

The Fruit of the Spirit is
Love **Joy** **Peace**
Patience **Kindness** Self-Control
Faithfulness **Generosity** Gentleness

The REMINDER

First Church of Christ, Congregational, Glastonbury, Connecticut

Member of United Church of Christ

April 2011

Worship Services During the Season of Lent

Fourth Sunday in Lent, April 3

9:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. services

David Taylor preaching, "*Frozen Peaches, Strawberries and Blueberries*"

Sacrament of Holy Communion



Fifth Sunday in Lent, April 10

9:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. services

David Taylor preaching, "*Can These Bones Live?*"

Reception of New Members



Palm and Passion Sunday, April 17

9:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. services

Celebrate Christ's triumphant entry into Jerusalem and relive the events of His suffering and death. Special music will be sung by our Caroler and Chancel choirs, including the hymn *All Glory, Laud, and Honor* as well as the anthem *The Palms* by Gabriel Faure.

Kate VanDerzee-Glidden preaching, "*The Lonesome Valley*"

Maundy Thursday, April 21

Meal of the Upper Room, 12:15 p.m.

A meal served in candlelight and silence, broken only by the reading of Scripture and singing of hymns with foods reminiscent of the Last Supper. Soprano, Ginger Kousen will sing.

Service of Tenebrae & Holy Communion, 7:30 p.m.

A solemn service of lessons and hymns accompanied by the gradual extinguishing of lights, symbolic of the flight of the disciples and the passion of our Lord. Special music will be sung by the Chancel Choir.

Good Friday, April 22

12:00 noon and 7:00 p.m.

There will be a *Stations of the Cross* service at St. James Episcopal Church at 12:00 noon. The Congregational Church in South Glastonbury will hold a Good Friday service at 7:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday, April 24

9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. services

We are happy to welcome back the Constitution Brass to celebrate the miracle of the Risen Christ with hymns, organ, and brass selections. These two services will include festival anthems by our Chancel, Cherub, and Adult Bell Choir at the 9:00 a.m. service and the Chancel, Cantate, Cantabile, and Mallets at the 11:00 a.m. service. David Taylor will preach, "*Alive!*" Childcare will be available during both services.



First Church of Christ, Congregational

United Church of Christ
2183 Main Street
Glastonbury, CT 06033

The Rev. Dr. Carl F. Schultz, Jr., Pastor Emeritus

Sunday Morning Schedule

Worship Services at 9:00 and 10:30 a.m.

Church School: 9:00 a.m.

Child Care: 9:00 and 10:30 a.m.

Phone Number: 860-633-4641

Fax Number: 860-633-5826

Faith Line: 860-633-4116

Email: firstchurch@glastonburyfirst.org

Web site: www.glastonburyfirst.org

Staff

- The Rev. David Taylor, *Senior Pastor*
daviddtaylor@glastonburyfirst.org
- The Rev. Kate VanDerzee-Glidden, *Associate Pastor for Christian Education & Family Life Ministries*, katev@glastonburyfirst.org
- Angela Salcedo, *Director of Music Ministries*
angelasalcedo@glastonburyfirst.org
- Rebecca Fleahman, *Office Manager*
rebeccafleahman@glastonburyfirst.org
- Kathy Ciolkosz, *Administrative Assistant*
kathyc@glastonburyfirst.org
- Jennifer Giguere, *Publications Specialist*
publications@glastonburyfirst.org
- Roger Yost, *Facilities Manager*
facilities@glastonburyfirst.org
- Sue Falotico, *Director of Adult Bell Choir and Accompanist*
- Peggy Hartman, *Director of Cherub Choir, Mallets and Accompanist*
- Cheryl Foley, *Child Care Provider*

THE REMINDER submission deadline:

Sunday, April 10: *May 2011 issue*

Tuesday, May 10: *June 2011 issue*

Staffing Update During a Time of Transition

The seasons are changing, and life here at First Church is changing.

Because of Chris Mereschuk's departure at the end of March to begin his new ministry in New Orleans, plans are underway to ensure continued excellence in the ministry areas for which Chris provided important leadership. We want to give you a quick overview of the steps that are being taken primarily in the area of youth ministry, and we will update you as new developments warrant it.

In consultation with the Church Council, we are working with the leadership of the Board for Youth Ministry to make sure we have the lay and pastoral leadership in place to finish out the Junior and Senior High Fellowship program year, as well as the Confirmation program, with great energy and enthusiasm. David and Kate will be working with the youth board, youth advisers, and youth, to make sure our youth fellowship programs remain strong. To support David and Kate with their added responsibilities, we have secured the services of Gordon Bates to help with our ministerial visitation, and we are working on adding interim administrative support as well. We are also in the final stages of retaining interim youth ministry staff to help us in this important program area.

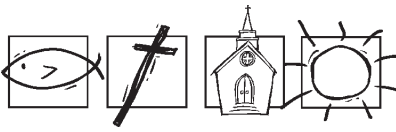
At its February meeting, the Church Council also affirmed a direction for a possible permanent staffing pattern that might include part-time professionals in the areas of Christian education and youth ministry, with Kate playing a key role in providing oversight and vision, and with David and Kate once again leading upcoming confirmation programs. Various models of staffing are being considered, and nothing has been finalized as yet. Conversations with appropriate board and youth leadership are ongoing, and we welcome any and all input. Please email or call any of us with your ideas or suggestions. Part of the impetus for considering alternative staffing models is the desire to have a staffing pattern that can be reasonably sustained financially in the coming years. We hope to be prudent and forwarding-thinking as we move ahead, while continuing to strive for excellence in our many wonderful ministries.

