



# The Cornerstone

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

## OCTOBER 2014 WORSHIP SCHEDULE

*Join Us!*

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

### October 5

World Communion Sunday

Matthew 21:33-46

*“The Fruits of the Realm”*

Rev. Dianne Arakawa preaching both services

*Holy Communion with special breads (even gluten-free)*

### October 12

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Philippians 4:1-13

*Joy*

Rev. Kevin Weikel preaching both services  
*including Recognition of Nancy & Gordon Crouch  
who will receive the CT Conference Living Waters Award*

### October 19

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Bible Sunday

Matthew 22:15-22

*The Image of God*

Rev. Dianne Arakawa preaching both services  
*including the Baptism of Amy Potter Guidice,  
daughter of James and Elizabeth Guidice*

### October 26

Reformation and Stewardship Sunday

Matthew 22:34-46

*Prophets and Profits*

Rev. Dianne Arakawa preaching both services  
*including the presentation of our 2015 pledges*



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**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,

It seems that the astounding beauty of nature this autumn belies the cruelty of our current world. Growing economic disparity in Hartford and the rest of our nation; immigrant Mexican and Latin American children crossing our southern borders in search of their parents and safety; neo-Cold War stand-off in the Ukraine with Russians; and the seeming dissolution of the Arab Spring in the Near East, in which numbers of us cheered and placed our hopes just a few years ago. How do we as Easter People carry ourselves at difficult times like these?

First, I believe the cultivation of a rich interior life of meditation and prayer helps. We know that Jesus journeyed into the desert -- not just a physical place without water, vegetation, and protection from the elements but a spiritual state of solitude, quiet and inner attentiveness -- to wrestle with his demons. There he refreshed his spirit, discerned once again his call by God and returned to Jerusalem, where the problems of his world intensified. Having that ability to go back-and-forth between our own best-selves created in the image of God and what the world demands of us provides balance, power and transcendence.

Second, understanding effective communication between conflicting parties can also aid us. Based on *Matthew 18:15-17, 21-22*, direct communication in the church is fundamental; otherwise, others get in the way, the facts and truth become distorted, and people get hurt. If one-to-one somehow fails, then meeting with a minister or a mediator in order to clarify the problem is the next step. If this does not work, then appealing to a church group or governing body is the final course of action. The point is that there are tried-and-true processes for working through disagreements. As always our call is to “*speaking truth in love*” ready to forgive. (Ephesians 4:15)

Third, in our small groups I am convinced that we have invaluable opportunities to grow our faith by developing mutual confidence and trust. With the guidance of trained leaders to study texts, whether from the Bible or other sources, we can learn what others have written, hear insights from members of the group, and reflect on what these mean for our own spiritual formation and service. We realize that we are not alone with our questions, thoughts and concerns. In fact by addressing them in a safe space we grow spiritually, adapt, change and bear fruit for Christ’s realm.

Finally, sustained engagement with mission and outreach is crucial. Whether it is unloading the Food truck for people who do not have enough to eat, serving at a homeless shelter, sewing decorations on or packing the Covenant-to-Care bags for those in need, knitting prayer shawls for those who are having an especially difficult time, or raising funds for where they can make a real difference in our town and world, such as Biloxi or Masooli... these hands-on programs become tangible, practical ways for us to act on our deepest fears and concerns about some of our social ills as we follow Jesus.

While we may not be able to achieve complete answers to national and international issues, with the guidance of the Holy Spirit as experienced through prayer, directness, small groups and service, we can strengthen peace with each other and neighbors beyond the church.

Shalom and peace,

Dianne

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

## Sarah Stops Hunger

"For I was hungry and you gave me food,  
I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink,  
I was a stranger and you welcomed me."

Matthew 25:35



Last spring, long time church member Fran Gauthier came to me and asked if our youth groups would consider participating in an event called, "Feeding Children Everywhere" (FCE). I had never heard of it. Fran explained that FCE is an organization that hosts food-packaging events in different places throughout the country for volunteers of all ages to come together to put together healthy meals for hungry children around the world.

The specific FCE event Fran had in mind for our youth to attend was sponsored by the Lions Club and took place at Canton High School. Our Youth Group, along with hundreds of folks from the Canton Community, worked to bag rice, lentils, dehydrated veggies and pink Himalayan salt into meals. In an assembly line process, and with fun music playing in the background, each person helped to measure the items, bag and weigh them, and then vacuum seal the packages. By the end of the day, more than 30,000 meals were packaged!

Sarah Ackles, who was in 6th grade at the time, was truly inspired by the event. Sarah returned home that day with a new goal: To host a Feeding Children Everywhere Event at First Church, Simsbury. Right away, Sarah began researching the cost of each meal and the amount of funds she would need to fundraise to make an event at First Church worthwhile. Then, Sarah began asking for sponsors and donations. As of this writing, Sarah has raised \$3,000, enough funds to package 12,000 meals (each meal costs 25 cents).

