

In God's presence there is fullness of



The REMINDER

First Church of Christ, Congregational, Glastonbury, Connecticut

Member of United Church of Christ

September 2011

You show me the path of life. In your presence there is fullness of joy!

~ Psalm 16:11

Sunday Morning Worship

September 4 - 9:30 a.m.

The Rev. Gordon Bates preaching
Service of Holy Communion

Special Music by Wendy Anderson, flute

Homecoming Sunday September 11

8:30 - 9:15 a.m. Registration for Youth Fellowship, Choirs,
Adult Education and Church School

9:30 a.m. Family Service of Worship and
10th Anniversary 9/11 Commemoration,
featuring Ross Tucker and his Hot Cat Jazz
Band along with the Chancel Choir and Choir
Camp Participants; David Taylor preaching.

10:30 a.m. Registration for Youth Fellowship, Choirs,
Adult Education and Church School

11:00 a.m. **Homecoming Picnic** - All are invited!
No sign-ups required.

12:00 p.m. Jr. High Fellowship Rally Day!

4:30 p.m. Sr. High Fellowship Rally Day!

(See more information in the Youth section of this *Reminder*.)

September 18 - 9:00 and 10:30 a.m.

The Rev. Kate VanDerzee-Glidden preaching
Commissioning of Volunteers and 3-year-olds
1st Day of Church School

September 25 - 9:00 and 10:30 a.m.

The Rev. David Taylor preaching
Bible Presentation to 3rd Graders

Dear Friends,

Whose life **isn't** filled with change? A child is entering kindergarten, changing schools, entering high school or going off to college; your parents are moving into a retirement home, or you are preparing to enter into one; you are threatened with declining health, growing older, or a friend or loved one is facing those challenges; life "**on the job**" is going great one day, uncertain the next; things on the home front are calm and moving smoothly one day, unsettling or upsetting the next.

And in the world around us, change is likewise a constant – the stock markets have been on a roller coaster ride; the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq seem to be winding down one day and on another a helicopter is downed by a rocket-propelled grenade; and while we enjoy the bounty of another summer growing season here in Connecticut, famine is wreaking havoc in Somalia.

As has been observed repeatedly, the one **constant** of life is **change**. And so, even though we are now preparing to move and "change" into a new church year – and this issue of the **Reminder** is filled with all the wonderful activities happening here at First Church – we need to remember the constancy of God's love.

Our theme for the coming year is from Psalm 16, "**You show me the path of life. In your presence there is fullness of joy.**" Our lives may ebb and flow, the world around us is constantly changing, the seasons of the year come and go, but we can embrace one amazing truth – God's love, and the joy that we can find in God's presence, is steadfast and never-ending.

In the coming year, may we pray that God will once again lead this beloved family of faith along the path of life, and may we together experience the fullness of God's love and joy!

Faithfully,

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 Service at 9:30 a.m.

Church School: 9:30 a.m.

Child Care also provided

(September 18 begins services at 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*
davidtaylor@glastonburyfirst.org
- The Rev. Kate VanDerzee-Glidden, *Associate Pastor*, katev@glastonburyfirst.org
- Angela Salcedo, *Director of Music Ministries*
angelasalcedo@glastonburyfirst.org
- The Rev. Gordon Bates, *Minister of Visitation*
- Karin Carlino, *Church School Administrator*
ceadmin@glastonburyfirst.org
- Kathy Ciolkosz, *Administrative Assistant*
kathyc@glastonburyfirst.org
- Valerie Escalera, *Program Administrator*
programadmin@glastonburyfirst.org
- Sue Falotico, *Director of Adult Bell Choir and Accompanist*
- Rebecca Fleahman, *Office Manager*
rebeccafleahman@glastonburyfirst.org
- Cheryl Foley, *Child Care Provider*
- Jennifer Giguere, *Publications Specialist*
publications@glastonburyfirst.org
- Peggy Hartman, *Director of Cherub Choir, Mallets and Accompanist*
- Andy Wicks, *Dir. of Christian Education and Asst. Dir. of Youth Ministries*, andyw@glastonburyfirst.org
- Roger Yost, *Facilities Manager*
facilities@glastonburyfirst.org

THE REMINDER submission deadline:
Saturday, September 10: October 2011 issue
Monday, October 10: November 2011 issue

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE ANNOUNCES CHANGES

Exciting changes are ahead for First Church, our Stewardship campaign, and YOU! After months of hard work and support from church leaders, the approach to the coming year's stewardship pledge campaign is going through a transformation. We will no longer be focusing on giving dollars to a budget but, instead, on the joy one receives from giving – whether that be your time, talent, or treasure. Yes, the bottom line (a budget term!) is still money and the financial stability and growth of the church. But people don't give to a budget, they give to a mission – they give to something they believe makes a difference in their personal life, their community, or the world. That is the "Joy of Giving!"

Simultaneously, we will focus on our responsibility as Christians. Our Christian faith requires that we contribute our time, our talent, and our treasure. What does this mean? How does it pertain to you? Why should it pertain to you?

