

## The Story Behind the Trombone Choir



In 2016, our Music Director attended a conference of the United Church of Christ Musicians Association in Boston, where a performance by the Boston University Trombone Choir left a lasting impression. Inspired by the ensemble's rich sound, Jim began reaching out to trombonists he knew personally. Word quickly spread, and today his contact list includes 24 musicians, though the choir is typically limited to 12 players for performances.

Because there is relatively little music written specifically for trombone choir, Jim arranges many of the ensemble's pieces himself. Music originally written for male choirs often translates especially well and serves as the foundation for several selections in their repertoire.

The Trombone Choir traditionally performs twice each year:  
on Pentecost Sunday and Thanksgiving Sunday

### CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday- Friday | 9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. | 860-233-9605

[Office.Manager@whfirstchurch.org](mailto:Office.Manager@whfirstchurch.org) | <https://whfirstchurch.org/>

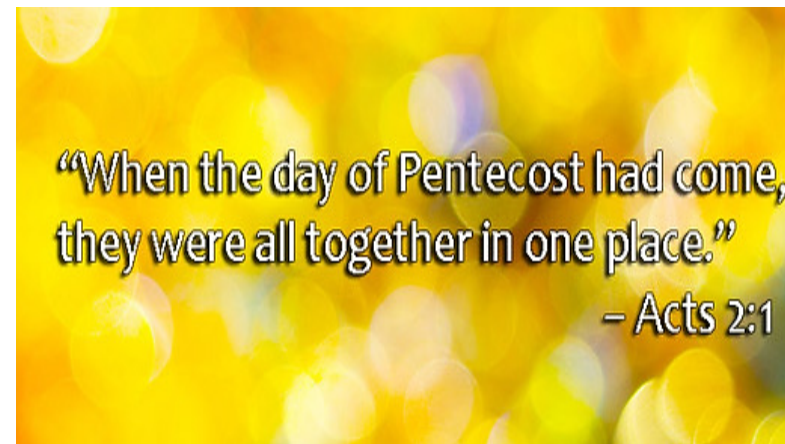


May 24,  
2026

# Sunday Notes

First Church Happenings

Issue  
#21



*"The spirit of jazz is the spirit of openness."* – Herbie Hancock

Last year, when the day of Pentecost had come, we were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where we were sitting. Since we were busy celebrating Children's Sunday (with good reason), we didn't witness the wind and the appearance of divided tongues and the speaking in other languages.

But behold! Pentecost Sunday's coming – another opportunity to be amazed and astonished by the Spirit's ability to blow through and create holy noise. The 12- piece Trombone Choir will demonstrate what that sounds like. The sermon (based on Acts 2:1-21) is concerned with cultivating inspiration, experimentation and improvisation in the soil of your soul. It's entitled: **"The Jazz of Everything"**.

Be blessed.

Be cool.

rev.fredd

### SAY IT WITH FLOWERS

This week's Altar Flowers are donated by Cindy & Dallas Dodge

*"In loving memory of our parents,  
Henry & Ingrid Engstrom  
&  
Dallas & Terry Dodge"*

Sign up here to sponsor altar flowers:  
<https://bit.ly/FCAltarFlowers>

### LIGHT THE STEEPLE

This week The Steeple is lit in celebration of Amy Melvin and Joy Taylor's 60<sup>th</sup> Birthday

*From Nancy Ball*

Sign up here to sponsor the steeple:  
<https://bit.ly/FCLightSteeple>

### P-R-A-Y

*Let us hold you in prayer*

Submit a prayer request:  
[http://bit.ly/FCprayer\\_request](http://bit.ly/FCprayer_request)

### NEW MEMBER INFORMATION SESSIONS

Please contact Rev. Fredd in person, by phone at 860-233-9605, or email:

[fredd.ward@whfirstchurch.org](mailto:fredd.ward@whfirstchurch.org)

## GLOW IN THE DARK BINGO!

📅 Saturday June 6 | 🕒 5:30-7:30 p.m. | 📍 Auditorium

Get ready for a glowing good time! You don't need to be a bingo pro to join us for pizza, prizes and music by DJ Miles. All are welcome! Come test your luck for great prizes and light up the night with friends and family.

Let us know you're coming: <https://bit.ly/GlowBingo2026>

# What's Happening?

## BIBLE STUDY

Every 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month; next meeting June 7  
9 a.m.  
JPW Library  
Joe Tobin: [jmtobin@gmail.com](mailto:jmtobin@gmail.com) | P: 860-916-1923

## BOOK GROUP: AWAKENING THE SPIRIT

Book: *Falling Upward* by Fr. Richard Rohr  
Mondays, June 1 - *no meeting May 25*  
12 - 1:30 p.m.  
JPWL

## BOOK GROUP: FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Book: *Joyful Anyway* by Kate Bowler  
1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month; next meeting June 2  
5 - 6:30 p.m.  
JPWL

## A GUIDED TOUR OF EARLY CHRISTIANITY

Cont. *Jesus Before the Gospels*, we'll explore early traditions and John's community. Open to all – childcare available.  
Every two weeks; next meeting Wednesday June 3  
6:45 p.m.  
Youth room  
<https://bit.ly/EarlyChristianBook>

## FITMIX FITNESS W/ KATHI BORATKO

Faithful Fitness: Free through the JPWL Crofut Fund.  
Tuesdays  
5:45 – 6:45 p.m.  
Auditorium  
<https://bit.ly/FitMixKathy>

## COFFEE & CONVERSATION

Join us for coffee, conversation, and community.  
Wednesdays  
10 a.m.  
Hartford Baking Co. WeHa Center

