



THE HERALD 2021  
OCTOBER

First Church Congregational, UCC

## A Letter from the Pastor

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Ah, “Fall in New England.” For many, it’s our favorite season. The fields are full of pumpkins and the trees are turning gold and red, the nights are cool and the air is crisp, the apples “snap” when you bite them, fresh from the orchard and the cider is sweeter than ever. (Plus Pumpkin Spice Latte, hot or cold, in every coffee shop!)

We love the sense of homecoming and gathering with people dear to us, the smells and color of fall, and for those who loved school as youngsters, the excitement and promise of a new year.

Even though most of us no longer lead agrarian life, there is also the lingering sense of “harvest home.” Don’t you remember being thoroughly immersed as a child in the stories of the autumn harvest feast the Wampanoag Native Americans shared with the Pilgrims at Plymouth in 1621? The fall is a time of deep emotion and gratitude. As adults that sense is tempered with profound grief at how quickly the relationship between the English and the Wampanoag people descended into warfare.

Within two generations the Wampanoag population and culture was decimated through European illnesses, warfare, expropriation, and enslavement. It was the beginning of a history of white destruction and violence against Native peoples that continues to this day.

Our town’s history mirrors that of Plymouth, as English settlers lead by Roger Ludlowe succeeded in displacing the Paugussett people through violence, war, and expropriation. The land they called Unquowa was renamed Fairfield, in recognition of the fertile fields that had been cleared by the Paugussett, now taken by the English.

It is vitally important that we acknowledge that the land on which we live was taken – forcibly – from the people who had lived here for thousands of years. “Land acknowledgment” is one way to be honest about our history, recognize that our well being is built on other people’s suffering, and to be engaged in acts of repentance and reconciliation.

On Sunday, October 10, the day before Indigenous People’s Day, we will hold our Second Land Acknowledgment Ceremony at 12 noon on the Front Lawn of the Sanctuary. This is the site of the first building erected by English immigrants in 1639/40 and the right place to gather and speak the names of the people and places that they erased – Unquowa, Dawnland, Turtle Island, Paugusset, Pequot. Please Join us as we gather with Clan Mother Shoran Waupatukuay Piper of the Golden Hill Paugusset Nation to remember, reflect, learn, and commit to working for justice in our community.

Yours in the struggle for Justice and Peace,  
David and Vanessa



**TAKE NOTE**

## From the Church Moderator

Hello Church Friends,

It was great to see many of you at the Welcome Back Sunday service. September has been an exciting and busy time at First Church:

- Vanessa's and David's co-pastorate is off and running.
- We held our All Church meeting and voted to unanimously approve the sale of the Rowland Road parsonage, and to begin the necessary work on the sanctuary so we can safely worship in there together again. I will share updates on these as they progress. It came to my attention that some members had difficulty accessing the meeting. It is certainly frustrating that there were larger phone issues going on that night, and I apologize. We will continue to do our very best to make sure every member has access to our meetings—in person or virtually.
- The Personnel Board and Interim Pastor Search Committee are in the midst of hosting cottage meetings. From this discernment, we will determine where we feel the Holy Spirit is calling us to go as a church and our pastoral leadership. We are thankful for such thoughtful participation.

As always, please feel free to reach out to me at [jmuschett@optonline.net](mailto:jmuschett@optonline.net). Thank you.

God's peace to you,  
Jim Muschett - Moderator

## All Church Meeting Outcome

The All Church Meeting on September 14 was well attended and carefully considered several vitally important pieces of business. Special thanks to Moderator Jim Muschett for an orderly meeting in which all voices were heard and varying ideas and wisdom shared. It is noteworthy that the vote on each proposal before the meeting was unanimous.

Following a clear and thorough presentation by Steward for Resource Management Craig Way (who has given a great deal of time and professional expertise to this project) members asked insightful questions, shared their experiences with air circulation systems, and offered helpful suggestions.


The proposed electrical upgrade for the entire building complex was approved. The proposed air circulation system (which will also cool the air in summer) with MERV filtration for the 1891 Sanctuary building was amended to include an ultraviolet cleansing system to eliminate viruses. The amended proposal was approved.

The air circulation system as approved will exchange the air in the Sanctuary 6 – 8 times per hour (the current rate is 0 times per hour) and is in keeping with guidance from the Town Department of Public Health to return to the Sanctuary.

Treasurer Jacque Paige and Finance Board Chair Eric Treschuk gave a thorough presentation on the proposed sale of the Parsonage at 127 Rowland Road and Realtor Michael Traum offered his professional opinion on the potential. The proposal to sell the Parsonage was approved.

