



# THE CORNERSTONE

## A MESSAGE FROM THE SENIOR MINISTER

*When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."*

**John 8:12**

Dear Friends in Christ:

Lent is a true spiritual journey.

By a simple command of "follow me" our Lord led his followers into the heart of the world's suffering with a vision and promise of God's light and love and amazing grace. With those early disciples, Jesus preached freedom, healing, justice, and new life; a message of life-changing proportions and one that lies at the heart of our faith. To complete this journey, we have been called to first lift up this message of hope and light for the world to see. This is no small challenge...

How are we to make our individual Lenten journey meaningful and truly life-changing in today's world, which seems to ignore us as quaint or irrelevant? What if we were to embrace Jesus' example as our guide? Perhaps, we would make a more deliberate effort to enhance our relationship with God through our prayer-life. Perhaps, we would look for opportunities to increase our commitment to outreach ministry to our community and world. Perhaps, we would take the leap of faith and mend a broken relationship.

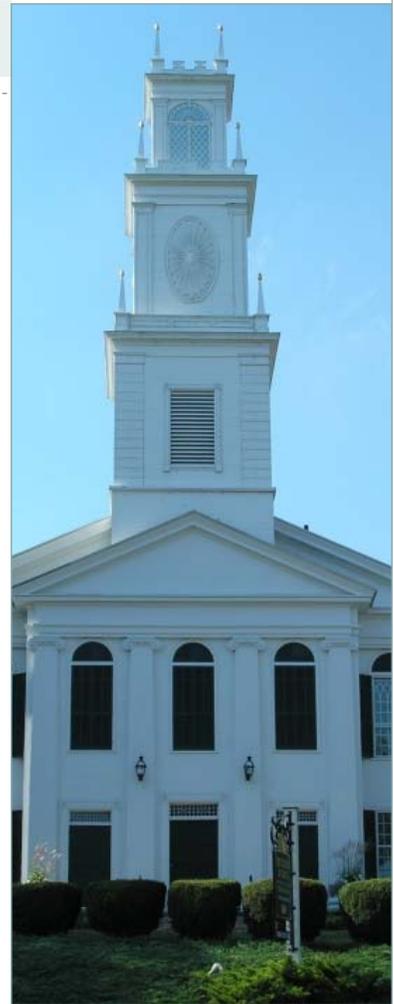
My friends, I pray that you will take up this great challenge with glad hearts. As you take a moment to examine this issue of the Cornerstone, please note the many opportunities First Church is offering to help make your Lenten experience a joy-filled and meaningful one.

As we continue our Lenten journey toward Easter morning, let us be deliberate in our efforts, as individuals and as a church, to examine ourselves, to make changes when needed, and to allow the Spirit of our Lord to move within us in new and exciting ways. Let us be open to one another as we do our best to follow in the footsteps of our Lord. Let us be God's light in this world that more might see.

Enjoy the journey! See you in worship!

In the Joy of Christ's service,

~ Jonathan



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## Who Are We Now?



### First Church Community Farm Partnership

This mission was a great success in 2012! Over 12 First Church members planted, weeded and harvested organic vegetables at the Simsbury Community Farm for clients of Gifts of Love in Avon. We had fun, got lots of fresh air, learned new gardening skills and made a difference for many of our hungry neighbors.

We will be back at the Farm again this year, hopefully with even more First Church folks. Please consider joining us-- the gardening schedules will be very flexible and we will be planning special times for families with young children.

Watch for more details in the coming weeks. Sign-ups will be available in early April. Any questions email Dave Wadhams at [wadhams.nd@comcast.net](mailto:wadhams.nd@comcast.net)

A short while ago, Jonathan gave a sermon titled "Who Am I Now?" The message (assuming I got the point) underscored not only the inevitability of life changes but the sense of spiritual dissonance that we can feel when all of the outward trappings of who we are suddenly evaporate. As Job discovered, being distilled down to one's essence can be a very frightening thing. When all that is known transforms around us, what endures at the core?

