

# THE HERALD June 2022

First Church Congregational, Fairfield  
United Church of Christ



## First Church Fairfield Celebrates Retirement of Trailblazer and Community Activist Rev. David W. Spollett

*Spollett Retires after 38 Years of Ministry, Teaching at Fairfield University,  
Co-Founding Operation Hope and Partnering on the Annual Holocaust Memorial*

Fairfield – First Church Congregational of Fairfield, Conn., is honored to announce the retirement of the Rev. David W. Spollett, Senior Pastor, after 38 years of ordained ministry, all served at First Church. A celebration of his decades of service and profound impact on our community will take place on Sunday, June 5, 2022, at a festive worship service at 10:15 AM in the sanctuary, followed by a gala luncheon with live entertainment on the church grounds. All are welcome to join us in commemorating this significant transition for our pastor, congregation, and town.

A major figure in the Fairfield community, David has served as a pastor of First Church for his entire career, ministering to the people of Fairfield and greater Bridgeport, teaching and serving at Fairfield University, mentoring a generation of new pastors, co-founding Operation Hope – a local non-profit offering short term and long term solutions to hunger and homelessness in the Fairfield-Bridgeport area, and being an integral part of other ecumenical and interfaith partnerships – including the town's annual Holocaust Memorial.

### Event Details

What: Retirement Celebration for Community Leader, Rev. David Spollett

Who: Community members and leaders

When: June 5, 2022

10:15am Festive Worship Service

11:45 Gala Luncheon

Where: First Church Congregational, 148 Beach Road, Fairfield, CT

Since he began his ministry at First Church in 1984, David and his wife Geri have become integral parts of the community. In addition to ministering to the congregation of First Church, David has served the community in countless ways, including longtime service as the Protestant chaplain and an adjunct faculty member at Fairfield University, in addition to teaching at the University of Bridgeport and Yale Divinity School. David has influenced a generation of new clergy through years of mentoring seminarians at First Church. Geri Spollett, an Adult Nurse Practitioner and Certified Diabetes Educator, retired several years ago after a 28 year career at Yale University where she was the Associate Director of the Diabetes Center.

With Rabbi Leon Waldman, David co-founded Operation Hope in 1984 after encountering a man sleeping in the church; this organization continues to provide hunger relief and housing assistance to our community, having effectively ended homelessness within the town of Fairfield. David has also been an integral part of the town's annual Holocaust memorial, held at First Church each April. He has also been a leader of the Fairfield Clergy Association and shepherded First Church's partnership with an African-American congregation, First Baptist Church, Stratford. In 1994, Spollett led First Church to declare itself an Open and Affirming congregation for all people regardless of race, class, ancestry, gender identity, marital status, ability or sexual orientation. His other outreach efforts have included work with the Mercy Learning Center, Project Learn, Merton House, Habitat for Humanity and Rebuilding Together in Greater Bridgeport.

Please join us in celebrating David's retirement and giving David and Geri our best wishes in their next phase of life.



Ella, Meghan, Avery, Brooklyn and Rhys Gentile



Jack, Ali, Jack, Darcy and Schuyler Sise



Mar McCall



Emily, Matt, Eli and Lily Bergantino

## To Our Pastoral Team



Teri Preto-Rodas and Trinity Bravo





## WELCOME!

Church, please join me in welcoming our new Social Media Specialist!

Trinity Bravo is a recent graduate of Bryant University where she majored in Communications and double minored in Management and Sociology, in addition to playing college basketball and starting her own production, The Bravo Show to tell the stories of student athletes. This fall she is beginning coursework for her MBA at the University of Bridgeport.

Trinity joined the Pastoral Team on May 23rd. She will help lead our Tech Team on Sunday mornings and will keep us all connected through the website, Facebook, and Instagram. If you do not already follow our social media platforms, this is a great time to get on board so you don't miss any of the posts and pictures that will be coming out.

Trinity would love to meet you and attend your meetings and special events to capture new content. You can also send her your pictures directly at [tbravo@firstchurchfairfield.org](mailto:tbravo@firstchurchfairfield.org)

Welcome Trinity!





### NEEDED: A FEW RINGERS

Have you enjoyed hearing the Bell Choir in the past two years? We are looking for a few more volunteers when we restart next fall. Like a baseball team, a bell choir needs a certain number of players to function; with eight or more people involved, all positions will be covered, and we can play interesting music. With twelve or more people involved, a whole other world of possibilities opens up.

Bells are unique in that anyone who can read words and count to four can begin making satisfying music in about five minutes! Those who read well can engage in more complex endeavors, so everyone is challenged. We are looking at either weekly or biweekly rehearsals, and playing in worship 6-8 times a year. Anyone in sixth grade or higher is welcome!

