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Living in Spirit • Committed to Service • Open to All

# first church

## WEST HARTFORD

### TIDINGS

APRIL 2021 • NEWSLETTER • WWW.WHFIRSTCHURCH.ORG • 12 SOUTH MAIN STREET, WEST HARTFORD, CT • 860-233-9605

## Step Into Easter



"Some things have to be seen to be believed...Some things have to be believed to be seen."

As we celebrate Easter and the season of resurrection that follows, we have come full circle on a year of the pandemic. What does resurrection mean in 2021? This year we have new hopes. 2020 had its own anxiety and hope, and now we have come around a full year, to the same season but a day that is new. The same milder spring weather is arriving, bulbs like daffodils and tulips bloom again, birds who have been gone a year are back. It is familiar and new.

As we step into Easter this year, we are encouraged to take these steps with faith and in the company of spiritual companions. For 2000 years people of faith have sought to interpret Jesus first steps in resurrection in their own times and circumstances. What is alive today? What is dead? This last year has required a new look at our spiritual practice, and at who are the vulnerable in our world. We

have found new ways to worship, to gather, and to be First Church.

In worship this month we will explore what it means to be living in the presence of a risen Christ in our day to day lives. Have you caught a glimpse of resurrection? Can you bear witness to new life? Theresa of Avila said: "Christ has no body on earth but ours!" Have you seen any such evidence?

When the disciples first saw the empty tomb it didn't make sense to them at all. It took a while to put it together and to go and tell the others. The resurrection is as astonishing as it is evident. A miracle of belief and sight.

"Some things have to be seen to be believed...Some things have to be believed to be seen."

Yours in Faith,

*Erica*

The Reverend Erica Wimber Avena,  
Interim Senior Pastor

Worship with us! All services are archived online to watch anytime at: [https://bit.ly/FC\\_Sunday\\_Worship](https://bit.ly/FC_Sunday_Worship)

#### APRIL 4

Easter Sunday

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

"First Steps in Resurrection"

Rev. Erica Wimber Avena

#### APRIL 11

Silver Lake Sunday

Psalm 133

"Risking Unity"

Rev. Amie Giguere

Taizé Worship, 5 p.m.

#### APRIL 18

Blessing of Animals

Luke 24:36b-48

"Got Fish?"

Rev. Erica Wimber Avena

#### APRIL 25

Earth Day (April 22)

John 3:16-24

"Love One Another"

Rev. Erica Wimber Avena

Celtic Worship, 5 p.m.

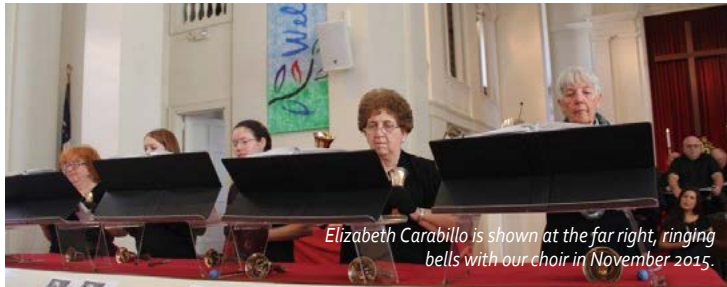
# Church Family News

■ You may submit your prayer requests to our pastors online at any time: [http://bit.ly/FCprayer\\_request](http://bit.ly/FCprayer_request)

■ Elizabeth Carabillo of Mechanicsburg, PA died on March 12. Please see below for a special way to remember Liz.

■ And the Grammy Goes to: **Matthew Worth!** In the category of Best Choral Performance, (an Award to the Conductor, and to the Choral Director and/or Chorus Master where applicable and to the Choral Organization/Ensemble), DANIELPOUR: THE PASSION OF YESHUAH was the winner and Matthew Worth is a member of the chorus.

*If you have an announcement to share, please call the office at 860-233-9605, x111.*



Elizabeth Carabillo is shown at the far right, ringing bells with our choir in November 2015.