First Church's mission to its members and to the world will remain strong and unwavering even during this time of transition – we are truly blessed by God's amazing and steadfast love!

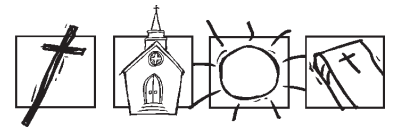
Cindi Bates, Vice President
Frank Scalia, President
David Taylor, Senior Pastor



The First Church staff "perform" a skit to remind the congregation to read **The Reminder!**



Children's Ministries



Dear Friends,

The season of Lent is a time for self-examination, prayer and works of love. Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, and in our church we have worship services where ashes are placed on peoples' foreheads as reminders of our mortality. During Lent, Christians prepare themselves spiritually for the celebration of Christ's resurrection on Easter Sunday. The season spans 40 days. The number 40 symbolizes spiritual journeys home, corresponding to the 40 days Jesus fasted in the desert in preparation for his ministry and the 40 years Israel journeyed through the wilderness towards the promised land.

In our busy world, Lent provides us with an opportunity to reflect upon our patterns, to pray more deeply, experience sorrow for what we've done and failed to do and to be generous to those in need. There are resources to help you delve deeper into your faith life in the library. Please take a look if you would like.

It is my hope and prayer that you take the time to reflect, pray, love and learn during this season of Lent.

Blessings,

Kate

Upcoming Children's Ministries Schedule

- April 2:** • Parents' Night Out (Sign ups required.)
- April 3:** • Vacation Bible School registration during Common Fellowship.
• Board of Christian Education meeting at 10:30 a.m.
- April 10:** • OGHs coin boxes collected during worship. (See the announcement for more details.)
• Classroom performances by both puppet troupes.
- April 17:** • **Palm Sunday** - Children in grades 5 and up will stay in the service.
- April 24:** • **Easter Sunday** - No church school for children. Coloring sheets and children's bulletins available.

Looking Ahead...

- June 19:** • Children's Celebration Sunday!

Bring Your Bibles to Church School!

In the past, it has been tradition that our third graders bring the Bibles given to them by the church to their church school classes. No matter the age, all children are encouraged to bring their Bibles to church school – we use them a lot!

One Child at a Time, We Will Help Haiti

We've raised over \$8,000 for our church school mission project. Thank you to the children who bring in their offering and to the adults who have given special gifts to HELO. We have just a few more months to raise \$2,000 more.

It costs just \$960 a year (or only \$80 per month) to provide Telemaque, our Haitian orphan, with a home, food and an education. It is our goal to raise enough money this year to sponsor him for the next ten years. The overall goal of H.E.L.O. (Home, Education, Love, Opportunity) is to provide Haitian orphans with a loving home, proper nutrition and education. We're also raising money to buy animals for the orphanage.

As in previous years, the money raised by the church school class sales, children's offering, and special gifts from congregation members will all go towards this special mission project. Thanks for your support!



Parents' Night Out

Saturday, April 2, 5:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Are you getting some cabin fever after many days cooped up together during our several snow storms?

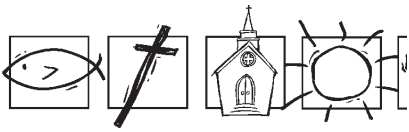
Ready for some grownup time away?

Then sign up for Parents' Night Out! On Saturday, April 2, at 5:30 p.m., you can drop your elementary school aged children off at First Church. Your children will enjoy a fun filled evening filled with movie, popcorn, and crafts, and you will enjoy 3 hours of adult time!

Sign up during Common Fellowship.
Cost is \$10 per child, \$25 max per family.

All the money raised will go to our church mission work!

Questions? Want to help? Contact Shannon Jeroszko at sjeroszko@yahoo.com, Karen Simmons at Karen.simmons@gmail.com, or Sonmi Manto at szzmanto@gmail.com.



Children's Ministries



Unit 7: "Peter's Story"

Bible Story Reference: John 18:15-27; 21:1-19






Bible Verse: Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." (John 21:15)

Main Idea: Following Jesus is not always easy. Peter was afraid and told people that Jesus was not his friend; later Jesus forgave him. We remember that Jesus loves us and forgives us.



Objectives: By the end of this unit the children will:

- hear and respond to the story of Peter following and later denying Jesus;
- hear and respond to the story of Jesus forgiving Peter while they ate breakfast on the beach;
- hear how Peter's story is an example of God's love and forgiveness for us;
- experience activities that will help them learn about receiving forgiveness and caring for others;
- consider ways Peter's actions in the Easter story speak to us today.

		<u>Sunday 4/10</u>	<u>Sunday 4/17</u>	<u>Sunday 4/24</u>	<u>Sunday 5/1</u>	<u>Sunday 5/8</u>
	<u>Kindergarten & 1st grade</u> <i>pink</i>	Music Room 205 Karen Simmons	Movie Room 206 Susan Jackson	Easter	Games Room 110	Art Room 103 Kathleen Swahn
	<u>2nd grade</u> <i>yellow</i>	Movie Room 206 Susan Jackson	Storytelling Room 111 Shannon Jeroszko	Easter	Art Room 103 Kathleen Swahn	Music Room 205 Karen Simmons
	<u>3rd grade</u> <i>purple</i>	Storytelling Room 111 Shannon Jeroszko	Games Room 110	Easter	Music Room 205 Karen Simmons	Movie Room 206 Susan Jackson
	<u>4th grade</u> <i>red</i>	Games Room 110	Art Room 103 Kathleen Swahn	Easter	Movie Room 206 Susan Jackson	Storytelling Room 111 Shannon Jeroszko
	<u>5th grade + up (non Puppets)</u> <i>green</i>	Art Room 103 Kathleen Swahn	Attend Palm Sunday Worship Service	Easter	Storytelling Room 111 Shannon Jeroszko	Games Room 110 Eileen Sawyer

Please also note: The Preschool Room is located in Room 105.
The 6th Grade Puppet Room is located in Room 303.
The 7th and 8th Grade Puppet Room is located in Room 302.