Leading up to and throughout October (our newly termed "A Season of Giving"), there will be opportunities to reflect on the answers to the above questions and also the question, "What joy do you experience through your life as a Christian and as a member of First Church?" During worship there will be moments of sharing from your fellow parishioners who have experienced joy through First Church. In mid-October there will be small group "gatherings" in peoples' home or at church with refreshments, discussion, and fellowship – graciously hosted by those who have agreed to this new role.

Lastly, there will be a third new aspect to our stewardship effort. You will be receiving a confidential personalized pledge card which will indicate the amount that you pledged last year. Also, your card will provide a choice of suggested pledge amounts that will challenge you to make a significant increase in your contribution. We are asking our faith community to stretch their generosity to new limits so that we can continue to maintain and grow our mission. That said, we realize some in our congregation will be unable to meet our challenge. All gifts are greatly appreciated! In addition, you will be encouraged to consider using electronic funds transfer to contribute during 2012 which is enclosed in this issue of the *Reminder*.

To culminate our "Season of Giving," members of the congregation will be asked to bring their sealed pledge envelope to a Service of Celebration on Sunday, October 30, when we will all gather together during one service of worship at 10:00 a.m. to celebrate "the joy of giving!"

Exciting changes are indeed ahead for First Church, our Stewardship campaign, and you, and we eagerly await the approach of another church year and all the joys it will bring.

Your Stewardship Committee




Children's Ministries




VBS Thanks!



Seventy young people and over forty volunteers spent a week in August at First Church helping and attending Vacation Bible School. It was a great success! Each day the children sang, danced, created crafts, raised money for The House of Bread, played games, acted and enjoyed free time and snack. The children all learned about the fruits of the spirit.

We can only run programs like this because of the lay leadership and numerous volunteers who give of themselves to make the magic happen. We extend our deepest thanks and gratitude to the following volunteers: SungMin Ahn, Jake Anderson, Heather Aselton, Mary Baronas, Beth Carrera, Michaila Carey, Mary Carlino, Cyndi Curto, Laura Czapiga, Jill Dickey, Carrie Draghi, Corinne Escalera, Liza Giguere, Sam Giguere, Jackie Harris, Kathy Harris, Gretta Hartman, Peggy Hartman, Nancy Higgins, Jordan Hokunson, Shannon Jeroszko, Gina Johnson, Margaret Kelly, Alexander Kimmel, Carol Kimmel, Cecilia Krause, Julie Krause, Olivia LaFargue, Samantha LaFargue, Jennifer Lloyd, DJ Martin, Mary Martin, Nicole Martin, Heidi Mulcahey, Shayde Nofziger, Laura Patton, Susan Patton, Teresa Pfalzgraf, Angela Salcedo, Aaron Swahn, Kathleen Swahn, Michael Swahn, Colleen Tavano, Olivia Thompson, Norma Vaughn, Cheryl Zalewski, Nicole Zalewski, Marianne Anderson, Katie Borden, Rebecca Brown, Judith Burr, Karin Carlino, Leslie Donovan, Joli Goodwin, Melissa Thompson and the unmentioned hands that pitched in when they were most needed.





Children's Ministries



Summer Church School 2011!

Throughout the summer, all children will have the opportunity to attend church school classes on Sunday mornings. Keeping with our church theme for this year, our children will learn about the Fruits of the Spirit through hands-on and fun activities. Childcare will be provided throughout the summer.

****Younger class – children age 3 through 2nd grade****

****Older class – 3rd grade and up****

August 28 – Younger class in Room 205 (Honesty)

August 28 – Older class in Room 206 (Self-Control)

September 4 – Both classes in Room 206

(Closing – Movie)

September 11 – **HOME COMING SUNDAY!**



Please note that the monies collected in the envelopes with this logo are used to support the church school's mission project. Thank you.

We Need You!

We've had a tremendously successful first year using Rotation Model Curriculum, and we're going to continue with it this coming year. Many people have already volunteered to help, but we still need a few more. Being a Station Leader entails committing to four or five weeks in a row to a particular classroom teaching the same basic lesson to different age groups. Lessons center around Cooking, Music, Storytelling, Art, Games, Science and Videos. Curriculum and supplies are provided. If you are interested, please contact Karin Carlino at michaelkarin.carlino@cox.net.

We will also continue to offer church school for our preschoolers, and sixth, seventh and eighth graders will have the choice of participating in RMC or in our puppet troupe ministry. If you are interested in helping with our puppet troupe by either leading a skit or assisting, feel free to be in touch with Andy Wicks in the church office.

Thank you to the volunteers who have already stepped up! Together, we create a loving environment for our children to learn about their faith.

Teacher Orientation

All church school shepherds, station leaders, puppet leaders and preschool teachers must attend Teacher Orientation on **August 28th, from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.** here at First Church. Dessert and childcare are provided. This is an opportunity for you to socialize with other volunteers, view the curriculum and learn classroom techniques as well as cover required safety and management training for the classroom. If you have a schedule conflict on the 28th, please contact Andy Wicks, andyw@glastonburyfirst.org to make alternative arrangements. We look forward to seeing you all on the 28th.

