



TIDINGS

Wholly Holy Week

Holy Week is almost upon us. If you are like me, you are very clear on the meaning of Palm Sunday, Good Friday and maybe even Maundy Thursday. But what about all the other days of the week? Did you know that each day of Holy Week has a special name and meaning?



“maundy” is taken from “mandatum” which means “commandment.” Maybe I will find a small way to fulfill this commandment on the Thursday of Holy Week.

FIG MONDAY is the day that Jesus cursed the fig tree. There is a tradition of eating dried figs on Monday of Holy Week. I like figs. I think I will honor that tradition with a few figs in my breakfast smoothie.

GREAT TUESDAY is the day that Jesus told the parable of the ten virgins. On Great Tuesday, the church celebrates Jesus as the Bridegroom. Hmm...not sure how I will observe that one. I think I will re-read the parable and give it some thought.

SPY WEDNESDAY It was the day that Judas Iscariot met with the Jewish priests and made plans for Jesus’s betrayal. Not actually in the bible, but since Jesus was betrayed Thursday night, tradition has it that Judas must have planned ahead – on Wednesday. Maybe I will watch a good spy movie on Netflix.

MAUNDY THURSDAY comes from the Latin Vulgate – the Latin translation of the Bible done around 382 CE. “A new commandment I give unto you: That you love one another, as I have loved you, that you also love one another.” John 13:34. In Latin, the verse begins with *Mandatum novum do vobis*. The word

GOOD FRIDAY Ever wonder why the day Jesus dies on the cross is called “Good”? Because the word “good” is from the 12th century when “good” meant “to be pious.” An act of piety on Friday? I’m not very pious – this might be a stretch.

HOLY SATURDAY This is the day that “Jesus rested in the tomb.” It is also called Great Sabbath, Black Saturday, Joyous Saturday, or Easter Eve. Several interesting traditions surround this day. In Catholic and Anglican churches as well as many protestant churches, the chancel is stripped bare (immediately following the Maundy Thursday service). In Eastern Orthodoxy, it is believed that Jesus performed the “Harrowing of Hades” and raised up to Paradise those who had been held captive. This is why Coptic Churches call it “Joyous Saturday.” On Saturday, I will remember all the aspects of my life that particularly bring me joy.

I hope that you find a way to celebrate each day of Holy Week: eat figs, watch a James Bond movie, fulfill the great commandment, do an act of piety, be joyous if you can.

See You in the Pews!

Reverend Jane

Senior Pastor Rev. Jane Willan

Worship with us!

Live (or livestream) at 10 a.m. on Sunday mornings. Watch on YouTube anytime: https://bit.ly/FC_youtube_page.



Academy children have resumed their visits to the JP Webster Library for story time with Miss Karla!
PHOTO: DAWNE QUINN

We Want Selfies & Photos!

Please send photos of yourself at church, in choir practice, making coffee, reading, serving the community, walking the labyrinth... you get the idea. Photos might show up here and/or on social media! Text with your name(s) to Joy: 860-841-6631

Holy Week Plans	3
Outreach.....	6
Rev. Jane’s Installation	2
JPW Library Programs.....	4
Men’s Fellowship.....	6
Spring Clean up.....	6

Church Family News

■ **Dick Moffitt** died on March 13, 2022. A memorial service will take place on Saturday, April 2 at 10:30 a.m. Our prayers are with his wife Linda and their family.

■ **Lorenzo Joseph Chase**, son of Josephine and William Chase, was baptized on Sunday, March 13, 2022.



If you have an announcement to share, please call the office at 860-233-9605, x111.

Next Tidings Deadline: May 14

As part of a cost savings plan, as well as an awareness of the redundancy and saturation of communications and information via eblasts or eNews, Sunday Notes, social media, etc., we will consolidate a few more issues of Tidings this year for a total of nine issues (down from eleven). Here's an overview of the publication calendar, subject to change:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| ■ January – single issue | ■ September – single issue |
| ■ February – single issue | ■ October – single issue |
| ■ March – single issue | ■ November – single issue |
| ■ April/May – combined issue | ■ December – single issue |
| ■ June/July/August – combined issue | |

DUE DATE for TIDINGS: The next deadline is **MAY 14th**, for the **COMBINED JUNE/JULY/AUG** issue. Please send items to Joy Taylor: joy.taylor@whfirstchurch.org

DUE DATES for SUNDAY NOTES & eNEWS: Submissions are due each Tuesday by noon to Sarah: Sarah.kopp@whfirstchurch.org.