Sarah's Feeding Children Everywhere Event (a.k.a. Sarah Stops Hunger) will take place on October 4th from 10am to 11:30am in Palmer Hall. If you'd like to support Sarah and this project, you can do so in one of two ways. First, you can sign up to package meals on October 4th by contacting Sarah through email at [sarahstopshunger@gmail.com](mailto:sarahstopshunger@gmail.com). Second, you can donate to the event and increase the number of meals that will be packaged that day by visiting: [www.feedingchildreneverywhere.com/portfolio-items/sarah-stops-hunger](http://www.feedingchildreneverywhere.com/portfolio-items/sarah-stops-hunger) (select the "Donate Without Sponsoring a Team or Individual" option). Every dollar donated will purchase four more meals.

This story is quite moving. If we stop and think about how Sarah's FCE event at First Church came to be, by the movement of the Holy Spirit through the generations in our church, we are able to see how we never can tell how God will use us. Through one person God inspires another to do something truly remarkable, even if she is only eleven-years-old.

In Christ,  
**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

Well, things are underway! Choirs are practicing, contributing to Sunday worship, and making plans for programs down the line; Junior Choir is off to a great start with Lori Lemoine; Cherubs have an excellent leader in Suzanne Osborne, and Choral Bells, although a learning proposition for yours truly, are blessed with great and knowledgeable players who are very helpful to all. We are having fun all the way around.

But there is always more fun to be had. Jim Trimble's theme – to dream what would be possible with more time, talents and treasures, opens up potential that boggles the mind. We have some new choir members, for which we are extremely grateful – and could always use more. We would love to be able to do some larger works; maybe put on a concert, a choir exchange with an out-of-state church – all would be less difficult with just a few more members. We are exploring a men's singing group. Of course, more men would be extremely helpful.

One thing that is crucial is that we need people to help with the **Choral Bells**. Crucial because there is really a minimum number of people needed to make bells happen. We are perhaps four short, and when members spend time out of town with family, more than that. But the emphasis here is that this choir doesn't require singing ability, or a large time commitment, or a huge amount of talent – just the desire to gather for an hour a week and get away from life's pressures while making some beautiful music. Bells are wonderful things, where making music involves a physical motion – and in a bell choir, while you're playing, you really see how interdependent everyone is, which turns out to be kind of a life lesson. Plus we're having a great time together. There are members who are glad to spend time with the uninitiated to help them be comfortable, so no one should feel that they need to know all aspects of this right off the bat.

First Church is a great place to make music. If you play something; do a little or a lot of singing; want to solo or combine with anyone else in any musical style whatsoever, we can, and do, make that happen here. Just take the time. And even if you might not think your light is either big or bright, take the bushel off anyway. Lots of little lights make a bright one...

Peace-

**Mark**

## Cindy Cole, Children's Ministries



**Grow Your Heart At First Church This Year**

**Matt. 6:21 "For where your treasure is, there your heart will also be."**

Erin Naspo grew up attending First Church of Christ, Simsbury. She is a member of the Board of Christian Education, assists the church school program with our mission projects, has been involved as a teacher/shepherd in the church school for many years, and has a full time job as a social worker in a New Britain elementary school. Here are Erin's thoughts on her faith journey at First Church:

I started teaching Sunday School when my oldest son, Conner, was in pre-school. We had parents signing up to teach specific weeks in preschool back then and somehow I found myself filling in more than the one time a month I assumed I would do at the start. The weekly commitment that terrified me as a working Mom soon became just another part of our family routine, and any anticipated stress was balanced by the joy of spending time with Connor and his friends. I have found that my faith has been strengthened despite the fact that I do not have the opportunity to hear weekly sermons. I love knowing what my children are learning and walking with them on their faith journey each week in Sunday School.

Because it has been such a meaningful experience for me, I know that I am able to commit to being an integral part of our Sunday School program at least while my children are participating. I am unsure of how I will balance spending time with both of my children's classes, but I am sure we will figure it out. For the past three years, I was the shepherd for my son Conner's class. This year I will be with my younger son, Brady, and I am excited to start building a connection with another group of children in our church.

As a Congregation, I do hope that we can all work together to ensure that our children have someone consistent with them each week, even at a semester at a time, as I have seen the difference in the bonds that form between groups that have a consistent adult shepherd and those that do not. I truly believe that the bonds our children are forming in Sunday School will help them as a group as they move into confirmation and JF/PF. All of our lives are hectic with school, sports, careers, and other commitments, and often times the thought of adding one more thing seems like the tipping point. I wanted to at least start this conversation so that we can all explore how we can support one another and our children to ensure they continue to build a strong faith foundation. I know that when I stand at a baptism to promise my love, support, and care, I feel proud knowing that each week I get to live up to that promise.

Thank you for sharing your precious children with me. They have strengthened my faith and brightened my days week after week.