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. However, we need a few more childcare volunteers to help out for the coming year. This is a once a month commitment. If you are interested, contact Valerie Escalera at programadmin@glastonburyfirst.org or Andy Wicks at andyw@glastonburyfirst.org.

Children's Ministries Schedule

August 28

* Teacher orientation/education from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in Schultz Hall. All teachers, station leaders and shepherds are asked to attend.

September 11

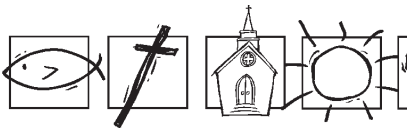
- * Registration from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. in front of the church and after the service as well. (Every child needs to be registered each year.)
- * Homecoming Family Service, childcare for children under 3.
- * Homecoming picnic follows the service.

September 18

- * Two service schedule begins.
- * Welcome back kids and teachers!! Church school classes begin today!
- * Registration from 8:15 to 9 a.m. (Every child needs to be registered each year.)
- * Three-year-olds promoted at 9 a.m. service.

September 25

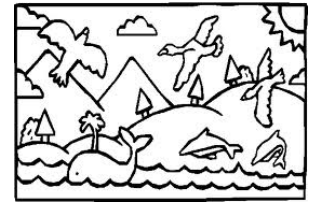
- * Third graders receive Bibles at 9 a.m. service and reception at 10:15 a.m.



Children's Ministries



Unit 1: "Creation"








Bible Story Reference: Genesis 1:1 - 2:4

Bible Verse: "God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good."

Main Idea: The Bible story of Creation helps us develop a sense of wonder and awe over what God has made and helps us discover our Christian responsibility to take care of our world.

Unit Description: The Creation unit uses the Bible story included in Genesis 1:1 - 2:4. It is the story of the beginning of the universe and this passage tells us:

- that all of it came into being through God's creative activity;
- about the six days of creation (light and darkness; sky and water; land, sea, and plants; sun, moon, and stars; fish and birds; animals and humans) and the seventh day, a day of rest;
- that everything God created is good;
- that humankind was created in God's image and that God blessed them and asked them to take responsibility of the world.

		Sunday 9/18	Sunday 9/25	Sunday 10/2	Sunday 10/9	Sunday 10/16
	Kindergarten & 1st grade <i>pink</i>	Art Room 103	Science Room 205	Music Room 206	Games Room 110	Storytelling Room 111
	2nd grade <i>yellow</i>	Storytelling Room 111	Art Room 103	Science Room 205	Music Room 206	Games Room 110
	3rd grade <i>purple</i>	Games Room 110	Storytelling Room 111	Art Room 103	Science Room 205	Music Room 206
	4th grade <i>red</i>	Music Room 206	Games Room 110	Storytelling Room 111	Art Room 103	Science Room 205
	5th grade + up (non Puppets) <i>green</i>	Science Room 205	Music Room 206	Games Room 110	Storytelling Room 111	Art Room 103

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!



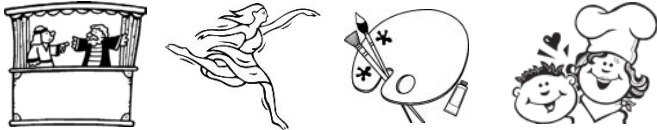
Children's Ministries



Arts at First Church!

We have a strong and thriving Christian Education program here at First Church, in part because we touch on all different aspects of living and expressing our faith. One area we strongly encourage is children and youth in the arts. Our Liturgical Dance program meets Sundays after the 9 a.m. service for an hour. There are two troupes, one for 8th and 9th grade girls and one for Kindergarten and up. The dance troupes perform regularly throughout the year as a part of our worship services. If you are interested in the liturgical dance troupe program, please email Sharon LaFargue at slafargue1@cox.com.

Also, look for updates on our drawing program and the development of a culinary program for children!!



Three-Year-Old Promotion Ceremony

One of the many traditions we have here at First Church is a promotion ceremony for the three-year olds. This is an annual ceremony where the children are "promoted" from the crib and toddler rooms into their own classroom. Each child will receive a certificate as we welcome him or her into the church school program. We will promote this year's three-year-olds on Sunday, September 18th at the 9 a.m. service. Parents of three-year-olds who were baptized and/or who have been attending church in the crib and toddler rooms will receive a letter explaining the promotion ceremony. If you are new to the church and have a child who is or will soon be three years old, please call or e-mail Andy Wicks, Director of Christian Education, at 860-633-4641 or andyw@glastonburyfirst.org so your child can be included in the ceremony.

Bible Recognition

First Church has a special tradition of giving all third graders Bibles. We would like to extend an invitation to any child who is third grade and older and has not received a Bible to be given one on September 25. If you would like to receive a Bible from the Church and are older than third grade, please contact Andy Wicks, Director of Christian Education, at 860-633-4641 or by email at andyw@glastonburyfirst.org.



Youth Ministry



Confirmation Class 2011-2012 Specifics

Our nine month Confirmation program is open to any interested student entering the 9th grade (or above) in the fall. Our Confirmation program aims to help young people explore and articulate their faith as they prepare to reaffirm their baptism and become full members of First Church. All we require is your willingness to jump on this journey! Together, we will be using a combination of service projects, mentoring relationships, activities, and structured class time to explore our own personal faith, the church, and the world in which we live.

