

THE CORNERSTONE

First Church is an open and affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ

November 2013 WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Join Us!

Worship Services:

8:30 a.m. in the Chapel
10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary

*(Daylight Savings Time ends Nov. 3rd at 2:00 a.m.
Turn your clocks back Sat. evening, Nov. 2nd)*

NOVEMBER 3rd—COMMUNION SUNDAY

Dr. Erica Nierendorf preaching

Daniel 7:1-3,15-18

“Calling All Saints”

NOVEMBER 10th—WORSHIP SERVICE

Rev. Dianne Arakawa preaching

Haggai 1:15b-2:9

“Into the Future: A Sermon About Our Transition Together”

NOVEMBER 17th—OPEN & AFFIRMING CELEBRATION SUNDAY

Rev. Kevin Weikel preaching

John 15:9-17

“Open and Affirming One Year Later”

NOVEMBER 24th—THANKSGIVING & NEW MEMBER SUNDAY

Rev. Dianne Arakawa preaching

Jeremiah 23:1-6

“Pilgrims, Then and Now”

NOVEMBER 24TH @ 7:00 p.m.—INTERFAITH THANKSGIVING SERVICE

at the Farmington Valley Jewish Congregation, Simsbury

Our ministers, Bell Choir and some Chancel Choir members will be participating



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***Rev. Dianne Arakawa
Transitional Senior
Minister***

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Fridays out of office

A message from Dianne Arakawa, our Transitional Senior Minister

Dear Friends,

November rounds out Pentecost and celebrates Thanksgiving. Pentecost is the liturgical period that began with Pentecost Sunday. Its theme is the outpouring of the Holy Spirit to lead and empower the ministries of church people. It culminates by celebrating the Reign of Christ. Pentecost is the longest season, compared to others, and its symbol is the color green. Some say the green is for planting, growing and harvesting; it also stands for vitality. Our national holiday of Thanksgiving, then, is an appropriate civil ending to this month as it recognizes our Pilgrim religious history, Native American hospitality, and the harvest on which all of our lives depend.

As Pentecost moves towards fulfillment, I appreciate how much planting, growing and harvesting has happened here at First Church-- the farewell of the Rev. Jonathan Morgan, mission trip to West Virginia, hiring of a new church administrator and financial assistant, search and call of your Transitional Senior Minister, renovation of 6 West Street, completion of Welcome team projects, submission of our historical preservation grant application, and collection of our “Surprising Gifts” pledges for 2014.

In the first three months of a transitional ministry, my primary goal is to begin to understand the church family system. After all, why should church members and friends trust a new leader who does not take the time to meet people where they are and begin to learn the ways of this church before suggesting changes? As I learn from your past and help to lay foundations for your future, healthy communication remains essential. We all need trustworthy information and styles of effective communication on which to build. Jesus and Paul in the formation of the early church knew that no one was perfect, people came from vastly different backgrounds, and effective communication was vital for community and church growth.

Two Bible scriptures were key to the early church and to us. In the context of forgiving “seventy times seven” times, Jesus taught us a three-step process for properly addressing concerns and hurt feelings. We find this in **Matthew 18: 15-17, 21-22**. Exhorting us to “speak the truth in love,” Paul coached early Christians to relate as members of the Body of Christ, instead of in the divisive ways of the secular world. We find this in **Ephesians 4: 1-7, 11-16**.

In our time together let us “grow up into Christ” by speaking God’s truth in love in the context of forgiveness and hope. Let us pay attention not only to our ideas, but especially to *how* we listen and speak with each other. Let us practice direct communication between people and not through other people. If we have something to communicate, let us say it directly—pick up the phone, email, text, or leave a message for a call back. In this way, we will become even more vital and have even more reasons to give thanks together.

Abundant blessings,

Dianne

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

“Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come into his presence with singing. Know that the Lord is God. It is he that made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him, bless his name. For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.” Psalm 100

Greetings!

With apologies to Christmas, Thanksgiving is quickly becoming my favorite holiday. I recognize that Thanksgiving is not a religious holiday, but then again, taking an entire day to focus on how grateful I am for the things I so often take for granted makes it feel that way. Thanksgiving is great because, unless we are hosting a meal, there are few expectations. Unlike Christmas, where there is pressure to send out the Christmas cards, put up the tree, and purchase gifts, Thanksgiving is simply about spending time with family and friends, eating large quantities of our favorite comfort foods and taking the time to be grateful for the many blessings in our lives.

