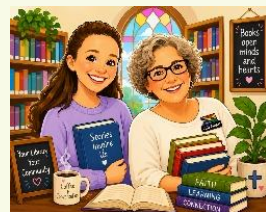




**At the JPW Library you can:**

- Watch the live-streamed worship services
- Find a separate place to worship when you need one
- Set your toddler free in the children's area
- Have a cup of tea, coffee or hot chocolate



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

☎ 860-232-3893 ✉ [jpwebster@whfirstchurch.org](mailto:jpwebster@whfirstchurch.org)

## Programs & Events

**MEMORY CAFÉ: Reflections Growing Up**

**JPWL SUMMER READING CHALLENGE!**

**RESTORING THE SPIRIT: Maintaining purpose & Hope as Social Justice Activists**

**RECONNECT: Free JPWL Lunch & Learn**

**GUIDED WALKING TOUR: "The Odyssey of the Amistad: A Trail to Freedom"**

**"Not THAT Kind of Christian" [2 Free events]**

- [1] Book discussion w/ Rev. Dr. David Grafton
- [2]"Bad Faith" Documentary Screening [TV-MA]

## Book Groups

September – June. Copies of books are provided for participants. New members are always welcome!

📍 JPWL – Hybrid option available for adult book groups\*

### AWAKENING THE SPIRIT

📖 *How the Qur'an Interprets the Bible*, by John Kaltner and Christopher Frechette.

📅 Mondays; Next meeting September 21 (No class 10/02)

🕒 12-1:30 p.m.

### FOOD FOR THOUGHT

📖 *Becoming Madam Secretary*, by Stephanie Dray.

📅 First Tuesday of the month; Starting October 6

🕒 5-6:40 p.m.

### BELIEVE IN YourSHELF [6-8 GRADE]

📖 *The Other Side of Tomorrow*, by Tina Cho

📅 Third Sunday of the month; Starting October 18

🕒 10:15 a.m.

**Visit the JPWL online or in person for more information & registration details!**

🔗 <https://whfirstchurch.org/jpw-library/>  
📧 Newsletter: <https://bit.ly/JPWLNewsletter>

Sept. 20,  
2026

# Sunday Notes

First Church Happenings

Issue  
#38



Hi there:

Remember that time last August when I wrote "...I have a new cellular number dedicated for First Church matters...Save it. Please use it." That was THEN. We NOW have a new telecom system with amazing functionality, especially the feature that allows staff to answer incoming calls in real time on our mobile devices. So, going forward, please call the First Church main number -- **860.233.9605** -- when you need to reach me. My extension is 101.

Speaking of going forward, we'll walk with Israelites for the next two weeks in their escape from slavery under the leadership of Moses. Sunday's featured scripture describes a slithery situation when God sent poisonous serpents among the people. Sometimes you have to be bitten before you become willing to be better. I'll ssssay more when I ssssee you. The sermon is entitled **'Wisdom from the Wilderness (Part 1 of 2): God's Mercy is Medicine'**.

Love you. Mean it.

rev.fredd

### PROPOSED BY-LAW REVISIONS

Earlier this year a work group of the Coordinating Team (CT) drafted revisions to the By-Laws. The work group's proposal was eventually approved by the CT and will soon be presented for a congregational vote.

After service on **Sunday September 20**, there will be an opportunity to review the proposed changes to the By-Laws and ask questions. The congregational vote on the new By-Laws will be held on **Sunday, October 11**.

### SAY IT WITH FLOWERS

Sponsor altar flowers in memory, honor or celebration of a loved one! There are many available dates

Sponsor flowers:

🔗 <https://bit.ly/26-27FCaltarflowers>

### LIGHT THE STEEPLE

This week the steeple is lit  
by Eleanor Quinn

**"Happy Birthday Jimmy!"**

🔗 <https://bit.ly/FCLightSteeple>

### P-R-A-Y

Let us hold you in prayer

Submit a prayer request:

🔗 [http://bit.ly/FCprayer\\_request](http://bit.ly/FCprayer_request)

### NEW MEMBER INFORMATION SESSION

Attend an information session for prospective new members today!

New members will be received into the life of the church during worship service on Sunday September 27.

📅 Sept 20 (info session)

📅 Sept 27 New Member Sunday

🕒 After Worship 📍 Chapel

Contact Rev. Fredd for more details!