Our regular class sessions from September - December will be 4:30 -5:45 p.m. in the Youth Room.

*Denotes Special Time

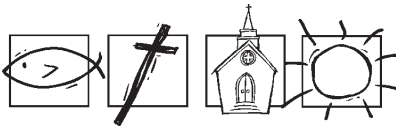
Sunday, September 25: Family Orientation (Parents and youth should attend)

***Sunday, October 16:** Commissioning of Confirmation Class during 9:00 a.m. service

Sunday, October 16: Regular Class Session

***Sunday, October 23:** Crop Walk (1:00 p.m. at Glastonbury High School)

Sunday, October 30: Regular Class Session



Youth Ministry



Sr. High Fellowship Retreat!



Friday, September 30 - Sunday, October 2

Where: Silver Lake Conference Center in Sharon, CT

Who: Any students 9-12th Grade (Please have a registration card!)

How Much: \$125 covers your lodging, food, and transportation (Payable to First Church).

Depart: Friday, September 30 @ 6:30 p.m. (First Church parking lot)

Eat Dinner Before!!!

Return: Sunday, October 2 @ 12 Noon (First Church parking lot)

Registration Deadline: Monday, September 19, 2011 - Permission slips are available in the youth room, on the website or from Kate and Andy.

The Official 2012 Mission Trip Announcement!

Where are we going? San Antonio, Texas, to do urban mission work.

Who can go? This trip is open to any ninth through twelfth graders, as well as our faithful volunteer advisors (and Kate and Andy will be there, of course).

When will we go? During GHS February Break, Sunday, February 19 – Saturday, February 25.



What organization will we work with? DOOR (Discovering Opportunities for Outreach and Reflection) is a faith-based network of six cities that provides opportunities for service, learning and leadership development within the urban context. Part of DOOR's mission statement includes, "By experiencing God's love and shalom in ever-expanding new ways we can share and demonstrate God's alternatives to the evils of racism, poverty and violence that tear down our communities and lives." Check them out here: <http://www.doornetwork.org/index.cfm?active=1>



What kind of work will we do? Our group will be divided into work teams. During the week, we will send teams out into the city. Examples of service assignments are preparing and serving meals at a soup kitchen; helping with children whose parents may be looking for a job, in school, or living on the streets; lawn and building maintenance for individuals, seniors and/or for organizations that temporarily house homeless families; stocking shelves in food banks; sorting donated clothing; building ramps for low-income, disabled elderly; meeting with and listening to groups that are working for change in the city and working with children and youth with developmental disabilities. In the evening, there will be worship, presentations and group reflection time. There is also time to have fun and be in fellowship with one another.

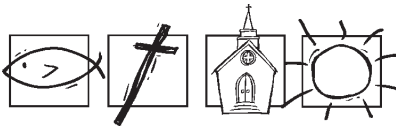
Where will we stay? While at DOOR, groups stay in San Antonio Mennonite Church. Cooking is done in the church kitchen, and participants sleep on the floor in Sunday school rooms and the sanctuary.

What is the cost? The cost will be approximately \$600 per participant, which is comparable to past years. The \$100 trip deposit is due on Sunday, October 9. Financial assistance is available. Please talk to Kate or Andy.

How will we get there? Pack your bags and check your luggage because we're flying!

When are the mission trip meetings? A parent and youth meeting will happen on September 18, and mandatory youth mission meetings will be the second Sunday of each month.

What if I have more questions? Make sure you come to our Mission Trip presentation (**Mandatory for parents and participants.**) from 5-6 p.m. on Sunday, September 18th, here at the church. Other questions can be directed to Andy or Kate.



Youth Ministry



Senior High Fellowship (SHF) Schedule

Senior High Fellowship is open to any student in 9th – 12th grade. We meet at Sunday nights from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Youth Room.

**Denotes special time*

***Sunday, September 11:** Rally Day at Laudone's; meet at church at 4:30 p.m. and return to church at 7:30 p.m. See the announcement for more information.

***Sunday, September 18:** Mandatory Parent & Student Meeting 5-6 p.m.
Regular Session 6-8 p.m.

Sunday, September 25: Regular Session

***Friday, September 30 – Sunday, October 2:**
Silver Lake Retreat

Sunday, October 2: No SHF

Sunday, October 9: Mission Focus, Mission trip deposit of \$100 due

***Saturday & Sunday, October 15 & 16:** Save the date for the Apple Fest!

Junior High Fellowship (JHF) Schedule

Junior High Fellowship is open to any young person in 6th – 8th grades. Regular fellowship sessions are 2nd and 4th Monday of each month during the school year from 6:30 – 8 p.m. in the youth room.

**Denotes Special Time*

***Sunday, September 11:** Parent Meeting (12 noon – 12:30 for youth and parents) & Rally Day (12:30-2 p.m. for youth only) See the announcement for more information.

Monday, September 26: Regular Session

Hey Class of 2015!



Have a Facebook profile? Then you (and your parents) are now invited to join the First Church Fellowship group on Facebook! Simply search for "First Church Fellowship" and request to join the group. This is the place for event invites, last-minute messages and up-to-date communication about our youth group.

