



THE REMINDER



First Church of Christ, Congregational, Glastonbury, CT
Member of the United Church of Christ

June + July 2026



Dear Friends,

You've heard me say this before, but I have the best seats here at church. I not only love the brightness of my office, I also love that I can see what's happening outside on the playground, in the parking lot and on the walkway and lawn. There are always people of all ages coming and going, playing, working and sharing. I'm also grateful for the view I get when sitting at the front of the church during our worship services. I get to look out and see you all singing, praying, smiling, crying, connecting.

Many of us come to First Church to be part of something bigger than ourselves and to be comforted and inspired. On a daily basis, we are reminded of the messiness of our world and of our own lives, and sometimes those burdens get heavy. But when we come together to worship, serve, learn and be in fellowship, something amazing happens. We realize that we are not alone and that we are part of this beloved community. There's something very special about sharing our personal gifts with a church that strives to be one of grace, gratitude, inclusion, hope and compassion.

The other day I was looking at First Church's *Annual Report*. It is a large document filled with many reports of what we've done this year, and at the end of the report is the nominating slate for this year. And wow! So many of you said "yes" when you were asked to be on boards, committees and teams – thank you!

At this time of year when our boards, committees and teams say goodbye to those who have finished their time and welcome those who have said yes to serving, I am filled with deep gratitude. It takes many hands and hearts to make First Church such a vibrant place. Thank you for being the church, supporting our community and sharing God's love near and far.



As I recently shared in a blast email, when I was younger, I read *Tuesdays with Morrie*. The wisdom shared in the book resonated deeply with me, and recently someone shared this quote from the book's author, Mitch Albom. *The way you get meaning into your life is to devote yourself to loving others, devote yourself*

to your community around you and devote yourself to creating something that gives you purpose and meaning.



Friends, this summer and beyond, we have the choice about how to live our lives, the values we espouse and where to spend our precious time. I'm thankful you have chosen First Church where we are being the church together, loving God, one another and the world each and every day! It's a great privilege to journey with you.

With gratitude,

Kate



Summer WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Our First Church family of faith enjoys worshipping together, and we hope you will join us! We will have **one worship service at 10:00 a.m. through June 14, and one service at 9:30 a.m. from June 21 through September 6.** Our services are livestreamed and are also available for viewing later on our YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/c/firstchurchglastonbury>.

Church School is in session during the service for preschool through 8th grade. In addition, **childcare** is provided, as well as our **worship bags**, and our **children's corner** in the Narthex. Children aged birth – 2 years can be dropped off and picked up in the Crib/Toddler Room.

Church Office Summer Hours (June 22 – September 4): Monday through Thursday, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., and Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. The office will be closed on Friday, June 19 (Juneteenth); Friday, July 3 (for Fourth of July); and Monday, September 7 (Labor Day).

Thank you to all who are wearing their name tags and helping our ministry of hospitality. Please let an usher know if you would like a **large print bulletin, large print hymnal or hearing device** to use during the worship service. Large print bulletins are also available on our website. **Ushers are storing walkers, wheelchairs and other items at the front of the Meetinghouse during worship** for folks sitting in the front half of the Meetinghouse. After worship, ushers will help retrieve these items. If you have questions or need mobility help during worship, please ask an usher for assistance.

Sunday, May 31

Justice Sunday

Guest Preacher: Leslie Jackson

Worship Leader:

Kate VanDerzee-Glidden

Music: Chancel Choir

Sunday, June 7

High School Senior Celebration

Sunday, Holy Communion

Worship Leaders: Kate VanDerzee-

Glidden and youth leaders

Music: Chancel Choir

Sunday, June 14

Children's Celebration Sunday

Worship Leaders: Kelsey Beach

and our children

Music: Cherub Choir

****9:30 a.m.****

worship services begin

Sunday, June 21

Preacher: Nicole Struth

Music: 2025 Music

Scholarship Recipients

Sunday, June 28

Lay Preacher: John Williams

Worship Leader: Nicole Struth

Music: Ginger Kousen, soprano

Guest Organist: Jim Barry

Sunday, July 5

Holy Communion

Preacher: Ally Glass

Music: Lola Elliott-Hugh,

mezzo-soprano

Guest Organist: Cheryl Wadsworth

Sunday, July 12

Preacher: Nicole Struth

Music: Chris Stone, baritone

Guest Organist: Jim Barry

Sunday, July 19

Preacher: Ally Glass

Music: Chris Hart, tenor

Guest Organist: Jim Barry

Sunday, July 26

Baptisms

Preacher: Kate VanDerzee-Glidden

Music: Ginger Kousen, soprano

Sunday, August 2

Baptisms

Preacher: Kate VanDerzee-Glidden

Music: Eric Gray

Sunday, August 9

Holy Communion

Preacher: Betsey Polglase

Music: UnCommon Time

Guest Organist: Leon Nguyen

Sunday, August 16

Preacher: Kate VanDerzee-Glidden

Music: Elizabeth Flynn, soprano

Sunday, August 23

Preacher: Nicole Struth

Music: Chris Hart, tenor

Sunday, August 30

Lay Preacher: Emma McCandless

Worship Leader:

Kate VanDerzee-Glidden

Music: Peggy Hartman, oboe

Sunday, September 6

Holy Communion

Labor Day Weekend

Preacher: Nicole Struth

Music: Ken Kousen, tenor



CHURCH HOMECOMING

Sunday, September 13

Homecoming Service:

One service at 10:00 a.m.

Preacher: Kate VanDerzee-Glidden

Music: Hot Cat Jazz Band,

Chancel Choir and

Choir Camp Participants

Church Picnic

Following Worship

Church Updates



Summer Pastoral Coverage and Other Personnel Updates

We all need times of rest and rejuvenation, and many of us take that time during the summer. Rev. Kate VanDerzee-Glidden is owed six weeks from the 2021 sabbatical she never took, and she will be taking that time this summer from June 15 through July 25.

Nicole Struth and Rev. Betsey Polglase will be here during the summer, and church member and pastor Ally Glass will be filling in for Kate while she is away.

The Reverend Allyson Glass is an ordained minister of the United Church of Christ. Ally was a teacher and elementary school principal for 34 years prior to her call to ministry. Following her graduation from Andover Theological School, Ally was a resident chaplain at Yale New Haven Hospital. She served as a hospice chaplain in New Jersey before accepting the call to Pastor the Seymour Congregational Church from 2015 – 2022. Following her retirement from active ministry, Ally moved to Rocky Hill to be near family and friends and happily became a member of the First Church of Christ, Glastonbury in March 2023. Many of you know Ally because she is an active member of our Greater Hartford Interfaith Action Alliance team, serves on the Church, Growth and Membership Committee and has gone to Back Bay Mission with our intergenerational team.



We are thankful that Ally will be helping us during this summer with our pastoral and worship needs, among other things. Ally is eager to step into this role, and we will all benefit from her deep faith and compassionate heart. When Kate is away, Ally can be reached at pastorallyson.scc@gmail.com.

We are also excited to welcome Gwen Lawson to our pastoral staff. Gwen was raised in East Haddam, CT, and she was a middle school and kindergarten teacher for about 12 years before leaving teaching to work at New England Seed Company. While at the seed company, she worked as a UCC Christian education and junior youth group director and attended seminary online. Gwen has her MDiv and is currently assisting two other UCC churches with worship and pastoral care. Gwen lives on her family's farm in East Hampton with her two cats and her boyfriend. We are thankful Gwen will work with us one day per week doing pastoral care and share her kind and authentic spirit with our community. Gwen can be reached at gwen@glastonburyfirst.org.



Member in Discernment Update from Nicole



Dear Friends,

As I continue along the path of the Member in Discernment process towards ordination with the UCC, I'm excited to say that I have completed my Clinical Pastoral Education, one of the last few components of the discernment process that I needed to complete. Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) is an interfaith training program that prepares ministers and spiritual caregivers through supervised encounters with people in crisis. Through reflection, peer feedback and interdisciplinary collaboration, participants deepen self-awareness and develop stronger pastoral and interpersonal skills.

