

# September 2013

## Sunday Schedule

<b>Sept. 1</b> 10:00 a.m.	<b>Family Worship with Communion</b>
<b>Sept. 8</b> 10:00 a.m. 11:15 a.m. 11:30 a.m. 3:00 p.m.	<b>Morning Worship Summer Sunday School</b> Library Committee Board of Missions Koinonia II
<b>Sept. 15</b> 10:00 a.m. 11:15 a.m.	<b>Rally Day &amp; Commissioning</b> <b>Morning Worship &amp; Sunday School</b> Indoor Picnic
<b>Sept. 22</b> 10:00 a.m. 11:30 a.m.	<b>Morning Worship Sunday School</b> Lunch and Asset Mapping
<b>Sept. 29</b> 10:00 a.m. 2:00 p.m.	<b>Morning Worship Sunday School</b> Fourth Annual Mini-Golf Tournament at Fairways Windsor.



Starting on Sept. 11th, the **Senior Choir** will rehearse each Wednesday evening at 7:00 p.m. and on Sunday morning at 8:45 a.m. unless otherwise notified.

**Children's Choir** rehearses immediately following morning worship on Sundays (11:00-11:15) unless otherwise announced.



Church Office: 860-528-3133  
Fax Number: 860-528-3220  
Interim Pastor: *Rev. Alice O'Donovan*  
Pastor Emeritus: *Rev. William E. Flynn*  
Director of C.E.: *Mrs. Louise R. Holmes*  
Director of Music: *Mr. Jerry K. Scheinfeldt*  
Church Secretary: *Ms. Thory A. Donofrio*  
Treasurer: *Mrs. Donna L. Basler*  
Assistant Treasurer: *Mrs. Lauren A. Basler*  
Sexton: *Mr. Dennis J. McCarthy*

**September 15** is Rally Sunday and the first day of Sunday School. We will celebrate our return from summer with an indoor picnic lunch sponsored by the Board of Christian Education. There will be crafts, games and a Bounce House for the children and fellowship for all. Our theme is focusing on recycling as a way to care for God's green Earth.



**Everyone is welcome!**

*No reservations or food donations are necessary.*

## Search Committee Surveys

**Due by Sunday September 21**

Surveys were mailed to everyone involved in the life of our Church. There are 2 surveys we need you to complete:

1. **Household Survey** gives us current information about your household, and helps us to understand your opinion of the current issues that affect our Congregation and Community.
2. **Individual Survey** helps us to prioritize the leadership qualities of a Called Pastor. We request that every individual involved in the life of our Church age 10 and older complete a survey.

Additional surveys are available on the table outside the Church Sanctuary or in the Church Dining Room. You can also contact any of the members of the Search Committee or the Church Office.

The information from these surveys will help us fill out our Church Profile, which is used to describe our Congregation and Community to prospective pastoral candidates.

**Women's Retreat** - A special get-away weekend has been planned for the women of the church Friday, October 11 - Sunday, October 13 at Silver Lake Conference Center in Sharon, CT. For those who would like, we have the option of staying through Monday, October 14 at no additional cost.

Our theme this year is *Friendship: A Reason, A Season or A Lifetime*. We will have a Spiritual program, some Bible fun, free time and lots of great food that is prepared for us. The setting is relaxing and the company is outstanding! If you are interested, let me know as soon as possible, so we may plan. The cost is: \$120.00 per person. Please see *Louise Holmes* for more information.

**"Care & Share"** Sunday is the first Sunday of every month when we bring items for Food Bank. It is also **"Roof Fund"** Sunday. You will find white envelopes marked Roof Fund in the pews in which monetary donations may be made. All donations are gratefully accepted.

**Standing Committee** will meet Thursday, September 26 at 7:00 p.m. All representatives are encouraged to attend.

The **Board of Christian Education** will meet Tuesday, Sept. 24 at 7:00 p.m.

The **Board of Deaconesses** will not meet in September.

The **Board of Deacons** will meet Thursday, September 5 at 5:30 p.m. at Rich Beebe's house.

The **Board of Stewardship** will meet Thursday, September 12 at 6:30 p.m.

The **Board of Trustees** will meet Tuesday, September 17 at 6:30 p.m.

