

The Cornerstone

First Church is an Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

May 2014 Worship Schedule

Join Us!

May 4 Third Sunday of Easter

Worship Services:

8:30 am in the Chapel, 10:00 am in the Sanctuary

“The Incredible Truth”

Psalms 116: 1 - 4 and Luke 24: 13 - 35

Dr. Erica Nierendorf preaching

May 11 Fourth Sunday of Easter

Only 10:00 am Service today.

“Transitions”

I Corinthians 12:4-18

Guest speaker Rev. Dr. Kent Siladi,

Connecticut Conference Minister, UCC, preaching

May 18 Fifth Sunday of Easter

8:30 am Service

“In Jesus’ Name”

John 14: 1-14

Rev. Dianne Arakawa preaching

10:00 am Service

Confirmation

“Gifts”

Mark 9:33-37

Rev. Kevin Weikel preaching

May 25 Sixth Sunday of Easter

First 9:30 am Summer Service today.

“The Adaptive Church”

Acts 17:22-31

Rev. Dianne Arakawa preaching



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Worship Schedule	1
Message from Rev. Arakawa	2
Message from Rev. Weikel	3
Message from Dr. Nierendorf	4
Message from Mark Mercier	5
Youth Page	6
Children's Ministry	7
Memorial Garden	8
Community Farm	8
Executive Council	9
Fellowship Hour	9
Panel of Delegates	10
Walk Against Hunger	10
Historical Perspective	11
Pictorial Album	12

All Are Welcome

Monday, **Cinco de Mayo** May 5th

“Cinco de Mayo with the Ministers”

~ no rsvp required ~

5:30-7:15 pm

Joels Pizza

836 Hopmeadow Street, Simsbury



Rev. Dianne Arakawa
Transitional Senior
Minister

860-651-3593 x14
 dearakawa@
 fccsimsbury.org

Out of office Fridays

**Focus Group on the Transition:
 Historical Reflection**

Members and friends of First Church are invited to this session, which reports the insights about the history of our church gathered from our Transitional Questionnaires. This one-and-a-half hour session, including questions-and-answers, will be held in the Parson's Study on Wednesday May 7th from 10 am to 11:30 am. Thank you to everyone who filled out one of our forms that provide the basis of our living history. If you have any questions about this, please speak to Rev. Dianne Arakawa.

A Message from Dianne Arakawa, Transitional Senior Minister

Dear Friends in Christ,

The month of May in our Easter season at First Church witnesses to *faith formation*, as well as recognizes the *priesthood of all believers*-- ordained and lay ministry. Please do make it a point to join us this month for as many events as possible.

May 4th at 8:30 am will initiate New Members' classes, led by our Elder, Andy Granger, our ministers and lay leaders. Any -- who have been worshipping with us at First Church, feel in harmony with what our church stands for as set forth in our Covenant and church life, and would like to be welcomed as members -- are encouraged to attend two sessions before the service on Pentecost Sunday, June 8th at 9:30 am at which "the right hand of fellowship" will be offered. This is an important step for both those who have been raised in the Christian tradition, but are searching for a new church, as well as those who are not familiar with church life at all.

May 11th at 10 am will mark the final Sunday of regular Church School for our children, grades K-7. At a time of conflicting secular demands on our children throughout the year, such as sports and travel, many of our children and their parents/guardians have shown that development of a living and growing faith is foundational and invaluable. To this end, we will continue to include Children's Moments in our 9:30 am summer worship services. In addition, Director Cindy Cole will lead a special series on Jesus' parables and miracles from June through July, as well as Vacation Bible School the week of June 23rd.

On May 18th at 10 am, our Confirmands will be recognized in our church service, led by Kevin Weikel and their advisors. Having worked deliberately throughout this past year, gathered for a retreat at a nearby camp and completed a variety of service projects in the community, these youth will be presented to our congregation. At that time the candidates will share with us highlights of how they are confirming their Baptisms and why they wish to become a part of the Church signified by the "laying on of hands."

On Sunday, May 25th at 9:30 am, we will recognize those in our church, who have been members of our church for fifty years. Throughout this half-century these members have worshipped together with us, ministered in a variety of ways, contributed financially and become our spiritual friends. They will be inducted into the Mary and John Society, named after those Puritans, who came to Boston from London in the wooden ship of that same name and then made their way to Simsbury to found our church.

Finally, on May 31st Erica Nierendorf will complete her part-time position as Acting Associate for Parish Life, which she began in January 2013 and for which she was licensed by the Farmington Association of the CT Conference of the UCC. Over the past year-and-a-half, Erica has faithfully shared with us her skills in parish ministry and completed certification in Clinical Pastoral Education in hospital chaplaincy in order to prepare for ordination at a future date. She will say farewell through the month then lead her final service for us on June 1st at 9:30 am.

I look forward to seeing you at church for these memorable and moving milestones, which you will not want to miss!