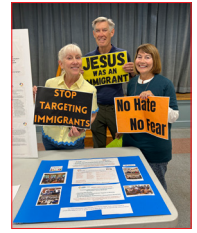
As we move into the summer, I will be completing more classes through Hartford International University for Religion and Peace, as well as the final written materials needed for my discernment process. I am grateful for the ways this journey continues to shape not only my sense of call, but also how I show up to walk alongside others with greater presence, humility and care. Thank you for walking with me through this transformative process.

Blessings,
Nicole

Church Updates

Join in at the Justice Fair on May 31!

Join us on **Sunday, May 31**, for our annual Justice Fair held during fellowship time in Schultz Hall after the service. We'll feature information about important ministries at First Church, including our Social Justice Team, Greater Hartford Interfaith Action Alliance (GHIAA) Team, Mental Health Ministry Team, Refugee Action Team, Board of Children's Ministries, Board of Youth Ministries, Micah Children's Initiative (MCI) Team and the work that the Board of Christian Service sponsors. We hope you'll join us at the fair to learn more about how you can help! If you have questions, contact Merryl Rees at merryl@glastonburyfirst.org.



Visit Us at the Pride Festival on June 14!

Visit our pastors and volunteers at our booth at the Glastonbury Pride Festival on June 14! The third annual event will be held on Hubbard Green from 2:00-6:00 p.m. We celebrate the diversity that makes us all unique and cherished children of God. First Church is proud to be an open, welcoming and affirming congregation for 32 years! More information: <https://www.glastonburypride.org/>



First Church of Christ, Congregational

United Church of Christ, 2183 Main Street, Glastonbury, CT 06033

The Rev. David T. Taylor, Pastor Emeritus

Email: firstchurch@glastonburyfirst.org, Website: www.glastonburyfirst.org

Office hours through June 19: Monday – Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Office hours June 22 – September 4: Monday – Thursday, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., and Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

The Reminder submission deadline: July 10, for the August + September 2026 issue

Pastoral Staff

The Rev. Kate VanDerzee-Glidden, *Senior Pastor*, katev@glastonburyfirst.org, ext. 118, 860-836-1537

The Rev. Betsey Polglase, *Minister of Pastoral Care and Visitation*, betsey@glastonburyfirst.org, 203-592-1185

The Rev. Ally Glass, *Sabbatical Pastor*, pastorallyson.scc@gmail.com, 203-506-7096

Gwen Lawson, M.Div., *Congregational Care Visitor*, gwen@glastonburyfirst.org, 860-759-3899

Program Staff

Dr. Angela Salcedo, *Director of Music Ministries*, angelasalcedo@glastonburyfirst.org, ext. 116, 860-428-9474

Nicole Struth, *Director of Mission, Justice and Membership*, nicole@glastonburyfirst.org, ext. 120, 203-770-0309

Kelsey Beach, *Director of Children's Ministries*, kelsey@glastonburyfirst.org, ext. 113

Merryl Rees, *Coordinator of Partnerships, Outreach + Fellowship*, ext. 114

Karen Prager, *Interim Junior High Fellowship Leader*, firstchurchJHF@gmail.com, 860-549-2197

Sean Donovan, *Interim Senior High Fellowship Leader*, sean.donovan002@gmail.com, 860-428-0305

Administrative and Support Staff

Rebecca Fleahman, *Office Manager*, rebeccafleahman@glastonburyfirst.org, ext. 122

Jenny Giguere, *Administrative Assistant*, jenny@glastonburyfirst.org, ext. 110

Karin Carlino, *Church School Administrator*, ceadmin@glastonburyfirst.org, ext. 115

Susan Feller, *Communications Manager*, publications@glastonburyfirst.org, ext. 112

Faith Ferrall, *Program Administrator + Facilities Manager*, programadmin@glastonburyfirst.org/facilities@glastonburyfirst.org, ext. 115

Cheryl Foley, *Child Care Provider*

Peggy Hartman, *Director of the Handbell Program + Cherub Choir*, phartman1.111@gmail.com

Alex Richter, *Media Specialist*

Chris Stone, *Interim Youth Ministries Coordinator*, costone448@comcast.net, 860-798-8749

Church Updates



Ice Cream Social on June 14!

Come celebrate summer and the end of school with an **Ice Cream Social on June 14 after worship**, hosted by the Board of Lay Life + Ministry! For more information, please contact Robin Harper at robin_m_harper@comcast.net.

Welcome Our New Church Members

What a joy it is to expand our First Church family! Sunday, March 22, was a very exciting day in the life of our church! The Church Growth and Membership Committee joins our entire congregation in welcoming all of our newest members.



Kelsey and Ryan Beach: Kelsey and Ryan have been coming to First Church since fall 2023. They recently moved from Simsbury to Cromwell. Kelsey is a familiar face at First Church as the Director of Children's Ministries. They both enjoy volunteering with children and youth and are excited to become members of First Church along with their children, Morrison (4), Lucas (almost 2) and Baby #3 coming this September.



Chelsea and Emmett Condon: Chelsea and Emmett reside in Glastonbury with their children, Shay (4) and Casey (almost 1), who will be baptized here in June. They enjoy spending time with family in Woodbury and East Lyme. They recently started a nursery décor business. They are happy to become members of the First Church family and look forward to getting more involved.



Chelsea Finney: Chelsea lives in East Hartford and is a teacher. She enjoys painting, reading and music, and her talents include playing cello, teaching and art. Chelsea loves worshipping at First Church and looks forward to becoming more involved.

Caroline Goodrow: Caroline lives in South Windsor and is a teacher at the O'Brien School in East Hartford. She loves and appreciates all our church volunteers who have big hearts and desire to be life-long learners. Caroline is thankful to be part of our church community, where she can worship and be in fellowship with people with similar values.



Logan Marshall: Logan and Kevin and their son, Chase (13), moved from Arizona to Glastonbury three years ago in search of better education and seasons. Logan is an activist and nonprofit professional who loves gardening, baking and hiking/camping with his family. Chase has been attending Jr. High Fellowship, and he is a car enthusiast who also loves the outdoors.

Lauren and Corey Mazun: Lauren and Corey live in Glastonbury with their daughter, Norah (2). Lauren is a long-serving employee of the state's judicial branch, and Corey is an engineer. They enjoy being with family, spending time in nature and watching Norah grow. Corey is always looking for ways to utilize his mechanical skills to help others.



Christina Baribault-Ortiz and Dan Ortiz: Chrissy and Dan are Glastonbury residents and have two children, Scarlet (14) and Kash (11). Chrissy is a jewelry designer in town and has authored an inspirational book with her sister called *Ignite Your Power Within*. Dan served in law enforcement in Connecticut for more than 25 years and now works as a detective. The whole family enjoys traveling, sports and spending quality time together. They are excited to be involved at First Church.

Church Updates



UCC News

Through our connection with our denomination, the United Church of Christ, we participate in a variety of mission, outreach, fellowship, and educational opportunities for all ages. We encourage you to look at the websites for the Southern New England Conference (<https://www.sneucc.org/>) and the national United Church of Christ (<http://www.ucc.org/>).

The Ecumenical Advocacy Days brought together Christians from across the country in Washington, DC, to **advocate for policies that protect people, peace and the planet, grounded in Psalm 24**. Over three days, participants engaged in worship, education and advocacy, culminating in meetings with Congress to support legislation on immigration protections and disaster response. The United Church of Christ played a prominent role, with leaders like Karen Georgia Thompson preaching and UCC national staff helping organize advocacy efforts through the UCC Office of Public Policy & Advocacy. The event also reflected the UCC's commitment to ecumenism and justice, emphasizing unity across Christian traditions and encouraging continued advocacy through public policy engagement.