Throughout history, the church, too, has gone through life-changing alterations (the Reformation is the most obvious example). Some Christian historians believe the church has been going through another such a period over the past several decades, and that some of what we are seeing (particularly within mainline churches) in terms of flagging attendance, the emergence of different forms of worship and challenges to long-accepted interpretations of scripture (among other phenomena) are indicators that a radical transformation is taking place within the institution of church. In some small ways that nonetheless seem big to us, First Church is part of and affected by what appears to be happening in the larger Christian community. We recognize that the ways in which our parents and grandparents interacted with the church are not necessarily the ways in which our children expect to connect with their faith. We know that many of our fellow Christians want to actively participate in hands-on mission and ministry projects as a way of living out their faith while fewer seek to be part of the business and decision-making infrastructure of the church. We see small study and prayer groups gaining positive momentum while regular attendance on Sunday mornings competes with other time commitments. Technology – email, the church website and Facebook – helps us stay connected to one another, while previously our members relied more on in-home visitation and personal phone calls to keep in touch. The list could go on.

All of these changes, and more, are the reasons why many churches are looking for a new "operating model". In a recent article in *The Christian Century*, Carol Howard Merritt identifies 10 new church models that she says are reaching people in non-traditional ways. A few are worth celebrating: the "food churches" that focus their mission on using food (farmers markets, local food movements, etc.) to reach the community; the non-profit/church hybrids that serve the needy in the church basement and over time, gently lead their guests to the upper room for worship (read *Take This Bread* by Sara Miles for a wonderful example of the food pantry non-profit model); and the art churches, which recognize art as a spiritual practice and view creating art, poetry and music as central to who they are as a Christian community.

Over the next several months, the Executive Council will be attending workshops with members of the Governance Task Force as we attempt to figure out how, in the area of governance, First Church can respond to some of the changes happening around us. We expect to develop a proposal for adjusting parts of our operating model so that it better aligns with the church we are becoming. We will be looking at the structure of our decision making (our boards and committees) and what documents guide how they function (our charter and by-laws). We will also look at how the various boards and committees operate in relation to one another, to the congregation and in furtherance of our overall mission. This is not easy work. It is forces us to ask "who are we now?" It is comforting to know that at our core is a strong foundation of faith in Jesus Christ.

--Melinda Westbrook

# YOUTH GROUP HAPPENINGS

## REV. KEVIN WEIKEL—YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

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

### JUNIOR FELLOWSHIP (Grades 7-8)

**March 1** 2:15-4:00 pm

**March 15** 2:15-4:00 pm

In March, JF will focus on Lent. Lent is a time to look inward to seek how we might more fully accept God's love, peace and grace in our lives. We will review basic facts about the season of Lent. Explore Jesus' temptation in the wilderness and consider our own journey of Lent.

### PRE-CONFIRMATION (Grades 6 and 7)

**March 3** Samson: The raging prima donna

**March 10** Ruth: The tenacious outsider

**March 17** David: The flawed and beloved king

**March 24** Solomon: The ambitious son

**March 31** Easter Sunday: students attend church

### CONFIRMATION GROUP (Grade 8)

**March 10th** 5:00-7:00 pm. **Large Group Meeting (Christianity & Other Religions)** in Palmer Hall for students.

**March 24th** 5:00-7:00 pm **Small Group Meeting (The Life of the Church)** at host homes for students

**Thurs., March 28th** 6:30-8:30pm **Large Group Meeting (Holy Week & Easter)** in the Youth Room from 6:30-7:30pm for students followed by the **Maundy Thursday Service** in the Sanctuary from 7:30-8:30pm for students and parents.

### PF YOUTH GROUP (Grades 9-12)

**March 3rd** "Feeling Like You're On the Outside," theme of bullying and acceptance.

**March 10th** Topic on relationship with parents.

**March 17th** 3:00 p.m.—Immaculate Conception Soup Kitchen! Meet at the church as 3:00 p.m. for cooking, games and crafts before departing to Hartford to serve a hot meal at the shelter.