The **Library Committee** will meet Sunday, September 8 at 11:15 a.m.

### **W.E.B.**

**Women Empowered and Blessed** is a women's group in which all women of the church are invited to attend.

**W.E.B.** will meet Thursday, September 19 at 7:00 p.m. for dessert.



**Coffee Hour** - Everyone is invited to Coffee Hour following worship. Members of **The Board of Deacons** are serving for the month of September. Please be generous with your donations to the *Coffee Fund* in the basket on the table in the dining room.

### **A Reminder from the Library**

Books and videos taken from the library during the summer are due September 8.

**Mini Golf Fundraiser** Sunday, Sept. 29<sup>th</sup>  
Fairway Golf - Rte. 5 in South Windsor.  
Fun for the whole family.

**Red Cross Blood Drive** Wednesday October 9<sup>th</sup>. We are looking for volunteers to help  
And/ or donate baked goods.

### **The Pastor's Corner:**

Happy New Year!!!!

Welcome to the 2013-2014 program year at First Church. Sunday School begins! We'll commission teachers and students on Rally Day, 9/15. Your newly elected Search Committee has been hard at work this summer and we will commission them on Rally Day as well. BTW you will be receiving your first opportunity to have input into the search process shortly. See the Search Committee article for more info.

Boards and Committees will all be back on their regular meeting schedules, we'll be returning to the meeting house for worship. Choir will resume. There are so many opportunities to minister and serve, all according to your gifts and talents. What new thing is God inviting us to offer this year?

As we walk into this new program year with all of its opportunities and promise, let us pray together for courage and willingness to walk in the paths God sets before us, remembering God's promise as offered to Isaiah, *"when you turn to the right or when you turn to the left, your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, 'This is the way; walk in it.'"*

Blessings and peace,  
Alice

Friends,

We are going to engage in a couple of conversations this fall, conversations that will be most productive when lots of people join in, so if you have an interest in First Church you are invited to join the fun.

The first is **Sunday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>** and begins with lunch. This conversation is known as Asset Mapping also known as the hymn, **“Count Your Blessings”**

The second is **Saturday, October 26<sup>th</sup>**, begins at 9, includes lunch, and is known as “Appreciative Inquiry” when we will tell stories of our best experiences at First Church so we can discover what in God’s Name is happening around here.

There will be more info to come – but for now **please, please, please save the dates, 9/22, and 10/26** Both conversations will be better if you are there.

Thanks ever so much and blessings,  
Alice

**EHIM**  
East Hartford Interfaith Ministries  
Human Needs Fund Office  
*Beth Harlow*, Coordinator  
(860) 289-4919

### **Stewardship Moment - Mini Golf**

Delight in Giving – September 2013

This fall, are you ready for a family friendly fun day? September 29 is the Fourth Annual Mini Golf Tournament. The price for a round of golf is still \$10.00 per person and includes ice cream. This year, we will be making some changes to this fun event.

Golfers will tee off at 2:00 PM. After golf, we will head back to the church to share social time and make your own ice cream sundaes. If you wish to forgo the ice cream, the round of golf will cost \$7.00 per person. If you wish to forgo the golf, meet at the church at 3:00 PM to make your own sundae for just \$3.50 per person. Tickets will be on sale during coffee hour. Advance sign up is needed to plan the festivities, although it will be possible to join in at the last minute. Looking forward to seeing you all at Fairways Miniature Golf, 75 Spielman Road (Ellington Road), South Windsor!

### **IMPORTANT VIRIDIAN UPDATE PLEASE READ**

If you are one of the 51 people who have partnered with First Congregational Church in selecting Viridian as your electric energy generation supplier, THANK YOU! As of the end of July, the church has received over \$1,300.00 already this year from Viridian. But, you must be aware of your rate to be sure that you are getting the best rate that you can. Everyone had switched to a fixed rate last year, some for 12 months and some for 6 months. When that time period expired, you would have been switched to the more expensive variable rate. Some people were notified by Viridian and some people were not. Please check your electric bill each month and look at the section marked “Generation Services”. First, be sure it lists Viridian and second, look at the rate next to the KWH (Kilowatt hours) used. If it has gone up to eleven or twelve cents per KWH, you are on the variable rate and must contact customer service to revert to the fixed rate. You can do this online as follows: (have your bill handy to access your account and service reference numbers)

