

THE HERALD

First Church Congregational
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



December 2023

THREE KINGS BAZAAR Saturday, December 2, 2-8pm

We hope to see you at the **Three Kings Bazaar**, coinciding with the Fairfield tree lighting on **Saturday, December 2!** We'll be serving hot chocolate and baked goods, hosting a silent auction, raffle, and book sale. All proceeds will be going to support First Church. Plus, we will offer a family ornament making station, pictures with Santa, and Christmas Carols in the Sanctuary!



CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICES

CHRISTMAS EVE
SERVICE 10:15 AM

PAGEANT 4 PM

LESSONS AND CAROLS 10PM

CHRISTMAS DAY
SERVICE 11AM



the
POETRY
of **ADVENT**

AN ADVENT COMPANION TO
MARY OLIVER'S "DEVOTIONS"



Join us virtually for our
Advent Devotional series,
Mondays 7:30-9 pm.
Meeting ID: 835 3394 8303
Passcode: 870752



All children will be invited to
participate in a special
“children’s moment” at the
Christmas Eve Pageant!





First Church 2023 Christmas Angel Gifts for the Central CT Coast YMCA Families in Transition Shelter Program in Bridgeport

This will be the 25th year First Church will deliver joyous Christmas gifts to these YMCA shelter apartments. As you know the past 4 years have been extremely difficult for so many people, especially the families in the multiple YMCA apartments. We want to help a number of these families this year.

If you are able to make Christmas brighter for any of these families please see **Debby Dwyer** in church on the first two Sundays of December, **December 3 and 10**, and pick up a gift tag for a child or parent. You can also contact Debby at 203-255-8835 and she will give you names and ages you can choose from and send you the gift tag. The gift tag will have the name on the front and information specific to the recipient on the back. **Please let Debby know by Sunday,**

December 10 if you can help. There is an approximate limit of **\$30 on gifts for children** and we ask that only **VISA or MasterCard gift cards are purchased for parents ranging \$25-\$50.** Once you have purchased your gift please wrap in festive paper with name tag attached. Please also wrap gift cards **enclosed in a box** so they do not get lost.

Gifts may be dropped off to Debby at 2607 Congress Street, Fairfield (please call first to make sure she is home) or bring them to her at church by Sunday, December 17. Debby will also pick up if needed. Call Debby with any questions.

Thank you so much for helping these families.





First Church members helped the Holocaust Commemoration Committee plant 500 Daffodils bulbs in front of the Fairfield Town Hall as part of **The Daffodil Project** as a worldwide memorial to the 1.5 million children murdered during the Shoah. Last year we also planted 250 on our own grounds beside the sanctuary.



Working For Racial Justice Pathway Coming Events

Please join the members of the First Church WFRJ

Pathway in the following events:

Saturday, December 2, 1 - 2:30 at the Darien Library (confirmation of location pending): Open Communities Alliance is hosting the Richard Rothstein, author of *The Color of Law*, the seminal book on racism in housing, and his daughter, Leah Rothstein, who took her father's book one step further and wrote, *How to Challenge Segregation Enacted Under the Color of Law*. First Church is underwriting the cost of the auditorium.

Saturday, 2/3/24, 9:00 - The Ruby & Calvin Fletcher African American History Museum in Stratford - Visit this new museum with our friends from First Baptist and share a brunch and discussion with them afterward at their Church.

More to come! Questions? Contact Jacque Paige, Rita Skog or Marilyn Lord.



Happy Holidays to our wonderful congregation! We want to thank everyone who donated gift cards

for Thanksgiving to the Covenant to Care families in need. They were greatly appreciated.

Christmas is almost here and **we will have Christmas gift sign ups on the first two Sundays in December (the 3rd and 10th)** for the children in the Covenant to Care ministry. There will be a Christmas tree set up in the connecting corridor after the 10:15 services on both days. As in years past, tags will be hanging on the tree with the names and ages of children in our Social Workers caseload in need of gifts. Signup sheets will be available to sign up for your donation. Our congregation has always been extremely generous to this special Covenant to Care ministry and we look forward to seeing you again this December.

Blessings to all. Marilyn, Kim and Jessie

There's an Elephant in the Room Seminar Series

This series will consist of 12 group-led conversations which explore taboo topics that are faced on a daily basis. Namely death, end of life wishes & planning, grief (& how our culture deals/does not deal with it), green burial, loneliness & depression, prescription drug abuse & dependence, long term care statistics, the lack of attention/care for Veterans, and holiday triggers.



Dates: 2nd Sunday each month
Time: Following 10:15 Worship
Led by Sahara Farrugio - Funeral Director,
Spear-Miller Funeral Home



The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse
by Pat Marvenko Smith

Wednesday Bible Study
with Rev. Rose

10am, Music & Meeting Room.
We are reading REVELATION.
Join the conversation!

Greetings, Community!

First Church hopes to renovate
the Wakeman Hall Kitchen in
Summer 2024.

If you use this space and have
suggestions for how to improve it
please email Rev. Vanessa Rose at
vrose@firstchurchfairfield.org,

Subject: "Kitchen Reno" and
she will take them into
consideration.

Blessings,

The First Church Pastoral Team

FIRST CHURCH FAIRFIELD
13TH ANNUAL

PASTA DINNER

Save-the-Date



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4TH
WAKEMAN HALL
5PM TO 7PM

FUNDRAISER TO BENEFIT THE
DEACONS' EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FUND



ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY OUR
FRIENDS AT CHIP'S FAMILY RESTAURANT



Dear Church Family,

As of now, we have received 94 pledges,

including 7 new pledges. While this is fantastic news, we are still working towards our ultimate goal of 148 pledges, aiming for a 76% participation rate. Your support is crucial in helping us achieve this milestone and continue the wonderful work we do as a community.

If you haven't already, please consider making your pledge today. Every contribution brings us closer to reaching our collective goal.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to our church family.

Blessings,

Michelle Velez



Women's Spirituality

The First Church Women's Spirituality Group meets the last Wednesday of each month from 6:30 til 8 PM. We meet in-person in the Eunoia room at the back of the sanctuary at First Church, with an option for those afar or homebound to join us via Zoom. We gather to explore life, spirituality and faith through various readings and prayers, chosen by the group's members. We hope to inspire thoughtful & warm connections with one another and with Spirit. Newcomers are always welcome.



**Office Hours at
First Church
Monday - Friday,
9am - 1pm**

Black Rock Sunrise Group
Closed Meetings Daily at 7am
Please call Matt D. for more information
203-394-2229

Daily Reprieve AA Group
Tuesday 8pm - Closed Big Book Meeting
Thursday 7pm - Open Step Meeting
Friday 8pm - Open Speaker Meeting
Sunday 8pm - Online Beginners Topic Meeting
Please call Len with any questions or for more
information 203-333-4771



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