Fondly,

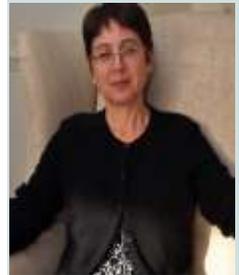
Erin Naspo



*Erin is the shepherd for the 1st & 2nd grade class this fall helping the students as needed.*



*Erin was a crew leader at Vacation Bible School this summer.*



**Cindy Cole,  
Director  
of Children's  
Ministries**

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Out of Office  
Thursdays &  
Fridays

**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.

**Bible Sunday: October 19**

Your child/grandchild will have the opportunity to receive a Bible from you in the service on Sunday, October 19, 2014. You will place the Scripture in his/her hand during the worship service.



Spark Bible for your Kindergarten or First Grade student.

Connect Bible for your third through sixth grade student.



**Registration Deadline: October 5, 2014** (so the Bibles can be ordered)

If you are interested in your child receiving a Bible, please fill out the form on the church school bulletin board (3rd floor) or [www.firstchurchsimsbury.com](http://www.firstchurchsimsbury.com) and send/give it to Children's ministry director. We are asking for a \$15 contribution towards the purchase of the one Bible; either the Spark Story Bible or the Connect Bible.

**Masooli Mission Sunday: October 12**

**Bring your teddy bear or doll to church today  
Consider riding your bike to church today**



**Palmer Hall activity stations for Grades K-7:**

- **Bicycle safety station** : we need to ride our bikes safely and so will the bicycle ambulance drivers in Africa
- **Tricycle obstacle course and relay race** : the importance of getting people in rural areas quickly and safely to medical help
- **Teddy bear/Doll clinic** - (What does the clinic do?)
  - ◆ Immunizing station
  - ◆ Stethoscope and blood pressure cuff station
  - ◆ First aid station (Band-Aids & bandages)
  - ◆ Triage ("Operation" Game)
  - ◆ Community outreach (learn to bathe & diaper a baby doll)
  - ◆ Pharmacy (counting skittles for your "prescription")



**Parent's Conversation Corner @ Coffee Hour**



Sometimes it is nice to talk to other parents about child raising choices. At coffee hour we will have a Corner set up for these conversations. Each week:

- A topic will be presented with video from "experts"
- Discussion questions provided to start the conversation
- Games and manipulatives set up to entertain your children
- Topic information available at <http://www.firstchurchsimsbury.com/parent-conversations-coffee-hour.html>
- To suggest a topic email [ccole@fcc.org](mailto:ccole@fcc.org)



**Upcoming events for your Calendar**

**October 13:** Masooli Mission Sunday in church school

**October 19:** Bible Sunday

**October 26:** Intergenerational Square Dance by PF

**Fall Church School Mission Project:**

**Bicycle Ambulance for the Faith Health Care Clinic in Masooli, Uganda**

Offerings in September and October, 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. We are trying to raise \$600 for the bicycle ambulance. Let's fill the spokes on this bicycle wheel! We have raised \$90.49 to date.



# 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. If you would like me to add your email to the list, contact me at [kweikel@fccsimsbury.org](mailto:kweikel@fccsimsbury.org). 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 [cbehrens@fccsimsbury.org](mailto:cbehrens@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:

September 26<sup>th</sup>                      October 24<sup>th</sup>                      Nov. 21<sup>st</sup>  
For more information or to add your email to our communication list,  
contact Rev. Kevin at [kweikel@fccsimsbury.org](mailto:kweikel@fccsimsbury.org) or 860-651-3593.

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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, September 28, 10am,** PF Youth Group Mission Trip Sharing Service in the Sanctuary

**Sunday, September 28, 5--7pm** Pot Luck & Information Meeting in Palmer Hall for students & parents

**Monday, October 6, 5--7pm** Large Group Meeting (The Bible) in Palmer Hall for students

**Sunday, October 19, 5--7pm,** Small Group Meeting (God) at host homes for students

**\*Sunday, October 26, 5:30--8pm,** First Church Intergenerational Square Dance in Palmer Hall

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

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

*\*Optional Event*

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

October/Early November

**Sunday, October 5, 7-9pm:** Regular Gathering in the Youth Room. Topic TBD.

**Sunday, October 12, 5-9pm:** Soup Kitchen! Food preparation, card making and hat organizing in the First Church Kitchen and Palmer Hall followed by serving at Immaculate Conception Shelter in Hartford. Everyone bring at least two knit-hats to give away!

**Sunday, October 19, 7-9pm:** Regular Gathering in the Youth Room. Topic TBD.

**Sunday, October 26, 5:30-8pm:** PF Hosted Intergenerational Pulled Pork Dinner and Square Dance for All Ages! Youth arrive at 4:30 for set up and stay until 8:30 for clean up.

