

the edge

The First Church in Windsor
United Church of Christ—Gathered 1630
An open and affirming community
for all God's people



Our mission is to worship God, love our neighbor,
and follow Jesus as together we journey in faith.

DECEMBER 2010

From the Minister –



What good is it to me
If this eternal birth of the divine Son
takes place unceasingly
but does not take place within myself?
And
what good is it to me
If Mary is full of grace
and if I am not also full of grace?
What good is it to me
for the Creator to give birth to his/her Son
If I do not also give birth to him
in my time
and my culture?
This, then,
is the fullness of time:
When the Son of God
is begotten in us.”



-Meister Eckhart

May the spirit of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love be born anew in each of this Christmas!

Season's Blessings, RHH



Worship

December

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sundays at 8 a.m. Holy Communion & 10 a.m. Family Worship

December 5

(2nd Sunday of Advent)

Rick Huleatt

December 12

(3rd Sunday of Advent)

Char Corbett

December 19

(4th Sunday of Advent)

Rick Huleatt

December 24

(Christmas Eve)

Worship at 5 & 9 p.m.

December 26

(First Sunday after Christmas)

(No 8 a.m. Service)

Char Corbett

NO 8 a.m. Service

Dec. 26

There will be no 8 a.m. worship service the Sunday between Christmas Eve and New Year's Day (December 26). We will return to our regular worship hours (8 & 10 a.m.) on Sunday, January 2, 2011.

Church Office Closings

The church office will be closed Monday, December 27 and Monday, January 3.



Passengers Are Boarding the Stewardship Train

Since Consecration Sunday, we have received 182 pledges for a total of \$321,340. This is encouraging but for First Church to continue to fulfill its mission and ministries, more passengers need to get on board and be counted.

If you have not made your pledge for 2011, please do so without delay. You can go online to www.fcwucc.org to pledge or call the church office for a pledge card. Now is the time for everyone to "Get On Board."

The Stewardship Committee thanks everyone who has gotten "on board." Your support is much appreciated by your community of fellow riders.

The Stewardship Committee



December LECTIONARY LESSONS

DECEMBER 5 (2nd Sunday in Advent)

Isaiah 11:1-10

Psalms 72:1-7, 18-19

Romans 15:4-13

Matthew 3:1-12

DECEMBER 12 (3rd Sunday in Advent)

Isaiah 35:1-10

Psalms 146:5-10

James 5:7-10

Matthew 11:2-11

DECEMBER 19 (4th Sunday in Advent)

Isaiah 7:10-16

Psalms 80:1-7, 17-19

Romans 1:1-7

Matthew 1:18-25

DECEMBER 24 (Christmas Eve)

Isaiah 62:6-12

Psalms 97

Titus 3:4-7

Luke 2:1-7, (8-20)

DECEMBER 26 (1st Sunday after Christmas)

Isaiah 63:7-9

Psalms 148

Ephesians 3:1-12

Matthew 2:1-12

Advent Bible Study

Rick Huleatt will lead a Bible study using the lectionary lessons for Advent Wednesday, December 1, 8, 15, & 22 from 4 – 5 p.m. in the Morrell Room. Participants should plan to bring their Bibles. Coffee, tea, and hot chocolate will be provided.

December 1 Isaiah 11:1-10; Matthew 3:1-12

December 8 Isaiah 35:1-10; Luke 1:47-55

December 15 Isaiah 7:10-16; Matthew 1:18-25

December 22 Isaiah 62:6-12; Luke 2:1-7, 8-20

Peace Pole Dedication, December 5

There will be a dedication of the Peace Pole given in honor of Sue Williams, our former Coordinator of Parish Caring Ministries, following the 10 a.m. worship service on December 5. Please join us immediately after the service on the front lawn of the church followed by a time of coffee and fellowship in Nelson Hall.

