

The Creation Story

Pick words for the 15 blanks below, then plug them into the story and enjoy a Creation-themed Mad Lib!

Your Word List

- | | | |
|----------------|---------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Adjective | 6. Silly Word | 11. Animal |
| 2. Plural Noun | 7. Adjective | 12. Adjective |
| 3. Number | 8. Plural Noun | 13. Exclamation |
| 4. Color | 9. Body Part | 14. Food |
| 5. Noun | 10. Verb (ending in -ing) | 15. Adverb |

In the beginning, the world was empty and dark. God, who was feeling very [1_____], decided to make something amazing. First, God said, "Let there be [2_____]!" and suddenly, there was light. God separated the light from the dark and called them day and night. This all happened on day [3_____] of creation.

Next, God created a big [4_____] sky to separate the waters above from the waters below. Then, God gathered the waters together so dry ground would appear. On the ground, God made every kind of plant, from towering [5_____] to gooey [6_____].

On the fourth day, God placed [7_____] [8_____] in the sky to shine down on the earth. Next, He created creatures of the sea and birds to fly in the air. God looked at His creations, nodded His [9_____], and said, "Keep on [10_____]!"

On the sixth day, God created all the land animals. He made a giant [11_____], a fluffy [12_____], and a slimy worm. Finally, God created human beings to take care of the earth. God looked at everything He had made and shouted, "[13_____]!" Then, God celebrated by eating a whole plate of [14_____] and rested [15_____] on the seventh day.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: Road closures on June 6 & 7

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

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

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

Office.Manager@whfirstchurch.org | <https://whfirstchurch.org/>



May 31,
2026

Sunday Notes

First Church Happenings

Issue
#22

"In chaos, there is fertility." – Anais Nin

Hello loves:

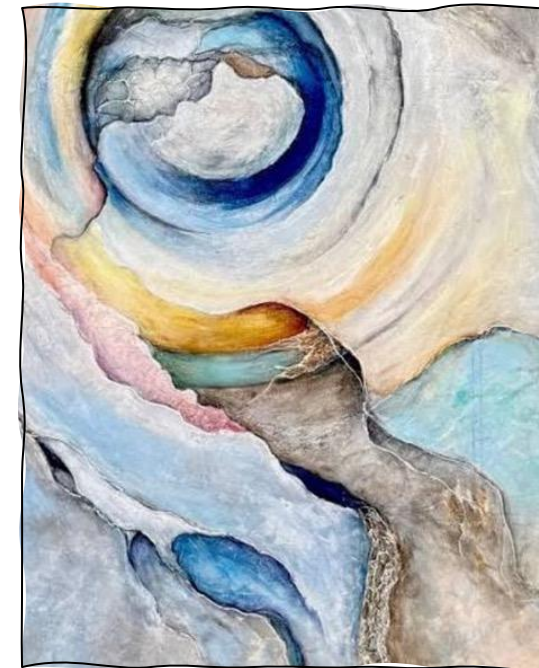
It seems to me that messiness is something most people want to avoid or altogether eliminate from every aspect of life, especially our faith life. What if I told you disorder is the genesis of every good thing on (and above) God's green earth? That's both play on words and the holy truth.

Behold the first two verses of the first chapter of the first book of the Hebrew Bible: *"In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters."* A "formless void" is an elegant way of describing chaos.

You know what happened next, right? The Maker started turning the messiness into miracles – one day at a time. I believe we're important participants in that ongoing activity. I'll say more when I see you. The sermon is entitled: **"Chaos...Then Creation."**

Sunday's coming.

rev.fredd



SAY IT WITH FLOWERS

This week's Altar Flowers are donated by Paul and Bev Truebig

"In honor of Dale and Sue Wolfe"

Sign up here to sponsor altar flowers:

<https://bit.ly/FCAltarFlowers>

LIGHT THE STEEPLE

This week The Steeple is lit

"In memory of my dear friend, Bobbi"

From Anne Jones

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

NEW MEMBER INFORMATION SESSIONS

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

fredd.ward@whfirstchurch.org

You're Invited!