With joy and anticipation,

Dianne

A Message from Rev. Kevin Weikel, Youth & Young Adult Ministry

“They urged him strongly, saying, ‘Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.’ So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight.” Luke 24: 29-31

For three summers, through college, I worked as a counselor at Camp Mensch Mill, our denomination’s church camp in southeastern, PA, where I grew up. Each week as new campers arrived, they were given an “Emmaus Partner,” an assigned friend, a fellow camper with whom they were to, at the close of each day, reflect upon the places in which they experienced God that day.

I confess that when I first started as a counselor, I did not know the origins of the word, “Emmaus.” It was not until later when I learned that the word “Emmaus” came from the post-Easter Bible Story titled, “The Road to Emmaus.” On the day the news broke that Jesus’ tomb had been found empty; two men are walking along the road that leads to the town of Emmaus, talking in amazement about how the tomb had been found empty. As they continue on their way, they are joined by a third man who ends up walking and talking with them the rest of the way.

As the evening draws near, they reach their destination, and the two men kindly invite the man who had joined them to stay with them for dinner. It is in the midst of that meal, in the breaking of the bread, that “their eyes were opened,” and it is then when they recognize that it was Jesus who had been walking and talking with them all afternoon.

Scripture tells us that wherever two or three are gathered, God is there with them. At camp, having an Emmaus Partner was an intentional way of getting campers to reflect upon the ways in which God had been with them throughout the day. Without reflection, God’s presence might go unnoticed.

Last month, we celebrated Easter, but Easter is not over yet. The tomb is still empty, and Jesus continues walking with us and talking with us. Have we invited him in? Do we recognize him in our midst? Maybe it’s time for each of us to find a friend, an “Emmaus Partner” to help us reflect on how God is touching our lives. When we do, we’ll notice that each of us is richly blessed.

In Christ,
Kevin



Rev. Kevin Weikel
Associate Minister for
Youth and Young
Adults

860-651-3593 x16
kweikel@fccsimsbury.org

Out of office Wednesdays



Dr. Erica Nierendorf
Acting Associate

Minister

860-651-3593 x15

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fcsimsbury.org

Out of office Tuesdays
and Thursdays

*Set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm;
for love is strong as death, passion fierce as the grave.*

Song of Songs 8:6

Greetings Friends,

This verse in the Old Testament book, *Song of Solomon*, also known as *Song of Songs*, speaks of the passion of human love. Such seals were made of precious and semiprecious metals and stones and were used to seal documents. Worn on a cord around a **woman's neck, they were similar to a wedding ring. When we love passionately, we want to be identified with that person, to have people know that this person is important in our life and we have made a commitment to him or her. We want to be a seal upon the other's heart. I believe this verse can also describe our walk as Christians.**

When we make the commitment with our minds, hearts and souls to discipleship of Christ, how are we identifying ourselves with Jesus Christ? How are we setting his seal upon our heart and arm? How do we wear our Christian hearts of compassion, hospitality, and grace upon our sleeves? As the song goes, **"They will know we are Christians by our love."** Do they?

Loving others as modeled by Christ isn't easy. We need help. At least I know I do! I'd like to offer three suggestions. First, we need a place to call home and to come to worship each week. Often, my heart is weary as I arrive to worship. But, during worship, the miracle of the Spirit's movement occurs, whether through the music, spoken or silent prayers, sermon or fellowship of the congregation, and I leave feeling differently. I feel encouraged to go out into the world, as a disciple of Christ, and face whatever life is offering that week.

Secondly, we need relationships with others who are also seeking to walk and to grow in **their faith. We need each other's help. I encourage you to join or start one of our Small Group Studies, whether our Sunday morning study, which meets at 8:30 in the Parson's Study, or our Women's Small Group Bible Studies. For many, these small groups have made all the difference in feeling connected to God and to our First Church community. Please see any of our ministers or contact the church office if you are interested in joining or starting a small group (men or women or both) for study or perhaps a project.**

Third, take the risk to go on one of our retreats or join in another shorter-term activity or project. For example, during the weekend of April 4th - 6th, 29 of our women spent all or part of the weekend on retreat at Silver Lake in Sharon, Connecticut, the Connecticut UCC Conference Center. With our guest speaker Chaplain Michelle Lewis, from Hartford Hospital, we focused on a theme of letting our individual and collective lights shine and how Christ encourages that in each of us. It was a weekend filled with faith, honest support and conversation, growth in relationship and much joy and laughter too. Importantly, we came home feeling bonded as sisters in faith.

Finally, my time with you as your Acting Associate Minister is coming to an end on Sunday, June 1st. I am very happy to share my news that I have accepted a position for a one-year chaplain residency at Hartford Hospital, beginning in August. The residency is an exciting opportunity to serve God and also, continue to grow in my ministry skills!

Friends, may we continue to encourage each other to wear our Christian hearts on our sleeves.

