

The start of the church year
has been rebranded to

First Sunday

Faith. Community. Fun for Everyone.

Let's celebrate together! 






Face Painting DJ Miles Balloon Making/Twisting Glitter Tattoos






FOOD & DRINKS!

WILL BE AVAILABLE.



Join us
AFTER CHURCH
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13



All are welcome! 

COME FOR WORSHIP,
STAY FOR FUN, FRIENDS & COMMUNITY!

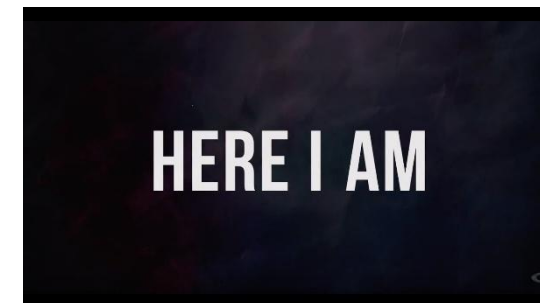
August 30,
2026

Sunday Notes

Issue
#35

First Church Happenings

*"Just because you haven't said a shameful thing
out loud doesn't mean it's a secret." – me*



Hi:

Last Sunday, during her message for all ages, Amanda reminded us that Pharaoh's daughter rescued baby Moses from a basket among the river reeds (Exodus 2:6). She encouraged us that such seemingly small acts of courage can greatly alter the trajectory of someone else's story. Clearly, that is true of Moses. An angel later appeared to Moses in a flame of fire out of a bush and God called him to deliver the Israelites from Egyptian oppression. You know these things.

Do you recall that in between his rescue and his response to God's summons, Moses took a human life? It wasn't an accident: "He saw an Egyptian beating one of his own people. He looked this way and that, and seeing no one he slayed the Egyptian and hid him in the sand." He was fully aware of what he had done. He also sensed that the shameful act was impossible to completely cover up. I'll say more when I see you. The sermon is entitled: "Surely the thing is known."

Love you. Mean it.

rev.fredd

Road Closure Notice

Road closures will be in effect from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. this Sunday due to the Center Streets Festival. Please plan your route accordingly, watch for children on bikes, and join the fun after worship!



SAY IT WITH FLOWERS

This week's flowers are provided by

Paul & Bev Truebig

*"In loving memory of
Barbara & Emory Smith"*

Sponsor flowers:

<https://bit.ly/FCAltarFlowers>

LIGHT THE STEEPLE

Celebrate or honor your loved ones by
lighting the steeple in their name

<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

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>

FITMIX FITNESS WITH KATHI BORATKO (FREE)

Tuesdays, Starting September 15
5:45- 6:45p.m.
Auditorium
<https://bit.ly/FitMixKathy>

TAI CHI & QI GONG WITH CYNTHIA HOAG (FREE)

Thursdays, Starting September 10
10:30- 11:30 a.m.
Chapel
<https://bit.ly/TC-QGCynthia>

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- 68g Hopmeadow Street, Simsbury CT
Register online: www.fccsimsbury.org

BOOK GROUPS SPONSORED BY JPWL

Groups meet September – June. Copies of the books are provided for participants; new members are always welcome!
JPWL – Hybrid option available for adult book groups*

AWAKENING THE SPIRIT

Led by Rev. Dr. David Grafton, professor of Islamic Studies and Christian-Muslim Relations at Hartford International University.
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 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.

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



LET’S MAKE LUNCHES!

The Outreach Team prepares 80 sandwiches and lunch bags for neighbors in the Aylum Hill community. Join us!
September 27
During coffee hour
Auditorium

FILL OUR FOOD BUCKETS!

Blue buckets are located throughout the church and are waiting to be filled! Every item donated helps to support local families

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

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.

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

HOW TO 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/>

MEMORY CAFÉ: REFLECTIONS GROWING UP

Our first Memory Café features images, objects, and music from the 1940s-60s to spark reminiscences and conversation among participants. A dementia specialist and library staff will be available to offer support. Space is limited. To participate each attendee must be accompanied by their care partner for the entire hour. Call or email JPWL to register.
Wednesday September 16
2-4 p.m.
First Church Choir Room & JPWL

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>

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

Facilitated by a certified spiritual director engaged in social justice. Join us for a 6-week series for an opportunity to pause, connect, reflect, and renew while building resilience and supporting one another. Registration is required.
September 8 & 22; October 6 & 20; November 3 & 17
Afternoon group 1-3 p.m.
Evening group 6:30-8:30 p.m.
JPWL
Register Here: <https://bit.ly/RestoringSpirit>

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>