



# THE CORNERSTONE

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

## OCTOBER 2013 WORSHIP SCHEDULE

*Join Us!*

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

### **OCTOBER 6th—World Communion Sunday**

Dr. Erica Nierendorf preaching both services  
Luke 17: 5-10  
*“You are Invited...”*

### **OCTOBER 13th—Worship Services & Baptism**

Rev. Dianne Arakawa preaching both services  
Luke 17: 11-19  
*“For Everything Gratitude”*

*Baptism of Julia Lucia Antico at the 10:00 am service*

### **OCTOBER 20th—Worship Services**

Rev. Dianne Arakawa preaching both services  
Luke 18: 1-8  
*“The Persistence of Prayer”*

### **OCTOBER 27th—Stewardship Sunday**

Rev. Kevin Weikel preaching both services  
Luke 18: 9-14  
*“From the Heart”*



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

860-651-3593 x14  
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## ***A message from Dianne Arakawa, our Transitional Senior Minister***

Dear Friends,

The days are growing shorter, the light more focused and the air crisper. October is a rich month of “gathering up”—picking ripe apples at nearby farms, harvesting the last vegetables from our gardens, bringing together our church community, collecting our church pledges to give thanks to God, and celebrating the Reformation out of which our church tradition comes.

Here the pace has quickened. Our leaders and volunteers, whom we commissioned last Sunday, have set themselves to the work of the church, which captures their religious passion and commitment. Our staff—including our new administrator, Kristin Garcia, and bookkeeper, Stacey vonRichthofen—has cooperated well and taken on (new) responsibilities and projects with zeal. Our ministers and directors of specialized ministries are beginning to prayerfully work together as a real team—serving Christ, the needs of this congregation and the wider community.

As your transitional senior minister, I am, by the grace of a loving God, called to serve you with pastoral and administrative skills that have been honed; but also to lead you with specialized training in transition from your previous ministries to your next ministry. This “in-between time,” which Roger Nicholson named so aptly, should not be perceived as pulpit supply, substitute teaching, or “a-twiddling-of-the-thumbs.” Rather it should be embraced as a real opportunity for everyone to get to know each other better, draw in new members and friends, question and explore the tenets of our Faith, and begin to articulate the new vision for a common future.

In this way, it is not surprising that some of the traditional themes of transitional times include: (1) Coming to terms with our church’s history, including ministerial leadership and congregational life. (2) Caring for long-serving lay leaders and attracting new ones, who have unheard ideas. (3) Discerning a fresh vision for the church at a time of changing conditions for ministry in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Key for all of us is the question: *To what is God calling the First Church of Christ in Simsbury?* (4) Renewing partnerships with ecumenical and interfaith communities nearby, in the city of Hartford and beyond, and with the United Church of Christ. (5) Preparing for the start-up of new ministerial leadership that has experience in ministry and can provide strong leadership for the new congregational vision.

Thank you to everyone, who has welcomed with warmth, sincerity and generosity not only me, our newest staff and newcomers, but is also integrating the transitional plans and hopes for this church year. As we enter this golden month of “gathering up,” let us be truly grateful to God for what has been, what is, and what is yet to be.

Yours in Christ,

***Dianne***

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

Greetings!

The September issue of this publication went to print just ahead of the announcement that The Reverend Dianne Arakawa would be joining us as our Transitional Senior Minister. And so, this month, I would like to extend a warm welcome to Dianne! In addition, I would like to thank our Executive Committee Officers, our Interim Search Committee, and the Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ, for their hard work.

Dianne brings with her a depth and breadth of knowledge for ministry, and is especially adept at ministering during times of transition. This is an exciting time and I already appreciate the wisdom, sense of humor, and attention to detail Dianne brings. I am very enthusiastic about this time in the life of First Church; a time to envision and prepare for the ministry God is calling us to now and into the future.

During this time of transition, we have the opportunity to explore many things, and one of the things I get real excited about is thinking through how we might bring our generations together during this time. For I truly believe, if we are to “articulate a new vision for a common future,” as Dianne has said, then we must do it together. The work of transition is the work of the whole church—old and young and in-between.

I believe there are real and important benefits in each generation having their own gathering times and unique events, such as faith circles, youth groups, and small groups, because those of like ages experience similar things. Therefore, fellowship, study, and prayer, with those of our own generation, can be a real gift. At the same time, just as essential is the coming together of different generations. Older folks can bring wisdom, experience, and stories of faith lived out to young people, and younger people can bring energy, youthful perspective, and hopeful naivety into the lives of older folks.

Over the past few years, we have done some things to bring the generations together. For example, Uncommon Worship has been incorporated into Sunday morning worship, approximately every other month. This fall, a “Youth Pew” was added to the 10:00 am service as a way to encourage our young people to attend worship every week, in addition to their youth group meetings. This past summer on their mission trip, our youth were taught (as they are each year), the ways in which the entire church supports them, both prayerfully and financially. In fact, this is why our youth lead a mission trip worship service as they did last Sunday at 10:00 am, because our youth go on these trips as an extension of the whole church. Finally, PF Youth Group will host another intergenerational “Square Dance and Pulled Pork Dinner” on October 27<sup>th</sup> (see page 12 for details), as they did last year. We encourage you to attend what will be a great evening of food and fun. In February, our Junior Fellowship will be hosting a Spaghetti and Bingo Night (details coming later).