New Director Search

We're seeking a New Director of Children and Family Ministries! The search has begun to find someone with an innovative spirit to engage with our children and their families! This is a part-time position, 20-25 hours per week, 48 weeks per year.

Search Committee: Michael Protos (Chair), Barbara Lewis, Ryan Mannix, Colleen Mitchell, Michelle Gara, and Rev. Amie Giguere.

2022 Youth Scholarship Applications

Attention High School Seniors: Please note that college scholarship applications are available, with an application deadline of May 15. You may access the application by using this link: <https://bit.ly/FCWHScholarship2022>.

Silver Lake Scholarship: Any youth who wishes to attend Silver Lake this summer and would like to apply for a scholarship, please find the scholarship form using this link: <https://bit.ly/FCWH-SL-Scholarship22>. The application deadline is May 15.

You are Invited! Installation for Rev. Jane Willan

Join us for this very happy occasion when we install Rev. Jane Willan as our Senior Pastor!

The service of Installation is a way of saying "You belong here!" It grants a sense of permanence and belonging as we begin our ministry together.

Our special guest speaker is Jane's religion professor from undergrad at Hiram College, Dr. Robert Watson.

The ceremony will take place on Sunday, May 22 at 2 p.m. in the Meeting House of First Church. Jane's husband, Don Lutz, is our soloist for the event. More details to come in your weekly emails and in Sunday Notes.



Harvest Pack Day!

Join us on Saturday, April 23, 2022, 10 a.m. for Harvest Pack Meal Packing Day! Together, we will assemble ingredients for 10,000 meals to be used locally as well as sent worldwide to places in need. Stay for a pizza lunch. A \$10.00 suggested donation per family to help cover Harvest Pack ingredients is welcome. All ages are invited!



Taizé Service April 24

Join us in the Meeting House to celebrate Earth Day with a Taizé Service on April 24 at 5 p.m.! Like our service in the fall, this will be a lay-led worship headed by members of the Deacon Committee who wish to continue First Church's tradition of alternative worship experiences. The service will include meditative singing and music as well as time for quiet reflection and prayer. Members of the Jolly Beggars will provide us with reflective music. Come celebrate our Earth, wind down after the Easter holiday, and join us for music and meditation. Please note, the service will also be live-streamed via the First Church, West Hartford YouTube channel.

Youth Mental Health Program: April 7

Throughout March we partnered with Hartford Healthcare to present a series of events for parents, caregivers, and others interested in youth mental health issues. Our final program, "Youth Suicide Prevention," will be on Thursday, April 7 at 7 p.m. No registration necessary. Use this Zoom link on the day of the program: <https://bit.ly/hhc-sessions>. Please share this event information with family, friends, and colleagues.

Holy Week Activities

We have an invitation from Rev. Jane to recognize each day of Holy Week on our own (page 1), and here's what we have planned as a church community. We look forward to seeing you at all or some of these gatherings! -Rev. Amie Giguere, Acting Associate Pastor



Palm/Passion Sunday April 10, 10 a.m. worship, Meeting House

Join us as we remember Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem and receive a palm frond.

Maundy Thursday, April 14, 7:30 p.m. worship, Meeting House

We'll have a service of Tenebrae (Latin for "darkness"). This is a dramatic remembrance of Jesus' death with a gradual extinguishing of candles and concluding in complete darkness by the end of the service.

Good Friday, April 15, 10 a.m.- Noon Prayer Stations, Chapel

Nine Prayer Stations have been designed to provide attendees with an individual, silent experience of a "Walk through Holy Week." At each station, participants will engage in a multi-sensory way with the last week of Jesus' life on earth. The time at each station depends on each individual, but should take between 30-45 minutes on average. You are welcome to arrive any time between 10 a.m. and noon. Please contact Rev. Amie with questions: amie.giguere@wh-firstchurch.org.