**March 24th** Easter Egg Hunt at the church!

**Sat., March 30th** 10:00-11:00 a.m. Set-up for pancake breakfast.

**March 31st** 6:30—10:00 a.m. Easter Sunday Pancake Breakfast. (PFer's sign-up to help from 5:30—11:00 a.m.)



## February Worship Schedule

Services are held every Sunday at

**8:30 AM in the Chapel**

**10:00 AM in the Sanctuary**

*Unless otherwise noted*

### March 3rd COMMUNION & THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

*Special Guest Preacher: **The Rev. Edwin Ayala**, Executive Director of Christian Activities Council in Hartford.*

### March 10th FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

**(Daylight Savings Time!)**

*Rev. Jonathan Morgan preaching at both services:*

*"Tending to Sheep Who Have Lost Their Way"*

### March 17th FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

*Rev. Jonathan Morgan preaching at both services:*

*"Who Is My Neighbor?"*

### March 24th PALM SUNDAY

*Rev. Jonathan Morgan preaching at both services*

*"What Happened To Our Voices?"*

**Thursday, March 28th  
MAUNDY THURSDAY 7:30 pm  
Office of the Tenebrae  
Service in the Sanctuary**

### March 31st EASTER SUNDAY

*5:45 am Meet at Methodist Church first, Joint Sunrise Service at Simsbury Cemetery*

*7:00-10:00 am Pancake Breakfast in Palmer Hall*

*8:30 am Easter Worship for the Young at Heart*

*10:00 am Rev. Jonathan Morgan will be preaching*

## MUSIC NOTES

This winter has been a doozy -

'Tis the season to shovel snow in hopes that we won't have to do it again too soon. Even though Punxsutawney Phil predicted a short winter, it seems like Spring will never come. It will though, but in the meantime, this gives us the perfect time for introspection and contemplation. And even though the start of March is still Lent, the season, shall we say, goes out like the proverbial Lamb on Palm Sunday, Holy Week, and Easter.

This is a rich time for music - the elation of Palm Sunday, the depths of Maundy Thursday, and the unbridled joy that is Easter - the risen Christ - the nuts and bolts of what Christianity is all about. We invite you to come and be a part of the music - and we can honestly say that participation will give you an insight that can only come with the nonverbal communication that is music. We want you to have this experience that keeps us all singing, playing, and coming back for more. There's nothing like it.

Come on Thursday to Bell and Chancel Choir rehearsal, come on Wednesday for Women's Praise Choir. I will even hold rehearsals on Sunday after church if you can't make any of those. But I want to give as much opportunity as possible for any and all to drink from that well that is music. Believe me - it's like nothing else.

Meanwhile, we are looking forward to holding a couple



of concerts, to be announced: a concert featuring the talents of the Hockanum Valley Ringers - an eclectic bell choir that has members from all over CT and some from Mass. Additionally, a jazz concert is in the works - something that always shakes off the doldrums of winter and livens things up a bit. More on that later.

Then - we have one more opportunity for those who want to participate in singing only once or twice a year. At the end of April, we will have one more meeting of the Festival (aka "Pick-Up") choir. Many have said that they would sing if they only had the time. This is your chance to put your musical notes where your mouth is, so to speak - a chance to sing on a Sunday with a minimum of precious time spent. I will announce the music at the end of March, and we welcome any who can participate with only a rehearsal or two, as well as those that might need a little extra time to prepare. C'mon - give it a try. You know you want to....

Stay safe for the rest of the winter - and I hope to see any and all singing with us this spring at some point or another. And thanks for a good year so far...

## K. I. D. S. @ First

### Kids Investigating Divine Stories at First Church

Visit [www.firstchurchsimsbury.com](http://www.firstchurchsimsbury.com) to see:

- To see the church school schedule,
- To see videos and information about what the kids are doing @ First Church.

#### Early Closing Kids @ First Event: Wed, March 20th



Church bus will pick up students from Latimer and Squadron Schools at end of the school day. Parents are

asked to carpool from the other elementary schools.

Time: after school until 5pm, with pick up any time in between

Students will participate in Easter themed games, crafts, mission projects and activities.