Rooted in the belief to “think globally and act locally,” the **Southern New England Conference of the United Church of Christ expanded its Green Congregation Challenge** with a new Level Five that invites churches into national and global environmental engagement. Congregations that have already been active in local efforts like community gardens, advocacy and climate initiatives are now encouraged to **deepen their commitment by addressing interconnected issues such as climate change, biodiversity loss and environmental justice on a broader scale**. This next step reflects the wider UCC commitment to global ministries, opening pathways for churches to engage through advocacy, education and partnerships that extend far beyond their local communities.

Join us for an interesting and informative lunch series this summer. Brown Bag Lunches are back, so pack your sandwich and chips and come down to Schultz Hall



BROWN BAG LUNCHES

to hear our speakers as they share about fascinating places and sights from around the world and near your front door! Beverages and desserts will be provided. **No sign up is needed, just join us at noon in Schultz Hall on the following dates:**

June 30: Carl Stenman + Judith Kirk

Come learn about the Traveling Bushnell, a gem in our midst!

July 21: Lorie and Dan Martin

Lorie, Dan and friends will share about their incredible journey in southern France!

August date TBD: Michele Mudrick

Hear about Michele's solo van trip around the country!

Prayer Corner



Prayers of joy for...

Kati Kennedy and Doug Brown on the birth of their granddaughter, Summer Lou Scholtz, on April 30. Parents are Briana Brown and Jason Scholtz.

Claire Laudone and Greg Thonsen on the birth of their daughter, Alice Jane Thonsen, on February 8. Grandparents are Bill and Deborah Thonsen and Vin and Katharyn Laudone. Alice joins older sisters Olivia and Finley at home.

Vinny and Bianca Laudone on the birth of their son, Nico Valentine Laudone, on April 6. Grandparents are Solange and Alessandro Annoscia and Vin and Katharyn Laudone.

Prayers of sympathy for...

Betsey Polglase on the death of her sister, Dr. Mary “Molly” Hinchman, on March 12. May Betsey feel the warmth of our love and support.

Friends and family of long-time First Church member Bill Graves who died on March 18. Bill put smiles on many faces. We pray for his entire family.

Charlie Lawes on the death of his mother, Judith Lawes, who died on March 26. We pray for Charlie, his wife, Kate, and their children, Sam, Emma and Abby.

Kathy Harris on the death of her father, John “Jack” Joseph Kelleher, on April 4. Our prayers of healing extend to Kathy, her daughter, Jackie, and their family.

Elizabeth Flynn on the death of her father, John V. DiBiaso, on April 10. We send prayers to Elizabeth, her husband, David, and their children, TJ and Katie.

Church Updates

Update on Silver Lake Conference & Retreat Center

On November 6, 2025, the Board of Directors of the Southern New England Conference of the United Church of Christ announced the “winding down” of the 68 years of ministry of the Silver Lake Conference and Retreat Center in Sharon, Connecticut following summer camp in 2026. For more than six decades, Silver Lake has been a place of profound faith formation, outdoor ministry and leadership development for youth and adults, lay and clergy. The Conference cited declining usage and rising costs as the reasons for the closure.



First Church has been significantly involved in supporting Silver Lake from the very beginning – with camp participation, youth and adult retreats, work parties and, most recently, a \$50,000 gift from our Love for Children Capital Campaign.

Whereas the future of the property of Silver Lake rests with a vote of the incorporators of the Missionary Society of Connecticut and those incorporators are the voting delegates from Connecticut churches, on January 19 of this year, your Church Council voted to encourage all Connecticut delegates *“to support any and all actions to continue the faith formation and outdoor educational mission of Silver Lake Camp and Retreat Center on behalf of the children and youth of the whole SNEUCC.”*

Meanwhile, a new nonprofit – Friends of Silver Lake, Inc. (FOSL) – has been formed to unite the dispersed community that values Silver Lake and to work toward a vision of future ministry in line with its historic mission. Created just after the announcement of Silver Lake’s closing, FOSL is moving with strength to continue this sacred legacy’s ministry. It is a membership organization, and people are encouraged to join this future-oriented ministry. You can visit <https://www.friendsofsilverlake.com> and click on “Stay Connected” to learn more about this important movement to continue Silver Lake’s historic ministry.

In addition to FOSL, there is a group of committed clergy, including our very own David Taylor, who are working to contact their church leaders and associations and encouraging them to vote on a resolution similar to the one our church passed in the January Church Council meeting.

Your church leaders continue to lift up the importance of outdoor ministry and creating safe places for our children, youth and adults to learn and be in fellowship in creation.

2163 Main Street Property Update

Many of you saw the “For Sale” sign in front of Steve and Joanne Snyder’s beautiful home at 2163 Main Street. It recently sold for \$1,460,000 after being listed for \$1,275,000. We wanted to let you know that before listing the house and property, the Snyders generously reached out to offer First Church the right of first refusal on the sale of their property. The Snyders extended this offer because they appreciate all that the church has done to restore and maintain the Thomas Hale property; as importantly, they let us know that they admire and value the mission and outreach we embrace as a Church community.

Church leaders quickly convened a nine-person committee to evaluate the pros and cons of pursuing the possible purchase of the Snyder property, which is adjacent to the Micah House and Chapel at the Thomas Hale Homestead. Because time was of the essence, the committee devoted the two weeks leading up to Easter to considering the Snyders’ offer. Among other factors, they weighed possible uses for the house and adjacent outbuildings and analyzed the impact the purchase price (which, given the current market, was expected to exceed the listed price) would have upon church finances and investments. After much discussion and investigation, the committee concluded that while the offer clearly sparked some dreaming and excitement about possible uses, committee members could not discern a definitive purpose for the property. As importantly, our financial projections and church budget did not support this wisdom of spending the large sum of money necessary to fund the purchase. Based upon this careful analysis, church leaders declined the Snyder’s offer.

It’s been said that “a good neighbor is a daily blessing,” and the Snyders have certainly been that and more to our First Church community. We deeply appreciate the Snyders’ thoughtfulness in thinking of First Church, and we wish them well in the future.

Giving Updates



Give to Our 2026 Pentecost Offering

Recognizing the continued importance of our Media Ministry, the Trustees have voted once again to devote this year's Pentecost Offering to **improving both the live and online worship experiences for the congregation and visitors through upgrades or additions to our media equipment.** For more information on project options, please contact Todd Haffner, Chair, Board of Trustees, at toddhaffner@gmail.com. You can **give online at <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-ZAJH/home>** or **write a check** to First Church with *Pentecost offering* in the memo line **by June 28**. Please give generously!



Stewardship: "Bee the Church!"



Stewardship is often thought of in terms of financial giving, but in the life of the church it means much more. **Stewardship is our faithful response to God's generosity, expressed through the offering of our time, talents, compassion and resources.** When we recognize that everything we have is a gift from God, we begin to see each day as an opportunity to serve with gratitude and purpose.

First Church lives out stewardship not only within our walls, but also in the wider community. Acts of kindness, volunteering, supporting local needs, welcoming newcomers and encouraging one another are all ways we reflect Christ's love. We also practice stewardship by **opening our doors to community groups** such as AA, NA and other support groups, as well as the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, offering a safe and welcoming place for connection, healing, growth and service. Approximately 25% of the church budget is dedicated to the maintenance of a safe, secure building and grounds.

Our church also hosts community blood drives and provides space for other community organizations such as Lions Club, Hands on Hartford, PEO Sisterhood, Friends of Silver Lake and many more. Community involvement is stewardship in action: it is the sharing of God's gifts so that others may experience hope, care and connection.