Easter Sunday, April 17, 10 a.m. worship & 11:15 a.m. Easter egg hunt!

Come celebrate Christ's resurrection with special brass music and the "Hallelujah Chorus!" We'll have an egg hunt for the kids on the front lawn following the worship service.

Welcoming Spring at the Academy!

We are feeling "springy" here at the Academy. Our children are experiencing the transition of the season in every way. More sunshine and warmth means more outdoor time. We've begun prepping our garden for planting and have taken down our red wiggler worm winter shelter. Later this month, we'll be planting our seeds and watching our plants grow inside the classrooms. When the danger of frost passes, the children will plant their seedlings in our community garden.

In March, classrooms explored weather, rainbows, and all things St. Patrick's Day including building an elaborate "leprechaun catcher" (see photo). Children have also resumed their visits to the JP Webster Library for story time. So happy to be back with Miss



Spring activities in full swing at the Academy!

PHOTOS:
DAWNE QUINN



Karla (photo on page 1)!

Interested in joining the Academy family? We are currently fully enrolled for the 2022-2023 program year, but we'd happily add you to our wait-list. Contact Dawne Quinn, Director at dquinn@firstchurchacademy to learn more. -Dawne Quinn, FCAFYC Director



Young Adult Fellowship Group

Calling all young professionals! Or others in the "under 40" crowd! Please join the brand new young adult fellowship group. We had our first "coffee and conversation" in March. This new group encourages all young adults in our congregation to connect with each other for social and spiritual events throughout the upcoming year.

Please contact Ryan Mannix ryanmannix1@gmail.com or Abigail Mitchell amitchell3263@gmail.com. More details to come!

Living in Spirit
Committed to Service
Open to All



PASTORAL STAFF:

Rev. Jane Willan, Senior Pastor
Rev. Amie Giguere, Acting Assoc. Pastor

WORSHIP STAFF:

James Boratko, Director of Worship Arts
Jessica Berube, Handbell Director

JPW LIBRARY STAFF:

Jennifer deSimas, Library Director
Karla Grafton, Assistant Librarian

FCAFYC* STAFF:

Dawne Quinn, FCAFYC Director

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF:

Lisa Reed, Business Manager
Sarah Kopp, Administrative Assistant
Mark Swanson, Building Superintendent

Church Office: 860-233-9605

J.P. Webster Library: 860-232-3893

FCAFYC*: 860-232-2106

12 South Main Street, West Hartford, CT 06107

www.whfirstchurch.org



*First Church Academy for Young Children



**JOHN P. WEBSTER
LIBRARY**
Resources for Faith & Life

Jennifer deSimas, Library Director: jpwebsterdir@whfirstchurch.org
 Karla Grafton, Assistant Librarian: jpwebsterlib@whfirstchurch.org
 General Inquiries: jpwebster@whfirstchurch.org Phone: 860-232-3893
 Explore our catalog on-line! <https://jpwebster.biblio.org/eg/opac/home>

Staff Hours:
 Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
 Sunday 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Curbside Services
 2 to 3 p.m. on Mondays or
 by appointment.

Did you know...

The John P. Webster Library has a free mobile app that allows you to access the church library catalog quickly and easily? The **Acorn Catalog** mobile app makes it easy to:

- Search the catalog
- Place a hold
- Review the items you have checked out
- Renew items



To use the app, you must have a library card with a Bibliomation member library (the JPWL is one) and know your password. If you do not know your password, please contact JPWL staff.

Wondering how to download and use Acorn Catalog? Check out this YouTube video: www.youtube.com/watch?v=WDSosMgCKW4.