CHURCH NEWS

AROUND the CONGREGATION

Dear Friends,

On Sunday, September 19, I officially retired as the Coordinator of Parish Caring Ministries. I can't thank you enough for the lovely celebration on that day. The great out-pouring of affection and red roses warmed my heart through and through. But the gift to First Church of a Peace Pole in my honor could not have thrilled me more! I have always felt that each gift given by a volunteer of PCM was indeed a "peace offering." And I try to live by the words of the song, "Let there be peace on Earth and let it begin with me." "The Peace Pole" has arrived. It is just gorgeous...a beautiful reminder that we as a church are in the business of bringing peace to a hurting world. We are looking for the perfect time and spot to "plant" it. Thank you so very much!

In Love and Gratitude,

Sue Williams

Thank you to Rick, Char, Mark and Victor, to Hugh and Kate McLean, the choir, and all our friends at First Church who helped us through this difficult time of David's illness. Without your support, we would have been so isolated and, for that matter, hungry. Pastoral visits, flowers, cards, meals, errand-running, and a willingness simply to be with David when I couldn't be all added up to a caring community surrounding us in our time of need. We have been very grateful and give thanks to God for this community of faith that makes such a difference!

Sincerely,

Davida Foy Crabtree



Members of First Church Choir visit David Hindinger at his home this fall.

Dear First Church Family,

Thank you so much for the lovely fall flowers sent to me during my recent hospital stay. The flowers, visits from Rick, cards, prayers and phone calls greatly cheered and encouraged me. I am reminded, once again, how fortunate I am to be a member of such a caring church family!

Blessings to all,

Andrea Schnure

Births

Jessica Hunt Strietelmeier and her husband, Michael, added to their family with the birth of twins: Ivy Hunt and Cooper Hoby. Their elder son, Shea, will be three at the end of November. Jessica, a member of First Church, is the daughter of Martha Hunt Littlefield.

Deaths

Pamela Sweeny, wife of Michael, passed away on November 2, and a memorial service was held at First Church on November 10.

David Hindinger, husband of Davida Foy Crabtree, passed away on November 11, and a memorial service was held at First Church on November 14. A reception was held after, hosted by the First Church Women's Club.

Donald Davis, husband of Marilyn, passed away on November 26. The memorial service was held on November 23. A reception held after, hosted by the First Church Women's Club.



Volunteers Needed

If you would like to serve on one of the ministries of the church please contact Noel Osowiecki (860-688-6779) or notify the church office (860-688-7229) indicating which board or committee you are interested in. A brochure ("Ways We Can Serve") which can be found in both the Meetinghouse and Nelson Hall, as well as on our website, explains the different volunteer opportunities that exist within our church community. Serving in this capacity is not only a generous way to share your time and talents, but is also a wonderful way to meet fellow church members and make new friends.

Quiet Christmas

First Church, in partnership with Masonicare Partners Home Health & Hospice, is offering a Quiet Christmas service this year. There are times in our lives when the death of a loved one, the anguish of a broken relationship, the anxious insecurity of unemployment or poor health may cloud this holy time of year. By acknowledging the pain and sadness, this service is designed especially to meet the special worship needs of those whose joy of the holiday season is tempered by sorrow. The Quiet Christmas service offers a place where we can be with our sadness and where we come to know we are not alone. It provides a separate time of being together to receive the words of comfort and hope that speak to us in the midst of sorrow.

Please plan to join us in worship that helps us remember that God's presence is for those who mourn, and God's Word comes to give light to our darkness. Quiet Christmas will be held on Wednesday, December 8, 2010 at 7 p.m. in our sanctuary. The labyrinth will be open to the community in Nelson Hall from 4—9 p.m. on this day.

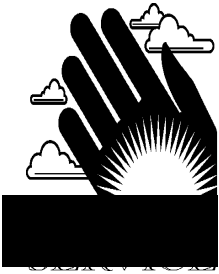
News From the First Church Women's Club

On Tuesday, November 9, Ruth Budlong, Administrative Assistant to the Town Manager, spoke to us about the many services offered by the town of Windsor. She named several church members who serve or have served on town committees over the years, many of them Women's Club members, all contributing to making Windsor a great town to live in. We thank Ruth for donating her speaker's fee to the Windsor Food Bank.