Erica

Mark Mercier, Music Ministries

An extraordinary concert in our sanctuary featuring the return of the internationally known...



Friday, June 13, 7:30 PM

www.anonymous4.com

Ruth Cunningham, Marsha Genensky,
Susan Hellauer, Jacqueline Horner-Kwiatek
With special guest Bruce Molsky (singer, fiddle, banjo, guitar)

Anonymous 4 commemorates the 150th anniversary of the end of the Civil War with *1865*, their third program of American music. *1865* tells the poignant story of the personal experience of men, women, and children from the North and from the South toward the end of the Civil War, as told in songs originally written for the stage and for the parlor, and in songs and instrumental tunes from the hills and back roads of America. Many of the songs in *1865* were published between 1861 and 1865; others first appeared in print earlier, but were sung constantly during the terrible war years, having been passed down from generation to generation. A few of the songs on *1865* promote either the Northern or the Southern cause, but all became incredibly popular in both North and South. Some featured songs: *Home Sweet Home*, the single most popular song during the Civil War, accompanied by the minstrel banjo; *Aura Lea* – a Northern favorite and the source of the melody for the Elvis Presley hit, *Love Me Tender* – for two voices and guitar; the Southern favorite *Sweet Evelina*, sung girl group style—our own country version of *Faded Coat of Blue*; five-part harmonies on the Stephen Foster gem, *Hard Times, Come Again No More* and the 1860's bestseller, *Weeping, Sad, and Lonely*; the high lonesome sound on folk songs like *Bright Sunny South* and *The True Lover's Farewell*; and the four-part a cappella singing of *Anonymous 4* on the anti-war song *Tenting on the Old Camp Ground* and the memorial song for Abraham Lincoln, *The President's Grave*.

Adults – \$12.00; Students/Seniors – \$10.00. Family pricing available.

Tickets available in the First Church office, or at the door on the day of the show, depending on space available. Call 860-651-3593 ext 21 for details.



Mark Mercier,
Director of Music Ministries
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Out of office
Tuesdays

MUSIC @ FIRST Cornerstone Concert Series



Friday, May 16

A special cabaret-style concert in Palmer Hall
featuring the Trinity College "Accidentals"

www.trinityaccidentals.com/members.php

"The 'Dents are Trinity College's only all-male a cappella group. We pride ourselves on fresh, original arrangements and a sound that blends the old with the new. Don't be surprised if we switch from Barbershop to T-Pain without warning."

Come to Palmer Hall that evening at 7:00 PM to hear this amazing, fun-loving men's a cappella group immaculately sing everything from Doo wop and Broadway, to Pearl Jam, NRBQ, Jason Miraz and everything in between. The show features multi-talented First Church member Will Scully, in his final appearance with this group as a Trinity student. Founded in 1993, this incredible group has no less than 7 album releases, and they are currently in the studio putting the final touches on their newest, "Bows and Braces" – available shortly. Palmer Hall will be transformed into a cabaret, complete with beverages, munchies and goodies, and candlelit tables – all for the price of admission.

Adults – \$10.00; Students/Seniors – \$8.00. Family pricing available.

Tickets available in the First Church office,
or at the door on the day of the show.

Call 860-651-3593, Ext. 21 for details.

Junior Fellowship Schedule

Friday, May 9, 2:10-4pm... Random Acts of Kindness!

Friday, May 23, 2:10-4pm... Pizza, Highs and Lows, Faith Discussion (Topic: "You're Not Too Young!"), Closing Prayer and game.

Pilgrim Fellowship Schedule

Sunday, May 4, 7-9pm in the Youth Room: Sexuality 5, "Spirituality and Sexuality."

Sunday, May 11: No Pilgrim Fellowship (Mother's Day)

Saturday, May 17, 10:30 am-1:00 pm: "Feeding Children Everywhere." We will meet at the church at 10:30am and then take the bus to Canton High School where we will hand pack 60,000 healthy meals for distribution to area food pantries. There will be great music, good fun and the chance to make a tangible difference in the life of a hungry child. Sign up by contacting Rev. Kevin at kweikel@fccsimsbury.org.

Sunday, May 18, 7-9pm: Game night with devotion

Sunday, May 25: No Pilgrim Fellowship (Memorial Day Weekend)

CONFIRMATION

YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

PLAY, DISCUSS, WORSHIP, GROW, SERVE, LOVE...

Sunday, May 4, 5-7pm

Large Group Closing Pot Luck and Decision to be Confirmed Time in Palmer Hall for students and parents

Thursday, May 8, 4:30-6pm

Confirmation Sunday Planning Meeting. For every Confirmand interested in helping to plan and/or lead the Confirmation Worship Service.

Saturday, May 17, 9-10:15am

Confirmation Rehearsal in the Sanctuary followed by a reception in Palmer Hall.

Sunday, May 18: 9:30 am Confirmands gather in the Youth Room, 10am Worship begins.

Calling Families,
Single People,
Young and Old...



