

The Edge



Feb 2017

A Letter from Pastor Nicole



Dear First Church community,

Peace be with you! Salaam Aleicum! Shalom Chaverim! I greet you with the Peace of God, the same greeting used in the 3 great Abrahamic faiths, Christianity, Islam, and Judaism. The language of peace is the same across all of our faiths. In these difficult, divisive times in our country, it is essential that we remember that what unites us is stronger than anything that divides us. The United Church of Christ, our parent denomination, was founded on the principle of unity, which is epitomized in the motto, the words of Jesus “That they may all be one.” Recently the UCC has released a video expressing that same value which you can view [here](#). In my sermon immediately after the election, I asserted:

“The church holds a diversity of political views. I feel very strongly, that we should never be the United Church of Democrats. We are the United Church of Christ. Jesus came to preach the good news to *all* people and bring salvation to the world. So if possible, I would like to try to follow Jesus’ example and preach to all of you out of the unity that is ours as a church. It is my fervent hope that with God’s help, we can begin to find healing. It is my deepest desire that we become instruments of peace and reconciliation, healing and hope in a hurting world.”

How are we going to be instruments of peace, reconciliation, and healing? How do each of us follow the example of Jesus in this time and place, to preach the good news? Of course there are no easy answers. I look to the spiritual giants around me and those in the past, who, despite everything the world throws at them, march faithfully on. I think of St Francis who said “Preach the gospel, and when necessary use words,” which calls attention to our faithful **ACTIONS**, and the way of living our lives with integrity and purpose. I think we all long for purposeful actions that make us feel connected with Jesus’ example. Truthfully, I think the world is watching the faith communities to see how we will respond. Who will hold the moral compass of our nation, if not us? Poet Marge Piercy says “The pitcher cries for water to carry and a person for work that is

real." One of our responsibilities as a church is to provide opportunities for meaningful work that makes a difference that is "real;" whether it is knitting a prayer shawl, or helping a refugee family, building interfaith community, or praying. Our church makes a difference by the work we do, and by providing that meaningful work for others. That is the Jesus example. I hope we can do more reaching out in the community, to offer even more opportunities to make a difference.

I look forward to working with you to bring peace to our little corner of the world.

Shalom blessings,
Pastor Nicole

February Highlights

Feb 5th- Grinder Sale Fundraiser
Feb 19th- Racial Justice Sunday with guest preacher Rev. DaVita McCallister
Feb 26th-Scout Sunday- **Please wear uniforms!**
Feb 28th- Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
March 1st-Ash Wednesday, Lent begins!

February Worship Schedule

Feb 5	Matthew 5: 13-20
Pastor Char	"A Divine Recipe for Being" Communion Sunday
Feb 12	Matthew 5: 21-37
Pastor Nicole	"Jesus Style Conflict Resolution"
Feb 19	Racial Justice Sunday with guest preacher Rev. McCallister
Pastor Nicole	

Notice of First Church Annual Meeting

To Members and Friends of the First Church in Windsor, UCC

You are hereby notified that this congregation's 385th Annual Meeting will be held Sunday, February 12, 2017, at 11:15 a.m. in the meetinghouse:

- To hear and act upon annual reports of the pastors, officers, committees and ministries;
- To adopt the budget for 2017;
- To hear and act upon the report of nominations and elect officers for the coming year
- To review and act on by-law changes;
- To transact such other business as may properly come before this meeting.

All are invited to attend and participate in this meeting, to hear or be heard, although only members may vote. Let us gather to give thanks and celebrate our unity, acting as the Body of Christ, to conduct the business of the Church in the spirit of faith, hope and love. Child care available.

Please welcome a special Guest...



On Feb 19, Racial Justice Sunday, First Church will welcome The Rev. Da Vita "Day" McCallister as our guest preacher.

Rev. McCallister is a mother, ordained minister, entrepreneur, philanthropist, writer and advocate for youth and young adults. She has shared her love, passion and wisdom in youth and young adult ministries for over 25 years, in a number of settings including the Fund for Theological Education, the National Setting of the United Church of Christ, and the United Methodist Church. Rev. McCallister currently administers Racial Justice Ministry programs for the CT Conference and speaks passionately on advocacy for marginalized communities. Her aim is to identify, nurture, and equip leaders through clergy and lay excellence groups. She takes great pride in her Christian heritage as the great-grand daughter of the late Rev. Jesse B. Baldwin, a Baptist minister and pastor of over 65 years in rural Florida.

