



# Sunday Notes

August 7, 2022



**Looking Towards Sunday, REMINDER-** worship begins at 9:00 a.m. through Labor Day. One time during a Sunday School lesson for grade schoolers, we had constructed a very life-like boat from cardboard and paint. The boat was set adrift in a blue cardboard sea. As the lesson continued, I asked the children "where is Jesus?" The answer was that he was in the boat. A little girl piped up and said in a very trusting voice, her face full of excitement, "Is Jesus really there? Is he really in the boat?"

Our scripture is telling us that Jesus is really here. He is not just inviting us to be awake, to be ready, and to be watchful for the future--he is calling us to be fully alive and engaged in today. The Kingdom of God is for the future and the present. It is breaking through all the time.

So yes, in a way, Jesus was in that cardboard boat. In our hearts, our lives, our present, and our future.

See You in the Pews!

Reverend Jane



## Call to Congregational Meeting August 7, 2022

Notice is hereby given that a Congregational Meeting of the First Church of Christ Congregational of West Hartford, Connecticut, UCC, will be held in person and via Zoom on Sunday, August 7, 2022 starting at about 10:15 AM to transact the following items of business:

1. To consider and vote on the Business Team's proposal to withdraw funds from the endowment to finance the installation and implementation of a new security system for the church building.

2. In accordance with the By-laws of First Church, action will be taken only on matters included in this Call to Meeting.

This meeting will be held via Zoom and in-person in the Meeting House following worship. You are invited to join in either way; the on-line Zoom attendees and in-person attendees will be connected and visible to one another using Zoom. Zoom meeting link below:

**Join Zoom Meeting:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87311732190?pwd=cFRjcUZGajNlMlFObEgwemdWTGpzZz09>

**Meeting ID:** 873 1173 2190

**Passcode:** 520264

One tap mobile

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+19292056099,,87311732190#,,,,\*520264# US (New York)

Join Zoom Meeting

## Documents for August 7<sup>th</sup> meeting:

**Meeting Agenda -** [Agenda for August 7 Meeting re: Security System \(ccbchurch.com\)](#)

**Talking Points -** [FC Security Talking Points\\_07-13-22 \(ccbchurch.com\)](#)

Notice given on July 22, 2022

Linda Bronstein, Secretary of First Church

## Today's Altar Flower Dedication

Our altar flowers today were donated by Myra Bowers in loving memory of George N. Bowers, Jr.

## A Note from Your Communications Team: Family News!

The "Family News" section of the now retired TIDINGS was one of everyone's favorite parts. Well, guess what? In addition to a private Facebook group called First Church, West Hartford Community, we now have a family news page on our website since not everyone is on Facebook. Updates will be shared, with permission, when they are submitted to [Amy Melvin](#) or [Joy Taylor](#). Common topics include: Weddings, Births, Graduations, Baptisms, Deaths, Reunions, Moves, or other milestones and should be accompanied by a photo. Content may be edited to fit. Check it out:

<https://www.whfirstchurch.org/church-family-news/>

## Children and Family Ministries

Throughout the month of August, in-person child care is available during worship each Sunday in the Nursery on the 4th floor for children who have not yet entered Kindergarten. School aged children are welcome to enjoy an activity with Ms. Cindy during the worship service. Anyone needing assistance checking-in their children should find Ms. Cindy, Director of Youth and Family Ministries, for assistance. Children are always welcome to remain in the Sanctuary with their families and use the coloring items at the back of the church each Sunday as well. The **Blessing of the Backpacks and Briefcases** is coming up so be sure to hold the date on your calendar! Hope to share blessings with all ages on **Sunday, August 28th** during the worship service. Contact Cindy Tolin with questions at [dirfammin@whfirstchurch.org](mailto:dirfammin@whfirstchurch.org).

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## Upcoming Events

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### Young Adults Fellowship

Tuesday, August 9<sup>th</sup> at 5 p.m.

Calling everyone in the "Under 40" crowd! Please join the Young Adults Fellowship for an evening of Jazz and fellowship on Tuesday, August 9th, beginning at 5 p.m. on the First Church front lawn as part of the Summer Concert Series. Please pack a picnic and head on over. Questions? Please contact Abigail Mitchell, [amitchell3263@gmail.com](mailto:amitchell3263@gmail.com) or 860-593-8063, if you are able to attend or have any questions. We look forward to seeing you there!