But I think it also goes much deeper than this. I don't know about you, but sometimes I get so caught up thinking about those things that are not going according to plan that I neglect to be as grateful as I ought to be. I think I've come to appreciate Thanksgiving so much because it forces me to take the time to really think about my life and offer gratitude for the many ways that I have been abundantly blessed. In this way, Thanksgiving is a sort of attitude readjustment for me. It is a time to offer thanksgiving for all that God has created and is sustaining each day, and to remember with great joy that I am beloved by God.

Where in your life could you use an attitude adjustment when it comes to being thankful? In what ways could you have more gratitude? At work? At home? At church? Behind the wheel? This year, may we use Thanksgiving as a way to be more grateful and make a joyful noise to God with our expressions of gratitude and thanksgiving,

Peace to you,
Kevin



Rev. Kevin Weikel
Associate Minister
for Youth and
Young Adults

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Wednesdays out of
office



Dr. Erica Nierendorf
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Tuesdays &
Thursdays out of

A message from Dr. Erica Nierendorf, Associate Minister of Parish Life

"I was sick and you took care of me." (Matthew 25:36)

Dear friends,

As our First Church community has transitioned into our autumn schedule, many of you have had a change in your lives and schedules. For some it is a busy time, with school and family activities, as well as commitments at work and within the community. For others, this season has brought new personal, health or work challenges. My hope is that our worship life and shared journeys in faith at First Church provide each of you with a cornerstone, a place to refocus your life on God's loving care for all of us.

Some of you have inquired of my schedule at this point, which has also been transitioning. In October, my training in Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) began and I am serving as a student chaplain at Hartford Hospital on Tuesdays and Thursdays through April, as well as two days of "On Call," per month. CPE is an important requirement for those seeking ordination in the United Church of Christ. Why is this so?

First, Jesus Christ calls his followers to care for those in need in our communities. And he specifically names caring for the sick as part of his call to care. "I was sick and you took care of me." (Matthew 25:36) In pastoral ministry, this can be a significant portion of what clergy do. CPE provides training in the integration of theological, spiritual and emotional care of patients, and there will be many hours spent with patients and their families, on specific floors, as well as the Emergency Room. The skills that I learn at Hartford Hospital, I will bring to my role as Acting Associate Minister at First Church.

Secondly, CPE provides an opportunity to deepen and grow one's own spirituality and self-awareness as a minister. There is targeted supervision and seminar work aimed at this, as well as service in interfaith chapel worship. As followers of Christ, we all hope to be "instruments" of God's peace and care. CPE is a challenging but wonderful opportunity to grow in understanding how a person, with his or her unique personality, is to serve as Christ's disciple.

During this time of CPE, my office hours will usually be on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, unless I have been on-call at the hospital the night before. I thank you in advance for your understanding of my flexible schedule during this time. As always, you are in my prayers and I ask for yours, as well.

Yours in Christ,

Erica

MUSIC NOTES

In this season, there is much to ponder. We wonder about being thankful when there is so much turmoil in the world, in our own country, and in our environment. We have to look and think hard about blessings sometimes, and work to keep in mind that we do, in fact, have things for which we are thankful.

Music is an excellent way to accomplish that. It connects us to beauty and to God in a way that opens our hearts, minds and souls to good in the world. Rather than giving us a temporary escape from what seem to be the harsh realities that are so prevalent, it gives us a path to experience what is truly real. One of the most exquisite flowers in the world – the lotus – grows in mud and garbage-laden water, and rises above the waterline to bloom in incredible splendor. This is music, and it will help us rise above the troubles and problems and see the soul-deep beauty that may be hidden, but is always present.

May music be a large part of your upcoming holiday season. Here are several events that you might be mindful of, to help you along:

- **November 2nd: Women's Praise Choir travels to Charlton, MA**, to sing a concert at the Federated Church of Charlton, courtesy of their new members and our old friends, Billye and Roger Auclair. We will attend a pot-luck dinner at 6:00 p.m., and then present our program at 7:00 p.m. We look forward to representing First Church to our friends in Massachusetts.
- The **Simsbury Town-Wide Interfaith Thanksgiving Service** will take place on **November 24th at the Farmington Valley Jewish Congregation – Emek Shalom - on Bushy Hill Rd, at 7:00 PM**. All are invited. We will be offering music by the joint Children's choirs, Adult Choirs, and Bell Choirs with musicians from Simsbury. This has proven to be a powerful and moving service, with a huge attendance. Please come.
- **Women's Praise** again represents First Church at **Simsbury Celebrates, on November 30th**, with a 45 minute concert in our **sanctuary at 5:30 p.m.** Additionally, there will be jazz offered by several talented musicians in the Youth Room, where coffee and hot chocolate will be served. Both places are great spots to sit, spend some time relaxing in the midst of all the widespread and varied events of the day.
- On **December 15th at 3:00 p.m.**, the **Hockanum Valley Ringers** – a wonderful hand bell ensemble from the Central Connecticut area, will present a holiday concert in our sanctuary. This will literally ring in the holidays, and all who attend are in for some excellent music. Their concerts include a variety of musical styles, from classical and Broadway, to pop and jazz, along with a sprinkling of original contemporary music written especially for handbells and handchimes. There will be some Christmas selections as well, and we know that this will be an excellent opportunity to take a break from the chaos that the season sometimes contains and to reflect on the beauty of Christmas.
- Choirs are already rehearsing for Christmas services, and we would, of course, love to have you sing with us. **Women's Praise Choir** meets on **Wednesdays at 4:00 p.m.**, **Chancel Choir** on **Thursdays at 7:30 p.m.**, and **Juniors** on **Mondays at 4:15 p.m.**



