

# the edge

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.



February  
2012

## From the Minister



As some of you may know I currently serve as President of the Trustees of Jaffna College Funds. Jaffna College, located in Sri Lanka, was founded in 1872 by New England Congregational missionaries working through the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Mission. Although it is called a “college” Jaffna College is actually a private, co-educational school serving students in elementary through high school. In addition to providing funds for Jaffna College, the Trustees also obtain, hold and manage funds for Uduvil Girl's College (a private institution for girls in kindergarten through high school founded by Congregational missionaries in 1824) as well as a number of other Christian educational institutions in Sri Lanka and India.

Due to the civil war that took place in Sri Lanka on and off over the course of the past thirty years no member from the board has been able to visit the school since 2002. Two years ago, the war came to an end and although many humanitarian and political problems remain it is now safe enough for us to visit Sri Lanka and see firsthand how the school is doing.

I will be part of a twelve member delegation led by The Rev. Dr. James Vijayakumar, our UCC Area Executive for Southern Asia. Our goal is to visit Jaffna College and other related missions (including a series of day care centers in the refugee camps which the TJCF Board sponsors).

We plan to leave February 16 and return February 27. During my absence our Associate Minister, Char Corbett will be available to handle any pastoral concerns that may arise and our seminary intern, Erica Nierendorf, will be on hand to assist Char with Sunday morning services. Our connections to Sri Lanka (formerly known as Ceylon) will be from New York, to London, to Colombo. The following day we will board a military transport to fly to Jaffna (Sri Lanka, located below India, is an island shaped like a pear. Jaffna is located near the “stem” of the pear). This should be an exciting adventure and a wonderful opportunity for us to finally see the school and have some first-hand contact with the teachers, students and administrators.

It is a wonderful feeling to know that this historic ministry started so long ago by our Congregational forbears continues to serve the children and people of Sri Lanka in spite of all that country's many conflicts, catastrophes and challenges. When I return the Lenten season will be in full swing and I look forward to seeing you then and sharing my reflections about the state of the school, the political climate in Sri Lanka, and the meaning of world missions today. Please be sure to keep me in your prayers during my travels as I will be sure to keep you in mine.

Grace & Peace, **RHH**

## February Worship Schedule

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

**February 5**  
Rick Huleatt

**February 12**  
Rick Huleatt

**February 19**  
Erica Nierendorf

**February 26**  
Char Corbett

## February Lectionary Lessons

### FEBRUARY 5

Isaiah 40:21-31  
Psalm 147:1-11, 20c  
I Corinthians 9:16-23  
Matthew 1:29-39

### FEBRUARY 12

2 Kings 5:1-14  
Psalm 30  
I Corinthians 9:24-27  
Mark 1:40-45

### FEBRUARY 19

2 Kings 1-12  
Psalm 50:1-6  
2 Corinthians 4:3-6  
Mark 9:2-9

### FEBRUARY 22 (Ash Wednesday)

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17  
Psalm 51: 1-17  
2 Corinthians 5:20b-  
6:10  
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

### FEBRUARY 26

Genesis 9:8-17  
Psalm 25:1-10  
I Peter 3:18-22

## Notice of First Church Annual Meeting

To Members and Friends of the First Church in Windsor, United Church of Christ:

You are hereby notified that this congregation's Annual Meeting will be held **Sunday, February 12, 2012, at 11:15 a.m. in Nelson Hall located in the church parish house.**

To hear and act upon annual reports of the pastors, officers, committees and ministries,

- To adopt the budget for 2012
- To hear and act upon the report of nominations and elect officers for the coming year, and
- 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 a spirit of faith, hope and love.

***In the event of a snow storm, the Annual Meeting will be postponed until Sunday, February 19, 2012.***

Respectfully submitted, Mary Phelan, Clerk

## It's Back Bay Mission Time!

On February 5, twenty volunteers from First Church will board an early morning plane, traveling to Biloxi, MS, to lend hands in Gulf Coast clean-up and support the many other programs of Back Bay Mission.

BBM is the sole presence of the UCC in Mississippi, and for almost 90 years has lived its mission as "a community ministry of the United Church of Christ, serving the Mississippi Gulf Coast and the wider church community by faithful witness for social justice and compassionate service to the poor and marginalized."

The vision of Back Bay is to "embody with integrity and truth the prophetic mandate of Micah: "...to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God."

