

# THE CORNERSTONE

## A MESSAGE FROM THE SENIOR MINISTER

Dear Friends in Christ,

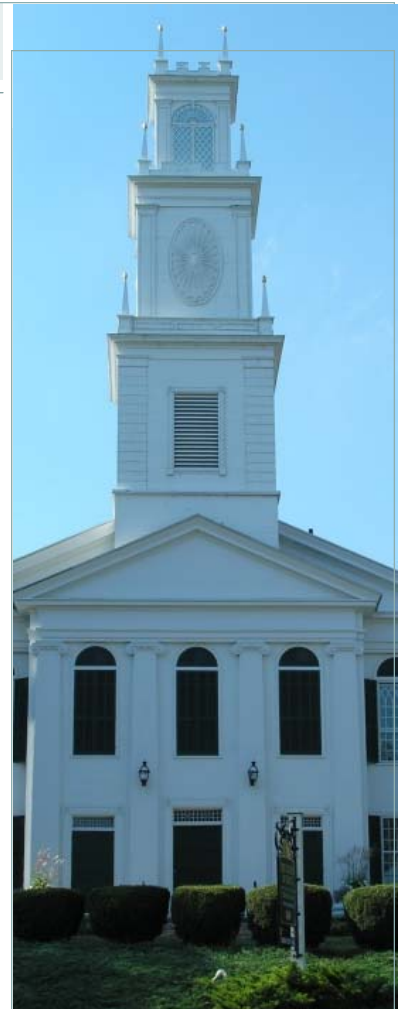
What an amazing celebration we enjoyed on Sunday June 23<sup>rd</sup> as we recognized 10 years of shared ministry. Lisa and I and my children were inspired by the beautiful music during the time of our worship together; richly fed by the amazing reception after service, and deeply touched by the caring and supportive words that were offered during our time of sharing! Special thanks to our Reception crew: Tina and Steve Osborn, Penny Roskin, Jeannie Boehner, Nancy Crouch, and Suzi Sabia. What a great time was had by all 300+ of us, thanks to your hard work and care! It was a perfect way to end the morning! Thank you!

We were also delighted by your response to our request for donations to the Simply Smiles ministry, the Back Bay Mission and the UCC Disaster Relief Fund as a way to honor of our time together. It is my understanding that the fund has passed \$12,000 and is still increasing daily! Thank you for being so generous to these remarkable ministries, which have touched the lives of many who are in need of God's care!

As was mentioned in the service on Sunday, having shared my last worship time with you, I will be dedicating the next few weeks to visits and work within the office. (I am finally cleaning my office!) We will be leaving Simsbury on July 16<sup>th</sup>. Until then, I would be delighted to hear from you if you would like to talk or would welcome a visit.

As I begin this final stage of this faith journey with all of you, I find that my heart is filled with gratitude. First Church has been a source of grace and joy in good times, as well as challenging times. First Church has been a privilege to serve with so many talented colleagues and staff, as well as dedicated lay leaders. First Church will be a source of richly poignant memories for the rest of my life!

Thank you everyone for this incredible gift and may God continue to bless this faith-filled ministry!



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## JULY & AUGUST 2013 WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Services are held every  
Sunday at  
**9:30 AM for Summer Worship**  
in the Sanctuary

### July 7th—COMMUNION SUNDAY

**Kevin Weikel preaching**  
Luke 10:1-11, 16-20  
*"Maintenance or Mission?"*

### July 14th—SUMMER WORSHIP

**Kevin Weikel & Diann Bailey**  
*sharing about the UCC General  
Synod*

Habakkuk 2  
*"God's Vision"*

### July 21st—SUMMER WORSHIP

**Erica Nierendorf preaching**  
Genesis 18:1-12a;  
*"The Joy of Aging!"*

### July 28th— SUMMER WORSHIP

**Diann Bailey preaching**  
Psalm 138 & Luke 11:1-13  
*"To Pray or Not to Pray"*

### August 4th—COMMUNION SUNDAY

**Diann Bailey preaching**  
Ecclesiastes 2:18-23 & Luke  
12:13-21  
*"Workin' for a Livin'"*

### August 11th—SUMMER WORSHIP

**Kevin Weikel preaching**  
Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16  
*"Living Into the Promise"*

### August 18th—SUMMER WORSHIP

**Erica Nierendorf preaching**  
Luke 12:49-56  
*"Called to Disturb the Peace"*

### August 25th—BACK-PACK SUNDAY

**Guest preacher Bill White**

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



It was June of 2005 and I was betwixt and between. I had graduated from seminary in May and had accepted a call to First Church, Simsbury, beginning at the end of August. At the same time, Kelley and I were trying to figure out how to plan a wedding, move, and begin a new life in Connecticut. To say the least, it was a bit overwhelming.

