



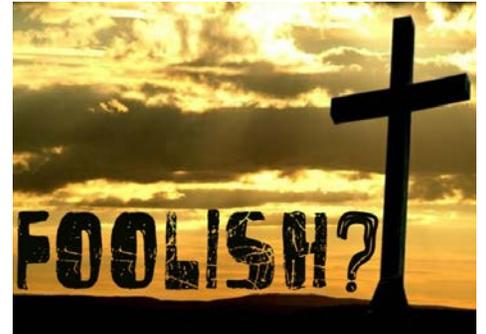
Sunday Notes

March 7, 2021



Looking Towards Sunday

This week's message brings us into the life of the Jesus-following community in Corinth, Greece during the First Century CE. We'll consider why Paul sent them a letter which includes presenting his case about why the message of the cross was not foolishness, as those around them believed it to be. All are invited to exercise our imaginations, and to consider a different perspective as we contemplate the paradox of the cross: foolishness or wisdom? Join us for virtual worship, followed by our Annual Meeting at 11:15am on Zoom.



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.

Annual Meeting of the Congregation During Cyber Coffee Hour

Notice is hereby given that a Congregational Meeting of the First Church of Christ Congregational of West Hartford, Connecticut, UCC, will be held via Zoom on Sunday, March 7, 2021 starting at about 11:15 AM to transact the following items of business:

1. To consider and vote on the minutes of the Annual Meeting of First Church held on March 8, 2020.
 2. To consider and vote on the minutes of the Special Meeting of the Congregation held via Zoom on May 3, 2020 regarding several areas of church life being impacted by the newly emerging COVID-19 outbreak.
 4. To consider and vote on a proposal approved by the Business Team and the Coordinating Team for expenditures of up to \$30,000 for video technology to enable live-streaming and up to \$15,000 for audio upgrades.
 5. To consider and vote on the proposed slate of Officers, Team Leaders and Team Members for First Church for the coming year,
 6. In accordance with the By-laws of First Church, action will be taken only on matters included in this Call to Meeting.
- Join by computer [here](#), Meeting ID: 924 416 446, Password: 899935; One tap mobile +16465588656,924416446#; by phone +1 646 558 8656.

Notice given on February 14, 2021 by Charlie Goodwin, Secretary of First Church

"Day of Tears"

Sunday, March 7th, at 4 pm via Zoom

In recognition of [Amistad Sunday](#), the JPWL presents a virtual, dramatic reading of "Day of Tears," Julius Lester's riveting novel-in-dialogue. It tells the story of the largest sale of enslaved individuals in American history. In early March, 1859, a Georgia plantation owner sold over 450 people to cover his gambling debts; this action would affect hundreds of lives for generations to come. The day was thereafter known as the "Day of Tears." Join Director Laurie Maria Cabral and the "Day of Tears" cast for this free public performance. Suitable for third-graders and up. [Register here](#).

Upcoming Events

2020 Annual Report

An Electronic copy of the 2020 Annual Report can be found [here](#). Paper copies of the report will be available for pick up at the North Door between the hours of 7:30-9:30 am and 2:30-5:30 pm - an Academy employee will have the reports at the check in station. If you arrive outside those time frames, please ring the doorbell and someone will bring a report out to you. Contact Suzanne to make other arrangements at suzanne.nardi@whfirstchurch.org.

Easter Donations

Easter Lily and Organ & Carillon donations can be made online [here](http://bit.ly/EasterDonations2021) (<http://bit.ly/EasterDonations2021>). This a wonderful opportunity to make a donation in honor of, or in memory of, a loved one. Click [here](#) for a printable form.

Curbside Service for the John P. Webster Library: Mondays from 2 to 3 pm, or by appointment. Contact us with questions or requests! By Phone: 860-232-3893. By Email: jpwebster@whfirstchurch.org. [Search our catalog.](#)

Lent Devotional and Calendar

The First Church and JPW Library staff are providing a Lenten devotional and a 40-day calendar. They are available on our website [here](#), or you may pick up a printed version of either resource at the JPW Library Curbside Service on Mondays between 2 and 3 pm, or by appointment.

