



Sunday Notes

July 3, 2022



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

As we head into 4th of July weekend, certainly freedom and independence are meant to be on our minds. The fireworks displays we may see, or the booms and crackles we may hear around the neighborhood, are all celebrations of those things. On Sunday, we'll read Galatians 6:1-10 which will be interesting to read on this holiday weekend, and may help us see our freedom and independence through a different kind of lens. Hope you'll take time to add worship to your weekend celebrations! In faith, Amie



Today's Altar Flower Dedication

The flowers adorning our altar today were donated by Ralph and Brenda Worth in loving memory of their son, Richard Worth.

A Celebration for Rev. Amie

Please mark your calendar for Sunday, July 17th and join in a celebration of the ministry of Rev. Amie Giguere. After the 9:00 a.m. worship service we will gather on the front lawn for a time of appreciation for Rev. Amie's almost 3-year tenure as our Acting Associate Pastor. We will warmly wish her all the best wherever her future ministry journey may be. If you (or yourself & others) would like to be a part of thanking Rev. Amie during this time - whether with a gift, spoken remarks, or some more creative presentation - please contact Eleanor Wight, Moderator, First Church, West Hartford, CT. Contact info: ejwight@comcast.net or 860-705-1183.

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, Office Manager, sarah.kopp@whfirstchurch.org

Linda Clark, Office Manager, FCWHAdmin2@whfirstchurch.org

Amy Melvin, Communications, Communications@whfirstchurch.org

Joy Taylor, Communications, Communications2@whfirstchurch.org

In-Person Church School and Childcare during July

Child care is available during worship for young children (who have not yet entered Kindergarten) in the Nursery on the 4th floor with Miss Abby. If you have older children with you today, they will remain with you in worship. There are lap desks at the rear of the sanctuary with a few items the children may use to quietly interact with. Children's Sunday morning programming will resume in August. 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

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.

Welcome Linda Clark, our new office manager!

Please stop by and say "Hi" to Linda! 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, and she is always happy to hear from you!

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.

July Reach Out: IRIS - INTEGRATED REFUGEE & IMMIGRANT SERVICES

"Integrated Refugee & Immigrant Services (IRIS) is a non-profit agency whose mission is to help refugees and other displaced people establish new lives, strengthen hope, and contribute to the vitality of Connecticut's communities. Welcoming persecuted people from other countries is America's most noble tradition. IRIS helps newcomers on the road to self-sufficiency by providing lifesaving support during their transition to life in the United States."

"Refugee families who arrive from overseas come to the U.S. with virtually no material possessions. They have lost homes, friends, family, country, culture, and jobs. Most do not speak any English. They have no income, and many are victims of trauma, with physical or mental health needs. As great as their initial needs are, their potential to enrich our community is even greater." IRIS offers refugees and immigrants help with the following services: housing, employment, health, legal and education. For more information: [IRIS-Integrated Refugee & Immigrant Services \(irisct.org\)](http://irisct.org)

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