Check it out!



Jr. High Fellowship at First Church Rally Day!

Sunday, September 11 from 12 to 12:30 p.m. – Youth and parent meeting (in the Meetinghouse)
12:30 to 2 p.m. – youth only

Our theme this year:

On the Path of Life...

(Inspired by Psalm 16:11)

Please bring: a great attitude, your friends and canned food.

The Youth Board will provide the snack.



Sr. High Fellowship at First Church

Rally Day!



Sunday, September 11, 2011
4:30-7:30 p.m.

Hosted by Vincent and Katharyn Laudone

Meet at First Church promptly at 4:30 p.m., returning at 7:30 p.m. Transportation will be provided by church advisors from First Church to the Laudone's house and back.

Our theme this year: *On the Path of Life...*
(Inspired by Psalm 16:11)

Please bring: bathing suit, towel, your friends, canned food
AND

Freshmen: Chippy, Dippy & Snacky Things

Sophomores: Side Dishes (Green/Pasta salad, etc.)

Juniors: A Selection of Fresh Beverages

Seniors: Delicious Desserts!

The Youth Board will provide hot dogs, hamburgers and s'mores!

A permission form is needed and available on the website, the youth room or from Andy or Kate.



Adult Education



Biography Book Group



If you are a biography buff and enjoy discussing life stories in an informal setting with fellow biography fans, this is the group for you! We read many different life stories – from religious figures to politicians to people who have made an impact in life that is remembered through the ages. We meet every other month to review a book and enjoy fellowship. We invite you to join us whether it is for just one selection or for every book.

The next get-together will be **Tuesday, September 6 at 4:00 p.m. in the Lehman Library**. We will discuss the book **The Letter Kills But the Spirit Gives Life** by Glastonbury resident Kathleen Housley. This is the story of the five Smith sisters who were born, raised and lived their entire lives in Glastonbury during the 1800s. The sisters were abolitionists, suffragists and theological nonconformists. This book tells how the sisters all became activists during their lives and gives a wonderful view of life in nineteenth century Glastonbury.

This book can be purchased through the Glastonbury Historical Society at the Museum on the Green. Museum hours are Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Used copies can also be purchased from the Amazon.com and Barnes and Noble websites.

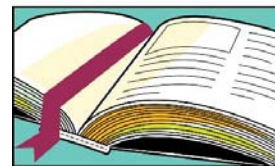
Looking ahead, the group will meet on Tuesday, November 8 at 4:00 p.m. to discuss the book **The Woman Behind the New Deal; the Life and Legacy of Frances Perkins** by Kirstin Downey. This is the biography of Frances Perkins who was the first female secretary of labor under Franklin Roosevelt. She was instrumental in shaping and implementing the New Deal programs of unemployment insurance, the 40-hour work week and Social Security, among other things.

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

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 the past, we discussed prayer, healing, faith journeys, finding quiet time, the Bible, 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.



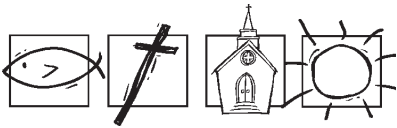
Sermon and Scripture Discussion

10:30 a.m. on Sunday Mornings

A group that has been meeting over the past two years will be returning to its discussions of the sermon and scripture readings from Sunday mornings. These discussions will resume in September and continue on Sundays when there are two services of worship.

The group meets in room 202. Coffee, leftover from the gathering in Schultz Hall, and blueberry loaf are served. We have found these discussions meaningful, and our conversations have enhanced our experience of worship. All who are interested are invited to attend.

Should you have questions or would like to be included on the mailing list for the group, send an e-mail note to Earl Thompson at ethompson19@comcast.net.



Adult Education



Play It Again, Sam!

Short Stories – Faith, Fun and Fellowship!!



Last year’s Thursday Morning Study Group had a great deal of “faith, fun and fellowship” reading some wonderful short stories and discussing what insights about God the fictional characters had to offer. So much fun, that they have decided to offer a “sequel” – and they would love for you to join them!!

This four week series (September 29, October 6, 13, 20) will be led by the participants, and facilitated by David Taylor. This fun-loving study group (there is as much fellowship as there is study!) meets in the library on Thursday mornings from 9:30-11:00 a.m., and newcomers are always encouraged to attend, and almost always welcomed with cheers of joy!! Short stories may be short on words and pages, but they can be very deep in thought. And many of our most famous short story writers delve deeply into religious and spiritual thought.

The discussion of these very accessible short stories by some wonderful writers will focus on the spiritual questions raised by the authors, but also on the spiritual questions that are stirred within us. We will choose stories by some of these writers – John Updike, John Cheever, Allegra Goodman, Wendell Berry, Mary Gordon and Robert Olen Butler.