On December 14, Elisa Edson, PhD. will present "Unsung Heroes-The Assistance Dogs." This is our Christmas potluck luncheon so please bring a main dish or dessert. In addition, please bring unwrapped toiletries and knitwear for our annual Christmas donations to Hartford Hospital, Windsor Family Services, Windsor Food Bank, Head Start, and the nursing homes in town. The luncheon begins at noon and the program begins at 1 p.m. All are welcome and please bring a friend. Please call Elaine Mesick at 860-688-4714 to let her know you will be there. Thank you.

From the First Church Job Transition Group

The Job Transition Group Program offered by the First Church in Windsor continues to serve an ever-growing need within our community. We would like to provide participants names of persons experienced and knowledgeable in specific professions, businesses and trades who are willing to talk with someone seeking employment in that area. Anyone willing to serve in this capacity, or seeking further information about the program, should call Randy Clark, Steve Porcaro, Julie Fewster, Bang Williams or the church office.



Parish Caring Ministries

Over the course of the last nine years, the Knitting Ministry has crafted and given away well over 700 shawls. These colorful shawls are blessed with a prayer by this knitting group of about 30 women and are then either hand delivered personally with a note or mailed with a note to members of our congregation or friends of the congregation who are experiencing difficult times. So if you know of someone who has a tie to our congregation who would receive comfort from receiving a shawl, you can contact Susan Huleatt and she will see that one is sent.

An addition to the Parish Caring Council: Heidi Kelsey has joined the Council to co-chair the Visiting Ministry with Dorothy Merz. Both have been long time Parish Visitors themselves.

We have had a number of our congregation in the hospital lately. It is so important that Rick and Char hear about this so these people can be visited, a note sent and, often, flowers given. With all the HIPAA regulations that are in effect, the only way the ministers and Parish Caring Ministry can work as it should is if people notify the ministers or the office when a congregation member is hospitalized. Thank you for your help.



News from the Early Learning Center

There are still openings available in some of our classes, **(Tues.-Thurs. 3's, Mon.-Tues.-Thurs.4's and Full Day 3's)** so if you know of anyone who is interested please tell them to call the office at 860 688-4597 to schedule a tour.

The half day program had a "Special Person" open house on November 16 and 17. Everyone is excited about our annual Holiday Breakfast coming up on December 11 and a visit from the new children's librarian (Deborah Roe) to read holiday stories.

The Ways and Means Committee has been busy planning for the New Year and is excited to announce a **Chamilia Bead Night** at Ashley's Distinctive Jewelry and Gifts, located at 555 Day Hill Road in Windsor, on Thursday, Dec. 2 from 5—8 p.m. A portion of the sales will go to benefit the Early Learning Center.

And thanks to all the church members who came to our Friendly's event. We raised \$350 for the ELC! The children, parents and staff of the early learning center wish everyone a joyous and peaceful holiday season.



Thanks to December volunteers:

Care Notes – Claudia Jones
Friendship Team – Elaine Richards
Flowers – Dottie McAllister
Meals & Transportation – Linda Carillo
Prayer Team – Kathy Hardman

Christmas Memorial Poinsettias

We are now accepting orders for the poinsettias which will decorate our Meetinghouse on December 19. Following the Sunday service the plants will be distributed, by the flower committee, to members of our church family who are confined either to their homes or to a continuing care facility. The cost is \$10 per plant. Checks should be made out to: The First Church in Windsor and mailed to the church office. The deadline is December 12.

Please be sure to include the names of loved ones being remembered.





Lofty Notes

Dear First Church Family,

It doesn't seem possible that we are about to celebrate our fifth Advent and Christmas together. What an amazing quinquennium it has been!

As I reflect on what Christ's Incarnation means to our congregation's life in general, and to music ministry in particular, I find myself considering the Biblical expression "Word made flesh" with a special focus on sound and vibrations. By definition, "word" can mean a unit of linguistic communication, a piece of news, or a reliable pledge of probity. Christ is the revealed and living "Word" of God, God's "prover" of justice, mercy, truth and love. We have God's "word" on it!

C. S. Lewis's book *The Magician's Nephew* contains a re-telling of the Genesis creation story. The great Lion, Aslan (a symbol of Christ), appears in a lightless, vast and empty wasteland. Before the amazed eyes and ears of two children, he "sings" a world (Narnia) into existence. Each pitch and tone quality brings forth a commensurate life form or geographical feature.