### 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.

**Book Group News! Starting August 29<sup>th</sup>, the Awakening the Spirit** book discussion group will be led by Reverend Tom Carr. Tom, an ordained minister of the American Baptist Churches, recently retired as Pastor of the Second Baptist Church of Suffield. He has been active locally in issues of ecology, environmental justice, and spirituality, both ecumenically and on an interfaith basis, for over 30 years. He also works with the Spiritual Life Center in spiritual direction.

New or veteran group members are invited to a meet and greet with Tom at the JPWL Monday, August 29<sup>th</sup> from 1-2 p.m. where you can pick up your copy of our next read, [Ladder to the Light: An Indigenous Elder's Meditations on Hope and Courage](#) by Stephen Charleston, a Native American elder, a citizen of the Choctaw Nation, and a bishop in the Episcopal Church. In *Ladder to the Light*, Charleston "offers words of hard-won hope, rooted in daily conversations with the Spirit and steeped in Indigenous wisdom. Our "official start" is 1-2:30 p.m. Monday, September 12<sup>th</sup>. *Please note the time change!* We will meet in person as long as we are able. A Zoom option will also be available. We are delighted to welcome Tom to our community, and hope you can join us on August 29<sup>th</sup>! Please contact JPW Library Director Jennifer deSimas with questions: 860-232-3893.

### 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](mailto: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.

**Memoir Writing Group resumes** -- David Pontrelli of Writing Works is back with another memoir writing workshop – 8 weeks, this time – starting Monday, September 12<sup>th</sup> at 4:30! Register [HERE](#).

Every life holds a tale – or several, and memoir-writing has become a popular way to explore them. Whether you live an eccentric life or an ordinary one, there are stories to tell, and David's teaching style will help you find and share yours. David Pontrelli, a graduate of Wesleyan University, teaches writing to a wide range of ages and abilities at Capital Community College and in local schools and non-profit organizations. The workshop will be held in-person in the JPW Library in accordance with First Church Covid protocols.

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## Announcements

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### Altar Flower Dedications

Sponsoring altar flowers is a meaningful way to honor or remember loved ones. We still have dates available for 2022-2023, including these fall 2022 dates: 9/25<sup>th</sup>, 10/9<sup>th</sup>, 10/30<sup>th</sup>, and 11/13<sup>th</sup>. To place your order, please call Sarah or Linda in the church office at 860-233-9605. Thank you!

### 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 July 31st. There will be age/grade appropriate suggestion cards included with each backpack. Backpacks are due back to church by August 21st! Your support is greatly appreciated. -Janice and Carole

### Memorial Garden Needs Volunteers!

Building and Grounds is seeking volunteers to "adopt a section" of the Memorial Garden. This would involve light weeding and trimming to help keep the Memorial Garden maintained during the summer months. If you are interested, please contact Mark Swanson at 860-936-8255 or [mark.swanson@whfirstchurch.org](mailto:mark.swanson@whfirstchurch.org).

### 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.

### August Reach Out: JOURNEY HOME

Journey Home has spent more than a decade committed to ending chronic homelessness in the Greater Hartford region. They have been able in less than two years to match 72% of those experience chronic homelessness to housing, which means they have been housed or will be housed very soon. A Hand Up: A Program of Journey Home, works to support those who are currently transitioning from homelessness to housing by connecting them to donations of household goods and furniture Together they are filling a huge gap because clients are often moving into housing after experiencing homelessness with nothing but what they can carry on their back. Yet, many people have excess furniture and household items in their homes without a place to put them other than the landfills. Together with your support they will be able to end homelessness. For more information: Journey Home, 255 Main Street 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, Hartford Ct 06106 Tel: 860-808-0336 website <https://journeyhomect.org/>. To donate online thru the church: <https://www.whfirstchurch.org/giving/give/> or you can donate directly at: <https://journeyhomect.org/> Thank you for your support.

### 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.

Submit prayer requests at [http://bit.ly/FCprayer\\_request](http://bit.ly/FCprayer_request).

### 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.

Sarah Kopp, Office Manager, [sarah.kopp@whfirstchurch.org](mailto:sarah.kopp@whfirstchurch.org)

Linda Clark, Office Manager, [FCWHAdmin2@whfirstchurch.org](mailto:FCWHAdmin2@whfirstchurch.org)

Amy Melvin, Communications, [Communications@whfirstchurch.org](mailto:Communications@whfirstchurch.org)

Joy Taylor, Communications, [Communications2@whfirstchurch.org](mailto:Communications2@whfirstchurch.org)

First Church Office Hours are Monday thru Thursday 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.