Church School Dismissal: Church school runs until 10:10 each Sunday. If worship gets out earlier than that, please enjoy some time in Schultz Hall before picking up your children. Thanks for your cooperation!

Childcare at First Church

First Church is blessed with a hired childcare provider, Cheryl Foley, who is here each week to look after our infants and toddlers. Cheryl has a wonderful team of volunteers working with her. Childcare is provided at both worship services.



Children's Ministries



One Great Hour of Sharing Banks

The One Great Hour of Sharing photo cubes that were given out to the children will be collected on April 10 during the children's message in church. The One Great Hour of Sharing theme this year is a great one - **"Sharing brings joy to us. To others. To God."** If you aren't coming on April 10, you can bring in the banks any time in April.

OGHS is a non-profit, ecumenical ministry that provides for the needy all over the world. This group represents the disaster relief, refugee response, and long-term development work of ten Protestant denominations, including the United Church of Christ. For more information on OGHS, you can go to <http://www.ucc.org/oghs/>.

Through the sharing of their coins, the children learn about serving others. Thank you for your continued support and for being willing to open your hands to the poor and needy in our land.



Vacation Bible School



Come grow in the fruits of the Spirit!

August 1-5, 2011 + 8:45 a.m. - noon

4 yr olds* through 6th graders

leadership opportunities available

for 6th graders & up

\$30/week; \$60 family max.

Financial assistance is available.



Sign up on March 20, April 3, or May 8
in Schultz Hall during Common Fellowship.
Space is limited, so register early!

*Children must be 4 years old by 8/1/2011



For more Vacation Bible School information, visit our website at www.glastonburyfirst.org, or contact Leslie Donovan at leslied@mccuemortgage.com or Kate VanDerzee-Glidden at 860-633-4641.



Caring Ministries



Prayer Shawl Ministry

Prayer Shawl **Knitters AND CROCHETERS** of First Church will gather **Monday, April 18 at 7:00 p.m.** in the Lehman Library to knit and share fellowship. Yarn, needles, instruction and friendship are available to all who care to join. Over the past year, this group has given over fifty shawls to persons in our congregation and the wider community. Shawls are given to those persons who are experiencing life changing situations such as a change in life situation, grief, illness, move, welcoming a new child.

Unable to attend on a Monday evening or choose to have another evening of fellowship / knitting? **PS Knitting** will meet on **Tuesday evening, April 5 at 7:00 p.m.** in the Quiet Room (across the hall from the Lehman Library).

All are welcome to come and join us. Questions may be directed to Flo Fisher at 860-633-8005 or to Liz Webb at 860-633-8584, Co-Coordinators.



Youth Ministry



Youth Ministry Program Calendar

Senior High Fellowship

Sundays, 6-8 p.m. in the Youth Room
(*Denotes special time/event.)

- Sunday, April 3:** Faith/Life Session
- Sunday, April 10:** Regular Session
- Sunday, April 17:** No SHF (School Vacation)
- Friday, April 22 - Saturday, April 23:** Good Friday Lock In
- Sunday, April 24:** No SHF (Easter)

Junior High Fellowship

2nd & 4th Mondays in the Youth Room, 6:30-8 p.m.
(*Denotes special time/event.)

- Monday, April 11:** Regular Session
- *Saturday, April 23:** JHF @ Pancake Breakfast
- Monday, April 25:** Regular Session

Confirmation Class

Please note change in times and dates.

- Sunday, April 3:** 4:00 - 5:45 p.m. Mentor Session
- Sunday, April 10:** 4:30 - 5:45 p.m. Regular Session
- Sunday, May 8:** 4:30 - 5:45 p.m. Regular Session
- Sunday, May 15:** 11:30 a.m. - 12:45 p.m. (Credo Study Hall after the one service at 10:00 a.m.)
- Thursday, May 19:** 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. (Credo Night from 6-7 p.m. for students, Reaffirmation of Baptismal Vows from 7-8 p.m. for students, mentors and family)
- Sunday, May 22:** 10:00 a.m. Confirmation Sunday



Heads Up! Hartford Registration is Open Now!

What: Heads Up! Hartford is a faith-based group of urban and suburban youths — along with adult advisors — who get together for a week every summer and weekends through the year to build communities, through: promotion of diversity, leadership development, and community service.

Who: Students entering 9th grade in the Fall through 2011 graduates.

When: Thursday, June 23 to Thursday, June 30. Check-in times will be during the early evening on June 23 and check out at approximately 8:30 p.m. following the Closing Ceremonies at 7:00 p.m. on June 30.

How: Registration begins March 6, 2011 and ends April 4, 2011. HUH Camp registration forms are available for CAMPERs and ADULT VOLUNTEERS (part and full time) on our website <http://www.HeadsupHartford.org> for download/printing.

