



Sunday Notes

June 26, 2022



Looking Towards Sunday, REMINDER- worship begins at 9:00 a.m. this week and will continue through Labor Day.

Although I am excited about my vacation (traveling for the first time since 2020), I am sorry to miss the sermon this Sunday. Our guest preacher, Reverend David Figliuzzi, is preaching from a fascinating text—the story of the daughters of Zelophehad. The story goes like this: a census is taken of all males over the age of twenty for the purpose of dividing up land. Unfortunately, in the family of Zelophehad, there were only daughters which meant no inheritance and inevitable poverty. They took action. They petitioned Moses for the land to go to them—land they would have received had they been men. Moses asked God and God said “go for it!” They were given their inheritance. These women were brave and bold and received their rightful inheritance only because they were willing to step up and demand it—a good lesson for all of us. I will be watching the Livestream to see what David does with this interesting and inspiring text! -Rev. Jane



Rev. David Figliuzzi

Today's Altar Flower Dedication

The flowers adorning our altar today were donated by Connie Dunham in loving memory of her husband, Tom Dunham.

A Note from the Pastors

Both pastors are out of town on Tuesday, June 28th, so coffee and conversation at Hartford Baking Company will be pastor-less this week. We'll re-join you on Tuesday, July 5th.

Rev. Jane is on vacation, and Rev. Amie will be at Silver Lake Camp and Conference Center from Saturday evening - Wednesday afternoon. During this time, please contact Moderator Eleanor Wight. In case of a pastoral emergency Rev. Terry Schmitt will be on-call.

A Note from Your Communications Team: Spreading Your News

The Communications Team is made up of members of our Outreach Ministry, and the church Office Administrators. When you have photos, event notices, and information to be shared publicly, please send it to the email addresses below by Tuesday at noon to be included in the appropriate places.

We have several methods of communicating “news” to our membership, and the larger community. We produce Sunday Notes, Friday Happenings email, church website, fliers, worship announcements, and social media including: Facebook, Instagram, YouTube and Twitter. Some items are shared in all of the above, and may even get formatted into a press release for the local news sites like We-Ha.com, Hartford Courant, or West Hartford Press/News/Life, while other notices are mentioned in just a few places.

One popular section of our former newsletter (Tidings), was the Family News corner, which included short announcements about weddings, births, baptisms, and deaths. In our survey last winter, it was obvious that this is a popular item among members. We are going to bring this feature back (TBD), so if you have news to share publicly to your church family, please keep it coming.

Sarah Kopp, Administrative Assistant, sarah.kopp@whfirstchurch.org

Office Administrator, FCWHAdmin2@whfirstchurch.org

Amy Melvin, Communications, Communications@whfirstchurch.org

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In-Person Church School and Childcare This Week

If you have children with you today, they will remain with you in worship until after the children's message, when their teacher(s) will lead them up to their classroom on the 4th floor. You will pick them up from there following worship. Please look for Cindy Tolin to assist you with checking in your child(ren) at the north entrance to the Meeting House. If you have not yet registered your child(ren) for this program year, please do so at <https://bit.ly/2021-22CSRegistration> or by using the QR code which can be found at either entrance to the Meeting House. Feel free to reach out to Rev. Amie Giguere with questions or concerns.

Upcoming Events

First Church Summer Bible Study

Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m., via Zoom

Explore The Book of Acts, which tells the stories of how the church organized itself, following the Ascension of Jesus and the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples. As we begin anew at First Church with a new senior pastor, Acts may lead us to a new understanding of 'being church.' How did the disciples become leaders of the new church, how did they live their faith and spread the Word? Let's read and discuss and discern how God is still speaking to us today.

Contact Jim Warner (jwarner4fc@gmail.com) to be added to the Zoom email list and attend when you can. The readings and study guide questions will be emailed before each meeting. Please read the material before the meeting.

Carillon Concert Series

Thursdays in July from 6 - 7 p.m.

You are invited to bring your family, your own chairs or blanket, and your own refreshments to the lawn of the church and enjoy a free concert from our bell tower. This year's lineup of musicians and more information can be found on our website or by clicking [HERE](#). Concerts take place rain or shine. The sanctuary will be open for dry listening if raining. In the case of severe weather, the concert will have to be cancelled. Updates after 2:00 p.m. on date of concert, either on our website or on our [Facebook page](#).