**Sunday, November 2, 7-8pm:** 2015 Summer Mission Pilgrimage Information Meeting with Simply Smiles.

**8-pm:** Shortened PF Regular Gathering.



# A Message from Diann Bailey

*“Do not neglect the gift that is in you,  
which was given to you through prophecy  
with the laying on of hands by the council of elders.”*

1 Timothy 4.14

In 1997, after a move from Boston to Simsbury, Todd, Benjamin, Nathaniel and I joined First Church. We slowly became immersed in the life of the church. The more active I became in the church, from Bible studies to youth ministry, to committee work and lots in-between, the more my faith deepened. Over time, a strong sense of call to ministry emerged. After much discernment, along with many long discussions with Jonathan, Kevin and Alison, I enrolled in the Co-operative Master of Divinity program at Hartford Seminary. Two years later, I transferred to Andover Newton Theological School, in Newton Centre, MA and graduated in May of 2013. While seeking a call to a congregation, I worked for a year at First Church in Granby, as the Acting Associate for Faith Formation. This past September, I was called as the Associate Minister to First Church, in Suffield. This is the congregation in which I did my Seminary Internship in 2012.

It has been a long, challenging, but wonderful journey. I am grateful to all at First Church, who have nurtured and supported me along the way. In 2009, the Board of Elders voted to covenant with me as a Member-in-Discernment and to walk this path toward ordination together. Now it is time to release one another from that covenant, as I enter into another one as an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ.

My ordination service will take place at First Church Simsbury, on October 5, 2014 at 3 pm. ALL are invited to attend.

Let us joyfully celebrate the path we have journeyed together!

--Diann Bailey



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

**Saturday  
October 4th**



**FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST  
Palmer Hall, Simsbury**

10:00 am-12:00 pm

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 help hand-pack 12,000 meals for food pantries throughout Connecticut 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 10-110 years old are welcome.

*To learn more or donate to this event, visit:  
[www.feedingchildreneverywhere.com/  
portfolio-items/sarah-stops-hunger](http://www.feedingchildreneverywhere.com/portfolio-items/sarah-stops-hunger)*

*or email Sarah Ackels @  
[SarahStopsHunger@gmail.com](mailto:SarahStopsHunger@gmail.com)*

Your Board of Mission and Outreach  
invites you to...

**A DELICIOUS SHRIMP BOIL  
Friday, October 10th  
6:30pm  
Palmer Hall**

Enjoy Louisiana Shrimp, salad, potatoes, carrots,  
garlic bread and a delicious First Church Blueberry  
Buckle with ice cream.

\$12 adult/\$8 children/\$40 maximum-per-family

To make reservations simply either:  
\*sign-up at Coffee Hour on 9/28 or 10/5  
\*call the Church Office @ 860-651-3593  
\*email the church office @ [fccsimsbury.org](mailto:fccsimsbury.org)

*Hope to See You There!*

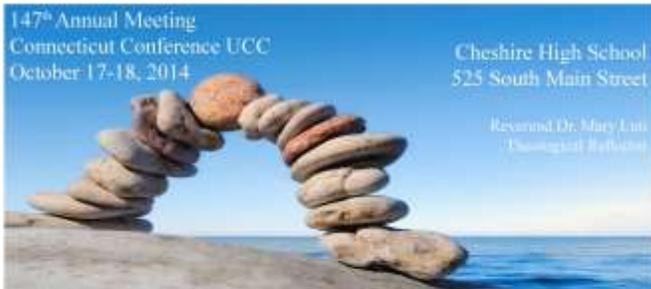


*All proceeds go to the UCC Back Bay  
Mission in Biloxi, Mississippi.*

*Learn more about  
Back Bay from our own  
Margo Kilbon.*

## Supper Club Update

Last Friday, 60 people enjoyed a delicious dinner and program with speaker, Jack Edwards of the Boston Bruins. What you might not know about Supper Club is the generosity of the Club and its' speakers. Every year Supper Club has contributed to this church's kitchen & Palmer Hall and music programs including \$300 last year toward the Choir chairs. Our speakers have also generously given their fees to charity. Last year, Lou Norton, not only took us on a trip to China, but also contributed to the choir chair fund. On Friday, Jack Edwards contributed to the Dana Farber Fund in the name of Supper Club. Thank you, Lou and Jack.



Our Shared Vision  
"That They May All Be One"



"Christ is just like the human body—a body is a unit and has many parts; and all the parts of the body are one body, even though there are many... If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it; if one part gets the glory, all the parts celebrate with it." 1 Corinthians 12



Authorized Minister's Event  
Friday, October 17, 2014 Noon - 4  
Four Points Sheraton in Meriden, 275 Research Parkway  
Reverend Dr. Mary Luti, Keynote

Connecticut Conference United Church of Christ  
125 Sherman Street Hartford CT

## New Member Classes This Fall

Sundays from 8:30-9:30 am on October 12<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>, and November 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Parsons' Study will be opportunities for any visitors and newcomers to learn more about First Church and consider joining as a member in our service on Sunday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Membership is a covenant between the new member and our congregation, and represents the fruit of attendance at our worship services and beginning involvement in the life of our church. It makes possible participation in our Boards, such as Mission and Outreach, Church School, Worship, Music and Trustees, though non-members are welcome in volunteering and joining in our small group ministries.