Worshiping together and joining one another in fellowship are good for us all, no matter the age. Joining together across generations helps us utilize and share the gifts God has given to us throughout our life spans, and will be a real strength as we go through this time of transition. May God bless us as we come together in fellowship, worship, service, and study during this important time in the life of our church.

Peace to you,  
*Kevin*



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# MUSIC NOTES



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I know I speak for the entire musical community in welcoming Rev. Dianne Arakawa as the Transitional Senior Minister here at First Church. She brings with her a great deal of expertise, not only in helping us navigate the path to finding a settled minister, but also in music and music ministry in the church. She has been associated with some of the best music ministers working today, and her experience will be greatly appreciated. We are blessed to be working with her. Thanks, Dianne!

We are well underway musically for the 2013-2014 church year. Various groups are already busy learning material to contribute to Sunday worship. We are looking forward to the Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons, coming up sooner than one might think.

First, I want to make sure that everyone knows they are welcome to take part in any of our musical groups and choirs at any time. We have those who make the occasional pilgrimage to Disney World or to the grandkids houses in East North Overshoe, and we welcome them when they return. In other words, don't let any imminent plans stop you from being with us—we just want you to experience joyful fulfillment when singing with us.

**The Choral Bells:** Our excellent group of bell ringers are sounding really good. Of course, the more hands, the merrier, and the more material they are able to discover. Jeannie Boehner is doing a fine job leading them and they are well on the road to being able to share music with us for one Sunday per month. This is a great group for those who are not vocally included, and for some who are, whether you read music or not. They meet at 6:00 pm on Thursday.

**The Junior Choir** had their first couple meetings and the kids are already know two, and sometimes three, parts. They've also developed an affinity for percussion and the chimes, so we're going to run with that as well. They are a spirited group who really wants to do things well, and I know anything they present will be great. We'll be starting material for the Thanksgiving service and the Christmas Pageant soon. Come on by and join in the fun! Mondays at 4:15 p.m.

**Women's Praise Choir** is busy learning and reviewing songs for a presentation at the Southbridge, MAUCC Church (where Billye and Roger Auclair have become members) on November 2nd, as well as programs for Simsbury Celebrates, the Supper Club Christmas Dinner and various worship services. They are studying some popular, folk, classical and jazz pieces, and are doing well meeting the technical challenges that some of this music presents. Their material also includes music written around social, family and women's issues, and many songs have grown to represent much more than just stuff to learn and sing. That's why this group has grown to mean so much to the members, and they wouldn't miss it for the world. Come by and see what it's all about. They meet Wednesday's at 4:00 pm.

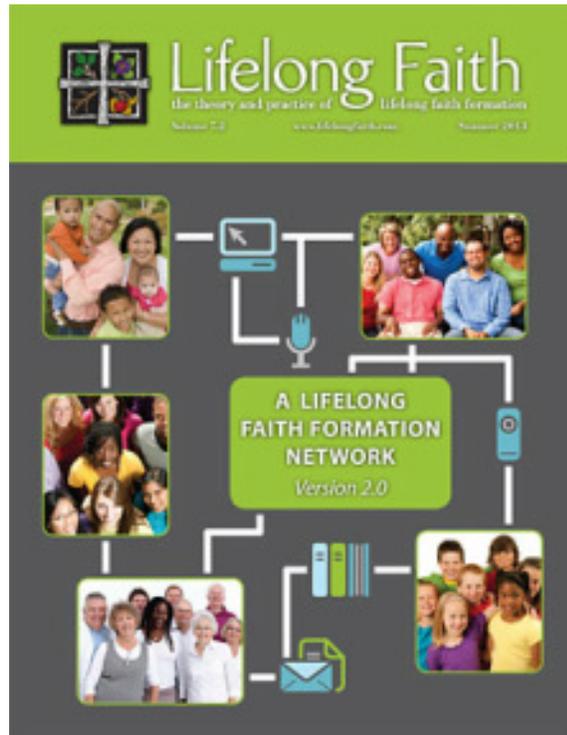
*(Continued on page 5)*

The Chancel Choir has already sung for many worship services, and they are learning anthems for more. These individuals are also very attached to their choir, love it, really like singing, and couldn't picture themselves contributing to Sunday worship in any other way. We learn all kinds of music, from the broader depth of classical repertoire to lighter fare, and there is a jazz piece in the works as well. Not to mention the fact that we are planning our annual Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols Service, one of our favorite services of the year, and music for Christmas Sunday at the 10:00 am service on December 22nd. If you can picture yourself singing just seasonally, these services are perfect, with a vast amount of beautiful and moving Christmas music from which to choose. Join us. We meet at 7:30 pm on Thursdays.