Rev. McCallister is a 1994 graduate of Lincoln University, where she earned her bachelor's degree in religion and psychology. She holds a Master of Divinity degree from Gammon Theological Seminary at the ITC in Hebrew Bible (setting of the United Church of Christ, and the United Methodist Church).

From the Faith Formation Team

It's been a wonderful beginning to the New Year! We kicked things off with our annual Family Game Night. We played Wii, learned new games, and ate pizza – such fun!

January 29th was a great Family Worship Service and Silver Lake Sunday. Our children contributed skits, prayers, songs, and participation throughout the service. A special thanks to all who helped with these wonderful events!

The Faith Formation Team will usher in Lent with our usual flair and our annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. Come on out for crafts, games, music, and PANCAKES on Tuesday, February 28th at 5:30 in Nelson Hall. The entire congregation is invited to come and eat as many pancakes as you can before Lent begins on Ash Wednesday.



Other important activities to watch out for include the Hosanna Fair, Easter Egg Hunt and Brunch, Family Movie Night and a Talent Show. We look forward to seeing you all at these fun events!

A very happy birthday to everyone who celebrates his birthday in February: Liam Vines, Brett Fangiullo, Ciara Doyle, and Julia Steinberg!

Call for Volunteers

The Faith Formation Program is in need of volunteers as we head into our summer programs and beyond! Please consider volunteering your time during the school year, to teach one Sunday during the summer for our Faith Quest program, or to join us during VBS! Volunteers make our Faith Formation Program such a success! For more information, please contact Mandy Futterleib –mandrake.futter@gmail.com or 860-944- 1794.

News from Women's Club

On Tuesday, January 10, Janet Graves presented "The Snowman" video which is based on Raymond Briggs' beautifully illustrated book of the same name. Many of us have warm memories of reading the book and seeing the video with our children and grandchildren.

We thank Sally O'Brien and her committee who decorated the tables with a variety of delightful snowmen figurines from collections of our members. We enjoyed the delicious cookies.



On Tuesday, February 14, Pastor Char Corbett will present "Beyond Acadia to Zion - National Parks Trip." Coffee, tea and dessert are provided. If you are not on a calling list, please call Helen Davenport-Senuta (860-285-8694) or Joan Scroggs (860-219-9048) if you plan to attend so we have seats and dessert for everyone. As always, we extend a warm welcome to all.

From the Early Learning Center

During the month of February, the children of First Church Early Learning Center will learn all about why certain foods and exercise is important to keep their bodies healthy. On the 7th of February, Dr. Chu of Day Hill Dental will visit the children to talk to and show them how they should brush their teeth. He will also discuss what foods are good and bad for the health of our teeth.



Throughout the school year, the teachers have used a range of topics including Math, Science, Literacy, etc., to observe the children based on their Cognitive, Social/Emotional, Creative Expression, and Physical development. Parent-Teacher conferences will be held during the last two weeks of February. During conferences, the teachers will discuss with the parents details about their child's growth so far during the course of the year, and the next steps they will be working on in

the classroom based on kindergarten expectations and registration for next school year for younger children.

Registration for First Church Early Learning Center's 2017-2018 school year will be open to church members and current families during the week of February 27, 2017 to March 3, 2017. If your child will be turning three on or prior to January 1, 2018 and your child is completely toilet trained, then he/she will be eligible to join our program. First Church Early Learning Center is the only school in the town of Windsor that has School Readiness as an opportunity for families. School Readiness is a state subsidy based on your residence in Windsor, income, and family size that helps families pay for the cost of preschool. If you think that you or anyone you know may be interested in attending First Church Early Learning Center or learning more about Windsor's School Readiness program, please contact Elith Boothe at (860) 688-4597 for answers to any questions you may have or to set up a time to come in for a visit. Thank you!

Generosity Team

Your Generosity Team is already getting in gear for the fall 2017 pledge campaign. On March 7, our group will attend a stewardship workshop in Bloomfield hosted by Charlie Kuchenbrod of the Connecticut Conference/UCC. There, we'll meet other generosity teams from area churches and look forward to the chance to share and compare insights. We thank Dorothy Merz for her service; she "retired" from our team in January. A warm welcome to Doug Kelly, Kate McLean and April Vines who have joined Generosity. We're blessed to have so many caring, talented folks on our crew and will let you know in the coming months about campaign developments.



A Scout is Reverent

Join us on Sunday, February 26th as our Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts get together to take part in our service, celebrate the anniversary of the Scouting program in America, and honor the support from our congregation. All Scouts are encouraged to wear their uniforms and celebrate with cake after the service!