If interested in considering membership, please contact before October 10<sup>th</sup> our Board of Worship member, Stephen Cassell at [Cassellsanchezfam@gmail.com](mailto:Cassellsanchezfam@gmail.com), our ministers, or Cathie Behrens, Membership Coordinator, at [cbehrens@fccsimsbury.org](mailto:cbehrens@fccsimsbury.org) in our church office.

# Square Dance & Pulled Pork Dinner

*You Are Invited...*

**FIRST CHURCH, SIMSBURY**

**SQUARE DANCE & PULLED PORK DINNER for ALL AGES!**

**October 26<sup>th</sup>, 5:30pm – 8:00pm**

**First Church Palmer Hall**

\$10 per ticket or \$30 per family of any size.

Tickets are available for purchase at Fellowship Hour in Palmer Hall on October 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, and 19<sup>th</sup>.

Hosted by Pilgrim Fellowship Youth Group for the  
Friends and Members of First Church



Pilgrim Fellowship Youth Group is hosting a special event for all ages – old, young and in-between: a square dance and pulled pork dinner in Palmer Hall! With the help of our youth advisors, our youth will prepare and serve pulled pork, salad, baked beans, and pumpkin pie. After dinner, a professional square dance caller will teach us and lead us.

Tickets can be purchased on Sunday's, October 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, and 19<sup>th</sup>, at Fellowship Hour in Palmer Hall or Monday through Friday from 9am-4pm in the main Church Office. Tickets will be on sale through Tuesday, October 21<sup>st</sup>.

PF is hosting this event to bring the generations together for a fun evening. Come and join us!

**~Rev. Kevin and PF Youth Group**

# The CT Conference Living Waters Award



Each year the CT Conference gives an award at its annual meeting to one or more laypersons, whose activity in the workplace or community makes a positive difference in our world. As Cecile Gilson says, “it goes to those who live their faith.”

This year the award will be given to our own **Nancy and Gordon Crouch** for their founding the Faith Mulira Health Care Center in Masooli, Uganda, along with the aid of many volunteers and supporters. The award will be presented on:

**Saturday, October 18th at 12:30 pm**  
**Cheshire High School**  
**525 South Main Street, Cheshire, CT**

The Health Care Center has served over 1,000 patients, providing a wide array of preventative care and treatment. Equipped with examination rooms, modern lab facilities and a pharmacy, it provides ambulatory and emergency outpatient care, pre-natal and post-natal counseling, and referral services to regional hospitals for more complex treatment and surgical care. This past spring a dental team, composed of a professor and graduate students from the UConn Dental School participated in a dental mission there to serve villagers.

If you wish to attend this honors presentation, or any part of the annual meeting of the CT Conference, especially that day, please contact our lay delegates, Susan Babcock White or Marguerite Boslaugh, or Rev. Dianne, or Rev. Kevin. Registration will be required for attendance, and you can check the CT Conference website for details at [www.ctconfucc.org](http://www.ctconfucc.org). Let’s add our blessing to the Crouches’ receiving the Living Waters Award!

# What Was Life Like?

The following excerpt was written by former Church Historian Donna Hopkins, extracted directly from the December 2010 edition of the Cornerstone...

Using FOOD is a good way to get familiar with everyday life in another culture or time. Dorothy Woodbridge has been mentioned already in this column. This article will focus on what foods were available to her and how she could have prepared them around 1700.

Dorothy and her husband Dudley were from English backgrounds but their food preferences were modified by what was available here. Living in 17<sup>th</sup> and early 18<sup>th</sup> century Simsbury their food supplies were limited to what was grown locally and what they could afford to buy of imported goods. Locally they had grains such as oats barley, Indian corn, rye and wheat. They also had dried or fresh legumes and root vegetables. They enjoyed dairy foods such as milk, cheese and butter, as well as eggs. They could get fresh or dried fish, domestic meats or wild game. The Indians introduced them to pumpkins and squash. For sweetening they could use maple syrup, sugar or honey. They brewed their own beer at home with barley and hops. Imported foods were expensive; things like raisins, citrus fruits spices, sugar, molasses, coffee, tea, chocolate, rice, salt and pepper. They planted apple and fruit trees and could pick wild fruits such as cranberries, raspberries, and blueberries.

Cooking methods of the time were still primitive; frying in a skillet over the fire or in a spider on the hearth over hot coals; baking in a Dutch oven or in a brick or stone oven; boiling in an iron kettle, or roasting meats on a gridiron on a spit. The one-pot meal and the easy dessert were very popular. Stews, soups and long-baking items like baked beans were frequently served. Puddings were very popular among folks of all ages. Following is a receipt (recipe) for one that would have been served in the fall and winter. It was baked in a locally-made glazed pottery baking dish that could be placed inside a cast-iron Dutch oven.