Finally, we are planning the annual Interfaith Thanksgiving service, at which most of our choirs will be present—adult and children's choirs included. We will be combining with the other Simsbury churches for the music portions. It is always a thrill to contribute music with them. The Juniors get to sing in a children's choir about 40 voices strong, and the adult choir is larger still. This evening service will take place on November 24th. Come sing with us!

*Mark*





**NEW Summer 2013 Issue of**  
*Lifelong Faith,*  
**A Lifelong Faith Formation**  
*Network - Version 2.0*

In this summer 2013 publication of “Lifelong Faith Journey,” Cindy Cole’s website is lifted up as an example of a “digital platform for faith formation that integrates all programming, connects people to content and experiences, and is available anytime, anywhere, anyplace.”

Congratulations, Cindy!

See page 24 of this link...

[http://www.lifelongfaith.com/uploads/5/1/6/4/5164069/lifelong\\_faith\\_journal\\_7.2\\_summer\\_2013.pdf](http://www.lifelongfaith.com/uploads/5/1/6/4/5164069/lifelong_faith_journal_7.2_summer_2013.pdf)

**Syrian Crisis expands-UCC renews appeal:**

Since the conflict in Syria began in March 2011, the UCC has supported the efforts of our partners across the region to respond to the crisis. Emergency food packages, hygiene kits, bedding, warm clothes and boots for children and portable stoves have been distributed, and psychosocial support and health care is being provided. The UCC’s humanitarian reach includes displaced persons in Syria and refugee communities in Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey and Armenia.

**Your gifts are needed now:**

- \$10 could provide a pair of shoes to protect a child from the scorching summer temperatures
- \$32 could buy rice, vegetable oil, beans, lentils, tomato paste and salt for a family of four for one month.
- \$65 could provide a hygiene kit with soap, toothpaste, toothbrush, wound disinfectant and bandages
- \$91 could afford a blanket, mattresses, pillows and a cooking set

**YOU CAN ALSO HELP BY:**

Praying for the people and communities across the Middle East impacted by the violence.

Making a gift payable to UCC Disaster Alerts—Syrian Crises. We will send it to our conference’s office.

## 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.



#### **Fear Not! PJ Party/Parent Night Out**

Saturday, October 19, 2013  
Palmer Hall, 5:30-9:00 pm

**Please sign up and fill out the registration form and submit by Oct 13<sup>th</sup>.** Forms are available at [www.firstchurchsimsbur.com](http://www.firstchurchsimsbur.com) or on the 3rd floor Kids at First bulletin board.

**Faith point:** God is with us when we are afraid.

**Activities:** (students are separated into age appropriate groups and activities)

- Make a group large cardboard haunted house (trick or treating house to house)
- Bounce House
- Making monster trick or treat bags and discussing our fears
- Playing games: Monster Noodle Ball, Halloween Tag, Monster Matching Game, Monster Bingo
- Spider Web Obstacle Course
- Monster Dance with glow-in-dark-necklaces & bracelets
- Watching movie: "Berenstain Bears: Halloween treats"

**Food:** mummies (hotdogs in dough), carrots, apples w/ caramel dip, fruit punch, cupcakes, popcorn with movie

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

**Cost:** free will offering

**Babysitters** are cpr, first aid trained, childcare providers

**Kids: wear PJ's and bring blanket and pillow for the movie**

## Church School

News



#### Upcoming events for your Calendar

**Oct 6: Teacher/shepherd breakfast and meeting in the Parlor at 9:30 am**

**Oct 19 : Fear Not PJ Party/Parents Night Out**

**Oct 27: Into the Promised Land**



#### **UNICEF: Kids Helping Kids**

Students will be learning about UNICEF in the chapel— how it helps children in poor nations by providing food, education, clean water, sanitation, and medical care. They will be given UNICEF collection boxes. They can either put the boxes on the table and earn the money for the boxes in the weeks leading to Halloween, and/or collect money from neighbors while trick or treating.

### **Into the Promised Land**

Sunday, October 27, 2013 in Palmer Hall, 10:15-11:15

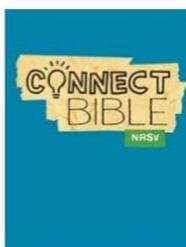
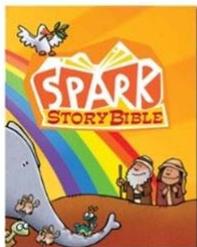
Join us to:

- Make a Sabbath Pillow
- Play Ten Commandment Twister
- See movie clips: "Let My People Go" and "Wandering in the Wilderness with Popcorn"
- Participate in the Wandering in the Wilderness Cake Walk
- Make Manna treat and have apple cider
- Color the Ten Commandments
- Participate in the Tabernacle Challenge



### **Bible Sunday, November 3, 2013**

**Please sign up and fill out the registration form and submit by Oct 13<sup>th</sup>.** Forms are available at [www.firstchurchsimsbur.com](http://www.firstchurchsimsbur.com) or the 3rd floor Kids at First bulletin board.



