

Celebrating Our Choirs

As we come to the end of our regular worship season, we give thanks for the groups who help make our Sunday worship meaningful. The First Church Choir shares their gifts at every service and special events throughout the year, while the Whitechapel Handbell Choir brings music and joy to worship monthly and at special celebrations. We are grateful for the dedication, time, and talent they share with our church community.



First row: Michelle Kayser, Jane Springer, Kathi Boratko, Emma Balinger, Sara Thompson, Linda Bronstein
Second row: Jessica Berube-Sengupta, Judy Janas, Tsehai Marson, Maria Soaft, Shannon Connoly
Third row: Peter Bigelow, Jim Marrs, Eve Schmitt
Fourth row: Paul Truebig, Kurt Swanson, Dave Unsworth, Bob Ball, Dale Comstock, Michael Loveland
Not Pictured: Liz Oman-Wilfrid, Nicole Dickinson, Ben Cantor, Kevin Stratton
Director: Jim Boratko



Handbell Choir Members: Charlie Goodwin, Linda Bronstein, Brenda Worth, Cole Cosgrove, Michael Loveland, Anne Jones, Catherine Bue-Hepner, Judy Schmitt, Alexis Schmitt, Leslie Haines.
Director: Jessica Berube-Sengupta

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

Four Ways to Give

1. Sunday morning offertory
2. Give Online: <https://pushpay.com/g/whfirstchurch>
3. Give Gifts of Securities: Contact Financial Advisor
4. Give by Mail: Checks should include designation in the memo

Sue Banville | 860-521-2119

Mail to: First Church West Hartford
12 South Main Street
West Hartford, CT 06107

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

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

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



June 21,
2026

Sunday Notes

First Church Happenings

Issue
#25

Hi there:

As you may know, First Church is a member church of the South-Central Region of the Southern New England Conference of the United Church of Christ. The Region consists of 97 churches, sectioned into 7 associations, supported by a sole Area Conference Minister – Rev. Leslie Jackson.

“Rev. Jax” is a fountain of insight and inspiration for clergy and congregations, in times of crisis and celebration and in critical decision-making moments rising during the search and call process.

Over the past decade, he has served as a pastor, preacher, and strategist in Houston and New Orleans. His expertise includes nonprofit collaboration, interfaith engagement, and board service with organizations across Texas. His ministry emphasis is justice, transformation, and helping communities rise with hope.

I’m thrilled that Rev. Jackson is our guest preacher this Sunday. The sermon is entitled “**Liberty Further Extended: A Juneteenth Reflection on Galatians 5 and the Legacy of Lemuel Haynes**”. Thrilled!

Freely yours,
rev.fredd



SAY IT WITH FLOWERS

This week’s Altar Flowers are given by
Bob and Ginny Vocelli

“In loving memory of Louis and Clara Vocelli”

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

June Reach Out: The Health Collective

Providing affirming healthcare and support services for LGBTQIA+ individuals and other marginalized communities in Greater Hartford. The Health Collective ensures no one is turned away due to inability to pay.

Please write “Health Collective” on your giving envelope

Learn more: <https://bit.ly/SupportHealthCollective> Give: <https://pushpay.com/g/whfirstchurch>

What's Happening?

EXPLORING SCRIPTURE BIBLE STUDY

Every 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month

📅 June 21, 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>

TAI CHI & QI GONG W/ CYNTHIA HOAG

📅 Thursdays; Last day of program: June 25

🕒 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.

📍 First Church Chapel

📧 <https://bit.ly/TC-QGCynthia>

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!

📅 TODAY!

🕒 During coffee hour

📍 Auditorium

WEST HARTFORD *Pride*

First Church is sponsoring a booth at the WeHa Pride Festival! Booth Volunteers are needed for 1–2-hour shifts.

📅 Saturday June 27

🕒 12 – 5 p.m.

📧 Glen: glen.macleod@uconn.edu

📧 Jennifer: jwebsterdir@whfirstchurch.org

📧 Molly: jwebsterlib@whfirstchurch.org

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>

LEVO SUMMER MEET UP

The goal is to gather as many as possible for hands-on service and community connection!

📅 July 11

🕒 9 a.m. - 12p.m.

📍 TBD

HANDS THAT HELP. HEARTS THAT SERVE.

Outreach is looking for a volunteer to deliver food donations to Loaves and Fishes Ministries' soup kitchen twice monthly.

🕒 Between 9 – 11 a.m.

📍 Immanuel Church | 10 Woodland St., Hartford

📧 Dottie Stone: dottie@stone-stone.com

Summer Concerts

WHAT TO BRING TO THESE EVENTS:

Friends & Family
Chairs & Blankets
Refreshments & Snacks

CARILLON CONCERTS

Ft. carillonners from across CT and beyond!

📅 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

📅 Tuesdays in August

🕒 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...

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

FATHERS IN THE BIBLE : MATCH THE ANSWERS

_____Who was the father of Isaac?

_____Who was the father of Solomon, the wise king?

_____Who was the father of John the Baptist?

_____Who was the father of Samuel, the prophet?

_____Who was the father of Cain and Abel?

_____Who was the father of Esau and Jacob?

_____Which biblical father blessed his sons Ephraim and Manasseh?

_____Who was the father of the prophet Isaiah?

_____Who was the father of King Saul, the first king of Israel?

_____Who was the father of Shem, Ham, and Japheth?

A) ZECHARIAH

C) DAVID

E) ELKANAH

G) ADAM

I) NOAH

B) JOSEPH

D) ISSAC

F) ABRAHAM

H) AMOZ

J) KISH

LOST & FOUND

📍 Room 304

Sundays & Monday-Thursday | 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

P:860-232-3893 | jwebster@whfirstchurch.org

More Events & Updates:

📧 <https://whfirstchurch.org/jpw-library/>

📧 Newsletter: bit.ly/JPWLNewsletter