JOHN P. WEBSTER
LIBRARY
Resources for Faith & Life



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

November Reach Out: APK Charities

APK CHARITIES
In Memory of Captain Andrew Pedersen-Keel, Special Forces
Never Falter Never Quit

This month we are honoring and supporting CT veterans by supporting APK Charities. APK raises awareness and support for our active, retired, wounded and fallen warriors and their families and provides financial aid and material assistance to charitable organizations and causes. Support includes but is not limited to medical support, housing assistance, transportation assistance, individual family support, service support animals.

Learn more: www.apkcharities.org/about-apk-charities/

HOW TO DONATE

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

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



CHURCH OFFICE HOURS
Monday- Friday 9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
860-233-9605
Office.Manager@whfirstchurch.org
https://whfirstchurch.org/

LOST & FOUND
Room 304

Nov 22, 2026

Sunday Notes

First Church Happenings

Issue #47

"We will not regret the past nor wish to shut the door on it. We will comprehend the word 'serenity' and we will know peace. No matter how far down the scale we have gone, we will see how our experience can benefit others." – Anonymous

Hello lambs:



In twelve-step communities, 'hardship' is not a dirty word. In fact, getting clean involves coming to terms with painful past experiences; transcending chaos; and transfiguring struggles into sources of wisdom. People who practice the principles of the recovery program – one painstaking step at a time -- are often inspired to thank God for the struggles they've endured.

This Thanksgiving Sunday, I'd like us to consider the idea of praising God for everything, including adversity and difficulty. I don't mean to imply that God is the giver of hardship. Nah! I mean to encourage you that "we are God's people and the sheep of God's pasture" -- through it all. I'll say more when I see you. The sermon (based on Psalm 100) is entitled: **Thanks for Nothing?**

Through it all!

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, December 6, 2026, starting at approximately 11:15 am, to transact the following items of business:

1. Approve the minutes of the First Church Budget Meeting held on February 1, 2026.
2. Consider and vote on the First Church Annual Operating Budget for calendar year 2027.
3. In accordance with the By-laws of First Church, action will be taken only on matters included in this Call to Meeting.

Notice given on November 22, 2026
Linda Bronstein
Secretary of the Church

SAY IT WITH FLOWERS

This week's flowers are from
Ellen Meinke

" In loving memory of Kenneth, Jean, John & Debbie Meinke"

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

LIGHT THE STEEPLE

Lighting the steeple is meaningful way to honor or celebrate a loved one!

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

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

MONTHLY CELTIC WORSHIP
Worship centered on prayer, Communion, poetry, music, and shared silence. Open to all.
TODAY! Sunday Nov 22
5 p.m. — Chapel

LET'S MAKE LUNCHES! [WITH OUTREACH]
Volunteer to prepare lunch bags for our neighbors in the Asylum Hill Community.
TODAY! Sunday Nov 22
During coffee hour — Auditorium

EARLY CHRISTIANITY BOOK CLUB
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.
Sundays: 11/22, 12/13 — 9 a.m. — JPWL
Tuesday: 12/01 — 6:45 p.m. — Youth Room
https://bit.ly/FallChristBookClub
Michael Protos: michaelprotos@gmail.com

2027 PROPOSED BUDGET INFO SESSION
Following worship there will be an opportunity to review the proposed 2027 budget. Kathleen Allen will be available to provide information and answer questions. The congregational vote on the budget will take place in December.
Sunday Nov 29
After worship — Meetinghouse

OXEN HILL FARM: LAST PICKUP OF THE SEASON
Wednesday Dec 2
3 -5 p.m. — Rotunda entrance
More info: https://oxenhillfarm.com/

EXPLORING SCRIPTURE BIBLE STUDY
Every 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month
Dec 6 & 20
9 a.m. — JPWL
Joe Tobin: jmtobin@gmail.com — 860-916-1923

VOTES FOR WOMEN: THE WORK MUST BE DONE
A traveling exhibit from the CT Museum of Culture and History. The display features new research about the women of color who worked for women's suffrage.
Through Dec 6
9:30 a.m.- 4:30 p.m. — JPWL Gallery





JPWL SPONSORED BOOK GROUPS
Book groups run September – June. 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
White Too Long: The Legacy of White Supremacy in American Christianity, by Robert P. Jones.
Nov 23; Mondays
12-1 :30 p.m. — JPWL
https://bit.ly/Awakeningthespirit

FOOD FOR THOUGHT
Whistler by Anne Patchett
Dec 1; Every first Tuesday of the month
5-6:30 p.m. — JPWL
https://bit.ly/4yzO6jJ

BELIEVE IN YourSHELF [6-8 GRADE]
Little Monarchs, by Jonathan Case
Dec 20; Every third Sunday of the month
10:15 a.m. — Community Room

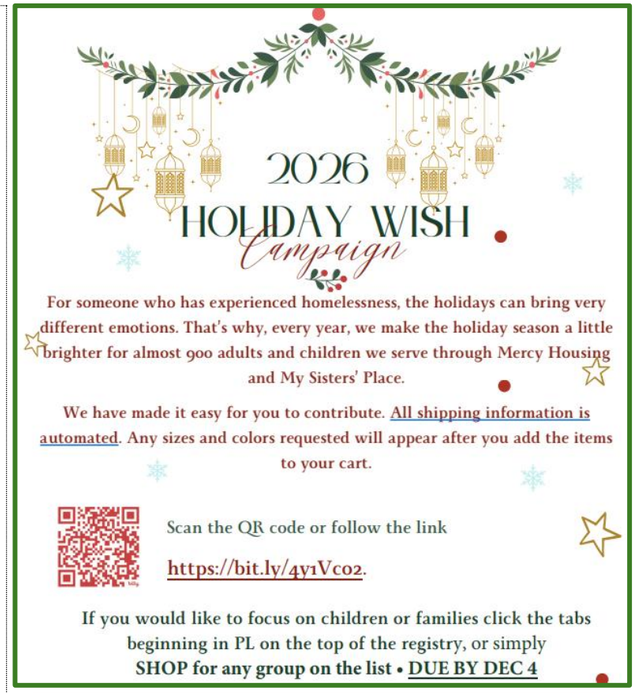
HELP KEEP A CHILD WARM THIS WINTER
Support Covenant to Care's Hat and Mitten collection. Please bring new or gently worn mittens, hats, scarves and other winter clothing for needy children. Look for designated boxes for collection through Dec 31.

FESTIVAL OF TREES
Individuals, families, friends, businesses, and organizations are invited to reserve a spot and decorate an artificial Christmas tree, wreath, or wall hanging. Let your creativity shine—entries can be traditional, whimsical, elegant, playful, or completely unique! You can also participate by donating gift cards for "Gift Card Presents," packages of gift cards that will be included in the festival.
Reserve your entry by Saturday, Nov 28. Once you've reserved your spot, your completed tree, wreath, or wall hanging is **due Sunday, Nov 29.**
Festival of Trees **December 3 & 5**

Festival Entry: https://bit.ly/Festival_Entry2026
Gift Card Entry: https://bit.ly/FestivalGiftCardEntry

SAVE THE DATE! WOMEN'S RETREAT
Jan 15-17, 2027
Guest House Retreat & Conference Center | Chester, CT

FILL OUR FOOD BUCKETS!
Buckets located throughout the church are waiting to be filled with pantry and toiletry items for local families in need.





https://whfirstchurch.org/ministry/festival_of_trees