

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.**

January 2011

From the Minister –



It is not over,
this birthing,
There are always newer skies
into which
God can throw stars.

When we begin to think
that we can predict the Advent of God
that we can box the Christ
in a stable in Bethlehem
that's just the time
that God will be born
in a place we can't imagine and won't believe.

Those who wait for God
watch with their hearts and not their eyes,
listening
always listening
for angel words.

-Ann Weems

May the hope, peace, love, and joy reborn in each of us this Christmas continue
to guide and inspire us in the New Year that lies ahead.

Grace & Peace, **RHH**

Worship

January

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday Worship
8 a.m. Holy Communion
10 a.m. Family Worship
& Church School

January 2
Rick Huleatt

January 9
Char Corbett

January 16
Rick Huleatt

January 23
Char Corbett

January 30
Rick Huleatt

January LECTIONARY LESSONS

January 2 (Epiphany Sunday)
Isaiah 60:1-6
Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14
Ephesians 3:1-12
Matthew 2:1-12

January 9 (First Sunday after Epiphany)
Isaiah 42:1-9
Psalm 29
Acts 10:34-43
Matthew 3:13-17

January 16 (2nd Sunday after Epiphany)
Isaiah 49:1-7
Psalm 40:1-11
I Corinthians 1:1-9
John 1:29-42

Lectionary Lessons (con't)

January 23 (3rd Sunday after Epiphany)
Isaiah 9:1-4
Psalm 27:1, 4-9
I Corinthians 1:10-18
Matthew 4:12-23

January 31 (4th Sunday after Epiphany)
Micah 6:1-8
Psalm 15
I Corinthians 1:18-31
Matthew 5:1-12

Budget Hearing

Please stay after the 10 a.m. service on **January 9** to review the proposed budget of the First Church for 2011. This is your opportunity to hear what your Church Council has planned for the year in preparation for the Annual Meeting. The Annual Meeting will take place on **February 13** with a snow date of **February 20**. The official call will go out in late January but please save these important dates in the financial life of our church.

Get Involved Fair

On Sunday, January 16 after church in Nelson Hall we will be having a "Get Involved Fair". Come see the many ministries that are available at our church. Talk to representatives and discover all of the wonderful things they are doing. There will be opportunities to sign up to join a ministry or as a helper. If you have any questions please contact Noel Osowiecki at 860-688-6779.

Parish Caring Friendship Team

Our Friendship team members call to welcome visitors who have signed the Friendship Pad during Sunday morning worship. *We have an immediate need a volunteer to cover January.* If you're interested and would like to volunteer or get more information, please call Mary Phelan at 860-688-7229.

Russell House Update Information Session on Sunday, January 23rd

The church has been approached by a historical construction contractor who would like to market the Russell House, to be preserved and moved to a new location. This would be a great way for us to save this building from crumbling due to neglect. The Cabinet feels this is an opportunity worth pursuing and will be bringing it up as a resolution in our February annual meeting. We will be holding an information session after church on Sunday, January 23rd, for those who would like to know more. If you have any questions please contact Noel Osowiecki at 860-688-6779. Hope to see you there!



CHURCH NEWS

AROUND the CONGREGATION

Dear Women of the Knitting Ministry,
I was brought the most beautiful yellow shawl today. I immediately wrapped myself in it as I was having discomfort and it worked. Thank you to all for this blessed Advent gift to me. I can't wait to walk back through the doors of First Church for worship.

Peace and Be Well, Janet Graves

Dear FCW friends,
Love and God bless you all. Thank you for being so caring and loving to us. Since we first met you we've had cards, flowers and now a bus full of carolers and a beautiful plant for Bill's recent illness.

Thank you, Bill and Janet Allen

To our First Church family,
Thank you very much for the Thanksgiving goodies. They were really appreciated. We hope everyone has a very happy and safe holiday.

With all our love, The Lewis family

Hello First Church,
We'd like to thank you for all your help toward a very blessed Thanksgiving dinner.

God Bless you, Mrs. Mary Childs
and the Mathews family

Dear First Church,
Thank you so much for the very generous Thanksgiving dinner! We couldn't believe how much food was given to us and we truly appreciated it. I hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving—you all have helped make our even better.

Thanks again, The Bigelow family
(ELC family)

Dear First Church,
Thank you for allowing the CT Trust to visit your site and explore the Russell House. We were impressed by your members' hospitality.

Best wishes, Jane Montaro

Outreach Makes a Difference

From Covenant to Care: On behalf of all children who are tragically familiar with intolerable risks and losses, thank you for contributing to our mission. Together we are improving the odds that these kids can still be kids.

