



# Sunday Notes

July 7, 2024



## Looking Towards Sunday

"That's all I want... That's all you need in life, a little place for your stuff. That's all your house is: a place to keep your stuff. If you didn't have so much stuff, you wouldn't need a house. You could just walk around all the time [carrying your stuff]." -- George Carlin

George Carlin was telling the truth when he recorded his classic routine ['A Place for My Stuff'](#) (1981). In fact, he illuminated a timeless human tendency – people prioritize material possessions ahead of spiritual principles. It's funny how that happens. Also...it's not so funny. Don't you find it downright difficult to do your thing without your things?

Sunday's sermon is entitled: **Stuffed**. It's based on Mark 6:7-13 where we read that Jesus called the twelve and began to send them out two by two. *"He ordered them to take nothing for their journey except a staff; no bread, no bag, no money in their belts; but to wear sandals and not to put on two tunics."* A stick. A pair of sandals. And one shirt.

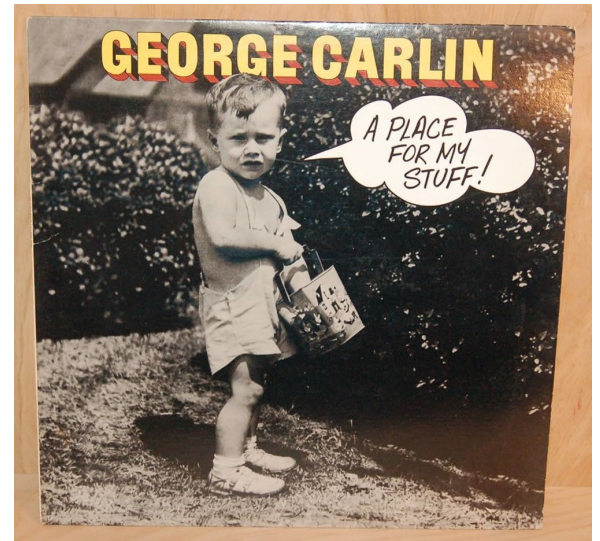
Downright difficult! I'll say more when I see you.

Be blessed and be a blessing,

Rev. Fredd

## Altar Flowers

Our altar flowers this week are donated by Eleanor Wight and Rayda Bouma in loving memory of Helen Elizabeth Washburn Wight, Eleanor's Mom, on the date of her birth - July 7, 1912.



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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.

### 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!

## Monday Matinees at the JPW Library

### *The Transformative Power of Music*

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

- 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."

## Hartford International University Webinar: *Christian-Muslim Relations in Jerusalem and the West Bank*

Tuesday, July 9 from 12 to 1 p.m. at HIU

[Register here for Zoom link](#)

Since October 7, there has been much in the news about the atrocities committed by Hamas, the hostages taken, and Israel's all-encompassing war in Gaza. However, we have not heard much about what is currently taking place in the West Bank. HIU's Macdonald Center has invited a Palestinian Christian and Muslim, two long-time friends, to share their thoughts about religion and their experiences of living in Jerusalem and the West Bank during this time of war.

*Guest speakers:* Mr. Walid Nammour, retired administrator Augusta Victoria Hospital, Jerusalem; and Mr. Zakaria Odeh, Executive Director, Civic Coalition, Jerusalem

*Moderator:* Dr. David D. Grafton, HIU Professor of Islamic Studies and Christian-Muslim Relations

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## Announcements

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### **FYI, the JPW Library will be closed Thursday, July 11.**

We are open 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Sundays and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays. Come and read your next book in our lovely, air-conditioned reading room!

### **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. 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 Next Person You Meet in Heaven](#) by Mitch Albom.
- [The Tattooist of Auschwitz](#) by Heather Morris.
- [Lula Dean's Little Library of Banned Books](#) by Kirsten Miller.

### Nonfiction:

- [Exactly as You Are: The Life and Faith of Mister Rogers](#) by Shea Tuttle.
- [Laughing All the Way to the Mosque](#) by Zarqa Nawaz.
- [See No Stranger: A Memoir and Manifesto of Revolutionary Love](#) by Valarie Kaur.

### July Reach Out: The United Church of Christ Musicians Association, Inc. (UCCMA)

The United Church of Christ Musicians Association, Inc. (UCCMA) is a non-profit, national organization with a membership made up of musicians, clergy, and interested laity in the United Church of Christ and beyond. They are a grassroots, independent organization run entirely by volunteers and supported by members. Their mission is to inspire, educate, and nurture those who minister through music and the arts. [UCCMA \(wildapricot.org\)](http://UCCMA(wildapricot.org))

The UCCMA national conference will be held at the First Congregational Church in Greenwich, CT from July 10-13. As part of that conference, Jim Boratko, Greg Wilfrid, and Liz Oman-Wilfrid will present a breakout session on alternative worship service ideas. Included in that presentation will be sample 15-minute services of the types they have presented at First Church: Taize, Celtic, Labyrinth Walks, and Jazz. It is the most popular session at the conference, with 41 participants registered to join them.

To donate online through the church, click [HERE](#) or you can donate directly at [UCCMA \(wildapricot.org\)](http://UCCMA(wildapricot.org)).

### 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.