Saturday
May 17th

CANTON HIGH SCHOOL
76 Simonds Ave, Collinsville

10:20 am Meet at First Church Parking Lot
10:30 am Departure
Event runs 11:00 am-1:00 pm

www.feedingchildreneverywhere.com

Did you know there are more than 570,000 people in Connecticut at risk of hunger every year? Join your friends at First Church as we travel to Canton High School and help hand-pack more than 60,000 healthy meals that will be distributed to area food pantries in the Farmington Valley including Simsbury. There will be great music, good fun and the chance to make a tangible difference in the life of a hungry child. Participants ages 12-105 years old are welcome.

To sign up email Rev. Kevin @
kweikel@fccsimsbury.org.

First Church, Simsbury
Youth & Young Adults
PILGRIMAGE

An intentional journey for spiritual growth to Washington, D.C.

June 21 - 28, 2014

This summer, join a fun group of youth and young adults for a week of serving and learning, playing and laughing, worshipping and singing, as together we work with and learn from the hungry and homeless living in our nation's capital. It will be a week you'll never forget!

For more information and a registration brochure, scroll down to the end of our youth page web site under "Pilgrimage." <http://fccsimsbury.org/youth-and-young-adult/pf-youth-group-grade-9-12/>



Kids Investigating Divine Stories at First Church

Visit www.firstchurchsimsbury.com to see the church school schedule, videos, and information about what the kids are doing at First Church.



How the Bible Came to Be Workshop

Palmer Hall, May 11, 10:15

Grades K-7

Activities:



Bible books scooter race

Dead Sea Scrolls Jars: clay station

Scroll Writing: reed pens, ink, and wax seal: scribe station

How the Bible Came to Be Archeological Dig for Facts

Bible Scripture Ink Block Printing

Note: wear old clothes—the ink and clay may be difficult to remove from clothing.

Summer Church School Program Parables and Miracles of Jesus:

Students age 4 & up begin in church and are dismissed to the 2nd floor kid's library after the children's message.

June 1: *The Parables*—The Talents, The Rich Man and Lazarus, and The Two Sons

June 8: *Build upon a Rock* - Beatitudes

June 15: *Prodigal Son*

June 22: *Kingdom of Heaven* - The Sower and the Seed, the Wheat and the Tares, and the Parable of the Ten Virgins

June 29: *The Lost is Found* —The Lost Coin and the Lost Sheep

July 6: *Signs of the Times*— Parables of the King's Wedding Feast and the Thief in the Night

July 13: *Good Samaritan*

July 20 *Animated Bible Classics: The Miracles of Jesus*

July 27 *The Miracles of Jesus, Greatest Heroes and Legends of the Bible*

Up coming events for your Calendar

May 11: Bible Games in Palmer Hall

May 18: **Confirmation:** students attend church

May 26: **Memorial weekend** (no church school)

June 1: **Summer Sunday school programs begins**

June 23-26: **Vacation Bible School**

UCC Summer Camp:

Silver Lake Conference Center:

Silver Lake is a UCC overnight camp for kids in the fourth through twelve grade.

•**Registration is open now: go to www.silverlake.org. Click on "Silver Lake Registration."**

•Additional information is on the 3rd floor bulletin board.

May/June

Church School Mission Project: Global Ghana Youth Network School



The students' offering will be sent to GGYN for school supplies.

In Ghana, families must pay for their students' education. The GGYN is a free school for 150-200 students. The school holds classes under a mango tree. They learn on wooden benches and tables with donated supplies. The kids at First Church and Simsbury United Methodist church will be donating money for school supplies. We hope to have the founder here to visit the kids at VBS this summer.



Vacation Bible School: Workshop of Wonders

First Church of Christ, in partnership with the Simsbury United Methodist Church, holds a vacation Bible school program each summer on the first week after school gets out.



- This is a day camp which runs from 9am to noon at Simsbury United Methodist Church.
- Camp is available for kids age 4 (by May 1st) to kids in the 5th grade. Teen volunteers are welcome!
- Students rotate throughout the morning to different workshops: science and crafts, Bible story, movie, and games.
- For information about this year's theme see :<http://www.firstchurchsimsbury.com/vacation-bible-school-2014.html>

VBS dates: Monday, June 23 - Thursday, June 26

Registration forms are available in the 3rd floor lobby on Sunday mornings

- For every 5 kids who sign up from First Church of Christ, we must have one adult volunteer.
- Sign up– registrations are accepted and numbered, you will receive a confirmation email when we have enough adult volunteers to accept your child.
- Note: volunteers' children are immediately accepted and discounted the fee for 1 child/family.

Fee: early bird special - \$40 (make checks payable to "SUMC") After June 1, the fee increases to \$50.

VBS snack supplies

We are looking for donations of the following supplies for snacks: 8 boxes of Rice Krispy type cereal, 4 jumbo containers of Gold Fish, 4 boxes of honey graham crackers, 400 snack size paper plates, and 600 plastic drinking cups. Drop supplies off at the children's ministry office.