Sign up and registration forms will be available on the 3rd floor bulletin board.

Adult volunteers are needed for this event.



**Vacation Bible School:** Coming to you this summer.

Visit: [www.firstchurchsimsbury.com](http://www.firstchurchsimsbury.com) to see an introductory video of the activities we will be doing at VBS this June.

Sign up on the 3rd floor bulletin board. We need 1 adult volunteer for every 5

Sign up for Silver Lake overnight UCC camp is ongoing.

Week long programs are available for students in 4th-12th grade.

See the 2013 Summer calendar for camp topics posted on the 3rd floor bulletin board. Registration online is at [www.silverlakeect.org](http://www.silverlakeect.org).



#### March Mission Project: Easter Basket items:



The students will be collecting Easter basket items for Gifts of Love. Items needed are markers, coloring books, bubbles, sidewalk chalk, small toys, Easter candy etc. Baskets will be made on March 20th during early church school closing event.

### TAG SALE

To Benefit First Church School Programs



Saturday, April 27

9:00 am - 2:00 pm,

8:30-9:00 am—early bird entrance fee \$10

Drop off of all tag sale goods will be from Noon - 8:00 pm Thursday (April 25) and 9:00 AM - 3:00 pm Friday (April 26)

An all church tag sale will once again be coming your way April 27, 2013. As spring arrives and we think about cleaning out our closets, garages, attics, and basements, we can also plan to select our "best" stuff for the tag sale. The tag sale proceeds helps us run the babysitting events, workshops, and purchase new equipment .

#### We do very well with:

Costume jewelry and accessories; furniture pieces; holiday decorations; china, cutlery, pottery and glassware; children's games, books and toys; small appliances that are clean and working; radios and cd players that work; garden and workshop tools, adult books published 2006 or after and nice baskets.

#### There are, however, a few categories of items we do not need:

Computers/keyboards/monitors and computer tables, air conditioners, televisions, clothes, linens, broken items (all appliances must be in working condition for us to accept them), exercise equipment, old skis, drapery rods, old suitcases, bikes over 5 years old, light fixtures/florescent ceiling fixtures.

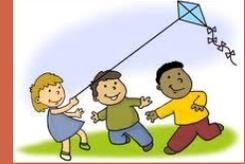
Please clean up furniture (especially children's) and make sure everything you bring in is ready for sale. Imagine us trying to clean and make presentable for sale thousands of items brought in by many people.

**If you would be willing to work on the tag sale to benefit the children at First Church, call or email :**

Kim Tawney , 860-716-5237,  
[ktawney@westminster-school.org](mailto:ktawney@westminster-school.org)

Cindy Cole, 651-3593,  
[cindy.cole@1stchurchsimsbury.org](mailto:cindy.cole@1stchurchsimsbury.org)

## Church School News



### Church School

Up coming events for your Calendar

March 17: Teacher Breakfast and orientation, 9:30 in the Parlor

March 20: Kids @ First Early Closing Event

March 31: Easter Sunday— students attend church

#### Church School Tag Sale:

Collecting items on April 25-26, Sale on April 27. **Volunteers needed**

#### Vacation Bible School:

June 24-27

#### **Church School Intruder/Fire**

**Evacuation Policy:** (reviewed with the teachers and shepherds on Feb 3)

- Formed the policy with the help of 2 public school teachers so the students would be familiar with the procedures.
- Posted the flowchart of procedures in the classroom by the doorway next to the classroom evacuation plan for fires.
- Note: In the event of a building evacuation, parents will meet kids in the Boy Scout Hall parking lot. Do not go to your child's classroom.
- Modified classroom doors so they can be locked from the inside.
- All classrooms have a felt roll down cover classroom door window.
- In the process of purchasing and installing pull down shades for the classrooms exterior windows
- In the process of purchasing a text alert message system to notify teacher/shepherds on their phone of an incident.