## Winter Squash or Pumpkin Pudding

- one winter squash or pumpkin, cored, boiled, skinned and mashed
- 6 large apples, peeled, cored, and cooked tender.
- mix these two together and add 6 or 7 spoonfuls (tbsp) of dry breadcrumbs,
- add a half pint of milk or cream and 2 tsp. rosewater (use vanilla) and 2 tsp. of wine (optional).
- beat 5 or 6 eggs (medium) and add salt and grated nutmeg and maple sugar to your taste.
- add one large tbsp. of flour and mix all together smartly.
- pour into a cold large buttered baking dish and bake until firm.

(\*Note: time and temperatures were not given because they varied. Modern methods for this would say bake in the oven at 350 for 45-60 minutes. Check that the middle is set and the eggs are cooked).



-article written 190+ YEARS after Open Hearth Cooking  
-Cookstoves came into use in the 1820s and 30s



HISTORICALLY  
SPEAKING



## September Executive Council Meeting Highlights

Reverend Arakawa highlighted in her report that it had been a busy summer. The transition to the ministry provided by her and Kevin Weikel had been realigned as a result of the departure of Erica Nierendorf on June 1<sup>st</sup>. She noted that a new brochure had been developed for the small group ministries offered by First Church. She further noted that Betty Warner had developed a congregational survey that will be distributed to the EC membership for feedback and use on Rally Day. Additionally Dianne offered Administrative comments from Kristin Garcia:

Requests for print or email will need to be submitted to the Church Office in copy ready format two weeks prior to publication. The content of the requests will be published for a maximum of three weeks in the regular publications such as the weekly bulletin and the weekly email newsletter.

Trinity Church from Tariffville will no longer be selling pumpkins on our property.

Kristin, in conjunction with Trustees, is developing a consistent fee schedule for all uses of Church facilities. The resultant fee schedule will be presented to a future Executive Council meeting for review.

We now have 734 members.

The Church website is in the final stages of design development and will be presented at the October meeting of the Executive Council.

The publication of the new Church Directory can be expected in October.

Reverend Weikel highlighted in his report the celebration of Nate Bailey's August 31<sup>st</sup> commissioning as a Global Mission Intern. In late June forty-four teens and eight adults participated in a mission trip to Washington DC. The annual Confirmation mailing occurred to 8<sup>th</sup> graders and their parents. The letter included a request that parents and students think about their friends who are not involved in our Church and who might be interested in our confirmation program. After prayerful thought a decision has been made to move Junior Fellowship from every other week to once per month after school on Friday afternoons. Kevin reported that he wrote a letter to the Zoning Commission in regards to a proposed change in the zoning regulations that would allow gas stations to be built within 400 feet of Churches. The regulation change is proposed as part of an application to build a gas station and convenience store on the Pool Barn property on route 10. It is his belief that the construction of the gas station and convenience store would compromise worship at the adjacent Synagogue.

Kevin noted that he had visited with Miranda Moeller, Associate Pastor at West Avon Congregational Church, about the possibility of working together on a Young Adult program. He also is working with Mark Scully and Haley Callahan to organize a contingent from First Church to attend the People's Climate Change March in New York on September 21<sup>st</sup>.

Both Jim Trimble and Cindy Braunlich overviewed for the meeting current plans for Rally Day; representation at the Simsbury Arts and Craft Show, and our Stewardship program. The theme for all of this activity is the need for volunteer support/recruitment, and what we can do with more Time, Talent, and Treasure. Presentations are scheduled as part of the Worship services commencing on September 7<sup>th</sup> involving the President of the Congregation and representation by Board Chairs through and including October 19<sup>th</sup>. It was moved; seconded; and carried that the Executive Council ratifies the recommendation of the Board of Worship to have the ordination for Diann Bailey held at First Church on October 5<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 pm, to be followed by a reception to celebrate the event. Consideration will be given to a recognition gift for Diann from First Church. The request for a donation from First Church to the Veteran's Memorial was referred to Deacons for consideration from the Hixon Beals fund.

In the absence of Board of Personnel representation, Treasurer Ron Patterson led a presentation and discussion of the Church Credit Card Policy, as proposed by the Board of Personnel. There was overall agreement with the concept of this policy but wording changes became evident to align the policy with current practice. The proposed policy will again be distributed to the Executive Council membership for feedback to Ron and subsequent approval at the October meeting of the Executive Council. Treasurer Ron Patterson presented a preliminary Profit and Loss Budget versus Actual report through August 2014. Overall we are trending favorable to budget with income ahead of budget. Expenses are exceeding budget and must be carefully monitored going forward.