We are blessed to be able to be a part of this ministry and to share the love of First Church with those we meet.

The group will return February 11, and will, I am sure, have stories to share!

Kate McLean

## Love to Cook? Want to Make New Friends?

A yet-unnamed group of First Church women is forming to take on a cookbook fundraiser project for 2012. In addition to the fundraiser, this group will explore ways we can make a positive impact on our community - both church and beyond - as well as enjoy some fellowship with one another. They will meet at the Beanery on Saturday, February 11 at 11 a.m. to discuss next-steps for the cookbook project. If you are interested in joining this group, please contact April Michaud (860-298-0193 or [aprilnichaudct@comcast.net](mailto:aprilnichaudct@comcast.net)) or plan to attend the meeting on the 11th.





# AROUND the CONGREGATION

Dear Friends,  
How very kind you were to send a poinsettia plant to David and me over the holiday. Thank you for your thoughtfulness and to Heidi (Kelsey) for her personal delivery.

*Sincerely,* *Joan Young*

Dear Friends at First Church,  
Many thanks for sending me a beautiful poinsettia for the Christmas holidays. I appreciate your thoughtfulness very much. I hope to get to church real soon.

*Sincerely,* *Sophie Dubinsky*

Dear Members of First Church,  
Thank you so much for the lovely poinsettia plant delivered to me today here at the McAuley. It is just beautiful and cheers me along this very special season. I also want to thank the school children for their wonderful, creative cards sent throughout the year. I'm recuperating nicely and appreciate all the care and prayers.

May all be well in the new year for everyone.

*Peace and love,* *Pennie Campbell*

Dear Friends at First Church,  
Thank you so much for the lovely poinsettia. It was the first Christmas decoration in my apartment and got the season off to a festive start. Thanks, too, to Mei Chen for bringing it up to Seabury to me. We had a lovely visit.

*Fondly,* *Virginia Pratt*

First Church,  
Thank you so much for the Stop & Shop gift card. It was a total surprise! I feel like I should be giving you a gift for providing all your support and guidance through the Job Transition Group. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all!

*Anonymous*

Dear First Church Members,  
Thank you for the cards, flowers and prayers I received while recovering at Windsor Rehabilitation. They meant so much to me and I am very appreciative.  
*Sincerely,* *Ann Angelo*

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### **The advantages of living in a small town and staying there--**

After a wonderful choir concert and service Christmas Eve, I was able to wish my high school math teacher a Merry Christmas. Dick Blaisdell was my math teacher 50+ years ago at Windsor High. I barely turned around and got the biggest hug from my kindergarten student from 35 years ago, Stephanie McAllister. The advantage of living in a small town and staying there is called roots. The roots at First Church are strong and deep. All these generations coming and going and staying. God Bless us all.

With Joy and gratitude, *Carol Hubert*

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### **Baptisms**

Claire May Mitchell, daughter of Heather and Scott, and granddaughter of Wendy and Tom-Mitchell, was baptized on January 29. Claire was born on May 20, 2011.

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### **Deaths**

**Shirley Mae Arnold** passed away on January 2, 2012. A memorial service was held at the meetinghouse on January 14 followed by a reception held by the First Church Women's Club. Rev. Richard Hanna Huleatt officiated.

**Estelle Walker**, mother and mother-in-law of Tom and Robin Walker, passed away on January 15. A service was held at Carmon's Funeral Home on January 18. Rev. Huleatt officiated.

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### **Ash Wednesday Service**

A brief Ash Wednesday service will be held February 22 from 7-7:30 a.m. in the meetinghouse. The service, which will be conducted by Erica Nierendorf, will consist of silence, song, and penitential prayer. Following the service a simple breakfast of hot cross buns, coffee, and juice will be held in the Parker Room. The season of Lent, which spans the forty weekdays before Easter, has been observed by the Christian community as a time of spiritual growth and soul-enrichment since the beginning of the fourth century.

## LENTEN OPPORTUNITIES

### **“SIMPLICITY” Theme of Lenten Study**

Taking their theme from the words of the Shaker hymn, “Simple Gifts,” the Board of Deacons together with the Environmental Ministries Team will sponsor a series of Wednesday evening soup, bread, and speaker events built around the theme of a simpler lifestyle. The program will be held each Wednesday from 6 – 7:30 p.m. during the month of March and will feature speakers and conversation around creating healthy and sustainable lifestyles and communities. Be sure to check the March EDGE or visit the church website for further details.

