



Sunday Notes

October 30, 2022



Looking Towards Sunday

This Sunday is All Saints Day-- a moment of remembering all those in "the company of heaven". All Saints' Day goes back to the fourth century when the Christians celebrated a festival on the first Sunday after Pentecost to honor all martyrs and saints. Pope Gregory IV made All Saints' Day a church holiday in 837 CE-- replacing the pagan Festival of the Dead.

All Saints' Day is linked with Halloween or "All Hallows' Eve".

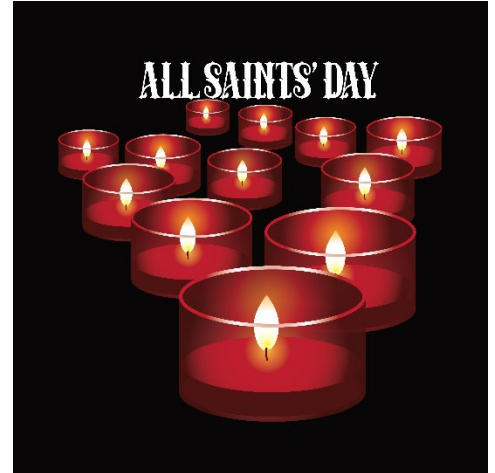
Interesting facts about All Saints Day:

- All Saints' Day is not the same as All Souls' Day. All Souls' Day is dedicated to those who still have not reached heaven.
- Hymns like "For All the Saints" and "I Sing a Song of the Saints of God" are traditionally sung.
- The football team New Orleans Saints got its name from the dominant Catholic population in the state.
- In an All Saints' Day feast, soul cakes and Irish bread with fruit are commonly served.

(information for this newsletter was shamelessly stolen from the Internet!)

See You in the Pews!

Rev. Jane



First Church Pledging for 2023 is now open on our [website!](#)

Your pledge is a way of saying to First Church, "You are my church, and your journey is my journey." Make a pledge that represents your commitment. Thank you, Rev. Jane.

Today's Altar Flower Dedication

Our altar flowers today are donated in honor of the Bristol police.

Children and Family Ministries

The Nursery will be open at 9:45 a.m. and staffed as needed for infants and toddlers. Parents and Guardians are asked to complete the annual **Child and Youth Family Registration** for the current program year either online [HERE](#), or by completing a paper form available during worship. Please see Cindy Tolin with any questions.

The congregation can attend the Halloween worship on **October 30th** and come dressed as their favorite character or item to the worship service. Children will be enjoying Halloween festivities in the Christian Education wing on the 4th floor during the service. Join in the Halloween spirit and come dressed to impress!

We need you! Contact Cindy Tolin or Barbara Lewis to assist in church school this fall. It takes a village!

Upcoming Events

RISE & SHINE --- It's Breakfast at Church! Next Sunday!

November 6th from 8:30-9:45 a.m. in the Auditorium

Are you tired of fussing with breakfast on Sunday mornings? Come to church a little earlier and enjoy a breakfast *smorgasbord* of bagels, fruit, breakfast casseroles, bacon or sausage, pastries, and more – plus coffee, juice & tea. Tasty gluten-free options, too. Sponsored by the JPW Library ☺

Sharing Our Wisdom with Rev. Joseph Tobin, Next Sunday!

November 6th at 11:30 a.m. in the JPWL

Join Joe Tobin after worship to discuss: *What is spirituality? Who are the "Nones?" What has been the impact of the phrase "spiritual but not religious" on the thinking and religious practices of a new generation? What do we see as the future of the Christian church in America, and in particular First Church West Hartford?* Joe will be referencing Krista Tippett's book, [Becoming Wise: An Inquiry into the Mystery and Art of Living](#). The reading materials will be emailed to you ahead of the meeting. You must [register here](#) to receive the readings. If you have questions or comments, call Joe at 860-916-1923. Bring your coffee, join in, and be prepared to settle back for an interesting hour!