Music Ministry



JOIN OUR CHOIRS NOW and SHARE YOUR GIFT OF SONG

September is a great time to join any of our various choirs and share in the wonderful joy of “prayer through music.” Music is a wonderful gift to share and to express praise to God. You can do this through singing or ringing. If you love to sing and feel your voice is not solo quality, I still encourage you to join, because choirs are made up of a variety of voices: some are gentle and blending; strong and resonant; high and low; pure with straight tone; and operatic, lyrical or dramatic. Susanne W. Guy states, “Bacon, lettuce and tomato could not be more different in taste and texture. Yet in combination, they create a sensation.” Our sensation is a wonderful blending choir. The music ministry at First Church is a successful and large component in the spiritual life of this church family! I hope you will consider joining our music ministry. We have several choirs for all ages meeting at different times throughout the week. Take the plunge and join!

Angela Salcedo, Director of Music Ministries

FALL 2011 SUMMER CHOIR SCHEDULE

CHOIR NAME	DAY OF REHEARSAL	REHEARSAL TIME	FIRST REHEARSAL
Adult Bell Choir	Tuesdays	7:15-9:00 p.m.	September 6
Caroler (Grades 2-3)	Thursdays	4:15-5:00 p.m.	September 15
Cherub (K-Grade 1)	Sundays	10:00-10:30 a.m.	September 18
Cantate (Grades 4-6)	Wednesdays	4:00-5:00 p.m.	September 14
Cantabile (Grade 7-High School)	Wednesdays	6:00-7:00 p.m.	September 14
Chancel (Adult Choir)	Thursdays	7:30-9:00 p.m.	September 8
Mallets (Youth Bell Choir-Grades 4-12)	Wednesdays	5:00-6:00 p.m.	September 14
Quartet (10:30 Soloists; Small Ensemble)	Thursdays	7:00-7:30 p.m.	September 15

OPTIONALS: RSCM RIBBON LEVEL WORK – OCTOBER-MAY

Light Blue and Dark Blue Ribbon	Wednesdays	5:00-5:30	October 5
Red and Purple Ribbon	Wednesdays	5:30-6:00	October 5
Bronze/Silver/Gold/Medal Awards	Thursdays	5:30-6:15	October 6





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.

Brimfield Tornado Recovery

On July 16th, eight First Church members came together to serve in Brimfield, MA following the tornados that affected the area on June 1st. The work crew cleared an enormous quantity of brush and fallen trees from the property of a local homeowner. The homeowner and family worked alongside the group and shared their story about witnessing the tornado just outside their home. Though the day was brutally hot and many a water-bottle was consumed, the experience was roundly noted as a great day and First Church looks forward



to returning to serve in Brimfield in the fall. **We have**

already set a work day of September 17th and are looking for 25-30 people to help in a day of service through the UCC church in Brimfield, filling whatever tornado related needs they have (likely more brush and tree clearing). More dates will follow if this is a successful day. Work is expected to be physical and chainsaws and experienced operators are encouraged and appreciated. This experience is open to members, friends, families, neighbors, youth and whoever else wants to come! If you are interested, please contact Andy Wicks at andyw@glastonburyfirst.org.



First Church Has Some Willing and Able "Good Samaritans!"

The First Church family of faith has many talented people, and some of these talents include "handyperson" skills and abilities. A "Good Samaritan" group has been formed, and they are willing to help individuals in the congregation who might be having trouble finding the right people or the adequate resources to do the job – various "odd" jobs around the house or yard. If you are interested in seeing if your household task or project is something they would be able and willing to take on, at no charge, please contact David Taylor or Kate VanDerzee-Glidden.

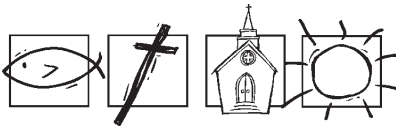
Horace Bushnell Food Pantry Collection

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. Please bring food that is not expired or open. Thanks for your help!

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



Covenant To Care Request



Covenant to Care has received a request for grocery store gift cards for several people that are utilizing food banks, but are still having a hard time getting enough food to feed their families. Stores that are located along bus lines (e.g. Stop and Shop, Shop Rite, Shaws) are easiest for these families to utilize. Grocery store gift cards, or donations to help purchase cards, can be dropped off at the church office to the attention of Nancy Tandon.

Please call Nancy Tandon at 860-430-5863 if you are able to help. **Thank you for caring!**

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.

Busy October!



Get ready for a busy October! You can serve lunch in Hartford, help at the rummage sale and walk in the Crop Walk! Stay tuned for more information!



Caring Ministries



Prayer Shawl Ministry

Prayer Shawl Knitters and Crocheters of First Church will gather **Monday, September 19, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. in the Lehman Library** to knit and share fellowship. Yarn, needles, instruction and friendship are available to all who care to join. During 2011, this group has given over forty shawls to persons in our congregation and the wider community. Shawls are given to those persons who are experiencing life changing situations such as illness, grief, a move, marriage, welcoming a new family member.

Unable to attend on a Monday evening? PS Knitting will meet on Wednesday evening, September 7 at 7:00 p.m. in the Lehman Library.



The Prayer Shawl Knitters and Crocheters meet every third Monday in the Lehman Library from 7-8:30 p.m. PS Knitters and Crocheters meet every first Wednesday. All are welcome to come and join us. Questions may be directed to Flo Fisher at 860-633-8005 or to Susan Morway at 860-633-2538, Co-Coordinators.