In the midst of the confusion, Jonathan Morgan called to tell me he was coming to the Philadelphia area to visit his sister and wondered if we might have time to get together. To be honest, my initial thought was, "Oh no, not now! I'm not yet ready to start getting specific about ministry in Simsbury, I've got too much going on and I don't start until the end of August!" To my surprise however, that's not at all why he wanted to meet. Jonathan simply wanted to see how I was doing.

During our two-hour lunch at an Irish Pub just outside Philadelphia, Jonathan wanted to put me at ease about starting my first ministry, as well as give me some much needed background that would help in the first few weeks. I remember it being less about what he said and more about his ability to be present and attentive to what he thought I might need at the time.

Over the past eight years, I have watched Jonathan put countless people at ease, in hospital rooms and meeting rooms alike. It is his way; it is what he does best. He is a pastor at heart. As I wrote in his reference, "In the midst of crisis or conflict, Jonathan Morgan is the calmest person in the room." I've been witness to it.

Jonathan has ministered to and with so many of us over these past ten years and for that, we are truly thankful. I join each of you in wishing him and Lisa well as they head off to Eugene and their new life there.

Peace,

*Kevin*

## *A message from your Associate Minister for Parish Life...*

*"I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly." John 10:10*

This verse is one of my favorites, and at this time of year in New England, it rings so true. We are surrounded by abundance! Simsbury is bursting with the beauty of the flowers and trees thriving in our early summer weather. Graduations and weddings surround us, and the vacation season, with its hope of respite and reconnection with our families and friends, has begun. For many of us, this is the time of year when life feels most abundant. And I am one of them. I love summer! God's abundant love feels so real.

In this particular summer season, our community is honoring God's fruitful love in a different way, as Jonathan and Lisa answer God's call to a new ministry at First Church in Eugene, Oregon. Jonathan's ministry has been fruitful in many ways, and on June 23<sup>rd</sup>, we had a wonderful celebration of the abundance, the fruits of his labors in service to Christ, during his ten years of ministry here. In particular, I would like to lift up his mentoring of so many in their faith journeys, in helping them to find their unique way to serve God. This is one of Jonathan's gifts, and through his tenure here so many have grown in their faith, with his encouragement. Personally, I offer my deep gratitude for his encouragement and support, as I answered God's call to ministry.

Yes, Jonathan and Lisa, and indeed, Nathan, James and Laura, have all faithfully served the ministry at First Church in his or her unique way. And we are changed for the better for their having shared this decade of ministry with you. Thank you to all the Morgans! Let us keep Jonathan, Lisa, Nathan, James and Laura in our prayers as their family transitions into their new life, with their hope placed in God's abundant love. And let us keep each other, here at First Church, in our prayers, as we look to new life, without Jonathan's leadership, but resting in the ever-present grace of God's love.

Yours with gratitude for all of Christ's faithful servants,

*Erica*



## UPDATE ON SEARCH FOR AN INTERIM PASTOR

The process of searching for an interim minister has begun. A small team consisting of First Church's Executive Officers -- Melinda Westbrook, President; Jim Trimble, Vice President; Ron Patterson, Treasurer; and Bill Ketchabaw, Clerk -- as well as Janice Johnson, Co-Chair of the Board of Personnel, has started reviewing candidate profiles. We expect to refer those candidates who appear to be a good fit for the interim role to an interview team. The interview team, comprised of Bruce Powell, Barbara Patterson, Chris Long, Nancy Crouch and Louise Gould, will then meet with the referred candidates for in-depth interviews. Additional interviews/meetings with our clergy and others will then follow with the top candidates. We hope that this multi-step process, involving members, leaders and clergy with diverse perspectives, will enable us to select a candidate who is well suited for an interim role at First Church.

What qualities are we looking for? While the job description is still a work in progress, primarily, we are seeking a seasoned leader with significant experience in interim ministry who can collaborate with our clergy, lay and volunteer staff to help us keep First Church's many successful ministry and mission programs running while we are in a time of transition. We are also looking for a candidate who can help us through a period of self-reflection as we discern how God would have us be led in the future.

To prepare for the interim search process, we have met with our UCC regional minister, Tamara Moreland, who will be a resource for us over the next several months. She has provided an overview of the role of interim ministry and with her guidance, we have created a mini-profile of First Church that will be distributed to candidates interested in being considered for the interim role. We plan to provide regular updates to the congregation on our progress with the search and also share more information about our expectations for the interim pastor. Those of you who have expressed interest in assisting with the search process for a settled minister, thank you for doing so -- we will undertake that process sometime in the future, after the interim is on board.

Please continue to keep First Church, our clergy and leaders in your prayers. As we move into a time of transition following Jonathan's departure, we need, more than ever, to join together as a community of faith and support one another. I am optimistic for the future of First Church and look forward to what God will do in our midst.