For More Information: Contact our First Church HUH reps Sharon Conway at shartc@cox.net and Sara Hokunson at shokunson@aol.com. Submit your registrations to Mrs. Conway or Mrs. Hokunson by April 4, 2011.



Easter Pancake Breakfast & Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 23, 2011

“Hop” on over to this “egg-citing” annual pancake feast in Schultz Hall where “every-bunny” is invited! We’ll begin serving pancakes at 9:00 a.m. with a second seating available after the kids join Peter Rabbit at 9:45 a.m. for an Easter Egg Hunt, rain or shine. This all-ages event is sponsored by the Junior High Fellowship and the Youth Board to benefit the Senior High Mission Trip fund. Your suggested donation of \$5 per person (family maximum of \$25) is much appreciated!

Attention Flapjack Flippers & Syrup Slingers!

We need your help! We are looking for Junior and Senior High students, parents, alumni, or anyone else who’d like to help us with this tasty fundraiser. Interested? Contact Kate VanDerzee-Glidden. Thanks!

Senior High Fellowship Retreat to Craigville, Cape Cod!

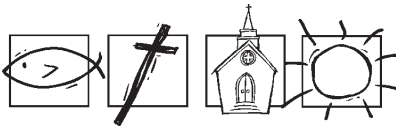
Can’t get enough of Fellowship? Join us for this relaxing weekend at the beach for a time of fun, fellowship, and the infamous game of “Breakthrough.” We’ll spend some time honoring our seniors that come along and hear their reflections on their years with SHF. Here’s the info:

What: SHF Retreat @ Craigville Conference Center
When: May 27-29, 2011 (Memorial Day Weekend).
Leave from First Church @ 6:00 p.m. Friday; Return to First Church around 4:00 p.m. on Sunday.

Who: Any student, 9-12 grade

How Much: \$125 covers transportation, food, lodging (Assistance always available by speaking with a Pastor.)

What to Bring: The usual overnight stuff, some warm weather + cool weather clothes, snacks to share. Leave home anything you wouldn’t want your Grandma to know about.



Youth Ministry



Senior High Fellowship Good Friday Vigil & Lock-In

*April 22-23, 2011
from 8:00 p.m. - 9:00 a.m.*

What's so "good" about this day? Join us as we hold an all-night vigil, spending time with each other, ourselves, and God. Stick around Saturday morning for some delicious pancakes served up by the Junior High Fellowship. Permission slips will be available on the First Church website and at Fellowship.

Summer Camp @ Silver Lake Conference Center!

Registration is going on NOW!

Looking for a great place to go for a week of camp this summer? How about Silver Lake? Since 1957, Silver Lake Conference Center has been a "home away from home" for thousands of young people - - including a bunch of us here at First Church! Owned and operated by the Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ, young people from fourth grade up through high school can experience a week long, overnight camp in a nurturing and faithful environment. All sorts of programs (called "conferences") are available, from music and arts-based conferences to sports or science-themed groups - - Silver Lake has a conference for you!

Students entering 4th grade through high school may attend, and there's even "Mom & Me," "Family Camp," and "Girls Only" experiences for those who want to give that a try. For registration or more information, check out www.silverlakeect.org, and/or look for the brochures posted throughout the church. Financial assistance and "camper references" are available by speaking with one of the Pastors.

As we say at Silver Lake: Love God, Love Your Neighbor, and Love Yourself!



General Info Corner



Easter Flowers and Memorial Donations



YOUR NAME: _____

[Please Print Clearly]

The Glory of Easter is present in the Meetinghouse on Easter Sunday and for the ongoing work of our church.

- You may purchase an Easter plant that you may leave for a shut-in to enjoy or take it home and enjoy yourself.

Tulips _____ at \$7.75 = _____

Daffodils _____ at \$7.75 = _____

Hyacinths _____ at \$7.75 = _____

Lilies _____ at \$9.50 = _____

Will leave plant(s)

Will take plant(s)

• Please consider giving a donation in memory or in honor of a loved one. **Donation \$** _____

TOTAL \$ _____

Please indicate if you would like your plant or donation to be in Memory or Honor of anyone [Please Print Clearly]:

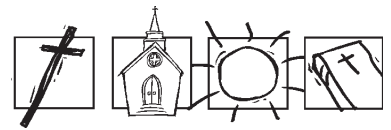
IN MEMORY OF _____ - or - IN HONOR OF _____

Completed forms should be left in the offering plate, or returned to the Church office by 9:00 a.m. on Monday, April 11 with your check, payable to The First Church of Christ, Congregational, or cash.

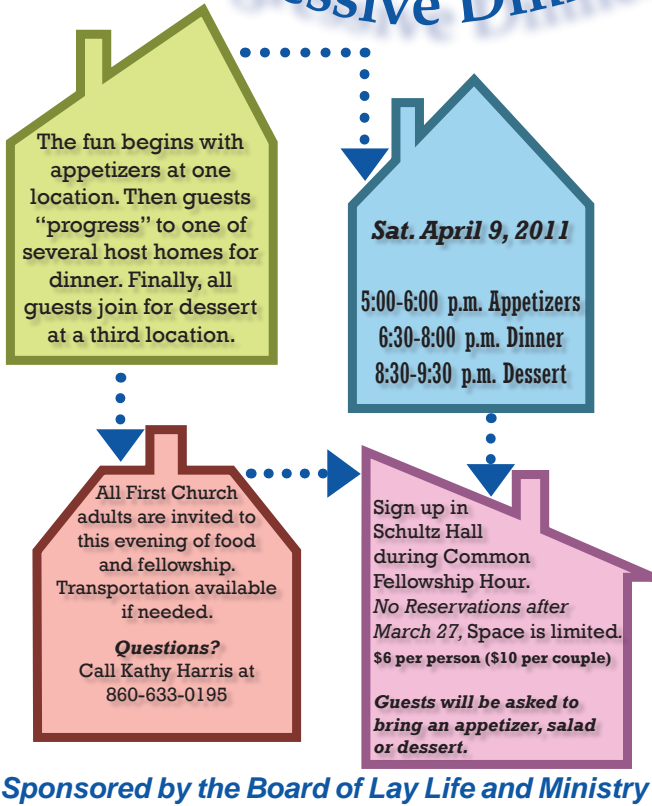
Plants may be picked up after the 11:00 a.m. service.