You may have noticed the large baskets in the foyer at the back of the church, the Narthex and Micah Chapel. We collect nonperishable food items donated by our members and distribute them to Manchester Area Council of Churches, Horace Bushnell and Glastonbury food pantries and the Glastonbury Links Together community food distribution efforts. Connecticut Foodshare uses the church parking lot, and First Church volunteers help distribute fresh produce and other perishable food items to the community.

Whether through prayer, participation, encouragement or service, **every gift matters.** Together, we can build a church community that not only receives God's blessings with thanksgiving but also shares them generously with the world. As Scripture reminds us, *"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms"* (1 Peter 4:10).

First Church Memorial Fund

In memory of deceased loved ones, please consider donating to the Memorial Fund at First Church. These funds are used outside of the church's regular operating budget and answer needs that might otherwise go unfulfilled. All gifts, regardless of size, are greatly appreciated and serve to strengthen our various ministries. For more information, please contact Carolyn Blackmore, Memorial Committee Chair, at rakkblac@aol.com or Rebecca Fleahman in the church office at rebeccafleahman@glastonburyfirst.org or 860-633-4641.

Electronic Giving Statements Update

As announced previously, you are now receiving your statements electronically if we have your email address on file. Statements will typically be emailed in March, June, late August/early September and late November/early December. If you have questions, call or email Rebecca Fleahman in the church office at 860-633-4641 or rebeccafleahman@glastonburyfirst.org.

Giving Updates

Planned Giving at First Church

Planned giving is about your intention to contribute a major gift to First Church beyond your lifetime. When you embrace planned giving to First Church, you become an integral part of securing its future. Your generosity can help sustain our vibrant community, support vital outreach programs, maintain our historic buildings and enable us to carry forward our tradition of spreading love and compassion.



Planned Giving is not merely a financial transaction; it is **an expression of commitment to the growth, sustainability and purpose of the church**. We invite you to open your hearts and minds and explore the possibilities that planned giving offers. **Donors may name First Church as a beneficiary of a specific amount or percentage through:**

- Charitable Bequests
- Qualified Retirement Plans (IRA, Keough, 401(k), 403(b))
- Life Insurance Policies
- Bank or Brokerage Accounts
- Donor Advised Funds
- Life Estate Gifts
- Charitable Trusts during lifetime or at death

Planned gifts can offer tax and planning benefits to you and your estate while promoting and ensuring First Church's ability to do God's work on earth. A bequest is easy to arrange, will not alter your current lifestyle and can be easily modified to address your changing needs. If interested, please contact Rebecca Fleahman, Office Manager, at rebeccafleahman@firstchurch.org or 860-633-4641.

Before making a planned gift to First Church, you should consult with your financial, tax, legal and other professional advisors.

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.

Donate to our Food Collection



First Church has a long tradition of collecting food items for our neighbors in need. In **June**, we're asking for contributions for the **Horace Bushnell Children's Food Pantry**, including **mac and cheese, peanut butter, jelly, granola bars** and other items. In **July**, we will support the **Glastonbury Food Pantry** with donations of **canned pasta, rice, pasta, pasta sauce** and other items. Please bring food that is not expired or open. You can drop off your donations in the back lobby or in the Narthex. If you have questions, contact Susan Palen at ffp775@aol.com. Thank you!

Enjoy the Flowers: May 30, June 6 + 27 Garden Tour

Stop and smell the flowers on **May 30, June 6 and June 27** at our Garden Tour fundraiser for next year's **Intergenerational Mission Trip** to Back Bay Mission. Drop by on either or both Saturdays between **10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. at the Laudone home** (168 Belltown Road, S. Glastonbury) for this year's garden tour. Take advantage of both dates to witness their garden's beauty and growth over time. For more information, contact Nicole Struth at nicole@glastonburyfirst.org.



Christian Service

Help With Our Super Giant Tag Sale!

The First Church **SUPER GIANT TAG SALE** is set for Friday, **October 2** (12:00-6:00 p.m.) and Saturday, **October 3** (9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.) and you can be a part of it! Help make our Super Giant Tag Sale a success with donations and by volunteering and spreading the word.

Thank you to all volunteers who helped with the April drop off and to all who donated. Let's keep the momentum going for our scheduled June 13 and July 21 drop off dates!

Donate items: Volunteers will be available to accept your donations in Schultz Hall during **listed dates and times only**. In order to limit what we throw away, please donate items in good working condition. Please see the list of accepted items on our website (you can **scan the QR code**). Drop-off dates and times are listed below:

- **Saturday, June 13, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**
- **Tuesday, July 21, 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.**
- **Monday – Wednesday, September 28 – 30, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.**
- More information will be announced in the next *Reminder*.



Volunteer: The sale is only possible with the enormous contribution of our many volunteers. There will be a wide variety of jobs, from sorting and tagging donations in the week leading up to the sale, to cashiering and assisting in sales, to clean up when it's all done, and all are important. Stay tuned for information on how to sign up!

Spread the word: Encourage your family, friends and neighbors to put our sale on their calendars. For more information, please contact Lauren Guiditta at lguiditta@gmail.com.

Donate to our Diaper Drive



We will collect diapers for Covenant to Care on **June 14, Children's Celebration Sunday**. All sizes are needed, as are packages of wipes. You may drop off your contributions on June 14 in the box in the Narthex. The collection will continue **through June 21** in the collection box in the back lobby of the church. Thank you in advance for your donation! If you have questions, please contact Denise de Mello at demelloden@gmail.com.



refugee assistance

Assist our Refugee Action Team

The Refugee Action Team continues meet on a regular basis. We are working with both **Integrated Refugee & Immigrant Services (IRIS)** and the **Refugee Women's Center (RWC)** to assist in their efforts to help refugee families in our community. If you are interested in volunteering or donating, please contact Sarah Proulx at sarahb3982@gmail.com or Allyson Glass at allysonglass221@gmail.com for more information.

IRIS continues to look for individuals who may be able to help refugee families with specific needs that may arise (driving to appointments, etc). If you are interested in **volunteering with IRIS**, please check their website for more information at <https://irisct.org/volunteer/>.

The team has been working to **assist refugee families in need due to the loss of SNAP benefits** at the beginning of April. We were able to collect monetary and gift card donations for a local woman named Mariam, who was severely injured in the Syrian Civil War. Mariam and her family lost their SNAP benefits at the beginning of April. Due to the generosity of our congregation, we have collected over \$3,000 in donations for Miriam and her family to help with grocery expenses! Thank you so much! We also were able to donate \$750 in Costco gift cards to the Nooree family, whom First Church sponsored along with IRIS in 2022 after they fled Afghanistan. They also have been affected by the loss of their SNAP benefits. The Noorees are doing well and live in the New Haven area. Their children are excelling in school – their oldest son is a New Haven Promise scholar and intends to go to college to study nursing. They continue to be grateful to the First Church community for our support and generosity.

Christian Service

Greetings from Your First Church MCI Team!

After participating in the second half of the school year with an **Earth Day Celebration**, **Staff Appreciation Week**, the annual **Book Fair**, a **Family Picnic** and a **Field Day**, MCI volunteers and the O'Brien School children and staff will end the school year on Friday, June 19. It is amazing to see MCI volunteers bond with the children and teachers; many who have developed terrific working relationships with their teachers will happily return to the same classrooms next fall.

In addition to usual volunteer activities, this year, First Church members **donated gently used books** to the O'Brien School to ship to students in Ghana and Jamaica. We also continued to fund the O'Brien **food pantry** and **clothing closet**. Many thanks to Jim Hartung for his leadership in both areas. Nancy Pacht and Jen Anglim attended a *Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child* professional development session. MCI members volunteered at the townwide **ADAPTIVE Field Day** and for United Way's **Read Across America** program. Stay tuned for updates about enhanced enrichment programming for the 2026-27 school year.



