

June 07,
2026

Sunday Notes

Issue
#23

First Church Happenings

June Reach Out: The Health Collective

This month, our Reach Out offering will support **The Health Collective**, a nonprofit organization that provides compassionate, affirming healthcare and support services for LGBTQIA+ individuals and other marginalized communities throughout Greater Hartford. Through medical, dental, and community-based programs, The Health Collective works to reduce barriers to care and advance health equity.

Services include HIV/STI testing and treatment, vaccinations, dental care, psychosocial support groups, and community-building programs. Medical services are donation-based, dental services offer a sliding-scale fee structure for uninsured clients, and no one is turned away because of an inability to pay.

The Health Collective currently serves the community from locations in Hartford and Manchester and will open a new facility on Maple Avenue in Hartford this summer, expanding access to care and connection.

To support The Health Collective through this month's Reach Out offering, please write "**Health Collective**" on your giving envelope, donate through the church's online giving page, or give directly to the organization.

Health Collective Giving Page: <https://bit.ly/SupportHealthCollective>

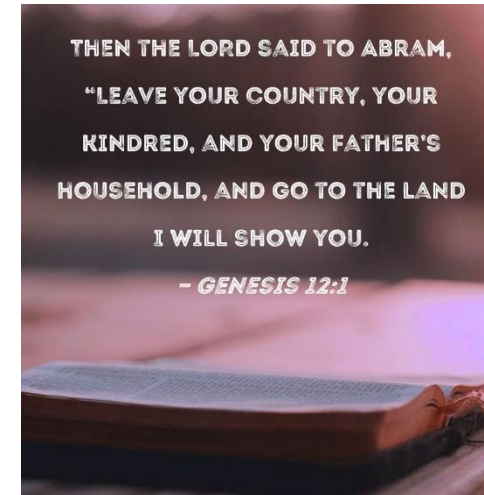
Health Collective Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 2094, Hartford, CT 06145



CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

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

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



Loved ones:

A heads-up...commuting to church Sunday morning could be challenging. You should anticipate road closures resulting from Celebrate! West Hartford road-race activity. Stress less! If you're running late, your worship leaders will wait!

We'll study two connected readings on Sunday morning. The first reading (Genesis 12:1-7) is a

narrative description of the call of Abram. It begins with this relatable verse: "Now the Lord said to Abram, 'Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you.'" If you've ever heard something like that in your own head, you understand how suddenly and surprisingly the Spirit shows up to send you toward some unspecified somewhere. You understand what it means to believe what the Spirit said, improbable as it may have sounded. The promised outcome would not be fulfilled otherwise.

The second reading is an excerpt from one of Paul's pastoral letters (Romans 4:16-21) wherein the apostle discusses the above-mentioned narrative. Paul writes: "No distrust made [Abram] waver concerning the promise of God, but [Abram] grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God." We're called. And we're compelled to comply. I'll say more when I see you.

The sermon is entitled: "**Depending on Faith. Hoping Against Hope**".

Keep going.

rev.fredd

SAY IT WITH FLOWERS

This week's Altar Flowers are given by
Lisa Carl, Tori Zido and Ralph Carl

*"In loving memory of
Maryett and Howard Carl"*

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

LIGHT THE STEEPLE

*Father's Day is coming up! Sponsor the
steeple in celebration of your Dad!*

<https://bit.ly/FLightSteeple>

IMPORTANT NOTICE: ROAD CLOSURES THIS WEEKEND

The 39th annual *Celebrate! West Hartford* festival will take place on the grounds of Town Hall. This includes the FUNd RUNS, starting at 8 a.m. and 9 a.m., 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

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.

[Saturday June 27](#) [12 - 5 p.m.](#)

[Glen: glen.macleod@uconn.edu](mailto:glen.macleod@uconn.edu) [Jennifer: jwebsterdir@whfirstchurch.org](mailto:jwebsterdir@whfirstchurch.org) [Molly: jwebsterlib@whfirstchurch.org](mailto:jwebsterlib@whfirstchurch.org)

What's Happening?

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>

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

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.

📅 June 21

🕒 During coffee hour

📍 Auditorium

OXEN HILL FARM SUMMER CSA

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/>

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/>

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.



A TIME TO SOW: "Seed for yourself"

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

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

BOOK GROUP: AWAKENING THE SPIRIT

Book: *Falling Upward* by Fr. Richard Rohr

📅 Monday June 8; last meeting until September 14th

🕒 12 - 1:30 p.m.

📍 JPWL

POST-PONED: LUNCH & LEARN: BOOK TALK – A QUARTER-ACRE OF HEARTACHE

The discussion led by Chief Big Eagle has been postponed until further notice.

📅 TBD

"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.

📅 Through June 30

🕒 During library hours

📍 JPWL Gallery

Get Involved!

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

NEW MEMBER INFORMATION SESSIONS

Contact Rev. Fredd

In person, by phone: 860-233-9605

E-mail: fredd.ward@whfirstchurch.org

P-R-A-Y

Let us hold you in prayer

Submit a prayer request:

🔗 http://bit.ly/FCprayer_request

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

LOST & FOUND

📍 Room 304