General Info Corner



First Church Progressive Dinner



Did you know??

- * that there are people in town who would love to come to our Sunday worship services but can no longer drive;
- * that here at First Church we have a small group of committed people who provide rides on Sunday mornings; and
- * that there is a need for additional drivers ...

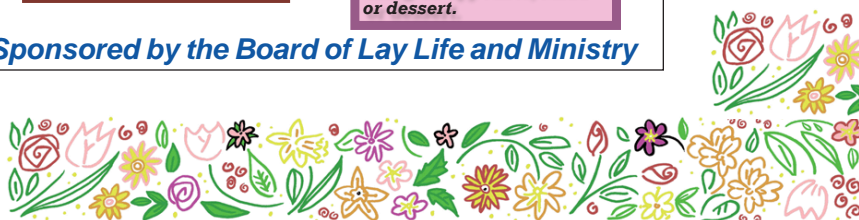
Please consider being one of our Sunday morning drivers.
 You may contact Nancy Higgins at 860-633-6604 or 860-573-6092 to be put on the list or for more information.
 Thank you for your consideration.

IN CASE OF HOSPITALIZATION

If you or a loved one is hospitalized, please inform the hospital of the code for First Church:

Hartford Hospital – Code C18
 St. Francis Hospital – Code 17 Congregational

You may also ask them to notify the First Church office, 2183 Main Street, Glastonbury, CT at 860-633-4641.



Request: Flowers for the Altar

We are looking for people to place flowers on the altar. Flowers can be placed in memory of someone, or in honor, or in appreciation, recognition etc.

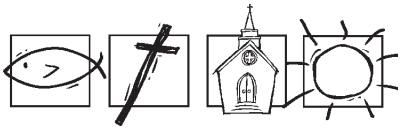
To arrange for Sunday flowers, please contact Susan Bonitsky, (860)633-7128. She can arrange for flowers from Keser's Florist on behalf of someone or one can make his/her own arrangement with Keser's or a florist of one's choosing.

Also, the Flower Committee is seeking volunteers to breakdown the large flower arrangements into smaller ones that are given to persons by the Pastors during their visits. It is a fun job of mixing colorful flowers with some greens from the large arrangement. It can be done after the second service on Sunday, or Monday mornings. Usually someone tackles the job for a "month" of Sundays; 4 or 5 times per month. Even covering the job for a couple Sundays would be appreciated. If you want to try but need some guidance, again, contact Susan Bonitsky. You can get personal, private lessons for free and go home with a great sense of accomplishment.



BIG BLUE HAS RETIRED!

As many know, we have retired our church bus as it no longer meets our needs. We are looking for a new home for the bus. Big Blue is a 1985 Thomas International, seating 44, with 48,000 miles and in good operating condition. Please contact John Dugan at 860-989-9430 with any ideas or suggestions.



General Info Corner



Calling All Volunteers!

Are you looking to get more involved in this vibrant church community? If so, this is your time! It takes a tremendous amount of people power to make our programs, events and worship happen. Currently we're recruiting new members for our boards and committees.

Some of our boards and committees include the following: Trustees (focuses on our property and building), Youth Ministry, Christian Education, Deacons (focuses on worship), Music, Christian Service (focuses on mission and outreach work), Lay Life and Ministry (organizes church fellowship events) Church Growth and Membership (welcomes people to our church), Adult Education, Caring Ministries, Parish Nurses, Media, Stewardship, etc. etc.

If you have an interest in joining a specific board or committee, be in touch with Alison Franklin, chair of Human Resources (860-657-2671), our church officers, board or committee members or pastors.

Thank you to all the volunteers who make First Church such a wonderful place! We are truly blessed.

Next Baptism Dates

The next dates to receive the Sacrament of Baptism are April 10, May 29 and June 19. If you would like to have your child baptized, or to be baptized yourself, please call the church office and speak with Kathy Ciolkosz at 860-633-4641 extension 110.



Media Ministries at First Church

Watch a First Church service on television ...

"Living the Word," each Sunday at noon on

Cox Cable, Channel 15. Visit First Church on the Web

www.glastonburyfirst.org

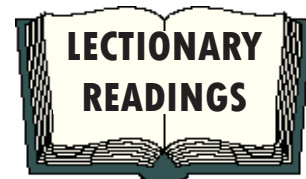


Prayer Corner

Prayers of healing and wholeness for: Chris Hernandez
Martha Leland
Mildred Dainty
Blanche Marlow
Doug Hobbs
Janet Shelmerdine



Prayers of comfort and strength for:
Former member Joan Beach on the death of her mother, Patricia Strickland, in Florida on January 20.
Jude and Mark McNiel on the death of Jude's father, George ("Skip") Lazork, on February 11.
Richard Smith on the death of his wife, Sybil Smith, on February 27.
Holly and David Grigg on the death of Holly's father, William Westlin, on February 28 in New Jersey.
David Mattoon, on the death of his wife, Carroll Johnson Mattoon, on March 2.
Kim and Ethan Reid on the death of Kim's father, Fred Allen LaGreca, on March 3 in Darien.
Family and friends of Clementine Anderson, who died on March 12. She had been a member here since 1966.