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## REBUILDING TOGETHER

*"A Safe and Healthy Home for Every Person"*

Saturday, April 27, 2013

Yes, it's getting to be that time again - First Church will be sponsoring a house and participating in Rebuilding Together's 'National Rebuilding Day' on Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup> (formerly known as Christmas in April). Rebuilding Together is a nation wide program that serves low-income, elderly and disabled homeowners by making their homes safe and secure. National Rebuilding Day happens every year on the last Saturday in April.

The house chosen by First Church to work on is a 1920's, Bungalow style, single story home in Hartford - we will be performing various carpentry repairs, installing some cabinetry, doing bathroom renovations, painting, and landscaping, as well as lots of yard and basement clean up.

Volunteers are needed to work together at First Church's house on the day of the event. Youth and Adults are encouraged to sign up (Volunteers must be at least 12 years old.)

For more information or to sign up, please contact Richard or Esther Derr at 860-874-4111 or 860-658-2787 or [rer74@live.com](mailto:rer74@live.com). Any one wishing to make a donation can drop off a check at the church office made out to First Church of Christ, with Rebuilding Together, in the memo line.

Looking forward to a great day of hard work and fellowship while helping to improve the lives of a family in need!

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### **What is Rebuilding Together Hartford, Inc?**

Rebuilding Together Hartford, Inc. is the nation's leading non-profit volunteer organization restoring and revitalizing America's low income homes and communities. We particularly focus on the homes of the elderly, people living with disabilities and multigenerational families, so that they may continue to live in warmth, safety and independence. On the last Saturday in April, community volunteers descend on a city to repair selected homes. Currently work is completed in more than 865 cities and towns across the country.

### **How did Rebuilding Together Hartford, Inc. get started?**

We are part of a national effort that started in Midland, Texas in 1973 when a group of people wanted to help repair homes for their elderly neighbors. In the fall of 1994 a team of Hartford-area volunteers representing many organizations and businesses determined to launch a Rebuilding Together effort in the state's capital city. Throughout the last 12 years more than 4,000 volunteers have rehabilitated 300 homes, and several homeless shelters and non-profit facilities. Almost all of the work happens in a single day. Projects included stair and porch repair, replacement of windows and furnaces, remodeling of kitchens, lots of painting, and the cleaning of numerous basements, attics and yards.

### **Who is eligible for Rebuilding Together Hartford, Inc. services? What about the cost?**

Low income, elderly and people living with disabilities who are not able to maintain their homes are eligible for Rebuilding Together services (although able-bodied homeowners are expected to work alongside volunteers). We work with community groups who help to distribute our applications to homeowners. There is no cost to the homeowner at all. In Connecticut, Manchester, New Britain, Litchfield County and Stamford are among the towns that also have Rebuilding Together programs.

### **Who can volunteer for Rebuilding Together Hartford, Inc.?**

Anyone 14 and older can be a volunteer for Rebuilding Together Hartford, Inc. Volunteers represent all professions and come from businesses, schools, community service organizations, associations, churches, synagogues and individuals. Volunteers do not need to be skilled at home repairs, but trades organizations such as the Remodeling Contractors Association and the Carpenters Union (Local 43), as well as other skilled professionals such as plumbers and electricians are always welcome.

### **Who sponsors Rebuilding Together Hartford, Inc?**

Funds come from corporations, foundations, civic organizations, religious groups and individuals. Hartford's founding sponsors are Bank of America, The Hartford, and Junior League of Hartford. Other sponsors include the Greater Hartford Jaycees Foundation, Fannie Mae and the Jimmy Buffet Foundation. In addition to house sponsorships we receive in-kind donations such as windows from Landmark Windows and Harvey's, hardware from Home Depot - West Hartford and lumber from Sanford & Hawley, as well as discounts from many other local businesses.

### **How do I get involved?**

If you would like to volunteer or make a tax deductible financial contribution to Rebuilding Together Hartford, Inc. please call our office at (860)757-9426.

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# FEBRUARY EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS



## **CLOSURE OR POSTPONMENT DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER**

If we have to cancel or change any Sunday services and/or related Sunday church activities because of inclement weather, it will be posted as follows:

-On our website  
[http://  
www.1stchurchsimsbury.org](http://www.1stchurchsimsbury.org).