1. Go to  
[viridian.com/firstchurchofeasthtfd](http://viridian.com/firstchurchofeasthtfd)
  2. Make sure it says “First Church of East Hartford” at the top, then find the box that reads “See Rates in Your Area”. Enter your zip code and click the right arrow.
  3. Look for the blue letters which say “Attention Existing Customers – Click Here for New Offers” and click there.
  4. Proceed as if you were signing up as a new customer and select the best rate offered.
  5. When you see on your bill that your rate has switched to the lower value, mark your calendar for when you need to renew the fixed rate.
- This may seem like a lot of work, but it will save you a substantial amount of money. If you do not want to do this online, you can call customer service at 866-663-2508. If you have questions, you can always call Neal Forte at 860-883-7801 or Rich Beebe at 860-986-2706. Again, thank you for helping First Church by choosing Viridian.

## **Calendar**

The six month calendar of events, here at church, is available for pick up in the dining room and outside the sanctuary. Please continue to check Columns and the weekly bulletin for changes and additional events.

## **Recycling for the Church**

First Church is collecting empty inkjet cartridges and cell phones for recycling. Simply place your old cartridge in our collection box under the stairs by the mailboxes. Most businesses throw their empty cartridges away. Please check at work to see if they would donate also.



## **E-mail**

### **addresses:**

Thory Donofrio-[Office@churchcorners.org](mailto:Office@churchcorners.org)

Alice O'Donovan - [RevAlice@aol.com](mailto:RevAlice@aol.com)

NEW LouiseHolmes-[LHolmes](mailto:LHolmes)

[FCC@gmail.com](mailto:FCC@gmail.com)

DonnaBasler-

[FCCEH@aol.com](mailto:FCCEH@aol.com)

Lauren Basler -

[LBaslerFCC@gmail.com](mailto:LBaslerFCC@gmail.com)

### **Church Office Hours**

**Monday:** 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

**Tuesday:** 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

**Wednesday:** Office Closed

**Thursday:** 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

**Friday:** 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.



*Thank you!*

*I want to offer a public word of thanks to Chris Basler who has so ably served as pianist this summer, and to all the folks who offered special music, Sheryl O'Connor, Darrell and Bryan Basler, Cindy Woodman, Al Harris and Voices LLC, Howard Satalino, Joe and Shawn Murdzek. Thank you too, to the Murdzek family, Don Vincent, Al Harris and Voices, the McCarthy family, the Basler and Cattanaach families for leading worship at various times this summer.*

*Alice*

*On behalf of all those in the National and Global Ministries of the UCC, thank you for your gift towards the realization of God's mission in our world. Your investment in the work of our church is a sign that you share my belief that the UCC can and must provide leadership on the critical issues of the faith and life of our day. It compels us to act on global work for justice and peace, in faith and leadership formation.*

*Rev. Geoffrey A. Black, General Minister and President*

*Dear Alice and Members of First Church,*

*Thank you for your generous response to the UCC's appeal for donations in support of those affected by the tornados and climate-related disasters that have occurred across the U.S. during this past spring. Your gift will do much to aid in the continuing relief efforts in all affected areas of our country.*

*Grace and Peace, Susan P. Wilber, Office Manager*

## **OTHER NEWS:**

## FOOD BANK MESSAGE

The Food Bank is experiencing greatly increased numbers of clients while, at the same time, resources are shrinking. We used to serve 1 to 4 clients per day, but now have 6 adults per day, often with children. The availability of donated food at Foodshare from grocery stores has shrunk considerably. The Town of East Hartford's fund to assist the local food banks is also stretched beyond its limit. The first Sunday of every month is "Caring & Sharing" Sunday, with the loose portion of the collection being used to support the food bank at First Congregational Church. We welcome donations of money, as well as paper & plastic bags from grocery stores. Food items always in need are: pasta, sauce, peanut butter, jelly, canned fruit and side dishes. We will include a needed item in the Sunday bulletin periodically. Thank you for all your past support, and for any help you can give in the future.