## Support the Bells for Liz!

Long time church member Elizabeth Carabillo of Mechanicsburg, PA died on March 12. Her family will have a private celebration of her life. Liz was involved in many activities and leadership positions at First Church and is especially remembered as the volunteer director of our Handbell Choir for 17 years. Memorial contributions in Liz's name may be made to First Church, Handbell Choir Fund.

## Bikes & Bags Collection: April 10!

It's finally time! On Saturday April 10 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. donate your gently used bicycles (including bicycle parts) and small suitcases or overnight bags to the church. The Outreach team is collecting them for:



**Ct. Cycling Advancement Program and Rolling Anvils Bike Team** focuses on providing access for kids who have not historically had access to cycling due to economic or racial barriers. One major barrier is access to a safe bike, the tools to repair it, and replacement parts. A bike drive will provide our group the "raw materials" needed for us to teach basic mechanical skills while assembling a functioning bike. What is needed: • Adult and young adult bicycles in used condition. • Bike shop quality bikes. • Wheels, parts, or partly functional bikes. • Cycling/sport clothing.

**Bags for Ädelbrook** Ädelbrook is a licensed, certified, residential treatment facility serving children and young adults who are on the autism spectrum or have other behavioral/health challenges. Ädelbrook's Transitional Academy for high school graduates helps young adults acquire life skills. Please consider donating gently used luggage and sturdy totes to give these young people a hand.

## From the Moderator

Here we are in a new year of church leadership. At our First Church Annual Meeting on March 7, via Zoom, a slate of Church Officers, Team Leaders, and Team Members were voted on and approved. After two years as vice-moderator, I now find myself Moderator for the next two years - it's equal parts exciting, overwhelming, and a little scary. I know I have big footsteps to follow in as Judy Schmitt did such a great job the last two years – through clergy changes, pandemics, and all other ups and downs!



Judy rightly deserves a huge THANK YOU!

This year will bring big changes not only for me, but also for our church community. With the rollout of Covid-19 vaccines we will move closer to reopening our Meetinghouse for worship and other activities. Currently, a Covid-19 workgroup made up of the many constituencies of First Church leadership, has met and begun discussion about when and how changes will be implemented. Most importantly we need to continue to follow all of the CT Covid-19 safety protocols still in place – mask wearing may be mandatory a bit longer! Additionally, a project to equip the sanctuary with audio/visual technology to allow livestreaming of services is ramping up. This will allow First Church to stay in touch with members and friends who have enjoyed the online services throughout 2020, which are still continuing. There's much work to do to get things up and running, but the plan is that no one will be left "disconnected" from First Church worship. We are currently hoping to begin "hybrid" worship in mid-May, 2021. Watch for updates!

We also look forward to the eventual welcoming of a new Senior Pastor. The Search Committee has been continuing their good progress in putting together the Church Profile and teaming up with our conference staff to post the position. Look for updates from them in Tidings, email blasts, and other communications. It's exciting to think about what this new chapter will bring.

A host of other programs and activities are also happening, in addition to the above – be sure to check-out all forms of our on-line and on paper communication for news. Our Pastors and staff continue to provide outstanding leadership.

I'll close by thanking the dedicated folks (more than 60 in number!) serving currently on the several teams and numerous workgroups who donate their time and energy to make First Church "work" – without their devotion we would not be who we are today – 300+ years strong - where the Center meets the Square in West Hartford.

-Eleanor Wight, Moderator

## Worship in the Meetinghouse!

Funding was approved at the March 7th Annual Meeting for livestreaming audio/visual equipment installations for the sanctuary. If all goes as planned, the work will be completed by mid-May at which time we plan to open the doors of First Church for in-person worship.\* The addition of the new livestreaming capability will allow our extended community to continue to participate in worship services virtually. We are looking forward to being together. Please stay tuned for updates.

\*Subject to CT COVID-19 guidelines in place at that time.

Coming Soon(ish)



## “Live” Music to Enjoy!

Even though First Church’s “Arts in the Center” Concert Series couldn’t happen fully in our building this year, we have organized virtual live streaming concerts this spring for you to enjoy on our church’s Youtube channel!