-- Melinda Westbrook

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

### 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 @ First Church.

#### Vacation Bible School:



## Church School News



#### Up coming events for your Calendar

##### July 7, 14, 21, 28:

Nursery for ages 0-3,

Ages 4 & up begin in church, dismissed to Rm. 22 for Summer Sunday School

##### August:

Nursery for ages 0-3,

Ages 4 & up attend church

Aug: 25: Back Pack Blessing & Continental Breakfast

#### Summer Sunday School Program, "What's in the Bible?" Series

**July 7: "What's in the Bible #5, Israel Gets a King!"**, ...the stories of Samuel, Saul, David and Goliath, and Solomon. A good overview of all their stories, and emphasizing that even Kings can make mistakes, ...and how David responded to God.

**July 14: "What's in the Bible #6, Israel Divided!"** ...the stories from Kings and Chronicles. Including Elijah. A Nation Divided [Kings and Chronicles], learn about 4 books and 39 kings! Israel was a mess after King Solomon died, and the kingdom was split into two parts. Evil kings and queens threatened to wipe out God's people forever, but God sent prophets like Elijah and Isaiah to remind the Israelites of God's great promises to them.

**July 21: "What's in the Bible #7, Exile and Return!"** [Ezra, Nehemiah and Esther], learn about the Israelites' return to the kingdom of Israel after being exiled for many years. Ezra and Nehemiah lead the efforts to rebuild the temple and Jerusalem's city walls, and Chester Whigget's Popsicle Stick Theater presents the Story of Esther!

**July 28: "What's in the Bible #8: Words to Make Us Wise"** [Psalms, Proverbs & the Writings], you will explore the Wisdom Books! Learn all about poetry in the Bible through the books of Job and Psalms, and then Sunday School Lady finds meaning in Proverbs, Ecclesiastes and even Song of Solomon (a book of love songs!).

**August: Ages 4 & up attend church**

#### Fall Teacher/Shepherd Opportunities, Sept 8-Dec 8, 2013

The church school is a co-operative program where parents work together to teach their children about their faith. Please contact [ccole@fcssimsbury.org](mailto:ccole@fcssimsbury.org) to volunteer.

##### **Nursery: Teacher needed**

##### **Pre-K—2 Teachers needed**

Job description: The teachers lead the class each Sunday to teach the basics about faith: our church, prayer, God, etc. The students use learning center activities, crafts, and read Bible stories in circle time. All the teaching materials and crafts are provided to the teacher.

**Kindergarten**—Patti Scanlon, Theresa Carlson

**Grades 1-5 Rotation Program:** Fall units: "Respect: Living God's Word", "Into the Promised Land" (40 years in the wilderness), Christmas

Workshop Teacher Job description: Teachers remain in the classroom teaching the same unit lesson to the different grades as they rotate into the room. Two teachers are assigned to each workshop and they decide which teacher is going to teach on a given Sunday.

**Computer room** – Sarah Guasta, 1 teacher needed

**Cooking room** – 2 teachers needed

**Art room** – 2 teachers needed

**Game room** – Bryan Tawney, 1 teacher needed

**Movie room** – 2 teachers needed

Shepherd job description: Shepherds meet their students in the chapel each Sunday, take attendance, hand out name tags, etc. They lead the students to class and are in charge of monitoring class room behavior, building relationships, and assisting the teacher as required.

**1<sup>st</sup> grade shepherd**—

**2<sup>nd</sup> grade shepherd** -

**3<sup>rd</sup> grade shepherd** – Erin Naspo

**4<sup>th</sup> grade shepherd** – Jackie Brooke

**5<sup>th</sup> grade shepherd** -

Teens are welcome to sign up as classroom or shepherd aides.

**Pre-Confirmation Teachers:** Ann Marie Prabulos, Kim Tawney (subs: Betsey Zackeo, Aynsley Hodges)



# MUSIC NOTES

First of all, I want to thank everyone that had a musical part in Jonathan's final preaching Sunday on June 23<sup>rd</sup>. What a marvelous sound! To have that many who were not only musically inclined, but who were actually there for the beauty of the musical pieces themselves, and to express gratitude to Jonathan, was thrilling to hear and behold. Let's find a way to do this again!

I would not only like to wish Jonathan and Lisa well in beautiful Eugene, but I would also like to acknowledge all he has done for me and this program for the last ten years. When he came to First Church, I was the organist, in partnership with Fred North, the choir director, who was a great musician and a good friend. When Fred left (due to physical problems) it was Jonathan who presented me, relatively untried and certainly with much to learn, with the opportunity to be Director of Music Ministries. It was, (and still is) a huge job, with many responsibilities, and I know that I have occasionally tried the patience of some very understanding people. But, Jon has always believed in me, and has been there with encouragement, positive feedback, and literally much love and understanding. I not only owe my job to him, but also I owe what my life has become, both here at the church and everywhere else. I'm not sure I will ever be able to thank him enough. But his being here has changed my life. Thanks, Jon.

Summer is here, but the music continues on. There are vocalists and instrumentalists who have volunteered their time and talents to help us all with our worship experience on Sunday mornings, so come knowing that the Word will continue to be illuminated by beautiful music.