Mark Mercier
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Tuesdays out of office

Short Congregational Meeting Planned for November 17, after 10:00 a.m. Service

Do you read the Cornerstone from cover to cover each month? When you get the weekly email that lists all the upcoming events, prayer requests and celebrations of our congregation, do you scroll through to find out what's new and how you can lend a hand? Have you read the stewardship mailings sent this fall, including the letter that accompanied your pledge card, which outlined the many programs and ministries happening right now, even as we have begun moving through a transition period? Have you checked out the First Church Facebook page or our church school's Faith Formation website or read the notices each week in the Sunday bulletin?

If your answer to any of these questions is no, but you still feel sure that "stuff is happening" at First Church that you don't know about, then do this: first, take some time to look through the various paper and online communications that you already have access to. Learn about the broad array of programs, projects and ministries taking place every week in our very active church – from efforts to obtain a historical preservation grant to women's fellowship and small group ministries to youth groups, Bible studies, multiple music ministries, shared meals, mission projects and one of the coolest Sunday School programs around.

Then, please join us on **November 17th** for a short congregational meeting during which we will begin a dialogue about how to communicate more effectively with each other about all the good things happening in our church community and about what we can expect as we walk through this transition period together.

--Melinda Westbrook, President

GRATITUDE FOR YEARS OF SHARED MINISTRY



Dear members and friends of First Church, Simsbury:

When I concluded my ministry as Associate Pastor with you in the spring of 2012, I promised the gift of a tree, to express my gratitude for our years of shared ministry.

Now that tree is planted on the front lawn of First Church. It could not have happened without the efforts of several folks; it's hard to plant a tree long distance!

So I'd like to take a moment to express my deep gratitude to Kathryn King, who did the research, found the tree and coordinated its planting. I'm grateful for the creativity she invested in finding just the right tree: one that will erupt with color every autumn, and will grow to maturity in 100 years! It reminds me to cherish each season and to take the long view. Kathryn was assisted by Joe Martinez, who transported the tree and helped to plant it. Thanks also to the Board of Trustees for working with Kathryn to identify a suitable location, and to Revs. Dianne Arakawa and Kevin Weikel for helping to facilitate the process.

May the tree be a source of wonder and gratitude for you, as it has been for me.

Grace and Peace,
Rev. Alison J. Buttrick Patton

Kids Investigating Divine Stories at First Church

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

Church School

News



Upcoming events for your Calendar

Nov 3rd: Bible Sunday

Nov 24th: Teacher/shepherd breakfast and meeting: in the Parlor at 9:30 a.m.

Nov 30th: Simsbury Celebrates at First Church

Dec 7: Polar Express PJ Party/Parents

Bible Sunday, November 3, 2013

Students attend worship, participate in Communion, and students in grades K,1,4 & 5 (who have registered), will have the opportunity to receive Bibles from their parents during the service.



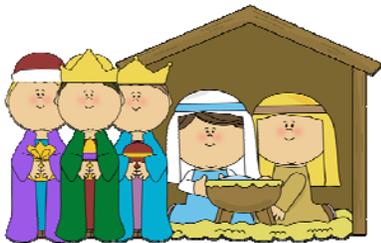
- The service will be in the style of Uncommon worship led by Rev. Kevin Weikel along with a praise band.

Thanksgiving Prayer for Kids:



Let's Be Thankful (To the tune of Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star)

Let's be thankful for this day
 For our friends and our play
 Let's be thankful; let's be glad
 For our food and the things we have
 Let's give thanks for you and me
 And our home and family.



**Church School Christmas Service
December 15, 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary**

This year's theme: Everybody Counts

The service is organized as a typical service with the exceptions of the students leading the worship and the sermon is a skit. This year, the skit takes place in Bethlehem 0 AD in the days when Caesar Augustus had issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. Everybody went to his or her own town to register and this is when our skit begins.