-The automated message on our main phone number will be changed to reflect what is happening

-WFSB (Channel 3) and WVIT (Channel 30) will scroll our announcement on air under First Church of Christ, Simsbury. An announcement will also appear on their websites:

[www.http://  
www.wfsb.com](http://www.wfsb.com)

and

[www.http://  
www.nbccconnecticut.com](http://www.nbccconnecticut.com).

Phil Wilde, representing the Board of Trustees, reported that Trustees had made arrangements with a security consultant to perform a security assessment on February 5<sup>th</sup>. Due to Church Office workload, Phil was encouraged to have the review rescheduled. The meeting was informed that Cindy Cole had established some new Sunday School room security procedures. It was suggested that these improvements be communicated to the Congregation through the Cornerstone to make members and parents aware of the changes. It was requested that the Trustees present the security recommendations to the Executive Council before any changes are implemented.

Reverend Morgan informed the meeting that a planned Stewardship mailing to those who had pledged in 2012 but had not yet pledged in 2013 had been delayed and would occur the week of February 4<sup>th</sup>.

A Governance Workshop with the Executive Council was scheduled for February 9<sup>th</sup> (it was subsequently rescheduled to March 9<sup>th</sup> due to the winter storm).

Dave Wadhams and Ron Patterson provided a progress report on the West Street House committee activities. A non-binding letter of intent has been developed and will be presented to Covenant to Care to confirm their intentions.

Reverend Morgan provided an update on Strategic Plan activities. He highlighted the success of a recent support group program "Light in the Shadows" that focuses on individuals either with significant health issues or providing support to those with health issues. He noted that discussion is underway to extend a similar program to the community. Discussions are planned with the Board of Music Ministries to develop a strategic direction for the music program. Jonathan noted that he will be working with the Board of Elders to develop worship themes over the coming months.

Dane Woodberry noted that the Historical Grant request to fund Technical Assistance was filed on February 2<sup>nd</sup>. Since First Church is part of the Simsbury Center Historic District, the services of an architect are required to assure compliance with that designation. Dane further noted that he plans to meet with the Board of Trustees to discuss the plan for the Historic Grant and to coordinate with them associated activities.

Phil Wilde was requested to bring forward, ideally to the March meeting of the Executive Council, a plot plan for the proposed Veteran's Memorial.

Paul Bryant reported that recruiting activities continue to form a subcommittee to address ONA follow-up actions.

Bill Ketchabaw  
Clerk of the Congregation



Do you know anyone interested in being a member at First Church?

The **Board of Elders** is hosting a **New Member Class on Sunday, March 10th at 8:30 a.m.** in the **Church Parlor**. We would love to include any friends, family and associates who you think would benefit by being part of our church.

New members unite with First Church during the 10:00 a.m. service on **Palm Sunday, March 24th**.

Prospective members should contact Andy Granger at 860-966-0017 or by email at [agranger@kbw.com](mailto:agranger@kbw.com).

## ***NEW SUNDAY MORNING LENTEN ADULT STUDY PROGRAM ON THE SEVEN LAST WORDS OF CHRIST***

Join us for a new Lenten program of small group study and discussion. We will explore the seven last sayings uttered by Jesus from the cross.

Words of:

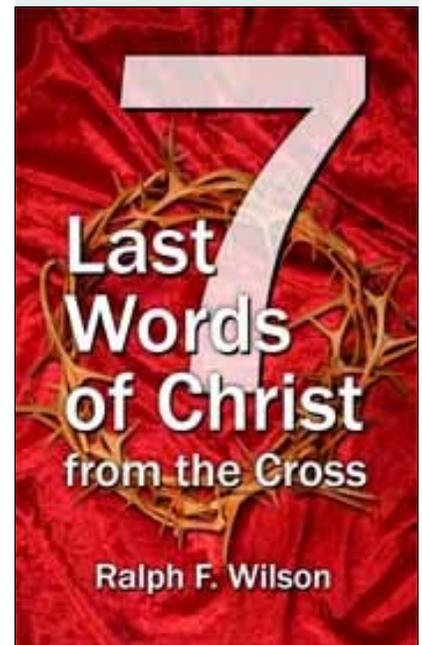
1. Forgiveness
2. Salvation
3. Relationship
4. Abandonment
5. Distress
6. Triumph
7. Reunion

Sunday mornings at 8:30 a.m. to 9:45 a.m., every Sunday through April 7th (no study on March 31st).