We are still

looking for some people willing to play or sing on some specific Sundays, so this is your chance to be able to help with worship leadership in a low-pressure, more informal situation. Get in touch by email, phone, or just speak with me, and we will set something up. I'm also available to accompany, so I promise to be there to help you in any way that I can.

Choir rehearsals resume in the fall – Wednesday the 4<sup>th</sup> of September at 4:00 pm for Women's Praise; Thursday the 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm for bells and at 7:30 pm for Chancel (mixed) Choir; and Monday the 16<sup>th</sup> of September at 4:15 for Junior Choir.

I am also meeting with the Youth Music Director at the Methodist Church – Dorothy Cowles – about planning a middle school choir that would encompass kids from both churches. This would ensure that we would have the numbers to make this a satisfying experience for all kids. I would also like to get your input on some aspects about this project.

I will be here during the summer, so if any have thoughts or ideas about projects, concerts, singing groups, or anything music related, either in general or for the year ahead, come by and let me know what's on your mind. Thanks for a great year – and I hope you have a great summer!

*Mark*

## FOUR FROM FIRST CHURCH HEADING TO UCC'S GENERAL SYNOD

General Synod is our denomination's bi-annual gathering. It is the place where the future of the church is envisioned and dreamed, resolutions on important issues are discussed, discerned and voted upon, and members of our denomination - pastors and lay people - come together for worship and fellowship. This year, Synod will take place in Long Beach, California from June 27-July 3rd.

Four from First Church will be attending Synod: **Rev. Kevin Weikel, Gabby Cusano, Diann Bailey, and Marguerite Boslaugh**. Kevin will be attending as a member of the UCC's Next Generation Leadership Initiative. For Kevin, it will be an opportunity to study the larger issues of being The Church and to meet with our brothers and sisters in Christ from around the country. Gabby is a 2013 graduate of Simsbury High School, who will be attending as a Connecticut Conference Youth Delegate. She will study the resolutions and vote on them on behalf of our denomination. Diann, who is in the Search and Call process, will be networking with clergy and lay leaders to help expand her understanding of the clergy role within different church settings. One of the days, she will travel to the UCC's Centro Romero, on the US-Mexico border to learn about immigration issues. Marguerite is attending in her capacity as Trustee for UCC Pension Boards and Director for United Church Board for Ministerial Assistance (UCBMA). She is looking forward to sharing information about the work of UCCPB and UCBMA with other people from around the country. All four will be engaged and representing our church and denomination in different and important ways.

Please hold Kevin, Gabby, Diann and Marguerite in your prayers, as they travel to Long Beach and actively participate in the covenant we have with our denomination, The United Church of Christ.

On July 14th, Diann, Gabby, Marguerite, and Kevin will be sharing in church.

### FIRST CHURCH/COMMUNITY FARM PARTNERSHIP

Thanks to many First Church volunteers, the clients of Gifts of Love again look forward to fresh organic vegetables (they have already enjoyed lettuce, swiss chard and spinach).

For July and August, normal planting days will be Mon., Wed., and Sat. at 9:00 a.m. or later to 12:00 Noon. If other times would work better for you, please contact Maggie Saska, the Farm Garden Manager, and arrange them with her. You can call her at 860-217-0453 at the farm or 860-294-2424, her cell, or email [msaska@communityfarmofsimsbury.org](mailto:msaska@communityfarmofsimsbury.org),



The farm welcomes young children with their parents. Please call Maggie first so that special activities and times can be scheduled.

If you have any questions, please contact Dave Wadhams at 860-836-7368 or email him at [wadhamns.nd@comcast.net](mailto:wadhams.nd@comcast.net).

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It all started with a name tag...

Have you noticed some changes throughout the building recently? The Welcome Church Ministry Team (WCMT) has been busy at work! Earlier in the year they established two central sign up tables for church activities and events. The first is located outside the Parlor and Chapel on the third floor and the second is on the first floor as you enter Palmer Hall for Fellowship Hour. This spring the WCMT hosted a Church Spring Cleaning cleanup day and had many volunteers help to "Spring" clean the building including the stairwells and sanctuary, paint hallways, paint the entrance to Palmer Hall and much more.



This past June, you may have noticed the installation of Welcome Centers on each floor of the church. These "HAPPENINGS @ First Church" centers are a place to find, or for your committee to display, announcements for what is happening at First Church: brochures, visitor information and the ONA certificates and mission statements. Clip boards for signup sheets are also available just under the centers located outside the Meeting House and outside Palmer Hall. This is a key area for our congregation, but also a wonderful resource center for visitors.

The lovely historic bench previously located outside of the church office has been relocated to the Historic area on the second floor near the elevator. Stop by and take a look your Church's history! In place of the bench you will now find comfortable seating that is available to those waiting for a meeting or appointment, or for just a quiet place to sit.

Please contact any of the members of the Welcome Church Ministry Team with questions or comments.

Keep your eyes open for more in the Fall....

