

# The Cornerstone

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

## NOVEMBER 2014 WORSHIP SCHEDULE

*Join Us!*

Worship Service: 8:30 am in the Chapel, 10 am in the Sanctuary

### November 2

All Saint's Sunday  
Uncommon Worship  
Matthew 23:1-12  
*Smoke and Mirrors*  
Rev. Kevin Weikel preaching  
Including Holy Communion

### November 9

Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost  
Matthew 25:1-13  
*Prepare for Delays*  
Rev. Dianne Arakawa  
*including the Baptism of Riley Elizabeth Joncas,*  
daughter of Timothy & Colleen Joncas

### November 16

Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost  
Matthew 25:14-30  
*Playing It Safe*  
Rev. Dianne Arakawa  
*followed by a Farewell Reception for Bill & Pat Ketchabaw*

### November 23

Reign of Christ/Thanksgiving Sunday  
Matthew 25:31-46  
*Saving Souls*  
Revs. Dianne Arakawa and Kevin Weikel  
*including the Receiving of New Members*  
**7 pm Simsbury Interfaith Thanksgiving Service**  
Simsbury United Methodist Church  
799 Hopmeadow Street, Simsbury

### November 30

First Sunday of the Season of Advent  
Isaiah 64:1-9  
Mark 13:24-37  
*Advent Thresholds*  
Rev. Todd Williams, Guest preacher



### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Worship Schedule	1
Message from Rev. Arakawa	2
Message from Rev. Weikel	3
Message from Mark Mercier	4
Children's Ministry	5
Junior Fellowship &	6
Pilgrim Fellowship	7
Supper Club	8
Nursery School Update	8
Church Holiday Events	8
Church Endowment Fund	9
Lecture Opportunity	9
Food Drive	9
Executive Council Meeting	10
Message from the President	11
Feeding Children Everywhere	11
Simsbury Celebrates	12
Fellowship Hour	12

Daylight Savings Time Ends  
Sunday, November 2nd

Don't Forget to Vote!  
Tuesday, November 4th



**Rev. Dianne  
Arakawa  
Transitional Senior  
Minister**

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fccsimsbury.org

Out of Office  
Fridays

## **A Message from Rev. Dianne Arakawa, Transitional Senior Minister**

Dear Friends,

Recently I was reminded by one theologian that churches like ours need to reclaim a richer appreciation of the saints, who preceded us and are among us in the Church. Not the saints nominated by bishops and approved to be official saints by the Pope, with all due respect. But the saints, who are “triumphant or militant” (in heaven or on earth) as our tradition understands them, gave their lives and witness to Christ and Church – and continue to do so today.

November, it seems, is all about saints. Our worship, after all, opens with *All Saints Day*, a day that comes to us with a grand history of celebration of “the great cloud of witnesses,” who preceded us in the Church Universal (ecumenical and global) and in our own local church. We sing out our hearts “For All the Saints” and the popular, “I Sing a Song of the Saints of God,” remembering our religious heroes and heroines, and even some of our greats, grands, parents, spouses, pastors, teachers, neighbors and friends.

In the popular world, of course, we see the holy day preceded by Halloween (All Hollow’s Eve). On that night departed souls are supposed to wander the earth before returning at sunrise to from wherever they came. As a result Halloween has always been both festive and a little bit scary. As a kid I remember how I sometimes had to hand out candies from our doorstep to fun-loving trick-or-treaters. Mind you, though I never told anyone, some of the masks and costumes gave me the creeps!

At the end of November, we celebrate *Thanksgiving* that American High Holy Day, set aside by presidents for citizens to give thanks for their blessings from famine, pestilence, war and more. Coincidentally, I recall the writing of one beloved church historian, who told the Thanksgiving story as one about “Saints and Strangers;” the little band of Pilgrims, one family of our religious forbears, who after a devastating winter sat down together with Native Americans (“Strangers”) to feast and give thanks.

The celebrating of the First Thanksgiving between “saints and strangers,” was no small thing. It was a great feast day for both, who were unfamiliar with each other’s particular ways of seeing and being in the world, and not yet trusting of one another. Still it was, I believe, a manifestation in the New World of Jesus’ religious mandate to always welcome strangers and not just our own.

This November let us celebrate the saints and strangers, who came before us and those who are with us, and who grace and give meaning to our lives. Let us conjure vivid pictures of the saints of the past, of our past; be they President Abraham Lincoln, Eleanor Roosevelt, Gandhi, Rosa Parks, President Nelson Mandela, Bishop Desmond Tutu, Sister Simone Campbell and the Nuns on the Bus, Peggy Stevens of Kids4Peace, and others. Let us give grateful and joyful thanks for God’s rich and over-flowing bounty in our lives.

Thanksgiving blessings to all,

*Dianne*

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

### **Taking Time to be Thankful**

*Give thanks to the Lord because he is good. God's faithful love lasts forever!*

~Psalm 136:1

Thanksgiving may be my favorite holiday. I like the idea of a day set aside to reflect upon all that I am to be grateful for. On Thanksgiving, I remember so much that I take for granted, and while I am aware that Thanksgiving is not a religious holiday, it is good for my soul.

I do have one problem with Thanksgiving, however, and that is that it ends so quickly. You know where I'm going with this...it was only a few years ago when stores opened for "Black Friday Doorbusters" early on the Friday after Thanksgiving... 7:00 am and then 6:00 am and then 5:00 am. Next, stores began to open at midnight. Now, stores open as early as 6pm on Thanksgiving Day! Not only does this cut right into the heart of Thanksgiving Dinner, but last year I witnessed folks camped out in front of Best Buy throughout Thanksgiving Day!