#### **Parents and Other Caregivers of students in Kindergarten, First, Fourth, Fifth or Sixth Grades:**

Your child will have the opportunity to receive a *Spark Story Bible* or *Connect Bible* in the service on Sunday, November 3, 2013. You will place the Scripture in his/her hand during the worship service. Please fill out the registration form return it to church school if your child/children are going to participate.

#### **Fall Church School Mission Project**

Parents can help teach values of care and compassion by involving the whole family in outreach and mission projects.



One way parents can teach stewardship is to ensure that their children bring their offering envelope to church each Sunday. The student offering is placed in a separated account. The offering is used exclusively for church school mission projects. Students can earn their offering by doing chores.

Offerings collected from Sept. to Nov. will be used to purchase items for children's Christmas stockings. The stockings are assembled on Sunday after Thanksgiving 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, October 11th**      **2:10-4:00 pm:** Relay races in Palmer Hall followed by a devotion and our traditional candle prayer.

**Friday, October 25th**      **2:10-4:00 pm:** Reverse trick or treat!

**CONFIRMATION GROUP (Grade 8)**

**Sunday, October 6th**      **5:00-7:00 pm Large Group Meeting (The Bible)** in Palmer Hall for students.

**Sunday, October 20th**      **5:00-7:00 pm Small Group Meeting (God)** at host home for students.

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

“PF” is short for “Pilgrim Fellowship,” which has been the name of the High School Youth Group at First Church, Simsbury, for a long time. PF is for all 9th through 12th graders no matter who they are or where they are on life’s journey.

**Sunday, October 6th**      **7:00-9:00 pm:** Regular Gathering in the Youth Room.

**Sunday, October 13th**      **4:00-9:00 pm: Soup Kitchen at Immaculate Conception Shelter in Hartford.** We will gather at 4pm in the church kitchen to prepare the meal, make cards, and sort hats. We will depart for the shelter at 6pm to serve the meal and hand out the cards and hats.

**Tuesday, October 15th**      **5:45-9:00 pm: Informed and Conscious Conversations on Matters of Race** at the Simsbury Public Library

**Sunday, October 20th**      **7:00-9:00 pm: Regular Gathering in the Youth Room.**

**Sunday, October 27th**      **5:30-8:30 pm: Square Dance and Pulled Pork Dinner!**  
Arrive at 4:30 pm for set up, stay until 9:00 pm for cleanup.

**Every Sunday:** Join Maddie Earnhardt and others 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!

*You Are Invited...*

FIRST CHURCH, SIMSBURY  
INTERGENERATIONAL SQUARE DANCE & PULLED PORK  
DINNER!

October 27<sup>th</sup>, 5:30–8:30 pm

First Church Palmer Hall

\$10 per ticket or \$30 per family of any size  
(tickets go on sale October 6<sup>th</sup>)

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



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

Tickets can be purchased on Sunday's, October 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, and 20<sup>th</sup>, at Fellowship Hour in Palmer Hall or Monday through Friday from 9am-4pm in the main Church Office. Tickets will be on sale through Tuesday, October 22<sup>rd</sup>.

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

~Rev. Kevin and PF Youth Group

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## To the Women of First Church!

Small Group Program - starting up Again soon!!

Interested in joining? Read on!

### What is a small group and what do they do?

It is a group of women (8-10) who meet every other week for 6 to 7 sessions to read and discuss portions of the Bible. Each group has a facilitator to lead the discussion. Existing groups have been studying the Gospel of John and will continue exploring this book through the fall.

### Where do the groups meet, and for how long?

Groups meet in private homes for about one and a half hours which includes discussion time, prayer concerns, and time for refreshments and socializing.

### Why would I want to join a small group?

- Small groups provide an opportunity for fellowship and developing friendships with women in our church.
- Small groups allow you to explore the Bible in a comfortable and meaningful manner, and to enrich and and develop your faith as you learn how its lessons apply to your life.
- Small groups are fun!

### How can I become a part of a group?

complete the form below and return it to the church office:

Listed below are the days and times that our existing groups meet. Put a check next to the group option that you prefer. If more than one option works for your schedule, number them in order of preference. If none of the options work for you, please state a day and time you prefer. If possible, we will form new groups.

### Existing Groups - Days and Times

Tuesday afternoon	12:30 to 2:00 pm
Thursday morning	9:30 to 11:00
Thursday evening	7:00 to 8:30
Friday morning	9:00 to 11:25 (This group is for Mothers with toddlers / young children. Babysitting is available. Study is based on what the group decides.)

