

Betcha Didn't Know... Our Livestream Team is Behind the Scenes Every Sunday!



While many of us are gathered in the Meeting House, a dedicated team of volunteers is working behind the scenes to bring our worship services to those joining us online. From operating cameras to making sure the service is shared on our YouTube channel, our livestream operators help extend our church community beyond our building.

Our livestream reaches nearly **100 viewers each week**, thanks to the time and talent of **Al Day, Luke Frey, Chad Hoke, Courtland Lewis, Amy Melvin, Terry Schmitt, and Joy Taylor**.

Amy Melvin and Joy Taylor also prepare the worship slides shown during the service, along with the announcement slides that help keep our online community connected.

These ministries happen because of volunteers who share their gifts each week. Interested in being part of the team? See **Jim Boratko** after a service to learn more.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday- Thursday | 9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. & Fridays 9:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.
P: 860-233-9605

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



June 28,
2026

Sunday Notes

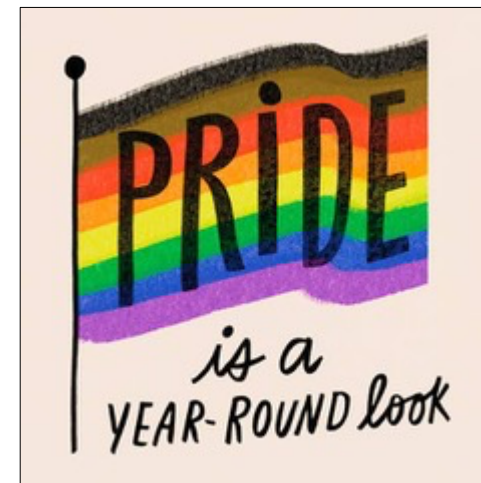
Issue
#26

First Church Happenings

"We are workers, not master builders; ministers, not messiahs. We are prophets of a future not our own."

Hello Friends:

That's the last line from one of my favorite prayers. It was composed by the late Bishop Ken Untener of Saginaw, MI. I'm giving him due credit because his words have long been misattributed to Oscar Romero (a story for another space and time).



In any case, the essence of the entire prayer is about stepping back and taking the long view and acknowledging that "we accomplish in our lifetime only a fraction of the magnificent enterprise that is God's work." Which is an idea that seems especially fitting for Pride Sunday when we commemorate LGBTQIA+ civil rights milestone moments and commit ourselves to the ongoing work of advocacy and activism.

It seems to me that the prophetic spirit makes it possible for us to get where we're going. That spirit was with Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon and Bayard Rustin and Harvey Milk...and Jeremiah. It's also within you! I'll say more when I see you. The sermon (informed by Jeremiah 28:5-9) is entitled **"Prophets Who Prophecy Peace"**.

Shalom,
rev.fredd

SAY IT WITH FLOWERS

This week's Altar Flowers are given by
Connie Dunham

*"In loving memory of her husband,
Tom Dunham,"*

Sign up Sponsor altar flowers:
<https://bit.ly/FCAltarFlowers>

LIGHT THE STEEPLE

You can sponsor the steeple in honor of
anyone, including yourself!

<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

Contact Rev. Fredd

In person,
by phone: 860-233-9605
Or E-mail: fredd.ward@whfirstchurch.org

LEVO Summer Meet Up!

We're coming together for a summer meet-up and community day! All ages are welcome to join in this time of connection, service, and fellowship.

📅 July 11
🕒 9 a.m. - 12p.m.
📍 TBD

bit.ly/LEVOSummerMeet

We are looking forward to spending the day together as we serve and enjoy summer as a community.

What to bring: work gloves, water and sunscreen

What's Happening?

EXPLORING SCRIPTURE BIBLE STUDY

Every 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month

📅 July 5 & 19, August 2 & 16

🕒 9 a.m.

📍 JPW Library

🔗 Joe Tobin: jmtobin@gmail.com | P: 860-916-1923

COFFEE & CONVERSATION

Join us for coffee, conversation, and community.

