



Sunday Notes

July 9, 2023



Looking Towards Sunday

Did you know that an eagle, when faced with a storm, uses the wind to lift itself higher, soaring above the clouds to escape the turmoil below? Isaiah tells us that “those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles.” This means that as the storms of life swirl around us, we’re not knocked off our perch. Instead, we’re propelled upwards on wings of hope and faith. Faith becomes our updraft, continually increasing our strength, allowing us to navigate these challenging times not just with perseverance, but with the resilience and grace of an eagle in flight. So, ready for take-off? Let’s embrace life’s winds of change, rising with spirit and hope. See you soon, Rev. Jane



9:00 a.m. Summer Worship has begun and continues through September 3, 2023. Please make a note of the early time to help us beat the heat and continue worshipping and livestreaming from the Meeting House!

Today’s Altar Flower Dedication

Our altar flowers today were donated in loving memory of Nan Streeter by her family.

Celebration of Life for Nan Streeter on Saturday, July 8 at 10:00 a.m. in the Meeting House

Click [HERE](#) for the obituary.

Cards to the family can be sent to: Jean Streeter: 616 Edinburgh Lane, Unit A, Prospect Heights, IL 60070

With Sorrow

Eunice Leone, who has been part of the First Church community since moving to West Hartford, passed away on June 22, 2023. Click [HERE](#) for the obituary.

Upcoming Events

Mission Trip Opportunity

First Church members and friends ages 14 and up are invited to experience a week of mission work in Boston, July 23 - 28. We will stay at the [Edwards House](#) in Framingham and commute into Greater Boston every day. Service projects include serving meals, gardening, sorting donations, painting and renovation work, helping out at homeless shelters, and other tasks that address urban poverty. There will also be time for some cultural immersion and fun time to learn about and truly appreciate Boston. Sponsored through a partnership with the SNEUCC (Southern New England UCC), the Edwards House, and Incredible Days, a mission and service organization. Scholarships available. [More information here](#). Interested? See Rev. Fredd or Jennifer.

Carillon Concert Series

Thursdays in July from 6 to 7 p.m.

You are invited to bring your family, your own chairs or blankets, 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 it is 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

August 8, 17, 22, and 29 at 5:30 p.m. (Please note 8/17th is a Thursday)

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. Click [HERE](#) to see the list of performers.

Summer Book Group! August 14 from 12 to 1:30 pm.

Rev. Tom Carr, facilitator of the Awakening the Spirit book group, is leading a discussion of [The Seed Keeper](#) by Indigenous author Diane Wilson. Please bring your lunch; beverages and dessert are provided. [Sign up here](#) if you would like to join in!

Book Group News:

Both book discussion groups are on summer break. **Awakening the Spirit** will resume meeting Monday, September 11 from 12 to 1:30 p.m. *Please note the time change!* **Food for Thought** will restart at 5:30 on Tuesday, September 5. Watch for details this summer!

Announcements

Job Posting – Assistant Director of Worship Arts

Do you enjoy making music? Have you ever considered a side career as a music director of a church?

First Church is looking to fill an Assistant Director of Worship Arts for our music program. This position will work as an assistant to our Director of Worship Arts, learning the aspects of church music leadership as an apprentice. The successful candidate will have the opportunity to experience leading church music by participating in our church choir during the year. One Sunday a month, they will have the opportunity to lead a worship service by playing service music, accompanying hymns, preparing the choir, and conducting the choir during worship. The Assistant Director will also have the opportunity to learn the nuts and bolts of the behind the scenes aspects of being music director to include service planning, budget tracking and preparation, and maintaining the music library. This is a part time, 12-month position, amounting to approximately 20 hours/month. For more information click [HERE](#).

Job Opening at First Church

First Church is seeking a part-time Director of Faith Formation for Children & Youth. For more information on this position click [HERE](#).

Save First Church Steeple – Fundraising Update

Donations are coming in regularly and we now have over \$26,000.00! We will be offering a raffle prize during the July carillon concerts of a Noah Webster House annual membership. We may also have a few additional prizes. Please continue to use our [website](#) and the [GoFundMe](#) page to donate or share with others.

Return your books! As we 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. Remember: We charge fees, but we don't insist on collecting them – your late return is fee-free.

Hunger Doesn't Take a Vacation

When schools close for the summer, food insecurity among families with children rises. Please continue to make donations throughout the summer and include items such as juice boxes and granola bars. Also needed are: canned fruit/applesauce, pasta & sauce, soup, shelf stable milk (32 oz. containers), tuna & chicken, baked beans, rice (1 lb. packages), and peanut butter (16-18 oz. jars).

Altar Flower Donations Needed!

Sponsoring altar flowers is a meaningful way to honor or remember loved ones and is also part of our In-reach ministry. **We have dates available for 2023-2024**, including these fall 2023 dates: 9/24, 10/29, and 11/26. Please contact the church office for details at general.mail@whfirstchurch.org or 860-233-9605. Please note, the price of a seasonal altar flower arrangement has increased to \$90.

Check Out These Books at the JPWL

- [Corner of Fourth and Nondual](#) by Cynthia Bourgeault
- [The Five-Star Weekend](#) by Elin Hilderbrand
- [The Forgotten Girls](#) by Monica Potts
- [Saturday at the Food Pantry](#) (children's) by Diane O'Neill; illustrated by Brizida Magro

Visit www.whfirstchurch.org/jpw-library/catalog/ for more info.

Submit Prayer Requests at http://bit.ly/FCprayer_request.

July Reach Out: The Town That Cares

The Town That Cares is a special fund administered by the Town of West Hartford Social Services Department. The fund assists residents experiencing a crisis situation, hindering their ability to pay for food, utility bills, shelter costs, medical expenses, and other critical needs. It is supported by contributions from individuals, businesses, and community groups. Over 1,000 households received assistance from The Town That Cares in Fiscal Year 2022. Examples of how residents were assisted by The Town That Cares Fund: over 10,720 bags of groceries were distributed through their Food Pantry Program, 680 students received a gift card for school supplies from their Back to School Program and 416 households benefited from their Thanksgiving Program.

For more information: The Town That Cares, West Hartford Social Services, 50 South Main St., Room 130, West Hartford, CT 06107 or call Social Services at 860-561-7580 or 860-561-7569.

You can donate directly to: [\[Town of West Hartford\] The Town that Cares](#) or online through the church [HERE](#) . Thank you for your support!

Family News!

We now have a family news page on our website: [click here](#). Family news will be shared when it is submitted to [Amy Melvin](#) or [Joy Taylor](#). 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.

Sunday Notes/Happenings submissions are due by noon on Tuesdays to Sarah and Linda

- Sarah Kopp, Office Manager, sarah.kopp@whfirstchurch.org
- Linda Clark, Office Manager, FCWHAdmin2@whfirstchurch.org

Website, flyer, and Social Media additions or changes can be sent to Amy and Joy anytime.

- Amy Melvin, Communications, Communications@whfirstchurch.org
- Joy Taylor, Communications, Communications2@whfirstchurch.org

Four 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 through Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

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