



# Sunday Notes

June 2, 2024



## Looking Towards Sunday

This Sunday is Children's Sunday! It's a morning when we elevate the youngest among us by inviting them to participate in worship as acolytes, liturgists, readers, ushers, greeters, and communion servers. The centerpiece of the service is a celebration of our Sunday School All-Stars – the squad of students whose faces are surely familiar to you. Even so, Amanda will introduce the "line-up" in the same spirited style that you would experience during a Boston Red Sox game (no offense intended, Yankees fans)!

Speaking of baseball, the walk-up song conveys information about the athlete. Whether s/he is heading to the pitcher's mound or the batter's box, music says something...does something. A signature selection can soothe your soul; or pump up your psyche; or convey your character; or express your personal philosophy/theology. My pastoral preamble to the All-Star introductions is entitled: **What's Your Walk-up Song?** It's based on Psalm 139. I'll say more when I see you.

Also...no peanuts or Cracker Jack. But...gluten-free bread and nonalcoholic cup!

Be blessed. Be a blessing.

Rev. Fredd

## Altar Flowers

Our altar flowers this week were donated by Paul and Bev Truebig in loving memory of Ray and Joyce Truebig, Paul's parents.

---

## Upcoming Events

---

### Join Us for Breakfast this Sunday!

Sunday, June 2 from 8:30-9:30 a.m. in the Auditorium

Join the JPW Library Breakfast Team for hot breakfast casseroles, fruit, bacon or sausage, bagels, pastries, and more – plus coffee, juice & tea. Yummy gluten-free options, too. Sponsored by the JPWL and Outreach Team.

### QiGong & Meditation

Thursdays at 3 p.m. in the First Church Chapel - June 6, 13, 20, 27

Starts this Thursday! Join [Cynthia Hoag](#) of Dragon Rising Wellness for a month-long QiGong class. [Register here.](#)

### Potluck Dinner

Friday, June 7 at 6 p.m.

The Inreach team, along with Faith Formation, invites you to come join us for an end of the school year potluck dinner! There will be games for the kids and for the young at heart! Sign up [HERE](#) and let us know how many will be joining us and whether you'd like to bring an appetizer, side dish, main course, or dessert. We look forward to seeing everyone!

**If you are interested in joining First Church**, please plan to attend an information session for prospective new members following worship on **Sunday, June 9 at 11:15 a.m.** We expect to receive new members into the life of the church during the 10 a.m. worship service on **Sunday, June 23.** Please contact Rev. Fredd in person, by telephone at 860.233.9605, or via email [fredd.ward@whfirstchurch.org](mailto:fredd.ward@whfirstchurch.org).

### Gertrude Blanks Storytelling Event: Your Journey, Your Story

Tuesday, June 11 at 6:30 p.m. - Free!

The JPWL and the Noah Webster Library present a special storytelling event! Listen as Adeebah Aldabaan, Tiec Lê, and Rebeca Michelena share the stories of their journeys—how they came to be a part of our community, and their challenges, triumphs, and ongoing struggles. Followed by Q&A, light refreshments, and conversation.



## Juneteenth Celebration

Saturday, June 15 from 12 to 4 p.m.

The JPW Library partners once again with the Concerned Parents of Color of West Hartford (CPCWH) and the Town of West Hartford for the 2024 Annual CommUNITY Juneteenth Celebration -- a day of music, historic reenactments, art exhibits, dancers, and more. Donate [here](#) (thanks to Sustainable CT, all donations will be matched dollar for dollar) to support the celebration; see Jennifer if you're interested in volunteering.

**First Church will mark Juneteenth on Sunday, June 16 at 10 a.m.** with a worship service led by Rev. Fredd, featuring the reading of sections of the Emancipation Proclamation as well as special music.

## Open Chapel

Tuesday, June 18 from 12 to 1 p.m.

The Spirit Team plans to offer Open Chapel one time in June and then, beginning in September, once a month. You are invited to visit the Chapel for an hour of reflection and prayer. Quiet music that begins and ends the hour, helps the visitor to settle and become calm. Written prayer intentions that may be offered are directed to Rev. Fredd. Please feel welcome to attend on: Tuesday, June 18 from 12-1 p.m. and Sunday, Sept. 15 from 4-5 p.m.

## West Hartford Pride Festival

First Church will sponsor a booth at the West Hartford Pride Festival on Saturday, June 22, from 12:00 to 6:00 p.m. We need volunteers to man the booth in one- or two-hour shifts.

If you are interested, please contact Eleanor Wight ([ejwight@comcast.net](mailto:ejwight@comcast.net)) or Jennifer deSimas ([jpwebsterdir@whfirstchurch.org](mailto:jpwebsterdir@whfirstchurch.org)).

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

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

## Wisdom from the Belly of a Fish: Exploring *Jonah*

### Exploring Truth in the Great Biblical Myths, Part 2

8:45 to 9:30 a.m. Sunday June 2 in the World Friendship Room (#305)

Pastor Tom Carr and the JPWL invite you to "Wisdom from the Belly of a Fish: Exploring *Jonah*." A message of good news about the wideness of God's love. Read it [HERE](#) it before we meet.