April 3, 2011 - Fourth Sunday in Lent
1 Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 23; Ephesians 5:8-14;
John 9:1-41

April 10, 2011 - Fifth Sunday in Lent
Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 130; Romans 8:6-11;
John 11:1-45

April 17, 2011 - Palm Sunday
Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Matthew 21:1-11;
Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16; Philippians 2:5-11;
Matthew 26:14-27:66 or Matthew 27:11-54

April 24, 2011 - Easter Sunday
Acts 10:34-43 or Jeremiah 31:1-6;
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; Colossians 3:1-4 or
Acts 10:34-43; John 20:1-18 or Matthew 28:1-10



Music Ministry



Congratulations to Katelyn and Sean Donovan, Thomas Ersevim, Megan Kimmel and Nathan Salcedo for earning their Light Blue Ribbon (Level I) as part of the Royal School of Church Music Program here at First Church. These ribbons symbolize the choristers achievements at the various levels where they learn diverse music skills (rhythmic development, ear training and sight singing) required for advanced vocal and choral singing along with religious education.

The Annual Spring Ring

Members of the Adult Bell Choir and Mallets Choir will be attending the annual "Spring Ring" on Saturday, April 9th at the Trinity United Methodist Church in Windsor from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. This "Spring Ring" offers many opportunities to learn new bell techniques and play together with a large group of Ringers all for the enjoyment of bell ringing.

Choir Camp 2011

*For Cantate, Cantabile and Mallets Choirs
August 21-24*

Cantate and Cantabile Choir members, mark your calendars for another exciting week of Choir Camp at the Singing Hills Christian Center in Plainfield, New Hampshire from August 21-24. It is a fun-filled week of singing, ringing, playing games, swimming, hiking, and storytelling over a campfire. It is a lot of fun with great fellowship. Like last year, we are inviting those choristers in Caroler Choir moving up to Cantate Choir to join us so that they can begin to build friendships with the Cantate Choir Members. The total cost per chorister will be \$130 which includes accommodations and meals. For two or more children per family – the second child is half price. A deposit of \$30 to reserve your place at the camp is due by June 1. Sign-up forms are available in the church office and choir room. Parents interested in chaperoning, please note this on the camp form or contact me as soon as possible by e-mail at Angelasalcedo@Glastonburyfirst.org or at the church office at 633-4641 X.116. Priority will be based on a first come, first serve basis.

Glory In Springtime II

We invite you to attend the Glory in Springtime II Concert on **Friday, May 6 at 7:30 p.m.** featuring our Cantate, Cantabile and Chancel Choirs performing Vierne's *Solemn Mass* on the first half followed by *The Best of Broadway* for the second half. If you enjoy the music from "Phantom of the Opera" and some of the famous solos of this genre sung by our soloists in the Chancel Choir, you will not want to miss the program!

Extra rehearsals (all choristers participating must attend):

Saturday, April 30 9:30-11:00 a.m.

Wednesday, May 4 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Friday, May 6 (warm-up: 5:30 p.m.)

Please join us for the next *Music at the Meetinghouse* event...



EARTHLY SOUNDS

Birds Songs and the Joys of Spring

Saturday, May 21, 2011 - 7:30 p.m.

Music Scholarship Available for Student Musicians

First Church offers up to \$1,000 to student musicians in our church community. Students in grade 7 and up are eligible.

Please refer to the website link:

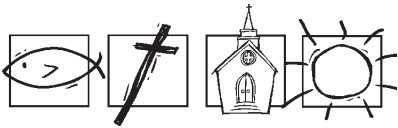
<http://www.glastonburyfirst.org/scholarship.htm> for a full description of the scholarship and application form.

Applications are due May 9, 2011.

Additional questions can be directed to Angela Salcedo, Director of Music Ministries, at 860-633-4641, ext. 116.



Student
Musicians



Christian Service



First Church is a place where we are constantly serving our neighbors in need. It is our call and our privilege to spread God's love in our church community, in Glastonbury, in Hartford, in other Connecticut towns and cities, throughout our nation and all around the world.

SNAP into Action Against Hunger

Members and friends of First Church are invited to experience what it's like to eat by spending only \$3/day per person on food during the month of June. \$3/day per person is what our neighbors living in poverty in Hartford are given for food through the S.N.A.P. program. We ask that you contribute the difference between \$3/day and what you would have spent per day to this event and the money will be given directly to Hands on Hartford's MANNA food pantry to alleviate hunger.

Faith communities across the Hartford area participated in this during the month of March, but our church wanted to offer this opportunity with the kick off being our Justice Sunday on June 5. SNAP into Action Against Hunger is a yearly event co-sponsored by Charter Oak Cultural Center and Hands On Hartford to raise awareness of food insecurity and to raise money to continue to provide services that alleviate hunger in Hartford. Please look for an informational table during common fellowship in May.



On March 12, we had a **Mission Immersion Day** where close to forty parishioners and friends volunteered at four different sites. Our sites included serving a hot lunch at St. Vincent DePaul soup kitchen, doing clean up work on a Christian Activities Council home, serving dinner and playing BINGO at Shepherd Home and making cards and soup for our church parishioners.



