



Sunday Notes

July 18, 2021



Looking Towards Sunday

When Jesus went about his healing ministry all of the people he healed eventually went on to die again later. But in their lives, they had known his touch and the miracle of healing. What is the lingering effect of such healing? As we come out of pandemic restrictions and are able to spend time with people we have been separated from, many of us are taking measure of the toll of the last year -- what and who we have lost, and where we have been able to move forward. Jesus' healing work changed the course of individual lives, but also blessed future generations. How do we continue to heal from what we have been through, and to move our healing forward into the future? My text is Mark 6:30-34, 53-56 "Healing the past, present, and future generations." Of course, it's a matter of faith. Join us!



Today's Altar Flower Dedication

The flowers adorning our altar today were donated by Eleanor Wight and Rayda Bouma in loving memory of Rev. Louis and Hermina Bouma.

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 Sunday mornings from 8:30 to 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 thru Thursday. Come in, check out and/or return books inside, browse the stacks, or 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! Please meet in the church parking lot **Monday, July 19th, at 8:30 am**. For those who would like to join us for coffee and conversation afterwards, we'll meet at **the Spot** (on the corner of Isham Rd. and Memorial Rd. in West Hartford) **at 9:30 am**. Contact Jennifer with questions: jpwebsterdir@whfirstchurch.org.

You Are Invited to Intergenerational Camp!

Wednesday, 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: **August 1st, 8th, 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](#).

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