**NEW TIME: Sunday, April 25 at 1 p.m.:**

### Hiroya Tsukamoto

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!”



This concert will be streaming from the First Church West Hartford YouTube channel. The live stream will appear on the main channel page at 1 p.m. that day, and will be available to watch any time.

More information about Hiroya can be found at his website - <https://hiroyatsukamoto.com/>.

## Updates from the Search Committee

The Search Committee continues to meet twice monthly with excellent attendance and participation. As of this writing, our church profile remains in the hands of the Southern New England Conference awaiting validation and positing. As we enter the next phase of our work, we continue preparations to receive profiles from interested candidates. We now have a dedicated email address and mailbox at church. Our plans also include a practice interview via Zoom with a local UCC pastor. The purpose of this exercise is to try out our questions and respond to questions and feedback from our mock candidate.

With thanks for your continued support and prayers,  
*Amber Rottman, Amy Melvin, Doug Evarts, Glen MacLeod, Liz Oman-Wilfred, Robert Schunder, Ryan Mannix, Seth Holmes, and Suzanne Carnes - chair*

## Calling all Geeks

Do people think you are a computer nerd? Do you anticipate the opportunity to get back to your gaming console to beat that next level? Do you fill your idle moments by playing games on your phone? Then have we got an opportunity for you!

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 16 and older can sign up for this opportunity by emailing [jim.boratko@whfirstchurch.org](mailto:jim.boratko@whfirstchurch.org). Individuals between 14 and 16 can sign up with permission from their parents.

**DUE DATE for TIDINGS:** The next deadline is **APRIL 14th**, for the **MAY** issue. Please send items to Joy Taylor:

[joy.taylor@whfirstchurch.org](mailto:joy.taylor@whfirstchurch.org)

**DUE DATES for SUNDAY NOTES & eNEWS:** Submissions are due each Tuesday by noon to Suzanne: [suzanne.nardi@whfirstchurch.org](mailto:suzanne.nardi@whfirstchurch.org).

Living in Spirit • Committed to Service • Open to All



Rev. Erica Wimber Avena, Interim Senior Pastor  
Rev. Amie Stuart Giguere, Acting Associate Pastor  
Rev. Susan Izard, Minister of Spiritual Life  
James Boratko, Director of Music Arts  
Lauren Dube, Minister for Children and Family Ministries  
Dawne Quinn, FCAFYC Director  
Suzanne Nardi, Office Manager  
Lisa Reed, Business Manager

  Church Office: 860-233-9605 • Fax: 860-232-8183  
J.P. Webster Library: 860-232-3893



First Church Academy for Young Children: 860-232-2106  
12 South Main St., West Hartford, CT 06107 • [www.whfirstchurch.org](http://www.whfirstchurch.org)

### SHARE!

Donate via text! This program was launched in December and it's an easy way for visitors to donate!

### 4 Ways to Donate

#### •Text to Give

Scan this or text "Give" to  
(860) 222-7870



#### •In Person

•Online  
[whfirstchurch.org](http://whfirstchurch.org)

#### •By Mail

12 South Main Street  
West Hartford, CT 06107



# Team Leadership Training held in March as New Leaders Begin

On Saturday, March 13, 35 members of our leadership teams gathered online to spend two hours together reflecting on our work in the coming year. Each of the Teams have full agendas at their monthly meetings, so this was a time to gather and to focus more on being than on doing, and more on possibilities than commitments already made.

Moderator Eleanor Wight charged the group, saying:

How will what we've learned during pandemic impact choices we make in our teams, our worship, our work in the wider community, our ways of joining together and supporting those who cannot be with us in person.

Look ahead and look around you – see where we can pick up where we left off and see where we can build on new ways we learned in pandemic times - sometimes the new things we try won't work, but trying new things is good. We don't need to drop all of the old ways either – the comfort found in familiar traditions and activities are reassuring and supportive especially in times of change. And sometimes we just like the "old way" better.

