



Sunday Notes

July 11, 2021



Looking Towards Sunday

What does a summer blockbuster from 1981 have to do with our worship service this Sunday? Even if you weren't around 40 years ago, or perhaps are not a movie buff, you've likely to have heard about the first Indiana Jones movie - Raiders of the Lost Ark. Steven Spielberg's masterpiece is considered by many to be one of the greatest films ever made. Three more Indiana Jones movies followed, and a fifth one is promised for release in Summer 2022! What's special about the first of Indie's adventures is the object of his search - the Ark of the Covenant. The painter of this image is unknown, but it's a portrayal of King David moving the Ark from Gibeon to Jerusalem to be housed in the Temple. This story comes from 2 Samuel 6 which is our Scripture for this week. We hope you'll join in on the adventure to discover God's powerful presence among us. In the meantime, maybe, just for fun, you'll use these rainy days to watch or re-watch the film!

Today's Altar Flower Dedication

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

Sunday worship will be at 9 am instead of 10 am in the Meeting House from July 4th thru Labor Day.

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.

Upcoming Events

The JPWL is open to patrons!

Starting today, the JPWL will be open Sunday mornings 8:30 - 11:30 am to coordinate with summer worship time. We will resume standard operating hours (9 am to Noon) on Homecoming Sunday, September 12th. On weekdays, the Library is open 9 am to 5 pm Monday-Thursday. Come in, check out and/or return books inside, browse the stacks, and read a book.

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

Walking Group - Join JPWL Staff for a Monday Meander!

For our next walk, please meet in the church parking lot **Monday, July 12th, at 8:30 am**

For those who would like to join us for coffee and conversation afterward, we'll meet at **the Spot** (on the corner of Isham Rd. and Memorial Rd. in West Hartford) **at 10 am** Contact Jennifer with questions: jpwebsterdir@whfirstchurch.org.

You Are Invited to Intergenerational Camp!

Wednesdays, July 14th 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." Margaret Angelini will play on July 15th, Kristin Vece and Matt Bronson on July 22nd, and Michael Gancz on July 29th.

Drive by Drop off Food Collection

Saturday, 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

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. "*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. **Finding Home** offers luminous, grounded wisdom from a luminous, grounded writer.*" (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.

Sun is Shining Concert Series

Come join us on the church lawn for our August concert series! Bring some good dancing shoes for some high-energy jazz, funk, rock, and more. All performances are from 5 - 7 pm on Tuesdays (rain date the following Thursday, same time). All concerts are free of charge and donations to the West Hartford Food Bank will be gratefully accepted.

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!

Security Workgroup Update

The Security Workgroup has been working diligently to address security concerns for our church building. We are working with vendors to accomplish our goal of installing safe access to our building. We currently have video surveillance in use around the building.

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](#).

Submit prayer requests [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.

Altar Flowers Dedications

Sponsoring altar flowers is a meaningful way to honor or remember loved ones. Still available are these summer dates: **July 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](#).

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.

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.

Covenant to Care: Fill a Backpack!

The backpacks are coming...the backpacks are coming! It's hard to believe we are thinking about "back to school" already! Look for a backpack to take and fill for one of our Covenant to Care children starting on August 1st. There will be age/grade appropriate suggestion cards included with each backpack. Backpacks are due back to church by August 22nd! Your support is greatly appreciated. -Janice and Carole