For me, the irony is almost too thick. As we spend the day giving thanks for all we have, we are at the same time being told by retailers that we don't have enough. They tell us we will find happiness if we get up from the Thanksgiving table to get in line for more. Before we put too much blame on the retailers, however, maybe we also need to look in the mirror. After all, the retailers are only responding to us. Stores are opening earlier because we are willing and eager to shop earlier!

Little can be gained by ruminating about how all of this came to be or by fighting the system. Something can be gained, however, by recognizing the emptiness of it all and then refusing to let it take over our Thanksgivings. I am not suggesting we boycott shopping altogether; I am simply saying that we will benefit greatly if we take the time to give thanks before we cut this holiday short.

This Thanksgiving, may we take the time to give God thanks for the blessings in our lives. May we be specific when we tell those we love and care for why it is we are so grateful for them. Then, and only then, may we excuse ourselves from the Thanksgiving table to go purchase that cheap TV. And, if we happen to miss out on the best deal, at least our hearts and souls, and those we love, will be better off.

Rev. Kevin



**Rev. Kevin Weikel  
Associate Minister  
for Youth and  
Young Adults**

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Out of Office  
Wednesdays

# Mark Mercier, Music Ministries



**Mark Mercier,  
Director  
of Music  
Ministries**

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Out of Office  
Tuesdays

The cooler weather is finally upon us – the vegetable plants are pulled from the garden, the first frost has hit some of the outlying places, and we are all starting to “nest” – where we button things up, stock up on wood for the fireplace and get our abodes ready for the onslaught of winter weather. There’s a particular feeling we have when we drive past a birdless field of dried cornstalks and empty trees with a gray sky overhead. We have to get ready for... something.

Well, in the music portion of First Church, we’re getting ready for a lot. The November and December worship services are upon us. We like to celebrate Thanksgiving with song (can you imagine Thanksgiving without singing about “Harvest Home?”), and the Christmas season is definitely one of the musically richest times of the year. So we are, and have been, trying to stay ahead of the curve, choosing and rehearsing music, planning services, and thinking about all that is coming. Thanksgiving. Advent. Christmas. There’s a lot to be mindful of, and we’d like to be able for our hearts to feel the meaning of every moment that we can.

Here are several events that you might be mindful of, to help everyone along:

The Simsbury Town-Wide Interfaith Thanksgiving Service will take place on November 23 at the Simsbury United Methodist Church, at 7:00 PM. All are invited, and we will be offering music by the joint Adult Choirs of as many places of worship in Simsbury who wish to participate. This has proven to be a powerful and moving service, with a huge attendance. Please come.

Women’s Praise again offers representation of First Church at Simsbury Celebrates, on November 29, with a 45 minute concert in our sanctuary at 5:30. Additionally, there will be jazz offered by several talented musicians in the Youth Room, where coffee and hot chocolate will be served. Both places are great spots to sit, spend some time relaxing in the midst of all the widespread and varied events of the day.

On Friday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, at 7:30 PM, and again on Sunday December 7 at 3PM, the Farmington Valley Chorale returns for their annual Holiday Concert in the sanctuary here at First Church. This is an excellent singing organization, and their concerts are always top-notch. This year they present a concert with a format taken from a Lessons and Carols service. The donation is 15.00, and we hope that you will attend to not only hear a wonderful presentation, but also to support an organization that is special to First Church.

On December 14 at 3 PM, the Hockanum Valley Ringers – a wonderful handbell ensemble from the Central Connecticut area, will present a holiday concert in our sanctuary. This will literally ring in the holidays, and all that attend are in for some excellent music. Their concerts include a variety of musical styles, from classical and Broadway to pop and jazz, along with a sprinkling of original contemporary music written especially for handbells and handchimes. There will be some Christmas selections as well, and we know that this will be an excellent opportunity to take a break from the chaos that the season sometimes contains and to reflect on the beauty of Christmas.

Choirs are already rehearsing for Christmas services, and we would, of course, love to have you make music with us. Women’s Praise Choir meets on Wednesdays at 4, Choral Bells Thursdays at 6:00, Chancel Choir on Thursdays at 7:30, and Juniors on Sundays at 11:00 after the 10 AM service. This year, resolve come and be a part – and we guarantee that your season will so much brighter because of it.

Peace,

Mark

# Kids Investigating Divine Stories at First Church

Visit [www.firstchurchsimsbury.com](http://www.firstchurchsimsbury.com) to see the church school schedule, videos, and information about what the kids are doing at First Church.



### Upcoming Events for Your Calendar

- Nov 2:** Uncommon Worship
- Nov 16:** Teacher/Shepherd Breakfast
- Nov 23:** Advent All Church Spaghetti Dinner, Wreath Making & Hanging of the Greens
- Nov 29:** Simsbury Celebrates at First Church
- Nov 30:** Christmas Stocking Mission Project
- Dec 6:** Parent's Night Out/Prepare your heart for Christmas Mr. Grinch

### Church School Mission Project Bicycle Ambulance for the Faith Health Care Clinic in Masooli, Uganda

Church School Offerings will be sent to the clinic to purchase a bicycle ambulance to support the families who visit the Faith Health Care Clinic in Masooli, Uganda. The ambulance is needed to help the families in Masooli get to and from the health center when they are unable to walk.

See [www.firstchurchsimsbury.com](http://www.firstchurchsimsbury.com) for additional information.

Each spoke space = \$25 dollars. We are trying to raise \$600 for the bicycle ambulance. Let's fill the spokes on this bicycle wheel! We have raised \$333.59 to date.