As we, our new First Church leadership team of 2021, continues its work this year let us remember to be positive, look at the big picture (we are part of God's mission), listen (to others and to your best self), and above all be Faith-full!

We had time for small and large group conversations, as well as online skill building, and we look forward to continuing these conversations in our Team Gatherings.



## What Was Your First Concert?

Kathi Boratko .....	Andy Williams or Bert Bacharach
Court Lewis .....	Beach Boys
Beverli Christensen .....	Beach Boys
Alan Darling .....	Beach Boys
Erica Avena .....	Bee Gees
Jennifer deSimas .....	Billy Joel
Jim Boratko .....	Blood Sweat & Tears
Dottie Stone .....	Boston Philharmonic
Deb Schunder .....	Bruce Hornsby & Chubby Checker
Suzanne Carnes .....	Chicago
Tom Gruber .....	Chicago
Linda Moffitt .....	Chicago, The Band or The Birds
Maryanne Barry .....	Crystal Ship or Alice Cooper
Wendy Wigglesworth .....	Eagles, Little River Band, Heart
Ginny Vocelli .....	Janis Joplin
Jenny Clark .....	Jim Brickman
Eleanor Wight .....	John Denver
Amy Melvin .....	KISS
Joy Taylor .....	KISS "with full make-up on"
Melinda Asensio .....	Kool & The Gang
Rayda Bouma .....	Leonard Cohen
Judy Labadia .....	Louie Armstrong
Brenda Worth .....	Peter, Paul & Mary
Nancy Ball .....	Peter, Paul & Mary
Linda Bronstein .....	Piano Recital
Carol Lennig .....	Ray Charles
Amie Giguere .....	Shawn Cassidy
Barbara Lewis .....	Simon & Garfunkel (then saw Paul Simon later in same location)
Terry Schmitt .....	Sisters High School Concert, "huge event"
Al Day .....	Stevie Wonder and The Supremes
Dave Unsworth .....	Talbot Brothers or Original Kingston Trio
Julia Rosa .....	Tina Turner
Jeff Mitchell .....	Van Halen
Dave Simpson .....	Vanilla Fudge
Judy Schmitt .....	West Suburban Symphony (Bob Dylan, CTA)

At the church Leadership Meeting Pastor Amie Giguere started us off with a fun ice-breaker. The question was, "What was the first concert you ever went to?" The variety, and in some cases similarity, of answers made for a fun discovery.

*Thank you Amy Melvin for making this list!*



## Palm Sunday

Join us for worship online, Sunday, March 28th. Rev. Susan Izard will be preaching on Mark 11:1-11 and Following the Way.

## Alfombra Palm Sunday

March 28, 1 pm on the Front Lawn (Rain Date: April 4th). Decorate the front steps of the Church with painted flowers to make way for Jesus this Palm Sunday. You can pick up your palms, watch the painters and march with us as we enter into Holy Week. Work clothes are encouraged; masks are required. If you are an immunocompromised family and would like a separate time to paint, please reach out to Lauren at Lauren.dube@whfirstchurch.org.

## Easter Egg Hunt

Starting March 28th at 1 pm all across town

Unfold the stories of holy week with a scavenger hunt challenge. Each day there will be a clue to lead you to a location where you can learn the next part of the Holy Week story. This can be done as a hybrid activity (so bring a smartphone!) or entirely virtual. At the end of the week there will be an "Egg-celent" prize waiting for you! For the first clue and further instructions, register here!

## Maundy Thursday

Thursday, April 1st, Online. Pastor Erica Wimber Avena will lead a Tenebrae and Communion Service online for Maundy Thursday.

## Good Friday

Good Friday Prayer Stations. Friday, April 2nd, in the Chapel Prayer Stations have been designed to provide each participant with an individual, silent experience of a "Walk through Holy Week." Nine prayer stations will be set up in the Chapel. Each will engage with the last week of Jesus' life on earth in a multi-sensory way. The time at each station will depend on each individual, and will take between 30-60 minutes in total. Sign-ups will be available for household units at 30 minute intervals, so there may be a second house-



hold unit present with you, but will be distanced in the space, and all will need to wear face masks, enter and exit through the exterior door directly into the chapel to sign in, take temperature and complete the health screening. Sign up for a time here. Please contact Rev. Amie with any questions amie.giguere@whfirstchurch.org.