THANK YOU!

First Church Of Christ Congregational

Buying handcrafts and foods through SERRV last year changed disadvantaged artisans' and farmers' lives for the better.

Your purchases mean more opportunities for artisans and farmers to have a stable income, send their children to school, develop needed community-wide projects like water wells, and improve their skills through trainings and workshops.

You've also spread the word about the vital benefits of fair trade, and how we can build a strong global community together.

On behalf of our partners around the world, thank you for buying fair trade products in 2010!

www.serrv.org
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Help Serve Lunch in Hartford

On Good Friday (April 22), we will go into Hartford to serve lunch through Hands On Hartford. We need to provide the food and volunteers for this meal. Please sign up in common fellowship on April 3, 10 or 17 or contact Valerie Escalera at 860-633-4452.



Volunteer for Mobile Foodshare Van

Mobile Foodshare is a "farmer's market" style food distribution service that provides fresh produce and other food items to between 90 and 150 lower income people.



Foodshare sponsors this service, and it takes place every other Wednesday in our back parking lot. If you are interested in volunteering (adults, youth and children are welcome!), contact Sally Riddell at 860-657-8715.



Christian Service



Rummage Sale Reminder

Spring is fast approaching, signaling the arrival of rummage sale season. The rummage sale will be held on Friday, May 20 and Saturday, May 21 in Schultz Hall. Donations can be left in room 207 beginning Monday, May 9. The following items cannot be accepted for donation:



- ~ food
- ~ mattresses or box springs
- ~ baby car seats, cribs, or swings
- ~ computers
- ~ televisions
- ~ skis or ski boots
- ~ portable toilets
- ~ crutches
- ~ paint or other combustible items
- ~ lawn chemicals
- ~ large exercise equipment



Sign up sheets will be left in the church office and outside of room 207 for those interested in volunteering their time. If you have any questions about donations or the sale, please contact Susan Carpenter at 860-633-9157 or Helen Hodgman at 860-243-3033. Thank you!



Horace Bushnell Food Pantry Collection

First Church has had a long tradition of collecting food items and bringing them to Horace Bushnell Children's

Pantry in Hartford. There are two baskets at church (one in the back lobby and one in the narthex) where the food is collected. **In April, we're asking for donations of cereal and canned fruit.** Please bring food that is not expired or open. Thanks for your help!

Tutor at Fred Wish Elementary School in Hartford

Volunteers go into Fred Wish on a weekly basis to help students with their reading skills. If you are interested in volunteering, contact Sally Riddell at 860-657-8715.



Volunteer at Manchester Area Conference of Churches (MACC)

Did you know that First Church is a member at MACC, a great organization that provides food, clothing, shelter and advocacy for the unmet basic needs of people in our community? If you're looking for some meaningful volunteer work, consider volunteering for MACC. Here are some of the ways you can get involved!

- You can work in the soup kitchen; serving and preparing a meal!
- You can work in the thrift shop; sorting, tagging and assisting customers!
- You can work in the food pantry; sorting, stocking, and assisting with food selection!
- You can work in the gift shop; assisting customers and maintaining the store!
- You can work in the offices; answering phones and handling messages!
- You can be an overnight shelter volunteer, who also helps with breakfast the next morning!
- You can.....do many things....there is something for everyone!!

Please call Jacki Campion, MACC volunteer coordinator, at 860-288-4256 if you are interested in any of these opportunities.

Covenant to Care Requests...

The need continues to grow in our community and the following items have been requested: A crib mattress, two chairs (for a kitchen table); pajamas and a box of diapers for a 2 year old; VHS tapes suitable for a toddler, or "family shows;" a highchair or booster seat for an infant; unisex newborn baby clothes. Please contact Nancy Tandon at 860-430-5863 or nantanslp@yahoo.com if you are able to help. Thanks for caring!



Adult Education



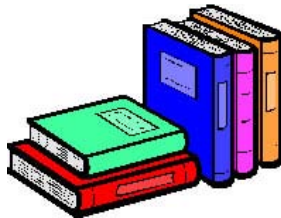
Biography Book Group

The biography book group invites you to join us! We enjoy reading many different life stories – from religious figures to politicians to people who have made an impact in life that is remembered through the ages. Some are written by biographers, some are memoirs. All lead to interesting and enjoyable discussions. We meet every other month to share our thoughts and impressions of the books we read and we invite you to join us whether it is for one selection or every selection. The next two selections are biographies of contemporary figures - one very well known person and one unknown, but very important person in her contribution to science.

For April, we will read The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks by Rebecca Skloot. This is the story of a woman whose cancerous cells- taken without her or her family’s knowledge- became the first “immortal” cells to grow in culture. Those cells still live today and are used all across science to develop vaccines, uncover the secrets of cancer and viruses, aid in gene mapping, cloning and just about every aspect of scientific research imaginable. The author weaves the story of Henrietta Lacks and her family together with the story of how the field of biomedicine grew thanks to Henrietta’s cells. We will meet on **Tuesday, April 26** at 4:00 p.m. in the church library to discuss Henrietta Lacks’ story.

June’s selection is the autobiography of General Colin Powell, My American Journey. He recounts his life from his childhood in the South Bronx, to his military career and rise to Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff to his retirement. We will meet on **Tuesday, June 14** at 4:00 p.m. in the church library to enjoy a discussion on Colin Powell.

We hope you will be tempted to join us. Call Valerie Escalera at 860-633-4452 with any questions.