For questions or more information please contact:

Sara Burrows  
[sara22b@comcast.net](mailto:sara22b@comcast.net)  
 (860)408-1459

## **Simsbury Citizens Organize a Conversation About Race**

### **“Informed and Conscious Conversations on Matters of Race”**

As a way of observing the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary year of the historic March on Washington, the Martin Luther King Committee, a group of dedicated Simsbury citizens, has planned an event for **October 15, 2012** entitled, **“Informed and Conscious Conversations on Matters of Race.”**

The goal of this session is to foster a different and better-informed discourse about race, ethnicity, and diversity.

The Simsbury MLK committee invites you to share in an opportunity to sit down together with others seeking greater knowledge, understanding, confidence, and competence regarding matters of race. You will be joined by a diverse group of individuals seeking to increase their capacity to better identify, and explore the effects of our understandings and beliefs regarding matters of race on their spiritual, personal, work, family, and community lives.

This session is not an encounter group, and is not designed to engage guilt, blame, judgment, or confrontation. It is, rather, a guided discussion that has been designed to create a safe environment for open, conscious, and informed discourse on matters of race. The session will be facilitated by Patricia A. Johnson, Diversity Consultant.

**Date: October 15, 2013**

**Time: 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.**

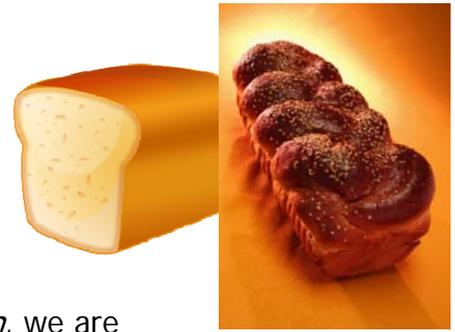
**Arrive at 5:30 p.m. for light refreshments**

If you are interested in attending or learning more about the event, please email Sara Batchelder at [s.batchelder10@comcast.net](mailto:s.batchelder10@comcast.net) or call or email Pam McDonald, 860-796-4543, [mlkinsimsbury2013@gmail.com](mailto:mlkinsimsbury2013@gmail.com) or simply send a check for \$10.00 MADE OUT TO: *Simsbury Free Library*, with *“F.B.O. MLK Memorial”* in the Memo line, and mail it to Pam McDonald, 995 Hopmeadow Street, Simsbury, CT 06070. No one turned away for lack of funds.

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***CAN YOU SMELL THE WARM  
BREAD BAKING IN THE OVEN?***



In celebration of Worldwide Communion Sunday on October 6th, we are asking members of our congregation to bake or purchase a loaf of bread for this special Service. We welcome loaves from your ethnic background but we are also looking for "this is my *favorite* bread!"

Also welcome are recipes of gluten free bread (please mark so we know). Both the 8:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. service will be honoring these wonderful gifts displayed beautifully and used during the time of Communion.

Following the 10:00 a.m. service, the breads will be served for Fellowship Hour with some tasty jams and butters. Elders will be available prior to each service to accept your bread and place on the Communion Table. Any kind of bread is welcome, but please makes breads with **NO NUTS (Tree and Peanut)** as we have some members of our congregation who are allergic.

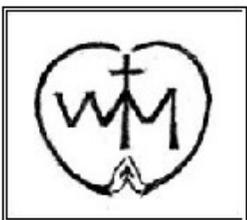
If you have any questions please contact Cindy Braunlich at [860-217-1810](tel:860-217-1810) or [cbraunlich@gmail.com](mailto:cbraunlich@gmail.com).

***CALLING ALL WOMEN OF FIRST CHURCH...***

*We have saved the date, **Saturday, November 16th**, for a one day women's retreat, for a chance to be together to rest and rejuvenate our faith journeys!*

*More help is needed in the planning. Please contact **Erica at 860-651-3593, ext. 15**, with your ideas and when you can join me in the planning.*

*Looking ahead, save the weekend dates of **April 4th & 5th** for our **Spring Retreat at Silver Lake!** We have reserved the new Retreat Center for that weekend.*



# WHAT WAS LIFE LIKE?

## NEW EXHIBIT ON THE GREAT FIRE OF MAY 27, 1965

This is perhaps the most dramatic story to have ever happened to our church. Many of you are familiar with it and probably many of you are not. It's also an event that many of the long-time residents of Simsbury and surrounding towns also remember. It involved our church members and many in the community who were not. The church almost burned down, but, thanks to the whole greater community, it was saved. Stop and look at the new exhibit that tells this story in the History Corner.

The fire started on May 27, 1965 after a severe storm occurred and lightning struck nearby and caused a bolt to travel into the church. The sexton was living in the little stone cottage across Hopmeadow Street that is now home to a realty company. His wife spotted strange lights in the church and they contacted the minister, Lyman Potter. Both went to check this out. By a fortuitous set of circumstances, the traffic around a downed wire on West Street continued safely, the fire department arrived, and the fire itself was put out before the walls, front and steeple were consumed. After the fire teams of people in lines removed valuable hymnals, Bibles, and furniture from the church. The steeple was taken down in three sections and later restored. The church itself underwent a tasteful renewal that resulted in more space, a basement and up to code construction, wiring, and plumbing. It was going to be too expensive to use original materials to restore the building, so newer materials were used. The wing that used to be on the north side attached to the meetinghouse was taken down. To make up for the space lost from that, the church renovated the building across the street. The old Ensign Parish House, which the church purchased in 1955, included the original Palmer Hall, Ellsworth Chapel, and the rooms in the old house were used by the church office, ministers and church school.