## The church's John P. Webster Library coordinates and sponsors two book groups that meet regularly in the library.

Copies of the books are provided for participants. New members are always welcome to either group! For more information, please contact Jennifer or Molly at 860-232-3893 or [jpwllibrary@whfirstchurch.org](mailto:jpwllibrary@whfirstchurch.org).

- **Awakening the Spirit** meets once more before going on a short break. On June 3, they finish discussing *The Return of the Prodigal Son* and enjoy a potluck lunch (please bring a side dish, salad, or dessert to share). They meet again July 22 at Noon to discuss [Church of the Wild: How Nature Invites Us into the Sacred](#) by Victoria Loorz. Books are available now for pick-up.
- **Food for Thought** is meeting Tuesday, June 4 from 5 to 6:30 p.m. to discuss Marie Benedict's [The Only Woman in the Room](#).

---

## Announcements

---

**Rev. Susan IZARD has been asked to share the following prayers from the service on May 26:**

### Celtic Prayer of Blessing for those in need:

The light of God before you  
The love of Christ behind you  
The breath of Spirit within you  
Encircling light of the triune of grace.

### Celtic Prayer of Blessing when washing your face:

A palmful of the God of life  
A palmful of the Christ of love  
A palmful of the Spirit of Peace  
Triune of grace.

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

## Acolytes

Church acolytes play an important role in our Sunday services. Children will be lighting the candles before worship as well as putting the candles out to conclude the service. This can be a meaningful way for our children to serve their faith community. If your child is interested in helping out, please see or email Amanda Bethune at [amander14@gmail.com](mailto:amander14@gmail.com).

## Got Books?

You'll find quality used books for all ages in all genres at LAZARUS BOOKS, JPWL's used bookstore. Fiction, nonfiction, children's – all available for a freewill offering. Come on down and find your next read!

## JPWL Suggestions for Summer Reading (All titles are available at the JPWL)

### Fiction:

- [Me Before You](#), Jojo Moyes
- [I'm Fine and Neither Are You](#), Camille Pagan
- [The Bookish Life of Nina Hill](#), Abbi Waxman

### Nonfiction:

- [The Queen of Katwe: One Girl's Triumphant Path to Becoming a Chess Champion](#), Tim Crothers
- [Eat, Pray, Love: One Woman's Search for Everything Across Italy, India, and Indonesia](#), Elizabeth Gilbert
- [In the Heart of the Sea: The Tragedy of the Whaleship Essex](#), Nathaniel Philbrick

## Light The Steeple in Honor of a Loved One

For a \$25 donation, you are invited to "Light the Steeple" for one week in honor of a loved one. We ask that you pick a date 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. Donations will be added to the Save the Steeple fund. Click "Light The Steeple for a loved one" found on the "Save the First Church Steeple" web page or [click HERE](#).

## June Reach Out: Chrysalis Center

Chrysalis Center, Inc. is a private, non-profit, socially innovative multiservice organization that serves individuals and families living in Connecticut. Chrysalis Center helps those living in poverty, veterans, women and children, young adults and individuals who are struggling with mental health, addiction, HIV/AIDS, homelessness, and those returning from incarceration. Through job training, housing, and other community healthcare services, Chrysalis Center helps individuals transform their lives by "Getting help... Getting better... and Giving Back." Chrysalis Center offers a continuum of services in five core areas: Housing, Food, Recovery, Community Support, and Employment. At Chrysalis Center, our values are Human Potential, Choice, Integrity, Diversity, Change, Communication, Equity, Inclusion, and Collaboration. For more information: Chrysalis Center, Inc 255 Homestead Ave Hartford, CT 06112. Email: [info@chrysaliscenterct.org](mailto:info@chrysaliscenterct.org). Phone:(860) 263-4400.

To donate online thru the church, click [HERE](#) or you can donate directly at [Make a Gift - Chrysalis Center](#).

## Four Ways to Give (besides Sunday Morning Offertory)

1. **Give by Text:** Text "GIVE" to (860) 222-7870. Choose the fund you would like to donate to and follow the text prompts to enter your credit or debit card and follow all instructions. It's amazingly fast and simple!
2. **Give Online:** To make an online donation with your credit or debit card, click DONATE in menu, type amount and choose the designation from drop-down. To set up recurring payments, or to use ACH, login to "My First Church Login" and select GIVE and follow prompts.
3. **Give by Mail:** Checks can be mailed to First Church West Hartford: 12 South Main Street, West Hartford, CT 06107. Please indicate the fund, of your choice, in the memo line of your check.
4. **Give Gifts of Securities:** Contact local Financial Advisor Sue Banville at Edward Jones in West Hartford at 860-521-2119.

## 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 keep in mind that this is a public page.

## 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 Kopp** and **Janice Olson** - [sarah.kopp@whfirstchurch.org](mailto:sarah.kopp@whfirstchurch.org) and [Office.Manager@whfirstchurch.org](mailto:Office.Manager@whfirstchurch.org)
- **Website, printed pieces, and Social Media additions or changes** can be sent to Amy and Joy anytime. Amy Melvin: [Communications@whfirstchurch.org](mailto:Communications@whfirstchurch.org), Joy Taylor: [Communications2@whfirstchurch.org](mailto:Communications2@whfirstchurch.org)

**Office Hours:** Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Friday, 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

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