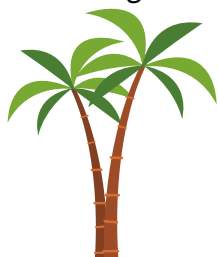
Planning for next fall requires knowing how many players we will have; if you are interested in possibly joining us, please reach out to me, and let's have a conversation before summer begins! Also, watch The Herald for a bell petting zoo in the fall!

Gratefully,  
Frank



### MARIA WORKING REMOTELY

Maria will be working remotely, you can reach her at [mferrante@firstchurchfairfield.org](mailto:mferrante@firstchurchfairfield.org) or call 203-394-8738.



### A belated thank you

to all who donated Easter baskets to the Covenant to Care Easter baskets. Your donations made Easter special for families in our community.

Blessings from Marilyn, Kim and Jessie



# UNDER CONSTRUCTION

## Update on First Church Renovations

### Eunoia Room

Painting of the Eunoia Room will start on Monday, June 6, and take approximately 3 weeks. Other plans for the Eunoia Room include updating the chandelier and furniture.

### Eunoia Room Kitchen

Kitchen cabinets, appliances and floor tile have been ordered and once received Tom Kane will be doing a complete renovation...hopefully also in June.

### Jones Wing

Renovation of two bathrooms in the Jones Wing is happening in May to insure time for accreditation approval before school starts in September. We are also repairing the Beach Road doors in the Jones Wing and installing a push door, as per accreditation needs, in place of one of the sliding doors in the library. Montessori is installing new windows in Hobart Chapel with clear divided glass and also adding child level sinks in the library and in Hobart Chapel. All of this should be completed by mid-June

The new roof and new Store air conditioning has been completed at a cost of \$88K and \$11K. \$100K was budgeted so right on target.

### The Store

Conversion of the Jones Wing current Toddler Room to a receiving and staging space and the Toddler bathroom to an adult bathroom all for the Store is planned to take place in July/August. The Store is also looking to upgrade their main entrance doors and temperature control around their windows.

### The Children's Chapel

This room is pretty much completed except for carpeting. We would love some input on furnishing this room in the best way possible to be used for meetings. It is currently furnished for a small service, but the folding chairs could be easily put aside when more meeting space is needed. Any ideas?



## First Church Construction continued...

### Music Room/Meeting Room/Infant Room

The current elementary classroom in the connecting corridor will be converted to two multi-purpose rooms hopefully this summer. More information on this will be discussed at the All-Church Annual Meeting on May 24.

### Sunnierholme Parsonage

The Spolletts are moving out on July 6 and plans are to do very minor renovations, as needed, and rent the space as soon as possible. We'd like to rent for a year and then have a discussion on the best future use of the parsonage. First floor refinishing and a new coat of paint on the entire interior is called for and at some point a new roof, new windows and a new driveway are needed if we keep the property.

### 636 Old Post Road

With Operation Hope indicating their desire for new, larger space due to their required move out of Nichols Street and the limitations on our space by the Historic District Commission, The Gaelic American Club's 501c-3 organization set up for the Irish Famine Museum is very interested in renting or owning the space and doing major renovations. This is probably 2-3 years down the road and is dependent on Operation Hope finding new space.

### Senior Pastor Office

You will see some painting and floor refinishing going on in the Senior Pastor's office over the next couple of months in preparation for our new Senior Pastor's move from upstairs to downstairs.

### Sanctuary Bells

Final installation of the new Bell head bolts and strikers and the new clock and new hands will begin on June 1 and could take as long as five days.

Please see Vanessa or Jacque Paige if you have any questions.



# MERCY LEARNING CENTER

## MERCY LEARNING CENTER FOOD PANTRY

There Is Still Great Need!

Deliver Non-Perishable Food, Diapers, Checks, and Gift Cards to Wakeman Hall

By Thursday Noon for delivery to the Food Pantry

at Mercy Learning Center on Friday Morning!!

These are basic items that will help right now:

- bags of rice and bags of any type of dried beans, lentils, etc.
- tomato paste, tomato sauce, or diced tomatoes
  - oatmeal, cream of wheat, corn meal,
    - pasta, cooking oil, flour
    - powdered or evaporated milk
  - canned meats, canned fruit, canned vegetables
  - toilet paper, bars of soap, other toiletries
  - Diapers: sizes 4, 5, and especially 6
- Gift cards: Stop and Shop, Shop Rite, Walgreens, CVS
- Financial Donations: Mail to First Church, check payable to Mercy Learning Center.

# You're Invited

TO CELEBRATE  
REVEREND DAVID SPOLLETT'S  
RETIREMENT

SUNDAY JUNE 5, 2022

Worship at 10:15  
Potluck Gathering to follow!  
A-F Salads /Appetizers G-Q Main Dish  
R-Z Desserts



First Church Congregational  
**UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
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