Students who want to participate in the service need to think about what they would like to do, and meet in the 3rd floor lobby on November 24th at 11:15 a.m. to sign up for parts. Pre-K through 1st grade are assigned parts.

- We will be rehearsing the service during church school on December 1st and 8th.
- The junior choir is singing in the service and will rehearse at their regularly scheduled time.
- Pre-K and Kindergarten will be singing 2 songs in the service. They will practice on Sunday morning during music. Parents will be given copies of the words.
- Dress rehearsal (and pancake breakfast) on Saturday, December 14th at 9:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary is mandatory.
- All students are asked to wear black shirts and black pants for the dress rehearsal and church service. Costumes will be handed out at the dress rehearsal.

Student Volunteer Opportunities:

- Readers for the Call to worship (5-7th grade students)
- Lighting the advent candle (5-7th grade students)
- Readers for the prayer of Confession (5-7th grade students)
- Readers for prayers (5-7th grade students)
- Readers of scripture (5-7th grade students)
- Scripture story in hand motions (2 & 3 graders)

Sermon skit "Everybody Counts" parts:

- Bubbie/Grandfather (adult male)
- Zadie/Grandmother (adult female)
- Joshua/father A – non speaking part (3-7th)
- Rachael/mother A- non speaking part (3-7th)
- 2 children family A - non speaking parts (3-6th)
- Samuel/father B - non speaking part (3-7th)
- Rivka/mother B – non speaking part (3-7th grader)
- 4 children B – non speaking (3-6th grader)
- 1 male Narrator – excellent reader (5-7th)
- 1 female Narrator – excellent reader (5-7th)
- Stable animals (2nd -6th graders) (3 cows, 2 goats, 2 donkeys, 1 chicken, 1 rooster, 1 pig, sheep)
- Sheep (1st graders)
- 2 Shepherds – non speaking parts (4-6th graders)
- Citizen 1- speaking part (4-7th graders)
- Citizen 2 – speaking part (3-7th grader)
- Census Agent – speaking part (3-6th grader)
- Candle/oil vender – speaking part (3-7th grader)
- Grocer – speaking part (3-7th grader)
- Rat catcher – speaking part (3-7th grader)
- Roman soldiers – non speaking parts (4-6th)
- 2 inn keepers - non speaking parts (4-6th graders)
- Angels (pre-K & K)
- Baby Jesus – doll
- Mary (3-7th grader, non-speaking part)
- Joseph (3-7th grader, non-speaking part)
- 3 wise men (3-6th graders, non-speaking parts)

Additional opportunities:

- Greeters (4-7th graders)
- Ushers (4-7th graders)

This is a wonderful opportunity for your student to participate in a church service and learn about the parts of a service. This service allows students an opportunity to share their gifts and talents with the congregation.

Simsbury Celebrates: November 30th at First Church of Christ

The church school sponsors Christmas Ornament Making in Palmer Hall. Please join us and make an ornament for your tree.



Fall Church School Mission Project

Offerings collected from Sept. to Nov. will be used to purchase items for children's Christmas stockings. **The stockings are assembled on December 1st by the children** and donated to children in need. Families can fill and donate their own stocking as a family mission project.



REV. KEVIN WEIKEL—YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

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

JUNIOR FELLOWSHIP (Grades 7-8)

- Friday, November 8th** **2:10-4:00 pm:** Activity: We'll travel to McLean where we'll visit and do arts and crafts with the residents.
- Friday, November 22nd** **2:10-4:00 pm:** Topic: "Thanksgiving." Join us for games, activities, and a discussion around being thankful.

CONFIRMATION GROUP (Grade 8)

- Sunday, November 3rd** **5:00-7:00 pm Large Group Meeting (Jesus)** in Palmer Hall for students
- Sunday, November 17th** **5:00-7:00 pm Small Group Meeting (Holy Spirit)** at host homes for students.

PF YOUTH GROUP (Grades 9-12)

- Sunday, November 3rd** **7:00-9:00 pm: Regular Gathering.** Topic, "Acceptance"
- Friday, November 8th** **5:30pm through Sunday, November 10th at 2:00pm: Fall Retreat to Silver Lake!**
- Sunday, November 17th** **7:00-9:00 pm: Regular Gathering.** Topic, "Life Is A Gift, Don't Take It For Granted."
- Sunday, November 24th** **7:00-9:00 pm: Bonfire in the Scully's back yard!** We will meet at the church at 7:00 pm and take the bus to the Scully's for a bonfire, hot chocolate, s'mores, and a devotion under the stars.