For the first time, the **First Church Puppet Troupe performed at O'Brien's School Awards Night**. Many thanks to Laurie DiTomasso for helping to coordinate that for the O'Brien School community. **MCI Mini Grant and Grade Level Support requests** continued to help with classroom and special ed/medically fragile/ELL needs. Funding for these grants and requests comes directly from your contributions to the *Love For Children Capital Campaign*.

Five members of the MCI team have concluded their years of service: we are grateful to Sharon Conway, Julie Thompson, Stacie Wentz and Julie Krause for contributing their time and talents to the program during the past several years. We welcome Gail Gagnon, Jay Fisher and Jane Hawken. Thanks also to Barb D'Amica for her work as Assistant Treasurer for the team, and for her willingness to continue next year. Finally, a very special thanks to Nancy Pacht as she steps away from the Co-chair role and continues to give her talents to the group for the next year. Her collaborative leadership has kept the team humming along!

First Church has been growing in impact at O'Brien School during the past six years. We always welcome new volunteers; next year we will be looking for volunteers to support the Gym and Art programs, so please reach out if you are interested in either. To learn more about MCI, please reach out to Lorie Martin at lorie5456@gmail.com. If you have questions specific to volunteering in the classroom or at a school-wide event, please contact Jen Anglim at anglimjennifer@yahoo.com.

Greater Hartford Interfaith Action Alliance Update



There's good news to share from the Greater Hartford Interfaith Action Alliance (GHIAA). The state legislature has passed and Governor Lamont has signed SB 397, a bill titled "An Act Concerning Democracy and Government Accountability." This bill, a GHIAA 2026 priority, helps protect sensitive locations from civil immigration enforcement, strengthens accountability for federal agents and limits the use of surveillance data. This is an important step toward keeping our immigrant neighbors—and all of us—safer here in Connecticut. Looking ahead, GHIAA's other legislative priorities will likely be revisited when the next legislative session begins later this year.

In April, we launched First Church GHIAA Action Alerts in response to many of you who wanted to support this work but couldn't commit to full team participation. Action Alerts offer a simple way to help: when needed (usually once or twice a month), you'll receive an email request along with a template to **submit testimony in support of key legislation**. You can personalize it as much or as little as you like and submit it online—or even share in person if you prefer. It's an easy step that truly makes a difference.

If you'd like to **join the Action Alert email team** or learn more, please reach out to Jim O'Brien at james_f_obrien@sbcglobal.net, Gail Gagnon at gailgagnonct@comcast.net or any GHIAA team member.

Finally, as we look ahead to June 2026, we'll be saying thank you to several First Church GHIAA Team members as they complete their terms. We're grateful for all they've contributed—their time, energy, and friendship—and we look forward to welcoming new members to the team.

Christian Service

Volunteer with CT Foodshare and First Church



Connecticut Foodshare's vision is for a community where all people can get the food they need. For many years, the **Connecticut Foodshare Mobile Food Pantry** has come to our back parking lot **every other Wednesday morning** for this market-style distribution of fresh produce and other foods. You can sign up to help online at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b094aabaec28a13-mobile>. Please contact Karin Carlino at michaelkarin.carlino@cox.net or 860-841-8363 or Sally Riddell at 860-657-8715 if you have any questions. On **alternating Wednesday mornings**, we help sort and package the produce (at the Wallingford warehouse) that is distributed on the Mobile Food Pantry truck at various sites across the state. If you want to participate or have questions, please contact Jim Hartung at ctsdncmnfolk@gmail.com or 860-430-2123.

Walk Against Hunger Update + Thank You



Thank you to everyone who made contributions to this year's Connecticut Foodshare Walk Against Hunger. We received **over \$2,300 that will be used to help feed the 1 in 7 Connecticut individuals who are experiencing food insecurity**. This number includes 1 in 6 children. Your generosity helps to promote CT Foodshare's vision for a community where all people can have access to the food they need for their families. Each biweekly mobile food pantry distribution that we host in our back parking lot includes a choice of vegetables, fruit, bread, dairy products and an assortment of other food items. In 2025 our site served 3,240 clients. Thank you to all our dedicated volunteers who make each distribution possible come rain, the cold of winter or the sunny days of summer.

Social Justice Team Update

Stay tuned for future Social Justice Team activities and **visit us at our table at the Justice Fair on May 31 after worship!** Our group enjoyed reading and discussing Bryan Stevenson's *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption* (or the movie version on Netflix). If you didn't get a chance to read it yet, it may make good summer reading. The author also has a TED talk, *We Need to Talk About an Injustice* at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c2tOp7OxyQ8>. To join our team or learn more, please contact Deborah Willard at deborahgladdingwil@sbcglobal.com or 860-334-1983.



First Church Has Willing and Able "Good Samaritans!"



Our "Good Samaritan" group is willing to help individuals in the congregation who might be having trouble finding the right people or the adequate resources to do various odd jobs around the house/yard. Contact Kate VanDerzee-Glidden or Betsey Polglase if you would like to find out if your task is something that can be done, at no charge.

Children's Ministries



Stop by Munchkins on the Playground!

Munchkins on the Playground meets on the **second Sunday of each month right after worship** — a fun and casual way for families to connect! Kids can enjoy the playground while parents chat and build community. And yes, Dunkin' Munchkins are provided! Upcoming dates are **July 12 and August 9**. Please contact Kelsey Beach for more information at kelsey@glastonburyfirst.org.

Children's Ministries

Important Church School Dates

Wednesday, June 3 – *Faith + Friends* on the playground
Sunday, June 7 – *Children's Celebration Sunday rehearsal* during Church School
Sunday, June 14 – *Children's Celebration Sunday worship service + Ice Cream Social after church*
Wednesday, June 17 – *Faith + Friends* on the playground
Sunday, June 21 – *Summer Church School begins*
Wednesday, July 1 – *Faith + Friends* on the playground
Sunday, July 12 – *Munchkins on the Playground* after worship
Wednesday, July 15 – *Faith + Friends* on the playground
Wednesday, July 29 – *Faith + Friends* on the playground



Church School Learning + Fun

Please contact Kelsey Beach at kelsey@glastonburyfirst.org with any questions about Church School. You can register for any children's and youth programs online at <https://www.glastonburyfirst.org/youth-ministry-first-church-registration-form>.

Preschool (ages 3–5): Come dance, sing and play with us as we explore a hands-on approach to learning the Bible! Preschool meets each week in Room 105.



RMC Unit 8: People Who Made a Difference (May 10 – June 7)

We use the Rotation Model Curriculum in which the kindergarten through 5th grade children learn the same Bible story across different stations each week. Unit schedules are available on our website: <https://www.glastonburyfirst.org/children>.



Worship Bags and the Children's Corner: Feeling like you want to stay in the service with your child, but your toddler has the wiggles? Our **Children's Corner** in the north side of the Narthex is for you! This area is designed for families with young children to play together while still listening to what's going on in worship.

Worship Bags are available for children of all ages to stay busy and attentive during worship. In these bags you will find a children's Bible, stuffed animal, quiet fidget toy, coloring sheets, crayons and books! Please return them to the Narthex after worship or after the children's message.

Summer Church School 2026



Join us again this summer on Sunday mornings for a modified Rotation Model Curriculum called **Good Stewards Together**. During this summer-focused program, children will learn more about being the church and caring for our community and beyond. Through hands-on activities and outdoor time it is sure to be a meaningful time! Summer Church School **begins on June 21 with one classroom for K – 8th grade**. Preschool will meet in Room 105. Childcare will also be provided in the Crib/Toddler Room. Contact Kelsey Beach if you're feeling called to assist – there is a place for you!

Join us for Faith + Friends Playgroup!

Faith + Friends **playgroup for children and their families** meets every other Wednesday from 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. on the playground for a time of connection, play and grace. Our upcoming dates are **June 3 + 17 and July 1, 15 + 29**. Contact Kelsey Beach for more information at kelsey@glastonburyfirst.org. Join our mailing list at https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0B4DA8AF2CA1FCC07-60432080-faith#.