### Uncommon Worship: November 2

#### Students Will Attend Church

- Please wear your "Grow your Heart" T-shirts
- Students will be singing the VBS song #4 Beautiful things.
- Students will have the opportunity to take Communion during the service. See [www.firstchurchsimsbury.com](http://www.firstchurchsimsbury.com) for information about Communion for you and your child.

### Teacher/Shepherd Family Breakfast: November 16

9:30 am in the Parlor

Discussion:

Church School Advent lessons and activities

Menu: bagels, fruit salad, yogurt, hard boiled eggs, turkey sausage pigs in a blanket, Chocolate Raspberry Crescent Ring



### Christmas Stocking Mission Project: November 30

Palmer Hall activity for Grades K-7

Students will be Santa's helpers and fill stockings for children in New Britain.

Donations needed: small toys, travel size games, coloring books, watercolors, unisex tube socks, snacks packages of goldfish, fruit gummies, and pretzels, boxes of single serve hot chocolate packages

The student offering in November will go toward the purchase of Christmas stockings, hats, and gloves.



"Maybe Christmas"  
the Grinch thought,  
"doesn't come from a store."  
"Maybe Christmas,  
...perhaps...  
means a little bit more."  
-Dr. Seuss



### Prepare Your Heart For Christmas: December 6

Parent's Night Out/Babysitting event  
5:00pm-8:30pm in Palmer Hall

#### Wear your P.J's

Games, crafts, dinner, and of course, watching of the movie "How the Grinch Stole Christmas"

#### Additional Information:

Pre-Registration Required: forms available on the 3rd floor church school bulletin board or online at [firstchurchsimsbury.com](http://firstchurchsimsbury.com)—space is limited.

Ages: 3(potty trained) - 6th grade, teen helpers are welcome

Cost: free will offering

Dinner: pizza, fruit, cupcakes, punch

Volunteers: volunteers needed to assist at the event

# Junior Fellowship (JF) (for 7th & 8th graders)

This year, JF will gather once per month from 2:10-4:30 pm during the school year (see the schedule below). At JF, we eat together, play games together, and participate in engaging activities and faith-based discussions together.

**For Henry James students: The church bus will pick you up from school.** It's simple, the bus will be parked and waiting for you in the back lot (the bus parking lot). Just walk out the back doors of HJMS, take a right past the gym and tennis courts, look to your left, and you'll see the church bus parked next to the field.

**For students who attend schools other than Henry James:** You can still join us and please do! Just meet us at the church, even if you will be late. If we happen to be heading somewhere special, we will let you know ahead of time through our email communication. We require a Parental Permission and Health Authorization Packet for each participant. Please download the form at [www.fccsimsbury.org/junior-fellowship-grades-7-8](http://www.fccsimsbury.org/junior-fellowship-grades-7-8), fill it out, and drop it off at the main church office, scan it and email it to [cberens@fccsimsbury.org](mailto:cberens@fccsimsbury.org), or mail it to 689 Hopmeadow St., Simsbury. Once on file, your form is valid for the school year. Upcoming JF meetings are:

Friday, Nov. 21<sup>st</sup>

Sunday, Nov. 23rd (JF hosting All Church Spaghetti Dinner)

For more information or to add your email to our communication list, contact Rev. Kevin at [kweikel@fccsimsbury.org](mailto:kweikel@fccsimsbury.org)

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## Confirmation (8th graders)

The Confirmation Year is a Concentrated Time of Exploring...

... what it means to be Christian. We do this through large and small group gatherings, mission/service work, experiencing and reflecting on worship, going on retreat, participating in the events and activities of Junior Fellowship (JF), and much more. The goal is for our Confirmands to build positive and grace-filled relationships with one another, develop a deeper understanding of God's love for all people, and explore what it means to follow Jesus. Upcoming Confirmation meetings are:

**\*Sunday, November 2, 10am**, Uncommon Worship in the Sanctuary

**Sunday, November 2, 5--7pm**, Large Group Meeting (Jesus) in Palmer Hall for students

**Saturday, November 8, 1pm thru Sunday November 9, 1pm**, Confirmation Retreat

**Sunday, November 16, 5—7 pm**, Small Group Meeting (Holy Spirit) in host homes for students

**\*Sunday, November 23, 4—6:30 pm**, All Church Spaghetti Dinner and Christmas Decorating throughout Church

**Sunday, December 7, 5—7 pm**, Large Group Meeting (Worship) in Palmer Hall for students

*\*Optional Event*

For more information visit the Confirmation website @ [www.fccsimsbury.org/youth-and-young-adult/confirmation-8th-grade](http://www.fccsimsbury.org/youth-and-young-adult/confirmation-8th-grade), and/or contact Rev. Kevin Weikel.



# Pilgrim Fellowship (PF) (for 9th thru 12th graders)



## November/Early December

**Saturday, November 1 from 2:30 to 4:30pm:** Zumba for Africa “Zumbathon” in Palmer Hall!! Zumba for Africa is a fundraiser to benefit The Masooli Project, the medical clinic in Uganda supported by our church. Tickets are \$16 in advance and \$20 at the door (email Melinda at westwoms4@aol.com to reserve your tickets today). You can also help raise additional funds by asking family and friends to sponsor you. Zumba will be led by licensed Zumba Instructors Tanya Penman-Sterling and Elsa Jones of “Off the Wall Zumba.”

**Sunday, November 2 from 7:00 to 9:00pm:** Game Night in the Youth Room! We will forgo the topic tonight and play games! We will close with a short devotion/reflection and our traditional closing prayer.