HELP WANTED: COFFEE HOUR HOSTS

DUTIES: Set up tables in Schultz Hall, make coffee and tea (decaf and full test), serve coffee and tea during Common Fellowship, serve apple juice to a lot of little kids and a few adults too, clean up.

JOB REQUIREMENTS: Must be dependable, must be an early riser, no experience required, training to be provided, advancement opportunities.

COMPENSATION: Free coffee and juice, appreciation of the entire congregation.

Contact Kathy Ciolkosz in the church office if you are interested at 860-633-4641 ext. 110.
The Board of Lay Life and Ministry is an equal opportunity employer.





General Info Corner



UNITED IN PEACE, HEALING WITH HOPE

In remembrance of the 10th anniversary of September 11th, the Muslim Coalition of Connecticut, along with an alliance of faith communities and interfaith organizations, has joined together in organizing a memorial service to be held at St. Joseph's Cathedral on Farmington Avenue at 7 p.m. on September 11th. This service of prayers, poems and music from many faith traditions will honor the memory of those lost on 9/11. Messages of Unity, Peace, Healing and Hope will speak of our need to live as a diverse American family in peace and to find a way to hope in our future.

Participating faith communities and organizations include: Catholic Archdiocese of Hartford, Episcopal Diocese of Connecticut, Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ, Hartford Seminary, Congregation Beth Israel of West Hartford, and Islamic Association of Greater Hartford. To find a complete list of these groups and to learn further details on this service visit the web site at ctpeacehealinghope.org.

In addition to the Service of Remembrance, there will be an open house for mosques, "Getting to Know Your Muslim Neighbors" on September 10th from 7 - 8:30 p.m. Participants will witness a prayer service and the hospitality of the Muslim community. The invitation reads, "We invite you to join us at an Open House; come to know who we are, and our dreams for a vibrant, prosperous and peaceful America."

If you are interested in one or both of these activities, call Sally Riddell at 860-657-8715.

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

To all of you who enjoy cooking and learning new skills...

Sallie Graves will be leading a cooking class in the church kitchen. Make a meal and then sit down and eat! Classes will be held at 3:00 p.m. on August 25th, September 8th and 22nd. Please call Sallie at 860-633-0463 to register. The cost will be only for the materials.

Prayer Corner

Prayers of healing and wholeness for:

Chris Hernandez	Blanche Marlow
Audrey Hernandez	Janet Shelmerdine
Martha Leland	John Heacock
Mildred Dainty	



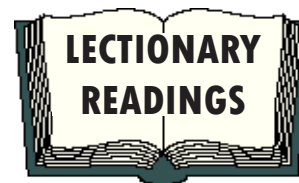
Prayers of sympathy to the family and friends of:

Irene Shoup, who died on June 18 and whose memorial service was held on August 6; Diane Miner, who died on June 23 and whose memorial service was held on June 29; Isabella Waters, who died on June 25 and whose memorial service was held on July 7; and William C. French, Jr., who died on June 13 in Maine.

Prayers of sympathy also to Eleanor Chapman, on the recent death of her brother-in-law, William Chapman.

Prayers of sympathy as well to Valerie and Miguel Escalera and family on the recent death of Valerie's father, Abbott Henshaw, of East Aurora, New York.

Prayers of sympathy to Lynn Baronas, on the death of her father, Fred Glover of Shelton, who died on August 14.



September 4, 2011 - Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 12:1-14; Psalm 149 or Ezekiel 33:7-11;
Psalm 119:33-40; Romans 13:8-14; Matthew 18:15-20

September 11, 2011 - Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 14:19-31; Psalm 114 or Exodus 15:16-21 or
Genesis 50:15-21; Psalm 103:1-7, 8-13;
Romans 14:1-12; Matthew 18:21-35

September 18, 2011 - Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 16:2-15; Psalm 105:1-6; Psalm 37-45 or
Psalm 145:1-8; Jonah 3:10-4:11; Philippians 1:21-30;
Matthew 20:1-16

September 25, 2011 - Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16 or
Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32; Psalm 25:1-9; Philippians 2:1-13;
Matthew 21:23-32

THE FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONGREGATIONAL
2183 MAIN STREET, GLASTONBURY, CONNECTICUT 06033-2208
CHURCH OFFICE 633-4641 FAITHLINE 633-4116

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Return Service Requested.

Homecoming Sunday FAMILY PICNIC!

September 11, 2011

9:30 a.m.

Worship Service

Informal "picnic attire"

11:00 a.m.

Picnic

Games & Moonbounce

Come join in the fun and fellowship!

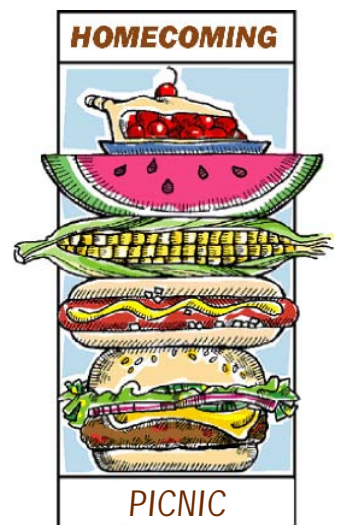
The grills will be fired up for the traditional hamburgers, hot dogs, and veggie burgers after the festive worship service.

