



Sunday Notes

July 14, 2024



Looking Towards Sunday

Generally, your worship team (Jim, Amanda, and me) -- follow the Revised Common Lectionary – a schedule of readings from the Bible that guides worship week after week. The selections are usually inspiring and thought-provoking, except when they're uninteresting and tedious. When that happens, I love to ad-lib rather than stick to an insufferable script. I love having teammates who are willing to do the same.

So, this week I'd like to pick up where we left off last week. You may recall that Jesus sent the disciples out two by two... "*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.*" In other words, pack lightly...don't bring multiple outfit options.

Sunday's sermon is entitled: **Additional Packing Instructions: The Whole Armor of God.** It's based on Ephesians 6:10-17 where the Apostle Paul provides good advice about choosing proper clothing. He teaches us that faith and fashion can, indeed, fit together as we fight the good fight.

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 Patti Baker in loving memory of her mother, Avis Baker.

Light the Steeple

Our steeple this week is lit by Amy Melvin and Joy Taylor in loving memory of their mother, Jean Brigham.

Upcoming Events

Carillon Concert Series

Thursdays in July from 6 to 7 p.m.

- 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](#).

Sun is Shining Concert Series

Tuesdays in August from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Make yourself comfortable with your own chairs and blankets on the labyrinth, and/or have a seat on the wall surrounding the church front lawn. In the case of rain, concerts will be cancelled or postponed, and information will be posted on the website after 2 p.m. on the day of the event.

The 2024 lineup will be:

- August 6 – [Cover to Cover](#)
- August 13 – [Brown Paper Sax](#)
- August 20 – [Rock Voices](#)
- August 27 – [Still Kickin' and the Big City Horns](#)

**FAITH &
FASHION.**

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, This Monday!

[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."

Announcements

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.

Submit Prayer Requests at http://bit.ly/FCprayer_request.

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

Fiction:

- [Sea Wife](#) by Amity Gaige.
- [Ordinary Grace](#) by William Kent Krueger.
- [American Savior](#) by Roland Merullo.

Nonfiction:

- [Somehow: Thoughts on Love](#) by Anne Lamont.
- [Ecological Spirituality](#) by Diarmuid O'Murchu.
- [Free to Be: Understanding Kids & Gender Identity](#) by Jack Turban, M.D.

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.

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 and 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, Joy Taylor: 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 or 860-233-9605.