



# Sunday Notes

June 23, 2024



## Looking Towards Sunday

During my pastoral reflection last Sunday, I suggested that Juneteenth – the day of remembrance, reflection, and education -- is an inclusive experience. The holiday commemorates African American freedom, of course. But everyone who believes in the blessing of freedom belongs to the celebration.

I would humbly suggest that the same can be said about Pride. Every person of conscience...every person of goodwill can contribute to the ongoing work and witness of LGBTQIA+ justice. Indeed, Christ compels us to “love our neighbor out loud”. The Creator calls us into community where equality wins...where “love is louder than hate”. I’m borrowing those phrases from our denomination’s national initiative directed by Rachel Ward, Team Lead & Minister for Gender & Sexuality Justice Ministries. Read about it and download the toolkit [here](#).



Also, don't forget that the West Hartford Pride Festival happens Saturday from noon until 6:00pm and that First Church will sponsor a booth. And...I hope you're planning to worship with us Sunday morning. Surely, the service will be another uplifting and Spirit-filled experience in terms of music and message. Three members of our congregation have graciously agreed to offer brief reflections following the theme: **Pride Thus Far and Thenceforward**.

Come and see!

Blessings,

Rev. Fredd

## Altar Flowers

Our altar flowers this week are donated by Bob and Ginny Vocelli in loving memory of Louis and Clara Vocelli.

## 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 worshiping and livestreaming from the Meeting House!

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## Upcoming Events

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### Carillon Concert Series

Thursdays in July from 6 to 7 p.m.

The 2024 Carillon recital schedule is as follows with three performances:

- July 11 – Eve Schmitt
- July 18 – Margaret Angelini
- July 25 – John Widmann

Please bring your family, your own chairs or blanket, and your own refreshments to the lawn of the church in West Hartford Center. Free parking is available in the church parking lot which is accessible from Farmington Ave.

Concerts take place rain or shine. The sanctuary will be open for dry listening if raining. In 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 our [Facebook page](#).

### Help Needed for Summer Concert Series

The Outreach team will be providing set up and clean up support for the Summer Carillon (July 11, 18, 25 from 6 to 7 p.m.) and Sun is Shining Music Series (August 6, 13, 20, 27 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.). Any church members who would like to help out are encouraged to contact Carol Lorenzo or Yvonne Tafuto.

## Monday Matinees at the JPW Library

*The Transformative Power of Music*

All showings are at 2 p.m. in the JPW Library

- **JULY 1** [Summer of Soul \(...Or, When the Revolution Could Not Be Televised\)](#), 2021 - Running time: 1h 58m

Part music film, part historical record created around an epic event that celebrated Black history, culture, and fashion. Over the course of six weeks in the summer of 1969, just 100 miles south of Woodstock, The Harlem Cultural Festival was filmed in Mount Morris Park (now Marcus Garvey Park). The footage was never seen and largely forgotten--until now.

- **JULY 15** [The Music of Strangers: Yo-Yo Ma & the Silk Road Ensemble](#), 2015 - Running time: 1h 36m

Offers a thrilling and too-rare glimpse of art's power to bridge personal and cultural divides. As one musician says, "a piece of music can't stop a bullet," but this engaging film is a vote for culture, a vote against xenophobia.

- **JULY 29** [Young at Heart](#), 2007 - Running time: 1h 47m

Documentary about a choir of senior citizens from New England who perform, with vigor and unabashed enthusiasm, rock and pop classics along the lines of Sonic Youth's "Schizophrenia" and Talking Heads' "Life During Wartime."

### In Case You're Interested...

On Wednesday, July 17, the [Congregational Library & Archives](#) will sponsor a free, **virtual**, half-day seminar for those interested in Congregational history. "Mission and Transmission: Walking in the Congregational Way" will be held on Zoom so that participants around the world can take part. "The Congregational Way is an expression of Christianity in every part of the world. For some, it spread through the mission agencies of the USA and UK. In other places, it was transmitted through shifts in population as a result of persecution and conflict, or exploration and seeking new lives. But it has also arisen as a natural response to the Gospel, as God calls communities to express their lives in freedom." Find out more or register to attend [here](#).

### 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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### HANOC Snack Donations

The Outreach Team will be collecting non-perishable snacks for the Hillcrest Area Neighborhood Outreach Center (HANOC) during June, July and August. Needed snacks include but are not limited to, juice boxes, small packages of fishy crackers and cheese its, granola bars, dried fruit, popcorn, etc. One of the blue food pantry bins outside the auditorium will be marked and designated for these snacks. HANOC helps families with limited economic means to become more financially independent and integrated into the schools and community by coordinating resources to help meet their needs.

### West Hartford Food Pantry is Very Low

The West Hartford Food Pantry is very low on stock and has put out an urgent call for food donations. Please drop off donations in the marked blue bins outside the auditorium and around the building. Specific needs include: baked beans, canned fruit/applesauce, pasta and sauce, cold cereal, canned chicken and tuna, 1 lb. packages of rice, 16-18 oz sized peanut butter, soup, macaroni and cheese. Food donations can also be dropped off at the town hall lobby, Monday through Friday, from 8:30 to 4:30 p.m.

### My Sisters' Place

Every year, the For the Love of Children program at My Sisters' Place holds a Back-to-School picnic, which includes providing more than 70 school aged children served by My Sisters' Place with the necessities for school. Items they receive include backpacks, pens and pencils, notebooks, sneakers, school uniforms and more. This effort is only possible with the help of our corporate partners and community members. Best way to help is to go to our wish list: [Click here for Amazon wish list](#). We are asking for purchases to be made by Friday, July 26. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Annette Scheidecker, Director of Development, at (860)808-2044.

### 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 date available:** 7/28. 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).

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

### Fiction:

- [The River We Remember](#) by William Kent Krueger. "A complex, spellbinding mystery and a masterful portrait of midcentury American life" (goodreads.com).
- [The Authenticity Project](#) by Clare Pooley. "A group of strangers who live near each other in London become fast friends after writing their deepest secrets in a shared notebook" (Kirkus Reviews).

### Nonfiction:

- [Mother Angelica: The Remarkable Story of a Nun, Her Nerve, and a Network of Miracles](#) by Raymond Arroyo. "In 1981, a simple nun, using merely her entrepreneurial instincts and two hundred dollars, launched what would become the world's largest religious media empire. Meet the snarky, yet humble nun, Mother Angelica" (Amazon readers' reviews).
- [The Four Agreements: A Practical Guide to Personal Freedom \(A Toltec Wisdom Book\)](#) by don Miguel Ruiz. Ruiz reveals the source of self-limiting beliefs that rob us of joy and create needless suffering. Based on ancient Toltec wisdom, The Four Agreements offer a powerful code of conduct that can rapidly transform our lives to a new experience of freedom, true happiness, and love.

### 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.

### 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 12:00 p.m.

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