



Sunday Notes

First Church Happenings for the week of June 1, 2025



Sunday Worship

"While they were eating, [Jesus] took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to them, and said, 'Take; this is my body.' Then [Jesus] took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, and all of them drank from it. He said to them, 'This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many.'"

– Mark 14:22-24

Whenever we celebrate the sacrament of communion, I imagine Jesus lovingly watching us from the back of the church (or via livestream depending on his schedule). I always wonder if our Savior would be pleased with the way we commemorate the last Passover meal that he shared with the twelve – the evening he broke bread and drank from the same cup.

I pray that he's more interested in the overall atmosphere than procedural details, especially the all-of-them-drank-from-the-same-cup detail. Because honestly? I can't. And it happened recently. I'll tell you about that and more when I see you.

The message is entitled **Feel Above Form: A Communion Conversation**.

Love you. Mean it.

Rev. Fredd



Altar Flowers

Our Altar Flowers are donated by **Paul and Bev Truebig** in loving memory of **Gertrude Truebig**, Paul's grandmother.

Call to Congregational Meeting

Notice is hereby given that a Congregational Meeting of the First Church of Christ Congregational of West Hartford, Connecticut, UCC, will be held in the Meetinghouse on Sunday, June 8, 2025, starting at approximately 11:15 AM.

This meeting is called to transact the following item of business:

To consider and vote on the proposed project that would improve access to the JPWL and First Church by restoring the South sidewalk and stairs; replacing the South door (including security features); and installing exterior lighting. The estimated total expenditure necessitates approval by the congregation.

In accordance with the By-laws of First Church, action will be taken only on matters included in the Call to Meeting.

Notice given on May 25, 2025
Linda Bronstein, Secretary

Upcoming Events and Announcements

TODAY!

Fern Street Backpack Program to visit June 1st Coffee Hour

First Church Outreach Team is partnering with the Fern Street Backpack Program to support their mission of providing weekend nourishment to West Hartford Public School Students in need. Members of the leadership team of Fern Street Backpack Program will visit First Church on Sunday June 1st during coffee hour. Please stop by their table to learn more about supporting their program and volunteer opportunities. Visit the [Outreach web page](#) for more information. Please contact [Carol Lorenzo](#) with questions.

The 38th annual **Celebrate! West Hartford will be held on June 7 & 8, 2025**. This will impact entry to the church on Sunday, June 8. The town thanks you in advance for adjusting your schedule! On Sunday morning there will be a 5K race that starts at 9am right in front of the church on South Main St. It goes up North Main and then over and down Trout Brook. Road closures will start at 8:30am (Farmington Ave -> North Main) Police will allow entrance if you tell them you are attending Sunday Service at First Church. Do not be afraid to roll down your window and ask to enter! The easiest route will be from the south on South Main Street and heading west on Farmington Ave. [MAP](#)

Worldwide Knit in Public Day

Join First Church Creative Crafters for WWKIPDAY on **Saturday June 14 from 10:00-1:00** on the Labyrinth of First Church 12 South Main St. Bring a chair and a knitting (or crocheting) project and enjoy a glass of lemonade as we knit and crochet together. WWKIPDAY was started in 2005 by Danielle Landes as a way for knitters to come together and enjoy each other's company and takes place on the second Saturday of June each year. This is a specific day to get out of your house and go to a local event (with your knitting in tow) just for you and people like you. We will also be collecting food donations for the West Hartford Food Pantry. In the event of foul weather please check the website. 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.

Let's Make Lunches! Every month as part of our Outreach mission, we make 80 sandwiches and fill lunch bags for folks in the Asylum Hill neighborhood with "very low food security." •After Sunday worship in the Auditorium •Half-hour activity for all ages •Lunch bag contents includes: sandwich, chips, apple, and homemade cookies
Upcoming dates:, June 22, July 27, Aug 24 <https://whfirstchurch.org/ministry/outreach/>



Altar Flower Donations

Donating altar flowers is a meaningful way to honor loved ones and is part of our Inreach ministry. Each week the altar flowers are broken down into smaller arrangements and delivered to members of the congregation. We have many weeks available in the new year. If you would like to donate, please reach out to Bethany in the church office at 860-233-9605 or office.manager@whfirstchurch.org or [CLICK HERE](#) These dates are open: July 13, and 20, 2025.



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](#).

Coffee and Conversation

Join Rev. Fredd and friends at Nero Kitchen at 13 South Main Street in West Hartford Center on Wednesdays at 10 a.m. for coffee and conversation

Camp Courant June 2025 Reach Out

Camp Courant is the oldest and largest FREE summer day camp in the nation.

For 131 summers, Camp Courant has adapted to meet the needs of Hartford's most at-risk children by providing a dozen educational programs, all designed and taught by certified teachers, to lessen summer learning loss during the summer months. Camp Courant offers campers a safe, enriching and fun place to be kids, to play, to learn to make friends in an environment where they will learn as many social skills as they will academic skills.