## Good Friday Service Project

Join us on the Front Lawn from 1 to 3 pm on Good Friday to assemble "Seed Bombs." These resurrection-inspired bombs will be filled with compost and native seeds to be planted in open spaces to encourage and sustain the pollinator population. Work clothes are encouraged; masks are required. There will be other craft projects happening at this time as well. If you would like a separate time to serve or supplies to do it at home, please reach out to Lauren at Lauren.dube@whfirstchurch.org.

## Good Friday Video by SNEUCC

"Crucifixion and Black Death: A Seven Last Words Service of Lament." This online service is a production of the justice team at the Southern New England Conference, with participation and support by staff throughout the organization. Watch on Good Friday here: <https://vimeo.com/526335301>

## Easter

Easter Sunday is Sunday, April 4th. Pastor Erica Wimber Avena will lead the Easter Sunday Service online, and will be preaching on the First Steps of the Resurrection. This will feature an "Alleluia!" video collage from our church friends. To submit a video, reach out to Jim Bortako at Jim.Boratko@whfirstchurch.org.

## The Academy will celebrate The Week of the Young Child

The Academy will celebrate The Week of the Young Child, April 10-16th. The Week of the Young Child® is an annual celebration sponsored by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), the world's largest early childhood education association, with nearly 60,000 members and a network of 51 Affiliates.

The purpose of the Week of the Young Child® is to focus public attention on the needs of young children and their families and to recognize the early childhood programs and services that meet those needs.

NAEYC first established the Week of the Young Child® in 1971, recognizing that the early childhood years (birth through age 8) lay the foundation for children's success in school and later life. The Week of the Young Child™ is a time to plan how we—as citizens of a community, of a state, and of a nation—will better meet the needs of all young children and their families.

Please join the Academy in honoring and appreciating our youngest community members and those who care for them.

Families of young children can join in the fun by visiting NAEYC WOYC find a week's worth of activities to do with their children!





**JOHN P. WEBSTER  
LIBRARY**  
*Resources for Faith & Life*

Jennifer deSimas, Library Director: [jpwebsterdir@whfirstchurch.org](mailto:jpwebsterdir@whfirstchurch.org)  
Karla Grafton, Assistant Librarian: [jpwebsterlib@whfirstchurch.org](mailto:jpwebsterlib@whfirstchurch.org)  
General Inquiries: [jpwebster@whfirstchurch.org](mailto:jpwebster@whfirstchurch.org) Phone: 860-232-3893  
Explore our catalog online! <https://jpwebster.biblio.org/eg/opac/home>

**Staff Hours:**  
Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Sunday 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

**Curbside Services**  
2 to 3 p.m. on Mondays or  
by appointment.

## Easter Tidings from the JPWL

*No healing was ever designed to take you back to where you were but to move you on into new adventures with God, of healing our relationship with God, with each other, with ourselves, and with the community of which we are members.*  
– Russ Parker, author

As we emerge from the bleakness of the Covid-19 pandemic, my heart stirs with careful relief and hope. Vaccinations and improved metrics signal the eventual end of physical suffering, but I know we will grieve for years to come.

I wonder what our “healing” will look like; what is its “design?” Will we confront the social and environmental challenges that were so urgently identified during quarantine? Are we ready to start these “new adventures with God?”

In our healing, let us remember: Our planet is sacred. All life is to cherish. God’s grace is readily found in the harmony of hearts in communion.

If this is the design our healing is to take, what better time than Easter to embrace it? We rise from the dark and open our hearts to God and to each other. I pray it will be so.

