



# THE HERALD

First Church Congregational  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

## October 2023



### Sunday, October 1

## World Communion Sunday



Please join us as we worship with First Baptist Church of Stratford. The Rev. Dr. William B. Sutton, III will be preaching. Please note there will be no 8:15am service that day.



We are excited to have the Rev. Jake Joseph preaching on **October 15**.



Giving Sunday is **October 29th**. Please look for special communications about making your annual pledge to the church.

## Blessing of the



On the Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi with our friends and neighbors on the St. Paul's front lawn. Bring your pets to meet their church family for this special event on **Wednesday, October 4th** at 5:30pm! Vanessa and Curtis will give them a blessing.

HELLO  
OCTOBER!

**Disciple Road's**  
**Autumn Bunny Party!**



**Sunday,**  
**October 15**

Children's Hour @ 10:15am Worship

Inviting all children of First Church to come celebrate the joy of God's precious creations! Come learn about Goldilocks Farm Sanctuary - and snuggle some bunnies!



FIRST CHURCH OF FAIRFIELD | 148 BEACH ROAD | FAIRFIELD, CT  
Email Kim at [kfeeney@firstchurchfairfield.org](mailto:kfeeney@firstchurchfairfield.org) for more info

**PIPESCREAMS!!**

Don't miss the 22nd Annual Pipescreams concert, a production of the Greater Bridgeport Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. Now entering its second year in its new home at First Church, this family concert of Halloween-themed and Broadway musical pieces features our renowned pipe organ, amazing singers, incredible instrumentalists, a 1920's silent film, costume contest with prizes, and reception to follow.

Proceeds benefit the GBAGO's Louise M. Miller - Paul A. Knox Scholarship Fund. As many of you know, Paul finished his career as our Director of Music, and was a member of our congregation until he passed away in 2015.



AGO 75<sup>th</sup>  
GREATER BRIDGEPORT CHAPTER  
*presents*

22nd Annual

# PIPE SCREAMS

FIRST CHURCH CONGREGATIONAL

*HEAR THE MAJESTIC PIPE ORGAN...  
as you've never heard it before!*

*Presenting Halloween delights for all ages, a short silent movie,  
a costume parade & contest with refreshments to follow!*

FEATURED PERFORMERS

Michael Alderman • Dottie Cameron • David Harris • Frank Martignetti,  
Chris Muller • Ilana Ofgang • Emilie Roberts Hannon • Joe Utterback • Scot Zoid

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2023 / 4:00pm

**First Church Congregational**  
148 Beach Road, Fairfield, CT 06824

**Tickets** \$20/Adults, \$12/Seniors, \$5/Students (12-17); **FREE** for children 11 & under

**Donations made at [greaterbridgeportago.org](http://greaterbridgeportago.org) benefit the Miller-Knox Scholarship Fund**



## Adult Faith Formation Class



Ban these books! Sex, Violence, Heroism, Betrayal, Warfare, Greed, Lust, Life and Death, and Faith. It's all there in the books of 1 and 2 Samuel--the conflicts, jealousies, victories and failures which make for the most exquisitely narrated narratives in all of Scripture. It's surprising that someone hasn't tried to ban them from the public library. Not yet, anyway.

Over six weeks, we'll be introduced to a period of massive social, economic, and political change in the life of ancient Israel; however, the books of Samuel don't view these changes through a wide lens, rather, we see particular characters up close and personal as they struggle through them. In our six weeks together we will consider how they respond to, benefit from, or exploit the changes they face. Their stories may teach us something about our own complex struggles in this day as we ponder how God is present, and how we might respond to that presence in a time of bewildering change.

**Led by Rev. Dean Lindsey, Sundays, 9:15am, Sept. 17, 24, Oct 1, 15, 22, and 29  
in the Eunoia Room.**



All are welcome for  
Wednesday morning  
Bible Study, in  
person at 10 a.m. in  
the Eunoia Room



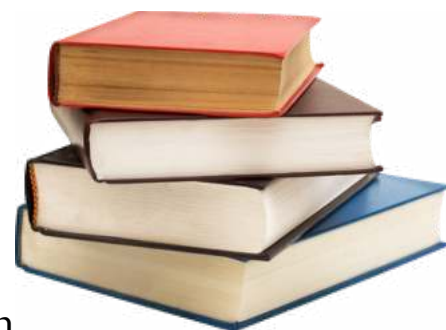
The **Environmental  
Justice Team** will  
meet on **Sunday,  
October 15** at 9:15 in  
the Dining Room.  
Please join us.