EVERY SUNDAY:

Look for Maddie Earnhardt in the "Youth Pew" for worship every Sunday morning at 10:00 am. The Youth Pew is located in the balcony on the right front side.

Coming Up: Fall Retreat to Silver Lake!

Friday, November 8th through Sunday, November 10th! Mark your calendars, details coming shortly!

Simsbury Celebrates at First Church

Saturday November 30, 2013

4:00 ~8:00 p.m.



First Church Events

Jon England Holiday Concert in Sanctuary

Women's Praise Choir in Sanctuary

Holiday Wreath Display and Tea Cup Auction

Fair Trade Coffee house with live Jazz in our Youth Room

Ryan San Angelo - Children's Stories and Songs in Parson's Study

FRIED DOUGH in our snack tent

Interactive Kid's Crafts in Palmer Hall

Mrs. Claus' Cookie Decorating in Palmer Hall



Don't just bring your Family....**Participate** with your family!!
A **FUN** way to give back to your church and your community.

Ways to Get Involved

Decorate a wreath for our Tea Cup Raffle

(Wreaths will be available during fellowship hour in early November)

Volunteers needed to stage the event, help during the festivities and to clean up after

Welcome and help guide guests through the church to various exhibits

Help with kids' hands on activities

Light Luminaries outside (100!)



Please call or e-mail

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OCTOBER EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

It was moved, seconded, and carried that the appointment of Sara Gaines to the Board of Elders be ratified for a one year term. Based on an earlier conversation with Mike Hogan, Dane informed the meeting that Susan Mueller would assume the role of Chair for the Committee of Deacons, and that Mike Hogan would continue to serve in an advisory capacity.

Dane Woodberry provided a progress update on the Historic Grant project, noting that all necessary Church input material for the grant had been collected and that final assembly was underway for submission. A grant approval award is expected during the month of January 2014.

Reverend Arakawa reported that she had commenced occupancy of the West Street House on October 1st, noting that she feels quite safe and secure in the house. She extended her appreciation to all those involved in preparing the house for her occupancy. There are a few “punch list” items underway for completion.

As a carryover from the September meeting, it was moved; seconded; and carried that the housing allowances for Reverend Weikel and Dr. Nierendorf be retroactively approved for calendar year 2013, and approved for calendar year 2014. Copies of the documented housing allowance requests from Reverend Weikel and Dr. Nierendorf are confidentially on file with the Board of Personnel.

Mark Scully, Chair of the Board of Stewardship, informed the meeting that the first Stewardship letter to the congregation had been mailed earlier this month. A second mailing, including the pledge card, and an invitation to participate in “automatic giving”, will be done the week of October 14th.

Commencing Sunday October 6th and for the following two Sundays, members of the congregation will be “Telling our Story” during worship service. Pledge Sunday is scheduled for October 27th.

Kristin Garcia, Church Administrator, informed the meeting that based on a recent proposal received to redesign and enhance the Church website, she plans to table the proposal and research other vendors, as well as other Church websites, before proceeding with the project. Kristin also plans to seek feedback from within the Church on the current website. Based on earlier discussion by the Executive Council concerning the need for a new Church Directory, Kristin was asked to include in her research possible inclusion of this topic on the website.

Cindy Braunlich, Chair of the Board of Elders, informed the meeting that discussion and activity is underway to review the current active membership roll. Part of the assignment will include the documentation of a process to be followed in the future for this activity by the Board of Elders.

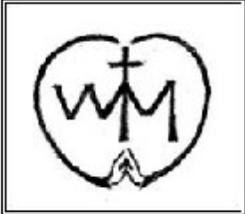
Treasurer Ron Patterson informed the meeting that through the month of September, both income and expenses overall are performing well. Pledge income is running approximately \$20,000 behind last year's giving at this time but other sources of income have compensated for some of the shortfall. Ron reported that the earlier financial reconciliation problems have been completed and that we can now have confidence in the financial reporting, thanks to the efforts of our Financial Assistant, Stacey vonRichthofen. As a result of past difficulties experienced in our expense approval process, the Board of Finance will be publishing expense approval guidelines as part of their 2014 budget planning guidelines. The Board of Finance is requesting budget input from the Board Chairs and the Church Office by December 1st.

President Westbrook reported that she expects to have the Pastoral Relations Committee in place by month end of October for Reverend Arawaka.