In the United States, Scouting has been used by churches, synagogues, and many other religious organizations as part of their youth outreach. Approximately 50 percent of all Scouting units are chartered to religious groups. These observances offer an opportunity for congregations to honor Scouts and Scouters, as well as to learn more themselves about the value of Scouting as a youth program. The Scout Law says that a "Scout is Reverent" and the Scouts of all ages promise to do their "Duty to God". These values strengthen youth character in their family, community and faith.



Sisters in Song A Community Singing Circle for Women

Women of all ages and vocal abilities are invited to join Windsor's newest singing group- no audition required! Come and enjoy singing in variety of styles in a relaxed and friendly environment and make new friends among the diverse women of the community! We will meet on the second Sunday of each month, beginning **Feb 12**, from 7:00 to 8:30 PM in Nelson Hall. Questions? Contact Jane Frogley at jfrogley@att.net

Save the Date

On Tuesday, April 25th, the Parish Caring Ministries will host our biennial **Silver Tea**. This elegant affair is held in odd-numbered years to honor of all our members aged 80 and older. We are currently working on the invitation list, and do not want to miss anyone. If you should be invited, but aren't sure we know this, please contact the church office, or call April Michaud. This event is a perfect opportunity to enjoy refreshments, some wonderful music, and, more importantly time with friends. Formal invitations for this event will be sent in March.



Mark your calendars for the next **Shelter Meal – Sunday February 26th**. We are seeking a chef to help coordinate the shopping and manage the kitchen, and people to help prepare and serve the meal. We are also seeking donations of soft fruit, milk, orange juice, pineapple juice and baked goods. A light meal will be served for volunteers. We



will begin preparing the meal at 3:00 PM and will leave the church at 6:30 PM, expecting to return at 8:30 PM. A sign-up sheet can be found in Nelson Hall. Thinking ahead? Our final shelter meal will be Sunday, March 26th. Should you have any questions, please contact Cindy Taplin at 860-683-4228 or at peabean_2@comcast.net.

Thank you all for your continued support of this important mission.

Sunday, March 19th is the 10th and final **Chili Challenge** in Nelson Hall, immediately following worship. Stay for the event and YOU decide who makes the best chili in church by casting your vote! We'll tally the results and let the majority decide! Chili samples will be sold at 50¢/each or 3/\$1.00. Quarts of chili will also be available for \$8/quart and cornbread for \$1.00. All proceeds benefit the Summer Youth Service Trip team headed to serve with Cluster 13 Ministries in Camden, NY July 15-22.



Want to be a Chili Challenger and have this final chance to showcase your amazing chili for a good cause? Sign up in Nelson Hall to enter your chili by Sunday, March 5. We ask all Chili Challengers to commit to making at least 4 quarts to be sold as well as a crock pot full for the sampling challenge. Got questions? See Char or speak with one of our service team leaders.

Internationally acclaimed storyteller **Valerie Tutson** will be joining us for **Amistad Sunday on March 12th**. Valerie Tutson graduated from Brown University with a self-designed major, Storytelling as a Communication Art, and a Masters in Theatre Arts. Since 1991 she has traveled the country and world teaching and sharing stories and songs. Her repertoire includes folktales, personal and historical stories with an emphasis on black traditions. She has also developed a reputation for her style of re-telling age-old Bible stories and works with churches and interdenominational conferences across the country. We are also working on a second afternoon program for the entire Windsor community. Stay tuned!



Summer Youth Mission Trip Update



The 2017 Summer Youth Service Trip is scheduled for July 15 – 22, 2017. We will be returning to Camden, NY to work with Cluster 13 Ministries and their mission to address rural poverty, hunger and housing needs. Our team is excited and getting ready! There are still 3 youth spots available for those interested who will be going into 9th grade and up. For more information, please email pastor Char at ccorbett@fcwucc.org or call her at 860-688-7229, x15.

Upcoming YST2017 Dates to remember

Sunday Feb 5	Grinder Sale, 9 AM-12 Pm, Nelson Hall
Thursday, February 16	Leader Meeting, 5:30 PM, Parish House
Sunday, February 19	Teambuilding & Fundraising, All Participants, 12-2 PM, Nelson Hall
Thursday, March 16	Leader Meeting, 5:30 PM, Parish House
Sunday, March 19	10th Annual Chili Challenge Fundraiser, 9AM to 12 Noon, Nelson Hall

Bring your bottles and cans to FCW to support the Summer Youth Service trip!

