



# Sunday Notes

First Church Happenings for the week of April 26, 2026



"If you are seeking the right path, you are already on the right path." — Unknown

Hey there:

Last week, in this same space, I previewed the worship service by suggesting that sometimes you have to walk a while before you can begin to make sense of things. When we gathered, I talked about three kinds of walking that discipleship requires – walking on water; walking the way of suffering; and walking together.

Can I say more when I see you? Can we talk about walking in right paths? Sunday's scripture selection is Psalm 23 – King David's description of the Divine Shepherd. The third verse depicts God's ability to renew our energy and guide us where God would have us go. The sermon is entitled "Restoration and Right Paths".

Love you much.

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](#)

~ This week, Altar Flowers are donated by **Carolyn Lind**, given in loving memory of **Peter Lind** ~

## Light The Steeple in Honor of a Loved One

You are invited to celebrate or honor a loved one. Your \$25 [online donation](#) will light the steeple for one week.

~ This week, The Steeple will be lit, " In loving memory of **Paul & Corolyn Hudson**" From **Nancy Hudson** ~

## Church Family News Web page

The Church Family News and Photo page is a popular feature to spotlight weddings, births, baptisms, new members, and other celebrations. You may email requests to Amy or Joy by [clicking here](#)

## First Church New Member Information Session - Today, April 26 at 11:15 a.m.

Attend an information session for prospective new members. We expect to receive new members into the life of the church during the 10:00 a.m. worship service on Sunday, May 3. Please contact Rev. Fredd in person, by telephone at 860-233-9606, or via email [fredd.ward@whfirstchurch.org](mailto:fredd.ward@whfirstchurch.org)

## Let's Make Lunches- Today, April 26

Once a month, as part of our Outreach mission, we come together after worship to prepare 80 sandwiches and assemble lunch bags for our neighbors in the Asylum Hill community who are experiencing low food security.

## Let's Make Blessing Bags - Today, April 26

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.

## Coffee & Conversation – Wednesdays at 10 a.m.

Join First Church friends (back at) Hartford Baking Company in WeHa Center for coffee and conversation.

## Fill our Food Buckets!

This is a gentle reminder that the day-to-day needs for food aren't going away. Please see [suggestions here](#) for ideas and add a few items to your grocery cart.

## Family Fun and Favorite Foods Night

Inreach and Faith Formation invite you to bring a dish, bring a friend and your favorite game to join us for an evening of good food, fun games and a little friendly competition. All are welcome! Meet us in the auditorium on Friday, May 1st at 6 pm. [Sign up here](#) to let us know you are coming and what you'd like to bring.

### **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**

Combating racism is the work of a lifetime, and an essential part of our work together as GHIAA. On four Tuesday mornings in May, twenty of us - White, Black, and Brown - will gather by Zoom to learn and practice skills to uproot racial injustice in our culture, our institutions, our personal interactions, and our internalized conditioning. [Learn more or register here](#). There is no charge, but please commit to attending all four sessions.

### **Family Fun and Favorite Foods Night**

Inreach and Faith Formation invite you to bring a dish, bring a friend and your favorite game to join us for an evening of good food, fun games and a little friendly competition. All are welcome! Meet us in the auditorium on Friday, May 1st at 6 pm. [Sign up here](#) to let us know you are coming and what you'd like to bring.

### **A Guided Tour of Early Christianity – May 6 at 6:45 p.m.**

Join us in the Youth Room for the next stop in our adventure into the world of those who walked with Jesus, talked about him and sought to understand this new movement of followers, using Bart Ehrman's "Jesus Before the Gospels," feel free to join mid-journey. Child care is available- Kindly [sign up](#) or reach out to Michael Protos.

### **Bible Study – Upcoming dates: 5/3, 5/17**

Join us every 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month in the JPW Library for Bible Study at 9:00 a.m. No registration required.

### **A Free Family Arts Event with Arts for Learning**

On Saturday, May 16 (10:00 AM–2:00 PM), the Family Arts Festival is taking place at the West Hartford Senior Center (Bishops Corner). This is a free, drop-in community event designed to bring families together through hands-on arts experiences and live performances. [More info and register here](#).

### **Oxen Hill Farm at First Church- May 17**

As part of our CSA partnership, Lisa Griffen from Oxen Hill Farm will be visiting during coffee hour. Be sure to say hello and learn more about the fresh produce that will be available for pickup in the coming months.

### **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](mailto:doeybarnett115@gmail.com) for [more info](#).

### **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 w/ 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](#)

### **Four ways to Give**

---

1. **Sunday Morning Offertory** Please note the designation of your donation on the envelope.
  2. **Give Online:** To make an online donation 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", select GIVE and follow prompts.
  3. **Give by Mail:** Address checks to First Church West Hartford: 12 South Main Street, West Hartford, CT 06107. Please note the designation of your donation in the memo.
  4. **Give Gifts of Securities:** Contact Financial Advisor Sue Banville at 860-521-2119.
- Church Office Hours: Mon. – Fri. 9:30am-4:30pm. | [Office.Manager@whfirstchurch.org](mailto:Office.Manager@whfirstchurch.org) | 860-233-9605  
Submit Prayer Requests: [http://bit.ly/FCprayer\\_request](http://bit.ly/FCprayer_request)

---

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



- 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!

---

**JPW Library will be closed Monday April 27. Regular hours will resume: Tuesday April 28**

### **FAITH VOTES: Climate & Creation Postcard Campaign**

Today! Sunday April 26- 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!

### **Celtic Worship Service**

Join us Today! April 26 at 5:00 p.m. in the First Church Chapel for a peaceful, reflective service with prayer, Communion, music, poetry, and shared silence. Led by Rev. Susan Izard. The free will offering will support Autism Families CONNECTicut, which helps individuals on the autism spectrum and their families build meaningful, connected communities.

### **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. [Learn more here.](#)

### **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](mailto:jpwebster@whfirstchurch.org).

#### **Awakening the Spirit:**

Mondays from 12-1:30 p.m.

Location: JPWL

No meeting: April 27

Next meeting: May 4

*Falling Upward* by Fr. Richard

Rohr

#### **Food for Thought:**

First Tuesday of the month; 5:00-

6:30 p.m.

Location: PW Library

Next meeting: May 5

*Upward Bound* by Woody Brown

#### **Believe in YourSHELF Middle School Book Group**

Next Meeting: May 17; 10:15 a.m.

Location: Community Room

[Parachute Kids](#) by Betty C. Tang

## **Spreading Your News**

The Communications Team consists of Outreach Ministry members and the church Office Manager.

Submissions for **Sunday Notes/Happenings** are due by noon on Tuesdays to [office.manager@whfirstchurch.org](mailto:office.manager@whfirstchurch.org)

Requests for website updates, printed materials, or social media changes may be sent to: [Amy Melvin](#) or [Joy Taylor](#)