### **Lenten Book Study**

A four-week Lenten Book Study will be held at the home of Jean and Doug Kelly (59 East View Drive) Sunday evening at 7 p.m. February 26, March 5, 11, and 18. The focus of the study will be *Take This Bread*, by Sara Miles, an Episcopal lay woman who rediscovered her faith by operating a parish food pantry. You can order copies of the book in advance by contacting the church office but participants should pre-register for the course by contacting Jean Kelly directly at 860-688-7792 or [jmlkelly@aol.com](mailto:jmlkelly@aol.com)

### ***From your student minister...***

Greetings Friends!

As Lent fast approaches, I invite you to join me for a Lenten Study, based on the book, *The Last Week*, by Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan. The book examines the events of Holy Week, as told by the Gospel of Mark and the authors share that they are attempting to re-tell a story everyone thinks they know too well and most do not seem to know at all. So, I want to reassure you that Biblical knowledge is not necessary to join us for this conversation! It will be a fresh start for us all. We will be meeting at 11:15 a.m., after Sunday worship, in the Morrell Room, on February 26, and March 4, 18, and 25. Please contact me with any questions you might have or if you need babysitting. All are welcome!

Also, please join us for a special worship service on Sunday, February 19th, when our mission trip group, having returned from Biloxi, Mississippi, will share their experiences and lead worship. Please keep us in your prayers as we travel to meet our brothers and sisters in Biloxi and share in Back Bay Mission’s many ministries. God always surprises us with unexpected blessings each time we answer Christ’s call to reach out beyond our community!

Grace and Peace, Erica Nierendorf  
860-944-0695  
[erical130@comcast.net](mailto:erical130@comcast.net).

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### **From the Environmental Ministries Team**

Our church’s Environmental Ministries Team has learned of an interfaith effort focused on the environment and their program called “This Old House of Worship”. Through the program, we can have 3-5 members of our church trained to conduct a comprehensive and ongoing evaluation of our buildings and grounds, their impact on the environment, and what we can do to minimize any negative impact. While we are going to have an energy audit done of three buildings (at no cost!!), that will focus only on electricity, and there is much more to look at. We would like to find 3-5 people who would be willing to be trained on behalf of our church in five evening sessions. Here is the website where you can find more information: <http://www.connecticutipl.org/take-actions/act-on-energy/facility-audits-for-your-congregation/this-old-house-of-worship/>. The training will be conducted along with 5-6 other churches nearby so will not involve a long drive. The feedback we have heard from other churches is that it is great learning and great fun! Contact Mary Phelan at the church office, or Davida Crabtree at [dfcdth@gmail.com](mailto:dfcdth@gmail.com) or 860-644-1107 if you would consider taking this on for us all.

**Auction and Dinner Loomis Chaffee School**  
**March 24, 2012, 5—9 p.m.**

**Tickets are \$35 each** which include appetizers, buffet dinner, wine, beer, soft drinks, and a whole lot of fun with your friends. Tickets can be purchased online at [www.fcwucc.org](http://www.fcwucc.org), after church in Nelson Hall or through the church office. Childcare will be available in the Parish House for a very reasonable contribution to the Youth Mission trip. So plan a night out and buy something fabulous, all while raising money to support the mission and ministries of First Church.

**I/We want to support the auction by helping with:**  
Set—up, clean-up, auction night operations (circle one:)

Business calls/Item pick ups/Ticket sales after church (circle one:)

**Use your Imagination to Dream up Donations**

Life is busy so bidders love the following types of donations: dinners, certificates, vacation spots, health and wellness items, family fun and many other “good for the soul” types of items.

**By donating a silent auction item (please describe):**

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----- \$ Value: -----

Name:----- Address:-----

Phone #:----- Email address:-----

Please tear off this page and leave in the church office, bring it to church and place in an offering plate or give to a deacon. You can also volunteer by contacting Helen Davenport-Senuta, 860-285-8694. ([dancerhiker@comcast.net](mailto:dancerhiker@comcast.net)), or Mary Phelan, 860-688-7229. ([first.church.windsor@snet.net](mailto:first.church.windsor@snet.net))

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**Scholarships Available**

**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 need for financial aid, 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](http://www.fcwucc.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.fcwucc.org](http://www.fcwucc.org), for details and an application or contact the church office for more information.