**Friday, November 14th at 5:30pm thru Sunday, November 16th at 2:00pm:** The PF Youth Group Annual Fall Retreat to Silver Lake! Leave your anxieties and stresses behind and refresh your soul by joining PF Youth Group for a weekend at Silver Lake Conference Center, a beautiful camp in Sharon, CT. We will play games, laugh, share in meaningful conversation, worship, sing, gain new and deepened friendships and a more meaningful relationship with God. Retreat theme: “Get Out of the Boat!”

**Sunday, November 23rd from 4:00-7:00pm:** All Church Advent and Christmas Decorating (4:00-6:00pm) and Spaghetti Dinner (6:00pm).

**Sunday, November 23 from 7:00-9:00pm:** Regular Gathering in the Youth Room. Topic, “Thanksgiving”

**Sunday, November 30:** No PF Youth Group (Thanksgiving Weekend)

**Sunday, December 7 from 7:00-8:00pm:** 2015 Mission Pilgrimage to West Virginia Information Meeting in Palmer Hall.

**Sunday, December 7 from 8:00-9:00pm:** Shortened Regular PF Youth Group Gathering in the Youth Room.

## “Ball & Chain Club” Meeting - aka Supper Club

If you're wondering what the "Ball and Chain" club is, that was the original name given to Supper Club when it started 60 years ago here at First Church. It has evolved from a committee-prepared or pot luck supper on a monthly basis to catered dinner-meetings three times a year. And the name changed, also, to Couples Club and presently to Supper Club. The first president was George Litchfield and our current co-presidents are Fran and Bob Gauthier.



Our next meeting will be our **TRADITIONAL CHRISTMAS ROAST BEEF DINNER** catered by Bob Kane of Kane's Market. It is always a festive occasion and open to anyone in First Church and their guests. Our own Director of Music Ministries, Mark Mercier, along with the Women's Praise Choir, will put us in a festive mood with their holiday music. Come join in the fun, food and fellowship on **Friday, December 12th**. The fun begins at 6PM.

**Reservations** are a must for this popular date. Be sure to call Cynthia Yoczik at 860-658-7460 or Mim Shepard at 860-658-6386 **by December 7th**. The cost of this exciting, fun-filled evening is \$16.00 per person, payable at the door. Come enter into this pre-Christmas celebration.

—Fran Gauthier

## Nursery School Open House

Hopmeadow Nursery School is having an Open House on **Saturday, November 8<sup>th</sup>** from 10 am until 12 pm. If you are considering preschool for your 3, 4, or 5-year-old child for the 2015-2016 school year, please feel free to drop in. Teachers will be available to answer questions about the school's philosophy, curriculum, and discipline policy. Children are welcome to attend.



The daily program is a balanced combination of free play and guided activities. Opportunities exist for self-expression through play, art, language, science activities, and music. We offer extended day options, including Discover Dance and First Steps in Music. Field trips and special visitors are part of the broadening program for four-year-olds. Children are exposed to numbers, letters, shapes, and colors through toys, games, and finger plays, yet we give each child the freedom to absorb information at his or her own rate. Most importantly, we strive to develop the executive function skills necessary for a successful kindergarten experience.

Hopmeadow Nursery School is located in the third floor classroom wing of First Church.

—Betsy Hoople

## Church Holiday Events

If you are able to volunteer for any of the below listed events, please email your availability to: [FIRSTCHURCHHOLIDAYHAPPENINGS@GMAIL.COM](mailto:FIRSTCHURCHHOLIDAYHAPPENINGS@GMAIL.COM)

### MAKING OF THE GREENS

Saturday, November 22nd from 9 am –12 pm, Palmer Hall

Volunteers are needed to donate greens or assist in making our outdoor decorations.

### ALL-CHURCH SPAGHETTI SUPPER & HANGING OF THE GREENS

Sunday, November 23<sup>rd</sup> from 4-7 pm, Palmer Hall and throughout church. Help decorate the Church for the holiday season, make an Advent wreath for your family, and sponsor a luminary for our sidewalks and outdoor garden. Contact Kris Barnett, Kathy Wildman or Suzy Sabia.

### PREPARING FOR CHRISTMAS EVE LIFE-SIZE PUPPET PAGEANT

Over the past month volunteers, including Jo Ann Hogan and Kathy Wildman, have been updating our life-size puppets that are used in our 4:30 Christmas Eve service. If able to help with the final touches, please speak to them. Their emails are:

[Joannc.Hogan@comcast.net](mailto:Joannc.Hogan@comcast.net) and [wildmanfamily4@gmail.com](mailto:wildmanfamily4@gmail.com). For the service itself Nancy Dennen is serving as Coordinator, has already met with our program staff and is editing our script. If interested and able to help her and her team prepare, please email her at [nancydennen@gmail.com](mailto:nancydennen@gmail.com).





# Church Endowment Fund - A Top Priority for Jim Bagnall

First Church has been home to the Bagnall family since 1957. Previously, Jim's wife Charlotte had been active in the Greenfield, Iowa Presbyterian church, but for Jim this was his first real church affiliation. It is here that his faith really developed and matured. Charlotte became our church organist. His children and grandchildren have all been baptized here, and his daughter Lauren was married at First Church. After the loss of Charlotte to cancer, his second marriage to Rita took place here, and he continues to be active in the life of the church. In Jim's eyes, First Church is of symbolic importance to the Town of Simsbury, as evidenced by the outpouring of support when the church burned in 1965.