Children's Ministries

Thank You, Church School Volunteers!!



Thanks!

We are blessed here at First Church to have such an amazing and dedicated group of volunteers who make our Church School year so great! From our Crib and Toddler Volunteers, Preschool Volunteers, Rotation Model Station Leaders, Shepherds, Supply Coordinators, AGAPE Leaders and Board of Children's Ministries members – we couldn't have done it without you! Your creativity and love of this church school program is truly inspiring. Thank you for all that you do!

2025 – 2026 Church School Volunteers

Timo Acosta
Rich Baber
Jennifer Bannock
Ryan Beach
Nikki Beagle
Susan Bonitsky
Chrissy Burke
Rob Burke
Amanda Carlino
Sharon Conway
Cassidy Cooper
Emerson Cooper
Maeve Cooper
Roman Czapiga
Terry Darr
Denise de Mello
Laura Deibel
Russ Deibel
Laurie DiTomasso
John DiTomasso
Leslie Donovan
Katelyn Donovan

Susie Douville
Kelly Dowling
Kat Fernandez
Emma Ferrall
Faith Ferrall
Sarah Gantley
Cheryl Gaudette
Jane Graves
Lauren Guiditta
Simone Guiditta
Allie Hapgood
Heather Hassan
Karen Henry
Sarah Jacob
Delaney Kannas
Carter Kannas
Carol Kimmel
Claudia Krauss
Greta Krauss
Meredith Krauss
Susan Lambert
Sasha Lewbel

Melanie Longshore
Nicole Mazzarella
Lori McCurdy
Kathy McGuire
Jen Miller
Ella Muller
Jackie Mumford
Michelle Parlos
Lilly Pelland
Peter Poirier
Sally Riddell
Jordyn Schmidt
Kelly Sellew
Sindia Shyras
Steffia Songstad
Michele Staino
Cate Stone
Emily Taylor
Julie Thompson
Dan Yu



Children's Ministries

Church School Mission Project Update: \$9,200 as of Mid-May – Help Us Get to \$10,000!



We are excited to partner with **Journey Home**. At Journey Home, “*We believe that everyone deserves not just a place to live but a place to call home.*” Journey Home’s **A Hand Up** program works to support those who are currently transitioning from homelessness to housing by providing them with household goods and furniture. Together with local individuals, community organizations, businesses and other groups, A Hand Up collects donations of gently used furniture and household items and delivers them to newly housed clients. **So far we have raised about \$9,200 of our \$10,000 goal!** More information is available at: journeyhomect.org.



Thank you for encouraging your children to bring \$1.00 each week for the weekly offering. **If you would like to make a contribution**, please make your check payable to *First Church*, with *Church School Mission Project* in the memo line, or click the *Give Now* button on our website at www.glastonburyfirst.org. Contact Kelsey Beach at kelsey@glastonburyfirst.org if you have questions. Thank you!

Youth Ministries



What a Youth Mission Trip!

This year’s Youth Mission Trip to Earleville, MD was definitely memorable! After months of planning and preparation, we’re happy to be home safely. We offer a tremendous thanks to the families, supporters, advisors and members of the Board of Youth Ministries who helped to make this year’s trip come together.

SHF News + Schedule

Our April SHF mission trip was a fun and busy week at Deep Roots in Earleville, MD. Our youth led the worship service on May 2, which is recorded on our YouTube channel if you want to check it out! We are coming to the end of our program year with only a few sessions to go! Friends are always welcome to join us at SHF. Please contact Sean Donovan at sean.donovan002@gmail.com or Faith at programadmin@glastonburyfirst.org. (* denotes event outside regular meeting time)

***Sunday, June 7: SHF Senior Celebration Sunday** during worship, 10:00 a.m.

Sunday, June 7: SHF, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

***Thursday, July 9:** SHF/JHF Movie Night, 6:30 – 9:00 p.m., Micah Chapel

***Thursday, August 6:** SHF Lunch Bunch + Games, 12:00 – 2:00 p.m., Schultz Hall (after Vacation Bible School)



Congratulations, High School Seniors!

First Church is excited to celebrate the following members and friends of First Church as they complete their high school education. **Join us in worship on June 7 as we celebrate our graduates!**

Ethan Desnoyers, Lila Husband, Carter Kannas, Ella Muller, Cate Stone and Josh Warren



Youth Ministries



2026 College Graduates, Join Us on June 7!

Congratulations to the many young adults from our congregation who recently completed college degrees! We invite you to join us for a **Blessing of the Graduates during worship on June 7 at 10:00 a.m.** Even if you can't join us on June 7, stop into the church to say hello when you're in town. Please contact Faith Ferrall with any questions at programadmin@glastonburyfirst.org.

JHF News + Schedule

We are wrapping up our program year and have just one more session! Our reverse rally day will be on June 8. We will play games and enjoy fellowship! See below for some fun summer activities! Friends are always welcome to join us at JHF. Please contact Faith Ferrall at programadmin@glastonburyfirst.org or Karen Prager at firstchurchjhf@gmail.com with any questions. (* denotes event outside regular meeting time)



Monday, June 8: JHF Reverse Rally Day, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

***Thursday, July 9:** SHF/JHF Movie Night, 6:30 – 9:00 p.m., Micah Chapel

***Wednesday, August 5:** JHF Lunch Bunch + Games, 12:00 – 2:00 p.m., Schultz Hall (after Vacation Bible School)

Music Ministries

Special Recognition on Music Celebration Sunday

During our **Music Celebration service on May 17**, we recognized many parishioners of all ages for the beautiful music they contribute to worship services all year long.

2026-27 Cantate Head Choristers

Allison Eastman (DB)
Madeline Proulx (DB)

2026-27 Head Ringer

Micah Krauss

Choristers Who Earned a New Ribbon This Year

Ellie Douville (LB)
Sophie Dowling (LB)
Jack Guiditta (DB)
Emily Kam (LB)
Eli Prager-McCandless (DB)
Madeline Proulx (DB)
Amaya Ramos (LB)
Praggya Thiagarajah (DB)

5-Year Youth Chorister Trophy

Genevieve Nietupski (Cantate)

40-Year Chorister Plaque

Ginger Kousen

Organ Curator

Carl Stenman

Music Library Assistant

Nadine Lester

10-Year Chorister Plaque

Greta Krauss
Jordyn Schmidt

Perfect Attendance

Ellie Douville (Caroler)
Maddie Gantley (Cantate)
Ellie LaChapelle (Caroler)
Nathan LaChapelle (Mallets)
Amaya Ramos (Caroler)
Joanna Sashitharan (Mallets)
Nethan Sashitharan (Mallets)

Excellent Attendance

Allison Eastman (Cantate)
Jack Guiditta (Cantate)
Genevieve Nietupski (Cantate)
Eli Prager-McCandless (Cantate)
Madeline Proulx (Cantate)
William Proulx (Caroler)
Jordyn Schmidt (Mallets)
Praggya Thiagarajah (Cantate)
Vikaash Thiagarajah (Caroler)



Music Ministries

First Church at the Hartford Yard Goats August 22



Come and enjoy a family night out with our First Church community to watch a baseball game at Hartford's Dunkin' Park Stadium with the Hartford Yard Goats playing against the Somerset Patriots (the New York Yankees' professional minor league team). This event will feature our Choir Camp participants and friends singing the National Anthem at 6:10 p.m. Enjoy some ballpark hotdogs, fries, pulled pork, popcorn, ice cream and more! Most importantly, this evening is about sharing in great fellowship together!

Tickets are \$22 (adults) or \$20 (children 4-16), with children 3 and under free. You can reserve your seats by:

- 1) **Purchasing tickets after worship services** throughout the summer at the Board of Music table;
- 2) **Reserving tickets online** at <https://tinyurl.com/b4d7hbtik> or scanning the QR code;
- 3) **Emailing Angela Salcedo** at angelasalcedo@glastonburyfirst.org; or
- 4) **Stopping by the church office** during office hours.