The Memorial Garden

On our church campus outside of the church parlor we have a lovely **Memorial Garden**. It is a special place designed for the peaceful and respectful interment of the cremated remains of our loved ones. Many of our church members and friends may not be aware of it. It was created in the mid-1990s and currently has over 40 cremains buried there. All of their names are inscribed on brass plaques mounted on larger plaques secured to two rocks near the entrance to the garden. There is a quiet sitting area with a wall, brickwork and benches. Surrounding this are trees, bushes, flowers and a flowing fountain. There is a walkway down to the lower parking lot.

Present and former members of First Church and their families **and friends** of First Church **may use it** for the interment of ashes of their loved ones. Ashes are buried directly in the ground in a biodegradable container. Any further enhancements, such as plantings, may be used only with the discretion of the Memorial Garden Committee. Use of our garden is solely by agreement between the deceased's family and First Church. The plaque with the name and dates of the deceased will be made after the information is given in writing to the Memorial Garden Committee.

A Book of Remembrance is kept in the church parlor. There is a page for a photograph and newspaper article or obituary of the deceased. These items are furnished by the family. Another copy is kept in another secure part of the church.

The fee for using the garden for members of First Church and their families **is \$500** to be paid at the time of interment plus the cost of obtaining the brass plaque with the name and dates of the deceased. **The fee for friends of First Church who are not members is \$700** plus the cost of the plaque. The cost of this keeps changing.

Gifts for the Memorial Garden are welcome at any time and they will be used to help maintain the garden now and in the future. **All Gifts and Fees should be made payable to First Church of Christ and designated on the check for the Memorial Garden Fund**. There is now an **Endowment Fund** established for the maintenance of the garden and the suggested amount to be given for this restricted fund is \$1000.

The **Memorial Garden Committee now consists of eight members** with the Senior Minister as an ex-officio member. The committee **works closely with the Board of Trustees** when considering alterations to the garden and the committee now has a line-item in the Trustees budget. The Garden Committee supervises all maintenance, enhancement and use of the garden. It is maintained by a professional landscape company.

The garden is here for our members and friends to use in a time when grief and sadness make decisions difficult. The time to consider using it is before it is needed. Brochures are available in the church office that contain all the information that you may need to consider this alternative for the loss of a loved one.

The Memorial Garden Committee:

Donna Hopkins, J. John, Betty Keirstead, Anita McCoy, Shirley Meyer, Wally Musick, Peg Psarakis, Diana Woodberry



Come Volunteer at the Community Farm

Thanks to many First Church volunteers fresh organic vegetables are provided to the family clients of Gifts of Love. Our volunteers plant, weed and harvest vegetables from April to October.

It's a fun healthy outdoor activity

No prior gardening experience needed

Flexible hours can accommodate your schedule

Interested?

Contact Dave Wadhams at wadhams.nd@comcast.net
or 860-321-7160 for more information or to get on our Farm mailing list.

April Executive Council Meeting Highlights

Dane Woodberry informed the meeting that a pre bid contractor meeting for the Historic Grant roofing project will be held by month end and will be chaired by Dale Cutler, the project Architect. Going forward Dane informed the meeting that, working with Trustees, there must be a determination made for the next projects to be considered for future Historic Grants. The next Historic Grant funding project must be determined in October 2014 for submission to the State in January 2015. Depending on the financial situation of the Church, the grant request may be cancelled. It was moved; seconded; and carried that the Executive Council authorizes expenditure, funded from our Endowment funds and not to exceed \$5,000, to contract with Dale Cutler to research the costs of the several possible projects with the final project decision to be made by the Board of Trustees.

Reverend Weikel highlighted to the meeting from his monthly report that the PF Youth Group 30-Hour Fast raised \$5,612 for OGHS and from what he witnessed, our group of 49 participants definitely grew in empathy and spirit. With reference to the book "The Gift of Sexuality" authored by Reverend Stephen Clapp, he prepared a five week series on sexuality for the PF Youth Group. Kevin noted that he had received thanks from parents for covering the topic. Two sessions have been held to date.

Reverend Arakawa highlighted from her report that March had been a challenging month. She plans to conduct Transition Focus Groups with the congregation on April 8th and 9th. Additionally Dianne will present her findings of her recent survey feedback to the May meeting of the Executive Council. With the announced non-renewal of part-time Associate Minister Erica Nierendorf's contract, Dianne indicated that Melinda Westbrook, Jim Trimble, Kevin Weikel and she will intentionally determine how we will offer ministerial services, with attention to parish life and pastoral care. Holy Week and Easter promise to be a special liturgical time at First Church and plans are in place for the several celebrations and services.

It was agreed that future congregational meetings will not offer childcare so that the teachers may attend the meeting.