## Courageous Conversations Book Club

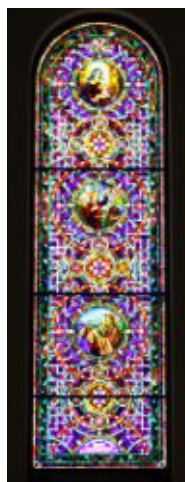
The Fairfield Public Library started this multiracial reading and conversation club shortly before the pandemic. It survived, as did many things, via zoom and via the leadership of Susan Stengel from the Bahai Congregation in Bridgeport.

After we lost the great leadership and wonderful person Susan was to ovarian cancer, First Church members have led the group along with members from many faith practices including the Westport UU Church and Synagogues.



We meet on the fourth Sunday evening of the month to discuss the book or portion of a book we will have all read in the previous month. Examples of books we have read recently are Caste by Isabel Wilkerson, The 1619 Project created by Nikole Hannah-Jones, Chasing Me To My Grave by Winfred Rembert (winner of the 2022 Pulitzer Prize), The Half Has Never Been Told by Edward Baptist and discussed in September, Free the Beaches by Andrew Kahrl.

If you are interested in joining Kathy Lea, Rita Skog, Amy-Alison Ward and Jacque Paige from First Church, contact Jacque at [jpaige@smithhanley.com](mailto:jpaige@smithhanley.com) or 203-763-9624 for more information.



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## Tiffany Window Update

News Flash! Willet Hauser may start replacing the yellowed Lexan protecting our Tiffany Windows as early as September 23! We were originally told there is a five month wait once the contract is signed. They plan on working during the week and on weekends, but will not be working during Sunday morning services. We are very close to showing those outside the church building our beautiful windows! Thank you for your support of this project.



## Raising the B.A.R. Fall On-line Book Club: "How the Word is Passed"

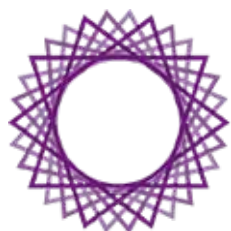
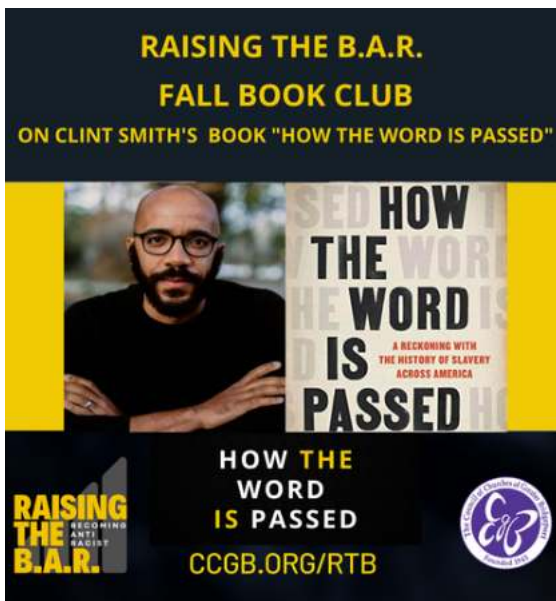
by Clint Smith

Join us for a sacred conversation on race as we discuss Clint Smith's book "How the Word is Passed: A Reckoning with the History of Slavery Across America." In this book Smith recounts his travels "to eight places in the United States as well as one abroad to understand how each reckons with its relationship to the history of American slavery."

Five On-Line Sessions - Every Other Thursday

September 14 - November 9, 7:00 - 8:00 pm

See the Weekly Word for more info on the book and how to purchase!



# CONNECT

*Congregations Organized for a New Connecticut  
Congregaciones Organizadas para un Nuevo Connecticut*

Join CONECT at St. Paul's  
Sunday, October 15 and  
Sunday, November 19,  
both at 11:15

Power, Love & Justice -- Learn how to Organize Effectively  
with CONECT & other Congregations

"Power without love is reckless and abusive, and love without power is sentimental and anemic. Power at its best is love implementing the demands of justice, and justice at its best is power correcting everything that stands against love."

The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. shared these insightful words in an address in August 1967. Yet nearly 60 years later, however, many struggle to make sense of them and even more struggle to follow his example to take action in powerful and loving ways. Join this two-part coffee hour forum to engage with these ideas and with the practical tools of community organizing to put them into action.



## Working For Racial Justice Reminder

Plan on attending Service and Brunch with First Baptist at First Church on Sunday, October 1.

Add Sunday, November 5 at 11:30 a.m. to your calendar to help plan the 2023-2024 WFRJ activities - We will discuss new efforts to acknowledge and memorialize the history of enslaved persons in Connecticut.

Questions? Contact WFRJ leadership Marilyn Lord, Rita Skog and Jacque Paige.



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

## 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.

**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

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



# Sunday, October 1

## World Communion Sunday



Please join us as we  
worship with First  
Baptist Church of  
Stratford. The Rev. Dr.  
William B. Sutton, III  
will be preaching.

**Please note there will be no 8:15am service that day.**