## Love to Read?

**Students at Rawson School need your help.** Share your passion for education and reading by volunteering with the Greater Hartford Interfaith Coalition Tutoring Program

Volunteers work with students in grades K - 2 grades that have been identified as struggling readers. Using materials coordinated with the classroom-reading program, and trained by experienced reading coaches, you will provide the individual help that can change a child's life - by teaching him or her to read.

The program requires that tutors commit one morning a week from 8:30 a.m. to 10 a.m., seeing 2 -3 students individually for 30 to 45 minutes each. For more information about Rawson School's program, please contact Martha Hess at 860-970-9000 or email her at [Marthamhess@gmail.com](mailto:Marthamhess@gmail.com). You can also contact Shai Cassell at the Greater Hartford Interfaith Coalition for Equity & Justice, 860-930-4278. or email - [shaicassell@gmail.com](mailto:shaicassell@gmail.com)



*Tutoring program sponsored by the  
Greater Hartford Interfaith Coalition  
for Equity & Justice*

## From the Early Learning Center



On Friday, October 21, First Church Early Learning Center was one of four centers in Connecticut honored by the Connecticut Association for the Education of Young Children (CAEYC) for continually maintaining the high standards necessary to keep its accreditation with National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) for 25 years. The award was made at a dinner in Cromwell, where the key speaker was Governor Dannel Malloy.

We will be opening registration for church members and currently enrolled children for next year's classes on Monday, January 23. If you are interested in signing up your child or know of anyone with a young child please call the office at 860-688-4597 and speak to Laurel or Ellen to schedule a tour. We will open registration to the general public on Monday, February 13.



## Book Buddy News

Our fall books were delivered to our kindergarten book buddies at Simpson-Waverly School during the first week of November. They were eagerly and gratefully received by this year's 46 little readers. It was such a joy to read to the groups and to see their pleasure in receiving a book of their own! A heartfelt thank-you goes out to our adult book buddies for their participation and contributions! Our next collection of books will be in February, with the classroom visitation planned for the beginning of March. As always, while most of our adult buddies will be paired with the same little buddy as in fall, there may be some who will be paired with a different student as the classrooms experience frequent pupil transfers in and out. We will be sending our next letters out sometime in late January or early February. And again, thank you for your continued enthusiasm.

## News from the First Church Women's Club

The Women's Club met on Tuesday, January 10. Jane Walker, M.D. and Kathleen Mueller, M.D. of Holistic Health Partnering, which is located in Windsor, spoke to us about what we can do ourselves to have a healthy life. They provided excellent information on vitamins and medicines and other health concerns.

The Women's Club next meets on Tuesday, February 14. Come join us for the fun of Team Trivia with Cash Prizes. We meet at noon for lunch. Please bring a sandwich. Beverages and dessert are provided. The program begins at 1 p.m. All are welcome and encouraged to bring a friend. Please call Sally O'Brien at 860-683-0770 for more information.



## Lofty Notes

Dear First Church Family,

It feels a bit strange to be writing for February on such a beautiful and balmy January afternoon. And I thought Oklahoma's weather was unpredictable! Seems like New England may be worthy of a similar reputation.

Of course, I am not complaining.

As the Sundays of the Epiphany season continue on their inexorable path toward Ash Wednesday and Lent, I find myself pondering the whole concept of a "penitential" season. By definition, *penitence* refers to regret, remorse or sorrow for misdeeds, wrongdoing, or sins. Whew! I can feel the guilt already...

This year, I fully intend to ponder my various shortcomings, but I can't help believe that there is more to Lent than just a gigantic "I'm sorry". What about growth, change, and maturity, both as human persons and as Christians? Even in the midst of the sombre and sobering Scripture readings and the equally solemn music, is there not a pervasive ray of hope?

I encourage all of you, my faith family, to remain open to all of God's ways of operating in and through our lives. This year, let Lent be a thing to celebrate, not merely endure.

Peace, Mark

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### 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.

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### Super Bowl Grinder Sale is Sunday, February 5

Getchya grindas heal! 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 youth mission trip to Vermont with a ready-made grinder. Now that's a TOUCH DOWN!