All bottles and cans can be dropped off in Nelson Hall. Look for the special drop off near the stage. Members of the youth service team will pick up the cans each week for redemption. Did you know- you can also invite your family and friends to support FCW's 2017 Summer Youth Service Trip by making an online donation [here](#), where you can also learn more about the service trip, see pictures and follow the FCW team as they prepare to learn and serve with Cluster 13 Ministries in Camden, NY.

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. Additionally, students currently attending a 4-year college and in good academic standing may be able to re-apply. An application, eligibility requirements and the application process are on-line at our website, www.fcwu.org under the "Scholarship" tab. Call the church office for more information.

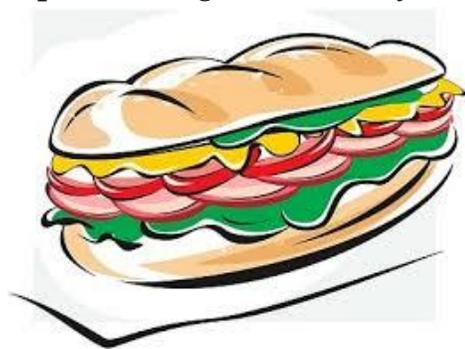


FCW's School Scholarships Now Available; Applications are Due May 1

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

Grinder Sale

Why worry about your pre-game cooking strategy and all the kitchen prep for the Super Bowl game when you can sit back, enjoy the game and support our 2016



summer youth service trip with an already-made grinder! Cost is \$7.00 per grinder (ham, turkey, veggie or combo) or 3 for \$20. A variety of chips and brownies also sold at \$1/each. Grinders will be ready for pickup on Sunday, February 5 between 11:00 – 12:00 noon. Only a limited number of unreserved grinders will be available for sale. **Orders help us to have a successful game plan for grinder delivery so call in your order**

today at the church office, 688-7229 or email officerose@fcwu.org.

Bible Study

All are welcome to join Pastor Nicole for bible study in the Parker Room on February 1st and 8th at 6:30 PM. Just bring your bible!

Preparing for Lent

March 1st Begins the Season of Lent. Join us for a Journeys in Lent: An Introduction to Spiritual Practices (Meditation, Healing, Labyrinth, Lectio Divina, Taize and more) every Wednesdays in Lent at 6:30, with a simple meal following.



Silver Lake

The Silver Lake Summer Camp schedule can be found on-line [here](#). Families can register in paper form or on-line. Monthly payment plans can be arranged when registering.



The church is able to offer \$75 scholarships per child for 1 week session, with additional scholarship also available for families demonstrating need. Want more info? Call the church office or speak with Pastor Char. Make it a summer not to be forgotten!

New Hearing Assist Devices Available

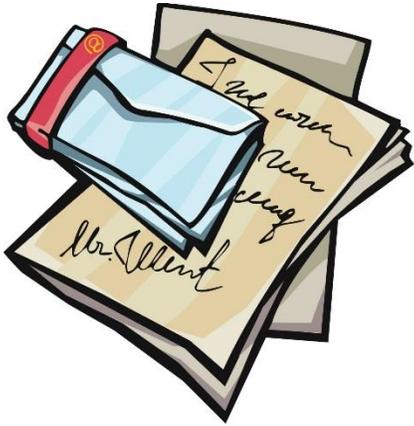
First Church in Windsor has acquired new hearing assist devices to help those members who may be having trouble hearing parts of service clearly. The devices have been tested in church over the past several weeks and trial-users have been enthusiastic!

The devices are small, about a third the size of a cell phone, and can be clipped to a belt or slipped into a pocket. There are two choices for the way the sound gets to the listener. The first is through earbuds; the device has a standard headphone jack so the earbuds you got with your cell phone will work or you can use the earpieces we have at church. The second choice is for those who have a hearing aid. The devices can communicate wirelessly with many hearing aids so there is no need to put anything additional in the ear. In this case, a loop is attached to the device and it is hung around the neck like a necklace.



We have a sample of four of the devices and there are funds to purchase more. The deacons will make the devices available at the back of the church before service. So please try them out and help us decide how many additional units we should purchase and whether you prefer the use of an earpiece or the wireless connection directly. Give them a try and tell us what you think!

Dear First Church... Notes from around the parish



I would like to thank each and every person that arrived at my home Sunday, December 11th, to sing Christmas Carols. I also would like to thank the 2 young boys that hung off the porch and allowed me to hang onto them and hold them tight. That made it extra special.

