



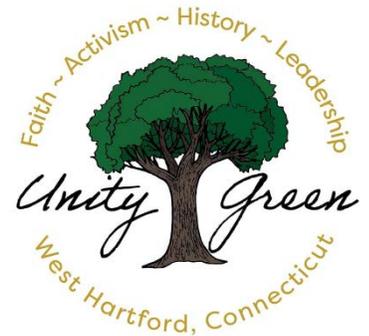
Sunday Notes

June 20, 2021



Looking Towards Sunday

How do people of faith address systemic sins and institutionalized wrongs? How do we pull ourselves and our communities out of the legacy of problems we are captive to? Rev Nathan Perkins's answer in 1812 was to call the members of our congregation to fast and to pray over the fraught legacies in our new country of: slaveholding, gun violence "dueling," and addictions "intemperance." He delivered a Sunday sermon on July 23rd that was later published by the church -- all 30 pages of it. A 30-page sermon takes about an hour and a half to deliver verbally. This Sunday I won't ask you to fast -- we are all of us recovering from the pandemic restrictions which has been a kind of fast, forcing us to change our behavior for the good of the whole. I will not deliver a 30-page sermon either, but I will preach on Rev. Perkins' text, Ezra 9:5-6, which is a call to prayer, and I will encourage you to do what you can, where you are, to work with other people of faith -- known and unknown to you, for justice and righteousness. As we celebrate the dedication of Unity Green, we step into the legacy of those who have fought and prayed for justice, and we seek to improve the legacy for future generations. All are welcome!



Juneteenth Plans at First Church

Join us for worship on Sunday, June 20th, when Rev. Erica's message will reflect on the words from Rev. Nathan Perkins' 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 on Sunday at 11:30 am. All are welcome for celebration and more refreshments.

Today's Altar Flower Dedication

The flowers on our altar today were donated by the IZARD Family in honor of their daughter Margaret's wedding to Elias Oskoui.

COVID-19 Policies for Worship

The COVID Advisory workgroup has outlined the following procedures for in-person worship. Everyone is 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 at the doors to the Meeting House for contact tracing purposes (but no pre-registration). The Hoff Rotunda entrance will be open, allowing the use of the elevator in addition to the Meeting House doors. Socially distanced seating, by household, will be required in the Meeting House. Gathering for a COVID-safe fellowship time will be outdoors only, on the labyrinth. As we venture forth in this new normal, the COVID Advisory workgroup will continue to adjust and adapt policies as appropriate.

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.

A Note on the Livestreaming

We are doing our best to provide Livestreaming access to Sunday worship in the Meeting House. The installation of our equipment on order is scheduled to begin later this month. In the event that the Livestreaming fails while you are watching a service, please check our YouTube channel later in the day for the recorded version.

Outdoor Summer Church School

All children are invited to join us on the labyrinth at 9 am on Sundays through June to play games, do crafts and learn bible stories together, in person! This will be a one-room schoolhouse, and middle and high schoolers are encouraged to join us as leaders! Play clothes are suggested. Register your children today by emailing Lauren at lauren.dube@whfirstchurch.org. This event is outside and is weather permitting.

In-Person Coffee Hour

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

Upcoming Events

The JPWL is open!

- Come in, check out and/or return books inside, browse the stacks, and read a book.
- The church building is locked, please ring the JPWL bell when you arrive.
- Our hours: 9 am to 5 pm Monday thru Thursday, and Sundays from 9 am to 12 pm

Walking Group

Monday, June 21st, at 8:30 am (Please note the time change!)

Join JPWL staff for a Monday Meander during June and July this summer as we walk to, around, and about West Hartford (no meeting on July 5th). Because we were rained out last Monday, we'll try again to walk at the MDC Reservoir on Farmington Ave. (Rte. 4). We will meet at the park map near the main trailhead entrance. Wear appropriate shoes and bring a water bottle. Contact the library with questions: jpwebster@whfirstchurch.org or 860-232-3893.

Bible Study

Tuesdays from 6 to 7 pm via Zoom

We are continuing our study of the Psalms with [Psalm 6](#): "Prayer for Recovery from Grave Illness." Please join us! All are welcome. For more info, contact Jennifer deSimas at jpwebsterdir@whfirstchurch.org. Click [here](#) to sign up.

You Are Invited to Intergenerational Camp!

Wednesdays, June 23rd 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!

Carillon Concert Series

Thursdays in July at 6:30 pm on the Front Lawn

Bring a chair or blanket to the front lawn of the church and enjoy a free concert from our "bell tower." Eve Schmitt will play on July 1st, Paul Stelben on July 8th, Margaret Angelini on July 15th, Kristin Vece and Matt Bronson on July 22nd, and Michael Gancz on July 29th.

UCCMA Concert

The United Church of Christ Musicians Association (UCCMA) holds a biannual conference of great workshops and worship experiences. One of the highlights of the conference is a concert featuring local artists near the hosting location. The conference was to be held in Glastonbury from July 8th to 10th. Unfortunately, this year the conference needs to be held virtually due to the pandemic, including this remarkable concert.

The artists for this year's concert include:

- **Chorus Angelicus and Gaudeamus**, the award-winning children's chorus and its adult counterpart, directed by Dr. Gabriel Lövfäll.
- **The Hockanum Valley Ringers**, a premier handbell choir conducted by Lawrence A. Berdensley.
- **Voices of Freedom**, a gospel choir lead by the Rev. Lisa Clayton.
- **The Paul Winter Consort**, the seven-time Grammy award winning artist, along with cellist Eugene Freisen, vocalist Theresa Thomason, and musician Jeffrey Boratko.

This concert will be available to the general public for the nominal cost of \$10. You can register to access this concert through the [UCCMA website](#).

Drive by Drop off Food Collection

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

Support the First Church Outreach Team's monthly Drive-By, Drop-Off Food Drive for West Hartford's Food Pantry and Loaves & Fishes in Hartford. Drive into the parking lot from Farmington Avenue, and volunteers will gratefully unload your donation. Exit onto Memorial Drive without even getting out of your car! Officials for the West Hartford Food Pantry this week issued a plea for some specific items.

There is a great need for:

- Spaghetti
- Pasta sauce
- Peanut butter
- Fruit/applesauce
- Tuna
- Rice

Summer Book Discussion Planned

Monday, July 26th, from 12 to 1:30 pm

Join Rev. Amie Giguere and Lauren Dube for a summer book discussion. They will discuss [Finding Home](#) by Julie K. Aageson. "*Finding Home offers luminous, grounded wisdom from a luminous, grounded writer. Aageson invites us into a journey of spiritual reflection upon the things that matter most--relationship, story, divine indwelling, vocation, generosity, gratitude, failure, and those pesky questions of meaning underlying them all*" (online review). We hope to offer both in-person and Zoom participation for this event. Please let us know if you are interested in joining us by contacting us at the JPW Library. Books will be ready for pick-up by Monday, June 28th.

Announcements

Office Staff Summer Hours

The church office staff will be holding in-person office hours on Tuesdays and Fridays from 10 am to 2 pm during the summer. Call the office at 860-233-9605 to be let into the building. Suzanne, Lisa, and Sarah look forward to helping you!

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.

Altar Flowers Dedications

Sponsoring altar flowers is a meaningful way to honor or remember loved ones. Still available are these summer dates: **July 4th, 11th, and 25th; August 15th and 29th.** To place your order, please contact Suzanne in the church office at 860-233-9605 x111, at suzanne.nardi@whfirstchurch.org, or [order online here](#).

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.

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. 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: www.silverlakect.org. Thank you.

Submit prayer requests [here](#).