



# Sunday Notes

October 22, 2023



## Looking Towards Sunday

Is it just me...or did you too find yourself singing Supertramp following morning worship and into the afternoon last Sunday?

"Give a little bit...

There's so much that we need to share  
So send a smile and show you care"

Scientists refer to that phenomenon as "stuck tune syndrome". Apparently, there is no known remedy. I'm sorry. But also, I'm not sorry since stewardship season should spark the imagination and, indeed, stick in the brain. The 2023 campaign letter and pledge materials should arrive in your mailboxes shortly!

This coming Sunday, the featured text is taken from Exodus, Chapter 33. Moses wants to know – he wants to feel completely confident – about the future and the form of God's presence.

Moses says to God: "*See, you have said to me, 'Bring up this people'; but you have not let me know whom you will send with me.*" Moses is good like that! I admire his intense insistence, especially because it evokes an assurance from God. God responds: "*My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.*" God is good like that!

The story (and the sermon) is an invitation to consider the idea that certainty about God's glory and God's goodness comes in passing moments...and in hindsight. I'll say more when I see you.

Be blessed and be a blessing,  
Rev. Fredd

## Today's Altar Flower Dedication

Our altar flowers today were donated by the Schmitt family in loving memory of Jean Piper.

## Stewardship Sunday is November 12!

Our 2023 Stewardship Campaign is underway and pledge cards have been mailed out. You can bring your completed pledge card to worship on November 12 or mail it to the office beforehand. You can also make your pledge online by filling out the online pledge card [HERE](#). If you would like to view the letter from the Stewardship Team, Click [HERE](#).

## With Sorrow

Ken Weeks, a longtime active member, passed away on September 29. A memorial service will be held at First Church on Saturday, October 28 at 11 a.m. in the Meeting House.

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## Upcoming Events

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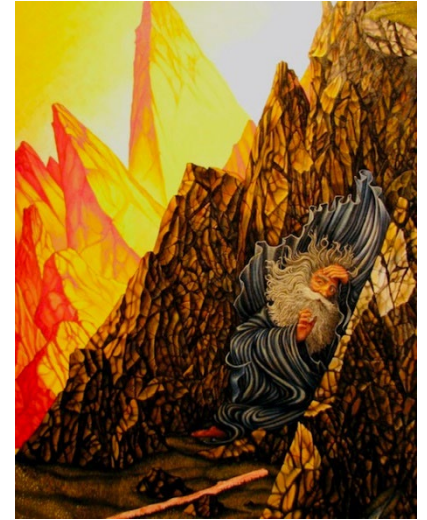
### Coffee and Conversation - Wednesdays at 10 a.m.

Join Rev. Fredd at the Hartford Baking Company in West Hartford Center for coffee and conversation!

### Lily Nguyen and Joey Carbone are heading up a Food Drive as a Youth Service project.

**Saturday, October 21 from 1 to 3 p.m. - PLEASE NOTE THE TIME CHANGE!**

Support the youth group food drive for West Hartford's Food Pantry & Loaves & Fishes in Hartford. Drive into the parking lot from Farmington Avenue, and volunteers will gratefully unload your donation. Exit onto Memorial Drive without even getting out of your car! There is great need for: spaghetti, pasta sauce, peanut butter, fruit, applesauce, tuna, shelf stable milk, and rice.



## Lollipop Opera

### Friday, October 27 at 5:30 p.m. - Dinner and a Show for the Whole Family!

Join us for pizza at 5:30 p.m., then afterwards enjoy a performance of the Lollipop Opera – The Fairy Tale Kitchen. Meet Esmerelda, a "reformed" witch who is full of surprises! Favorite fairy tale friends drop in on her cooking show -- with hilarious results! Plenty of opportunity for audience participation, and spooky fun for everyone! Click [HERE](#) for more information and to sign up to attend.

## Steeple Dedication, Sunday October 29

Please join us following worship on Sunday, October 29 for this much-anticipated celebratory event!