Dane Woodberry and Dave Wadhams commented that discussions will commence shortly between the Committee of Deacons and the Board of Mission and Outreach for the possible merger of these two organizations. President Westbrook requested that separately the Board of Elders and the Board of Music Ministries, and the Board of Finance and the Board of Trustees, undertake a similar exercise to explore the possible merge of these organizations. Other Boards were encouraged to undertake a similar exercise.

Considerable discussion occurred related to the need for a "Transition Period Schedule" of activities as we move forward with our transitional period of ministry. It was agreed that Jim Trimble, Melinda Westbrook, Reverend Arawaka, Reverend Weikel, and Dr. Nierendorf would meet in the near future to begin discussion on this topic, as well as communication to the congregation.

Bill Ketchabaw
Clerk of the Congregation
October 17, 2013



CALLING ALL WOMEN OF FIRST CHURCH...

*God has a calling for each of us!
(If we are willing to listen)*

*Join us on Saturday morning
November 16th from
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon in
Palmer Hall*

A panel of women, including our own Rev. Dianne Arakawa, will share their journeys of discipleship. We will take a few hours to retreat from the world, and to share our journeys in faith, friendship and conversation.

Please contact Erica with any questions at x15 or at enierendorf@fccsimsbury.org. To register, please call the church office at 860-651-3593 or info@fccsimsbury.org.

New Member Class



NEW MEMBER CLASSES IN NOVEMBER

If you are interested in becoming a member of First Church we would love to have you!

Orientations are **November 3rd** after the church service at **11:15 a.m.** and **November 17th** at **8:30 a.m.** Both meetings are in the Parson's Study.

Child care will be available if needed.

New members will unite on **Sunday, November 24th** at the **10:00 a.m.** worship service.

For further information, please contact Andy Granger at agranger@kbw.com.

WHAT WAS LIFE LIKE?

Nuggets of Knowledge from the First Ecclesiastical Society Records 1832-1907.

Page 18 – Annual Meeting December 27th 1841.

Voted – that the Society's committee be directed to..remove the horse sheds north of the meeting house and all other sheds which are improperly located...[Horse sheds were built by the users of same around the church so people could park their horses or carriages during services. The appearance and location of these sheds raised some issues over the years, as we shall see. They were also rented and thus a source of revenue for the church.]

Page 20 – Adjourned Annual Meeting January 2nd 1843.

Voted - That the Prudential Committee be directed to settle with the Committee who have procured the blinds for this house, and pay up for the same so far as remains unpaid and that they...retain and collect the subscriptions already subscribed for the same...[Recall that they voted to install blinds in 1840 and apparently still don't have them. Rest assured that they still hold the papers with names of folks who promised to help pay for them.]

Page 20 – Annual Meeting December 4th 1843.

Voted – to appoint a committee to examine and find the amount of indebtedness of this Society and that they...solicit subscriptions to cancel all outstanding debts against this Society. [Great way to fix a budget shortfall.]

Voted – that the Prudential Committee with the Treasurer, be directed to take such measures in regard to the notes due this Society as shall render them safe [Watch out- they intend to collect what you said you'd pay.]

Voted – That Mr. McLean be requested to have the intermission one hour and no more between the morning and afternoon services on the Sabbath until otherwise requested by this Society [Church on Sunday still lasted all day and had a morning and afternoon sermon and readings. Apparently, people wanted to shorten it and requested one hour lunch breaks.]

Page 22 - Annual Meeting December 2nd 1844.

Voted – That the following persons be a committee to solicit subscriptions and that said subscriptions be payable on the 1st of May next for the purpose of paying the outstanding debts, provided the sum of 250 dollars be subscribed as a sum sufficient to cancel all demands against the Society. Then followed a list of six persons.

Page 24 – Adjourned Meeting held December 15th 1845.

Voted – That the Prudential Committee be directed to use so much of the funds of the Society as may be necessary and cause chimneys to be built in this house and to make such repairs as are needed... [It was time for some heat in the meeting house.]

Voted - That the Prudential Committee be [They still didn't pay the minister on time and apparently he was quite patient waiting. He must have just suggested that they pay him money owed.]

More next time. Find out when they finally got the chimneys put in and some heat in the meetinghouse.

Donna Hopkins, Church Historian



HISTORICALLY
SPEAKING



FIRST CHURCH'S GRANT APPLICATION FOR A NEW ROOF HAS BEEN SUBMITTED!

First Church of Christ is applying for a Historic Restoration Fund (HRF) grant to re-roof its facility. The grant is from the Connecticut State Historic Preservation Office, through the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD). By the time this newsletter is published, a digital application and a thick binder of hard copies will have been submitted.