Cost is \$5 per grinder (ham, turkey, veggie or combo); grinders will be ready for pickup on Sunday, February 5 between 11-noon. **Orders help us to have a successful game plan for grinder delivery so call in your order TODAY at the church office, 688-7229!**



### 5th Annual Chili Challenge—March 11 during Fellowship Hour

Sunday, March 11 is the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Chili Challenge in Nelson Hall, immediately following worship. Stay for the event and help decide who makes the best chili in church by casting your vote. Chili samples will be sold at 50¢ each or 3/\$1.00. Quarts of chili will also be available for \$5/quart and cornbread and bottled water for \$1. All proceeds benefit the Summer Youth Mission Trip team headed to Vermont July 14-21 to assist with hurricane relief efforts. **Want to be a Chili Challenger? Sign up in Nelson Hall to enter your chili by Sunday, March 4. 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 mission trip leaders.**



## Parish Caring Ministries



Parish Caring  
Ministries

Although the true historical roots of Valentine's Day are not exactly laden with romanticism, it's a day we mostly equate with love, hearts, candy and cards. This image evolved over time, with a somewhat romantic legend to start it off.

In the 13th century, Jacobus de Voragine assembled a collection of writings about saints and ecclesiastical leaders called the Golden Legend. The Golden Legend contains an account of Saint Valentine that likely gave birth to the modern version of Valentine's Day. In these stories, it is written that Saint Valentine was persecuted as a Christian and interrogated by Roman Emperor Claudius II. Valentine refused Claudius' attempts to convert him to Roman paganism and instead tried to convert Claudius to Christianity. Because of this, he was executed. The story also indicates that prior to his execution, he healed the blind daughter of his executioner.

In more modern times this simple story has been embellished to portray Valentine as a romantic priest who refused to follow a law ordering that young men remain single. The Emperor supposedly held the belief that if men remained single, that they would make better soldiers. It's believed (though unproven) that Saint Valentine performed secret marriage ceremonies despite the law, and was arrested and jailed for his actions. Further lore tells us that on the evening before Valentine was to be executed, he sent a note to his beloved – the healed jailer's daughter – which he signed "From your Valentine," often referred to as the first Valentine's card.

In the centuries that followed, the practice of sending hand-written Valentine cards grew in popularity. Notes were filled with the language of "courtly love" or in the form of romantic prose. In the late 18th century, "mechanical Valentines" as they were known, were already being produced in factories in Europe. These notes – already printed with artwork and verse – made it possible to trade Valentine's cards anonymously for the first time. Fancy Valentines, embellished with ribbons and lace, were introduced in the mid-19th century in the United States by the daughter of a Worcester, Massachusetts, stationer who had seen their European predecessors. Since their introduction, the practice of sending handwritten notes has given way to mass-produced greeting cards. This practice still continues today – cards sent to loved ones and family members – as an expression of caring and love. In our more modern world, many of us use e-cards, e-mails or other electronic means of contact, whether it be for Valentine's Day or any other occasion.

Though the ease of sending electronic communications is so easy, we often forget that the joy of receiving a hand-written note is so great for its recipient. The Parish Caring Ministries Note Writers do such an amazing job of lifting the spirits of recipients – people who have health concerns, who have suffered a loss, or who need an uplifting message for any reason – by sending handwritten notes to those in need within our church family. As you prepare to send cards or other greetings this February to those you love, please take a moment to consider helping our note writers to send notes of caring and concern to our church members in need. The small amount of time you take to write a note or encouragement makes a large impact in the life of its recipient. It reminds us that someone cares, that we are not alone, and that we are surrounded by the support of those around us.

*April Michaud, Parish Caring Ministries Coordinator*



## From Our Church School Administrator

Winter weather may be demanding our immediate attention in the month of February, but it's also getting close to that time of the year when parents need to start thinking about registrations for summer camps. Without a doubt, a favorite camp destination for many First Church students is Silver Lake, in Sharon, Connecticut. If your child is entering the 4th grade in the fall, then he or she is eligible to attend Silver Lake this summer. Silver Lake is a UCC camp that is open to any student entering grades 4-12. Camper registration, as well as additional info, can be found online at [www.silverlake.org](http://www.silverlake.org). Just one word of advice for all the moms and dads who are sending their child for the first time this year: spots can fill up quickly, so don't delay in getting your child registered.

