



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

Choose a Sunday
&
make it meaningful...

Help bring beauty to our worship each Sunday. Sponsor the altar flowers in honor or memory of someone special, to celebrate a milestone, or simply as a gift to our church community. Your dedication will be included in the Sunday Notes, and the flowers add a beautiful touch to our sanctuary.

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

or stop by the church office
to reserve your date.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday- Friday 9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

 860-233-9605

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



October Reach Out: Mental Health CT



Mental Health Connecticut partners with individuals, families, and communities to promote mental health and wellness. Through housing support, recovery programs, in-home services, workshops, and crisis intervention, MHC helps individuals access the resources they need to live safely, find purpose, and thrive in their communities.

Learn more about Mental Health CT:
<https://www.mhconn.org/about-us/#about>

HOW TO DONATE

Through First Church:
Write 'MHC' on your giving envelope

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

WORD SCRAMBLE

1. HCRHCU _____
2. RABIRLY _____
3. MUMYCOITN _____
4. WORFELS _____
5. GHTOEBRET _____
6. RAERYP _____
7. YANUDAS _____
8. UTAROCEH _____
9. EELESTP _____
10. CITRSRPUE _____

Oct 04,
2026

Sunday Notes

Issue
#40

First Church Happenings

Hello friends:

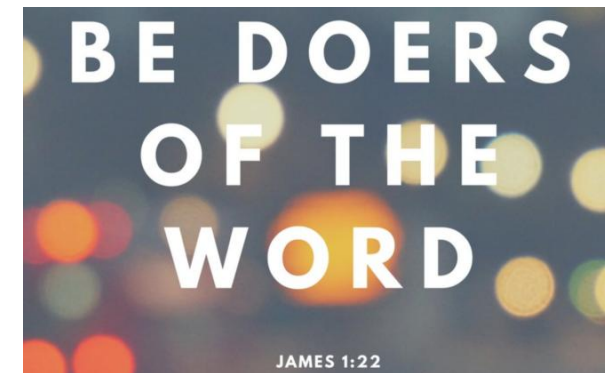
I'm excited to announce that this Sunday is GHIAA Sunday! First Church is a founding member of the Greater Hartford Interfaith Action Alliance – a non-profit enterprise dedicated to the advancement of

social justice concerns. Our guest preacher, GHIAA organizer Lukas Champagne, will offer words of inspiration during worship and answer questions following worship. His message (based on James 1:19-25) is entitled **Engaged Faith: People and Their Environment**. It's about hearing and doing "the implanted word that has the power to save [our] souls."

I know you'll enjoy listening to him. Meanwhile, here's a brief bio: Lukas worked in low-wage labor and lived in poor communities across the country throughout early adulthood, returning to school to pursue an education and career in social work in his mid-30s. He holds an MSW from the University of Chicago, where he studied international social work, as well as social welfare policy and administration. He is passionate about racial and social justice; and his writing on those two topics, community organizing, and the history of systems-focused social work has been published in the U.S. and the U.K. Professionally, Lukas has done casework and community organizing focused on immigrant and refugee populations, young people, and populations vulnerable to food insecurity. He is currently completing his doctoral studies at the University of Connecticut School of Social work, where he teaches courses on policy, systems-focused social work, macro and micro social work theory.

With hope for a just world for all,

rev.fredd



SAY IT WITH FLOWERS

This week's flowers are from Bev Truebig

*"In loving memory of
Janet Ellen Smith, Bev's Sister"*

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

LIGHT THE STEEPLE

This week the steeple is lit

*"in loving memory of
Janet Ellen Smith, Bev's Sister"*

From Bev Truebig

Sign up to Light the Steeple!
 <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

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!

 **TODAY!** Sunday October 4
 12:30 p.m.  Front Lawn

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>

CHAMBER MUSIC CONCERT SERIES

Our concert series runs from fall to spring. Great music performed to an audience in an intimate setting.
📅 **TODAY!** Sunday October 4
📅 Sunday November 15
🕒 3 p.m.
📍 Chapel

COVENANT 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

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.
📅 **TODAY!** Sunday October 4
🕒 11:30 a.m.- 1 p.m.
📍 JPWL
🔗 <https://bit.ly/JPWLReConnect>

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.

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
🕒 1 p.m.
📍 Auditorium
✉ **RSVP to Nancy Ball by Oct 4:** shoedog1961@gmail.com

EXPLORING CHRISTIAN NATIONALISM [FREE]

A documentary screening ft. “Bad Faith” [TV-MA]. Explore the issue of Christian Nationalism-history, influence, and its implications for our faith and democracy.
📅 Sunday October 18
🕒 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m.
📍 Temple Sinai, 41 West Hartford Rd., Newington
🔗 <https://bit.ly/ChristianNationalism26>

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>

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.
📅 Sunday October 25
📅 Sunday November 22
📅 Sunday December 13
🕒 5 p.m.
📍 Chapel

LET’S MAKE LUNCHES! [WITH OUTREACH]

Volunteer to prepare lunch bags for our neighbors in the Asylum Hill community.
📅 **Sunday October 25**
🕒 During coffee hour
📍 Auditorium

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

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

INREACH INVITES YOU TO DINNER!

Mark your calendars and RSVP! You’re invited to dinner. More details to come soon!
📅 Friday November 6th
🕒 6p.m.
📍 Auditorium
🔗 <https://bit.ly/InreachDinner>

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