The rebuilding process went into high gear right away. A meeting of the Trustees was held the next morning and the committee saw the copy of the classic book on New England church architecture that we still have in the church library. It gave them specific information for the building of the church from 1830. They knew what they had to build, and now had to raise the money to do it. The insurance would pay about \$230,000 out of about \$377,000 to restore the building. Thus they had to raise about \$150,000. Fundraisers were held, pieces of burnt roof rafters were sold, and members of the whole community donated their dollars and change to the cause. Children from the local schools wrote letters to Lyman Potter and sent him their extra change. Local Scouts also contributed as well as the youth groups in the church. It was truly an amazing story.

Read more details about it in the new exhibit. It's been 48 years and 5 months since this event.

*Donna Hopkins,*  
Church Historian



HISTORICALLY  
SPEAKING



## **September Executive Council Highlights**

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It was moved, seconded and carried that the appointments of Carol Pollack to the Board of Elders and Cathy Gray to the Board of Personnel be ratified, each for three-year terms.

Dane Woodberry and Rick Wilde provided a progress update on the Historic Grant project, noting that all necessary Church input material for the grant had been collected. Earlier this year, First Church received funding for the technical portion of the grant, enabling the architectural firm of Kenyon and Cutler to help develop content for the formal grant application. The submission date for the formal grant is October 25<sup>th</sup> with an anticipated grant award by January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2014.

President Westbrook provided an update on the call for our Transitional Senior Minister, Reverend Dianne Arakawa, who has accepted the letter of call and will commence her duties on September 11, 2013. It was moved, seconded, and carried that the Executive Council ratifies the call to Reverend Arakawa.

Treasurer Patterson, in the absence of John Ritson, Chair of the Board of Trustees, provided an update on the rehab of the 6 West Street property in preparation for the occupancy by Reverend Arakawa. The rehab activity will be funded out of the Ministerial Housing Fund. Reverend Arakawa will stay at the Marriott Residence Inn in Avon until the West Street property is ready for occupancy, currently expected to be completed by month end September. The Council expressed appreciation to John Ritson and Joe Martinez for their aggressive action on preparing the property for occupancy.

President Westbrook led discussion on nominations for the formation of a Pastoral Relations Committee for Reverend Arakawa. Bruce Powell and Barbara Patterson have agreed to serve. Reverend Weikel agreed to suggest additional nominees to President Westbrook so that the Committee would represent a cross-section of Church membership.

President Westbrook will call a special meeting of the Executive Council for later this month to allow an opportunity for Reverend Arakawa to meet the Executive Council members and be given an overview of activities underway.

President Westbrook requested that all Boards and Committees meet at the same time in October (second Monday of the month) for a traditional "All Boards" meeting before breaking for their separate meetings. We will plan to do this on a quarterly basis thereafter, to facilitate communication among the boards and Reverend Arakawa.

Janice Johnson, Co-chair of the Board of Personnel, announced that Stacey vonRichtofen had been hired as the Financial Assistant on a part time basis, and that Kristin Garcia had been hired as the Church Administrator on a full time basis and commenced her duties on September 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Mark Scully, Chair of the Board of Stewardship, gave an overview of stewardship plans for the forthcoming months. Stewardship Sunday will be October 27<sup>th</sup>. The theme for this year will be “Surprise Gifts”, and will include a format similar to last year, with members of the congregation invited to “tell their stories” during worship over the next few weeks. A stewardship letter will be mailed to the congregation the last week of September and pledge cards will be mailed mid-October.

President Westbrook informed the meeting that she would like to have a review performed of membership (and friends) records. Cindy Braunlich, Chair of Elders, will lead this effort with assistance from volunteers.

President Westbrook informed the meeting of a request to generate a new Church Directory. Several options were discussed versus publication of a hard copy directory. It was agreed that Melinda and Bill Ketchabaw will discuss technology options available during their forthcoming discussion with a web designer. Our installed software, Power Church, may also present electronic directory opportunities.

Ron Patterson raised the question of the timing of a capital campaign. After discussion, there was consensus that a large-scale campaign should be deferred but that immediate needs could be addressed in the near term on a “project by project basis”, with capital fundraising directed toward prioritized facility repairs and improvements.

