



LIBRARY HOURS

Monday – Thursday

9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Sunday

9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

A Ministry of First Church

860-232-3893 | jpwebster@whfirstchurch.org

September Reachout



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 they need. As donors, we are choosing to support Hartford Public Schools.

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"

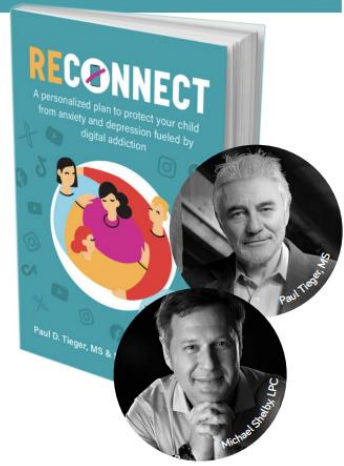
<https://pushpay.com/g/whfirstchurch>

RECONNECT

LUNCH & LEARN: Sunday, Oct. 4 • 11:30-1 • JPW Library

Listen as authors **Michael Shelby** and **Paul Tieger** explain how to protect kids from anxiety and depression caused by digital addiction in this program designed for parents, educators, and mental health professionals.

Personality Type expert **Paul Tieger** and **Michael Shelby**, LPC have combined their extensive experience to create a tool "RECONNECT: A personalized plan to protect your child from anxiety and depression fueled by digital addiction" that allows parents to better understand the harmful effects of their child's digital addiction while providing individualized strategies to help protect their child's mental health.



REGISTER FOR FREE:
Call Molly or Jennifer in the JPW Library, 860-232-3893 or scan here -->

Childcare provided. A light lunch will be served.

Memorial Garden Update!

Benches surrounding the fountain in the Memorial Garden were replaced last week! Many thanks to the **West Hartford Garden Club's** donation of three beautiful granite benches.



CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday- Friday 9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

860-233-9605

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



Sept. 27,
2026

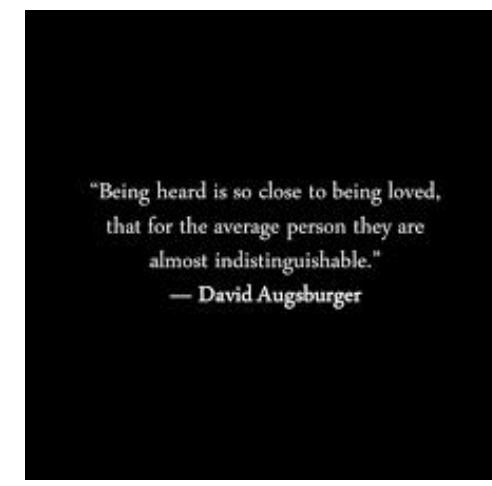
Sunday Notes

Issue
#39

First Church Happenings

Friends:

Sunday's featured scripture (Exodus 16:2-15) will hopefully resonate with any believer who's ever had 'beef' – not in the culinary sense of the word; but in the sense that you experienced interpersonal conflict or spiritual struggle. The text says: "The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness." They were 'hangry' and wanted to go back to the land of Egypt from which they had escaped.



The truth that I'd like tease out of the text is that God listens to the desires of God's people, even when our praying sounds like beefing. God cares for us – so much -- despite our grievances and objections. The follow-up installment of the sermon series is entitled: **'Wisdom from the Wilderness (Part 2 of 2): Being Heard Is So Close to Being Loved...'**

Be still. Keep going.

rev.fredd

CALL TO CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that a Congregational Meeting of the First Church of Christ Congregational of West Hartford, Connecticut, UCC, will be held in the Meetinghouse on Sunday, **October 11, 2026**, starting at approximately **11:15 a.m.**

This meeting is called to transact the following items of business:

1. To consider and vote on revision of the By-laws of the congregation.
2. To consider and vote on the purchase of a piano.
3. In accordance with the By-laws of First Church, action will be taken only on matters included in the Call to Meeting.

Notice given on September 27, 2026

Linda Bronstein, Secretary

SAY IT WITH FLOWERS

This week's flowers are from Court Lewis

*"In loving memory of
Barbara Amols Lewis"*

Sponsor flowers:

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

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

860-233-9605 ext. 101

fredd.ward@whfirstchurch.org

**LOST &
FOUND**
Room 304

EXPLORING SCRIPTURE BIBLE STUDY

Every 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month
📅 October 4 & 18
🕒 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

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>

LET’S MAKE LUNCHES! [WITH OUTREACH]

Volunteer to prepare lunch bags for our neighbors in the Asylum Hill community.
📅 TODAY! September 27
🕒 During coffee hour
📍 Auditorium

MONTHLY CELTIC WORSHIP

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

GATHER ROUND THE TABLE: POTLUCK DINNERS

Experience the opportunity to mix, mingle and eat alongside the company of friends, old and new. Host 1 potluck dinner and receive an invitation to 2 dinners.
📅 TODAY! September 27- Deadline for host sign-up
☎ 860-874-7786 Linda Moffitt
☎ 860-212-1352 Martha Calef

