

August 2026 Reach Out: Friends of Silver Lake



“Friends of Silver Lake” is a community of people whose hearts have been touched by the ministry that happened at camp. We’ve laughed, sung, prayed, grown, and seen God’s love come alive in this sacred space. We’ve seen the impact not only in ourselves, but in our families, friends and communities.

Our mission statement is: “Uniting the dispersed community that values Silver Lake and working toward a vision of future ministry in line with its historic mission.”

The Southern New England Conference Board of Directors announced that the summer of 2026 will be the final season of camping at Silver Lake. In response, the Friends of Silver Lake has officially incorporated as a nonprofit with bylaws, a board, officers and working committees. While the future is uncertain, we are determined that the ministry itself — the spirit, transformation, and connection it fostered — will continue. We also believe there is something truly special about this place that’s worth preserving.

Outdoor ministry and ministry with young people matter, that’s why we are acting now – to keep the possibility alive that Silver Lake’s ministry will continue beyond next summer.

If your faith, your friendships, or your sense of purpose were shaped by Silver Lake’s ministry, please join us in creating a new day for Silver Lake by giving today.

To donate please use the links provided or donate in church (note **Friends of Silver Lake** on your envelope) or online thru the church, and under Fund select “Reach Out Monthly Collection”:
<https://pushpay.com/g/whfirstchurch>

For more information about Friends of Silver Lake: <https://www.friendsofsilverlake.com/#about>

To donate directly to Friends of Silver Lake: <https://www.friendsofsilverlake.com/donate/>

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/>

LOST &
FOUND
Room 304



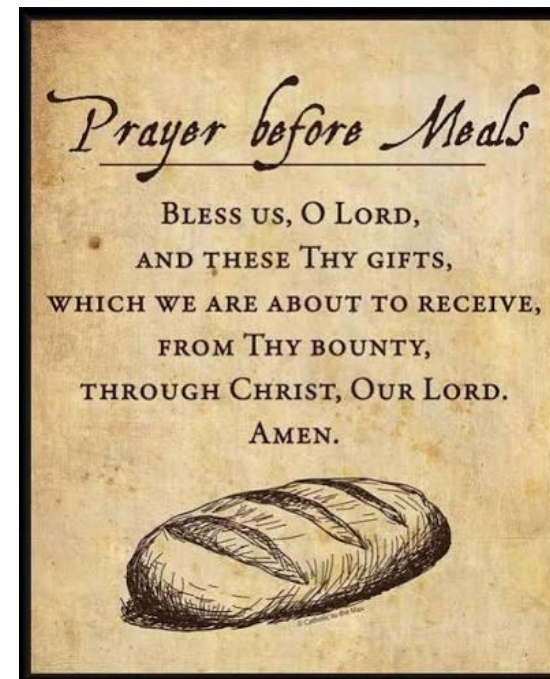
August 02,
2026

Sunday Notes

First Church Happenings

Issue
#31

“God is great, God is good, let us thank God for our food. Amen.”
– **anonymous children’s mealtime prayer**



Hello loved ones:

This week’s featured scripture (Matthew 14:13-21) is one that we’ve previously encountered together as pastor and parishioners -- the miracle of Jesus and the disciples feeding five thousand people. There are multiple layers of meaning to that one story. It’s, therefore, easy to translate into relatable terms, especially when the reading aligns with communion Sunday.

This time around, I’d like us to examine the moment before the miracle when Jesus took the five loaves and the two fish, and looked up to heaven, and blessed them. What in the world did the Savior say? What was he thinking? Oh! And! Do you ever pray prior to mealtime? I’ll say more when I see you. The sermon is entitled: Before Breaking Bread.

Itadakimasu!

rev.fredd

SAY IT WITH FLOWERS

This week’s flowers are from
Myra Bowers

“In loving memory of our parents,
Dr. George N. Bowers Jr.”

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

LIGHT THE STEEPLE

Sign up to light the Steeple in honor,
memory of celebration of a loved one!

<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

What's Happening?

COFFEE & CONVERSATION

Join us for coffee, conversation, and community.

