



Sunday Notes

July 16, 2023

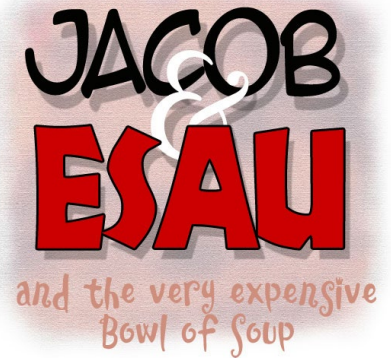


Looking Towards Sunday

This week we find ourselves in the company of Jacob and Esau, witnessing a vital moment that forever alters their lives. Amidst his hunger, Esau impulsively trades his birthright to Jacob for a bowl of stew, teaching us a crucial lesson about not sacrificing our long-term spiritual inheritance for temporary, worldly desires. It's a call for us to value the blessings that God has in store for us just as Jacob did, placing importance on spiritual wealth over immediate physical satisfaction. As we journey through life, let us be inspired to navigate our paths with wisdom, patience, and a heart that remains steadfastly aligned with God's divine plan. Let us seek to cherish and protect our spiritual birthright, experiencing the richness of God's blessings in our lives. Stay encouraged and be abundantly blessed!

See You on Sunday!

RevJane



Today's Altar Flower Dedication

Our altar flowers today were donated by Carolyn Lind in loving memory of Peter Lind.

Upcoming Events

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.

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 visit: <https://www.whfirstchurch.org/job-listings>.

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 visit: <https://www.whfirstchurch.org/job-listings/>.

Save First Church Steeple – Raffle at Carillon

Donations continue to come in and we are very grateful for all the support. We are running a raffle for a year membership to the Noah Webster House during the month of July. For a \$5 suggested donation you can take a chance in the drawing during the Carillon concerts or during fellowship on Sundays. Please continue to use our [website](#) and the [GoFundMe](#) page to donate or share with others.

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 2023 dates: 9/24, 10/29, 11/26, & 12/3. 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

- [Afro-Christian Convention: The Fifth Stream of the United Church of Christ](#) by Yvonne Delk
- [Sacred Nature: How We Can Recover Our Bond with the Natural World](#) by Karen Armstrong
- [The Wager: A Tale of Shipwreck, Mutiny, and Murder](#) by David Grann
- [I'm Moving! New House, Same Underwear](#) by Brenda Li (picture book)

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