Janice Johnson, Co-Chair of the Board of Personnel, presented Personnel Policy and Procedure revisions implemented by the Board of Personnel on August 1<sup>st</sup> as a part of the recent hiring efforts. The revisions related to the lay staff vacation policy. It was moved, seconded, and carried that the policy be approved. Janice further noted that the Policy and Procedure manual had been updated to reflect the fact that First Church, like most UCC churches, does not contribute to unemployment insurance and therefore employees cannot collect unemployment compensation when terminated. Connecticut law requires that employees be informed of this. It was moved, seconded, and carried that this revision be approved.

Bill Ketchabaw  
Clerk of the Congregation  
September 12, 2013

**First Church of Christ**

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**FELLOWSHIP HOUR SCHEDULE  
OCTOBER 2013**

**October 6, 2013—Women’s Praise Choir**

**October 13, 2013—Families**

**October 20, 2013– Card Making Group & Prayer Shawl Group**

**October 27, 2013—NO FELLOWSHIP HOUR—Stewardship Sunday**

**First Church of Christ**

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## OCTOBER, 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>1</b> <b>11:00</b> Hopmeadow Nursery School Dance Class, Rm 29	<b>2</b> <b>9:30</b> Hay Stack, Rm 28 <b>9:30</b> Music Together, Rm 29 <b>10:30</b> Music Together, Rm 29 <b>10:30</b> Welcoming Church Committee <b>11:30</b> Music Together, Rm 29 <b>12:30</b> Music Together, Rm 29 <b>4:00</b> Women's Praise Choir <b>7:00</b> Farmington Valley Chorus, Palmer Hall	<b>3</b> <b>6:00</b> Bell Choir Rehearsal <b>6:30</b> Troop 76 Boy Scouts Mtg., Palmer Hall/Kitchen <b>6:30</b> Troop 76 Leadership Mtg., Parsons' Study <b>7:30</b> AA-Mtg, Rm 28 <b>7:30</b> Chancel Choir <b>7:30</b> Troop 76 Adult Committee Mtg., Parsons' Study	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> <b>2:00</b> 50th Birthday Party, Palmer Hall
<b>6</b> <b>8:30</b> Early Worship, Chapel <b>8:30</b> The Lord's Prayer Small Group Study, Parsons' Study <b>9:00</b> Church School Teacher Breakfast, Parlor <b>10:00</b> World Communion Sunday, Sanctuary <b>11:15</b> Care Bag Committee - Asseby <b>5:00</b> Confirmation Lg. Grp., Palmer Hall <b>7:00</b> PF Youth Group, Youth Room	<b>7</b> <b>10:00</b> CCC <b>12:00</b> Hopmeadow Nursery School Dance Class, Rm 29 <b>1:00</b> American Red Cross Blood Drive <b>4:15</b> Junior Choir <b>4:30</b> Book Club, Parlor <b>7:30</b> Executive Council Mtg., Parsons' Study	<b>8</b> <b>11:00</b> Hopmeadow Nursery School Dance Class, Rm 29 <b>12:00</b> Retired Men's Luncheon <b>7:00</b> Deacon's Committee Mtg., Library	<b>9</b> <b>9:30</b> Music Together, Rm 29 <b>10:30</b> Music Together, Rm 29 <b>11:30</b> Music Together, Rm 29 <b>12:30</b> Music Together, Rm 29 <b>4:00</b> Women's Praise Choir <b>7:00</b> Farmington Valley Chorus, Palmer Hall	<b>10</b> <b>6:00</b> Bell Choir Rehearsal <b>6:00</b> Troop 76 Patrol Meeting <b>6:30</b> Troop 76 Boy Scouts Mtg., Palmer Hall/Kitchen <b>7:30</b> AA-Mtg, Rm 28 <b>7:30</b> Chancel Choir	<b>11</b> <b>10:00</b> Farmington Valley Transition Academy <b>12:00</b> Early Office Closing <b>2:10</b> JF - Youth Room/ Palmer Hall	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> <b>8:30</b> Early Worship, Chapel <b>8:30</b> The Lord's Prayer Small Group Study, Parsons' Study <b>10:00</b> Antico Baptism <b>10:00</b> Worship Service/ Baptism, Sanctuary <b>4:00</b> PF Youth Group, Soup Kitchen (Palmer Hall/Kitchen)	<b>14</b> <b>COLUMBUS DAY—OFFICE CLOSED</b> <b>10:00</b> CCC <b>12:00</b> Hopmeadow Nursery School Dance Class, Rm 29 <b>1:00</b> FOODSHARE Distribution, Boy Scout Hall parking