Celtic Worship Service

CT Celtic Worship's next *Celtic Worship Service* is Sunday, November 6th at 4:30 p.m. It will be held in-person only, indoors at Hartford International University, 77 Sherman Street, Hartford, CT. This month we will celebrate "*Sacred Feminine: St. Brigid of Kildaire*" with a reflection, prayers, poetry and music. Plus, community sharing afterwards!

Coffee and Conversation will be held at Reverend Jane's house at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, November 8th. All are welcome! Reverend Jane lives at 30 North Beacon Street, Hartford. Tuesday, October 25th and Tuesday, November 1st we will meet as usual at Hartford Baking Company on Farmington Avenue in West Hartford Center. We hope you will join us! Rev. Jane

The Thunderbird American Indian Dancers

Tuesday, November 8th from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. *For All Ages!* [Register HERE](#)* The West Hartford Public Library, in partnership with First Church West Hartford, presents The Thunderbird American Indian Dancers in the First Church Auditorium. This program is for families with children of all ages. *Registration recommended for notification purposes, and will be open from October 17th at 10 a.m. to November 8th at 2:30 p.m. This program is generously supported by the West Hartford Library Foundation and the Ellen Jeanne Goldfarb Memorial Charitable Trust.

GHIAA Opportunities: If you want to know more about how GHIAA works and what we can accomplish together, register for an inspiring 90-minute GHIAA Orientation Nov. 9th (6:30 to 8 p.m. in person). You can register at cljct.org/ghiaa/trainings, or contact Linda Bronstein (lbronstein@irisct.org) or Terry Schmitt (terrerschmittwh@gmail.com) for more information. Also, SAVE THE DATE – December 7th from 7 to 9 p.m. – for an exciting in-person GHIAA gathering at CCSU, with GHIAA supporters from all 45 member churches and organizations, as well as invited public officials and legislators. Let's show the strength in our numbers!

Abraham's Gifts by Harvey Paris, Master Carver

October 24th – November 18th at HIU; *Free*

Abraham's Gifts depicts the teachings of Abraham and his impact on Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Abraham's story is told historically from Creation to Judaism, to Christianity, to Islam. Strikingly, the pieces illustrate many of the seminal and shared beliefs of the three religions.

Silver Lake Fall Action Weekend

Join us for Fall Action Weekend, November 18th-20th

From chopping wood to repairing buildings, moving picnic tables to raking leaves, there's a project for everyone, high-schoolers through adult. For more information and to register, click [HERE](#).

The Festival of Trees Returns!

Join us for the seventh Annual West Hartford Festival of Trees on December 1st!

Just in time to help make the holiday season even more joyful, First Church is thrilled to announce that the seventh annual Festival of Trees will go live again as part of West Hartford's annual Holiday Stroll on Thursday, December 1, 2022.

Everyone is welcome to donate a decorated tree! Registration is open September 28th thru November 11th. Register your tree either online or with the mail-in form. More details [here](#).

BOOK GROUP NEWS

Awakening the Spirit book group's next book is [The Great Work](#) by Thomas Berry. Fr. Berry presents the culmination of his ideas and urges us to move from being a disrupting force on the Earth to living as a benign and compassionate presence. He calls this transition the "Great Work" – the most necessary and ennobling work we will ever undertake. His insight illuminates the paths we need to take in the realms of ethics, politics, economics, and education if we, the Earth, and all other life are to survive. His message is not one of doom but of resounding hope and gratitude for Earth. Join the discussion – Mondays from 1 to 2:30 p.m. Zoom option available. Books available through the JPW Library.

Food for Thought book group's next book is [Remarkably Bright Creatures](#) by Shelby Van Pelt, a "charming, witty, and compulsively readable exploration of friendship, reckoning, and hope that traces a widow's unlikely connection with a giant Pacific octopus. Van Pelt's debut novel is a gentle reminder that sometimes taking a hard look at the past can help uncover a future that once felt impossible" (Amazon). Join the discussion – Tuesday, November 1st at 5:30 p.m. Zoom option available. Books available through the JPW Library. Call Jennifer deSimas with questions: 860-232-3893.

