



# Sunday Notes

June 9, 2024



## Looking Towards Sunday

Are you familiar with the so-called fall of man, a.k.a. the fall of Adam, or simply the Fall? These are terms that Christian believers use to describe the transition of the first pair of people from innocence and obedience into wickedness and waywardness. The doctrine of the Fall derives from the early chapters of Genesis where we read that Adam and Eve lived with God in the Garden of Eden. They had it made in the shade. Yet, the serpent tempted them into upsetting their perfectly perfect paradise. That slithery so-and-so “tricked” them into taking fruit from the only forbidden tree. Who falls for that kind of thing??



I do!! You too? I mean, I'm human like that. You too? I'm often guilty of breaking fellowship with the One who fashioned me in the first place...who is acquainted with all my ways...who knows when I sit down and when I rise up. My recent overnight hospital stay showed me with utter certainty that I'm a fall risk. I'll say more when I see you. The sermon is entitled **Snakeology: The Risk(s) of Falling**.

Be blessed. Be a blessing.

Rev. Fredd

## Altar Flowers

Our altar flowers this week were donated by the Whitney family in loving memory of Sophia Berger.

**This Sunday** -- June 9th — is Steve Johnson's last day as Head Sexton of First Church. Please join us after worship for cake during coffee hour as we celebrate Steve and express appreciation for his 24 years of dedicated service. Truly, we wish him well in retirement!

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## Upcoming Events

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**If you are interested in joining First Church**, please plan to attend an information session for prospective new members following worship **This 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](#) 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 to 1 p.m. and Sunday, Sept. 15 from 4 to 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!

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## Announcements

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### Summer Worship Services

9:00 a.m. Summer Worship time begins June 30 and continues through Labor Day. Please make a note of the early time to help us beat the heat and continue worshipping and livestreaming from the Meeting House!

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

#### Fiction:

- [Remarkably Bright Creatures](#) by Shelby Van Pelt
- [The Guncle Abroad](#) by Steven Rowley
- [She and Her Cat](#) by Makoto Shinkai & Naruki Nagakawa; translated by Ginny Tapley Takemori

#### Nonfiction:

- [At the Broken Places: A Mother and Trans Son Pick Up the Pieces](#) by Mary Collins and Donald Collins
- [The False White Gospel: Rejecting Christian Nationalism, Reclaiming True Faith, and Refounding Democracy](#) by Jim Wallis
- [Dorothy Day: The World Will Be Saved by Beauty: An Intimate Portrait of My Grandmother](#) by Kate Hennessy

### 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. **We have the following dates available:** 7/28 and 8/18. Please contact the church office for details at 860-233-9605.

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).

### 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](#).

### 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](#).

### 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.

### Taking Photos in Church and Sharing Policy

Taking photos and documenting life events is commonplace now and more and more common in church settings, so we came up with some guidelines. Most important: be sure the 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 the 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 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.