



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

CREATIVE CRAFTERS

Creative Crafters began in 2019 with a simple goal: to knit and crochet twiddlemuffs for local memory care facilities.

Since then, the group's mission has grown, and their talented hands have created and donated more than 200 twiddlemuffs, bed quilts, shawls, lap blankets, hats, mittens, and scarves to meet needs throughout our church and community.

The group also shares its gifts right here at First Church, generously donating their time, talent, and materials to create a baptismal shawl for every baptism held at First Church.

Everyone is welcome !
For more information, contact Nancy Ball.



 Fridays

 10:30 a.m. – 12p.m.

 Youth Room



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>

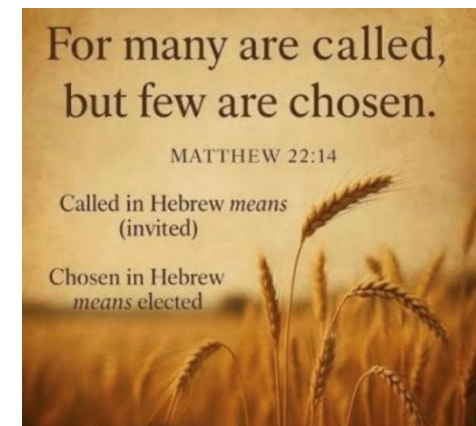
Oct 11,
2026

Sunday Notes

First Church Happenings

Issue
#41

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. – Matthew 22:11-12



Hi:

Did you hear the one about the person who showed up at the wedding reception wearing pajamas? Don't pause for the punchline. I'm referring to the parable of the unwelcome guest (Matthew 22:1-14). It's a tale that Jesus told as a way of teaching his followers about what it's like living in the love of God.

It's like receiving a group invitation to attend dinner at the home of someone you regard as special. That special someone was very specific about the expected attire. It was abundantly clear that everyone should "look your best". Somehow, though, you convinced yourself that it was cool to circumvent the dress code. That's not cool. That's not Christlike. I'll say more when I see you. The sermon is entitled: **Wedding Crashers.**

Come as you are.

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

Sometimes you can't find the right words...remember, honor or celebrate your loved ones with altar flowers.

Sponsor flowers:

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

LIGHT THE STEEPLE

This week the steeple is lit

From Melinda, Brian & Timothy Dore

**"In loving memory of their mother,
Linda Lee Dore, who was born on
October 9, 1942"**

&

From Lisa Carl, Victoria Zido & Ralph Carl

**"In loving memory of their father,
Howard Carl"**

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

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>

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

FILL OUR FOOD BUCKETS!

Blue buckets are located throughout the church and are waiting to be filled with pantry and toiletry items for local families in need.

OXEN HILL FARM & DISTINCTIVE IDEAS

Our summer Oxen Hill CSA, in partnership with Distinctive Ideas, is coming to an end but we’re excited to announce the fall extension of the CSA. Some of you have been wondering about the partnership between OHF and First Church. OHF provides fresh, locally grown produce to communities throughout the area, with First Church serving as a designated CSA pickup location. As part of this relationship, OHF works with First Church and FCAYC to provide a seasonal CSA share to a family in our community. OHF will also be donating sweet potatoes for our Thanksgiving baskets, helping us provide fresh, local produce to families this holiday season.

SUMMER CSA

📅 Thursdays; through October 22

🕒 3 - 6:30 p.m. 📍 Rotunda entrance

FALL CSA

📅 Thursday November 5 & 19

📅 Wednesday December 2

🕒 3 -5 p.m. 📍 Rotunda entrance

More info: 🔗 <https://oxenhillfarm.com/>

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

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>

CHAMBER MUSIC CONCERT

Great music performed to an audience in an intimate setting.

📅 Sunday November 15

🕒 3 p.m.

📍 Chapel

EXPLORING SCRIPTURE BIBLE STUDY

Every 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month

📅 October 18

🕒 9 a.m.

📍 JPWL

✉ **Joe Tobin:** jmtobin@gmail.com ☎ 860-916-1923

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

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!

For more information, contact Jennifer & Molly 860-232-3893

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

🕒 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.

11TH ANNUAL
FESTIVAL OF TREES



Planning is underway for the Festival of Trees, a cherished holiday tradition that brings the community together while supporting local charities!

We’re inviting individuals, families, friends, businesses, and organizations to reserve a spot and create an original decorated artificial Christmas tree, wreath, or wall hanging for the festival. Let your creativity shine—entries can be traditional, whimsical, elegant, playful, or completely unique!

You can also participate by donating gift cards for our “Gift Card Presents,” packages of gift cards that will be included in the festival.

Reserve your entry by Saturday, November 28. Once you’ve reserved your spot, your completed tree, wreath, or wall hanging is **due Sunday, November 29.**

📅 Festival of Trees **December 3 and 5**

Festival Entry:

https://bit.ly/Festival_Entry2026

Gift Card Entry:

<https://bit.ly/FestivalGiftCardEntry>

Help Keep a Child Warm
This Winter

Hat and Mitten Collection for Our
Covenant to Care
Children will be through Dec. 31st!



Please bring new or gently worn mittens, hats, scarves and other winter clothing for needy children to church, and look for designated boxes for collection. Thanks!!