Kris Barnett  
Elisabeth Prabulos  
Penny Roskin  
Kathy Wildman  
Dane Woodberry  
Erica Nierendorf



## VISIT OUR YOUTH MISSION TRIP BLOG!

**During our mission trip to West Virginia (July 20-28<sup>th</sup>), we will post updates, pictures and stories at...**

**[www.firstchurchwviregina.blogspot.com](http://www.firstchurchwviregina.blogspot.com)**

### **Be sure to follow!**

A group of 57 will be traveling from First Church to West Virginia for this year's youth summer mission trip. The group will be hosted by A.S.P. (Appalachia Service Project), a program that brings volunteers from all around the country to rural Central Appalachia to repair homes for low-income families. But ASP is more than just a building program. Yes, Appalachia's poorest families urgently need our help, but they can help change our lives, too. Because when we change the lives of others, they have a way of changing us!

After a few days of hard work repairing homes with ASP, our hands will grow a little tougher, our arms a little stronger, and our relationship with God a whole lot deeper. We'll return home to our community with a passion for service, a renewed compassion for other people, and a fresh appreciation for our place and purpose in this world. Best of all, we'll discover first-hand that regardless of geography, education, or economic class, we are all equal members of the family of God.

Here is an overview of our week...

#### **Saturday, July 20<sup>th</sup>**

6:00 am - Depart the First Church parking lot and stay over at Disciples of Christ Church in Cumberland, Maryland.

#### **Sunday, July 21<sup>st</sup>**

2:00 pm - Arrive in Chapmanville, West Virginia.

#### **Monday, July 22<sup>nd</sup> through Friday, July 26<sup>th</sup>**

6:30-8:00 am – Rise and shine, devotions, breakfast

8:30-5:00 pm – Brick laying, carpeting, concrete work, roofing, demolition, digging, flooring, foundation work, framing, door and window replacement, guttering, insulating, painting, plumbing, repairing porches, building wheelchair ramps, dry walling, siding, interior finishing work, etc.

5:00-6:00 pm – Showers

6:00-7:00 pm – Dinner

7:00-10:00 pm – Evening Gathering (a time of fellowship, reflection, sharing, singing, playing, sometimes with a guest speaker, local musician, artist, or other special event).

#### **Saturday, July 27<sup>th</sup>**

7:00 am - Depart Chapmanville, West Virginia. Travel to "Roberts Farm" in Bloomsburg, PA, for volleyball, whiffle ball, closing worship around a campfire, and sleeping out under the stars (weather permitting).

#### **Sunday, July 1<sup>st</sup>**

1:00 pm - Arrive back in Simsbury

We are not traveling alone. Our young people will be reminded that they are being lifted up in prayer by the friends and members of First Church. They are also very aware that it is the financial support of the mission board and some generous members of our church that has helped lessen the cost of the trip, and permitting some teens to participate who would not be able to otherwise.. On behalf of our mission trip participants, thank you! ~Rev. Kevin

**To learn more about A.S.P. <http://asphome.org>. And once again, follow us on our blog at [www.firstchurchwviregina.blogspot.com](http://www.firstchurchwviregina.blogspot.com)**



## JUNE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

Most of the meeting was spent in monthly review of the 2013/2014 Church calendar of events and activities. Key dates that were agreed include:

- The September meeting of the Executive Council was moved to September 3rd.
- Stewardship Sunday was agreed to be October 27<sup>th</sup>.
- Worship service on December 29<sup>th</sup> will be at 10:00 am only.
- The Annual Financial Meeting will be held on February 9, 2014.
- The Annual Meeting will be held on April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2014.

The calendar is still a work in progress, and several events and activities remain to be clarified by the Church Office with the respective organizations.

President Westbrook provided an update to the meeting on planned events to celebrate the ministry of Reverend Morgan on June 23<sup>rd</sup>, including the letter being mailed to the congregation to encourage mission-related gift giving in Jonathan's honor. She also reviewed the process agreed by the Executive Officers for conducting the search for an interim minister. She will be sharing this information and other updates about the search process with the congregation in the weekly email.

The West Street House future use committee reported that 20 survey responses had been received from the congregation and will be reviewed at their next meeting.

Vice President Trimble extended appreciation to Paul Bryant and Reverend Morgan for their years of service to the Executive Council.

Respectfully submitted;

William Ketchabaw  
Clerk of the Congregation

# WHAT WAS LIFE LIKE?

## **What Do Our Records Tell Us, Continued**

This time let's take a look at the *First Ecclesiastical Society Records Simsbury, CT 1832-1907* to see what nuggets it contains. The italic font is to indicate the record's words and the spelling is as it was in the book. In parentheses I'll explain further if it needs explanation. This record is 174 pages long. I'll select some interesting events as it goes along.

### **Page 1. Annual Meeting of Monday December 3, 1832.**

***Voted*** - that the Prudential Committee be directed to circulate the subscription papers to raise monies to aide in defraying the expenses of building the Meetinghouse. [The meetinghouse was built in 1830 and they are still trying to pay for it two years later. They used subscriptions papers or signups from people indicating that they would contribute a certain amount to pay for something. As you can see, the job of paying for things that the church needed fell mostly on those who could afford to pay for them, even then.]