To learn more and donate please use the links provided or donate in church (**note Camp Courant on your envelope**) or online thru the church: Designation>Reach Out Monthly Collection: <https://whfirstchurch.ccbchurch.com/goto/giving>

For more information about Camp Courant: <https://campcourant.org/history/>

To donate directly to Camp Courant: <https://www.classy.org/give/658931/#!/donation/checkout>

Visit the Church Library

At the John P. Webster Library, you can:

- Find a separate place to worship when you need one
- Watch First Church's live-streamed worship services
- Set your toddler free in the children's area
- Have a cup of tea or coffee (or hot chocolate!) at our Coffee Bar

The JPW Library is also open Monday-Thursday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.!



Volunteers Needed for June Outreach Booths:

First Church and the JPW Library are sponsoring two booths in June, and your participation is needed

- **Juneteenth Community Celebration** on Saturday, June 14. Volunteers of all ages are needed to hand out books ([Josey Johnson's Hair and the Holy Spirit](#)) and chat with the public. "Come together for an unforgettable event, as we honor the legacy of freedom, resilience, and achievement in African American history. This FREE event is more than a gathering—it's a high-energy celebration filled with music, culture, and community pride!" ([townofwesthartfordct](#), Instagram). See Jennifer or Molly if you would like to help.
- **Be Loud, Be Proud at the West Hartford Pride Celebration** on Saturday, June 21. We need volunteers to serve in the booth in one- or two-hour shifts. This event is organized by WH Pride, "where people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, age, races, ethnicities, and abilities are valued and feel a sense of belonging, and where allies support identities and interests outside their own." If you would like to help, please contact Glen McLeod, Jennifer deSimas (jpwebsterdir@whfirstchurch.org) or Molly Bohman (jpwebsterlib@whfirstchurch.org).

At the JPWL Gallery "Paradise Lies at the Feet of the Mother: A Special Photo Exhibit Honoring Mothers"

May 1 – June 30 in the JPW Gallery and the Auditorium Hallway

The latest JPWL exhibit is a gorgeous photographic display of motherhood from the Muslim Coalition of Connecticut. Photographers contributed images of mothers and families that convey the affection, humor, and pride these moms and their offspring share. We thank Chaplain Aida Mansoor, Instructor and Director of Field Education at Hartford International, for arranging the loan of this lovely display.

The [Muslim Coalition of CT](#) is a not-for-profit organization working to build bridges in communities by providing opportunities for the Connecticut Muslim community to integrate with the greater community, while maintaining core Islamic values.

Gallery Talk

Wednesday, June 4, 1 p.m.

Chaplain Aida Mansoor will lead a Gallery talk through the above exhibit on Wednesday, **June 4** (please note the date change) starting in the Auditorium Hallway. Please join us to hear about these intriguing images! Contact Jennifer with questions.

Practicing Presence, Finding Purpose through Meditation

June 23 -- July 28 from 12-1:00pm

First Church Chapel

Janice Olson will be leading an Introduction to Meditation series on Mondays in June and July. Attendees will practice a different form of meditation each week, then journal about the experience and share insights or experiences if comfortable doing so. The benefits of meditation are well documented and include lowered stress, improved memory, increased focus, and better sleep. Make meditation a daily habit -- come and find a meditation practice that works for you. Free; this program is sponsored by the John P. Webster Library through the 1976 bequest of Florence Crofut, longtime member of First Church.

FREE Fitness Classes

Free Faithful Fitness classes – drop-ins welcome! Both classes include meditation as well as movement. Perfect attendance is not required. More information is available on each class's registration page. Sponsored by the JPW Library through the 1976 bequest of Ms. Florence Crofut, longtime church member.

- FitMix with Kathi Boratko – Tuesdays from 5:45– 6:30 p.m. in the Auditorium. [Sign up here](#). Ends June 24.
- Tai Chi with Cynthia Hoag – now includes elements of Tai Chi for more experienced practitioners. Thursdays from 10:30-11:30 a.m. in the Chapel. [Register here](#). Ends June 26.

Book Group News:

The John P. Webster Library coordinates and sponsors three 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 at jpwlibrary@whfirstchurch.org.

- **Awakening the Spirit** meets Mondays from 12-1:30 p.m. **Awakening the Spirit**
[*HILDEGARD OF BINGEN: A Saint for Our Times: Unleashing Her Power in the 21st Century*](#) by Matthew Fox
- **Food for Thought** meets on the first Tuesday of the month from 5-6:30 p.m.
Next Meeting: June 3
[*Gaytheist Coming Out of My Orthodox Childhood*](#) by Lonnie Mann; illustrated by Gatts Ryan
A coming-of-age graphic novel memoir about a young man growing up in an Orthodox Jewish community who realizes he's gay and struggles to reconcile his faith with who he is. "A vital, emotionally immersive self-portrait" (Kirkus Reviews).
- **Believe in YourSHELF Tween Book Group**
Meets on the Third Sunday of the month at 10:15 a.m.
This group has concluded for the summer. Please visit us for books and chats! We will return in October.

Four Ways to Give

1. **Sunday Morning Offertory** Please note the designation of your donation on the envelope. (Pledge, Reach-Out, General Fund)
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.

Office Hours: Mon. – Fri. 9:30am-3pm. **Contact:** Office.Manager@whfirstchurch.org or 860-233-9605.

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

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. Please keep in mind that this is a public page