Sun is Shining Concert Series

Tuesdays in August at 5 p.m.

Join us on the Labyrinth on the church front lawn with your chairs, friends, blankets, and picnic! In the case of rain or severe weather the concerts will either be postponed or canceled. A decision will be posted on our website or our [Facebook page](#) after 2:00 p.m. on the day of the show. Free will donations will be collected at the event. Click [HERE](#) to see the list of performers.

September 19th - 22nd, 2022: Join the CT Council for Interreligious Understanding (CCIU) for an unforgettable Civil Rights Journey. Explore the historic - and ongoing - struggle for racial equality and justice as you embark on a multi-day tour of some of the most important landmarks of the civil rights movement. The tour will include Atlanta, Selma, Montgomery, and Birmingham. [Click HERE for more info.](#)

Announcements

Sharing your Talents!

Do you have a hobby or interest or passion, or a craft idea or lesson that would be appropriate for young children? Please reach out to Cindy Tolin on Sunday mornings, or by email to dirfammin@whfirstchurch.org, to discuss your gift, talent or passion for our youngest disciples in August or during the fall season. Everyone is most welcome to support the children and family ministry of First Church!

Sunday School will be available during worship through June, take a break in the month of July, and resume again in August. Nursery coverage will continue for young children through preschool (age 5) throughout the summer months. It takes a village to educate our young disciples! How can you help?

As we prepare to wrap up another program year at the JPWL we are faced with one of our biggest challenges: getting all those library books returned! Take a book expedition around your home or office and bring back our books. Thank you!

West Hartford Food Pantry Needs Donations!

Hunger doesn't take a vacation. Without school-provided meals, many parents won't be able to afford 2 extra meals per day and children will go hungry. To help, make a financial contribution to Connecticut Food Share ([Donation Form - Foodshare - Foodshare \(convio.net\)](#)) or the Town That Cares ([Food Pantry - Town of West Hartford \(westhartfordct.gov\)](#)). You can also bring food items to church and place in the blue buckets for distribution to the West Hartford Food Pantry or Loaves & Fishes. Thank you! The Outreach Team.

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.

Young Adult Fellowship Group

Calling all young professionals! Or others in the "under 40" crowd! This new group encourages all young adults (under 40) in our congregation to connect with other young people in our congregation for social and spiritual events throughout the upcoming year. Please contact Ryan Mannix ryanmannix1@gmail.com or Abigail Mitchell amitchell3263@gmail.com if you are interested. More details to follow in the upcoming weeks.

Silver Lake Summer Camp

Learn more about summer camp at Silver Lake and view the 2022 summer brochure at <https://www.silverlakeect.org/summercamp> or contact Rev. Amie for a copy of the brochure. We're so fortunate to have this beautiful outdoor ministry site close by to us in Sharon, CT! There are opportunities for people of all ages through Family Camp and My Loved One and Me (led by Rev. Amie). Hope you'll learn more!

Church Office Hours Have Changed!

The church office hours are Monday thru Thursday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Rev. Jane will be available in the office on Fridays, so stop by and say "Hello!"

Submit prayer requests at http://bit.ly/FCprayer_request.

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.

June Reach Out: Silver Lake Conference Center -- Sharon, CT

Silver Lake Conference Center is a year-round outdoor ministry of the Southern New England Conference of the United Church of Christ. Silver Lake hosts close to 1,000 young people each summer and more than 3,000 retreat participants in the off-season. In addition to groups from Southern New England UCC churches, they consistently offer retreat space to other Christian denominations, Jewish groups, school groups, and hobbyists. Their summer program is open to all, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender identification, or sexual orientation.

Silver Lake is a place where young people experience nature, make new friends, and explore their faith. With more than 60 acres of wooded land on lakeside shores, Silver Lake offers many opportunities for young people to take risks and try new things with the support of an intentional Christian community.

To donate thru the church: <http://www.whfirstchurch.org/giving/give> or you can donate directly at: <https://www.silverlakeect.org/> Thank you for your support.