



# Sunday Notes

April 25, 2021



## Looking Towards Sunday

With the news this week of the jury's decision about George Floyd's death, many voices have encouraged us to see this as the beginning of a journey towards appropriate accountability and justice. The fact that some of the key evidence in the case came in the form of a video made by a 17-year-old by-stander, reminds us that every perspective matters. As we look towards Sunday this week, I'm wondering: what do you know about injustice? When has your perspective been undervalued? And whose voices do we need to pay attention to as we move forward? I'm preaching on 1 John 3:16-24, the writer of this letter believes that this work begins with love. It's a simple answer to a complex problem -- will it work?



## Celebrate Earth Day by Sharing What You See

Today we will celebrate Earth Day with a view into what our members and friends see in their world. We invited you to share photos of something blooming in your yard, or a favorite nature photo from the last year. These will be included in our worship service for all to enjoy.

## 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](mailto:lauren.dube@whfirstchurch.org) to receive a link to our virtual classroom.

## Cyber Coffee and Conversation

Join us at 11 am 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.

## Hiroya Tsukamoto Arts in the Center Concert

Sunday, April 25th, at 1 pm streaming from the First Church West Hartford YouTube channel  
Hiroya came to First Church in January 2016 as part of an American tour, and now he will be returning for a live streaming performance! Hiroya is from Kyoto, Japan, and currently living in New York City. He is a composer, guitarist, and singer-songwriter who studied at Berklee College of Music and has released three records as part of Interoceanico and three solo records. The Boston Herald writes, "Hiroya Tsukamoto takes us to an impressionistic journey," and his music is, according to Jazz Review.com, "zealously recommended!" The live stream will appear on the main channel page at 1 pm, and will be available to watch any time. More information about Hiroya can be found at his website – <https://hiroyatsukamoto.com/>.

## Celtic Service

Sunday, April 25th, at 5 pm

Celtic Evening Worship is a candlelit service with beautiful Celtic music, prayer, reflection and Holy Communion. All are welcome at the table. A recording of the service will be available on our website [here](#).

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## Upcoming Events

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### Awakening the Spirit Book Group

Mondays at 12 pm via Zoom

We are finishing [Julian of Norwich: Wisdom in a Time of Pandemic-And Beyond](#) by Matthew Fox this week, and starting Frederick Buechner's [The Remarkable Ordinary: How to Stop, Look, and Listen to Life](#). The acclaimed theologian reflects on how both art and faith teach us to pay attention to the remarkableness right in front of us, to watch for the greatness in the ordinary, to use our imaginations to see the greatness in others and to love them well. "Walk alongside Frederick Buechner as his memories and experiences show the little moments of grace in the daily routines and terrible surprises of life" (review, [A Pilgrim in Narnia](#)). Led by Susan IZARD, Minister of Spiritual Life. Please contact the JPW Library to borrow or purchase a book (\$10), or to join the discussion: [jpwebsterdir@whfirstchurch.org](mailto:jpwebsterdir@whfirstchurch.org). Curbside service is Mondays from 2 to 3 pm or by appointment.

## Bible Study

Tuesdays from 6 to 7 pm via Zoom

We will begin a study of the Psalms next week. Please join us! All are welcome. For more info, contact Jennifer deSimas at [jpwebsterdir@whfirstchurch.org](mailto:jpwebsterdir@whfirstchurch.org). Click [here](#) to sign up.

## Food for Thought Book Group

Thursday, May 6th, at 5:30 pm via Zoom

We will discuss Louise Erlich's [The Night Watchman](#). "Based on the extraordinary life of the author's grandfather who worked as a night watchman and carried the fight against Native dispossession from rural North Dakota all the way to Washington, D.C., this powerful novel explores themes of love and death with lightness and gravity and unfolds with the elegant prose, sly humor, and depth of feeling of a master craftsman." Led by JPW Library Director Jennifer deSimas. Join the discussion! Books are available at the JPW Library Mondays from 2 to 3 p.m. or by appointment: [jpwebsterdir@whfirstchurch.org](mailto:jpwebsterdir@whfirstchurch.org).