Those were not just tears of sadness folks, those were also tears of joy. I felt the warmth of love wrap around me in a time of real need. Thank you so very, very much. I love you all for your kindness of thinking of me. -Jeanne Williams

I would like to thank you for sending me a lovely Christmas plant for the holidays. Also, I want to thank the large group of our Church singers who arrived at my house and sang Christmas songs. With gratitude and love -Sophia Dubinsky

I was ever so touched to receive the beautiful prayer shawl. That it arrived on Epiphany made it all the more special. Even as one who knits, I am nevertheless comforted and blessed by all that it offers from you to me. Deeply grateful. -Sara Jane Munshower

I would like to thank everyone for the lovely prayer blanket. It was so very nice of you all. I am covered with it right now. Again I say thank you. God bless. -Peter Murphy

Here I am again writing to thank you for our bright and beautiful poinsettia and for the delicious soups and to my friends in the First Church women's club for that beautiful card filled with cheerful messages. You all certainly filled our home with "comfort and joy" this past holiday season. Thank you! -Betty

The flowers dropped off at our house to cheer up Chuck after his back surgery are just lovely. He is grateful for the operation which was so successful. Your thoughts and prayers are much appreciated. - Sincerely, Chuck and Jamie Vernon

A Note from Operations

Thank you so much for your kind welcome to First Church. I has been a pleasure meeting you all and I am very much enjoying my new position. Prior to her retirement, I was privileged to work with Mary who patiently and graciously shared so much of her knowledge and experience with me. I am now ready to get to work on some exciting new projects and developments. This year, I will be focusing in particular on expanding First Church's social media presence and diversifying how First Church spreads the Good News to the community and beyond. I look forward to working with all of you and hope that you'll stop by to say hello.



The Cathedral
Church of **Saint John**
the **Divine**

NATIONAL
MUSEUM
of the
AMERICAN
INDIAN
New York

JOIN FCW YOUTH MARCH 10 & 11 IN NYC FOR NIGHTWATCH AT ST. JOHN THE DIVINE & A VISIT TO THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN INDIAN!

Nightwatch is an overnight retreat for middle and high school students and their adult chaperones. Take the night to unplug from daily life and to connect with God and one another in the sacred space of the Cathedral of St. John the Divine. FCW Youth in grades 7-12 will explore music, spiritual disciplines, stories, games and wisdom from a variety of the world's religious traditions, including Buddhism, Hinduism, Judaism and Christianity. The Christian-oriented evening will focus primarily on the wisdom teachings of Jesus. On Saturday, we'll head to the National Museum of the American Indian in lower Manhattan, specifically to see the exhibit: *Our Universes: Traditional Knowledge Shapes Our World* focused on indigenous cosmologies—worldviews and philosophies related to the creation and order of the universe—and the spiritual relationship between humankind and the natural world. We'll eat and shop afterward as time allows before heading home. Cost of the trip is \$100/pp (payable to FCW), which includes transportation, the Nightwatch program/sleepover, museum admission and all meals. Permission slip and payment required by February 15. A brief orientation for all participants will be hosted after worship on Sunday, February 26.



YOUTH @ GENERAL SYNOD 2017! REGISTER NOW!

The National UCC General Synod will take place in Baltimore on June 30-July 5, 2017 and the Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut Conferences are collaborating to sponsor a trip to *Youth @ Synod* for young leaders ages 13 to 18. Teens from all over the country will participate in worship and plenary sessions, attend hearings and track resolutions, and join in mission work to serve the greater Baltimore area. Synod is an opportunity to nurture advocacy skills around justice issues. A team of chaperones from the three conferences will lead the RIMACT group.

Detailed program information is at <http://synod.uccpages.org/>. Some of the planned activities include:

Synod 101 orientation

Work project with a local environmental center

Youth @ synod Dance Party

Program with the American Visionary Art Museum – "Make Glad -- We Are All Creative"

The Reformation Today – "Make Glad: Youth and Young Adults Transform the Church and the world."

July 4 Fireworks at the Inner Harbor in Baltimore

TO REGISTER:

Space is limited to 18 participants per conference so FCW YOUTH – so youth are encouraged to register immediately by contacting Pastor Char to guide them and parents through the registration process! Cost of the trip is \$945 but each conference and FCW will be providing subsidies and scholarship support. A \$150 deposit is required to reserve your spot for the trip. Payments will be collected in installments after the deposit is received. For information about scholarship support, contact Pastor Char.

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