***Voted*** - that the Prudential Committee be appointed to make sale of pews & slips. [This is how the church raised money for the expenses of the following year. They had no such thing as pledges - they sold or rented you a seat to sit in during worship.]

### **Page 4. December 8, 1834 at Adjourned meeting.**

***Voted*** - That the Rev. A. [Allen] McLean & family be furnished with a seat free provided the amount of money raised by the sale of seats amounts to four hundred & eighty dollars.

### **Page 6. Special Meeting Wensday Feby 18<sup>th</sup> 1835.**

***Voted*** - That the Society will not admit the town into the meeting house to hold there town meetings.

***Voted*** - That the Society do nothing about giving the town leave to build a basement story under the meeting house. [The town had held its meetings in the meetinghouse since the town was formed in the late 1600s. In 1818, the State of Connecticut passed a law separating the church from the state and still the town had not built its own town hall. When the Society refused to let the town use the church any longer the town had to build a town hall. It is now called Boy Scout Hall and was completed in 1839.]

***Resolved*** - That this Society considers it disreputable and unbecoming for any person to institute a suit against another person for there occasionally occupying a pew or slip in the meeting house other than that he has rented for the year. [Apparently this had become a problem and they felt they had to deal with it. If you paid for a seat you expected to be able to sit in it, but bringing a law suit was frowned upon.]

### **Special Meeting Monday October 5, 1835.**

***Voted*** - That we raise by subscription the sum of one hundred dollars to be applied for the purpose of reviving the singing in sd Society. [This could have been the beginning of real singing and music in this church.]

### **Page 9. Special Meeting Jany 2 1836.**

***Voted*** - That the stove in the conference room may remain & that the room may be occupied for the purpose of holding singing school in. [This was singing lessons for adults. The conference room was the room above the narthex, now our choir loft.]

More Records Nuggets next time.  
Donna Hopkins, Church Historian



HISTORICALLY  
SPEAKING





## An Update from the Open and Affirming Implementation Team

Since the overwhelming vote to become Open and Affirming last October, the original Open and Affirming Committee has given way to a new Open and Affirming Implementation Team. The mission of this team is to incorporate our identity as an Open and Affirming Church into our existing structure.

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So far, the team has...

- Made a request that the phrase "Open and Affirming" be added to all communication when possible, such as the church bulletin, Cornerstone, church website, and Sunday morning welcome by the ministers.
- Begun researching ways to incorporate "Open and Affirming" into our signage.
- Begun drafting an article for the local papers in an effort to inform the community about the process we have gone through and why.

Instead of enlisting a traditional chairperson, members of our committee will take turns convening meetings, sending minutes, and communicating by e-mail to keep the communication going between meetings. Meetings will be held quarterly and all are welcome. Feel free to talk to any of the members listed below as ideas come to you, if you have questions, or if you have feedback as we move forward as an open and affirming congregation.

The committee is open to all who are interested and currently consists of:

Steve Osborn  
Paul Bryant  
Becky Goss  
Rob Cushman  
Ann Ritson  
Anna Harris  
Christine Granger  
Andy Granger  
Kelley Weikel  
Elaine Meek  
Sara Batchelder

The ministers have also been in attendance.

Anna Harris

# SUMMER BOOK GROUP

Please join us for Lunch and Conversation with Pastor Erica

*"Love Wins* by Rob Bell"

Thursdays from 12:00 to 1:30 p.m.  
July 18<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> and August 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>  
Parson's Study

Bring a bag lunch and we will eat lunch and discuss the book.

July 18 – chapters 1 & 2  
July 25 – chapters 3 & 4  
August 15 – chapters 5 & 6  
August 22 – chapters 7 & 8

Come for any or all of them!

If you have any questions or would like us to order a book for you, please contact Erica at 860-651-3593, ext. 15, or [enierendorf@fccsimsbury.org](mailto:enierendorf@fccsimsbury.org)



**SUMMER STROLLS with ERICA  
and  
COFFEE'S with KEVIN**

You can always contact Kevin or Erica to schedule a one on one appointment to talk and pray with them in their offices, in your home, or just about anywhere else. This summer, however, Erica and Kevin will be offering unique opportunities for conversation called, "Coffee's with Kevin," and "Summer Strolls with Erica." These times will consist of conversation, discussion, listening, laughter and prayer on whatever it is that strikes our hearts that day. Or, if Erica or Kevin is preaching on the upcoming Sunday, maybe they'll bring the focus scripture to the group and discuss where to take it. Whether one person attends or one hundred people attend, it won't matter; these times will be enjoyable and meaningful no matter the size of the group. See the specific details below...

***Summer Strolls with Erica...***

It's Sum Sum Summertime... And it's time to get out and have some walking time with each other! Join Erica and a group of First Church friends, for a leisurely stroll along Iron Horse Blvd. We will meet in Erica's office at 10:00 am and go from there. We will cancel in the event of rain or extreme heat.

