



First Church Congregational, UCC

A Letter from the Pastor

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

“I give thanks to God always for you, constantly holding you in my prayers, remembering your work of faith, your labor of love, and your steadfast hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.” These are the words of Paul in the first century to the early Followers of the Way in Thessalonica, Greece

They could just as easily be my words to you, Christians in the 21st century in our little corner of the world. That is to say, when I think of you, my heart is glad and my soul rejoices. Truly.

How we have missed each other over the past 16 months! We are still coming to terms with what has happened to us – and is still happening to millions around the world and at home – in this pandemic. One insight that has been deepened and that will remain with me always is that we need each other. Emotionally, intellectually, spiritually, and physically. Thank God for telephones, computers, cell technology, platforms like Zoom, and live streaming! These have all helped us stay connected – sort of.

As wonderful as our “virtual” life has been, nothing beats gathering together in person! Read the Book of Acts. The believers in Jesus “were all together in one place.” Paul wrote his letters primarily to communities, not individuals. They would gather in each other’s homes to hear his letters. They “shared all things in common.” They took care of each other. They ate together. They prayed together. They were physically present to each other.

Thanks be to God and to scientists, public health and government officials, and you, the people who took basic public health measures, we can safely gather together again! “Things will never be the same, nor should they be,” is one phrase you hear a lot during this time of transition. I agree this time is a rich opportunity to envision new ways of living together as the “Beloved Community.”

But one thing will remain the same: the joy of being together! I cannot wait to join you – physically – in a joyful summer of worship!

To repeat what I said earlier, “When I think of you, my heart is glad and my soul rejoices!” So true.

Grace and peace,



SUMMER WORSHIP

***Welcome to summer! A time for some rest,
reflection, renewal, and regeneration of our energy.***

At Sasco Beach at 8:15 am we will gather In Person for Worship with our siblings from Southport Congregational. Please either wear a mask or practice social distancing. Beach Stickers are not required!

In Wakeman Hall at 10:15 we will gather In Person for the Worship of God. This service will also be available On Line on Sundays and throughout the week. Please wear a mask and practice social distancing.

We look forward to seeing and being with you this summer! Here's the schedule:

	Sasco Beach at 8:15	Wakeman Hall at 10:15 and On Line
June 20	The Reverend Vanessa Rose	Vanessa Rose
June 27	The Reverend David W. Spollett	David W. Spollett
July 4	Student Pastor Heidi Butler	Heidi Butler
July 11	The Reverend Paul Whitmore	The Reverend Suzanne Wagner
July 18	Suzanne Wagner	Suzanne Wagner
July 25	Paul Whitmore	Suzanne Wagner
August 1	David Spollett	David Spollett
August 8	Julie Center, Student Minister	David Spollett
August 15	David Spollett	David Spollett
August 22	Julie Center	Vanessa Rose
August 29	Vanessa Rose	Vanessa Rose
September 5	David Spollett	David Spollett

CONNECT



Pastoral Leadership and Care

Summer 2021

We are very pleased that our good friend and former Associate Pastor of First Church, The Reverend Suzanne Wagner will be with us again this July during David's vacation.

Suzanne will lead worship and preach on Sundays July 11, 18 and 25 (Student Pastor Heidi Butler will preach on July 4) and will provide leadership and care for the entire month. The best way to reach Suzanne is email swagner5@yahoo.com or call/text 203-545-6562.

David Spollett and Vanessa Rose (one or the other) will be on hand during August:

From August 1 – 17, call/text David at 203-414-0496.

From August 18 – 31, call/text Vanessa at 617-921-8648.

Both David & Vanessa will be on hand after September 1.

Vacation and Contracted Off Time for Pastoral Team

Maria Ferrante June 17-June 22 & June 28-July 4

David Spollett June 18-June 26 & August 18-31

Cheri Evan June 30-July 16

Alex Ackley July 1-July 31

Vanessa Rose July 1- August 20.

Vanessa will be attending, with NGLI, the UCC General Synod from July 11-18



Parish Notes

Wedding

June 23, 2021

Rachel Spollett and Michael Kovacic

SUMMER

CHOIR



All are welcome to join us as we resume choir at First Church!

This is an exciting time after over a year of hiatus. Whether you've been a part of the Chancel Choir in the past, or not, please use this short-term commitment as a chance to try it out, see what it's like to work with me, and just be in community and make music together!

Even if you don't have time or the inclination to sing each Sunday of the program year, there's a place for you here. Rehearsal will make productive and enjoyable use of your precious time, that we will grow, and have fun doing it!

