



Sunday Notes

June 6, 2021



Looking Towards Sunday

Sunday will be a day of celebrating our young people at First Church!! "Confirm, not conform" has been the guiding principle of this year's confirmation class curriculum. We've invited the youth to really explore what their faith means to them, to take ownership of it, to internalize it, and to decide what difference it makes in their lives. As we make our promises to them and they to us, there is an opportunity for each of us to reflect on the same. Sunday will be a celebration of the Spirit in and among us as we welcome Andrew, Joey, Emily, Connor, and Andrew into full membership of First Church during worship. Please come (or join us via Livestream) and bear witness to this extraordinary act of faith which will take place. And there's more - Sunday evening from 6 to 6:30 pm we'll celebrate our graduates in the parking lot. Please plan to drive through with decorated cars to salute these youth and young adults graduating from high school and college. Let the celebration begin!



Today's Altar Flower Dedication

The flowers adorning our altar today were donated by Bev and Paul Truebig in memory of Ray Truebig, Paul's dad.

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.

No Church School Today

In-Person Coffee Hour

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

Salute to Our Graduates: Class of 2021

You are invited to celebrate our high school and college seniors! The graduates will be standing in our **church parking lot between 6 and 6:30 pm on June 6th** (Rain Date is June 7th) to receive your well-wishers in a "drive by" format again this year. Please enter the parking lot via the Farmington Avenue entrance and exit via the driveway onto Isham Road. Ideas to consider: hang signs from your vehicles, bring noise makers, drop a card in a basket by the rotunda doors, and/or any other creative things you can imagine to safely salute our graduates! We know church members are interested and invested in our young people and this is an opportunity to honor this milestone in their lives.

Submit prayer requests [here](#).

Upcoming Events

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 tomorrow, **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.

Bible Study

Tuesdays from 6 to 7 pm via Zoom

We are continuing our study of the Psalms with Psalm 5: "Trust in God 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.

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!

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

GHIAA Assembly

The next Greater Hartford Interfaith Action Alliance (GHIAA) assembly is Tuesday, June 15th, from 7 to 8:30 pm via Zoom. Please [register here](#) to receive the Zoom link. Registration is required. At this gathering, we will be joined by our leaders, politicians, local superintendents, and others as we examine and celebrate GHIAA's campaign wins over the last year, discuss ongoing action needed on a couple of our issues (still being ironed out as the legislative session winds down), and discuss GHIAA-wide next steps for core teams as we approach summer. Please join the First Church GHIAA core team at this virtual event on June 15th. Kindly let Amie Giguere amie.giguere@whfirstchurch.org know once you've registered so we know how many will be representing our congregation!

Juneteenth Plans at First Church

During our worship service on Sunday, June 20th, 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 am. All are welcome! Contact Barbara Lewis, Judy Schmitt, or Jennifer deSimas with questions. Be sure to join the Juneteenth festivities on Saturday, June 19th: A community picnic, mural unveiling, and performances by local artists and students are among the events scheduled.

You Are Invited to Intergenerational Camp!

Wednesdays, June 16th to July 21st, from 5:30 to 7 pm

This year's theme for Vacation Bible School is "Be Loved. Be Kind. Be You." Compassion Camp will take place on six evenings this summer. I hope you can join us as we explore what it means to have compassion for ourselves, others, and the world through engaging crafts, catchy music, and intergenerational worship experiences! Contact Lauren Dube at lauren.dube@whfirstchurch.org for more information. [Register Here](#) for this family-friendly opportunity for ALL ages!

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.

June Reach Out: Silver Lake Conference Center

Silver Lake is a year-round outdoor ministry of the Southern New England Conference of the United Church of Christ. They host close to 1,000 young people each summer and more than 3,000 retreat participants in the off-season. In addition to groups from Southern New England UCC churches, they consistently offer retreat space to other Christian denominations, Jewish groups, school groups, and hobbyists. Our summer program is open to all, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender identification, or sexual orientation.

Silver Lake is a place where young people experience nature, make new friends, and explore their faith. With more than 60 acres of wooded land on lakeside shores, Silver Lake offers many opportunities for young people to take risks and try new things with the support of an intentional Christian community. For more information or to donate:

<https://www.silverlakeect.org>. Thank you.

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](#).