All times Wednesday morning's from 10:00-11:00 am...

**July 10th, 17th, and 24th  
August 14th and 21st**

***Coffee's with Kevin...***

Kevin first realized that he might drink too much iced coffee when he ordered one in the middle of a snowstorm. Whether you prefer your coffee iced or hot, or if even if you prefer tea, lemonade, or water, you are invited to participate in "Coffee's with Kevin" at Peaberry's, across the street from the church. If you get there early, pick out a table for us. Dates and times are as follows...

**Friday, July 5th, 10:00 am  
Tuesday, July 30th, 10:00 am  
Tuesday, August 6th, 10:00 am  
Friday, August 23rd, 10:00 am**



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!

**SAVE THE DATES  
In SEPTEMBER!**

**September 1st—Last 9:30 a.m. Summer Service**

**September 8th— 10:00 a.m. worship only—FALL FESTIVAL**

**September 15th—8:30 a.m. & 10:00 a.m. worship services**

**September 22nd—8:30 a.m. & 10:00 a.m. worship services,  
VOLUNTEER SUNDAY & FAIR**

**September 29th—8:30 a.m. & 10:00 a.m. worship services,  
MISSION TRIP STORIES**

**5:00 p.m. CONFIRMATION POTLUCK  
DINNER**

## 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  
jmorgan@fccsimsbury.org

Rev. Kevin Weikel  
Associate Minister for  
Youth and Young Adults  
kweikel@fccsimsbury.org

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

Mr. Mark Mercier  
Dir. of Music Ministries  
mmercier@fccsimsbury.org

Ms. Cindy Cole  
Director of Christian Ed.  
ccole@fccsimsbury.org

Ms. Catherine Behrens  
Financial & Membership  
Coordinator  
cbehrens@fccsimsbury.org

Ms. Darlene Davis  
Church Secretary  
ddavis@fccsimsbury.org

Ms. Ann Gallion  
Church Secretary  
agallion@fccsimsbury.org

Mr. Joe Martinez  
Facilities Manager  
jmartinez@fccsimsbury.org

Patti Peck  
Acting Administrator  
administrator@fccsimsbury.org

## FELLOWSHIP HOUR SCHEDULE



### JULY/AUGUST 2013

7/7/13	Families
7/14/13	Board of Music Ministries
7/21/13	Church Officers/Executive Council
7/28/13	Board of Personnel
8/4/13	Board of Christian Education
8/11/13	Pastoral Relations Committees, Sr. & Assoc. Youth
8/18/13	Faith Circle
8/25/13	Board of Stewardship

### First Church of Christ

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

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## JULY 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b> 10:00 AM CCC 1:00 PM American Red Cross Blood Drive 6:00 PM Troop 76 Eagle Bd. of Review, Parlor	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 9:30 AM Hay Stack, Rm 28 7:00 PM Farmington Valley Chorus, Palmer Hall	<b>4</b> OFFICE CLOSED IN OBSERVANCE OF JULY 4TH 7:30 PM AA-Mtg, Rm 28	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> 8:00 AM Meeting the Spirit Bible Study, Parsons' Study 9:30 AM Worship Service, Sanctuary 11:15 AM Care Bag Committee - Assembly 7:00 PM PF Youth Group, Youth Room	<b>8</b> 10:00 AM CCC 1:00 PM FOODSHARE Distribution, Boy Scout Hall parking lot	<b>9</b> 10:00 AM Retired Men's Luncheon Planning Mtg., Parsons' Study 4:00 PM Farmington Valley Committee on Ministry, Parsons' Study 7:00 PM Deacon's Committee Mtg., Library 7:00 PM Exec. Officers, Exit Interv., Parsons' Study	<b>10</b> 7:00 PM Farmington Valley Chorus, Palmer Hall	<b>11</b> 8:00 AM Kitchen closed all day 9:00 AM Small Study Group, Library 7:30 PM AA-Mtg, Rm 28	<b>12</b> 10:00 AM Farmington Valley Transition Academy 6:00 PM Wedding Rehearsal-Kucinkas/Rusano, Sanctuary	<b>13</b> 4:00 PM Wedding Kucinkas/Rosano
<b>14</b> 8:00 AM Meeting the Spirit Bible Study, Parsons' Study 9:30 AM Worship Service, Sanctuary	<b>15</b> 10:00 AM CCC 1:00 PM American Red Cross Blood Drive 6:30 PM Bible Study, Library	<b>16</b> 8:00 AM Kitchen closed all day 9:30 AM Prayer Shawl Morning Gathering, Rm 28 4:00 PM Farmington Valley Committee on Ministry, Parlor 7:00 PM Prayer Shawl Evening Gathering, Rm 28	<b>17</b> 8:00 AM Kitchen closed all day 7:00 PM Farmington Valley Chorus, Palmer Hall	<b>18</b> 12:00 PM Lunch Bunch Summer Book Group 6:30 PM Troop 76 Boy Scouts Mtg., Palmer Hall/Kitchen 7:30 PM AA-AMtg, Rm 28	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> Youth Group Mission Trip
<b>21</b> Youth Group Mission Trip 8:00 AM Meeting the Spirit Bible Study, Parsons' Study 9:30 AM Worship Service, Sanctuary	<b>22</b> Youth Group Mission Trip 10:00 AM CCC 1:00 PM FOODSHARE Distribution, Boy Scout Hall parking lot 6:00 PM FMHCC Board of Directors Mtg., Parsons' Study	<b>23</b> Youth Group Mission Trip 10:00 AM Card Making Group, Rm 28	<b>24</b> Youth Group Mission Trip 7:00 PM Farmington Valley Chorus, Palmer Hall	<b>25</b> Youth Group Mission Trip 8:00 AM Craft Seminar, Palmer Hall/Kitchen 9:00 AM Small Study Group, Library 12:00 PM Lunch Bunch Summer Book Group 6:30 PM Troop 76 Boy Scouts Mtg., Palmer Hall/Kitchen 7:30 PM AA-Mtg, Rm 28	<b>26</b> Youth Group Mission Trip	<b>27</b> Youth Group Mission Trip 10:00 AM Prep Woessner Shower, Kitchen 11:00 AM Woessner Shower, Parsons' Study & entry hall
<b>28</b> Youth Group Mission Trip 8:00 AM Meeting the Spirit Bible Study, Parsons' Study 9:30 AM Worship Service, Sanctuary 11:30 AM Lunch Bunch Gathering	<b>29</b> 10:00 AM CCC	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 7:00 PM Farmington Valley Chorus, Palmer Hall			