This is the first year that the HRF grant process included an online submission component. The team for this grant—Rick Wilde, Lorrie McElligott, and Dane Woodberry—worked diligently writing the application narratives, as well as gathering and uploading all the necessary documents. Our grant submission was the culmination of fifteen months of work. During that time, over twenty individuals generously provided input, team members participated in two mandatory training sessions, state officials conducted two on-site visits, and an architect was hired to provide drawings.

The grant required a range of supporting materials. They included acknowledgement of the historical significance of the property; proof that the property is owned by us and is not located in a flood plain; architectural plans and specifications; detailed financial statements; a comprehensive re-roof financing plan; letters of support from officials, and evidence that FCC is compliant with the requirements of the Commission of Human Rights and Opportunity. We expect to hear whether our application is approved sometime in January 2014. The team members are looking forward to answering your questions and showcasing a copy of the grant binder during Fellowship Hours in November.



FIRST CHURCH TREASURER'S BUDGET UPDATE

Much has occurred since our congregation's financial meeting in February of this year when we approved our 2013 budget. We have our new Financial Assistant, Stacey vonRichtofen; our new Office Administrator, Kristin Garcia; and our new Sr. Transitional Minister, Dianne Arakawa . These three outstanding women will help us to achieve our spiritual and administrative goals for the coming years. We welcome them.

Our 2013 approved budget set income at \$890,190 based largely upon pledges of \$745,000 and other revenue sources, such as rental income, special appeals, offerings, and use of surplus funds from 2012. Total pledges for the year amounted to only \$708,000 of which we have collected \$497,000 or about 70%. So we are challenged to respond to our call to give back the gifts we all have so First Church can continue with its many programs, mission projects, worship, and music ministries. Please review your pledge progress and provide any help you can.

Our overall budget is in fair shape despite unexpected expenses and reduced income. The Board of Finance will continue to monitor the various Board budgets and make adjustments as required to assure we come close to balancing our budget for the year..

Our endowment funds have done well with a total investment return year to date of 9.82%.

Trustees and Joe Martinez, with contractor help, have completed fixing up the house on our property for Dianne Arakawa to live in while she guides us during the interim period. The house needed repairs and improvements anyway, and we have utilized some money from the Ministerial Housing endowment fund which is specifically restricted for such ministerial housing assistance.

Our Historic Restoration Grant application for roof replacement, approved by the congregation , is almost complete and will be submitted to the State of Connecticut in October. Award will be in early February, 2014. We are seeking 50% reimbursement of the total roof costs of about \$90,000. Dane Woodbury and Rick Wilde are project managers and working with a local architect on the project.

The Board of Finance is implementing some reporting and financial control measures we feel are necessary for more accurate budget control and reporting. I thank all the hard working members of our Board who serve First Church very well.

Ron Patterson
First Church Treasurer

First Church of Christ

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**FELLOWSHIP HOUR SCHEDULE
NOVEMBER 2013**

