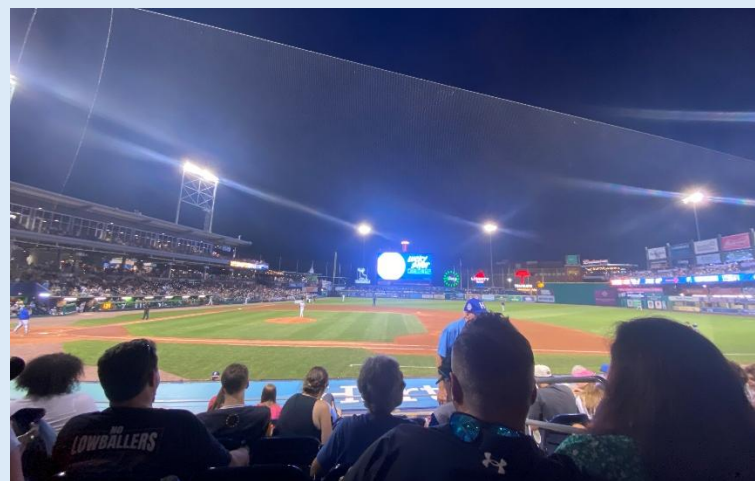
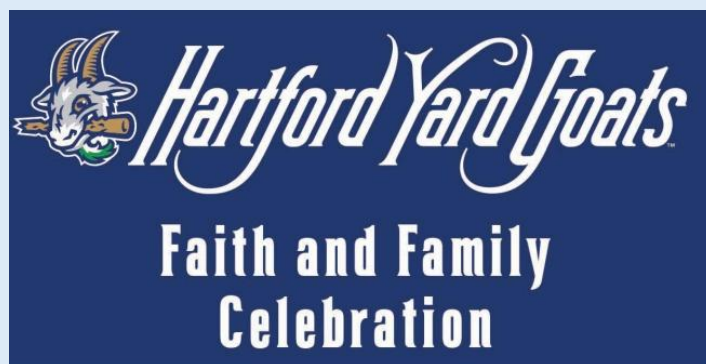




**Thank you InReach Team & Faith Formation for sponsoring
Faith & Family Night at Dunkin' Park!**

Even though the Yard Goats didn't get the win, falling to the Somerset Patriots 10-4, we sure had a winning night! The **Hartford Yard Goats** are the **Double-A affiliate of the Colorado Rockies**, while the **Somerset Patriots** are the **Double-A affiliate of the New York Yankees**. So we had some great baseball to watch — and even better company to enjoy it with.

Our group got into the spirit of the game, doing the wave, yelling **"CHARGE!"**, screaming for T-shirts, trying to make it onto the selfie cam, and keeping our eyes open for foul balls. We enjoyed ice cream, and plenty of good ballpark food, and of course, we all joined in singing **"Sweet Caroline"**! Most importantly, we had a lot of laughs and made great memories together!



Thank you for making this fun night out possible for our church family! We're already looking forward to our next adventure together!

August 23,
2026

Sunday Notes

First Church Happenings

Issue
#34

*"So often, the hands of the Almighty can be found at the end of our own arms."
— Sister Monica Joan*



Hello friends:

Cassidy recently introduced me to the reality of Main Character Syndrome. It's not a bona fide medical or psychological diagnosis but a pop-culture term that describes a person who views their life as an epic saga wherein they are the chief protagonist and everyone else plays a minor (lesser) role.

I mention the syndrome in this space as a way of previewing the featured scripture selection (Exodus 1:8-20) – the very beginning of the epic saga of Moses. The truth is that Moses never would have become a biblical giant without the inspired contributions of the Israelite midwives. So often, minor character energy makes all the difference in the world. I'll say more when I see you. The sermon is entitled: **Labor and Delivery**.

Here I am, Lord.

rev.fredd

Mark your calendars for 'First Sunday'

Come celebrate First Sunday with us! We'll gather for worship, fellowship, and a chance to reconnect with friends- both familiar and new. Join us as we celebrate our church community and the beginning of a new season together. More details to come!

Sunday September 13

SAY IT WITH FLOWERS

This week's flowers are provided by

The First Church Flower Fund

Sponsor flowers:

<https://bit.ly/FCAltarFlowers>

LIGHT THE STEEPLE

This week the steeple is lit by
Carol Engels White

"In loving memory of Bill Engels"

<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

860-233-9605

fredd.ward@whfirstchurch.org

**LOST &
FOUND**
 Room 304

What's Happening?