From Yale: Every gift to Yale makes a difference. Thank you.

From Immaculate Conception Shelter: You recently donated your time, energy and effort by bringing in food to serve our men. Without your help, we would not be able to help so many. Thank you!

We've Moved!

Bruce and Jane Goodale
275 Steele Rd., A309
West Hartford, CT 06117
(860) 231-1038

Ott Magill
2133 Montgomery Ave., Apt 119
Woodbridge, VA 22191-2627

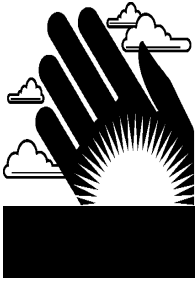
(Remember to let the church office know if you're moving and/or changing phone number or email)

We're Married!

Alexis Relyea, daughter of Al and Laureen Relyea, married Michael Niemann on June 12, 2010. They continue to live at 11 Shay St., Windsor, CT 06095. Alexis is officially Alexis Relyea-Niemann.



Parish Caring Ministries



Did you know that if you miss church on Sunday or if you are no longer able to get to church, there is a way you can still hear the morning's sermon and enjoy the wonderful music?

That way is called a Podcast. How do you listen to the podcast? You simply log into First Church's website on your computer - www.firstchurchinwindsor.org When the homepage comes up, click on "Worship" on the left side of the page. Then click on "Listen to Worship at First Church." You will find a selection of the Church service podcasts dating back to the summer of 2009 to the present. If you would prefer to read a sermon (s), you can download the sermon (s) of your choice by clicking on "Sermons" on the left side of the homepage. We invite you to try it. You'll like it!

Thank you to January volunteers:

Care Notes - Martha O'Donnell

Friendship Team - TBD

Flowers - Melissa Mascola

Meals & Transportation - Cindy Taplin

Prayer Team - Kathy Hardman

Peace Pole Dedication

On December 5, the church lit the Candle of Peace and dedicated the Peace Pole which is located on the front south lawn of the Meetinghouse. The pole had been a gift from the church to Sue Williams in honor of her many contributions as Parish Caring Ministries Coordinator. Jim Luchina, a Windsor resident, did a beautiful job of positioning the pole and then landscaping around it. The inscription is "May Peace Prevail on Earth" in English, Hebrew, Arabic and Spanish.



News from the Early Learning Center

Everyone who attended our annual Holiday Breakfast on Saturday, December 11th had a wonderful time, plus a chance to see Santa Claus. We have also had a visit from the new children's librarian, (Deborah Roe) who shared holiday stories with all of the children.



The children, parents and staff of the early learning center hope everyone had a joyous and peaceful holiday season.

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.



Church School Birthdays



Jevin Carpenter 01/14

Aran Gillette 01/17

Cassie Copeland 01/16

Quinby Pepin 01/26



Lofty Notes

Dear First Church Family,

'Tis the season of Resolutions. There's something about the "clean slate" of New Year that seems to invite a sense of beginning again, turning over a new leaf, doing a 180, making lists and singing "there'll be some changes made".

Not for me.

I have never been one to make, keep, or even seriously contemplate these so-called "New Year's Resolutions". For one thing, so many of them seem to be born out of a tardy reaction to hoarded disappointments, weary regrets, threadbare guilt, etc. For another, there's all the social hype that goes with it...a sort of peer pressure to make positive changes that are at least as grand and sweeping as the Jones's.

Lest anyone think that I am the Ebenezer Scrooge of New Year's (!), I will say this: that every moment we live provides us with opportunities to choose good over evil, forgiveness over wrath, peace over conflict, generosity over greed, moderation over debauchery, faith over fear...and love over indifference. Like the peace and goodwill of Christmas, the "resolutionism" of New Year's belongs, quite rightly, to every moment of every day.

In Christ we are given one "new leaf" after another. May God grant us the grace, wisdom, and fortitude to fill those pages with a Story we'll want to spend eternity re-telling.

Peace,
Mark

News from the First Church Women's Club

On Tuesday, December 14, Elisa Edson, PhD, presented a program on Canines in Action. She trains dogs and places them in homes of people who need various kinds of assistance. She was accompanied by Marley, a friendly and well behaved Golden Lab. The Women's Club is pleased to donate to this worthy cause.



Our members hand-knit many lovely items and provided an abundance of toiletries for our annual Christmas donations to Hartford Hospital, Windsor Family Services, Windsor Food Bank, Head Start and the Windsor nursing homes. Pam Sweeny knit so many of the baby sweaters and blankets and hats for premature infants. Another wonderful last gift from our beloved friend, Pam. In addition, the Women's Club donated three hundred dollars to the Windsor Fuel Bank.