For more information, contact:

Todd Williams (860) 217-0326 or  
Mark Scully (860)217-3686

**INTERESTED  
IN  
BECOMING  
A FIRST  
CHURCH  
MEMBER?**



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## UPCOMING RETREATS AND TRIPS

**The Fruit of The Spirit**  
 Ladies Winter Retreat:  
 March 15–17, 2013

Galatians 5

### A Two-Day Women's Retreat at Silver Lake Conference Center in Sharon, CT

Friday, March 15th, 6:00 pm—mid-  
 morning Sunday, March 17th

Come spend a weekend with your sisters  
 in Christ. Relax, Regroup, Refresh.

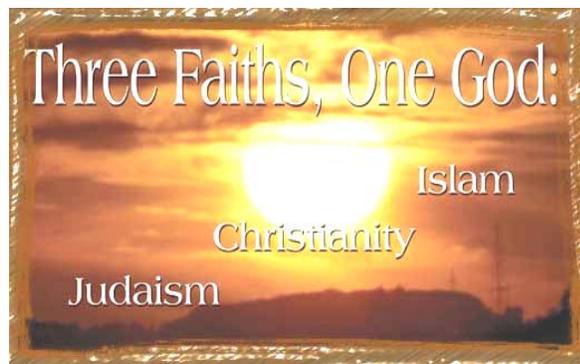
The cost of the retreat is \$130 for  
 accommodations and four meals. Sign-  
 ups available outside of the parlor, in  
 Palmer Hall or in the church office.

For questions or information contact  
 Cindy at [cbraunlich@gmail.com](mailto:cbraunlich@gmail.com) OR  
 Erica Nierendorf at 860-651-3593 ext. 15.

The Women's Retreat Planners: Cindy  
 Braunlich, Sara Burrows, Denise Firestone,  
 Barbara Spears, Erica Nierendorf



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### A NEW STUDY GROUP:

### INTERFAITH UNDERSTANDING

Exploring the Abrahamic  
 Faiths: Christianity,  
 Judaism, Islam

Beginning March 21st at 7:00 pm

A new study group will meet for the purpose of learning about other  
 faiths. If you are curious about the traditions we share, the beliefs we  
 have in common, the beliefs that are different, the meanings of various  
 rituals, prayer practices, and the role of these faiths in the world, join with  
 us as we explore.

We will meet on the third Thursday of March, April and May. This study  
 will prepare us for meetings in the fall with representatives of each of  
 these faiths.

Please contact Erica Nierendorf at 860-651-3593 x15 or Betty Warner at  
 860-658-2691 for more information.

Sign-up sheets will be available in the church office. You can call to sign-  
 up at 860-651-3593.

## SIMPLY SMILES MISSION TRIP

May 4 - 11, 2013

*Approximate Cost: \$ 750*

A Joint Mission Trip for Adults  
Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe in South Dakota  
Farmington Valley Association  
of the United Church of Christ



### Offering Hope

The needs on the Reservation are staggering. The cause of these needs equally so. But we must draw a line, and start from this new point. We must base our opinions of people and of situations only from our personal interaction with them. A persistent problem can often only be solved when looked upon from a fresh angle. Everyone deserves a clean slate in someone's eyes. And we need to see and to use the good in everyone to have any chance at success, to have any chance for change.

Simply Smiles is dedicated to providing bright futures while improving the daily lives of impoverished children. We are committed to fulfilling this mission statement for our new friends on the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Reservation - and we promise we will do our very best. For a hard rain can indeed fall there. Smile by smile, handshake by handshake, house by house, one by one the stains of yesterday and today will be washed away. The path to a bright future will be clear before each individual and everyone will be able to see the beauty and value of the Lakota people.

