

October 2013

Sunday Schedule

- Oct. 6**
World Communion Sunday
 10:00 a.m. **Morning Worship with Communion & Sunday School**
Neighbors in Need offering collected
 11:30 JYF
 5:30 p.m. Stockholder's Banquet
- Oct. 13**
 10:00 a.m. **Morning Worship & Sunday School**
 11:15 a.m. Library Committee
 3:00 p.m. Koinonia II
- Oct. 20**
 10:00 a.m. **Morning Worship & Sunday School**
 11:30 a.m. Board of Missions Meeting (date change)
 1:00 p.m. CROP WALK
- Oct. 27**
 10:00 a.m. **Morning Worship & Sunday School**



The **Senior Choir** rehearses each Wednesday evening at 7:00 p.m. and on Sunday morning at 8:45 a.m. unless otherwise notified.

Children's and Youth Choirs will rehearse immediately following morning worship on Sundays (11:00-11:15 a.m.) unless otherwise announced.



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

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 *Friendships: 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! The cost is \$120.00 per person. Please see *Louise Holmes* for more information.

Friends,

We will gathering for our second all church conversational process October 26th from 9-3. In this time we will discover "What in God's Name is Happening Here" and create an answer to this challenge. "Tell me about First Church in 15 seconds." The technical name for this process is Appreciative Inquiry, and you can check it out by Googling "Appreciative Inquiry"

Yes. This process has been used in city neighborhoods, major companies, whole Episcopal dioceses, hospitals, many non-profits and more.

Yes. if you bring appreciative inquiry to your organization, women's club, workplace, Rotary, political organization, wherever, the organization will become stronger and better at accomplishing the mission of the organization.

Yes, I have led Appreciative Inquiry events in many congregations.

Yes. The more folk who join the conversation, the better it will be, and the more help it will offer the search committee.

Yes. Lunch will be included.

Yes. We'll cover the cost with a free will offering.

Yes. Sign up sheets will be tucked into the bulletin so we can give Dennis a head count for lunch.

With all those "yeses", say "Yes, I'll be there" for Oct. 26th at our church.

Blessings,
 Alice



- Oct. 6** Sunday School following Communion
- Oct. 13** Sunday School following Children's Moment
- Oct. 20** Sunday School following Children's Moment
- Oct. 27** Sunday School following Children's Moment



Junior Youth Fellowship

Oct. 6 11:30 - Please bring your lunch.
Oct. 20 1:00 - CROP WALK

Prayer Meeting and Bible Study

On the first Wednesday in October, November and December there will be a Prayer meeting and Bible study in the Chapel from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome.



Coffee Hour

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

Standing Committee will meet Thursday, October 24 at 7:00 p.m. All representatives are encouraged to attend. If unable to attend it is your responsibility to ask another member of your board.



Counters:

- Oct. 6 *Darrell Basler and Allen Apel*
- Oct. 13 *Kathy Elliott and Kathy Cattanch*
- Oct. 20 *Mary Mourey, Joyce Emerson and Jack Ranney*
- Oct. 27 *Sue Randall*

The Board of Christian Education will meet Tuesday, October 22 at 7:00 p.m.

The Board of Deaconesses will meet Monday, October 7 at 1:00 p.m.

The Board of Deacons will meet Monday, October 14 at 7:00 p.m.

The Board of Missions will meet Sunday, October 20th at 11:30 a.m. (date change)

The Board of Stewardship will meet Thursday, October 10 at 6:30 p.m.

The Board of Trustees will meet Tuesday, October 15 at 7:00 p.m.

W.E.B. will meet on Thursday, October 17 at 6:15 p.m. for dinner. Program: Rev. Alice - "Dressing for the Season."

Our orange and grapefruit sale is about to begin.

Order forms and information packets will soon

be available in the dining room or see Howard Satalino for more information.



Church Library

Recommended Readings

by the Library Committee

Chicken Soup for Everyone

Chicken Soup for the Christian Family

Chicken Soup for the College Soul

Chicken Soup for the Women's Soul

Chicken Soup for the Golden Soul

Chicken Soup for the Pet Lover's Soul



The American Red Cross will be having a blood drive at First Congregational Church on

Wednesday, October 9th from 1:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Call 1-800-GIVE-LIFE or GiveLife.Org

Positive ID is required to donate.



This year's CROP walk will leave First Church at 1:00 p.m. on Sunday,

October 20th and will make its way up Main St. and Burnside Ave. The distance will be approximately six miles. The walkers will gather at First Church afterwards for refreshments. *Joe Murdzek* and the walkers will be grateful for your sponsorship to help in poverty, hunger and disaster relief at home and abroad.