On January 11, the Windsor Jesters will present a theatrical program for us. Please bring your sandwich at noon. We will provide dessert and coffee and tea. We ask for a two dollar donation to help cover the cost of the program and refreshments. Please call Mary Ransom at (860) 688-3704 to let us know you will be there. Thank you.

From Our Church School Coordinator—Helga Finlay

Happy New Year!!!

I'm not a huge fan of making New Year's resolutions and I suppose that I'm not alone in this regard. After all, I like who I am, the way I look, and, most importantly, how I'm living my life. Besides, I'm pretty sure that I made a resolution a few years back to stop making these silly resolutions.

The only problem with not having a good resolution to boast about is that you quickly take yourself out of any conversations concerning New Year's resolutions. So I was thinking that maybe I should allow myself to make an exception this New Year's and get back in the resolution game.

Since I'm not particularly interested in making any lifestyle changes or giving up any of my favorite foods, I figure that I need to think outside the box on this one and come up with something that's really worth striving for. Ultimately the resolution should benefit more than just myself and be compelling enough so that it isn't quickly abandoned when the warmer weather returns.

After careful consideration, I decided that I am going to make a resolution to make our Church Sunday School program more fun for everyone this year. In order to pull this off, I'm going to need help and input from the little ones to the senior members of our church family. This coming year we're going to try new things with the children and revisit some of the successful activities from yesteryears.

If you have ideas about our Church Sunday School program or would like to share stories about fun things done in the past, then I welcome the opportunity to hear about them. Maybe my New Year's resolution should not be just mine alone. Perhaps it should be all of our resolution, because when we all committed to helping our children with their spiritual growth, we in turn deepen and further our own faith in God and one another.

On behalf of the First Church staff and Board of Christian Education I would like to extend our sincerest thanks and gratitude to Mrs. Slate and Mrs. Fellows for over twenty years of service in First Church's Sunday School program. These women will be retiring from three and four year old room at end of January. To cover the vacancies resulting from their retirement, we are looking for teaching volunteers that would be willing to serve one Sunday of each month. This classroom requires two adults and two or three high school students each Sunday. We're also looking a teacher to lead the rotation class from January thru May.

3 and 4 years Rooms

First Sunday:

Second Sunday: Sue Keirstead

Third Sunday:

Fourth Sunday: H.S. Brittany Napiorkowski

January 22: 5:30 p.m.: Pizza and Game Night in Nelson Hall. Pizza and drinks will be provided and cost is only \$3.00 per family. The proceeds from the night will go towards Silver Lake Campers. Friends are welcome to come along. Bring your favorite game. Age 0-110!

Youth In Mission Summer Project Update

We still have several vacancies for the summer youth mission trip, so if you are interested get your application in! We will be returning to Hamden, NY as we continue to work with the UCC sanctioned organization "Cluster 13" to rebuild and repair homes for those in need. First Church members and youth are encouraged to apply, as well as friends of our community, so please spread the word. Applications are online at www.fcwuucc.org under the "Youth Activities" tab or can be picked up from the church office. The applications and deposit are due asap. The first training session will be held on Sunday, January 23, from noon - 3 p.m. in Nelson Hall. Lunch will be provided. For more information, please email Char Corbett at charcorbett@snet.net or call her at 860-688-7229, x15.



Super Bowl Sunday Grinder Sale

On **February 6**, you can getcha grindas hea! Why worry about cooking and all the kitchen prep for the Super Bowl game when you can sit back, enjoy the game AND support our Cluster 13 youth mission trip to upstate New York with an already-made grinder? Now that's a TOUCH DOWN! Cost is \$5 per grinder (ham, turkey, veggie or combo) and grinders will be ready for pickup on Sunday, February 6 between 11 and noon. Orders help us to have a successful game plan so call in your order today at the church office, 688-7229. Order slips will be available in several of the January church bulletins and in Nelson Hall.

Thank you from the Pastor's Pie Table

On behalf of all the Youth in Mission volunteers, we extend a special thank—you to pastors Rick and Char, and all the "Pie Angels" who contributed pies in November to help fundraise for the 2010 summer youth mission trip. Over \$400 dollars was raised!

Seeking Disciples Retreat

Our Seeking Disciples (Confirmation) Class will be venturing into New York City to visit St. John the Divine Cathedral for their annual retreat on January 14th and 15th. This will be a great opportunity for our youth to meet other youth their age from other New England churches and to engage their faith in practice, dialogue and exploration with their peers. They will also have an opportunity to explore the city and share some time together. As their supportive faith community, we invite you to pray for our "Seekers" as they further prepare and explore their faith journeys and have this wonderful time to ponder what it truly means to be united in the body of Christ.