Some years ago when he was in his forties, Jim decided to include First Church in his will. He feels instinctively that one should support one's church, and that First Church, Simsbury, is actively able to carry out its mission because of monies given to the Endowment Fund in the past. Through his bequest, Jim hopes to help perpetuate the work of First Church far into the future.



The First Church Endowment is important to the financial health of the church in many ways. Each year four percent of the Endowment Fund supports the day-to-day operation of our Church. It not only helps our church carry out its mission, but it also provides a financial backup in emergencies. There is no time like the present to consider a commitment to the future of First Church, so that it can continue to meet the needs of its own members in Simsbury, Hartford, our country and larger world community.

You need not be a long-time church member like Jim Bagnall to participate in the endowment program. You need only have a love for your church and a desire to help provide the resources needed to continue its work for years to come. There are many ways to do this: by donations of cash, stock, or real property; by making First Church a beneficiary of a will, insurance policy or retirement plan; or through a Charitable Gift Annuity or Charitable Remainder Trust, which also provide you with an income throughout your lifetime. For more information, please contact the Endowment Development Committee.

—Bob Lyle, Len Clough, Ruth Meyer, Bruce Powell

## Lecture Opportunity

Bishop John Shelby Spong, one of the definitive voices for Progressive Christianity, will be lecturing::

**Tuesday, November 4th @ 7pm**

**@ First Church in West Hartford, 12 S. Main Street, West Hartford**

A former bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Newark, a lecturer and author of 24 books, Bishop Spong has spent the last four decades calling for a fundamental rethinking of Christian belief away from traditional doctrines. Revs. Kevin and Dianne will be attending and would like for others to join them. If you would like to join them, contact Eileen in the church office @ [ekaczor@fccsimsbury.org](mailto:ekaczor@fccsimsbury.org) or 860-651-3593. We will meet at 6pm in the church parking lot and ride over together.



## Food Drive

With the colder weather and approaching holidays, the Simsbury Food Bank experiences a high demand for food assistance. You can help them prepare for this by contributing to First Church's Food Drive.

**On November 9<sup>th</sup> and November 16<sup>th</sup>** boxes will be available outside the sanctuary and outside Palmer Hall to collect your non-perishable food items. Demand is highest for:

*Peanut butter & jelly      Canned fruit & vegetables      Cereal      Pasta & sauces*  
*Canned meats & fish not requiring refrigeration      Beans and other protein sources*

We are also aware that some families are finding it hard to keep their pets due to the high cost of maintenance. For this reason, we will also be collecting:

*Dog & cat food – dry and canned not requiring refrigeration*

Please call Carol Pollack at 860-658-7643 with any questions or to help with delivery of the food.



# October Executive Council Meeting Highlights

President Jim Trimble called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm and welcomed Erin Nespo to the Executive Council as the new chair of the Board of Christian Education. Reverend Weikel offered the devotions.

Reverend Arakawa highlighted that last Sunday had been a “great day” in the life of First Church, highlighted by the Ordination of Diann Bailey. She reminded those at the meeting of the annual meeting of the CT Conference UCC on October 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>, noting that Gordon and Nancy Crouch will be recognized with the Living Waters Award for their founding and exceptional work on behalf of the Masooli Clinic in Uganda. The Crouch’s will also be recognized for this achievement at our own worship on October 12, the same day that the Church School will be learning about the Masooli Clinic.

Reverend Weikel highlighted the rewarding experience of recently meeting with a high school sophomore with special needs about her involvement in PF. With assistance from a few members of the PF the student was welcomed into a meeting and subsequently reported to Kevin that she had a fabulous time. Out of everything he was involved in this past month, this was by far the most meaningful and important to him!

Kevin reported that the recently formed Confirmation program has 30 confirmands enrolled. Twenty five members of First Church participated in the People’s Climate March in New York City. He commented that, in his opinion, at some point in the near future First Church should form an environmental committee to discuss ways in which First Church can both become more environmentally friendly and work to implement these ideas. He would also see this group advocating for environmental justice issues.

Jim Trimble noted the success of Rally Day that resulted in 33+ members of the Congregation expressing interest in becoming involved in various Church groups and activities.

Prior to the meeting a draft of a proposed Conflict of Interest policy, developed by Melinda Westbrook, was distributed to the Executive Council members for review and comment at this meeting. The proposed policy will be amended, based on the feedback, for approval at the November meeting.

It was agreed that the gathering of all board members for All Boards Night would occur on a quarterly basis with meetings to occur in September, December, March, and June, on the second Monday of the month.

Treasurer Ron Patterson informed the meeting that Stacey von Richthofen had resigned her position as Financial Assistant. Activity has been initiated by the Board of Personnel to recruit a part-time replacement. No financial report for the month of September was available for presentation.

Following discussion of the proposed Credit Card Policy wording for credit cards issued to Church staff, it was moved; seconded; and carried that the proposed wording be adopted and added to the existing Reimbursement Policy for Business and Professional Expenses.

John Ritson, Chair of the Board of Trustees, reported that he had reached a proposed settlement with Robert Half, the recruiting firm which had recruited a former part-time Administrator involved in contract issues associated with our energy supplier. It was moved; seconded; and carried that John be authorized to accept this settlement minus any expenses associated with outside legal procedures. He further reported that his lawsuit against Zoom energy had received no response to date and that he would be taking further legal action.

John Ritson reported that the installation of the dumpster surround in the lower-level parking is complete and expressed his appreciation to a member of the Boy Scout troop – Cameron Ballard.

It was moved; seconded; and carried that Craig White be ratified for a position on Deacons; that Frank Gould be ratified for a position on the Board of Worship; and that Deb Ackels be ratified for a position on the Board of Mission and Outreach.