In hope and peace,  
Jennifer deSimas

## WeHa Grows Seed Library

You may recall in the spring of 2019 church member Jackson Carbone created a seed library for the town as his Eagle Scout project. Jackson named the seed library *WeHa Grows*, and it is housed in the John P. Webster Library reading room. Jackson provided seeds, labels, envelopes and more, including a lovely storage cabinet to hold seeds and supplies.

*WeHa Grows* will be opening soon to offer seeds through the library’s curbside services. We need to restock our seed supply, so when you are out purchasing them for your garden, please consider purchasing one or two extra packets to donate.

We are also looking for a *WeHa Grows* volunteer to help with seed sorting, repacking, labeling, and storing. If you enjoy gardening, or would like to help us get *WeHa Grows* ready for summer, please consider lending us a few hours of your time each month. Contact the JPW Library if you are interested. Thank you!

## Ongoing Services

- Reference and reader’s advisory services by phone and email
- Curbside service 2-3 p.m. on Mondays, and by appointment
- Device advice to talk you through your gadget’s cyber issues
- Church Archives access for researchers
- Place a hold over the phone, or via the JPWL online catalog

## Search our catalog

We are adding new books and resources (nonfiction, fiction, children’s and more) every week.

For the protection of our patrons and staff, all materials are quarantined for three days after they are returned, per American Library Association guidelines, and might not be available to check out. Thank you for understanding.

## JPW Library Book Groups

Books are available at the JPWL via curbside service on Mondays from 2 to 3 p.m. Please contact the library to arrange an alternate pick-up time or to join the discussion.

**AWAKENING THE SPIRIT** led by Minister of Spiritual Life Susan Izard, meets Mondays at noon via Zoom. They will be reading *Julian of Norwich: Wisdom in a Time of Pandemic* by Matthew Fox. As an anchoress (one who lives a solitary, religious life), Julian of Norwich “sheltered in place” during the bubonic plague and throughout her life. “A theologian way ahead of her time, Julian held a feminist understanding of God as mother at the heart of nature’s goodness. Matthew Fox shares her teachings in this powerful and inspiring book.”

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT** led by JPW Library Director Jennifer deSimas, meets at 5:30 on April 8 to discuss *The Great Alone* by Kristin Hannah. “In this unforgettable portrait of human frailty and resilience, Hannah explores the modern American pioneer and the spirit of a vanishing Alaska. Ernt Allbright, a former POW, comes home from the Vietnam war a changed man. He makes an impulsive decision to move his family to Alaska, where they will live off the grid in America’s last true frontier. His daughter Leni, 13, dares to hope that a new land will lead to a better future for her family. Alaska soon seems to be the answer to their prayers, but as winter approaches and darkness descends, Ernt’s fragile mental state deteriorates and the family begins to fracture. *The Great Alone* is a daring, beautiful, stay-up-all-night story about love and loss, the fight for survival, and the wildness that lives in both man and nature.” Join the discussion!

## Check out our new books!

### Adult Nonfiction

*Dusk, Night, Dawn: On Revival and Courage* by Anne Lamott  
*This Chair Rocks* by Ashton Applewhite  
*A Shape in the Dark: Living and Dying with Brown Bears* by Bjorn Dihle  
*The Torah: A Beginner’s Guide* by Joel S. Kaminsky and Joel N. Lohr

### Adult Fiction

*How Beautiful We Were* by Imbolo Mbue  
*A Thousand Ships* by Natalie Haynes

### Youth & Children’s

*Before the Ever After* by Jacqueline Woodson  
*Silence (Godly Play)* by Jerome W Berryman; illustrated by Lois Kilberg  
*Making Room for Everyone: More Stories for Building a Children’s Chapel* by Bill Gordh  
*Milo Imagines the World* by Matt de la Peña; illustrated by Christian Robinson  
*Dragon Boat Festival Wishes* by Jillian Lin, illustrated by Shi Meng



# APRIL REACH OUT:



**APRIL 5 - APRIL 11**

The Foodshare/Connecticut Food Bank Virtual 5k Run & Walk Against Hunger 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. This virtual 5K run and walk takes place between April 5th - April 11th at the time and place of your choosing!