It's Not too Late to be Thinking About Summer!

Silver Lake Reminder for All Families: The Silver Lake Summer Camp schedule can be found on-line at <http://silverlake.ctucc.org/> (coming out in January.) Families can register on-line. The church contributes \$50 per child per 1— week session. Additional scholarship may also be available. Want more info? Check out the video in the Computer Room or speak with a former camper.



Important Youth Information for January and February

(TO RSVP FOR ALL YOUTH EVENTS, SIGN UP ON THE NEW YOUTH BULLETIN BOARD IN THE PARISH HOUSE HALLWAY OUTSIDE CHAR'S OFFICE!):

- **Sunday, January 30, 10 a.m.:** Family Worship Service. Bring a friend, too.
- **Friday night, February 4, Time TBD:** Ice Skating at Veteran's Memorial Rink, West Hartford. Cost: \$15/pp, includes ice time, skates, pizza and drink.
- **Saturday, February 19, Open Coffee House, 6 p.m., Nelson Hall** – FOR ALL AGES! Open mic, music, poetry, you name it – come listen or participate! Watch for more information coming in February's Edge.

Shelter Meal 2011

FCW is scheduled to host three shelter meals at Immaculate Conception Shelter in Hartford this winter: January 30, February 27 and March 27. The Immaculate Conception Shelter and Housing Corporation has been awarded the City of Hartford's "No Freeze Shelter" grant. ICSHC will therefore be providing beds and food to 150 men during the winter months. This is twice as many men as the shelter has provided for in the past at their Hungerford site. This means more donations of food will be needed in the coming months as we prepare 150 meals for each date. Additional volunteers to cook and serve meals may also be needed. If you are interested in donating or helping, please remain alert to shelter meals updates or speak with Char or members of the Outreach Committee.



College Scholarships Now Available

Applications are **due May 1:** First Church youth members graduating from high school and continuing their education are encouraged to apply for First Church College Scholarships, which are available through the generous donations of current and former church members. Please visit "Scholarships" on the church website www.fcwucc.org for details and an application or contact the church office for more information.

Frank Roswell Fuller Scholarship Available

If you are a confirmed member of First Church, a senior in high school, planning to attend a four-year college and can demonstrate financial need, you may be eligible for the Frank Roswell Fuller Scholarship. An application, eligibility requirements and the application process are on-line at our website, www.fcwucc.org under the "Scholarship" tab. Call the church office for more information.

First Church Stewardship Train Keeps Rolling Along

Our Stewardship Train is having a GREAT run. 225 passengers have pledged a total of \$365,994 for 2011. This is the most pledged to fund yearly operations in the history of our church. The average pledge is \$1,626.64. Again, a record.

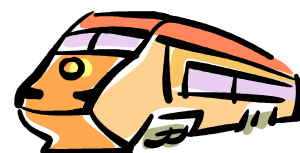
Many passengers helped make this a record year:

- Those who underwrote the Freight House reception
- Those who hosted the "Soup and Salad" stop
- Those who wrote the thank you notes.
- Mary Phelan who kept our Stewardship Train on its track
- And, of course, all the passengers who "got on board" with their pledges.

But, remember, Our Stewardship Train must keep on moving, picking up passengers along its way. Stewardship is a continuous year round effort.

CONGRATULATIONS & THANK YOU TO ALL!!!

The Stewardship Committee



Credit Cards and EFT Payments Now Available for Paying Pledges

The Church Council has approved the use of VISA and MasterCard to pay your pledge for 2011. To access this method of payment, go to our website at www.fcwucc.org and click on "Donate" at the bottom of the front page. This is also where you can register for "electronic funds transfers" (EFT) so your bank will automatically pay your pledge on whatever schedule you choose. We chose Vanco Services because they are the preferred provider for churches nationwide as well as the national United Church of Christ. They had a solid reputation due to their high level of compliance with risk management, privacy, and online security issues. If you have questions, please contact the church office.

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.

News from the Sunday Morning Book Group

On January 16, the Sunday Morning Book Group will begin a discussion of "***Journey to the Common Good***" by Walter Brueggemann. We meet the first and third Sundays of each month at 8 a.m. in the Morrell Room. We welcome new members and would be happy to tell you about the group. Please feel free to talk with any of our present members who are George Slate, John Merrill, Hugh and Kate McLean, Bob and Fidle Lane, Lowell Fewster, Jan and John Stevens, Jean Kelly and Beth and Carl Horlitz.

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 a.m.—Communion in the Round
10 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.

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