### The work

#### *Physical Demands*

This experience is very physically demanding. You should be in good health and ready for a challenge. We will be doing construction work which sometimes involves heavy lifting, climbing ladders, etc. The South Dakota spring can be unpredictable. It is not uncommon to have 40+ degree temperature changes. Our work days are long and intense. All of this at an altitude we are not used to here in CT. The demands are high, but the rewards are great.

#### Accommodations

*In a word... Rough*

- We'll sleep on the floor in one large community room on inflatable mats.
- Our only "shower" will be an evening dip in the Missouri River since there is no plumbing.
- We will only have outhouses or port-a-lets most of the time.
- But we will do all this for the opportunity to bring a smile to the face of a child.

For more information go to:

[www.fccsimsbury.org](http://www.fccsimsbury.org)

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There are lots of ways to get involved at First Church! You can teach Church School, serve at the soup kitchen, participate in card making or prayer shawl ministries, sing in a choir, help with youth groups....there are endless possibilities! Contact one of our ministers for more information!



## FELLOWSHIP HOUR SCHEDULE

March 2013

- |         |   |
|---------|---|
| 3/3/13  | Women's Praise Choir                                |
| 3/10/13 | Pastoral Relations Committee/Sr.,<br>Assoc, & Youth |
| 3/17/13 | Families  |
| 3/24/13 | Families  |
| 3/31/13 | PF Pancake Breakfast                                |

First Church of Christ  
689 Hopmeadow St  
Simsbury CT 06070  
860-651-3593  
Fax 408-9229  
Kitchen 658-9043

## STAFF

Rev. Jonathan Morgan  
Senior Minister  
jonathan.morgan@  
1stchurchsimsbury.org

Rev. Kevin Weikel  
Associate Minister for  
Youth and Young Adults  
kevin.weikel@  
1stchurchsimsbury.org

Erica Nierendorf  
Assoc. Minister of Parish Life  
enierendorf@fccsimsbury.org

Mr. Mark Mercier  
Dir. of Music Ministries  
mark.mercier@  
1stchurchsimsbury.org

Ms. Cindy Cole  
Director of Christian Ed.  
cindy.cole@  
1stchurchsimsbury.org

Ms. Nancy Healy  
Church Administrator  
nancy1stchurch@  
fccsimsbury.org

Ms. Catherine Behrens  
Financial & Membership  
Coordinator  
cathie.behrens@  
1stchurchsimsbury.org

Ms. Darlene Davis  
Church Secretary  
darlene.davis@  
1stchurchsimsbury.org

Ms. Ann Gallion  
Church Secretary  
ann.gallion@  
1stchurchsimsbury.org

Mr. Joe Martinez  
Facilities Manager  
joe.martinez@  
1stchurchsimsbury.org



## Supper Club March 15th, 6:30 pm

**YOU ARE INVITED** to the Friday evening, March 15, 2013, Supper Club dinner and program. We gather at around 6:00 to 6:15 pm in Palmer Hall for a potluck supper at 6:30 pm. You will be asked to bring a main dish, vegetable or a salad offering, along with a \$4.00 per person charge.

The evening's program will focus on the Community Farms of Simsbury, Gifts of Love, and our congregation's particular association with their gardening program. The presenters for the evening's program will be Maggie Saska (Garden Manager - Community Farms of Simsbury), Mark Nolan (Interim Executive Director - Community Farms of Simsbury), and Diana Goode (Executive Director - Gifts of Love). Several members of First Church participated in the gardening aspect of Community Farms of Simsbury last year; the harvest of good deeds and personal joy was bountiful - just ask those who participated. And we will learn more about what opportunities these local organizations will be providing this coming growing season. We invite you to join us.

To save your seat, please call Shirley Meyer at 860 693-1944 or Cynthia Yoczik at 860 658-7460 **by Monday, March 11th. ALL ARE WELCOME.**

### First Church of Christ

689 Hopmeadow Street  
Simsbury, CT 06070  
(860) 651-3593  
Www.fccsimsbury.org

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