Thursday Morning Book Group

Thursdays from 9:30 -11:00 a.m. in the Library

Join us for a time of reflection as we read through a variety of books and welcome a series of speakers. Participants are invited to offer reading suggestions. All are welcome!

March 10 & 17: *Wise Blood* by Flannery O’Connor. O’Connor’s first novel is the story of Hazel Motes, a twenty-two-year-old caught in an unending struggle against his innate, desperate faith.

March 24 & 31: *Life Together* by Dietrich Bonhoeffer. This brief treatise on the presence of Christ in community will help us to reflect on what it might mean to undertake our faith journeys alongside one another. Bonhoeffer begs the question, “What does it take to be a faithful disciple?”

April 7 & 14: *Last Week* by Marcus J. Borg and John Dominic Crossan. Two of today’s top Jesus experts offer what they believe is the real gospel account of Jesus’ final week in Jerusalem – from his triumphal entry on Palm Sunday to his death on the cross.

April 21: No Meeting

April 28 & May 5: *Rediscovering Values* by Jim Wallis. A guide for economic and moral recovery.

Save the Date! Faith & Justice Sunday

On Sunday, June 5, First Church will present a day that offers inspiration, education and opportunities to bring together faith, justice, and action. The program will incorporate worship (one service at 10 a.m.), lunch, workshops and discussion. After church activities will be available for children, youth and adults with child-care provided for the very young. Stay tuned for additional information in future reminders and bulletins, but for now, please mark your calendars for this important event.

Come to Our Monthly Women’s Theological Reflection Group Meetings!

We invite all interested First Church women to join us on the third Wednesday of each month to discuss a variety of faith questions, reflect on our personal journeys and share friendship and community. In 2010, we discussed prayer, healing, faith journeys, finding quiet time, our addiction to hurrying and gratitude. We often circulate short articles of interest to those who attend, but there is no homework - the resources we share are for those who wish to learn more about the topic before we meet.

We hope to see you at one of our gatherings from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. in the Lehman Library. Please contact Kate VanDerzee-Glidden at (860) 633-4641 or katev@glastonburyfirst.org or Lynn Baronas at (860) 543-3301 or lbaronas@daypitney.com with questions.

THE FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONGREGATIONAL
2183 MAIN STREET, GLASTONBURY, CONNECTICUT 06033-2208
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The Japanese Earthquake and Tsunami Disaster – What Can I Do?

“In a moment, there is a beautiful Japanese city, a fishing village, a home, a school, a cruise ship, and in the next moment, there is nothing. Once there was life and beauty and men and women and children working and playing, now there is nothing.

Strengthen and empower us, O God, as we transform the Japanese people – by our prayers and by our love gifts – into our beloved neighbors and friends.”

From David Taylor’s Pastoral Prayer, 13 March 2011

The following is an excerpt from the United Church of Christ Disaster Response website dated March 11th:

“Writing on behalf of the combined world mission of the United Church of Christ and Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Global Ministries co-executive directors told mission partners in Japan that the churches “will continue praying for you and seek ways to accompany you in the path that lies ahead.”

The letter to the Rev. Aobora Taemae, general secretary of the United Church of Christ in Japan, was sent by the Rev. David Vargas, president of the Division of Overseas Ministries in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), and the Rev. Cally Rogers-Witte, executive minister of the UCC’s Wider Church Ministries.

Following the devastating 8.9-magnitude earthquake and resultant tsunami that left hundreds dead, a broad path of destruction in Japan and triggered warnings around the pacific, Global Ministries staff have been actively attempting to make contact with mission personnel in Japan.”

The friends and members of First Church can respond to the needs of our neighbors in Japan by praying for them, and by making designated gifts for disaster relief, made out to **“First Church”** with the memo line, **“Pacific earthquake/tsunami.”** These gifts will then be sent to our partner churches, agencies, and missionaries in Japan through the UCC’s Wider Church Ministries.



Alive!

He is not here;
for he has been raised.

Matthew 28:6

April 2011

Dear Friends,

“365-24-7!”

With each year’s Easter offering, we highlight the fact that a gift to *One Great Hour of Sharing*, a ten denomination ecumenical disaster and refugee relief program, enables us to say, **“I’m already helping people in need whose lives have been devastated by a sudden natural disaster – an earthquake, a hurricane, a tornado or flooding.”**

All year long, when disaster strikes our neighbors – in this country or around the world – we can almost always say, **“My gift of love and compassion is already on its way to help people struggling to recover from life’s unexpected tragedies.”**

And so it is with the recent earthquakes in New Zealand and now Japan, and as it was a year ago with the Haitian earthquake. Through our partner churches, agencies and missionaries already in place around the world, our generous gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing can enable us to say, **“365-24-7!”**

This year’s First Church Easter offering will once again be divided between the excellent *One Great Hour of Sharing*, and a \$1500 contribution to the award-winning youth mission program, *Heads Up! Hartford*. Please make your check out to “First Church” with the memo line, “Easter Offering.”

When your gift to our Easter offering bears the fruit of generosity, you will be reaching out to people in need in this nation and around the world. And one generous gift works wonders all year long! In addition to responding to domestic and international disaster relief appeals, *OGHS* also supports self-help, development and refugee assistance in more than 80 nations. And since its inception seven years ago, *Heads Up! Hartford* has been bringing together youth from urban and suburban churches and through their mission work in the Hartford area, projects have been accomplished, real need has been addressed, and lifetime friendships have been forged!

By your generous and faithful gift to our Easter offering, you can say to God that you are bearing the fruit of love, **“365-24-7!”**

Christ is Alive!

