



Sunday Notes

First Church Happenings for the week of April 05, 2026



Looking Towards Sunday

“Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in.” John 20:3-5

Hey there:

I’m not saying something you haven’t already heard but, rather, reiterating the reality that humans are hardwired to learn from repetition. Science suggests that this reality is traceable to an earlier age in our evolution before the advent of written language. Fundamental, critical information was communicated orally. That’s how our sacred story was originally transmitted. The first gospel account was written 30+ years after the death of Jesus. Until then, the good news was circulated communally via spoken words with due emphasis on the many divine details.

So what? Here’s what: The Easter story according to Saint John makes multiple references to the linen wrappings that Jesus left behind. Not once. Not twice. Three times. I heard somewhere that we’re hardwired to learn from repetition. Maybe the text is trying to teach us a lesson about what we should release and what we should retain. I’ll say more when I see you. Sunday’s sermon is entitled “**Ballast: Linen Wrappings and Lifesaving Things**”.

Love you. Lots.

rev. fredd

Altar Flowers Donations

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

Easter Sunday – April 5, 2026

Worship Service at 10 a.m., featuring a brass ensemble.

Easter egg hunt at 11 a.m., for all ages on the front lawn.

A Guided Tour Of Early Christianity

The exploration continues Wednesday, April 8, at 6:45 p.m. in the Youth Room. We’re studying Bart Ehrman’s *Jesus Before the Gospels*, examining Jesus’ first followers and their impact on faith today. Each session is standalone, and childcare is available. Sign up or contact 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 Levo presentation on turning vacant land into neighborhood farms that grow produce and create local jobs. Hosted by the Mountain Valley Garden Club—First Church members welcome.

Business Team Meeting- Postponed to Wednesday, April 15 at 7 p.m.

Coordinating Team Meeting- Postponed to Thursday April 16 at 6:30 p.m.

Next Chamber Music Concert – April 19 at 3 p.m.

April's concert will feature various musicians, including a harpsichordist. Our handcrafted harpsichord, made by John McClelland, Nancy Ball's father, produces sound by plucking strings rather than striking them like a piano.

Let's Make Blessing Bags – New Date: Sunday, April 26 after lunches are made

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.

April Reach Out: Autism Families CONNECTicut

April is World Autism Month! Autism Families CONNECTicut (AFC), founded in 2010 by families seeking more weekend activities for children on the autism spectrum, provides recreational and social programs that foster growth and connection. Serving ages 3–35, AFC offers programs like Playing on the Spectrum, Leisure Explorers, Teen Night, and Young Adult Hangout, along with special events. Programs are local, affordable, professionally run, and held in safe, supportive environments where participants can have fun, stay active, and build friendships. To donate in church (note AFC on your envelope). [Learn More](#) or [Donate Online](#)

GHIAA Update at Halfway Point of Legislative Session

Success! The bills supported by GHIAA have passed out of committee and may now go before the full legislature. Thank you to everyone who submitted testimony. To get involved in advancing housing affordability, immigrant protections, and safeguarding our community from federal funding cuts, contact Linda Bronstein or Terry Schmitt.

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. Thanks to all who donated—Jeffery and the team did an amazing job! [See Photos](#)

FREE Wellness Classes – Drop Ins Welcome

Try a new spiritual practice through movement and meditation with aerobics or Tai Chi. Both support health and well-being and run through late June. Ongoing registration—join anytime. 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](#).

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



First Church's John P. Webster Library is open Sundays and Monday–Thursday, 9 am–5 pm!

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- 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 on view February 22–April 12. Suggested donation is \$35, supporting Archives preservation. See them in the JPWL Gallery—thank you for your support.

NOAH: A Future Hope

Sponsored by Hartford International University for Religion and Peace & JPW Library, April 12 – May 15 at HIU

Three faiths, three artists, one story. The JPWL and HIU present a timely art exhibit featuring Jewish, Christian, and Muslim artists blending faith and culture. **Opening reception:** Sunday, April 12, 6 p.m. – All welcome! [Register Here](#)

FAITH VOTES: Climate & Creation Postcard Campaign

Sunday, April 19 – Coffee Hour, First Church Auditorium. Join the JPWL and IREJN in writing postcards to the Governor and your state legislators urging action on climate change. Find us next to the JPWL Bookmobile!

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: April 6 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: *Tuck Everlasting: The
Graphic Novel* by Natalie Babbit

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
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