Calling all art and nature lovers! The JPWL is hosting a reception to celebrate Linda Isham's creative spirit, today after worship. Stop by to enjoy gallery goodies and explore her exhibit, *"Of Plants and Land Formations (An Ode to Maine)."* Some pieces are available for purchase, so be sure to connect with the artist if one speaks to you. The exhibit runs through the end of June!

JPWL Ramp Gallery | Reception: TODAY | 11 a.m.

What's Happening?

EXPLORING SCRIPTURE BIBLE STUDY

📅 Every 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month; next meeting June 7
🕒 9 a.m.
📍 JPW Library
🔗 Joe Tobin: jmtobin@gmail.com | P: 860-916-1923

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; Last day of program: June 30
🕒 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; Last day of program: June 25
🕒 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.
📍 First Church Chapel
🔗 <https://bit.ly/TC-QGCynthia>

GLOW IN THE DARK BINGO

Pizza, prizes, music by DJ Miles. All are welcome! Let us know you're joining the fun!

📅 Saturday June 6
🕒 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.
📍 Auditorium
🔗 <https://bit.ly/GlowBingo2026>

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

OXEN HILL FARM

Reservations for summer CSA subscriptions are now open. Choose your customizable share size and schedule your pickup to enjoy a wide variety of organic produce for the summer season!

📅 Thursdays; Starting June 25 through October 22
🕒 3 - 6:30 p.m.
📍 Rotunda entrance
🔗 <https://oxenhillfarm.com/>

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.

📅 4th Sunday of every month; next date: June 28
🕒 During coffee hour
📍 Auditorium

CARILLON CONCERTS

Featuring carillonneurs from across CT and beyond! Bring your family and friends, chairs/blankets, and refreshments! Free & open to all

📅 Thursdays in July
🕒 5:30- 6:30 p.m.
📍 First Church front lawn
🔗 <https://whfirstchurch.org/music/concerts/carillon-concerts/>

SUN IS SHINING CONCERT SERIES

A popular August tradition is returning! Bring your family and friends, chairs/blankets, and refreshments! Free & open to all.

📅 Tuesdays in August
🕒 5:30- 7:30 p.m.
📍 First Church front lawn
🔗 <https://whfirstchurch.org/music/concerts/sun-is-shining/>



A TIME TO SOW: "Seed for yourself"

WeHa Grows has moved to the Rotunda entrance—stop by and pick up seeds for your fall garden! It is still a wonderful time to start vegetables and herbs indoors. Don't forget to save and share seeds at harvest.

LAST CHANCE! A RESILIENT FAITH

A traveling exhibit from the American Baptist Historical Society Archives (ABHS). "A Resilient Faith: Japanese American Baptists During World War II" highlights endured forced internment during World War II.

📅 Closing TODAY
🕒 During library hours
📍 JPWL
🔗 <https://bit.ly/ResilientFaithExhibit>

BOOK GROUP: AWAKENING THE SPIRIT

Book: *Falling Upward* by Fr. Richard Rohr

📅 Mondays, June 1
🕒 12 - 1:30 p.m.
📍 JPWL

BOOK GROUP: FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Book: *Joyful Anyway* by Kate Bowler

📅 1st Tuesday of the month; next meeting June 2
🕒 5 - 6:30 p.m.
📍 JPWL

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 | jpwebster@whfirstchurch.org

More Events & Updates:

🔗 <https://whfirstchurch.org/jpw-library/>
🔗 Newsletter: bit.ly/JPWLNewsletter

Get Involved!

FILL OUR FOOD BUCKETS!

If you are 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
🔗 Jennifer DeSimas: jwebsterdir@whfirstchurch.org
🔗 Molly Bohman: jwebsterlib@whfirstchurch.org

LOST & FOUND

📍 Room 304

Last Call: Monday June 1st

Unclaimed items will be donated

Four Ways to Give

1. **Sunday morning offertory:** Please note the designation of your donation on the envelope.
2. **Give Online:** <https://pushpay.com/g/whfirstchurch>
3. **Give Gifts of Securities:** Contact Financial Advisor Sue Banville | 860-521-2119.
4. **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

WEBSITE & FAMILY NEWS REQUESTS

Including updates, printed materials and social media

🔗 Amy: Communications@whfirstchurch.org
🔗 Joy: Communications2@whfirstchurch.org

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