

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 on 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/>



August 09,
2026

Sunday Notes

First Church Happenings

Issue
#32

*“And early in the morning [Jesus] came toward [the disciples] on the sea.”
-Matthew 14:25*



Hey there:

The fourteenth chapter of Matthew contains back-to-back-to-back miracles. Last week, we considered the well-known story of Jesus feeding many souls with minimal supplies. At the end of the chapter, the Savior healed the sick citizens in a place called Gennesaret. The intervening miracle is as familiar as the first – it’s the occasion when Jesus walked on water.

I hadn’t noticed until this time around, but the gospel writer describes the atmosphere for that encounter using syntax that is impossible to ignore. The way the words are arranged suggests something about the situations when we can reasonably expect Jesus to come toward us. I’ll say more when I see you. The sermon is entitled: **4 Four-Word Phrases.**

Yours with ardent faith and fondness,

rev.fredd

SAY IT WITH FLOWERS

Enhance our worship space by sponsoring the weekly altar flowers. Dedications can be made in memory of a loved one, in honor of a birthday or anniversary, or to the glory of God.

Sponsor flowers:

<https://bit.ly/FCAltarFlowers>

LIGHT THE STEEPLE

This week the Steeple is lit
*“in loving memory of
Jean and Bradley Piper”*

From Judy and Terry Schmitt

Follow the link below to light 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

Contact Rev. Fredd

In person

By phone: 860-233-9605

Or E-mail:

fredd.ward@whfirstchurch.org

**LOST &
FOUND**
Room 304

What's Happening?

COFFEE & CONVERSATION

Join us for coffee, conversation, and community.

📅 Wednesdays

🕒 10 a.m.

📍 Hartford Baking Co. WeHa Center

OXEN HILL FARM & DISTINCTIVE IDEAS

Summer isn't over yet! You can still choose your customizable share size and schedule your pickup to enjoy a wide variety of organic summer produce! Chef Vargas from Distinctive Ideas will be joining Oxen Hill Farm every Thursday. Sample some of her creations made with Oxen Hill Farm Produce, pre-order meals or purchase freshly prepared meals.

📅 Thursdays; through October 22

🕒 3 - 6:30 p.m.

📍 Rotunda entrance

🔗 <https://oxenhillfarm.com/>

🔗 <https://www.distinctive-ideas.com/weekly-table>

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!

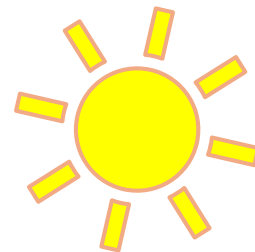
📅 Wednesday August 19

🕒 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/>

Faith & Family Night at the Yard Goats (FREE)

📅 Wednesday August 19th

🕒 Gates open at 6 p.m. 🕒 First pitch 7:10 p.m.

📍 Dunkin' Park – 1214 Main Street, Hartford CT

🔗 Registration: https://bit.ly/FirstChurch_YardGoats

Join us for an evening at the Yard Goats' for Faith & Family Night! Before the game several players will speak to the 20+ churches in the stands about what their faith means to them. This **FREE** event is limited to 25 seats at Dunkin' Park- **Registration is required.**

This event is sponsored by Inreach & Faith Formation

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.

📅 **TODAY** 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



EXPLORING SCRIPTURE BIBLE STUDY

Every 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month

📅 August 16

🕒 9 a.m.

📍 JPWL Library

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

JPWL SUMMER READING CHALLENGE!

Read 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>

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

GUIDED WALKING TOUR: "THE ODYSSEY OF THE AMISTAD: A TRAIL TO FREEDOM"

Join us for a presentation exploring the lives of the Mende tribe and the abolitionist era of Farmington. Followed by a 1.5-mile walking tour. This event is rain or shine. \$20/per person. Link below for more details and registration.

📅 Saturday October 3

🕒 10 a.m.- 12 p.m.

📍 FCC, Farmington CT (75 Main st)

🔗 <https://bit.ly/atrailtofreedom>

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>