



## A Letter from the Pastor

Dear Ones,

I suggested at the beginning of Lent that we have already given up so many things over the last year - that maybe we didn't need to give up anything else, and I didn't!

Instead, I am taking on something new for each of the 8 weeks from Easter to Pentecost. I would love it if you would join me! What I am taking on is largely inspired by members of our congregation – all passionate about creation care: One is a landscape artist. Another is a daughter and granddaughter of farmers who grows fresh vegetables for our friends at Operation Hope, along with a team of youth and adults, many also from First Church. Another is an owner of a native plant nursery here in Fairfield. Another is a bee-keeper and butterfly-raiser who releases hundreds of butterflies from her own backyard. Through them I have learned about the opportunities for making a difference in the world through our choices of plants in our own backyards. I have decided to plant a new species in my own yard that supports biodiversity each week and then watch for the birds and butterflies to return to my yard. If you want to learn more you can read about the Backyard National Park or read *Nature's Best Hope: A New Approach to Conservation that Starts in Your Own Backyard*, by Douglas W. Tallamy.

A couple of us gathered at church last week to make “seed-bombs” for milkweed and wildflower seeds in the Garden of Hope. A seed-bomb, as one put it, means packing a lunch for the seed you are going to plant to make sure it has everything it needs. Next week, the High Road (senior high youth group) and confirmation class will be scattering most of them around the church and each taking one home to add to their own backyards. If you want one, give me a call and I will save one for you!

You could think about this project in spiritual terms – being “co-creators” with God, caring for the world God so loves, being stewards of the land entrusted to you for a time, and participating in ecological flourishing as the landscape provides a network for monarch butterflies to make it all the way to Mexico, and for the bees on your wildflowers which pollinate the garden that will feed our hungry neighbors. This is God's way: love is stronger than death, new life is always possible, and you are invited to join in the celebration God has already prepared for you!

Call a church member and see how you can take this on together! There are many experts among us if you need advice!

Peace,

Vanessa

# THANK YOU

## Thank You, Robert Codio!



Robert's last Sunday with us will be April 11, the Sunday after Easter. Robert has been brought such faith, joy, and artistry to our worship. He has enriched our life and lifted our hearts in praise to God.

Due to the pandemic we cannot gather to express our thanks to Robert, but you can say "Thanks" with your own note or email.

We will present the collected messages to Robert on Sunday, April 11! Please send your email to [dspollett@firstchurchfairfield.org](mailto:dspollett@firstchurchfairfield.org) or mail your note for Robert Codio to 148 Beach Road, 06824.

Thank you!



This program will provide various medical equipment, free of charge, to any one in need. Some of the equipment we hope to collect and make available includes:

- Canes
- Commodes
- Walkers
- Wheelchairs
- Shower chairs
- Portable ramp

Currently we have a few canes, a shower chair and a portable ramp available.

Thank you to Joy Nazzaro for this great idea and if you are in need of items or have items to donate please contact Cheri Evan [cevan@firstchurchfairfield](mailto:cevan@firstchurchfairfield) to make arrangements for drop off.

# OUTREACH

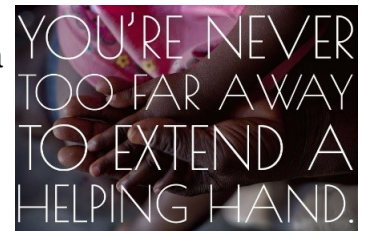


## Helping Hands Near and Far



"Coins for Care" fundraiser to help support the on-going construction efforts of Simply Smiles and their Children's Village on the Cheyenne River Reservation. As founder Bryan Nurnberger shares, "the Simply Smiles children's village is a community of foster families offering a child placement option that fulfills the spirit of the Indian child welfare act by ensuring that native children who have been removed from their homes can remain with kin and community." One foster home is already built, the second one is underway now, and the hope is for more to come!

Please drop off your donations on THURSDAYS between 9-2 when Maria is in the office. The collection will continue through the end of May.



## Fairfield Gardens for Food Pantries

Join our local team growing fruits and veggies for food pantries in metro-Bridgeport. Last year we were able to supply about 80 boxes of produce to Operation Hope, nOURish Bridgeport, and Bridgeport Rescue Mission (we also kept a ground hog very happy).