Ready to get the app? You'll find it at the following links:

Google Play Store: https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=net.kenstir.apps.bibliomation&hl=en_US&gl=US

Apple/iOS App Store:

<https://apps.apple.com/us/app/acorn-catalog/id1468024977>

Give us a call if you have any questions! 860-232-3893

Senior Resource Manual

The JPWL Senior Resource Manual was developed in 2017 by FCWH member Julia Rosa, R.N., to assist those who may be experiencing challenges associated with aging. The Senior Resource Manual addresses **Care Options, Aging at Home, Transportation, Managing Illness, Spirituality, and Legal Concerns** for elders and their families. It contains descriptions and definitions, helpful tips, contact information for organizations that deal with elder care, and much more.



A section on **Downsizing** was recently added after other FCWH members accomplished the gargantuan challenge of clearing out homes with over 50 years of accumulated belongings. This section has tips on how and where to donate, sell, consign, and otherwise off-load the stuff we collect over our lives. Jennifer deSimas and Julia are planning to embark on revising the manual in the coming months. In the meantime, Julia hopes that what is presented will serve as a beginning point for further investigation. "As we all become older, there is a possibility that we, or those we love and care for, may need assistance. Our hope is that you find this support at First Church." You are welcome to visit the JPWL any time during operating hours to use the Senior Resource Manual.

Days for Girls April 30

Join other First Church members at a monthly workshop to help Days For Girls (DFG). DFG provides menstrual supplies for women in low-income areas around the world, who might otherwise miss work or school for lack of these items. Each month the group needs volunteers to help with pattern-cutting, machine-sewing, and assembling and packing the kits. All ages and abilities are welcome, and a hot lunch is included. Drop in anytime between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. Please register here to stay up-to-date with the FCWH group. The next workshop is scheduled for Saturday, April 30 at Simsbury United Methodist Church (799 Hopmeadow Street). Contact Jennifer deSimas at the JPWL or Doey Barnett with any questions: dbarnet109@att.net.

Rev. Lemuel Haynes Exhibit until May 1

Our current exhibit, "Trusting wholly on the merits of Christ: Rev. Lemuel Haynes, 1753-1833," is an informative display about Rev. Lemuel Haynes. Haynes was the first person of African-American descent to be ordained in the United States (1785). He was born in West Hartford in 1753, and sold into indentured servitude at the age of five months. Haynes was one of the leading voices (and pens) on theology, republicanism, and abolition; his published sermons were shared widely in the United States and in England in his day.

"Trusting wholly on the merits of Christ: Rev. Lemuel Haynes, 1753-1833" is open until May 1.

Wallace Stevens Walk

Wednesday, April 20, 1 p.m. (Rain date April 21) FREE

Join renowned Wallace Stevens scholar (and church member) Glen MacLeod, PhD, for a guided tour of the Wallace Stevens Walk, the two-mile route that the poet walked each day from his home near Elizabeth Park to his office as Vice President of The Hartford Insurance Company. Often he composed poems along the way. The route is marked by thirteen Connecticut granite markers, each inscribed with one stanza of Stevens's poem, "Thirteen Ways of Looking at a Blackbird." Registration limited: <https://whfirstchurch.ccchurch.com/goto/forms/216/responses/new>.

Recent Acquisitions to the Archives

We recently added several significant items to the JPWL Archives. The materials include a Bible inscribed "William A. Burr of West Hartford, June 29th 1846," a small hymnal (*Happy Voices*, ca. 1840) inscribed "C.W. Mallory," and, significantly, two meeting house pew diagrams dated 1814 and 1834.

The pew diagrams are especially exciting to have because they give us a glimpse of church cultural norms in the early 19th century. The items were donated by Ms. Tena Benson, the great granddaughter of Rev. Thomas M. Hodgdon, who was pastor of First Church from 1891 to 1926.

Outreach Topics for April and May

MENTAL HEALTH CONNECTICUT

Established in 1908, Mental Health Connecticut (MHC) is a statewide, non-profit organization whose mission is to improve mental health for all Connecticut residents. For more than 100 years, MHC has worked to improve mental health



services, promote recovery for people with mental health conditions, educate the community about the importance of mental wellness, and combat discrimination resulting from a mental health diagnosis. Through advocacy, education, and service, MHC empowers people.