PLEASE BRING ONE DISH TO SHARE as follows, if your last name begins with:

A-N bring a salad or side dish

O-Z bring a dessert

*Bring Family
and Friends!*



*All are
welcome!*

Electronic Giving

At the suggestion of many members of First Church, we are now making **Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT)** available as an option to make pledge contributions to the church. Upon enrolling in EFT, the amount you designate is automatically sent from your bank account to the church each month. You are free to change your monthly amount or end your participation in the program at any time. We think you will find this method more convenient than carrying cash or checks to church each week. Please note that even with this new option, we will still pass the plate during services each Sunday as that is an important part of our faith tradition. Please read the list of “frequently asked questions.” The enrollment form is on the back of this page. Contact Rebecca at 860-633-4641 or firstchurch@glastonburyfirst.org with any questions.

Peter Charles, Treasurer

Open your heart without opening your checkbook

Electronic Giving is the term used to describe automatic methods for making contributions on a regular basis without the need to write checks, carry cash or prepare envelopes. Although Direct Debit Giving is the original and most popular form of electronic giving, the term is now widely used to describe Credit & Debit Card Giving and Online Giving as well. The following discussion pertains only to Direct Debit Giving.

Frequently Asked Questions about Direct Debit Giving

Q. What are the major advantages of electronic giving by direct debit?

A. Direct debit is all about convenience for you and consistency for the church. Electronic giving eliminates frequent check writing and helps members stay on track with pledges even when they are unable to attend services. The church in turn benefits from much-needed donation consistency and a reduction in the volume of check and cash contributions that must be handled and manually processed in the church office.

Q. How does Direct Debit Giving work?

A. Contributions are transferred automatically from your checking or savings account to the church’s bank account.

Q. How are my automatic contributions deducted and transferred?

A. First, you sign and return an authorization form to the church indicating the amount you wish to contribute on a regular basis. Contributions are then transferred through the Automated Clearing House (ACH) network—the same network already used by families to make mortgage and utility payments or to receive payroll earnings and Social Security income. Direct debit goes by other names including Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT), automatic payment, or simply, ACH.

Q. When will my contribution be debited from my account?

A. A debit to your account will occur each month on the date you specify on your authorization form.

Q. How will I keep track of contributions in my check register?

A. Since your contribution is made at a pre-established time, you simply record it in your check register on the appropriate date. Electronic contributions will appear on your bank statement.

Q. What can I use to prove I made a contribution?

A. Your bank statement will show an itemized list of electronic transactions that can be used as proof of your contributions.

Q. Is giving by direct debit risky?

A. It is certainly less risky than writing checks or carrying cash to church. To process electronic donations, the church uses Vanco Services, LLC—an established and highly-regarded company that moves funds directly from church members to the church on the same day without any delay. Vanco processes contributions for more than 10,000 churches and nonprofit organizations.

Q. How much does direct debit giving cost?

A. It costs you nothing and it costs the church very little. It is the lowest cost method of transferring funds.

Q. What if I try electronic giving by direct debit and don’t like it?

A. You can cancel your authorization at any time by notifying the church.

Q. How can I sign up for electronic giving by direct debit?

A. Complete, sign and return an authorization form to the church office.

Q. How can I change my monthly donation amount?

A. The amount can be changed at any time, for any reason, including during the Stewardship campaign. Please contact the Office Manager in writing. Email is acceptable by sending to: firstchurch@glastonburyfirst.org.

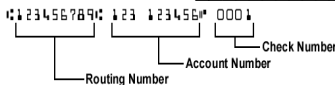


AUTHORIZATION FORM

The First Church of Christ

UCC080780

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY	ENVELOPE/DONOR #	DATE
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Effective date of authorization: _____		
Type of Authorization Form:		
<input type="checkbox"/> New Authorization	<input type="checkbox"/> Change banking information	
<input type="checkbox"/> Change donation amount	<input type="checkbox"/> Discontinue electronic donation	
<input type="checkbox"/> Change donation date		
Last Name	First Name	
Address		
City	State	Zip
Email Address		
Please debit my donation from my: (check one)	Routing Number: _____ <i>Valid Routing # must start with 0, 1, 2, or 3</i>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Checking Account (attach a voided check below)	Account Number: _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Savings Account (contact your financial institution for Routing #)	 A diagram showing a routing and account number: 123456789 123 1234567 0001. Brackets indicate that 123456789 is the Routing Number, 1234567 is the Account Number, and 0001 is the Check Number.	
DATE OF FIRST DONATION: ____/____/____	FREQUENCY OF DONATION: (check one)	DESIGNATED AMOUNT:
	<input type="checkbox"/> Monthly on the 1 st	<input type="checkbox"/> Monthly Donation \$ _____
	<input type="checkbox"/> Monthly on the 15 th	
AGREEMENT		
I authorize the above church to process debit entries to my account. I understand that this authority will remain in effect until I provide reasonable notification to terminate the authorization.		
Authorized Signature: _____		Date: _____

Please attach voided check here.

**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**