It was agreed that the Easter and Christmas offerings will be directed to the Church operating budget. Special appeals, such as the UCC Christmas Fund, will be scheduled in the future as announced special appeals.

Dane Woodberry commented that the Board of Stewardship is still in need of new members. He asked that the Board and Committee chairpersons communicate quickly to him names recommended to serve the 2014/2015 term. In spite of publicity and personal recruitment contact, it was noted that the proposed development of a Heritage Committee to replace the Historian position is experiencing recruitment difficulty and perhaps a restructuring of this function will have to be considered.

Bill Ketchabaw

Clerk of the Congregation

April 15, 2014



FELLOWSHIP HOUR SCHEDULE

May 2014

5/4/14	Families (Lori Grabinski, Dave McElligot)
5/11/14	Mother's Day (No Fellowship Hour)
5/18/14	Bd of Trustees & Betty Forristall Confirmation Sunday
5/25/14	Mary & John Society (Patty Howland) Geranium Sunday

2014 Report from the First Church Panel of Delegates

Walk Against Hunger

Sunday, May 4th



Hartford

*features a 2.5 mile walk through
Bushnell Park and Hartford's West End*

Please plan to join our First Church team
as we "Walk Against Hunger."

For more information or to register,
visit www.foodshare.org.

Our team name is "Hunger Busters- First Church Simsbury" and we invite both young and old to join us in the walk. The money that we raise will go to support Hands on Hartford, an agency that our church has been associated with for many years. Hands on Hartford runs a Soup Kitchen, Food Pantry and a Weekend Meal plan for Seniors, benefitting many people in the Hartford area. We will gather at the church shortly after 12 Noon on Sunday May 4th and carpool to the start/finish of the walk adjacent to The Hartford's main corporate campus in downtown. There is plenty of free parking on the campus and the event has many volunteers posted along the walk route.

You can also email Bob Braunlich (Mission Board member)
at robert.w.braunlich@espn.com for more information.

Ask your friends to walk with you and get friends, family and others to sponsor you with donations. If you can't be with us you can walk in spirit by making a donation. Join the "Hunger Busters- First Church Simsbury" for this important mission project!

On behalf of First Church, delegate Susan Babcock White, along with transitional minister Dianne Arakawa, attended the Connecticut Conference Annual Meeting in October 2013, which was held at Asylum Hill Congregational Church. At the meeting, the Conference passed three resolutions: 1) reaffirming the inclusion of all persons within the United Church of Christ; 2) supporting preschool education for all Connecticut youth; and 3) opposing genetically modified foods.

This year's guest speaker at the Conference's annual meeting was Michael Piazza, co-executive director of the Center for Progressive Renewal in Atlanta, Georgia and President of Hope for Peace and Justice. Rev. Piazza spoke to the clergy, delegates and guests in attendance about the importance of the church "being bold". Mainline churches are in a time of great change and, as Rev. Piazza reminded us, times of transition demand that we be open to change and to taking risks, to reach and engage existing and prospective members, and to continue to fulfill the mission that is our calling.

At the Conference annual meeting, First Church Simsbury was recognized specifically for its contribution to Our Church's Wider Mission as well as for its recent adoption of Open and Affirming status.

First Church is entitled to four delegates to the Connecticut Conference. Marguerite Boslaugh will be joining Susan as a delegate in the coming church year. Two delegate positions remain to be filled, and we welcome any church member who wishes to join us in the important work of serving as delegates to our state's conference.

In closing, we encourage all First Church members and friends to be in attendance at First Church on Mother's Day—Sunday, May 11—to hear our Connecticut Conference Minister, the Rev. Kent Siladi, who will be worshipping with us and delivering the morning message.

Thank you for allowing us the pleasure of serving First Church in this important representation of Simsbury within the Connecticut Conference.

Susan Babcock White

Susan Babcock White on behalf of the Panel of Delegates



Our Precious Artifacts in Use Today

First Church has many artifacts that remind us of our rich history. Some of them are in use in worship services or special events on a regular basis. Some are part of our church building and remind us of times gone by. Here are some of the artifacts along with their origins and dates of acquisition.

Bread Plates(10) and trays(12) for grape juice used for communion – Given in memory of various family members in the 1940s and 50s.

Chalices used for communion – With hearts at the base of the handles, 2 at church, 4 more at Simsbury Historical Society; from the 1800s, exact time unknown.

Candle holder used on the communion table – Burned wood from the Fire of 1965; was part of the rafters in the sanctuary. Many burned pieces of rafters were sold as fundraisers to be able to rebuild the church. This one is not as badly burned as some were.

Baptismal bowl used for baptisms - It was originally given in 1906 to the Rev. O. H. Bronson, minister here at that time. It was given to him by the daughter of Harriet Beecher Stowe, Harriet, in memory of her mother. Years later in 1953 the widow Bronson sent it to the Rev. Ken Palmer, minister here at that time. It has been in use for baptisms ever since.