Nikki Kenney, Harper Treschuk, and other friends in the community were instrumental in getting this off the ground. A grant from the Strategic Pathways Committee helped fund the effort.

This year, we are looking for an additional garden plot to increase our growing capacity. If you know of a fenced-in garden plot that has a water hook up, please let us know.

If you'd like to volunteer with us, or if you want grow vegetables in your own yard, great!

Thanks so much! -Sharon Pistilli, (203) 414-5064 (text preferred) or sbpistilli@gmail.com  
Our Facebook group is Fairfield Gardens for Foodbanks.



# OUTREACH



OPERATION  
**HOPE**

## 2 Ways to Help

### Weekly Meals Needed

Sign up to make a meal and help feed our brothers and sisters in the community.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080e4da5a62eaafd0-operation1>

If you have any questions contact Lauren Winston at [winston.lauren@gmail.com](mailto:winston.lauren@gmail.com)

## SEEKING LUNCH VOLUNTEERS



### *Community Kitchen*



OPERATION  
**HOPE**

We have been able to lift the moratorium on in-person volunteering for our Community Kitchen and are in need of regular volunteers to serve lunch

Monday through Friday, 11:30am-1:00pm. The Community Kitchen is located at 50 Nichols Street, Fairfield.

Volunteers must be 18+ and follow COVID protocols.

Send us an email to [info@operationhopect.org](mailto:info@operationhopect.org) to let us know which days of the week you can regularly help. Thank you!

# Children & Youth Ministry



Hello Middle Roaders,

Melissa and I are hopeful that the coldest days are now behind us and our Zoom gatherings are over. Fingers crossed! We will plan to meet outside on the Beach Road side at 10:30 but included our Zoom link below just in case.

We now have a heater to help keep us warm (yay!) but remember to dress warmly so you are comfortable.

We look forward to continuing with our Simply Smiles service project, more faith building, Faces of Peace exploration, and a culminating project—more to come on that soon!

We will meet on the following Sundays in April: 4/11 and 4/25. Feel free to bring a friend! (We will NOT meet on Easter Sunday and the last weekend of the Spring Break)

Take care,  
Wendy and Melissa

Contact Wendy at  
[wendymuschett@optonline.net](mailto:wendymuschett@optonline.net)  
for more information

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86396877744pwd=VFNpY2dnWEhTSFFWNEd2Z3p4YTd4UT09>

Meeting ID: 863 9687 7744

Passcode: 905648



## HIGH ROAD

(9th-12th Grade Youth Group)

Meets Thursday Evening  
6:30 PM

Outside on the lawn  
(weather permitting)

Contact **Vanessa** for more information  
[vrose@firstchurchfairfield.org](mailto:vrose@firstchurchfairfield.org)



A Safe space and loving community for LGBTQIA+ teens and friends. Fridays at 4:00 p.m. on ZOOM. Please contact the [Rev. Vanessa Rose](mailto:vrose@firstchurchfairfield.org) for more information.



Women's Spirituality Group - Will meet on April 28th at 6:30 via zoom. We will continue with readings from Meditations of the Heart by Howard Thurman. The specific meditations will be chosen before we meet and will be made available to the women.



## Raising the BAR-Becoming Anti-Racist

An ongoing, monthly conversation and call to action.

Starts April 15

7:30 - 8:45 pm

third Thursday of each month

through May 2021

For more information and registration

<https://ccgb.salsalabs.org/barmonthlyseries/index>

to receive the

Zoom link and monthly reminders.



# NEWS



Clara and John Harmon

## First Church Face Masks For Sale!

**\$10 each**

(money raised to support Racial Justice initiatives  
...anonymous donor covered costs)

Free Delivery to your home or home mailbox on weekend or you can pick up in church office. Mask will be in envelope with your name on it.

Leave payment in Church Treasurer mailbox. Checks made out to First Church Congregational with memo of Face Mask(s)

Order by sending email to Jacque Paige at [jpaige@smithhanley.com](mailto:jpaige@smithhanley.com), or calling her at 203-763-9624.

Yes, black is the only color option...but isn't the cross beautiful?!



## 2021 Spring Fling Fundraiser



# May 5

## WORSHIP ON THE LAWN BEGINS



### SUNDAYS AT NOON

Pending lower average COVID-19 infection rates.  
Watch for details.



First Church Congregational  
**UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
148 Beach Road • Fairfield CT • 06824