Korean Choir Trip Informational Meetings

On Sundays, **May 31 and June 14**, the **Korean Choir Trip Committee** (Irene Choi, Chris Hart and Angela Salcedo) will host **meetings after the worship services from 11:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. for anyone interested in traveling and singing** with a group of people from our First Church choir in South Korea. This trip will entail performing in a Festival Concert led by Dr. Angela Salcedo, participating in two worship services and visiting several cities and their historical sites. The cost of the trip will be \$2,600.00. For more information, please contact Angela at angelasalcedo@glastonburyfirst.org.



Choristers Earned Their Light Blue Ribbon



Congratulations to **Linnea Deibel, Ellie Douville, Sophie Dowling** and **Amaya Ramos** for receiving their "Light Blue Ribbon" (Level I) as part of the Royal School of Church Music Program awards. Each ribbon color represents the various levels of musicianship achieved by the chorister. Our program offers up to five levels. For the Light Blue Ribbon, choristers begin to read the notes

on the music staff, follow the text along with the music and develop various rudimentary music skills: matching pitch, rhythmic notation, ear training, solfege, playing the Orff Instruments and using the hymnal. In addition, musical skills are interspersed with Christian education instruction.



First Church Music Scholarship **auditions are scheduled for the first week of June**. Eight students have applied. Thank you to Norma Vaughn whose generation donation will allow us to award up to two scholarship winners. The winners will be announced in the August/September Reminder. Thank you to Deanna Tiffin, Scholarship Committee Chair, for organizing this special scholarship.



Summer 2026 Camps and More!



Vacation Bible School: August 3 – 7



Join us for VBS this summer! The theme this year is *Snowball Mountain Challenge: Find Your Strength in God!* Camp will run from Monday, August 3 – Friday, August 7, from 8:45 a.m. – noon. This exciting program includes new music, mission, science, crafts, fun games, yummy snacks and memorable Bible stories for Preschool (4 years old) through 5th grade. Youth in grades 6 and up can volunteer.



Registration forms are available **online** or **check your email** for info. For more information contact Karin Carlino at ceadmin@glastonburyfirst.org.



Choir Camp: August 16 – 19



Choir Camp 2026 will be held at **Pilgrim Pines in Swanzey, NH** from August 16 – 19. This is a beautiful retreat center with fabulous extracurricular activities in addition to all the inspiring music sessions. Caroler Choir choristers moving up to the Cantate Choir (Grades 4 – high school) are invited to participate.



The cost will be \$325 per chorister. Travel time to Pilgrim Pines is under two hours, and we can coordinate carpools to this wonderful location. **Registration forms are available online or in the office.** Contact Dr. Angela Salcedo at angelasalcedo@glastonburyfirst.org.

Enjoy Summer Camp at Silver Lake



Calling all **students in grades 3–11!** Since 1957, Silver Lake has been the best place for summer camp and youth group retreats in Connecticut. It's a sacred spot, set on the waterfront in the rolling northwest hills of the state, where students go each summer for life-changing weeks that nurture and cultivate young leaders. As a UCC-owned camp, Silver Lake's philosophy aligns with our own church – that all are welcome and beloved. Whether you're into sports, theater, outdoor adventures, music, justice work or all of the above,

there's a great and unique offering that's right for you. For college students and adults, you can always volunteer as a counselor or work on staff! Registration is open now. For more details about this amazing camp, check out www.silverlakeect.org. For scholarship information, contact Kate VanDerzee-Glidden at katev@glastonburyfirst.org.



Lead and Serve with Heads Up! Hartford this June



Every summer, First Church youth join Heads Up! Hartford for a week of local community service work. If you're in grades 8–12, you can be part of the action this summer, too! HU!H is an **overnight camp bringing together urban and suburban youth of Greater Hartford for a "local mission trip"** each June. From a home base at the Ethel Walker School in Simsbury, busloads of teens depart each day to serve with local nonprofits while developing important leadership and work skills. The work of the week is mixed up with plenty of games, adventures, new friends and fun. HU!H takes place **June 21 – 27** this year. To register or to find out more about the Heads Up! Hartford experience, you can visit the Heads Up! Hartford website at <https://headsuphartford.org/info%2C-registration%2C-forms>.



Adult Opportunities

Knit or Crochet with our Prayer Shawl Ministry



Do you knit? Crochet? Enjoy fellowship and the opportunity to help and support others? If the answer is YES to any of the above, come join our Prayer Shawl Ministry! Newcomers are **always** welcome. We will meet on **June 8 (9:30 a.m.) and 22 (6:30 p.m.) and July 13 (9:30 a.m.) and 27 (6:30 p.m.)**. Our meetings are usually held on the second Monday of the month at 9:30 a.m. and on the fourth Monday at 6:30 p.m. Please bring size 11 or 13 knitting needles or a medium to large crochet hook. Don't know how to knit or crochet? We can teach you. If you don't have needles, we have some we can provide. Come share your knitting or crocheting and our company! If you would like more information, please contact Mary D'Anna at dannamary4@gmail.com.

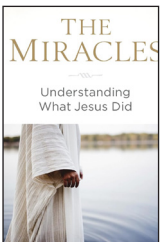
Join the Women's Spiritual Reflection Group!



Our Women's Spiritual Reflection Group (SRG) meets on the **third Wednesday of each month from 8:00 – 9:00 a.m. in the Lehman Library**. We discuss a variety of topics related to spiritual growth and development, and we invite you to join us! On **June 17** we will talk a bit about the Southern New England Conference of the United Church of Christ (**SNEUCC**) **Vision Statement** (<https://www.sneucc.org/about>) **and how it fits into our lives**. We will also talk about **how we choose to live our lives** – is it possible to be intentional about the personal rhythms and guidelines

that shape our days? At our **July 15** meeting, we will discuss opening ourselves to God – **how to pay attention to God in our lives** through, for example, contemplation, focus, journaling and even rest. We never have required readings before our meetings, but we do offer some optional related readings/reflections for those who want them. If you would like to learn more, please contact Lynn Baronas at lbaronal@gmail.com or 860-543-3301.

Learn, Relax and Reflect with Prayer and Share



Our Prayer and Share group meets on **Tuesdays from 9:45 – 11:00 a.m. in the Quiet Room**. Our last meeting of the program year will be on **June 16**. For that meeting please **bring your own lunch and an angel for our annual Angel Party**. We will meet again once in July and once in August. We are reading **The Miracles** by Gary Inrig. Do you believe in miracles? Gary Inrig will walk us through the miracles of Jesus, helping us to understand what Jesus did. This is a fascinating and spiritual study for us all! **Everyone is welcome to come and reflect** as we connect, pray and uplift each other. Please bring your enthusiasm and prayers to share. We encourage you to **place your prayer requests in the prayer request boxes in the Narthex and back entry lobby** so we may hold them in our prayers. For more information, please contact Sandee Brown at seapearl44@gmail.com.



Garden with the Merry Weeders

The Merry Weeders at First Church need help to keep the church grounds looking their best. This group meets periodically to pull a few weeds or do some pruning. As we go into the summer, extra hands are needed as the weeds explode! Volunteers should bring pruners, clippers, gloves, a weeder, a bag, bucket or tarp and a water bottle.

Upcoming work parties are scheduled for:

Thursday, June 4, from 8:00 – 9:30 a.m. and Monday, June 15, from 5:00 – 6:30 p.m.

The Merry Weeders group has been very successful in keeping property maintenance costs down for the church just by having a few people give an hour or two periodically. Please sign up to help! Contact coordinator Suzy Fisher at 860-416-9484 or suzy.o.fisher@gmail.com to be added to our email list or to sign up for one of the work sessions.