What do we "bring forth" when we sing and make melody to God? Is it possible that the vibrations we produce together reach out into the cosmos and help disseminate, in some way, the great Gifts we all seek at Christmas...Hope, Peace, Joy, Love?

May we open our hearts and spirits every time we open our mouths...and sing out the Word made Flesh.

Peace, Mark

Genesis Generation Location Change

It's a wonderful problem to have...the number of children involved in Genesis Generation has grown to the point that our current rehearsal space is no longer sufficient! Children are now invited to return to the Meetinghouse Music Room where singing, tone chimes, creative prayer-movement AND a special Genesis Snack await them! Call Mark Watkins (860-752-5242) for more information.



From the Knitting Ministry

Our Knitting Ministry will gather for our monthly meeting in the Morrell Room on Sunday, December 14 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. If you enjoy knitting or would like to learn, please join us as we knit prayer shawls for church members and friends. We pray that the soft warmth of the shawls reminds the recipients of God's enfolding love for them in good times as well as difficult ones.

We celebrate the life of Pam Sweeny, a faithful member of the Knitting Ministry. She knit well over 40 shawls in a wonderful array of colors, providing so many people with a sense of God's comforting grace as they wear their prayer shawls.



From Our Church School Coordinator

Don't you just want to be a kid again? I mean, who wouldn't? December just seems to have it all and, to top it off, there is a huge payday at the end of the month! Now ask yourself, in what other month of the year do you get to attend multiple holiday parties, decorate everything in sight, turn every colored light in-and-outside the house on, have all the candy dishes around the house stocked full of sweets, see your first snowfall of the season, gather around the fireplace, visiting with friends and relatives whom you haven't seen in a while. The feeling of love is ever-present and well presented!

If that's not enough, there's still plenty in the offing for good ole December. With the stage set, the excitement continues as kids of all ages get to participate in the most elaborate of suspense thrillers seen all year. The whole month of December seems to move along in a sort of cloak in secrecy, making every child at least consider that they might be secretly involved in some sort of grand-scale detective\mystery game. But as a kid, you're not sure, because no one is talking and you're afraid that asking too many questions might violate some unstated rule of the game. However, bits of wisdom do start to slowly trickle down from the older kids who, although initiated, cannot be completely trusted as they have become master players in the game themselves.

As the days of December start racing by, one truth appears above all others, and that is if you're a kid and you play your cards right by staying out of trouble the game will conclude in a huge celebration, complete with piles of presents, festive meals and unabated noise and good cheer. Did I forget to mention that as a bonus, the game organizers throw in a good solid week off from school? Seriously, what other month of the year even comes close to offering a kid as much excitement as the month of December has to offer?

There's no doubt that for many of us, the mystery of the Holy Spirit has its roots deep in childhood wonder and awe of the Christmas season. While I know that I've changed my thinking a time or two over the years, I still love playing the game, believing in the magic and staying true to the faith that what can be felt needs not be seen.

**Merry Christmas to one and all,
Helga Finlay**

Happy Birthday to You!

Emma Capuano 12/27
Benjamin Fraley 12/29
Brendan Gale 12/31
Becca Nelson 12/08
Gabrielle Osowiecki 12/29
Joe Petro 12/20



Important Church School Information for December

During the month of December we will not be holding our traditional Sunday school classes. Instead, all of the children will learn about different Christmas traditions from around the world provided, first hand, by members of our congregation. The lineup looks this:

December 5—Australia and Jamaica

December 12—Germany and Italy

December 19—China and Holland

Calling all parents! We need volunteers to help out behind the scene and also break-down the Christmas pageant set.

December 5, 11:30 a.m.: Rehearsals begin in the Meetinghouse for the holy family, the three kings, inn keeper, Roman soldier, Gabriela, and the narrator.

December 12, 11:30 a.m.: Rehearsal for the angels, animals, and all of the shepherds.

December 19, 11:30 a.m.: Rehearsal for all pageant participants in the meetinghouse.

December 24, 5 p.m.: Christmas Pageant. All participants please arrive at 4 p.m. and animals at 4:30 p.m. Light snacks will be provided for the cast members.