lot <b>7:30</b> All Boards Meeting	<b>15</b> <b>9:30</b> Prayer Shawl Morning Gathering, Rm 28 <b>11:00</b> Hopmeadow Nursery School Dance Class, Rm 29 5:45 Informed & Conversations on Matters of Race, Simsbury Public Library <b>7:00</b> Prayer Shawl Evening Gathering, Rm 28	<b>16</b> <b>9:30</b> Music Together, Rm 29 <b>10:30</b> Music Together, Rm 29 <b>11:30</b> Music Together, Rm 29 <b>12:30</b> Music Together, Rm 29 <b>4:00</b> Women's Praise Choir <b>7:00</b> Farmington Valley Chorus, Palmer Hall	<b>17</b> <b>6:00</b> Bell Choir Rehearsal <b>6:30</b> Troop 76 Boy Scouts Mtg., Palmer Hall/Kitchen <b>7:30</b> AA-Mtg, Rm 28 <b>7:30</b> Chancel Choir	<b>18</b> <b>5:00</b> Wedding Rehearsal - White/Evans, Sanctuary	<b>19</b> <b>3:30</b> Setup Halloween Party, Palmer Hall <b>4:00</b> Wedding-White/Evans, Sanctuary <b>5:30</b> Kids@ First Halloween Party/Parents Night Out, Palmer Hall <b>9:00</b> Cleanup Kids Halloween Party, Palmer Hall
<b>20</b> <b>8:30</b> Early Worship, Chapel <b>8:30</b> The Lord's Prayer Small Group Study, Parsons' Study <b>10:00</b> Worship Service, Sanctuary <b>5:00</b> Confirmation Small Grp., Host home <b>6:00</b> St. Catherine of Siena Church Youth Grp., Palmer Hall <b>7:00</b> PF Youth Group, Youth Room	<b>21</b> <b>10:00</b> CCC <b>12:00</b> Hopmeadow Nursery School Dance Class, Rm 29 <b>1:00</b> American Red Cross Blood Drive <b>4:15</b> Junior Choir <b>7:00</b> Youth Advisor Meeting, Kevin's Office	<b>22</b> <b>10:00</b> Card Making Group, Rm 28 <b>11:00</b> Hopmeadow Nursery School Dance Class, Rm 29 <b>6:00</b> Cub Scout Pack 276 Meetings, Palmer Hall/kitchen <b>6:00</b> Masooli FMHCC Board Meeting, Parsons' Study	<b>23</b> <b>9:00</b> Collating Cornerstone, Parsons' Study <b>9:30</b> Music Together, Rm 29 <b>10:30</b> Music Together, Rm 29 <b>11:30</b> Music Together, Rm 29 <b>12:00</b> 4th Wednesday Study Grp., Rm 28 <b>12:30</b> Music Together, Rm 29 <b>4:00</b> Women's Praise Choir <b>7:00</b> Farmington Valley Chorus, Palmer Hall	<b>24</b> <b>6:00</b> Bell Choir Rehearsal <b>6:00</b> Troop # 76 Patrol Meeting/Room 28 <b>6:30</b> Troop 76 Boy Scouts Mtg., Palmer Hall/Kitchen <b>7:30</b> AA-Mtg, Rm 28 <b>7:30</b> Chancel Choir	<b>25</b> <b>2:10</b> JF - Youth Room/ Palmer Hall <b>6:30</b> Haywood/ Anzulewica Wedding Rehearsal, Sanctuary	<b>26</b> <b>3:30</b> Haywood/ Anzulewica Wedding, Sanctuary
<b>27</b> <b>8:30</b> Early Worship, Chapel <b>8:30</b> The Lord's Prayer Small Group Study, Parsons' Study <b>10:00</b> Stewardship Sunday, Sanctuary <b>11:30</b> Lunch Bunch Gathering <b>5:30</b> Intergenerational Square Dance & Pulled Pork Dinner hosted by PF, Palmer Hall/ Kitchen	<b>28</b> <b>10:00</b> CCC <b>12:00</b> Hopmeadow Nursery School Dance Class, Rm 29 <b>1:00</b> FOODSHARE Distribution, Boy Scout Hall parking lot <b>4:15</b> Junior Choir	<b>29</b> <b>11:00</b> Hopmeadow Nursery School Dance Class, Rm 29	<b>30</b> <b>9:30</b> Music Together, Rm 29 <b>10:30</b> Music Together, Rm 29 <b>11:30</b> Music Together, Rm 29 <b>12:30</b> Music Together, Rm 29 <b>4:00</b> Women's Praise Choir <b>7:00</b> Farmington Valley Chorus, Palmer Hall	<b>31</b> <b>5:00</b> Wedding rehearsal-LeGette/Mawaka, Sanctuary <b>6:00</b> Bell Choir Rehearsal <b>6:00</b> Troop # 76 Patrol Meeting/Rm 28 <b>6:30</b> Troop 76 Boy Scouts Mtg., Palmer Hall/Kitchen <b>7:30</b> AA-Mtg, Rm 28 <b>7:30</b> Chancel Choir	<b>Nov. 1</b> <b>5:00</b> Wedding -LeGette/Mawaka, Sanctuary	<b>Nov. 2</b> <b>4:00</b> Setup Boysen Eagle Scout Ceremony, Sanctuary/Palmer Hall <b>6:00</b> Women's Praise Choir - First Church Charlton, MA <b>7:30</b> Boysen Eagle Scout Court of Honor Ceremony, Sanctuary <b>8:30</b> Reception for Boysen Eagle Scout, Palmer Hall/kitchen