COVENENT TO CARE: HAT & MITTEN COLLECTION

New and gently worn mittens, hats, scarves, and other winter clothing will be accepted at church! Look for our designated collection boxes.
📅 October 1st- December 31st

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS W/ REV. FREDD

A simple service of worship to honor God’s gift of creation. Open to all faiths and creatures. Bring your pets leashed or crated. If your pet is unable to attend, bring a photo!
📅 Sunday October 4
🕒 12:30 p.m.
📍 Front Lawn

RECONNECT: FREE JPWL LUNCH & LEARN

A new framework for helping parents protect their child from anxiety and depression fueled by digital addiction. Light lunch and childcare provided. Registration is required.
📅 Sunday October 4
🕒 11:30 a.m.- 1 p.m.
📍 JPWL
🔗 <https://bit.ly/JPWLReConnect>

MOUNTAIN VALLEY GARDEN CLUB

A presentation with Jonathan Manley, President of Friends of Bosque del Apache, sharing knowledge of the wildlife and flowers of Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge.
📅 Monday October 5; RSVP to Nancy Ball by Oct 4
🕒 1 p.m.
📍 Auditorium
✉ Nancy Ball: shoedog1961@gmail.com

FILL OUR FOOD BUCKETS!

Blue buckets and lists of requested items are located throughout the church are waiting to be filled! All donations support local families.

First Church Faith Formation for Children
Sunday School

2026-27 Registration is Open

Scan here



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

A presentation and 1.5-mile walking tour that explores the lives of the Mende tribe and the abolitionist era of Farmington. This event is rain or shine. \$20/per person.
📅 Saturday October 3
🕒 10 a.m.- 12 p.m.
📍 FCC, Farmington CT (75 Main st)
🔗 <https://bit.ly/atrailtofreedom>

EXPLORING CHRISTIAN NATIONALISM [FREE]

Explore the issue of Christian Nationalism-history, influence, and its implications for our faith and democracy with 2 events!

{1}BOOK DISCUSSION W/ REV. DR. DAVID GRAFTON

📖 *Baptizing America: How Mainline Christian Protestants Helped Build Christian Nationalism*
📅 TODAY! September 27
🕒 12-2 p.m.
📍 First Universalist Church, 433 Fern St., West Hartford
🔗 <https://bit.ly/ChristianNationalism26>

{2}“BAD FAITH” DOCUMENTARY SCREENING [TV-MA]

📅 Sunday October 18
🕒 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m.
📍 Temple Sinai, 41 West Hartford Rd., Newington
🔗 <https://bit.ly/ChristianNationalism26>

JPWL SPONSORED BOOK GROUPS

Book groups run September – June in the JPWL. Copies of books are provided at no cost. New members are always welcome!
Hybrid option available for adult groups

AWAKENING THE SPIRIT

📖 *How the Qur’an Interprets the Bible*, by John Kaltner and Christopher Frechette.
📅 Mondays; (No class 10/12)
🕒 12-1 :30 p.m.
🔗 <https://bit.ly/Awakeningthespirit>

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

📖 *Becoming Madam Secretary*, by Stephanie Dray.
📅 First Tuesday of the month; Starting October 6
🕒 5-6:30 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.

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. 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

SOUL CONVERSATIONS

FREE JPWL LUNCH & LEARN & BOOK LAUNCH:

Ft. Rev. Susan Izard’s latest work, *Soul Conversations: A Pilgrimage of The Heart*, her lifelong journey to recognize, trust, and befriend her soul. Free to register!
📅 Sunday October 18
🕒 11:30 a.m.- 1:30 p.m.
📍 JPWL
🔗 <https://bit.ly/SoulConversationsSusanIzard>

MEMORY CAFÉ: REFLECTIONS GROWING UP

For people with dementia and their care partners to experience monthly activities in a safe and supportive setting. October’s session will feature artifacts and music from the 1940s- 60s. Call or email JPWL to register.
📅 Wednesday October 21
🕒 1-3 p.m.
📍 First Church Choir Room & JPWL

OXEN HILL FARM & DISTINCTIVE IDEAS

Customize your share size and schedule your pickup. Ask about pre-ordered meals!
📅 Thursdays; through October 22
🕒 3 - 6:30 p.m.
📍 Rotunda entrance
🔗 <https://oxenhillfarm.com/>
🔗 <https://www.distinctive-ideas.com/weekly-table>

SISTERS IN SPIRIT: MINI RETREAT

A community for women seeking connection and spiritual exploration. Join us for guest speakers, retreats and more! Light bites provided.
📅 Sunday November 1
🕒 11:30 a.m.- 1:30 p.m.
📍 JPWL