## TAI CHI & QI GONG W/ CYNTHIA HOAG

Faithful Fitness: Free through the JPWL Crofut Fund.  
Thursdays  
10:30 – 11:30 a.m.  
First Church Chapel  
<https://bit.ly/TC-QGCynthia>

## LET'S MAKE LUNCHES!

As part of our Outreach mission, we make 80 sandwiches and fill lunch bags for our neighbors in the Asylum Hill neighborhood.  
TODAY  
During coffee hour  
Auditorium

## MEMORIAL DAY PARADE WITH FC FRIENDS

Pack a chair and enjoy lemonade and cookies with the Inreach team. Enter First Church by Trout Brook Drive → Farmington Ave.  
Monday May 25  
10 a.m. \*Recommended to arrive early\*  
First Church Front Lawn, in front of the Labyrinth

## WORLDWIDE KNIT IN PUBLIC DAY

Join the Creative Crafters for WWKiPDAY! Bring a chair, your knitting/crocheting project and enjoy lemonade while we craft together! Food donations for local pantries are welcome.  
Saturday June 13  
10 a.m. – 1 p.m.  
On the Labyrinth

### IMPORTANT NOTICE:

Road closures on June 6 & 7

Next weekend, the 39th annual *Celebrate! West Hartford* festival will take place on the grounds of Town Hall. This includes the FUNd RUNS, which will begin at 8 a.m. and 9 a.m. on Sunday June 7. A portion of the route includes North Main Street, in front of First Church. View the road closure details and maps below to plan your arrival for next Sunday's worship service.

[bit.ly/WeHa-Maps](https://bit.ly/WeHa-Maps)

## MAY REACH OUT: The Miracle League of Connecticut

Where every child gets a chance to play! The Miracle League of Connecticut offers inclusive programs for children with physical and cognitive challenges, creating a welcoming space for play, connection, and community.

Learn more: <https://www.miracleleaguect.org/about/> Donate: [pushpay.com/g/whfirstchurch](https://pushpay.com/g/whfirstchurch)



## A TIME TO SOW: "Seed for yourself"

WeHa Grows, the JPWL Seed library is back with a variety of flower, herb and vegetable seeds for your garden. Stop by or visit us next to the Book Mobile at Coffee Hour.

## A RESILIENT FAITH: JAPANESE AMERICAN BAPTISTS DURING WORLD WAR II

A traveling exhibit from the American Baptist Historical Society, honoring Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month.  
May 5- May 30  
During library hours  
First Church Chapel  
<https://bit.ly/ResilientFaithExhibit>

## "OF PLANTS AND LAND FORMATIONS (An Ode to Maine)" WORKS ON PAPER BY LINDA ISHAM

The exhibit includes original works in various mediums: journals, sketch books, and unframed pieces that reflect Isham's artistic process inspired by 46 years of summering in Maine.  
May 7 – June 30  
During library hours  
JPWL Gallery

## JPWL LUNCH & LEARN: BOOK TALK – A QUARTER-ACRE OF HEARTACHE

An open discussion on the Connecticut Golden Hill Paugussetts' 1975 legal battle to preserve their reservation, led by Chief Big Eagle with support from civil rights lawyer William Kunstler and the American Indian Movement. Clan Mother Shoran Waupatukuay will join via Zoom; a light lunch will be served. Books are available through River Bend Bookshop or in the JPWL.  
June 7  
11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.  
JPWL  
<https://bit.ly/QuarterAcreHeartache>

Sundays & Monday-Thursday | 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.  
P:860-232-3893 | [jwebster@whfirstchurch.org](mailto:jwebster@whfirstchurch.org)

More Events & Updates:

<https://whfirstchurch.org/jpw-library/>  
Newsletter: [bit.ly/JPWLNewsletter](https://bit.ly/JPWLNewsletter)

# Get Involved!

## FILL OUR FOOD BUCKETS!

If you're able, consider adding a few extra items to your grocery trip to help support neighbors facing food insecurity.

## CALLING VOLUNTEERS!

### WEST HARTFORD PRIDE FESTIVAL

First Church is sponsoring a booth at the West Hartford Pride Festival! Volunteers are needed for 1–2 hour shifts to help staff the booth and welcome visitors throughout the afternoon. Contact Glen, Jennifer or Molly  
Saturday June 27  
12 – 5 p.m.  
Glen MacLeod: [glen.macleod@uconn.edu](mailto:glen.macleod@uconn.edu)  
Jennifer DeSimas: [jwebsterdir@whfirstchurch.org](mailto:jwebsterdir@whfirstchurch.org)  
Molly Bohman: [jwebsterlib@whfirstchurch.org](mailto:jwebsterlib@whfirstchurch.org)

## LOST & FOUND

Room 304  
Last Call: Monday June 1<sup>st</sup>  
Unclaimed items will be donated

## Four Ways to Give

- Sunday morning offertory:** Please note the designation of your donation on the envelope.
- Give Online:** <https://pushpay.com/g/whfirstchurch>
- Give Gifts of Securities:** Contact Financial Advisor Sue Banville | 860-521-2119.
- Give by Mail:** Checks should include designation in the memo and be addressed to:

First Church West Hartford  
12 South Main Street  
West Hartford, CT 06107

## Spread Your News

### SUNDAY NOTES & HAPPENINGS

We welcome your notes and happenings.

Submission deadline: Tuesdays  
12 p.m.  
Kat: [office.manager@whfirstchurch.org](mailto:office.manager@whfirstchurch.org)

### WEBSITE & FAMILY NEWS REQUESTS

Including updates, printed materials and social media  
Amy: [Communications@whfirstchurch.org](mailto:Communications@whfirstchurch.org)  
Joy: [Communications2@whfirstchurch.org](mailto:Communications2@whfirstchurch.org)