📅 Wednesdays

🕒 10 a.m.

📍 Hartford Baking Co. WeHa Center

FITMIX FITNESS W/ KATHI BORATKO

📅 Tuesdays; Last day of program: June 30

🕒 5:45 – 6:45 p.m.

📍 Auditorium

🔗 <https://bit.ly/FitMixKathy>

OXEN HILL FARM SUMMER CSA

Reservations for summer subscriptions are 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/>

God Called... He said You're Needed

FILL OUR FOOD BUCKETS!

Have an extra can or two in your pantry? Drop them in one of our blue donation buckets around the church. Every item donated helps to support local families in need.

LET'S MAKE LUNCHES!

Helping hands make a difference! Our Outreach Team prepares 80 sandwiches and lunch bags for neighbors in the Aylum Hill community. Join us!

📅 July 26

🕒 During coffee hour

📍 Auditorium

FERN STREET BACKPACKS: *NOURISH TO FLOURISH, ONE BAG AT A TIME*

Volunteer Shifts available for the FSB Program. Check out the link below and sign up for a time slot!

🔗 <https://bit.ly/FernStreetBackpacks2026>

A Note from the Office

Our office hours have been slightly adjusted. The office will now close at 3 p.m. on Fridays

Take Up the Juneteenth Challenge!

The first step toward extending freedom to everyone is recognizing and compassionately examining the ways our upbringing may have taught us to see others as "them" rather than "us."

GHIAA is offering two one-time in-person sessions (with a third coming soon) to help us explore this work together. Lunch is provided, and all members of GHIAA congregations—including us—are invited. There is no cost to attend, but each session is limited to 20 participants.

COMBATING ANTI-MUSLIM BIGOTRY

Led by Chaplain Aida Mansoor

📅 Tuesday July 21

🕒 12:30-3p.m.

🔗 <https://bit.ly/GHIAAAMB>

COMBATING ANTI-LATINE BIGOTRY

Led by Nina Vasquez, GHIAA organizer and Puerto Rican scholar

📅 Wednesday August 19

🕒 12:30- 3p.m.

🔗 <https://bit.ly/GHIAAALB>

Summer Concerts

WHAT TO BRING TO THESE EVENTS:

Friends & Family
Chairs & Blankets
Refreshments & Snacks

CARILLON CONCERTS

Ft. carillonners from across CT and beyond!

📅 July 23 & 30

🕒 5:30- 6:30 p.m.

📍 First Church front lawn

🔗 <https://whfirstchurch.org/music/concerts/carillon-concerts/>

SUN IS SHINING CONCERT SERIES

📅 TBD; August 4

📅 Brown Paper Sax; August 11

📅 Rock Voices; August 18

📅 Still Kickin with the Big City Horns; August 25

🕒 5:30- 7:30 p.m.

📍 First Church front lawn

🔗 <https://whfirstchurch.org/music/concerts/sun-is-shining/>

DANIEL SALAZAR & FRIENDS

Inreach invites you to enjoy an evening of music and fellowship.

More details to come!

📅 Wednesday July 22

🕒 5:30 p.m.- 8:p.m.

📍 Elizabeth Park



YOUR BOOKS ARE DUE FOR A LITTLE 'ME TIME' (BACK ON THE SHELF)

A kind reminder to return overdue books. If you're not ready to say goodbye just yet, we get it. – Renew it!

USED BOOK SALE!

Fill a JPWL tote bag for \$5. Items for sale include books previously discussed by our book groups and recent donations or library discards.

📅 June 14- 28

🕒 During library hours

📍 JPWL

"OF PLANTS AND LAND FORMATIONS (An Ode to Maine)" 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

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.

YOUR MISSING BOOK CALLED, IT WANTS TO COME HOME...

Let us know if you've lost an item so we help by replacing it!

LOST & FOUND

📍 Room 304

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