Bill Ketchabaw reported that he will be officially resigning as Clerk of the Congregation due to relocation to North Carolina on November 22<sup>nd</sup>. Jim Trimble expressed his appreciation on behalf of First Church for his and Pat’s many years of dedicated service at First Church.

Bill Ketchabaw, Clerk of the Congregation  
October 7, 2014

# President's Corner

As I write this column on October 12 I am overwhelmed by one thought- we did all this since Rally Day! The last six weeks have been filled with examples of what an exciting, vibrant giving community of faith we have. And it's only going to get even better! Since Rally Day over 30 more individuals have volunteered their time and talent to serving our church. I've actually lost count! For example, we have a new voice in the Women's Praise choir, a new member on the Board of Music Ministry, three new members of the card making ministry, two new Deacons, a new member on the Board of Worship, and three more volunteers for the Board of Mission and Outreach. And these are just a few examples which clearly show the vitality of this church, our spirituality, our faith and our Christian outreach.

On September 29th I learned firsthand about what may be one of the best kept secrets of First Church. I attended my first Supper Club meeting, and had a great time. The food was terrific, and the conversation fun. And then we got to hear the speaker, Jack Edwards, the "Voice of the Boston Bruins", who thoroughly entertained us with stories about his sports reporting, but, more to the point, about life and our family choices. If you have never attended a Supper Club meeting, I urge you to consider attending the next one, on Friday, December 12. I plan to be there!

On Sunday October 5, Diann Bailey was ordained into the Christian Ministry at First Church. Many thanks to all of the volunteers who made this important event in Diann's life, and in the life of First Church, so very special. We believe this was the first ordination at First Church in about 20 years!

I also give special thanks to Sarah Ackels, an 11 year old, who organized a Feeding Children Everywhere at First Church. Over 160 volunteers responded to Sarah's call, and together they assembled over 17,000 meals. What an inspiration! Sarah provided yet another example of how our giving multiplies the splendid impact of the gifts God first gives us, as our giving in turn impacts lives of countless others, young and old, bringing the joy and wonders of God into their lives. I hope you keep Sarah's example of sharing, community and faith in mind as you consider your pledge on Stewardship Sunday, October 26.

Faithfully yours,

Jim Trimble

## Feeding Children Everywhere a Huge Success!

### Congratulations Sarah!



Ben and Caroline Breslav with Drene Cunningham - Sunday Schoolers working side by side with a "seasoned" member of our church!

Sarah Ackel's event, on Saturday, October 4th at First Church was amazing!  
160 people packaged more than 17,000 meals in Palmer Hall!

**First Church of Christ**

689 Hopmeadow St  
Simsbury CT 06070  
860-651-3593  
Fax 860-408-9229  
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**STAFF**

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**FELLOWSHIP HOUR SCHEDULE**

**November 2014**

11/2

Deacons—Susan Mueller

11/9

Delegates—Susan Babcock White

11/16

Farewell Reception for Bill & Pat Ketchabaw  
hosted by the Bryants, Crouches and others

11/23

Music—Bruce Powell

11/30

No Fellowship Hour

**SIMSBURY CELEBRATES!**

Saturday, November 29th  
3pm—7:30 pm

Join First Church in this town-wide  
celebration with music and family-  
friendly activities. At First Church...

Luminaries on our sidewalks and  
outdoor garden

Holiday Café in Palmer Hall to benefit  
the Food Pantry

Folk-Music and Hot chocolate  
in Youth Room on 2nd floor

Women’s Praise Choir Concert  
in the Sanctuary  
and more!

*~ Please notify the church office of any address changes. ~*

**First Church of Christ**

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Simsbury, CT 06070  
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www.fccsimsbury.org

October 23, 2014

Dear Members and Friends of First Church,

As members of the Ministerial Search Team, we want to express our gratitude for the trust you have placed in us. These past few weeks, we held several meetings including one with Rev. Tamara Moreland, our Associate Conference Minister who is working closely with us. We also held an all-day retreat for the Search Team organized by Reverend Dianne Arakawa to discuss the process in greater detail and to get to know each other even better than we have in the past. During the meeting we elected co-chairs, a chaplain, a clerk and a corresponding secretary.

The purpose of this letter is to share with you a brief summary of the Search and Call process in the United Church of Christ.

1. We will seek your perspectives on our church and its ministry through a survey (online or written) and a series of small group meetings. As a result of this listening process, we will incorporate your ideas about new ministerial leadership into the Church Profile (Profile) that we are developing. We are in the process of designing the survey and questions for the cottage meetings. The cottage meetings are scheduled in the Parson's Study for Wednesday, November 5 at 7:00 pm and Sunday, November 9, immediately following the 10:00 am worship. So that we can encourage as many people as possible to attend the meeting after the service, babysitting will be provided in the nursery after Church School. You also will hear directly from your small group leaders about the possibility of holding similar discussions in those settings.
2. We expect to have our Profile completed by early 2015 and we will share it with you at that time. Once the Profile is ready, our vacancy will then be listed in "UCC Employment Opportunities."
3. While the work on the Profile requires the input of many in the congregation, the names of candidates will be held in strict confidence within our committee. We ask you to respect the essential confidentiality of this process. We will make every effort to keep you informed about our progress.
4. Persons who have been authorized to complete a UCC Ministerial Profile will submit profiles for our Team through the Conference/Association office. The Ministerial Profile includes information about the candidate's educational background, experience, a detailed faith statement, eight written references, a background check form, and a national criminal background check.
5. We will share our Profile with candidates and we will begin to follow up with persons in whom we have particular interest. The follow up will include telephone/Skype interviews, written and DVD services of worship and reference checks. While pursuing these steps, we also will continue to evaluate new Ministerial Profiles.
6. We will select a small number of candidates for personal interviews, following which we will make arrangements for our Search Team members to worship with them, most often in a neutral church setting arranged by our Conference/Association office.
7. We will invite at least two candidates back for second interviews, following which we will seek God's guidance and prayerfully make a decision on a candidate.
8. If the candidate we recommend chooses to accept, a covenant – contract with compensation arrangements will be clarified, and a date for a "candidating weekend" will be established.
9. You will have an opportunity to meet the candidate (and family) that weekend in informal settings as well as the formal worship service where the candidate will preach. A congregational meeting following the worship service will offer each member an opportunity to ask questions of the Search Committee, and to vote on the Call to our new pastor.