EXPLORING SCRIPTURE BIBLE STUDY
Every 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month
📅 September 6
🕒 9 a.m.
📍 JPWL
✉ Joe Tobin: jmtobin@gmail.com ☎ 860-916-1923

COFFEE & CONVERSATION
Join us for coffee, conversation, and community.
📅 Wednesdays
🕒 10 a.m.
📍 Hartford Baking Co. WeHa Center

SUN IS SHINING CONCERT SERIES
Join us for the final concert . Don't forget your chairs & blankets and favorite refreshments & snacks!
📅 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/>

OXEN HILL FARM & DISTINCTIVE IDEAS
Choose your customizable share size and schedule your pickup to enjoy a wide variety of organic produce! Chef Vargas from Distinctive Ideas will be on site weekly with samples. Don't forget to ask about pre-ordered meals or purchase freshly prepared meals on site!
📅 Thursdays; through October 22
🕒 3 - 6:30 p.m.
📍 Rotunda entrance
🔗 <https://oxenhillfarm.com/>
🔗 <https://www.distinctive-ideas.com/weekly-table>

FCC, SIMSBURY SPONSORED AUTHOR TALK
Join nationally recognized author and researcher, 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- 689 Hopmeadow Street, Simsbury CT
🔗 Register online: www.fccsimsbury.org

God Called... You're Needed

COVENANT TO CARE 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



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/>



August Reachout

Friends of Silver Lake



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.

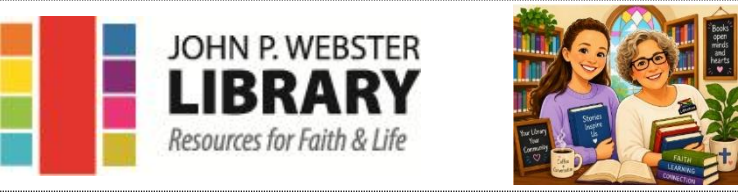
For more information about Friends of Silver Lake:
🔗 <https://www.friendsofsilverlake.com/#about>

HOW TO DONATE

Directly to Friends of Silver Lake:
🔗 <https://www.friendsofsilverlake.com/donate/>

Through First Church:
Write "Friends of Silver Lake" on your envelope.

Online through First Church:
Select "Reach Out Monthly Collection" under "Fund"
🔗 <https://pushpay.com/g/whfirstchurch>



Monday-Thursday 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. & Sundays 9a.m.- 12p.m.
☎ 860-232-3893 ✉ jpwebster@whfirstchurch.org
🔗 **Newsletter:** <https://bit.ly/JPWLNewsletter>
🔗 **Events & Updates:** <https://whfirstchurch.org/jpw-library/>

FITMIX FITNESS WITH KATHI BORATKO
📅 Tuesdays
🕒 5:45- 6:45p.m.
📍 Auditorium
🔗 <https://bit.ly/FitMixKathy>

TAI CHI & QI GONG WITH CYNTHIA HOAG
📅 Thursdays
🕒 10:30- 11:30 a.m.
📍 Chapel
🔗 <https://bit.ly/TC-QGCynthia>

THREE HYBRID BOOK GROUP GATHERINGS
SPONSORED BY JPWL
Groups meet September – June. Copies of the books are provided for participants; new members are always welcome!
📍 JPWL

AWAKENING THE SPIRIT
Led by Rev. Dr. David Grafton, professor of Islamic Studies and Christian-Muslim Relations at Hartford International University. Come explore how the Qur'an retells and interprets stories and figures shared with the Bible
📖 **How the Qur'an Interprets the Bible**, by John Kaltner and Christopher Frechette.
📅 Mondays; Next meeting September 14 (No class 10/02)
🕒 12-1 :30 p.m.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT
Discover the story of Frances Perkins, the trailblazing woman whose partnership with FDR helped change the nation!
📖 **Becoming Madam Secretary**, by Stephanie Dray.
📅 First Tuesday of the month; Starting October 6
🕒 5-6:40 p.m.

BELIEVE IN YourSHELF
Join our middle school book group as we explore this powerful story of two young North Koreans who risk everything for the hope of freedom and a better future!
📖 **The Other Side of Tomorrow**, by Tina Cho
📅 Third Sunday of the month; Starting October 18
🕒 10:15 a.m.