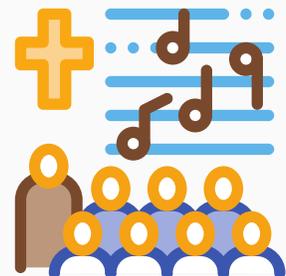
We plan to sing for 10:15 worship
in Wakeman Hall:

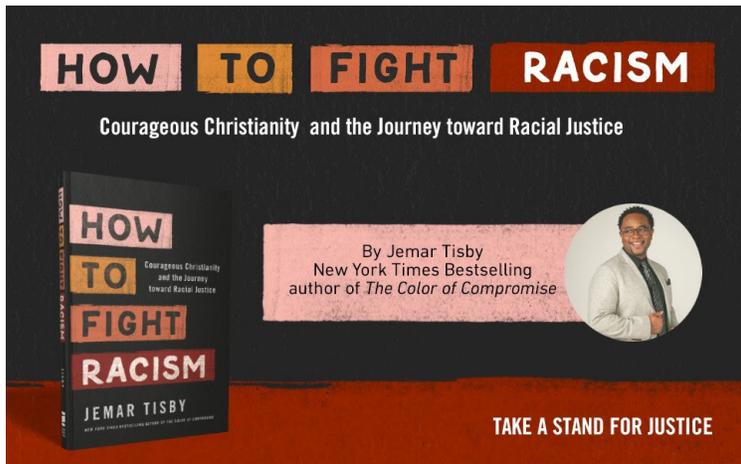
July 11

August 25

Rehearsal 9:15 AM on Sunday Mornings

Please contact Frank to join in the singing-
fmartignetti@firstchurchfairfield.org.





SUMMER SERIES IS BACK

Raising the BAR -Becoming Anti-Racist

All are invited to participate – Every other Thursday evening in July & August via Zoom from 7:30 to 8:45 pm

You are welcome to attend any or all of the 5 part series.

Thursday, July 1, 2021

Thursday, July 15, 2021

Thursday, July 29, 2021

Thursday, August 12, 2021

Thursday, August 26, 2021

Check out the reviews for Tisby's book [here](#)

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Hello Middle Roaders,

It is hard to believe that we are at the end of our Middle Road gatherings!

It has been a challenging and different year for sure, but through it all, your flexibility and willing spirit have amazed us! We were able to meet in person more times than we met on Zoom. Wow! A testament to your ability to adapt! Despite some cold and very windy Sundays, you showed up and were open to whatever was planned. As a group, we were able to make 12 bountiful "Move-In" Baskets for Operation Hope, raised money for the Simply Smiles Children's Home, learned about some incredible people advocating for justice and peace, and ran many laps around the church on scavenger hunt adventures! Melissa and I can't thank you enough. You made it fun!

Each and every one of you contributed something unique to our group. As leaders, you helped us to grow, and we hope you learned something new along the way too. Most importantly, we hope you enjoyed yourself and will continue to desire to grow in your faith with your Middle Road friends next year.

To the dedicated parents, thank you for driving your Middle Roaders to church so that we could share in this time together. It is truly appreciated and not possible without your commitment, too.

Thank you for a wonderful experience and wishing you all a relaxing summer!

Wendy and Melissa



TAKE NOTE

Hello Church Friends,

It was such a pleasure to see many of you at the All Church Meeting. It has been a busy year, and I look forward to an exciting year ahead. A highlight of the All Church Meeting was the unanimous vote approving the co-pastorate between David and Vanessa. This is a congregational validation and endorsement of equally shared leadership, and an opportunity for all of us to view Vanessa in an expanded light. Vanessa is truly called to serve God through church ministry, and we are thankful that her ministry continues to grow right here at First Church.

While beach services are just around the corner, there is still much to be done before fall. Council is meeting (in person!) at the end of the month, and many Boards will be working over the summer. The Facilities Board continues to work on the safest way to bring back worship in the sanctuary. The Personnel Board will be meeting with the Interim Pastor Search Committee to prepare for our process of discernment this fall. We will plan to host cottage meetings in September/October to give the congregation the opportunity to share their visions on who we are as a church and how we feel the Holy Spirit is calling us to best serve. With this congregational feedback, we will determine how we will call our pastoral leadership after David's retirement.

As always, please feel free to reach out to me at jmuschett@optonline.net. Thank you.

God's peace to you.
Jim Muschett
Moderator



Music Thursdays Beginning in September

As you look ahead and plan for the upcoming school year we wanted to share our plan for Fall 2020 with you!

Children's Choir 4:30 - 5:15 PM (K-3rd Grade)
Youth Choir 5:15-6:00 PM (4th-8th Grade)
Bell Choir 6:00-7:00 PM (7th Grade-Adult)
Chancel Choir 7:30-9:00 PM (9th Grade-Adult)

SUMMER Worship

In-Person and Online Worship
Sasco Beach at 8:15 am
Wakeman Hall 10:15 am

Outdoors, please either wear a mask or practice social distancing.
Indoors, please wear a mask and practice social distancing.
These simple steps help us all!

*Summer
Together*



First Church Congregational
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
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