**Next date for Drive-By Drop-Off Food Program:** Saturday, May 15th, 10 am to 2pm in the Church Parking Lot

## Juneteenth Update

June 19-20, 2021

First Church's Unity Green work group has been meeting regularly with a community team to plan West Hartford's Juneteenth celebration. A community picnic, mural unveiling, performances by local artists and students are among the events scheduled. On Sunday, June 20th, Rev. Erica's sermon will reflect on 1812 sermon by Rev. Nathan Perkins, "The National Sins and National Punishment, in the Recently Declared War" and we will hold a special dedication of Unity Green after worship. Please save the date -- join the celebration! Contact Barbara Lewis, Judy Schmitt, or Jennifer deSimas with questions.

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## Announcements

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Lauren Dube and friends are included in this NYT article: <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/04/14/realestate/west-hartford-conn-a-suburb-with-an-urban-aesthetic.html>

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

## Seed Library Needs Your Help!

WeHa Grows, the Seed Library located at the JPW Library, is open and offering seeds through the library's curbside services. We also need to restock our seed supply, so when you are out purchasing seeds for your garden, please consider picking up an extra packet for WeHa Grows. And if you'd like to help with seed sorting, repacking, labeling, and storing – a great project for middle or high school students – let us know! We need your help. Please contact Jennifer at [jpwebsterdir@whfirstchurch.org](mailto:jpwebsterdir@whfirstchurch.org) to find out more.

## 4 Ways to Give

1. [Give by Text](#): Text *GIVE* to (860) 222-7870. Click [here](#) to watch a demo video
2. [Give Online](#): Visit our website at <http://www.whfirstchurch.org/donate/give>
3. [Give by Mail](#): Mail checks to First Church, 12 S. Main Street, West Hartford, CT 06107
4. [Give Gifts of Securities](#): Contact local Financial Advisor Sue Banville at Edward Jones in West Hartford at 860-521-2119.

## Update from the Search Committee

Good news! The Southern New England Conference (SNEC) has validated our church profile and placed our listing for a Senior Pastor on the national Ministerial Opportunities website. [Click here to see final version of report](#). Interested candidates will be able to contact the SNEC, who will then forward their ministerial profiles to our Search Committee. We will then send our full church profile to the candidates who present the experience, qualifications and qualities that we seek. We are excited to share this news with you, as we enter the next phase of our search process! Please remember that once we begin to interview candidates, we will maintain our commitment to confidentiality for all potential candidates.

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

### **Coming Soon'ish – In-Person and Live Streaming Worship from the Meetinghouse!**

Funding was approved at the March 7th Annual Meeting for live streaming audio/visual equipment for the FC sanctuary. We hope the work is completed by mid-May at which time we plan to open the doors of First Church for in-person worship (subject to CT COVID-19 guidelines in place at that time). Addition of the new live streaming capability will allow us to continue the on-line worship services that have become a mainstay of our community throughout the past year. Stay tuned for updates...

### **Calling all Geeks**

First Church recently approved the installation of a state-of-the-art video system capable of livestreaming our worship services, as well as recording events such as weddings and performances. The operators of this system will be similar to producers in a master control room in a television studio. You will have the opportunity to manage 6 different cameras from a single console via a joystick controller. Several of the cameras have the ability to pan, tilt, and zoom in for the right shot.

Get in on the ground floor as we put this system together. The vendor installing the system, DNR Laboratories, will be installing the equipment over the next month. Once it is installed, they will be providing training on how to use the equipment. If this sounds like something that is exciting and interesting, let us know so you can be one of the first to learn how to operate this system.

Individuals 18 and older can sign up for this opportunity by emailing [jim.boratko@whfirstchurch.org](mailto:jim.boratko@whfirstchurch.org). Individuals between 14 and 17 can sign up with permission from their parents.

### **April Reach Out: Foodshare/Connecticut Food Bank Virtual 5k Run & Walk Against Hunger**

April 5th to April 11th, at the time and place of your choosing!

The walk will support efforts to raise awareness of and resources for the issue of food insecurity. Since 1982, when both Connecticut Food Bank and Foodshare were incorporated, nearly 600 million meals and nearly 720 million pounds of food have been distributed. Connecticut Food Bank/Foodshare has distributed food for the benefit of an estimated 545,000 people, including 164,000 children who face hunger today. As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact our lives, thousands of families throughout Connecticut are still in need of food assistance. The Race Against Hunger benefits Connecticut Food Bank/Foodshare to raise funds as they work around the clock to feed those in need throughout the state.

To sign up or to donate: Race Against Hunger! Online Donations

<https://runsignup.com/Race/Donate/CT/Wallingford/ConnecticutRunsTogether>. Thank you for your support.

### **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](#).