First Church Bible Study

Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m., via Zoom; through November 2nd. We will be continuing with The Book of Acts. 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.

Announcements

Halloween Candy Collection

CANDY donations will be accepted for the **Hartford Loaves and Fishes Ministry** through November 13th to add to the brown bag meals prepared by First Church on a monthly basis. What a joy it will be to share some seasonal treats with others! Collection boxes will be around the sanctuary beginning October 30th.

Hats & Mittens Drive

The Annual Hat and Mitten Drive begins October 16th and will continue through the end of the year. Marked boxes will be available in the Narthex and outside the auditorium to collect your donations. If you continue to worship from home, we will be happy to pick up your donations from you. Any new or used winter outerwear or clothing in good condition is welcome.

The First Church Senior Resource Manual (SRM) has been revised and updated, and is once again available in the JPW Library. The SRM is the brainchild of Julia Rosa, who faithfully worked to compile the resource for individuals and families who may be experiencing challenges associated with aging. It is located in the JPW Library and is also available on the [JPW Library page](#) of the church's website.

Thanksgiving Baskets

Our food collection for Thanksgiving baskets is here! Beginning in October there will be marked buckets in the Narthex for your food donations. We would also be happy to pick up your food donations from you. If you would like to help, please use the following guide:

Find the first letter of your last name to see the suggested donation:

A-D: Juice, tea and coffee

E-H: Gravy and Cranberry Sauce, Spanish Food (ie Goya Products)

I-L: Rice and potatoes

M-P: Breakfast cereals and juice boxes

Q-T: Canned fruits and vegetables

U-Z: Bread and roll mix; stuffing mix.

We are also accepting Stop & Shop Gift Cards which we give along with the baskets. Thanks so much for your support! Please contact Janice Carter Hall at 860-305-0940 or Carole Carter at 860-690-1338 if you have any questions or need us to pick up your contributions.

Altar Flower Donations Needed!

Sponsoring altar flowers is a meaningful way to honor or remember loved ones, and is also part of our Inreach ministry. Following each Sunday service, a volunteer takes the altar flower arrangement and makes smaller arrangements from it to deliver to church members celebrating birthdays, recuperating from illness or surgery, or for other occasions. Please consider donating. We still need a donor for December 4th and have many dates available to donate in 2023.

October Reach Out: Freshplace

"Freshplace is an innovative client-choice/fresh food/case management food pantry. Freshplace at Chrysalis Center serves up to 100 families living in the poorest neighborhoods in the North End of Hartford. Freshplace's mission is to build long-term food security and self-sufficiency by providing individuals with access to fresh and nutritional foods and case management services to address both the immediate need of hunger and the root causes of food insecurity – poverty. After reaching their individualized goals, Freshplace members have a better chance of eliminating hunger in their household and increasing their family's economic self-sufficiency."

Freshplace provides at-risk families with fresh fruits, vegetables, meat, and dairy products in addition to pantry staples. Clients are guided in making selections that accommodate their health, cultural, religious, and familial needs. There are also comprehensive intake and referral services, increasing access to food stamps, health and crisis intervention programs, public assistance, and educational services. For more information or to donate to : <https://chrysaliscenterct.org/>
Thank you for your support!

Family News!

The "Family News" section of the now retired TIDINGS was one of everyone's favorite parts. Well, guess what? We now have a family news page on our website. Family news will be shared when it is submitted to [Amy Melvin](#) or [Joy Taylor](#). Common topics include: Weddings, Births, Graduations, Baptisms, Deaths, Reunions, Moves, other milestones, or just people together! Send your photo(s) with caption(s) any time! We may edit content to fit. Check it out under the Inreach Menu! (Please note, this is a public page. In other words, it is not password protected).

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

Linda Clark, Office Manager, FCWHAdmin2@whfirstchurch.org

Amy Melvin, Communications, Communications@whfirstchurch.org

Joy Taylor, Communications, Communications2@whfirstchurch.org

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.

Office Hours: Monday thru Thursday 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m

Contact: general.mail@whfirstchurch.org or 860-233-9605