We are grateful during this time for the excellent interim leadership of Rev. Arakawa. We profoundly trust that God will guide both our candidates and the members of our Search Committee. We ask you to pray for us regularly. We are blessed with a wonderful church community; with hard work and God's guidance, we will be blessed with a wonderful pastor to guide us as we minister in the name of Jesus Christ.

Sincerely,

Ministerial Search Team

Mario Chiappetti, Mark Scully – Co-Chairs  
Louise Gould – Clerk  
Karen Palotti – Corresponding Secretary  
Melinda Westbrook – Chaplain  
Rev. Dianne Arakawa, Ex Officio  
Francesca Caponetti  
Len Clough  
Rick Dupree  
Andy Granger  
Barbara Spear  
Jim Trimble, Ex Officio

November 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 UCC Higher Education Sunday 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 and Stewardship Sunday, Sanctuary 11:00 AM Junior Choir, Music Room 11:30 AM Lunch Bunch Gathering 5:30 PM Square Dance, Kitchen & Palmer Hall	27 10:00 AM CCC 12:00 PM Hopmeadow Nursery School Dance, Room 29 1:15 PM Foodshare Truck	28 9:30 AM Valley Saxophone Quartet, Library 10:00 AM Card Making Group, Rm 28 6:00 PM Masooli FMHCC Board Meeting, Parsons' Study 6:30 PM Cub Scout Pack 276 Monthly Meeting, Palmer Hall/kitchen	29 9:30 AM Cottage Meeting, Library 10:00 AM Cornerstone Collating, Parsons' Study 4:00 PM Women's Praise Choir, Music Room 7:00 PM Farmington Valley Chorus, Palmer Hall 7:00 PM Search Team Meeting, Parsons' Study	30 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	31 Reformation/Reconciliation Day	1 All Saints Day 2:30 PM Zumbathon for Masooli Clinic, Palmer Hall & Kitchen
2 8:30 AM Adult Study Group, Parson's Study 8:30 AM Early Worship, Chapel 8:30 AM New Members Class, Parson's Study 10:00 AM Uncommon worship 11:00 AM Junior Choir, Music Room 5:00 PM Confirmation Lrg Group Mtg, Palmer Hall 7:00 PM PF Youth Group (for 9th thru 12th graders), Palmer Hall & Youth Room	3 10:00 AM CCC 12:00 PM Hopmeadow Nursery School Dance, Room 29 1:00 PM American Red Cross Blood Drive 4:15 PM Book Club, Parlor 7:30 PM Executive Council Mtg., Parsons' Study	4 9:30 AM Valley Saxophone Quartet, Library 7:00 PM Cub Scout Pack 276 Leadership Mtg, Parsons' Study	5 4:00 PM Women's Praise Choir, Music Room 7:00 PM Farmington Valley Chorus, Palmer Hall 7:00 PM Search Team/ Cottage Meeting, Parsons' Study	6 9:30 AM Bible Study (small grp), Library 6:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal, Room 29 6:30 PM Troop 76 Boy Scouts Leadership Mtg., Parsons' Study 7:00 PM AA-Alcoholics Anonymous Mtg, Rm 28 7:00 PM PF Youth Advisor Meeting, Kevin's Office 7:30 PM Chancel Choir/ Music Room 7:30 PM Troop 76 Boy Scouts Adult Committee Mtg., Parsons' Study 7:30 PM Troop 76 Boy Scouts Venture Mtg., Youth Room	7	8 Confirmation Retreat (11/8-11/9)
9 Confirmation Retreat (11/8-11/9) Stewardship Sunday 8:30 AM Adult Study Group, Parson's Study 8:30 AM Early Worship, Chapel 9:00 AM Riley Elizabeth Joncas Baptism, parlor 10:00 AM Worship Service & Riley Elizabeth Baptism, Sanctuary 11:00 AM Junior Choir, Music Room 11:00 AM Search Team/Cottage Meeting, Parsons' Study & Library 11:15 AM Care Bag Committee Assembly, Rm 29 7:00 PM PF Youth Group (for 9th thru 12th graders), Palmer Hall & Youth Room	10 10:00 AM CCC 12:00 PM Hopmeadow Nursery School Dance, Room 29 1:15 PM Foodshare Truck 6:00 PM Board of Christian Ed, Youth Room 7:00 PM pre-All Boards Quarterly Meeting, Palmer Hall 7:30 PM All Boards Meeting - All Rooms 7:30 PM Board of Worship (formerly Elders) Mtg., Parsons' Study	11 Veterans' Day 9:00 AM Retired Men's Luncheon Prep & Setup, Kitchen 12:00 PM Retired Men's Luncheon 6:30 PM Cub Scout Pack 276 Den Meeting, Classrooms 26, 27, 28, 29 and Library 7:00 PM Deacon's Committee Mtg., Library	12 4:00 PM Women's Praise Choir, Music Room 7:00 PM Farmington Valley Chorus, Palmer Hall 7:00 PM Search Team Meeting, Parsons' Study	13 9:00 AM Young Mothers Group, Nursery & Youth Room 12:00 PM Hopmeadow Nursery School Dance, Room 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	14 10:00 AM Farmington Valley Transition Academy, Palmer Hall/Kitchen 10:00 AM First Church Friends, Parsons' Study 2:30 PM PF Silver Lake Retreat, Sharon CT	15 PF Silver Lake Retreat
