



Sunday Notes

July 4, 2021



Looking Towards Sunday

This Sunday we will celebrate communion safely with pandemic appropriate "communion packets" available for you to pick up when you enter the Meeting House. In the New Testament, people brought their own food and drink when they celebrated communion which suddenly seems current and appropriate. I am preaching on Mark 6:1-6, where Jesus expresses frustration with the limits of being a prophet among one's own people. Have you ever experienced someone's low expectations limiting your ability to accomplish something important? What are the conditions under which miracles happen? Join us online or in person!



Unity Green as seen from FC Academy playground.

In the last two Sundays we have had dozens of folks joining us on the Livestream and we regret the technical failures you have experienced. Please be patient while we await the installation of the new equipment, which is underway now. Bear in mind that recordings of the services are available on our YouTube channel a few minutes after the service has ended and on our website the following week.

Today's Altar Flower Dedication

The flowers adorning our altar today were donated by the First Church Flower Fund.

Worship at 9 am and Keep Cool – Starting July 4th!!!

Summer 2021 adjustments to worship include a change in worship time on Sunday! **Sunday worship will be at 9 am instead of 10 am** in the Meeting House from the 4th of July thru Labor Day. We will resume the 10 am worship time on Homecoming Sunday, September 12th. This will allow us to achieve several ends:

- Maintain Livestream opportunities for those who cannot gather in person
- Allow us to appreciate the Meeting House, the organ, the piano, etc.
- Plenty of room for everyone
- By worshipping earlier in the day we hope to avoid the worst of the summer heat

Outdoor Summer Church School

All children are invited to join us on the labyrinth at 10 am on Sundays through August 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.

The church building will be closed on July 5th for the Independence Day holiday.

Upcoming Events

The JPWL is open to patrons!

Starting next Sunday, July 11th, the JPWL will be open Sunday mornings 8:30 - 11:30 am to coordinate with summer worship time. The altered schedule will continue through Labor Day. We will resume standard operating hours (9 am to Noon) on Homecoming Sunday (September 12th). Please note that the JPWL will be closed Sunday, July 4th and Monday, July 5th for the holiday.

The First Church Bible Study group is on a break for the summer.

The Monday Walking Group will not meet tomorrow, July 5th. We will resume our regular schedule next week.

Submit prayer requests [here](#).

You Are Invited to Intergenerational Camp!

Wednesdays, July 7th 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 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 Ms. Lauren Dube for a summer book discussion in the JPW Library. The group 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). Books are available to check out from the JPW Library. We hope to offer both in-person and Zoom participation for this event.

Announcements

Office Staff Summer Hours

The church office staff will be holding in-person office hours on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 10 am to 2 pm during the summer. Suzanne, Lisa, and Sarah look forward to helping you!

Help Wanted

Do you enjoy working with children? First Church Academy for Young Children is looking for substitute teachers. The Academy serves children six-weeks to five years old and is open from 7:30 am until 5:30 pm. Coverage is needed for all classrooms and for a variety of shifts. We can work with you! If you are interested in learning more, contact Dawne Quinn, Education Director at dquinn@firstchurchacademy.org. View job description [here](#).

Substitute Sextons Needed to serve at Weddings, Funerals, and Sunday Services

With the influx of weddings and funerals due to previous postponements from the pandemic, First Church needs additional Sextons to add to our pool to be sure we have proper coverage for these events. Weddings require attendance at the rehearsal the evening before and on the wedding day, arriving 90 minutes prior to the event to open up the building. Sunday services require about 5 hours each. These are paid services, or you can choose to volunteer. Please contact Mark or Lisa for more details. Mark.swanson@whfirstchurch.com 860-233-9605 x 108, Lisa.reed@whfirstchurch.com x 105.

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 11th, and 25th; August 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.

July Reach Out: Miracle League of Connecticut

The Miracle League of CT provides opportunities for Connecticut's children with physical and cognitive challenges to participate in recreational, educational and cultural activities in an accessible, nurturing and noncompetitive environment where families can come together to cultivate new friendships and experience the joy of play. In addition to baseball activities, the Miracle League sponsors the *I Can Bike* program in conjunction with the West Hartford Leisure Services Department that teaches children with special needs how to ride a two-wheel bicycle over the course of a one-week camp. Miracle League 68 South Main Street BSMT 100, West Hartford, CT. Email: info@miracleleaguect.org