- 📅 Wednesdays
- 🕒 10 a.m.
- 📍 Hartford Baking Co. WeHa Center

OXEN HILL FARM SUMMER CSA

Choose your customizable share size and schedule your pickup to enjoy a wide variety of organic produce for the summer!

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

GHIAA INVITES YOU TO "COMBATING ANTI-LATINE BIGOTRY"

Led by Nina Vasquez, GHIAA organizer and Puerto Rican scholar. This session will help us explore the ways that our upbringing may have taught us to see others as "them" rather than "us". Lunch is provided and there is no cost to attend. Group size will be limited to 20. Register soon, link below!

- 📅 Wednesday August 19
- 🕒 12:30- 3p.m.
- 📍 Hartford- location will be emailed when you register
- 🔗 Registration: <https://bit.ly/GHIAAALB>

Sun Is Shining - Concert Series



Don't forget to bring:

Friends & Family
Chairs & Blankets
Refreshments & Snacks

MUSIC IS IN THE AIR THIS AUGUST!

Join us for the Sun is Shining Concert Series featuring three evenings of exceptional live performances from Brown Paper Sax, Rock Voices and Still Kickin with the Big City Horns!

- 📅 August 11; Brown Paper Sax
- 📅 August 18; Rock Voices
- 📅 August 25 Still Kickin with the Big City Horns
- 🕒 5:30- 7:30 p.m.
- 📍 First Church front lawn
- 🔗 <https://whfirstchurch.org/music/concerts/sun-is-shining/>

God Called... He said You're Needed

FILL OUR FOOD BUCKETS!

Every item donated helps to support local families in need.

FERN STREET BACKPACKS:

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

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

COVENANT TO CARE ANNUAL BACKPACK DRIVE

Help our sponsored children start the school year ready to learn by supporting Covenant to Care's annual Backpack Drive! Diane and Molly Bohman will be distributing backpacks and a suggested supply list. Shop for requested items and return the filled backpack just in time for the first day of school! Filled backpacks can be brought to JPWL during library hours prior to the return date. Contact us for any questions.

- 📅 August 9 -Backpack distribution
- 📅 August 23- Filled Backpack return date
- 🕒 9:30 a.m. & during Coffee Hour
- 📍 Auditorium entrance
- 🔗 Molly: jpwebsterlib@whfirstchurch.org
- 🔗 Diane: dmbohman@comcast.net

LET'S MAKE LUNCHES!

The Outreach Team prepares 80 sandwiches and lunch bags for neighbors in the Aylum Hill community. Join us!

- 📅 August 23
- 🕒 During coffee hour
- 📍 Auditorium



DURING COFFEE HOUR: VISIT THE JPWL OR 'BOOKMOBILE'

- Children's area
- Live-streamed worship service
- Coffee, hot chocolate, and tea bar
- A quiet space to participate in worship

JPWL SUMMER READING CHALLENGE!

Choose 6 books from our 12 categories to win a \$10 gift card to Café Nero or 12 books to win a \$25 gift card to River Bend Bookshop! Gift card recipients will be chosen on 9/20.

- 📅 Sunday September 20 (Gift Card Gathering)
- 🕒 11:30 a.m.
- 📍 JPWL
- 🔗 <https://bit.ly/JPWLSummerReadingChallenge>

EXPLORING SCRIPTURE BIBLE STUDY

Every 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month

- 📅 TODAY & August 16
- 🕒 9 a.m.
- 📍 JPW Library
- 🔗 Joe Tobin: jmtobin@gmail.com | P: 860-916-1923

REV. ELLENWOOD & JPWL HISTORY EXHIBIT

The exhibit includes photographs, newspaper clippings, letters, and other memorabilia, including a copy of "Reformation Blues" and his famous "Book of Revelation Salsa" recipe.

- 📅 Through August 30
- 🕒 During library hours
- 📍 JPWL Gallery



All are welcome to add to our *Sweet Blessings* bulletin board, located on the third floor at the top of the main staircase. Share a sweet blessing you've received this summer or tell us your favorite place to enjoy ice cream.

Summer isn't over yet—there's still plenty of time to discover a new favorite spot and enjoy a scoop with family and friends!

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: <https://bit.ly/JPWLNewsletter>