



Monday-Thursday 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. & Sundays 9a.m.- 12p.m.

☎ 860-232-3893 ✉ jpwebster@whfirstchurch.org

More Events & Updates:

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

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



MEET YOUR LIBRARIANS

✉ Molly: jpwebsterlib@whfirstchurch.org

✉ Jennifer: jpwebsterdir@whfirstchurch.org

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

MEMORY CAFÉ: REFLECTIONS: GROWING UP

Join us for a monthly social gathering for people living with changes in memory or thinking and their care partners.

Enjoy conversation, refreshments, and uplifting activities: music, storytelling, crafts, and therapy pet visits. Our first café features images, objects, and music from the 1940s-60s to spark memories and conversation. A dementia specialist and library staff will be available to offer support. Each attendee must be accompanied by their care partner for the entire hour. Email or Call JPWL to register.

📅 Wednesday September 16

🕒 2-4 p.m.

📍 JPWL

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>

FREE LUNCH & LEARN: RECONNECT: A NEW FRAMEWORK FOR HELPING PARENTS PROTECT THEIR CHILD FROM ANXIETY AND DEPRESSION FUELED BY DIGITAL ADDICTION

For parents, educators, and mental health professionals Join personality type expert Paul Tieger and Michael Shelby, LPC, have combined their extensive experience to create a tool that helps parents better understand the harmful effects of digital addiction and provides individualized strategies to help protect children's mental health. Light lunch and childcare will be provided. Registration is required.

📅 Sunday October 4

🕒 11:30 a.m.

📍 JPWL

🔗 <https://bit.ly/JPWLReConnect>

RESTORING THE SPIRIT: MAINTAINING PURPOSE AND HOPE AS SOCIAL JUSTICE ACTIVISTS

Join us for a 6-week series for activists and advocates working in social and environmental justice. Each gathering offers an opportunity to pause, connect, reflect, and renew while building resilience and supporting one another. The series will be facilitated by a certified spiritual director engaged in social justice. Registration is required. Contact Jennifer in the JPWL to learn more.

📅 September 8 & 22; October 6 & 20; November 3 & 17

🕒 Afternoon group 1-3 p.m.

🕒 Evening group 6:30-8:30 p.m.

📍 JPWL

August 16,
2026

Sunday Notes

First Church Happenings

Issue
#33

"How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!"

– Psalm 133:1



Dearest:

I was thinking we could have a conversation about 'unity' while we have an obvious supply of it. How about it? So often, the subject doesn't surface unless or until something has caused a split in the system – some unhappy situation that has created deep disagreement or discord.

Since we're in terrific shape in terms of our togetherness and since the lectionary text (Psalm 133) is concerned with the topic, let's talk about the priceless gift that Marcus Aurelius described as the core organizing principle of the cosmos. The whole doggone cosmos! I'll say more (with a little help from Marcus) when I see you. The sermon is entitled: **A Connection Even Among Things Separated by Vast Distances.**

I have the honor to be...your obedient servant,

rev.fredd

EMAIL SYSTEM MAINTENANCE

Due to a scheduled system update, email service will be unavailable **Friday August 14 at 3:00 p.m.** We anticipate that email service will be restored by late **Monday morning, August 17.**

During this time, we will not be able to send or receive emails. We apologize for any inconvenience and appreciate your patience as we complete this important update.

SAY IT WITH FLOWERS

This week's flowers are from
Myra Bowers

"In loving memory of
Dr. George N. Bowers Jr."

Sponsor flowers:

🔗 <https://bit.ly/FCAltarFlowers>

LIGHT THE STEEPLE

Shine a light for someone special! A \$25 donation lights the steeple for one week in celebration, honor, or remembrance 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

**LOST &
FOUND**
📍 Room 304

What's Happening?

EXPLORING SCRIPTURE BIBLE STUDY

Every 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month

📅 Sunday August 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



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.

📅 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

Join us for the remaining (Tuesday) Sun is Shining Concert Series featuring exceptional live performances from Rock Voices and Still Kickin' with the Big City Horns!

📅 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/>



Don't forget to bring:

Friends & Family
Chairs & Blankets
Refreshments & Snacks

FAITH & FAMILY NIGHT- FREE AT THE HARTFORD YARD GOATS

Inreach & Faith Formation have sponsored this **FREE** event for you! 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 event is limited to 50 seats.

Registration is required.

📅 Wednesday August 19

🕒 6p.m. Gates open

🕒 7:10p.m. First pitch

📍 Dunkin Park- 1214 Main Street, Hartford CT

📧 Registration: https://bit.ly/FaithFamily_YardGoats



FCC, SIMSBURY SPONSORED AUTHOR TALK

Join us for a presentation by nationally recognized author, researcher, and commentator Ryan P. Burge, as he discusses his latest book "The Vanishing Church: How the Hollowing Out of Moderate Congregations is Hurting Democracy, Faith, and Us". Registration required, \$30/ticket

📅 Monday September 21

🕒 5:30p.m.

📍 FCC, Simsbury- 68g Hopmeadow Street, Simsbury CT

📧 Register online: www.fccsimsbury.org

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

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

📞 860-233-9605

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



God Called... You're Needed

FILL OUR FOOD BUCKETS!

Every item donated helps to support local families in need.

COVENANT TO CARE ANNUAL BACKPACK DRIVE

A huge thank you to everyone who took a backpack to fill for Covenant to Care! Your generosity will help local children start the school year ready to learn.

📅 **Sunday August 23-** Filled Backpack return date

🕒 9:30 a.m. & during Coffee Hour

📍 Auditorium entrance

📧 Molly: jpwebsterlib@whfirstchurch.org

📧 Diane: dmboman@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



PRE-K FOR THE LITTLE PEANUTS FUNDRAISER

Support Jeanne Warner's non-profit, Pre-K for the Little Peanuts, which provides scholarships to preschoolers so they can continue their educational journey. Shop early for birthday, holiday, teacher gifts and more! All profits will be donated to Pre-K for the Little Peanuts. Venmo is accepted.

📅 Saturday September 26

🕒 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

📍 Auditorium

📧 Jeanne Warner: jcwarneriv@gmail.com



August Reachout



Friends of Silver Lake brings together people whose lives have been shaped by the ministry of this special place. For campers, families, staff, volunteers, and friends, it has been a place to laugh, sing, pray, grow, and experience the power of faith, friendship, and community.

The Southern New England Conference has announced that **summer 2026 will be the final season of camping at Silver Lake**. Friends of Silver Lake are working to preserve the ministry and mission that have made Silver Lake meaningful to generations of campers, families, and communities.

We believe the ministry of Silver Lake matters- and its story doesn't have to end here. Join us in keeping its ministry alive by giving today.

To donate please use the links provided or donate in church (note **Friends of Silver Lake** on your envelope) or online through 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/>