December 26: There will be a Christmas story and carol sing during the 10 a.m. worship service followed by a coffee in the Parker Room.

There are two children's service opportunities during the month of December. We will be collecting items that are needed by our elderly and homeless populations. These can be brought forward during the children's message or left in a collection box Nelson Hall.

Immaculate Conception & Housing Corporation - men's unopened white socks. **Kimberly Hall South** - lotions, perfume, body washes, hard candy (regular & sugar-free), powder, small trinkets, stuffed animals, deodorant for men & women, mouthwash, hairspray, fleece blankets and cologne.

Alternative Gift Giving Opportunities

"Maybe Christmas," he thought, "doesn't come from a store. Maybe Christmas perhaps means a little bit more!" – from How the Grinch Stole Christmas by Dr. Seuss.

Well, of course Christmas means a little bit more – indeed, a whole lot more, as Jesus' birth reminds us to offer love, mercy, joy and peace to our neighbor. And so, from November 28 - December 19, come visit the Alternative Christmas Giving Corner in Nelson Hall and consider all the different ways you can give gifts this Christmas that help others too. Alternative giving, virtual giving or graceful giving is a form of gift giving that has a symbolic value to the recipient and benefits a meaningful cause at the same time. So, in honor of your loved ones this year, consider purchasing a gift card that alleviates poverty through micro-lending; making a toy donation for children of incarcerated women in CT; participating in a local two-for-two coat exchange; purchasing art supplies or books for abused, neglected and adjudicated teens; making a donation to a local men's shelter; purchasing a goat or flock of ducks to provide food, resources and work for an impoverished family; supporting reliable sources for safe water and sanitation for people troubled by recurring drought in Kenya; assisting local and regional housing efforts; helping families in town with their winter heating costs; and more. We will have information sheets, "how-to" packets, gift-giving cards and great suggestions to make this a meaningful Christmas for everyone! For additional information, check our website at www.fcwucc.org, speak with one of the pastors, connect after Sunday worship with Martha O'Donnell, or call the church office at 860-688-7229.

Important Youth Information for December

Check the church website for current Middle School and High School events, details and permission slips – or see Char for the upcoming programs. Here are the December highlights:

Friday, December 3, 6—9 p.m.: All Church Cookie Bake Night and Youth Christmas Party, Nelson Hall. Come share the Christmas spirit by baking cookies with all of your FCW friends! An evening for all ages; we'll not only be making cookies 6-7:30 p.m. for our homes but also for our homebound and convalescing church members. Youth will be our lead bakers, running the tables and kitchen and helping the little ones with their cookies. Table games, Christmas music and munchies are all part of the festivities. The youth group will remain after the cookie bake until 9 p.m. for our own youth Christmas party. Bring a friend and be a jolly baker-fun-maker!

New This Year—Sunday, December 12, Christmas Caroling & Open House Party, 3:30 p.m.: Come one, come all as we hit the town in the Christmas Bus, visiting Windsor Rehab and homebound church members to deliver cookies, sing and spread Christmas cheer. We'll gather in Nelson hall beginning at 3:30 p.m., boarding our bus at 4 p.m. in the Parish House rear parking lot (elevator entrance). We'll return to the church by 6:15 p.m., just in time for the **FCW Christmas Open House Party**, where we'll share soup, grilled cheese sandwiches, cookies and Christmas cheer! Bring your family and friends! **This is an intergenerational activity for everyone ages 1 to 101!** Bring family and friends and dress warm and in layers! Sign up during fellowship hour or speak with Char Corbett or Mark Watkins for more details. Please RSVP by signing up in Nelson Hall or calling the church office so we can plan for plenty of seating, soup and sandwiches!

Sundays December 5, 12 and 19 – Christmas Pageant rehearsals, 11:15 a.m. in the Meeting-house. You're needed and wanted too for this wonderful family Christmas service. Be in the cast, play an instrument, sing – please share your gifts. (see page 8 for church school age children pageant information.)