### All Ladies of First Congregational Church

are cordially invited to our  
W.E.B meeting

Thursday September 19<sup>th</sup> at 7pm  
For Dessert and coffee

W.E.B. – women empowered and Blessed is the weaving together of all the women of the Church to make a strong and long lasting thread of support and friendship.

All the W.E.B. members look forward to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month for a Delicious meal prepared by Chef Dennis and it just gets better from there.

We are a very active group in the everyday life of the Church, whether it is organizing, creating, cooking, baking, cleaning or just participating the women of W.E.B. are always there.

We are proud to have 4 generations of members; great-grandmothers, grandmothers, mom's and grown children. Our members are working and retired teachers, librarians, bankers, nurses, bookkeepers, secretaries, clerks, administrators and home-makers.

What a support group – Almost every imaginable situation, or question has come up in one of our members lives and we are always willing to share our experience to help each other.

Please join us for good food, good conversations, good programs and great friendships!



**Looking Ahead.....** *Holiday Craft Fair*

## Holiday Village FAIR

**November 23 9am - 3pm**

**Dinner: 5pm**

### **FAIR WORKSHOP – Church Dining**

**Room:** Tasks for all abilities - tracing, cutting, gluing, tying, stamping, & sewing.

Mon. Sept 9 6:00 - 8:00 Sat. Sept 28  
9:00 - 12:00

Mon. Oct. 7 6:00 - 8:00 Sat. Oct 19 9:00  
- 12:00

Mon. Oct.28 6:30 - 8:30 Sat. Nov 2 9:00  
- 1:00

Mon. Nov. 4 6:00 - 8:00 Sat. Nov 9  
9:00 -3:00 Mon. Nov 11 9:00-12:00

**SAT. NOV 23 HOLIDAY**

### **VILLAGE FAIR**

Pick up suggestion cards that list items to fill a themed basket, or help with other basket supplies: wired ribbon for bows, shredded paper for basket filler, small trinkets for bow ornaments, flavored tea, coffee & cocoa, small boxes of tea cookies, bags of hard candy or candy bars.

***Craft store gift certificates, 40% off coupons or monetary donations for craft supplies always help.***

## **11 weeks and counting down fast !!!**

### **Holiday Village Fair Sat Nov 23**

**9am to 3pm      Dinner 5pm**

**Week 11** - Make my home-made jam, relishes and pickle those beets. Pick out the recipes for the cookies, candy and fudge I will make.

**Week 10** - Finish place mats, hats & mittens, . Basket & fair donations by Oct 6th, Fair workshop Mon Oct 7 from 6:00 - 8:00.

**Week 9** - Use a craft store gift certificate to donate basket bags, wet foam, silk greenery and other craft supplies. Buy gourmet teas, coffees, and cookies for the baskets.

**Week 8** – Look over my baubles for jewelry I can part with. Buy Christmas greenery and wreath for me to donate.

**Week 7** – Clean up the slightly used items for Gramma’s attic, to bring in by Nov 16th

**Week 6** - Finish the Christmas ornaments for the boutique. Bring the wired ribbon to Fair workshop Oct 19 from 9:00 -12:00.

**Week 5** - Bake cookies & freeze them for the Cookie Walk. Put up the posters, help advertise the date. Teas & cookies needed For workshop Mon Oct 28 from 6:00-8:00

**Week 4** - Send invitations and remind friends of the date. Help put the baskets together Fair workshop Sat Nov 2 from 9:00 -1:00

**Week 3** - Put the Church Fair sign up in my front yard. Last minutetouches and Pricing Fair workshop Mon Nov 4 from 6:00 – 8:00 Help complete and price gift baskets. Come when you can, Fair workshop Sat Nov 9 from 9:00 -3:00

**Week 2** - Make the special sweets for the Candy booth. Get ingredients for tea sandwiches. Fair workshop Mon Nov 11, 9:00 - Noon

**Week 1** – Bake cakes & pies, make the cheeseballs,donate greenery & create holiday planters  
Fair workshop Sat Nov 16 from 9-3  
Help rearrange, set up, decorate, and transform the downstairs for the Church Fair  
Thu Nov. 20 & Fri Nov 21 from 9:00 - 4:00 & 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Come and join the fun!!