Communion table – given in 1967 in memory of Douglas Morrison. It was refinished in 2003 as a gift from Nancy Roby in memory of her husband, Allan.

Cross on the wall behind the table – given in 1967 in memory of Douglas Morrison. It too was refinished in 2003 in memory of Allan Roby.

Pulpit Bible – given in 1967 by the Farmington Valley Jewish Congregation for the rededication of the church following its reconstruction after the Fire of 1965. First Church had allowed the Congregation to use the church to worship in while they built their own synagogue on Bushy Hill Road.

Tithing Box – dates from the 1840s. It was given in 1995 by Mr. and Mrs. Carragus. This wooden box has no locks and was used by Deacon Wilcox to carry the communion silver to the church on communion Sunday. The donor was the great grandson of Deacon Wilcox. This box is used on pledge Sunday to collect the pledge cards.

Brass plaque in the narthex over the center door going into the sanctuary – brass mounted on wood. It dates from 1896 and was originally mounted on the organ in the organ loft. It says the refurbishment of the organ was given in 1896 in memory of Antoinette Wood Eno, who died at age twelve. Her aunt, Antoinette Eno Wood, a prominent and generous member of the church gave the gift. The plaque was found after the Fire and in 1996 was cleaned and mounted on the wood by John Robinson.

Gas lamps on the wall in the narthex – These lamps were one of many that were mounted on the walls in the sanctuary since the late 1880s. We have photographs of them from the time of the 200th anniversary in 1897. They were electrified and remained there until many of them were destroyed in the 1965 Fire. These lamps were located and restored and given to the church in 2009. They remind us of the elegance of the Victorian era.

Donna Hopkins,

Church Historian



HISTORICALLY
SPEAKING



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Ever heard an announcement
regarding a member and wished
you could put a face with a name?

Are you a new member
and wish you had something
to help you put names with faces?

Help
is
On
the Way...



We are producing a Pictorial Album!

~ May 6, 7, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 ~

There is no cost to have your portraits taken, and you will receive a **complimentary 8x10 portrait and directory** for participating. At your session you will be able to view your images electronically and have the opportunity to purchase additional portraits to share with family & friends. For details and/or to sign up call or stop by the church office.

We look forward to seeing you!