MHC serves more than 3,200 people annually through residential services, case management, supported and transitional employment, and more. MHC also offers services and supports for adults who are deaf and have a mental condition as well as transition-age youth.

Visit www.mhconn.org for more information and to donate.



INTERVAL HOUSE CT

Interval House has made a positive difference in the lives of more than 225,000 women, children (and a small percentile of men) that have experienced psychological and physical abuse at the hands of a domestic or intimate partner.

Interval House provides 24-hour hotlines, safety planning, crisis counseling, emergency safe housing, support groups, criminal and civil court advocacy, information and referrals, community education and outreach as well as programs for the children of clients.

The nonprofit organization strives to prevent and break the cycle of abuse.

Interval House P.O. Box 340207, Hartford, CT 06134-0207
www.intervalhousect.org

Donations

You may donate directly to these organizations, or to donate on-line via the church: www.whfirstchurch.org/giving/give/reachout

As always, thank you for your support. The Outreach team has continued to support many local organizations throughout the pandemic, and beyond, and we can't do it without your generosity.



EASTER LILIES

Easter Lilies are a meaningful way to remember or honor loved ones. Lilies with white blossoms are available for \$18 per plant. **The deadline for placing orders is Monday, April 11.** Please fill out the form below, and send your order along with your payment to the Church Office. If you have any questions, please email Sarah at sarah.kopp@whfirstchurch.org.

Given by: _____

Dedication (please be specific—in loving memory of, in honor of, etc.):

Daytime telephone: _____

Email address: _____

I/we will pick up this lily,
day and time TBD.

This lily will be delivered to brighten
the holiday of another.

Please make checks payable to **First Church** with "**Easter Lily**" on the memo line.
First Church • 12 South Main Street • West Hartford, CT 06107.

ORGAN & CARILLON RESERVE FUND

Anyone wishing to donate may do so by filling out and returning this form to the Church Office with your payment. If you wish to have your donation listed in the Sunday Bulletin, please make your donation by **Monday, April 11.**

Given by: _____

Dedication (please be specific—in loving memory of, in honor of, etc.):

Daytime telephone: _____

Email address: _____

Please make checks payable to **First Church** with "**Carillon**" on the memo line.
First Church • 12 South Main Street • West Hartford, CT 06107.





first church
WEST HARTFORD

12 South Main Street
West Hartford, CT 06107



Join First Church Striders on Saturday, May 21, for the annual Walk Against Hunger sponsored by Connecticut Foodshare. Walk begins at 10 a.m. Please meet us at Dunkin Donuts Park between 9 and 9:30 a.m. If you can't join us that day but want to support us, you can contribute on-line (www.ctfoodshare.org) to First Church Striders or stop by our table at coffee hour during the month of May and make a monetary contribution.

Men's Fellowship

Please join the Men's Fellowship on Wednesday, April 20 at 9 a.m. in the Community Room adjacent to the JPW Library when our special guest will be our new senior pastor, the Rev. Jane Willan. All the men of our church are invited to attend as well as anyone interested from the community. There will be refreshments and coffee. Come and be part of this special time together. For more information call Joseph Tobin at 860-916-1923 or email: jmtobin@gmail.com.

Weekly Bible Study on Tuesdays at 6

Join Pastor Jane for virtual Bible study classes every Tuesday evening for a 35-minute encounter with Scripture that will enlighten and encourage you. Plus, you might get a sneak peek at the Sunday sermon! All are welcome! Please register at <https://bit.ly/FCBibleStudy> to receive the Zoom link and attend.

YOGA

Join us for Yoga in person or on Zoom. Tuesday evenings at 7 p.m. and Wednesday and Thursday mornings at 9:15 a.m. Please contact Nancy Murray at 860-280-8083 or nancy@deepeacect.com for more information!

Outdoor Clean Up Day!

Sunday, April 10, at 11 a.m. In recognition of Earth Day 2022, the Buildings and Grounds team is organizing a cleanup day to spruce up the grounds at First Church. Bring your own lawn rakes and gloves. Please contact Mark Swanson if you have any questions.