Awakening the Spirit Book Group

Mondays at 12 pm via Zoom

We will finish our discussion of [Thomas Berry: A Biography](#) and will begin [Julian of Norwich: Wisdom in a Time of Pandemic- And Beyond](#) by Matthew Fox. "A time of crisis and chaos, the kind that a pandemic brings, is a time to call on our ancestors for their deep wisdom. Julian of Norwich (1342–ca.1429) is one of those calling to us today. After all, she lived her entire life during the worst pandemic in European history—the Bubonic plague that killed 40-50% of the population... Julian was a champion of the divine feminine in a century when patriarchy ruled. She insisted that the feminine penetrate every aspect of our understanding of the divine, all dimensions of a triune God. She is a forceful spokesperson for the 'motherhood of God' in our day, when a matricide that culminates in the despoiling and crucifixion of Mother Earth, is going on everywhere..." ([The Daily Good](#); see full review [here](#)). led by Susan IZard, Minister of Spiritual Life. Please contact the library to borrow or purchase (\$10) a book, or to join the discussion: jpwebsterdir@whfirstchurch.org.

Bible Study

Wednesdays from 6 to 7 pm via Zoom

This week we are discussing Romans 9:1-10:13 - God's Election of Israel. All are welcome. For more information, contact Jennifer deSimas at jpwebsterdir@whfirstchurch.org. Click [here](#) to sign up.

Lenten Book Study Featuring Amy-Jill Levine

Tuesday evenings in March (3/9, 3/16, 3/23, 3/30) at 7 pm via Zoom

Rev. Amie Giguere is leading a Lenten book study using readings and short videos from Dr. Amy-Jill Levine's [Entering the Passion of Jesus: A Beginner's Guide to Holy Week](#). Levine's wry and inviting style of storytelling, coupled with her deep understanding of Jewish history and culture, provides a coherent narrative of Holy Week for seekers of all backgrounds. Pastor Amie enhances the study with break-out sessions and meditative practices – a truly interactive, virtual conversation! We hope you will join us. Books are available to check out or purchase for \$10 through the JPW Library's curbside service on Mondays from 2-3 pm or by appointment. [Click here to register.](#)

Jolly Beggars Concert

Sunday, March 14th, at 3 pm on our YouTube Channel

The Jolly Beggars return to the Arts in the Center series! You may know members of the band from their musical contributions to First Church's monthly Celtic worship services - now come see the full band! The Jolly Beggars have been performing their arrangements of traditional Celtic folk music around the northeast since 2009 and have released four albums together, most recently in November 2018. Get your St. Patrick's week started off right with The Jolly Beggars! The easiest way to find us on YouTube is to go to whfirstchurch.org, and click on the YouTube logo at the top right. Enjoy!

Community wide event! Interfaith One Year Anniversary Commemoration

Sunday, March 14th, at 4 pm via Zoom

Advance registration required. There is a limit of 500, so register soon if you want to attend.

<http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=ye7d9tnab&oeidk=ao7ehmqmjy9a4d3c97>

Participants include town officials, local community clergy, and representatives from the Muslim community.

New Program for Lent: *Between the Notes*

Thursdays, March 18th and 25th, at 7 pm via Zoom

Understanding the stories behind great musical works and how they are constructed can provide a deeper awareness and appreciation of the music that enriches our lives. In *Between the Notes*, Jim Boratko, Director of Worship Arts at First Church, will take us behind the music and explain why certain pieces have such an impact on us. Join him for a deeper understanding of the *Requiem* by Gabriel Fauré. Jim will explore the background of the piece, the composer, and the creative elements Fauré employed that makes this work stand out among the greatest sacred choral works of all time. [Register here](#) to join this unique new event!

Announcements

Attention Easter Bunnies!

This continues to be a year of firsts! Although we are still meeting virtually, we will be working with our social workers to provide Easter Baskets for our Covenant to Care children who depend on us to brighten and make their Easter Day a happy occasion. Please call Janice Carter Hall (860-305-0940) or Carole Carter (860-690-1338) to arrange pick up or drop off of a basket to you. The Covenant to Care Committee will provide the Easter Basket, Easter grass, an age-appropriate suggestion list and a clear cellophane bag to put around the basket for each child.