Youth Mission Trip 2011—Applications Now Being Taken

First Church once again anticipates sending several teams of volunteers to Camden, NY from July 16–23, 2011. This will be the third year that First Church supports Cluster 13 Ministries, a not-for-profit housing, clothing and food ministry in the north-central region of New York. Applications are now available and will be received on a first-come-first-serve basis. First Church adult members and youth entering 9th grade by September 2011 are encouraged to apply, as well as friends of our community. So help spread the word. Applications can be picked up from the church office or downloaded from the church website. Please note the application deadline is December 31. This is an earlier application deadline than in previous years so we can better plan the required team building and training programs. For more information, please contact the church office at 860-688-7229 or email Char Corbett, Associate Pastor, at charcorbett@snet.net.

Seeking Disciples Update

In November our “seekers” spent a Sunday morning getting to know their mentors over breakfast, with ice breaker games and questions posed during a gathering in Nelson Hall. The youth also hosted a shelter meal for the Immaculate Conception Shelter in Hartford, serving a ham dinner for nearly 80 men and spent class time learning about Advent, the meaning of Christmas and reflecting on what it means to “wait and anticipate grace” in this speed-driven culture. The youth are now anticipating their participation in the morning services during Advent and preparing for their January retreat to St. John the Divine Cathedral in NYC.

Make A Loan to Reduce Poverty

We loaned Mary Waruma Makyundi in Kenya funds to purchase passion fruits, bananas, and avocados to add to her small store. We made a loan to Pelgrina Olivos Quispe in Peru to purchase fertilizer to assure her a better rice crop.

First Church is joining other communities by supporting micro-loans around the world. Micro-loans are very small loans to poor people enabling them to begin small enterprises that can alleviate the poverty in which they find themselves. Loan repayment rates for these micro-loans are usually above 95%.

We are working through a U.S. organization called Kiva that links us with people seeking loan opportunities throughout the world. Check out what has begun by going to Kiva.org and then clicking on "community" and filling in "First Church, Windsor." You will see all the loans we have made.

If you want to be a part of this effort you may do so in a couple of ways. You can do it through the website Kiva.org as an individual or family. (Be sure to note you are a part of the First Church in Windsor team.) Or you can participate in First Church's "Common Fund" by sending a check made out to First Church, Windsor, to Mary Phelan with "Micro-loan" or "Kiva" in the message section. It is also possible to organize a group within the church. Loan amounts begin at \$25.

Want more information or have questions? Ask Rick or Lowell Fewster (860-683-0308.)

The Gift Tree is Back

Sunday, Nov 28 and Dec 5, 11:15 a.m.: Take a tag off the Christmas tree in Nelson Hall and purchase a gift to help a needy child through Covenant to Care. Gifts should be unwrapped and returned to the church office no later than December 12.

Pastor's Pie Table a Big Hit

A special thank you to all those who helped bake pies and quiches to support the summer youth mission trip programs! Over \$500 was raised – and we are thankful!

2010 Advent/Christmas Calendar At a glance

Sunday Worship is at 8 and 10 a.m. unless otherwise noted.

Sunday, 11/28 – Festival of Lights, 5 p.m., Meetinghouse, followed by the Advent Workshop & Potluck Supper.

Wednesday, 12/1 – Concert Series "An Unexpected Christmas," 12:30 p.m., in the Meetinghouse.

Friday, 12/3 – All Church Cookie Bake and Youth Christmas Party, 6-7:30 p.m., Nelson Hall. Youth party begins at 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, 12/5 - Christmas pageant rehearsal – 11:15 a.m. Meetinghouse.

Wednesday, 12/8 — Quiet Christmas, 7 p.m. in the Meetinghouse: See the article on page 4 for more information. The labyrinth will also be out from 4—9 p.m. in Nelson Hall.

Sunday, 12/12 - Christmas Pageant rehearsal – all children/youth, 11:15 a.m., Meetinghouse.

Sunday, 12/12 – Christmas Carol Bus Tour , 3:30 – 6:15 p.m. We'll board the bus at 4 p.m. and come back to Nelson Hall for the First Church Open House.

Sunday, 12/12—First Church Open House, **6—7:30 p.m.** Bring your family and friends to celebrate the Christmas season—fun for people of all ages. Enjoy a supper of soup and grilled cheese. All are welcome!

