



Sunday Notes

May 30, 2021



Looking Towards Sunday

We have reason to celebrate! Our Meeting House will be open again on Sunday for worship in person! It is Memorial Day weekend, the unofficial start of summer! Let us also celebrate and worship God as we reflect on the understanding of God as Trinity, three in one. Celebrations are often accompanied by dancing! God as Trinity has sometimes been imagined as the divine dance. One image of the divine dance is pictured here from the blog site of Mike Morrell who co-authored a book by the same name with Richard Rohr. Whether you're able to join us in person or whether you will watch our livestream of the service, may we imagine ourselves as dance partners with God and with one another in this life. Looking forward to dancing together on Sunday!



COVID-19 Policies for Worship

At this time, we ask everyone to be masked while in the church building, for the safety of unvaccinated people, especially those under 12 years of age! A Check-In Greeter will ask for your name and phone number upon arrival for contact tracing purposes (but no preregistration). The Hoff Rotunda entrance will be open, allowing use of the elevator in addition to the Meeting House doors. Socially distanced seating, by household, will be required in the Meeting House. Gathering and a COVID-safe fellowship time will be outdoors only, on the labyrinth. As we venture forth in this new normal, all policies are subject to change.

Instructions for Viewing Livestream Services

On Sunday mornings around 10 am, go to our YouTube channel (link: [First Church, West Hartford - YouTube](#)). You should see our video for this Sunday's service first in our content. If you don't see it, you may have tried a little too early. Refresh your browser and it should appear.

While the service is streaming live, you will be able to chat with others. However, you need to create your own YouTube channel to do so. If you are prompted to create a channel, follow the instructions that will appear. Once your channel is created, go back to the First Church YouTube channel, and you can enter text in the chat feature that will communicate with others.

After the service ends, the content should still be available for viewing. Go to our YouTube channel (link above), click on the heading, "Uploads." A menu will appear. Choose "Past Live Streams," and the service should appear.

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 to receive a link to our virtual classroom.

In-Person Coffee Hour

We will be serving lemonade on the front lawn after the service today.

Upcoming Events

Bible Study

Tuesdays from 6 to 7 pm via Zoom

We are continuing our study of the Psalms with Psalm 4, a "Confident Plea for Deliverance from Enemies." Please join us! All are welcome. For more info, contact Jennifer deSimas at jpwebsterdir@whfirstchurch.org. Click [here](#) to sign up.

Tired of Zoom calls? Ready to be outside? So are we!

Join JPWL staff each Monday morning this summer as we walk to, around, and about West Hartford and nearby parks and places. Our first walk will be to Fairview Cemetery on **Monday, June 7th, at 9 am**. We will meet in the church parking lot. Wear appropriate shoes and bring a water bottle. Contact Jennifer with questions: jpwebsterdir@whfirstchurch.org.

The JPWL is open to patrons!

- Come in, check out and/or return books inside, browse the stacks, and read a book
- The church building is locked, please use the Rotunda entrance and call us when you arrive: 860-232-3893
- Our hours are: 9 am to 5 pm Monday thru Thursday, Sundays 9 am to 12 pm
- We are looking forward to welcoming you back to our beautiful library!
- The chocolates are waiting!

Food for Thought Book Group

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

We will discuss [Such a Fun Age](#) by Kiley Ried. The book 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. Please wear a mask. Contact Jennifer at jpwebsterdir@whfirstchurch.org with questions.

Drive by Drop off Food Collection (DBDO!)

Saturday, June 12th, July 10th, and August 14th, from 10 am to 12 pm

We will continue collecting food throughout the summer on the 2nd Saturday of every month. Volunteers from the Outreach Team will be on hand to take your contributions, which will be shared with the West Hartford Food Pantry and Loaves & Fishes' Meals To-Go program. You are making a direct impact on hunger in our towns!

The most needed items are:

- canned fruit & applesauce
- soup
- tuna & other canned meats
- rice
- baked beans
- cold cereal
- canned pasta

Juneteenth Plans at First Church

During our worship service 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." Refreshments will be served on the Labyrinth following worship.

First Church also will hold a special dedication for Unity Green Sunday at 11:30. All are welcome! Contact Barbara Lewis, Judy Schmitt, or Jennifer deSimas with questions. Be sure to join the Juneteenth festivities on the previous Saturday: A community picnic, mural unveiling, and performances by local artists and students are among the events scheduled.

Announcements

Flower Delivery

The Inreach Team is looking for volunteers to deliver flowers. Each Sunday the chancel flowers are divided into three bouquets and the delivery person is given a list of the names of people who will receive the flowers. The delivery can be made on Sunday or a day or so after. The people who receive the flowers are always very appreciative. If you would like to help, please let Rayda Bouma know at rbouma@comcast.net. If you have questions, call Nancy Ball or Rayda Bouma.

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.

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.

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. Once the system is installed, there will be training on how to use the equipment. Individuals 18 and older can sign up for this opportunity by emailing jim.boratko@whfirstchurch.org. Individuals between 14 and 17 can sign up with permission from their parents.

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. 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](#).

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](#).