Recycling For The Church

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

The Pastor's Corner

Friends,

This church sits, as you know very well, at the intersection of Main St., and Connecticut Blvd. and there is near constant traffic, unless it is late, very late at night. Trucks, some heavy enough to make the building shake, busses, cars, motorcycles, bicycles all pass by the north window in my office. Sometimes, I hear the voices of people walking by. With all this motion there is a restless spirit about this little corner of the world.

The constant in all the hubbub is the sound of the safety pedestrian buzzers placed into the traffic light system. Those buzzers protect the well being of the most vulnerable in this high traffic area, the pedestrians, particularly those with sight limitations.

It is said that the state, the community, the people are judged by how well we care for the most vulnerable among us, not how well the strong and powerful become. Let the buzzers remind us of this sacred call to care for the most vulnerable – in Jesus' time, the widow, the orphan, the stranger and the outcast.

Thank God for buzzers help preach the gospel so well.

Blessings,
Alice

Stewardship Moment

Stewardship Stars – October 2013

This month, the Board of Stewardship would like to recognize the choirs and our choir directors as Stewardship Stars. A Stewardship Star is a person or persons who let God's light shine brightly through them. Their actions can be used by the rest of us to navigate to happy, fulfilling lives of service.

Our choirs make a joyful noise to the Lord week after week. They take on traditional anthems and more contemporary offerings to enrich our time in worship. They spend hours in rehearsal to give us Christmas and Easter Cantatas or special music during family worship. They sing with joy and lift us up. They sing with sadness and let us remember our Savior who sacrificed his life that we might live.

Jerry and Pam Scheinfeldt and *Connie Holmeen* also work to find and teach music that enhances the worship theme for any given Sunday. As you listen to the words of the anthems, you realize how much the anthems expand our experience.

Part of the joy of attending worship at First Church is being able to listen to the excellence of our musical program. Thank you to our choir directors, the adult choir, the youth choir, the children's choir and the bell choir. You make our day!

Help is needed for the fair. We need 2-3 people to

be responsible for putting signs around East Hartford, South Windsor, etc... a couple of weeks before the fair AND take them down right after the fair. Also, we need a source of evergreens for the holiday boxes and 2-3 people to help cut them a few days before Nov. 16th. That is when we put together the holiday boxes. Contact Kathy Cattanach or Lorraine Trinks. Thank you!

Holiday Village Fair News

November 23rd 9am - 3pm Dinner: 5pm

THE FAIR NEEDS YOUR HELP!!

CAN YOU - help get baskets & things down from the Church attic ?

CAN YOU - put out posters at the stores & businesses you go to ?

CAN YOU - mail or give fair invitations to all of your friends ?

A little help from all, is a big help to First Church!!!

You CAN be part of the Church Fair success!!

Ask any booth chairman how You CAN help!!

CAN YOU - put a Church fair sign on your front lawn?

CAN YOU - bake cookies for the Cookie Walk or Tea Room ?

CAN YOU - pickle cukes or beets, make jam or jelly for the Country Store ?

CAN YOU - make a cake, pie, brownies etc. for the Bake Booth ?

CAN YOU – create chocolate or other tasty treats for the Candy Shoppe ?

CAN YOU - donate a clean, slightly used item to Grandma's Attic ?

CAN YOU - crochet a scarf, knit a hat, sew a pillow for Handicrafts ?

CAN YOU - pass on your unworn jewelry to the Nu-To-U Jewelry Shop ?

CAN YOU – bring in paper bags with handles to use at the booths ?

CAN YOU – bring in new or gourmet items for baskets by October 15th ?

CAN YOU - put finishing touches on craft items for the Holiday Boutique ?

CAN YOU - ask all your friends to mark their calendar for November 23rd ?

CAN YOU - come to Fair Craft days:

Oct 7 or Oct 28 from 6:00-8:00?

Oct 19 or Nov 2, 11 from 9-12?

Nov 9, or Nov 16 from 9-3?

CAN YOU – reserve a seat for you and a friend for the Church Fair Dinner?

CAN YOU - sign up to volunteer for a few hours at the fair on November 23?

**YES !! YOU CAN!! -- YOU CAN!! -- YOU CAN!!
Some FAQ's regarding Holy Communion**

in Christian churches, the UCC, and our own
First Congregational Church in East Hartford:
or more honestly,
“Questions I Wish People Would Ask Regarding
Communion”

What does Holy Communion mean?