## Taizé Service

### Sunday, November 5 at 5 p.m. in the Chapel

Join First Church West Hartford on November 5 at 5 p.m. in the Chapel for a contemplative, calming Taizé Service. This service will be Lay-Lead with moments for silent and musical meditation. Come celebrate the season of Thanksgiving and prepare for the Christmas holiday with music and mindfulness. There will be other opportunities to worship with us later in an alternative way later in the year and in early 2024!

## Qi gong/Mindful Movement

Tuesdays from 3:30 to 4:15 p.m.- October 24 and 31.

We will meet in the chapel. Please use the chapel entrance in front of the building. No Charge – Sponsored by the JPW Library. Qi gong consists of gentle movements to loosen the joints, tendons, and ligaments. It improves balance, relaxes the mind, and lowers blood pressure, to name a few benefits. More information [HERE](#).

## Book Group News:

The church's John P. Webster Library coordinates and sponsors two regular book groups that meet in the library. Copies of the books are provided for participants. New members are always welcome! For more information, please contact Jennifer or Molly at 860-232-3893 or [jpwlibrary@whfirstchurch.org](mailto:jpwlibrary@whfirstchurch.org).

**Awakening the Spirit**, led by Rev. Tom Carr, meets Mondays from 12 to 1:30 p.m. Bring a bag lunch; beverages and desserts are provided. The group is currently discussing [\*If God is Love, Don't Be a Jerk\*](#) by John Pavlovitz.

**Food for Thought**, led by JPW Library staff, meets on the first Tuesdays of each month from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. in the JPW Library. Their next meeting is Tuesday, November 7 to discuss [\*Born a Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood\*](#) by Trevor Noah. Bring a snack or dinner; refreshments and desserts will be provided.

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## Faith Formation Notes and News

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### Welcome, Children!

- Start your Sundays at First Church in the Meeting House/Sanctuary in the Prayground or in the pew with your family. After the Message for All Ages, follow Ms. Jennifer to church school or remain in the sanctuary during worship.
- PreK – Grade 1 -- Community Room (#232), downstairs from the sanctuary
- Grades 2-5 -- Room #406.
- Infants and toddlers -- Nursery, Room #216 (parents, please inform Jennifer by the Friday before worship if you will require Nursery care)
- New Option! – watch the livestream of the service on the large screen in the church library (beneath the sanctuary).

[Register Here for Sunday School](#) All children are welcome to attend! Hard copies of this form are available at the JPW Library. Questions? Contact Jennifer at 860-233-9605 or [jpwebsterdir@whfirstchurch.org](mailto:jpwebsterdir@whfirstchurch.org).

**High School Students**, are you looking for volunteer opportunities? Do you need work experience for your resume? Come volunteer in the Sunday school from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Be that Big Kid the little ones admire. Help with crafts, play games, read the Bible, and have fun! Contact Jennifer for more information. Thank you!!

## Confirmation

Rev. Fredd Ward will be offering a Confirmation class for students in Ninth Grade and up this year. If you are interested in enrolling, please contact him in person or give him a call at 860-233-9605.

## Sunday Bible Study

Please Note: The Bible Study group will not meet October 22.

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### Announcements

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#### Bulletins & QR code bulletins

In an effort to reduce office supply costs and environmental impacts, when it is possible- please share bulletins with your family. QR codes are also available in the pews to access the bulletin and Sunday Notes. Thank you!

#### Festival of Trees - Planning for the Eighth West Hartford Festival of Trees is underway!

Please consider donating a decorated tree or if you have an affiliation with a business/organization, please ask if they might consider donating a tree or gift card. The Festival of Trees event takes place during West Hartford's annual Holiday Stroll, on November 30. Register your tree on the church website [HERE](#). You will get a chance to volunteer that week with Festival set-up, to work during the event, and to assist with clean up and tree distribution afterwards.

Thank you! The F.O.T. Committee.

