



Sunday Notes



First Church Happenings for the week of March 29, 2026

Sunday Worship

"A cheering, chanting, dizzy crowd had stripped the green trees bare, and hailing Christ as king aloud, waved branches in the air...When day dimmed down to deep'ning dark, the crowd began to fade 'til only trampled leaves and bark were left from the parade. Lest we be fooled because our hearts have surged with passing praise, remind us, God, as this week starts where Christ has fixed his gaze." — Thomas H. Troeger

Loved ones:

I'll take LITURGICAL CALENDAR DATES for \$200, please. Answer: Holy Week begins on this dual-themed day.
Question: What is Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion?

If you're familiar with the First Church worship team, you know that we're prone to proving that opposing topics can be true at the same time. If you're familiar with the Christian faith, you know that believing means tolerating the tension between the pageantry of Jesus' entering Jerusalem (Matthew 21:1-11) and the treachery of Judas Iscariot striking a deal with the chief priests (Matthew 26:14-16).

Sunday's two-sided subject is: **Who Is This? What's In It for Me?**

Take away the stone. Period.

rev.fredd

Altar Flowers

This week our Altar Flowers are donated by **Carole Carter**, given in loving memory of **Bob Carter**.

Altar Flowers Donations

If you would like to donate, please reach out to the Office Manager in the church office or [Donate Online](#)

Easter Lily and Organ & Carillon Donations

Donate [Easter Lilies](#) (\$18 each) and [Organ & Carillon](#) online, or if you prefer, download the [printable form](#) and return it to the church office with your payment. *Please include your desired dedication in the notes section of the donation page.* To have your donation listed in the Sunday Bulletin, please submit it by Monday, March 30. If you have any questions, please contact the Office Manager at office.manager@whfirstchurch.org or 860-233-9605.

Covenant to Care · Fill an Easter Basket

Thank you to everyone who took an Easter basket for Covenant to Care. Just a reminder that filled baskets are due back this Sunday, March 29th. See Molly Bohman or Diane Bohman with any questions.

Jeffrey Carbone's Eagle Scout Project: Renovation of Festival of Trees Storage Closet

The project was completed on March 14, 2026, with seven student volunteers and \$389 raised from the congregation. Thank you so much to everyone who donated! Jeffrey and team did an amazing job, and we're so grateful! [See Photos](#)

Lent & Easter at First Church

Palm Sunday, March 29, 10 a.m. – worship with us and collect your palms! **Good Friday** – April 3: *Open Chapel from 12-1 p.m.* for rest and quiet time to reflect. *Indoor Labyrinth Walk, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.*, auditorium. Contemplate your spiritual journey. Sound Healer Kristin Vece will provide sacred music. Sponsored by the JPW Library and the Spirit Team *Good Friday Service, 7 p.m.*, chapel. **Easter Sunday** – April 5, 10 a.m. *Worship Service* featuring a brass ensemble. 11 a.m. *Easter egg hunt* for all ages on the front lawn.

A Guided Tour Of Early Christianity

The exploration continues on Wednesday, April 8, at 6:45 p.m. in the Youth Room (near the auditorium). We're working through Bart Ehrman's *Jesus Before the Gospels*, exploring the world of Jesus' first followers and how their memories shape faith today. Each session covers new material so that you can jump in anytime. Child care is available. [Sign up](#) or reach out to Michael Protos.

Invitation to Hear about Levo International's Neighborhood Farms

Curious about hydroponic gardening and Levo International in Hartford? Join us Monday, April 6, at 1 p.m. in the auditorium for a presentation by a Levo staff member about their work turning vacant land into neighborhood farms that grow fresh produce and create local jobs. The Mountain Valley Garden Club is hosting and warmly welcomes First Church members to attend. Please RSVP by Monday, March 23, to Nancy Ball: 860-966-9337 or shoedog1961@gmail.com

JPWL Author Visit: Teri Leonard Michaud

Tuesday, March 31, 5–6:30 p.m., JPW Library Join local author Teri Leonard Michaud as she shares her memoir, *Where Are All the Kids? A Mother's Journey of Determination*, based on 1960s West Hartford. All are welcome! Questions? See Jennifer or Molly.

Let's Make Blessing Bags – Still Accepting Donations and New date TBD

Creating blessing bags is a wonderful way to support those struggling. It's a fun and meaningful project for everyone in the congregation. Check the website and flyers for needed items and keep an eye on Sunday Notes for the new date.

March Reach Out: Interval House

Founded in 1977, Interval House is Connecticut's largest agency dedicated to ending domestic violence. The organization provides a lifeline for those seeking safety through its 24-hour hotline, emergency safe house, counseling, court advocacy, children's programs, and support groups. Interval House also partners with community organizations to help clients pursue education, careers, and safe, independent lives. To donate in church (note Interval House on your envelope). [Learn More](#) or [Donate Online](#)

FREE Wellness Classes – Drop Ins Welcome

Try a new spiritual practice through movement and meditation with aerobics or Tai Chi. Both classes support overall health and well-being and run through the last week of June. Registration is ongoing, join anytime. These programs are free through the JPWL Crofut Fund.

- **FitMix Fitness with Kathi Boratko** – Tuesdays, 5:45 – 6:45 p.m. [Learn More and Register](#)
- **Tai Chi & Qi Gong**– Thursdays, 10:30-11:30 a.m. [Learn More and Register](#)

Days for Girls, Simsbury Chapter

Join the [Days for Girls Workshop](#) at Simsbury United Methodist Church (799 Hopmeadow St.) on the second Saturday of each month, 9 a.m.–Noon. Contact Doey Barnett at doeybarnett115@gmail.com for [more info](#).

First Church's John P. Webster Library is open Sundays for you!



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

Sign up for the JPW Library Newsletter or check out the **website** to Learn About More Events!

Wednesday Board Games

Every Wednesday from 2:30-4 p.m. through April 15

Art Sale in the JPWL Gallery

Surrealist prints by Hungarian artist Ádám WÜRTZ (1927–1994) are available February 22–April 12. Suggested donation: \$35, with all proceeds supporting the care and preservation of the Archives. View the prints in the JPWL Gallery, and thank you for your support.

Book Group Info

The John P. Webster Library sponsors three book groups that meet regularly from September through June. Copies of the books are provided for participants, and new members are always welcome! For more information, please contact Jennifer or Molly at 860-232-3893 or at jpwebster@whfirstchurch.org.

Awakening the Spirit: Mondays

from 12-1:30 pm in the JPWL

Next Meeting: March 23 in the JPW Library

Book: *How We Learn to Be Brave* by Mariann Edgar Budde.

Food for Thought: First Tuesdays

of each month, 5:00-6:30

Next meeting: April 7 in the JPW Library

Book: *The Other Americans* by Laila Lalami.

Believe in YourSHELF Middle School Book Group

Next Meeting: April 19 at 10:15 a.m. in the Community Room

Book: *Very Bad at Math* by Hope Larson

Spreading Your News

The Communications Team is made up of members of our Outreach Ministry, and the church Office Manager.

- **Sunday Notes/Happenings submissions** are *due by noon* on Tuesdays to 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

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: http://bit.ly/FCprayer_request