*Save the week of July 9-13 for Vacation Bible School.* Speaking of great camps, there is no better place to send your child this summer than First Church's VBS. Not only is this camp an exceptional value, but I can guarantee you that these kids will have a blast all week long. This year's theme is "Our Story Our Way," and as the name implies, it's sure to be different from previous years. Stay tuned for more information about VBS in the coming months. If you are thinking that you would you like to help out in some way, you are in luck because we are always looking for high school and adult volunteers to lend a helping hand during the week.

*Our church's Annual Meeting is February 12,* and there will be childcare provided while the meeting is in session. We plan to show a movie and have them make a craft to keep them busy and entertained during this time. A light snack will be provided. All church members are encouraged to attend and participate in our annual meeting.

*First Church's Shrove Tuesday Celebration will be on February 21, 5:30-7 p.m.* Everyone is invited to come out and join us for an evening of fun and celebration. This is your chance to eat as many yummy pancakes and sausages as you can before the season of Lent starts. The festivities will take place in Nelson Hall. Just remember to come out wearing your purple, green and gold colors to help us celebrate this special time of the year. Each family is requested to please bring a can or food item that will be donated to Windsor Food Bank.

*Our Silent Auction and Dinner is March 24 at the Loomis Chaffee School dining hall.* The Sunday school members and youth class will each be donating a basket for the auction. The theme for the Sunday school basket is "Fun in Summer" and we are looking for the following donations: bubbles, sidewalk chalk, kick ball, water balloons, jump rope, sprinkler, kites and sunscreen. The youth class is being asked to create a themed basket, "Fun with Family", and we are looking for the following donations: board games, DVDs movies tickets, admission to area attractions, yard games, candy, and popcorn. These theme baskets tend to be a big hit at the auction, so let's see if we can make them extra special this year.

*Helga Finlay, Church School Administrator*

Happy Birthday to you!

Ciara Doyle 2/5  
Gavin Jeleniowski 2/5  
Hunter DeRocher 2/6  
Jacob Casciano 2/14  
Olivia Casciano 2/14





## IT'S OFFICIAL! New Youth Program at FCW - **Giv<sup>2</sup>**

At FCW, we find ourselves at an exciting time of discernment as we move to deepen our commitment and involvement with all of our young people. Over the past year we have talked with the youth about what they would like to experience and participate in as a fellowship group. And in the end we believe that the CT UCC has something to offer

that's Exciting Fun Engaging and Relevant for all our youth! It's called **Giv<sup>2</sup>** (pronounced Give Squared).

Giv<sup>2</sup> is a corps of UCC youth and adults from local congregations who support one another in giving back to our communities in response to the gifts of God. Together, we explore our faith through service and fellowship. Giv<sup>2</sup> is for youth in grades 6 - 12 with age-appropriate activities for everyone involved. Giv<sup>2</sup> events are scheduled every other month at a variety of sites. At these bi-monthly events, participating churches gather for fellowship, orientation and a light meal, followed by a service project for 2-3 hours. We then reflect on our experience and the work we have done before returning to our respective churches to tell the latest Giv<sup>2</sup> story! All of these events are planned by a collaborating team of leaders from all the participating churches who have covenanted with one another on an annual basis. On the alternating months that Giv<sup>2</sup> doesn't meet, our own FCW youth groups will enjoy social fellowship during planned church and youth events.

*In January, six churches met and have agreed to covenant with one another to form the Greater Hartford Giv<sup>2</sup> Chapter! So help us spread the word! The kick-off party will be held on Sunday, March 18 from 5-7 p.m. at the Bloomfield Congregational Church. Our first mission project will be to participate in Foodshare's "Walk Against Hunger" on **Sunday, May 6**. More details to follow, but mark your calendars now for this fun opportunity to serve God and others while making new friends!*

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### Youth News and Events

**Youth Group Calendar** - Check the church website and Facebook page for current middle and high school events, details and permission slips - or see Char for upcoming programs. Here are the February highlights:



**Friday Night, February 3, 6 p.m.: Movie Night** with pizza and popcorn in Nelson Hall. Wear your pajamas or sweats and bring your sleeping bag and pillow to sack out for the evening with your FCW friends. Chaperones needed.

**Tuesday, February 21, 5:30 -7 p.m.: Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper** in Nelson Hall. Join us for pancakes, pancake games and fun activities! Youth volunteers needed to help lead the games and activity tables too!

