

Call to Meeting of the Congregation

Notice is hereby given that a Congregational Meeting of the First Church of Christ Congregational of West Hartford, Connecticut, UCC, will be held both in person in the Meetinghouse and via Zoom on Sunday, January 30, 2022 starting at about 11:15 AM to transact the following items of business:

1. Approve the minutes of the First Church Budget Meeting held on February 7, 2021.
2. Consider and vote on The First Church Annual Operating Budget for calendar year 2022.
3. In accordance with the By-laws of First Church, action will be taken only on matters included in this Call to Meeting.

Notice given on January 16, 2022 Linda Bronstein, Secretary of the Church

Exploring the Life of Lemuel Haynes

POSTPONED TO THURSDAY FEBRUARY 24, 7 p.m. via Zoom [Register here for the link](#)

Mr. Exum will join us for a moment of remembrance of Haynes this Sunday morning.

Earl Exum of the West Hartford African American Social & Cultural Organization (WHAASCO) will discuss the life and ministry of Rev. Lemuel Haynes (1753-1833). Haynes was the first African-American minister ordained by a mainstream denomination in the United States. All are welcome to join us for the presentation and Q&A.

Announcements

Coffee Cans Needed

Please donate empty coffee cans for the Parish Care Ministry. Each Sunday, the altar flowers are broken down into smaller flower arrangements and delivered to church members.

Food Donations Needed

Remember your neighbors while grocery shopping! Donations are needed for the West Hartford Food Pantry and the Loaves and Fishes Meals to Go Program. Items can be left in the blue buckets at the church and members of the Outreach Team will deliver them to Town Hall and Loaves and Fishes. Thank you! The Outreach Team

4 Ways to Give

1. **Give by Text:** Text *GIVE* to (860) 222-7870. **You can now donate using ACH!** If you have already used Txt2Give, text *update* to change payment type from credit card to ACH.
2. **Give Online:** Visit our website at <http://www.whfirstchurch.org/giving/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.

Altar Flower Donations

Sponsoring altar flowers is a meaningful way to honor or remember loved ones. Still available are these winter dates: **January 23rd, February 6th, and March 13th.** To place your order, please contact Suzanne in the church office at 860-233-9605 or suzanne.nardi@whfirstchurch.org.

January Reach Out: My Sisters' Place

My Sisters' Place mission is committed to ending homelessness by empowering women, families, and others in Greater Hartford to achieve independence and stability in their community by providing housing and supportive services. For more information or to make a donation, please visit: My Sisters' Place, Inc. at <https://sistersplacect.org/>.

Update on our Afghan Refugee Efforts

Thanks for your volunteering, donations, and support of the work to resettle Afghan refugees in West Hartford.

Our refugees are likely to arrive by February. We are resettling two small families, rather than one larger one. IRIS has assigned us one family made up of an 18-year-old male and his 30-year-old sister. The other family is a young couple expecting their first child. Our families are currently housed on a military base in Doha, Qatar, and will soon be coming to McGuire Air Force Base in New Jersey where they will go through two weeks of processing before coming to Connecticut. The choice to take two families means we will need more financial assistance initially, mostly for housing. However, we expect these families will involve a lot less child care efforts than our last refugee family.

We will continue to need your support and concern as we move forward with our work, but we are quite excited for the day that our families arrive. As always, if you have any questions, please contact Terry Schmitt at terryschmittwh@gmail.com. Thanks again!