Susan Babcock White informed the meeting of the forthcoming annual meeting of the UCC Connecticut Conference commencing on October 18<sup>th</sup>, and the recognition of Gordon and Nancy Crouch with the Conference's Mission Award. Susan plans to make a report of the meeting to the Executive Council at our November meeting.

John Ritson provided an update on activity underway to overcome the opposition by the State Historic Commission to the selection of the second lowest bid for the roofing project. John also reported that the construction of the new refuse enclosure by the Boy Scout troop is essentially complete, with some minor finishing touches required.

It was moved; seconded; and carried that Ellie Benson be ratified for a position on the Committee of Deacons. It was moved; seconded; and carried that Bill Clark, Stephen Cassell, Janet Marcum, and Piper Delo be ratified for positions on the Board of Worship.

Bill Ketchabaw  
Clerk of the Congregation  
September 10, 2014

## ***A Message from the President***

As I write this article, I'm sure that an update on the progress of the Search Team is the first thing you are hoping to read. The Search Team met a few times over the summer, but I must admit that finding times when we could all meet with our conflicting summer calendars was more challenging than I had hoped. Still, we have made some good progress. At the last meeting held before this article was written, the team met with Rev. Tamara Moreland, Regional Minister for the Farmington Valley Association of the Connecticut UCC. We had a very informative discussion about the search process and the spiritual nature of our work. In previous meetings we all had a chance to review what is required in our church profile, and to start thinking about how we would answer the important questions in that document.

That brings me to my message for this month. We all know what a great church and church community we have. We serve God and our community in many vital ways, with a generous and giving spirit. Yet, to an outsider looking in (say, to a prospective minister viewing our profile), does that come through? The profile will show declining church membership, declining church attendance, and declining financial resources (pledge income).

In my first meeting as President I challenged each member of the Executive Council to create a vision of how their Board or committee could better serve God and our community if we had no resource constraints. In this context, these constraints include not just financial resources but also people resources-the time and talent of volunteers needed to support this effort. There was no shortage of ideas. For example, Cindy Cole told me she could triple the size of the Vacation Bible School if we had the resources to hold it for a full day, instead of a half day, because children of parents who both work can't enroll them in half day programs. The Board of Mission and Outreach supports many worthwhile causes, but did you ever ask Dave Wadhams about the worthy causes they have to turn down? We love Mark's music ministry- would it be even better if he could fill the choirs with some new voices and if the bell choir had enough hands for all the bells?

The Boards and committees shared many of their ideas with you on Rally Day, and you responded with enthusiasm. The theme of our church year is "Grow Your Heart." I know none of you are Grinches, with hearts two sizes too small. But even an XL size heart can grow to 2XL! Many of you did just that on Rally Day. At last count, 33 individuals volunteered their time and talent to some new aspect of church life. For example, we have a new voice in the Women's Praise choir, 3 new members of the card making ministry, more ushers, more deacons and a volunteer to serve the Board of Finance. These are just a few examples. I was thrilled with the response, which clearly shows the vitality of this church. The excitement we demonstrate through our active involvement in church life, and increasing attendance going forward, will surely help us attract a terrific new minister who wants to share in our vision, our spirituality, our faith and our Christian outreach.

Stewardship includes time, talent and treasure. Of these, in this day and age, I think giving of one's time and talent, as we are pulled in so many directions, is the greatest gift we can give. However, that does not relieve us of the financial burdens the church faces. In the coming weeks, during our Mission Moments, members of various Boards will tell you more about what they do, and how they would use increased financial resources to further serve God, our church family and the wider community. I hope you listen carefully to what they have to say, and that you agree that their efforts are worthy of increased financial support from you when you make your pledge on October 26th.

Faithfully yours,

Jim Trimble

**First Church of Christ**

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**FELLOWSHIP HOUR SCHEDULE**

