfirstchurch.org. [Search the JPWL catalog.](#)