Adult Opportunities

Take a Hike – With Us!



Join us for our upcoming hikes! And join our **2026 Hike Challenge!** For more information, contact Rich Baber at richbabber@yahoo.com or 860-881-0063, check our website or join our Facebook page: Hikes <https://www.facebook.com/groups/216456089571012/>.



Sunday, June 7, 1:00 p.m. Oakland Trail, Vernon/Manchester. 2 miles, easy. The Oakland Trail is part of the Hockunum River Linear Trail that runs through Manchester and Vernon and is maintained by the Hockunum River Linear Park Committee. This section is a loop trail that is between I-84 on one side and commercial malls on the other, but once on the trail you are in the woods. Our hike will take us along the river, twice crossing bridges, through woods and a meadow and onto a small island. We will meet at the back of the Kohl's parking lot at 155 Tolland Turnpike, Manchester.

Saturday, June 20, 10:00 a.m. Windsor Locks Canal Trail, Suffield/Windsor Locks. Easy. This hike will follow the historic Windsor Locks Canal. The canal was built between 1827 and 1829 in order to avoid the Enfield Rapids on the Connecticut River. Once built, the canal provided continuous water access from Massachusetts to Hartford. But by the 1840s a railroad was constructed, making the canal obsolete. Our hike will follow the towpath, the walkway where mules hauled barges by rope along the waterway. We will meet at one of the designated parking lots. The exact address and hike distance will be determined later.

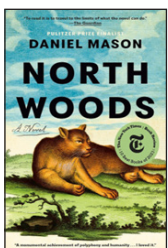
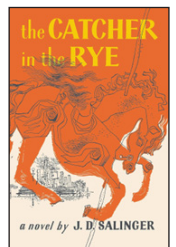
Saturday, July 11, 10:00 a.m. Mooween State Park, Lebanon. 2.5 miles. This 577-acre property started out in 1921 as Camp Mooween, a summer camp for boys. The state purchased it in 1989, establishing it as Red Cedar Lake State Park. After lobbying by camp alumni, it was renamed Mooween to honor the camp. This property features Red Cedar Lake, the foundations and chimneys of the old camp buildings and miles of trails. Our hike will feature a stop at the Babers' property for a picnic. We will meet at the parking area near 230 Scott Hill Road.

Sunday, July 19, 1:00 p.m. Hurd State Park, East Hampton. 3+ miles, moderate+. Established in 1914 when the State of Connecticut acquired 150 acres in the town of East Hampton, Hurd State Park now comprises over 1,000 acres along the Connecticut River. This hike will include hemlock forests, the cascading Hurd Brook, old quarries, stone walls and dramatic ledge views of the Connecticut River, including the famous "Split Rock." There will be an ascent of approximately 400'. Pull into the park road at 74 Hurd Park Road, East Hampton. The parking lot is about 7/10 mile in.

Talk and Learn with Thursday Morning Study Group

Join us for **Thursday Morning Study Group** on Thursday mornings twice a month – on the **second and fourth Thursdays from 9:30 – 11:00 a.m. in the Lehman Library**. Anyone who loves reading and talking about books is welcome. You may join us for every meeting or for discussions of the books that especially interest you. Your ideas are important, and we all enjoy learning from each other. For more information about the group, please email Sally Brown at saldaybrown@aol.com.

For **June 11** (note we are meeting only once in June), we will discuss a timeless classic, *The Catcher in the Rye*, by J. D. Salinger. Once a year we choose an old favorite, often a book we haven't read since high school. This novel follows Holden Caulfield as he is expelled from prep school and wanders the streets of New York City. He is searching for meaning, a better understanding of himself and a place where he belongs. It is a transformational book which will be meaningful to discuss today.



Although we will not gather during the summer months, we will be reading *North Woods* by Daniel Mason in preparation for our **September 10 and 24** meetings. This historical novel revolves around the inhabitants of a single house in the New England woods. It is told through the eyes of those who inhabit it across the centuries, including Puritan lovers, twin sisters, a crime reporter, a painter, a con man, a stalking panther and a pair of beetles. This Pulitzer Prize finalist shows the many ways we are connected to our environment and to one another – across time, language and space. We look forward to seeing you for our discussions.

Adult Opportunities

Learn and Grow with our Mental Health Ministry

“Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.” (Ephesians 4:32)

As we move into the warmth and joy of the summer months, June and July offer opportunities for **rest, connection and creating meaningful memories with family and friends**. Summer often brings vacations, cookouts, celebrations and more time together—but it can also bring moments where **patience, understanding and forgiveness are needed**.

Forgiveness is an important part of healthy relationships and emotional healing. It does not mean forgetting painful experiences or pretending hurt never happened. Instead, forgiveness can help us release resentment and move forward with peace and wisdom. Here are a few additional reminders of what forgiveness is and what forgiveness is not:

- **Forgiveness is choosing to let go of ongoing bitterness.**
- **Forgiveness is not saying that what happened was okay.**
- **Forgiveness is working toward peace within yourself.**
- **Forgiveness is not forgetting healthy boundaries.**
- **Forgiveness allows space for healing, growth and grace.**



This summer, we encourage you to embrace joyful living while also practicing patience, compassion and understanding with one another.

Throughout the year, the Mental Health Ministry (MHM) Team warmly invites everyone to participate in special activities designed to support and promote mental well-being within church and broader community. We encourage you to visit our bulletin board located across from Schultz Hall. We will continue updating it with information about upcoming speakers, activities and community events. We value your ideas and feedback! If there is a topic or activity you would like us to explore, please feel free to reach out. To learn more or get involved, please contact Nicole Noonan at nicolewnoonan@gmail.com.

Join Us for Potpourri Breakfast

Potpourri breakfast is on the first and third Tuesdays of each month at 7:30 a.m.! The church kitchen is alive with coffee, conversation and a delicious breakfast coordinated by Gary Vollinger and John McNab! You can call the church office for more information at 860-633-4641.



Seeking Media Team Volunteers!

Every week our worship services are enhanced by video projections in the Meetinghouse and are instantly available for everyone to enjoy online through our live web stream on the First Church YouTube channel. None of this would be possible without the dedication of our specially trained team of media volunteers. Are you interested in learning how it all works and becoming part of the team? Contact Paul Giguere at paulgiguere63@icloud.com or 860-214-8540.

In Case of Hospitalization

Hospitals can't release information to us, so if you or a loved one is hospitalized and would like a visit, please make note of the following. In addition, if you would like the church to know of any upcoming hospitalization, please call the church office at 860-633-4641 to inform the pastoral staff. For Hartford Hospital, inform them that you are from First Church of Christ, Congregational in Glastonbury. For Saint Francis Hospital, tell them Code 17 for First Church.

Be Alert for Scams

Our pastors and staff would never reach out to you via email or text to ask for help buying gift cards or send you other requests for personal assistance. If you have a question, please call the office at 860-633-4641.

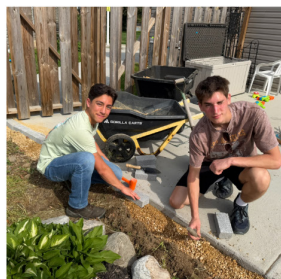
The Reminder is Online, Too!

The Reminder newsletter is easily available online at links in our eblasts twice each week and on our website. To opt out of a paper copy, please email publications@glastonburyfirst.org. Thanks!

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Where are we Bee-ing the Church Together?

We celebrated our
Confirmands and
Silver + Gold members,
made friends at Munchkins
on the Playground,
helped others on our
youth mission trip to Deep
Roots in MD, spruced up
the ABC House yard and
played games with seniors
during Mission Immersion
Day, learned with
Thursday Morning Study
Group and a tour of CT
Foodshare's warehouse,
and enjoyed music on
Music Celebration Sunday!
*Look inside this Reminder
and find out how
YOU can be involved!*