**October 2014**

10/5

Women’s Praise

10/12

Card Making & Prayer Shawl

10/19

Mission & Outreach

10/26

ONA, Ann Ritson

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

**First Church of Christ**

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# October 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 American Indian Ministry Sunday & Kick off of Stewardship Campaign 8:30 AM Adult Study Group, Parson's Study 8:30 AM Early Worship, Chapel 8:30 AM Ushers Mtg., Sr. Min. study 9:30 AM Teachers Breakfast Meeting 10:00 AM PF Youth Group DC Pilgrimage Sharing & Worship Service, Sanctuary 11:00 AM Junior Choir, Music Room 11:30 AM Lunch Bunch Gathering 5:00 PM Confirmands Get Acquainted Picnic/Pot Luck and Information Meeting, Palmer Hall 7:00 PM PF Youth Group (for 9th thru 12th graders), Youth Room	29 10:00 AM CCC 12:00 PM Hopmeadow Nursery School Dance, Room 29 1:15 PM Foodshare Truck	30 10:30 AM Valley Saxophone Quartet, Library	1 4:00 PM Women's Praise Choir, Music Room 7:00 PM Farmington Valley Chorus, Palmer Hall	2 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 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	3	4 Womens' Day Retreat 8:00 AM Feeding of the Children, Palmer Hall & Kitchen
5 World Communion Sunday (1st Sunday of October) 8:30 AM Adult Study Group, Parson's Study 8:30 AM Early Worship with Communion, Chapel 10:00 AM Worship Service with Communion, Sanctuary 11:00 AM Junior Choir, Music Room 11:15 AM Care Bag Committee Assembly, Rm 29 2:00 PM Farmington Valley Clergy Assoc Mtg, Chapel 3:00 PM Farmington Valley/CT Conf UCC Ordination, Sanctuary, Palmer Hall 7:00 PM PF Youth Group (for 9th thru 12th graders), Youth Room	6 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 5:00 PM Confirmation Lrg Group Mtg (The Bible), Palmer Hall 7:30 PM Executive Council Mtg., Parsons' Study	7 10:30 AM Valley Saxophone Quartet, Library 7:00 PM Cub Scout Pack 276 Leadership Mtg, Parsons' Study	8 4:00 PM Women's Praise Choir, Music Room 7:00 PM Farmington Valley Chorus, Palmer Hall	9 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 7:00 PM PF Youth Advisor Meeting, Kevin's Office 7:30 PM Chancel Choir/ Music Room	10 10:00 AM Farmington Valley Transition Academy, Palmer Hall/Kitchen 5:00 PM Shrimp Boil Set up to Benefit Back Bay Mission, Kitchen & Palmer Hall 6:30 PM Shrimp Boil Benefit Back Bay Mission, Kitchen & Palmer Hall	11 9:00 AM Search Team Meeting, Parsons' Study
12 Access Sunday and Disabilities Awareness Week 8:00 AM Church School, Palmer Hall 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 Worship Service & Crouch Recognition, Sanctuary 11:00 AM Junior Choir, Music Room 4:00 PM Soup Kitchen, Kitchen 7:00 PM PF Youth Group (for 9th thru 12th graders), Youth Room	13 Church Office Closed (Columbus Day) 10:00 AM CCC 12:00 PM Hopmeadow Nursery School Dance, Room 29 1:15 PM Foodshare Truck 7:00 PM Board of Worship (formerly Elders) Mtg., Parsons' Study 7:30 PM All Boards Meeting - All Rooms	14 9:00 AM Retired Men's Luncheon 10:30 AM Valley Saxophone Quartet, Library 6:30 PM Cub Scout Pack 276 Den Meeting, Classrooms 26, 27, 28, 29 and Library 7:00 PM Deacon's Committee Mtg., Library	15 10:00 AM Memorial Garden Committee Meeting, Library 4:00 PM Women's Praise Choir, Music Room 7:00 PM Farmington Valley Chorus, Palmer Hall 7:30 PM Search Team Meeting, Parsons' Study	16 3:00 PM Wedding Rehearsal (Amy Tyler) 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	17 CT Conference UCC 147th Annual Mtg., Cheshire H.S. 10:00 AM Wedding (Amy Tyler & Chris D) Sanctuary, Library, Parlor	18 CT Conference UCC 147th Annual Mtg., Cheshire H.S.
19 Children's Sabbath - Laity Sunday 8:30 AM Adult Study Group, Parson's Study 8:30 AM Early Worship, Chapel 9:00 AM Childrens Sunday 10:00 AM Bible Sunday 10:00 AM Worship Service, Sanctuary and Guidice Baptism 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), Youth Room	20 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	21 9:30 AM Prayer Shawl Ministry Morning Gathering, Rm 28 10:30 AM Valley Saxophone Quartet, Library 7:00 PM Prayer Shawl Ministry Evening Gathering, Rm 28	22 10:00 AM Cornerstone Collating, Parsons' Study 12:00 PM Fourth Wednesday Group, Room 28 4:00 PM Women's Praise Choir, Music Room 7:00 PM Farmington Valley Chorus, Palmer Hall 7:00 PM Nursery School Board Meeting, Parlor 7:30 PM Search Team Meeting, Parsons' Study	23 9:30 AM Bible Study (small grp), Library 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	24 2:10 PM JF Monthly Group Meeting, Youth Room 2:15 PM Jf Palmer Hall	25 Wedding, Sanctuary (TBD)
26 UCC Higher Education Sunday 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 Worship Service and Stewardship Sunday, Sanctuary 11:00 AM Junior Choir, Music Room 11:30 AM Lunch Bunch Gathering 7:00 PM PF Youth Group (for 9th thru 12th graders), Youth Room 7:00 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 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 6:30 PM Zumba, Classroom 29	29 4:00 PM Women's Praise Choir, Music Room 7:00 PM Farmington Valley Chorus, Palmer Hall	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 12:00 PM Zumbathon for Masooli Clinic, Palmer Hall & Kitchen