Easter Baskets are due back no later than March 27th. Feel free to drop them off Mondays outside the rotunda from 2 to 3 pm during the curbside service for the JPW Library, or call/text Janice or Carole for pick-up. For the children and their families, we thank-you very much for making this endeavor successful!

Cardboard Paper Towel Tubes Needed

The Academy is in need of your cardboard paper towel tubes. The preK 3 and preK 4 are in the midst of a dinosaur unit and are constructing an 8 ft. dinosaur skeleton. If you can help our budding paleontologists, tubes can be brought to the North Entrance check in table between 7:30 am-9:00 am or from 2:30 pm -5:30 pm, Monday-Friday. You may also call Dawne Quinn @ 860-232-2106. Thanks!

Update from the Search Committee

After a few adjustments suggested by members of the congregation, the Senior Pastor Search Committee has sent the draft of our church profile to the Southern New England Conference of the United Church of Christ for review and validation. In this case, "validation" will signify that the church is in good standing with the conference, that the information on our ministerial history is complete, and that the financial information is presented thoroughly. Once this process is finalized, the Senior Pastor position at First Church will be posted on the national UCC website. As we enter the next phase of our work, the Search Committee will continue preparations to receive and review profiles from interested candidates. [Click here to see report.](#)

With thanks for your continued support and prayers,

Suzanne Carnes, Doug Evarts, Seth Holmes, Glen MacLeod, Ryan Mannix, Amy Melvin, Liz Oman-Wilfrid, Amber Rottman, and Robert Schunder



4 Ways to Donate

- **Text to Give**
Scan this or text "Give" to
(860) 222-7870
- **In Person**
- **Online**
whfirstchurch.org
- **By Mail**
12 South Main Street
West Hartford, CT 06107

Giving is Easy!

You may have started to see notices and e-mails about our "4 ways to give" campaign. We're spreading the word that among other ways, it's very easy to give gifts of stocks and securities to First Church. For more information on how to give gifts of securities, simply reach out to our appointed, local Financial Advisor Sue Banville at Edward Jones in West Hartford at: 860-521-2119.

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.

March Reach Out: The Bridge Family Center

The mission of the Bridge is "to foster the courage and strength in children and families to meet life's challenges and build fulfilling lives." Last year the Bridge Family Center served 8,500 children and families. Their services are as diverse as the community they serve. Whether in schools, counseling centers, family resource centers, or shelters, children, adults, and families in Greater Hartford can access the support they need, when they need it—and can expect to be met with care, respect, and optimism. The Bridge offers counseling for anxiety, stress, depression, substance abuse, divorce, and other life issues. They provide residential services to homeless youth and teens, parenting support, and social development for children at their centers. For more information or to donate to the Bridge Family Center, go to bridgefamilycenter.org or call 860-521-8035.

One Great Hour of Sharing Will Support Texas and Other Groups

For over 70 years, OGHS has provided churches of many denominations around the world the opportunity to help our neighbors in need. This special Lenten mission offering supports disaster and refugee/immigration and development throughout the world and the opportunity to share God's love with our neighbors. You can make your contribution through the church website by clicking on the *Giving* tab and selecting on *One Great Hour of Sharing*. Or, Text OGHS to (860)222-7870. The need is great and so is our calling.

Suitcase and Bicycle Donations

Cleaning Out Your Attic or Garage? The Outreach Team will be collecting gently used small suitcases and bicycles on April 10th for two organizations: Ct. Cycling Advancement Program and Ädelbrook. Thank you!

Last Saturday's Food Explorers had a wonderful time making Sugar Cinnamon Knots! The results were also wonderful – tender, scone-like rolls perfect for breakfast or snacking. Or decrease the sugar, and add garlic powder and parmesan cheese for a savory version. This simple, healthy recipe is a fun way for young chefs to spend a winter afternoon. You'll find the recipe on the [Food Explorers blog](#). Watch for more JPWL youth cooking programs in the coming months!

Submit prayer requests [here](#).

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](#).