16 Interfaith Thanksgiving Choir Rehearsal (time TBD) 8:30 AM Adult Study Group, Parson's Study 8:30 AM Early Worship, Chapel 9:30 AM Teacher Conference 10:00 AM Worship Service, Sanctuary 11:00 AM Farewell Reception for Bill & Pat Ketchabaw, Palmer Hall 11:00 AM Junior Choir, Music Room 5:00 PM Confirmation Small Group, Host Homes for students 7:00 PM PF Youth Group (for 9th thru 12th graders), Palmer Hall & Youth Room	17 10:00 AM CCC 12:00 PM Hopmeadow Nursery School Dance, Room 29 1:00 PM American Red Cross Blood Drive 6:30 PM Trojans, Parsons' Study 7:30 PM Officers Mtg., Sr. Minister's Office	18 9:30 AM Prayer Shawl Ministry Morning Gathering, Rm 28 7:00 PM Prayer Shawl Ministry Evening Gathering, Rm 28	19 10:00 AM Cornerstone Collating, Parsons' Study 4:00 PM Women's Praise Choir, Music Room 7:00 PM Farmington Valley Chorus, Palmer Hall 7:00 PM Search Team Meeting, Parsons' Study	20 9:30 AM Bible Study (small grp), Library 12:00 PM Hopmeadow Nursery School Dance, Room 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	21 2:10 PM JF Monthly Group Meeting, Palmer Hall & Youth Room 2:15 PM JF Palmer Hall	22 9:00 AM Making of the Greens, Palmer Hall
23 New Member Sunday 8:30 AM Adult Study Group, Parson's Study 8:30 AM Early Worship, Chapel 9:00 AM New Members, Parlor 10:00 AM Interfaith Thanksgiving (SUMC) & Worship Service, Sanctuary 11:00 AM Junior Choir, Music Room 11:30 AM Lunch Bunch Gathering 3:00 PM Advent Program (All Church Spaghetti Dinner & Holiday Decorating), Palmer Hall 7:00 PM Interfaith Thanksgiving Service 7:00 PM PF Youth Group (for 9th thru 12th graders), Youth Room	24 10:00 AM CCC 12:00 PM Hopmeadow Nursery School Dance, Room 29 1:15 PM Foodshare Truck	25 10:00 AM Card Making Group, Room 28 6:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal, Room 29 6:00 PM Masooli FMHCC Board Meeting, Parsons' Study 6:30 PM Cub Scout Pack 276 Monthly Meeting, Palmer Hall/kitchen 6:30 PM Zumba, Classroom 29 7:30 PM Chancel Choir/ Music Room	26 4:00 PM Women's Praise Choir, Music Room 7:00 PM Farmington Valley Chorus, Palmer Hall	27 Church Office Closed (Thanksgiving) 7:00 PM AA-Alcoholics Anonymous Mtg, Rm 28	28 Church Office Closed (day after Thanksgiving)	29 Simsbury Celebrates 5:30 PM Women's Praise Choir Concert for Simsbury Celebrates
30 Advent Begins 8:00 AM Church School, Palmer Hall 8:30 AM Adult Study Group, Parson's Study 8:30 AM Early Worship, Chapel 10:00 AM Worship Service, Sanctuary 11:00 AM Junior Choir, Music Room 6:00 PM Farmington Valley Chorale Concert rehearsal, sanctuary 7:00 PM NO PF Youth Group (Thanksgiving Weekend)	1 10:00 AM CCC 12:00 PM Hopmeadow Nursery School Dance, Room 29 1:00 PM American Red Cross Blood Drive 4:15 PM Book Club, Parlor 7:30 PM Executive Council Mtg., Parsons' Study	2 7:00 PM Cub Scout Pack 276 Leadership Mtg, Parsons' Study 7:30 PM Chancel Choir/ Music Room	3 4:00 PM Women's Praise Choir, Music Room 6:00 PM Farmington Valley Chorale Concert rehearsal, sanctuary 7:00 PM Farmington Valley Chorus, Palmer Hall 7:00 PM Search Team Meeting, Parsons' Study	4 9:30 AM Bible Study (small grp), Library 12:00 PM Hopmeadow Nursery School Dance, Room 29 6:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal, Room 29 6:30 PM Troop 76 Boy Scouts Leadership Mtg., Parsons' Study 7:00 PM AA-Alcoholics Anonymous Mtg, Rm 28 7:30 PM Troop 76 Boy Scouts Adult Committee Mtg., Parsons' Study 7:30 PM Troop 76 Boy Scouts Venture Mtg., Youth Room	5 10:00 AM Farmington Valley Transition Academy, Palmer Hall/Kitchen 6:00 PM Farmington Valley Chorale Concert, Sanctuary, Kitchen and Palmer Hall 7:00 PM Farmington Valley Chorale Concert, Parlor & Chapel	6 3:00 PM Babysitting Event/ Parent's Night Out, Palmer Hall