☎ 860-233-9605

✉ [fredd.ward@whfirstchurch.org](mailto:fredd.ward@whfirstchurch.org)

# What's Happening?

## EXPLORING SCRIPTURE BIBLE STUDY

Every 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month  
📅 September 20, October 4 & 18  
🕒 9 a.m.  
📍 JPWL  
✉ Joe Tobin: [jmtobin@gmail.com](mailto:jmtobin@gmail.com) ☎ 860-916-1923

## COFFEE & CONVERSATION

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

## FITMIX FITNESS W KATHI BORATKO [FREE]

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

## TAI CHI & QI GONG W/ CYNTHIA HOAG [FREE]

📅 Thursdays  
🕒 10:30- 11:30 a.m.  
📍 Chapel  
🔗 <https://bit.ly/TC-QGCynthia>

## PRE-K FOR THE LITTLE PEANUTS FUNDRAISER

Started by Jeanne Warner to provide scholarships to preschoolers to 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.  
📅 Saturday September 26  
🕒 10 a.m.- 1 p.m.  
📍 Auditorium  
✉ [jcwarneriv@gmail.com](mailto:jcwarneriv@gmail.com)

## 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

## MONTHLY CELTIC WORSHIP

Experience worship centered on prayer, Communion, poetry, music, and shared silence. Together, we'll make space to encounter the sacred in the beauty of everyday life. Contact Court Lewis or Jennifer deSimas with questions.  
📅 Sunday, September 27  
🕒 5 p.m.  
📍 Chapel

## MOUNTAIN VALLEY GARDEN CLUB

A presentation with guest speaker Jonathan Manley, President of Friends of Bosque del Apache, sharing knowledge of the wildlife, birds, wildfowl, flowers, and natural beauty of Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge. RSVP to Nancy ball by Oct.4 to reserve your spot!  
📅 Monday October 5  
🕒 1 p.m.  
📍 Auditorium  
✉ Nancy Ball [shoedog1961@gmail.com](mailto:shoedog1961@gmail.com)

## SISTERS IN SPIRIT [FREE]

A new community for women seeking connection, conversation, and spiritual exploration. Come meet other women, share in meaningful conversation, and explore what this new group might offer—from guest speakers and discussions to spiritual practices, retreats, and opportunities to simply be together. Light bites provided.  
📅 Sunday November 1  
🕒 11:30 a.m.- 1:30 p.m.  
📍 JPWL

## GATHER ROUND THE TABLE:

Experience the wonderful opportunity to mix, mingle and eat alongside the company of friends, old and new while enjoying a delicious potluck dinner. Sign up to host 1 potluck dinner at your home, in turn you are invited as a guest to 2 other dinners. Contact Linda & Martha by September 27.  
☎ 860-874-7786 Linda Moffitt  
☎ 860-212-1352 Martha Calef

## CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday- Friday 9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

☎ 860-233-9605

✉ [Office.Manager@whfirstchurch.org](mailto:Office.Manager@whfirstchurch.org) | 🔗 <https://whfirstchurch.org/>

LOST & FOUND  
📍 Room 304



## FILL OUR FOOD BUCKETS!

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

## EARLY CHRISTIANITY BOOK CLUB

The journey continues...Embark on the second tour of early Christianity. This fall, we'll explore one of the very first converts to the faith while reading "Jesus According to Paul" by Victor Paul Furnish. Book club meets on Tuesdays & Sundays. Register online or contact Michael.

📅 Tuesdays: 10/13, 11/10, 12/01  
🕒 6:45 p.m.  
📍 Youth Room  
📅 Sundays: 10/25, 11/22, 12/13  
🕒 9 a.m.  
📍 JPWL

🔗 <https://bit.ly/FallChristBookClub>

✉ Michael Protos: [michaelprotos@gmail.com](mailto:michaelprotos@gmail.com)

## OXEN HILL FARM & DISTINCTIVE IDEAS

Customize your share size and schedule your pickup. 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>



First Church Faith Formation for Children  
**Sunday School**

**2026-27 Registration is Open**

Scan here



Contact Faith Formation Director, Amanda for inquiries!

✉ Amanda Bethune: [faith.formation@whfirstchurch.org](mailto:faith.formation@whfirstchurch.org)

🔗 <https://bit.ly/SundaySch2026>

# September Reachout: Donors Choose

**DONORS  
CHOOSE**

This month, our Reachout offering will support Donors Choose, a nonprofit created by teachers, for teachers. Donors Choose helps public school teachers get the classroom supplies and resources they need.

As donors, we are choosing to support Hartford Public Schools. There are currently over 100 requests from HPS teachers for classroom resources that include: paper, markers, locks for student lockers, art supplies and more!

## HOW TO DONATE

To see projects, teacher requests or to donate directly to Hartford Public Schools via Donors Choose visit:  
🔗 <https://bit.ly/DonorsChooseHPS>

## Through First Church:

Write 'Donors Choose HPS' on your giving envelope

## Online through First Church:

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

## For more info:

🔗 <https://www.donorschoose.org/about>