First Church of Christ
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May 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 8:00 AM Bell Choir, Sanctuary 9:30 AM Bible Study Book Club 6:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal, Room 29 6:30 PM Troop 76 Boy Scouts Mtg., Palmer Hall/Kitchen 6:30 PM Troop 76 Leadership Mtg., Parsons' Study 7:00 PM AA-Alcoholics Anonymous Mtg, Rm 28 7:30 PM Chancel Choir/Music Room 7:30 PM Troop 76 Adult Committee Mtg., Parsons' Study	2 8:00 AM Bell Choir, Sanctuary 9:00 AM Sunday Bulletin Proofreaders 3:00 PM Memorial Service for Dawn Little, Chapel 4:00 PM Board of Mission Film, Palmer Hall & Kitchen	3 Bell Choir, Sanctuary
4 Walk Against Hunger 8:00 AM Bell Choir, Sanctuary 8:30 AM Adult Study Group, classroom 29 8:30 AM Early Worship, Chapel 8:30 AM New Members Class, Parson's Study 10:00 AM Worship Service, Sanctuary 5:00 PM Confirmation Pot Luck Dinner, Palmer Hall/Kitchen 5:00 PM Endowment Development 7:00 PM PF Youth Group, Youth Room	5 10:00 AM CCC 12:00 PM Hopmeadow Nursery School Dance Class, Rm 29 1:00 PM American Red Cross Blood Drive 4:15 PM Junior Choir, Music Room 4:30 PM Book Club, Parlor 7:30 PM Executive Council Mtg., Parsons' Study	6 11:00 AM Hopmeadow Nursery School Dance Class, Rm 29 2:00 PM Picture Taking for Church Directory (Rm 28 & Rm 29) 6:30 PM Zumba Palmer Hall	7 9:00 AM Music Together of W. Hartford, Room 29 9:30 AM Hay Stack, Rm 28 10:00 AM Focus Group on the Transition, Parson's Study 2:00 PM Picture Taking for Church Directory (Rm 28 & Rm 29) 4:00 PM Women's Praise Choir, Music Room 6:30 PM KP meeting (cancelled until further notice) 7:00 PM Farmington Valley Chorus, Palmer Hall	8 4:30 PM Confirmation Sunday Planning Meeting, Youth Room 6:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal, Room 29 6:30 PM Troop 76 Boy Scouts Mtg., Palmer Hall/Kitchen 7:00 PM AA-Alcoholics Anonymous Mtg, Rm 28 7:30 PM Chancel Choir/Music Room	9 9:00 AM Sunday Bulletin Proofreaders 10:00 AM Farmington Valley Transition Academy, Palmer Hall/Kitchen 2:10 PM JF - Youth Room/ Palmer Hall	10
11 8:30 AM Adult Study Group, Parson's Study 8:30 AM Early Worship, Chapel 9:00 AM Tentative Baptism date, parlor 10:00 AM Worship Service, Sanctuary 11:15 AM Care Bag Committee - Assembly 7:00 PM PF Youth Group, Youth Room	12 10:00 AM CCC 12:00 PM Hopmeadow Nursery School Dance Class, Rm 29 1:15 PM Foodshare Truck 4:15 PM Junior Choir, Music Room 7:30 PM All Boards Meeting - All Rooms	13 11:00 AM Hopmeadow Nursery School Dance Class, Rm 29 12:00 PM Retired Men's Luncheon 2:00 PM Picture Taking for Church Directory (Rm 28 & Rm 29) 6:30 PM Zumba Palmer Hall 7:00 PM Deacon's Committee Mtg., Library 7:00 PM Youth Advisor Meeting, Kevin's Office	14 9:00 AM Music Together of W. Hartford, Room 29 2:00 PM Picture Taking for Church Directory (Rm 28 & Rm 29) 4:00 PM Women's Praise Choir, Music Room 7:00 PM Farmington Valley Chorus, Palmer Hall	15 9:30 AM Bible Study Book Club 2:00 PM Picture Taking for Church Directory (Rm 28 & Rm 29) 6:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal, Room 29 6:30 PM Troop 76 Boy Scouts Mtg., Palmer Hall/Kitchen 7:00 PM AA-Alcoholics Anonymous Mtg, Rm 28 7:30 PM Chancel Choir/Music Room	16 9:00 AM Sunday Bulletin Proofreaders 2:00 PM Picture Taking for Church Directory (Rm 28 & Rm 29) 4:00 PM Coffee House Concert	17 9:00 AM Confirmation Rehearsal, Sanctuary 10:00 AM Picture Taking for Church Directory (Rm 28 & Rm 29)
18 8:30 AM Adult Study Group, Parson's Study 8:30 AM Early Worship, Chapel 9:30 AM Confirmands Report to Youth Room 10:00 AM Confirmation Sunday/UnCommon Worship, Sanctuary 7:00 PM PF Youth Group, Youth Room	19 10:00 AM CCC 12:00 PM Hopmeadow Nursery School Dance Class, Rm 29 1:00 PM American Red Cross Blood Drive 6:30 PM Trojans, Parsons' Study	20 9:30 AM Prayer Shawl Morning Gathering, Rm 28 11:00 AM Hopmeadow Nursery School Dance Class, Rm 29 6:30 PM Zumba Palmer Hall 7:00 PM Prayer Shawl Evening Gathering, Rm 28	21 9:00 AM Music Together of W. Hartford, Room 29 10:00 AM Cornerstone Collating, Parsons' Study 4:00 PM Women's Praise Choir, Music Room 6:30 PM KP meeting (cancelled until further notice) 7:00 PM Farmington Valley Chorus, Palmer Hall	22 6:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal, Room 29 6:30 PM Troop 76 Boy Scouts Mtg., Palmer Hall/Kitchen 7:00 PM AA-Alcoholics Anonymous Mtg, Rm 28 7:30 PM Chancel Choir/Music Room	23 9:00 AM Sunday Bulletin Proofreaders 2:10 PM JF - Youth Room/ Palmer Hall	24 Wedding -McCusker/Hill
25 8:30 AM Adult Study Group, Parson's Study 9:30 AM Mary & John Society/Memorial Day-Geranium Sunday 11:30 AM Lunch Bunch Gathering 7:00 PM PF Youth Group, Youth Room	26 MEMORIAL DAY - OFFICE CLOSED 10:00 AM CCC 1:15 PM Foodshare Truck	27 10:00 AM Card Making Group, Rm 28 6:00 PM Cub Scout Pack 276 Meetings, Palmer Hall/Kitchen 6:00 PM Masooli FMHCC Board Meeting, Parsons' Study 6:30 PM Zumba Palmer Hall	28 9:00 AM Music Together of W. Hartford, Room 29 10:00 AM Memorial Garden Committee Meeting, Library 12:00 PM 4th Wednesday Study Grp., Rm 28 4:00 PM Women's Praise Choir, Music Room 7:00 PM Farmington Valley Chorus, Palmer Hall	29 9:30 AM Bible Study Book Club 6:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal, Room 29 6:30 PM Troop 76 Boy Scouts Mtg., Palmer Hall/Kitchen 7:00 PM AA-Alcoholics Anonymous Mtg, Rm 28 7:30 PM Chancel Choir/Music Room	30 9:00 AM Sunday Bulletin Proofreaders 10:00 AM Set up for FVTA dinner 6:00 PM Farmington Valley Transitional Academy Family Dinner	31 1:00 PM Troop 76 Eagle Court of Honor Ceremony, Sanctuary & Palmer Hall