Without begging the question, communion means many things to many people and different things among the many denominations. Some (the Roman Catholic understanding) believe that the elements become the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ, while others at another point on the spectrum see communion as something we do to remember and honor Jesus. (Sort of the Baptist position) Within those two positions, I have understood communion as one way in which Christ is with us, thus offering strength to us for our journeys of faith. Within the UCC, there is a wide range of understandings regarding the meaning of the sacrament, and I am sure that if twelve of us are gathered together to share the sacrament, we each hold dear to several understandings which we deeply cherish for ourselves.

How often do churches offer Communion?

Some traditions offer communion daily, (Roman Catholicism comes immediately to mind). Others weekly, such as Lutherans and Episcopalians, and our ecumenical partners, the Disciples of Christ. Within the UCC there is wide variation, as there was among our forebears, the Congregational Christian Churches. Historically in the Congregational tradition, communion was offered as infrequently as once a year, and as often as monthly. First Church celebrated communion monthly until recent years, then somewhat less frequently. Currently, majority practice in the UCC is to offer communion at least monthly with some special occasions added in, such as Maundy Thursday and/or Christmas Eve.

In what direction are we moving here at First Church?

After some conversation, the deacons and I are going to try offering communion on the first Sunday of each month and on significant other occasions including Maundy Thursday and Christmas Eve (at the later service).

We are always moving in the direction of a wider welcome which is why many denominations use grape juice rather than wine as a matter of practice, (also, Mr. Welch of Welch's grape juice was a supporter of the temperance movement and an ardent Methodist.) We will continue to offer gluten free bread for those who have a sensitivity to gluten. And we are going to try offering communion early in the Sunday service so that our Sunday School teachers and children can participate with their families, then adjourn to their classes.

I guess these are my best answers to questions I wish folks would ask more often.

Blessings,
Alice

Looking Ahead...

Budget Sunday

Sunday, November 10, 2013
Congregational Meeting at 11:00 a.m.

Holiday Village Fair

Saturday, November 23, 2013
9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Victorian Tea – 11:00 a.m.
Dinner – 5:00 p.m.

Thanksgiving & Stewardship Sunday

Sunday, November 24, 2013 – 10:00 a.m.
Thanksgiving baskets delivered to our homebound following worship.

33rd Annual Thanksgiving Day Dinner

Thursday, November 28, 2013 - 1:00 p.m.



Just a reminder...if you have moved, have a new phone number, or your college student would like to receive news from their church in the Columns..... we want to know!!!

"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.

EHIM

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

Asset Mapping A Success!

We counted our blessings Sunday afternoon beginning with a great lunch complete with salad, cupcakes, and conversation. We plastered walls with sheets of paper, each naming an asset of First Church. The parking lot, oh so many talented and passionate people, a pipe organ, the clock and bell tower were all high on the list. (Pun intended)

In a short hour's time we easily imagined four significant projects to enhance our mission and have lots of fun on the way.

A goodly number of people are interested in genealogy, the history of our church, and the town. Perhaps we can pull off some historical bus tours, with visits to founders' home sites, maybe partnering with the Library and historical commission and ...?

Others were interested in creating a community garden on our lawns (growing food, not grass) which could supply the food bank with fresh produce.

Still others were interested in a musical revue, with some folk suggesting that a talent program might not be limited to music, maybe an "East Hartford's Got Talent" night or night(s).

Folks who are passionate about caring for the earth are already researching the possibility of using our parking lot as a site for a community electronic recycling event. Perhaps BSA troop #1 might help?

Good food, good friends and great ideas made for a wonderful early afternoon.

First Church Fun Fact: Our Bell

Our first bell, weighing about 1,500 pounds, was mounted in a frame or cradle so it swung back and forth when rung. The movement caused the clapper to strike the inside of the bell to make the sound. The bell was rung by pulling the bell pull rope that still hangs in the front foyer.

CALENDAR DONORS are needed for the weekly church bulletin. This is an opportunity to honor or remember a loved one. The cost is \$20.

**Save the Date
November 23, 2013**

**Holiday Village Fair
9:00am - 3:00pm
Dinner 5:00pm**

**First Congregational Church
Victorian Tea Room, Gift Baskets,
Christmas Boutique, Grandma's Attic
Jewelry, Handcrafts, Baked Goods
& More**

Please cut out the above advertisement and give to your friends to help advertise our fair.

Feel Free to copy more to hand out.

Thank you!