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### Summer Youth Mission Update

We are still looking for two adult youth leaders with construction/carpentry project experience and skills for the 2012 summer mission trip to Vermont. We will be working with the Vermont Conference's Disaster Relief Team to assist with Hurricane Irene recovery efforts. There is no fee for adults to attend the weeklong mission trip from July 14 -21.



## Silver Lake 2012

It's time to sign up for Silver Lake Summer Camp. The schedule can be found on-line at <http://silverlake.ctucc.org>. Families can register in paper form or online. 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.



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### Be a Camp Counselor at Silver Lake

Youth and adults ages 16 and older are invited to apply as volunteer counselors for the conference(s) or week(s) you prefer. What a great way to meet new friends, celebrate the outdoors and share your gifts with others! Please see Char Corbett for more information.

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### Hey YOU-th! It's NYE Time!

The National Youth Event (NYE), which is held every four years, is an inspiring opportunity for over 3,000 diverse UCC youth (ages 13 to 18) from across the country to gather for worship, workshops, faith, music, fun and fellowship! *This year's uplifting and exciting NYE is gathering at Purdue University, W. Lafayette, IN from Tuesday, July 10 - Friday, July 13.* Registration is \$425 per youth. There are two great transportation options being offered: the "New England Service Bus" where youth from all over New England will leave on Saturday, July 7 to "camp out" and worship at an urban church, do service work and tour the UCC National Headquarters in downtown Cleveland, OH, before arriving at NYE (\$320 per youth/adult); or take the "Express Bus" which leaves on Monday, July 9 with non-stop transportation to Purdue University/NYE (\$180 per youth/adult). Both buses return on Saturday, July 14. Partial scholarships and travel stipends through both the CT UCC Conference and FCW are available. Additional details are at <http://www.ctucc.org/events.php?event=2800>. **Curious about attending NYE 2012? Want to be an adult chaperone? Need more information? Speak with Char!**

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## OUTREACH NEWS

**Winter 2012 Shelter Meals at Immaculate:** Volunteers are needed for upcoming Sundays February 26 and March 26. We'll be serving 150 men at the ICSHC shelter on each date and we need volunteers to help with any or all of the following: shoppers to purchase food; volunteers to prepare and/or serve the meal; two volunteers to clean up in the parish house kitchen following the meal prep. Monetary donations for the shelter meal fund will also be gratefully accepted. Checks can be made out to First Church with a notation "shelter meals." Contact Mark Fredette at 860-285-0675 with any questions or if interested.

**Coat Drive Update:** As of the printing of this newsletter, over 75 coats were collected at FCW as we partnered with our sister church in Hartford, Faith Congregational UCC, to support their coat distribution in the North End. Multiple hats, gloves, scarves and warm socks were also donated. Both the FCW Outreach Committee and Faith UCC extend their heartfelt thanks for the wonderful response to keep others warm during this winter season.

**First Church Outreach Gives to the Community:** While our Outreach Committee has been distributing funds throughout the year, December was a particularly generous month. We received letters of thanks from the following organizations: Mercy Housing and Shelter Corp., Immaculate Conception Shelter and Housing Corp., Operation Fuel, Windsor Community Service Council's Food and Fuel Bank, Foodshare, Hartford Food System, My Sister's Place and the UCC Coalition for LGBT Concerns. *The Outreach Committee still needs new members so if you're interested or want to learn more contact George Merrick at 860-688-9949 or email him [gmerrick3@gmail.com](mailto:gmerrick3@gmail.com).*

# 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**  
Parish Caring Ministries Coordinator  
**APRIL MICHAUD**

Church Administrator  
**MARY PHELAN**



Church School Coordinator  
**HELGA FINLAY**

Church School Assistant  
**GARY SAVA**

Andover Newton Student  
**ERICA NIERENDORF**

Treasurer  
**AUBREY LOOMIS**

Bookkeeper  
**JENNIFER BILODEAU**

Sexton  
**MICHAEL HITE**  
Director, Early Learning Center  
**ELLEN MONCHUN**

## Sunday Church Services

**8 a.m.**—Communion in the Round  
**10 a.m.**—Service and Church School  
Childcare Available

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

107 Palisado Ave., Windsor CT 06095

**Phone:** 860-688-7229

**Fax:** 860-688-9408

**Email:** [first.church.windsor@snet.net](mailto:first.church.windsor@snet.net)

**Web:** [www.fcwucc.org](http://www.fcwucc.org)

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

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