## AUGUST 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 6:30 PM Troop 76 Boy Scouts Mtg., Palmer Hall/Kitchen 7:30 PM AA-Alcoholics Anonymous Mtg, Rm 28	2	3
4 9:30 AM Worship Service, Sanctuary 11:15 AM Care Bag Committee - Assembly	5 10:00 AM CCC 1:00 PM American Red Cross Blood Drive 1:00 PM FOODSHARE Distribution, Boy Scout Hall parking lot	6	7 9:30 AM Hay Stack, Rm 28 7:00 PM Farmington Valley Chorus, Palmer Hall	8 6:30 PM Troop 76 Boy Scouts Mtg., Palmer Hall/Kitchen 7:30 PM AA-Alcoholics Anonymous Mtg, Rm 28	9 10:00 AM Farmington Valley Transition Academy 7:00 PM Farmington Valley Chorus	10 9:00 AM Farmington Valley Chorus rehearsal, Palmer Hall
11 9:30 AM Worship Service, Sanctuary 1:00 PM Holcomb Memorial Service, Palmer Hall	12 10:00 AM CCC	13 4:00 PM Farmington Valley Committee on Ministry, Parsons' Study 7:00 PM Deacon's Committee Mtg., Library	14 7:00 PM Farmington Valley Chorus, Palmer Hall	15 12:00 PM Lunch Bunch Summer Book Group 6:30 PM Bible Study, Library 6:30 PM Troop 76 Boy Scouts Mtg., Palmer Hall/Kitchen 7:30 PM AA-Alcoholics Anonymous Mtg, Rm 28	16	17 1:00 PM Holcomb Memorial Service, Palmer Hall
18 9:30 AM Worship Service, Sanctuary	19 10:00 AM CCC 1:00 PM American Red Cross Blood Drive 1:00 PM FOODSHARE Distribution, Boy Scout Hall parking lot	20 9:30 AM Prayer Shawl Morning Gathering, Rm 28 4:00 PM Farmington Valley Committee on Ministry, Parlor 7:00 PM Prayer Shawl Evening Gathering, Rm 28	21 7:00 PM Farmington Valley Chorus, Palmer Hall	22 12:00 PM Lunch Bunch Summer Book Group 6:30 PM Troop 76 Boy Scouts Mtg., Palmer Hall/Kitchen 7:30 PM AA-Alcoholics Anonymous Mtg, Rm 28	23	24 Wedding-Cobbledick/Mossey
25 9:00 AM Back-Pack Sunday Breakfast 10:00 AM Back-Pack Sunday, Sanctuary w/guest preacher Bill White 11:30 AM Lunch Bunch Gathering	26 10:00 AM Card Making - Rm 28 10:00 AM CCC 6:00 PM FMHCC Board of Directors Mtg., Parsons' Study	27 10:00 AM Card Making Group, Rm 28	28 7:00 PM Farmington Valley Chorus, Palmer Hall	29 6:30 PM Troop 76 Boy Scouts Mtg., Palmer Hall/Kitchen 7:30 PM AA-Alcoholics Anonymous Mtg, Rm 28	30 4:00 PM Wedding Rehearsal-Pollack/Coleman, Sanctuary	31 5:00 PM Pollack & Coleman Wedding