#### Steeple Fundraising Group

We are launching the "Light the Steeple" campaign which is a way to dedicate a week of the lighting of the steeple to a loved one. The Steeple group is dedicating the first week, Oct. 29 to all pastors, past and present, of First Church. Similar to making a flower donation we will ask that you pick a date (Nov. 5 or later) and at least one week in advance of the desired week, and all donors will be acknowledged in our weekly Happenings. Please note: more than one donor can fall on any given week starting with Nov. 5. Donation link found on the "Save the First Church Steeple" web page or [click here](#).

#### Covenant to Care Hat & Mitten Drive

The Annual Hat and Mitten Drive is underway and will continue through the end of the year. Please bring new or gently worn mittens, hats, scarves, and other winter clothing for children through our Covenant to Care partners.

Marked boxes will be available in the Narthex and outside the auditorium to collect your donations. Any new or used winter outerwear or clothing in good condition is welcome.

#### Donated diapers make a difference! Please consider donating to our October Diaper Drive!

Diapers can take a big chunk out of a family's budget costing on average \$70-\$80 a month and the costs are not covered by WIC or SNAP benefits. All size diapers and wipes are needed but particularly Pull-Ups and diapers in sizes 4,5,6. From October 1 through October 29, Outreach is collecting diapers, baby wipes and Pull-Ups to be distributed through the Bridge Family Resource Center at Charter Oak International Academy and their Mosaic Family Center in Hartford. Please drop in the marked boxes at church entrances.

#### Do you enjoy working with children? First Church Academy for Young Children has 2 open positions.

The 1<sup>st</sup> is a part-time PreK 4 Associate Teacher position (hours 8:00 am-2:00 pm) and the 2<sup>nd</sup> is for a Substitute Teacher. Associate Teachers work collaboratively with Lead Teachers in the classroom to create a safe, playful learning environment for children. Click [HERE](#) to view the job posting.

Substitute teachers provide coverage for a variety of classrooms for a variety of shifts. This position is flexible, and we can work with your schedule! Click [HERE](#) to view the job posting.

If you are interested in learning more, contact Dawne Quinn, Education Director at [dquinn@firstchurchacademy.org](mailto:dquinn@firstchurchacademy.org).

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

#### Job Posting – Assistant Director of Worship Arts

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>.

## Check Out these Awesome Books at the JPW Library!

[\*In Search of a Prophet: A Spiritual Journey with Kahlil Gibran\*](#) by Paul-Gordon Chandler.

[\*Children of God Storybook Bible\*](#) retold by Desmond Tutu.

[\*Every Step is Home: A Spiritual Geography from Appalachia to Alaska\*](#) by Lori Erickson.

[\*Little Mole Gives Thanks\*](#) by Glenys Nellist; illustrated by Sally Garland.

**Have You Heard?** The John P. Webster Library is now open on **Fridays** from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.! Stop in and see us!

## October 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 through the church, click [HERE](#) or you can donate directly at: <https://irisct.org/donate>. 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).

## Taking Photos in Church and Sharing Policy

Taking photos and documenting life events is commonplace now and more and more common in church settings. Lots of members are asking about taking photos at church events and wondering how to share them and to avoid confusion, we came up with some guidelines. Most important: be sure phone is in silent mode and skip solo selfies when tagging church events! Laminated copies of guidelines are at each entrance to the Sanctuary and at auditorium entrance, or [view policy here](#) or go to website>Photo Gallery page. Thank you, Amy and Joy.

## 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](mailto:sarah.kopp@whfirstchurch.org)
- Linda Clark, Office Manager, [FCWHAdmin2@whfirstchurch.org](mailto: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](mailto:Communications@whfirstchurch.org)
- Joy Taylor, Communications, [Communications2@whfirstchurch.org](mailto: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 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**Contact:** [general.mail@whfirstchurch.org](mailto:general.mail@whfirstchurch.org) or 860-233-9605