Sunday, 12/19 - Christmas Pageant rehearsal – all participants, 11:15 a.m. in the Meetinghouse.

Friday, 12/24 – Christmas Eve.
4 p.m. – Pageant participants arrival time
5 p.m. – Family Christmas Eve Worship Service.
9 p.m. – Lessons and Carols.

Saturday, 12/25. Christmas Day. Office closed.

Sunday, 12/26. 10 a.m.: Worship service only. No Church School, childcare only.

Monday, 12/27 and Monday, 1/3 – Office closed.

Sunday, 1/2 – Epiphany/Three Kings Sunday.

Are You Up-To-Date on Your Pledge?

Our financial secretaries, Jim and Joan Thornton, will be mailing updated statements mid-December. If you are not current on your pledge, please bring it up to date as quickly as possible before year end. If you have questions, you can email the Thorntons at jimjoanthornton@att.net, write them at First Church, 107 Palisado Avenue, Windsor, CT 06095 or contact the church office.

First Church Used Book Sale

Thank you to the many First Church members and friends who helped make our used book sale a success. Contributions of books, boxes and bags; help with sorting and moving books; time spent on a shift as a cashier; publicizing the event; re-boxing leftovers after the sale; plenty of brawn and good humor throughout; and those who purchased used books all helped us raise about \$1800 for First Church.

Although this fell short of last year's total, there was considerable outreach that went on through this event that came about from the efforts of many. Because of our publicity, a number of folks visited us for the first time, bought books and said they enjoyed their visit. Nelson Hall was abuzz with book customers and book sale volunteers all chatting about books and socializing with one another. Six boxes of children's books were sorted and brought to Connecticut Children's Medical Center. Other children's books were added to the Book Buddies box headed to the children at the Simpson Waverly School in Hartford. A number of teachers took books for their classroom libraries and school libraries. Several bags of books went to a nursing home. Boxes of videos and DVD's and a box of cookbooks went to Windsor Public Library for their used book sale. Leftover books were taken by Traveler Restaurant in Union, CT, where each of their diners receives a free book. The Windsor Food Bank received bags and bags of our extra bags, just in time for distribution of Thanksgiving groceries.

Our used book sale was an opportunity to clean out our bookshelves, transform clutter by recycling reading, enjoy fellowship while doing good for others and raise some money for First Church. Thanks to the many members, friends and family who helped make it happen.

Thanks also to the Deacons and their bakers for setting up "Cafe Nelson," providing baked goods and beverages for our volunteers and customers to buy for a freewill offering, and for raising some extra money for the Windsor Food Bank.

Betsy Kenneson

Facility Snow Storm Closing Policy

Safety is paramount in the use of all our facilities. For this reason, our facilities are closed for all weekday uses whenever the **weather forces the closing (including early dismissal) of Windsor Public Schools.**

Sunday worship will be held as scheduled unless the State of CT declares a "Snow State of Emergency," closing roads to non-emergency vehicles.

Weekend facility closings outside of regular Sunday worship will be left to the discretion of the pastors.

First Church Staff and Contact Information

Senior Pastor
REV. RICHARD HANNA HULEATT

Associate Pastor
REV. CHARLENE CORBETT

Pastor Emeritus
REV. F. VAN GORDER PARKER

Music Director/Organist

MARK D. WATKINS

Associate Music Director

VICTOR M. EVANS

Church Administrator

MARY PHELAN

Director, Early Learning Center

ELLEN MONCHUN



Church School Coordinator
HELGA FINLAY

Church School Assistant
GARY SAVA

Treasurer

AUBREY LOOMIS

Bookkeeper

JENNIFER BILODEAU

Sexton

MICHAEL HITE

Custodian

CHRIS LEVINE

Sunday Church Services

8:00 a.m.—Communion in the Round

10:00 a.m.—Service and Church School

Childcare Available

107 Palisado Ave., Windsor CT 06095

Office Hours: 8:30 -4:30 p.m. (M-F)

Phone: (860) 688-7229

Fax: (860) 688-9408

Email: first.church.windsor@snet.net

Web: www.fcwucc.org

Edge articles should be sent to the church office by email by the 15th of each month. Thank you!

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