



# Sunday Notes

May 9, 2021



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## Looking Towards Sunday

Please join us this Sunday at 10 am for worship when we will honor our mothers in celebration of Mother's Day. It is also Susan Izard's last Sunday preaching at First Church. She will reflect on her ministry with us for the past 26 years in her homily titled: "Encircled in Love." All are welcome!

## Church School

The church school meets 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 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

### Awakening the Spirit Book Group

Mondays at 12 pm via Zoom

We are reading 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. Led by Minister of Spiritual Life Rev. Susan Izard. Please contact the JPW Library to borrow or purchase a book (\$10), or to join the discussion. Curbside service is Mondays from 2 to 3 pm or by appointment.

### Bible Study

Tuesdays from 6 to 7 pm via Zoom

We are studying the book of Psalms. 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.

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

### Celebrate Susan with the Jolly Beggars

On Sunday, May 23rd, from 5 to 6:30 pm on the Labyrinth

Join us for a concert with The Jolly Beggars Celtic band. Please join in listening to great music and celebrating Rev. Susan Izard's 26-year ministry as a part of the First Church staff! There'll be music and socializing (to the extent possible per COVID-19 regulations in place at that time). All are welcome!! Bring your lawn chair and mask! If it rains, we will gather socially distanced in the Meeting House.

### Food for Thought Book Group

Thursday, June 3rd, at 5:30 pm via Zoom

We will discuss [Such a Fun Age](#) by Kiley Ried. Can we connect across barriers of race, gender, wealth and privilege? Emira Tucker works as a babysitter for lifestyle guru Alix and her news anchor Peter husband. When Emira takes toddler Briar to an upscale supermarket, suspicions arise because she is Black and the child is white. A security guard accuses Emira of kidnapping, and is appeased only when she calls Peter. But a video of the incident goes viral, and that's when the "fun" starts. *Such a Fun Age* explores the stickiness of transactional relationships, what it means to make someone "family," and the complicated reality of being a grown up. Led by JPW Library Director Jennifer deSimas. Join the discussion! Books are available at the JPW Library Mondays from 2 to 3 pm or by appointment: [jpwebsterdir@whfirstchurch.org](mailto:jpwebsterdir@whfirstchurch.org).

## 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, and performances by local artists and students are among the events scheduled for Saturday. At First Church on Sunday, June 20, Rev. Erica's message will reflect on the words of Rev. Nathan Perkins in his 1812 sermon "The National Sins and National Punishment, in the Recently Declared War." First Church also will hold a special dedication for Unity Green Sunday at 11:30 am. All are welcome! Please save the date. Contact Barbara Lewis, Judy Schmitt, or Jennifer deSimas with questions.

**Curbside Service for the John P. Webster Library:** We continue to offer exceptional curbside service 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).

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## Announcements

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### 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.

### Update from the Search Committee

The Senior Pastor Search Committee has begun the process of reading and reviewing Ministerial Profiles of candidates who have inquired about the position here at First Church. New profiles continue to arrive, and we expect that this will continue for some time. During this period of discussion and discernment, we ask that you remember that we are bound to confidentiality on all matters relating to the candidates and where we are in our process. Please be patient; our work will take time. When we are ready, we will offer a full report to the congregation.

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.

### 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](#).

#### 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.

#### May Reach Out: Community Partners in Action

Community Partners in Action mission focuses on behavioral change and advocates for criminal justice reform. Their employment, basic needs, reentry, and recovery services work together to reduce recidivism, enhance public safety, and inform policy – all at a fraction of the cost of prison. Statewide, they serve thousands of men, women, and youth each year. Their programs help participants learn to think differently and to make better choices. The programs help participants to address their personal and basic needs as they prepare to become employable, re-engage in their education and stabilize their families. They also grow by giving back to their communities. For more information or to donate: <https://cpa-ct.org/our-work>. Community Partners in Action, 110 Bartholomew Avenue, Suite 3010, Hartford, CT 06106.

Submit prayer requests [here](#).