November 3rd—Families

November 10th—Board of Finance

November 17th—ONA Committee

November 24th—TBD

First Church of Christ

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NOVEMBER, 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 5:30 Wedding- LeGette/Mawaka, Sanctuary	2 6:00 Women's Praise Choir - traveling to First Church Charlton, MA 7:30 Boysen Eagle Scout Court of Honor Ceremony, Sanctuary 8:30 Reception for Boysen Eagle Scout, Palmer Hall/kitchen
3 8:30 Early Worship, Chapel 8:30 The Lord's <u>Prayer</u> Small Group Study, Parsons' Study 10:00 Communion/Bible Sunday/UnCommon Worship Sunday, Sanctuary 11:15 Care Bag Committee Assembly, Rm 29 11:15 New Members Orientation, Parsons' Study 5:00 Confirmation Lg. Grp. Mtg, Palmer Hall 7:00 PF Youth Group, Youth Rm	4 10:00 CCC, Library 12:00 Hopmeadow Nursery School Dance Class, Rm 29 1:00 American Red Cross Blood Drive 4:15 Junior Choir 4:30 Book Club, Parlor 7:30 Executive Council Mtg., Parsons' Study	5 11:00 Hopmeadow Nursery <u>School</u> Dance Class, Rm 29	6 9:30 Hay Stack, Rm 28 9:30 Music Together, Rm 29 10:30 Music Together, Rm 29 11:30 Music Together, Rm 29 12:30 Music Together, Rm 29 4:00 Women's Praise Choir 6:30 KP meeting, Library 7:00 Open & Affirming committee/parlor	7 9:30 Facebook class, Palmer Hall 6:00 Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:30 Troop 76 Boy Scouts Mtg., Palmer Hall/Kitchen 6:30 Troop 76 Leadership Mtg., Parsons' Study 7:30 AA Mtg., Rm 28 7:30 Chancel Choir/ Music Room 7:30 Troop 76 Adult Committee Mtg., Parsons' Study	8 10:00 Farmington Valley Transition Academy, Kitchen 10:00 PF Retreat 2:10 JF - Youth Room/Palmer Hall 5:30 PF—Fall Retreat to Silver Lake 6:00 French Student Exchange pot luck dinner	9 PF Retreat at Silver Lake
10 8:30 Early Worship, Chapel 10:00 Worship Service, Sanctuary 11:15 Care Bag Committee Assembly, Rm 29 2:00 PF Returning from Silver Lake 7:00 PF Youth Group, Youth Rm	11 10:00 CCC, Library 12:00 Hopmeadow Nursery School Dance Class, Rm 29 1:00 FOODSHARE Distribution, Boy Scout Hall parking lot 4:15 Junior Choir 7:30 All Boards Meeting - All Rooms	12 11:00 Hopmeadow Nursery School Dance Class, Rm 29 12:00 Retired Men's Luncheon 6:30 Cub Scouts 276 (Wolves) 7:00 Deacon's Committee Mtg., Library	13 9:30 Music Together, Rm 29 10:30 Music Together, Rm 29 11:30 Music Together, Rm 29 12:30 Music Together, Rm 29 4:00 Women's Praise Choir	14 6:00 Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:00 Troop # 76 Patrol Meeting 6:30 Troop 76 Boy Scouts Mtg., Palmer Hall/Kitchen 7:30 AA Mtg, Rm 28 7:30 Chancel Choir/ Music Room	15 4:00 Setup Women's Retreat, Palmer Hall	16 9:00 Women's Gathering, Palmer Hall
17 8:30 Early Worship, Chapel 8:30 New Member Orientation, Parsons' Study 10:00 Open & Affirming Anniversary Celebration Service, Sanctuary 5:00 Confirmation Small Grp. Mtg. - Host home 7:00 PF Youth Group, Youth Rm	18 10:00 CCC, Library 12:00 Hopmeadow Nursery School Dance Class, Rm 29 1:00 American Red Cross Blood Drive 4:15 Junior Choir 7:00 Youth Advisor Meeting, Kevin's Office 7:30 Board of Elder's, Parlor	19 9:30 Prayer Shawl Morning Gathering, Rm 28 11:00 Hopmeadow Nursery School Dance Class, Rm 29 6:00 Cub Scout Pack 276 Meetings, Palmer Hall/kitchen 7:00 Prayer Shawl Evening Gathering, Rm 28	20 9:30 Music Together, Rm 29 10:30 Music Together, Rm 29 11:30 Music Together, Rm 29 12:30 Music Together, Rm 29 4:00 Women's Praise Choir 6:30 KP meeting 7:00 Farmington Valley Chorus, Palmer Hall	21 6:00 Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:30 Troop 76 Boy Scouts Mtg., Palmer Hall/Kitchen 7:30 AA Mtg, Rm 28 7:30 Chancel Choir/ Music Room	22 2:10 JF - Youth Room/Palmer Hall	23
24 8:30 Early Worship, Chapel 9:00 Church School Teacher Breakfast, Parlor 9:30 New Member Gathering, Parsons' Study 10:00 Thanksgiving & New Member Sunday, Sanctuary 11:30 Lunch Bunch Gathering 11:30 New Members Reception, Palmer Hall 7:00 Interfaith Service at Farmington Valley Jewish Congregation 7:00 PF Youth Group, Gather at Scully's back yard	25 10:00 CCC, Library 12:00 Hopmeadow Nursery School Dance Class, Rm 29 1:00 FOODSHARE Distribution, Boy Scout Hall parking lot 4:15 Junior Choir 7:00 Farmington Valley Chorus, Palmer Hall	26 9:00 Collating Cornerstone, Parsons' Study 10:00 Card Making Group, Rm 28 11:00 Hopmeadow Nursery School Dance Class, Rm 29 6:00 Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:00 Masooli FMHCC Board Meeting, Parsons' Study 7:30 Chancel Choir, Music Rm.	27 9:30 Music Together, Rm 29 10:30 Music Together, Rm 29 11:30 Music Together, Rm 29 12:30 Music Together, Rm 29 4:00 Women's Praise Choir	28 HOLIDAY - THANKSGIVING, OFFICE CLOSED 7:30 AA Mtg, Rm 28	29 DAY AFTER THANKSGIVING - OFFICE CLOSED Prep for Simsbury Celebrates	30 4:00 Simsbury Celebrates Women's Praise Choir @ Simsbury Celebrates