To sign up or to donate: Race Against Hunger! Online Donations <https://runsignup.com/Race/Donate/CT/Wallingford/Connecticut-RunsTogether>

Thank you for your support.

## Reach Out Donations

*Each month the First Church Outreach Team designates "Reach Out" collections for a worthy organization of their choice.*

*Should you wish to add to our collection, please send in your check to the church and include "Reach Out" in the memo or make your donation online or through CCB. If you wish to donate to a different cause, please send the payment directly to that organization. They will provide you with the proper tax documentation. - Lisa R. Reed, Business Manager*

## 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

## Thank You Easter Bunnies!

Thanks to you, our social workers were able to provide 26 filled Easter Baskets for our Covenant to Care children who depend on us to brighten and make their Easter Day a happy occasion.

## Thank You Mission Partners

Thank you to our Mission Partners who have provided segments on what our support means to them, especially this year. The recent participants are pictured here.

- March 7. The Bridge Family Center
- March 14. Alysa Gudati, CEO Adlebrook (support them with bag collection, see p. 2)
- March 21. Joseph Dickerson and Ryan McMann on behalf of Ct. Cycling Advancement Program in Hartford, and Rolling Anvils Bike Team who will be collecting bikes for children and youths in the Hartford area on April 10 (see p. 2).



## Outdoor Clean-up Day!

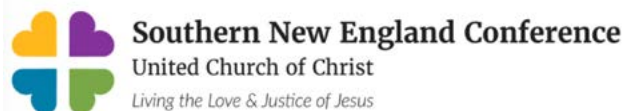
In recognition of Earth Day 2021, we're going to spruce up the grounds at First Church.

We have scheduled our annual outdoor cleanup for 9:30 a.m. on Friday, April 23, 2021.

Bring your own lawn rakes, gloves, and tarps, and anything else you think will come in handy! Interested persons may contact Mark Swanson with questions or scheduling at 860-936-8255.



Clean up day 2018. Photo from the archives.





first church  
WEST HARTFORD

12 South Main Street  
West Hartford, CT 06107



# Taizé

*Worship Services*

APRIL 11

# Celtic

*Evening Worship*

APRIL 25

## Church School

Sunday school classes will continue to meet at 10am Sunday mornings via zoom. Reach out to Lauren at [Lauren.dube@whfirstchurch.org](mailto:Lauren.dube@whfirstchurch.org) for the link!

Our asynchronous lessons will continue as well, with special "worship-at-home" opportunities for our families! Lent-at-home kits are available and will contain all the materials for these activities, as well as other crafts, games and coloring pages to prepare for Easter. Please reach out to Lauren to receive a kit and the link to our virtual classroom.

## Yoga classes are open to all

Nancy Murray holds yoga classes live, via Zoom on Tues. at 7 p.m. and Wed. and Thurs. 9:15 a.m. This has been a nice way to connect with our yoga community. Nancy is also holding a daily meditation class at 12:15 p.m. Email: [nancy@deepeacect.com](mailto:nancy@deepeacect.com) for links and fees.

## Weekly Bible Study:

Now on Wednesdays, from 6 to 7 pm via Zoom. For more information, Jennifer deSimas at [jpwebsterdir@whfirstchurch.org](mailto:jpwebsterdir@whfirstchurch.org).

## Food Explorers Recipe

Our young chefs had a delightful time making Cinnamon Sugar Knots last month with the Food Explorers. The results were wonderful. Try it yourself, here's the recipe: <https://food-explorers.com/blog/f/cinnamon-sugar-knots>.

## Announcing 2021 Youth Scholarship Applications Available

College Scholarships: Attention High School Seniors: Please note that college scholarship applications are available, with an application deadline of May 15.

Silver Lake Scholarships: Any youth who wishes to attend Silver Lake this summer and would like to apply for a scholarship, please find the scholarship via the church website. The deadline is also May 15.

The links to both applications may be found on our website: [www.whfirstchurch.org/ministries/children-youth/scholarships](http://www.whfirstchurch.org/ministries/children-youth/scholarships)