Two amendments to the ByLaws to provide for the sale and dispossession of real assets were put forward by the Council and approved.

Lastly, and perhaps most important, the meeting agreed to the proposal to join the Interfaith Refugee Resettlement Project (IRRP) to help welcome a family from Afghanistan. This is such a wonderful opportunity to respond to the refugee crisis, working together with Jews, Christians, and Muslims as we live out our identity as a Servant Church. Every action makes First Church a stronger worshiping and serving community! To God be the glory!



# GIVING Sunday



## Rooted in Love

Our Stewardship theme of **"Rooted in Love"** draws inspiration from Psalm 1, "They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season." The Psalmist invited us to imagine all the good things we can bear when well planted. What might we give away when rooted in love?

But the Psalmist also meant something deeper. The word we translate as "planted" in English means "transplanted" in Hebrew. This translation speaks to the power of love to move us from one place to another, the power to convert us from one way of life to another. What would need to change in our lives for us to be fully rooted in love?

We might need to make a move from a "mindset of scarcity" to a "mindset of abundance." A scarcity mindset makes us think there will never be enough - we must compete, one against another, because there is not enough to go around. Scarcity thinking names all the things we cannot do, all the things we cannot share. But a mindset of abundance sees the fullness of God's love. Martin Luther King Jr. saw the world abundantly - despite all the injustice he confronted, King knew God's spirit moved through history, creating and renewing community.

King once described the force of love that animated the Civil Rights Movement. "Agape is not a weak, passive love. It is love in action. Agape is love seeking to preserve and create community. It is insistence on community even when one seeks to break it. Agape is a willingness to go to any length to restore broken community."

**What would it mean for our lives to be rooted in such love?**



# Children & Youth Ministry

## Calling all kids!

- Bible Stories
- Arts & Crafts
- Games
- Playground Fun
- And More...

Meeting in the  
Library

**DISCIPLE ROAD**

During 10:15  
Worship

Contact Alex Ackley  
for more information  
[aackley@firstchurchfairfield.org](mailto:aackley@firstchurchfairfield.org)

Grades 6-8

**Middle Road**

Meeting in the  
Garden of Hope  
10:30AM

Contact Nikki Kenney for more information  
[treshukenney@gmail.com](mailto:treshukenney@gmail.com)

# HIGH ROAD

SUNDAYS 6:00PM  
GRADES 9-12

CONTACT VANESSA FOR MORE INFORMATION  
[VROSE@FIRSTCHURCHFAIRFIELD.ORG](mailto:VROSE@FIRSTCHURCHFAIRFIELD.ORG)



The Loft Community

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 for more information.

# Music Ministry

Music Thursdays



**Children's Choir** (For children in Kindergarten–3rd Grade)

**Rehearsals: Thursdays 4:30pm-5:00pm** in the Chapel

**Youth and Music Ministry** We are excited about our youth and are looking for ways to involve them musically. Currently we offer the following opportunities :

Hand Bell Choir Thursdays at 6:00PM for grade 7 - Adult

Chancel Choir Thursdays at 7:30 PM grade 9 - Adult

Festival Choir sings during Christmas and Easter and joins the Chancel Choir for a short time.

Please take a minute to fill out the survey with your youth.

We would like to create music opportunities with their input!

**Youth and Music Ministry Survey:**

**<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NKDP8VP>**

**Hand Bell Choir** (For 7th Grade-Adult)

**Rehearsals: Thursdays 6:00pm-7:00pm** in the rear of the Sanctuary

Directed by Cheri Evan

203.259.8396 x 100

[cevan@firstchurchfairfield.org](mailto:cevan@firstchurchfairfield.org)



**The Chancel Choir** (For 9th Grade-Adult)

**Rehearsals: Thursdays, 7:30 PM** in Wakeman Hall

All vaccinated adults and high school age youth who love to sing are enthusiastically welcomed! . You can learn more about our fall repertoire here:

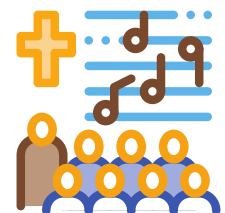
[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1rL\\_Fqk7uk2fkgrftOfxN4oiv5WjHXPfxECIYZLAQ3Z8/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1rL_Fqk7uk2fkgrftOfxN4oiv5WjHXPfxECIYZLAQ3Z8/edit?usp=sharing).

Singers whose schedule doesn't allow them to participate regularly in choir are invited to join the Festival Choir for Christmas Eve, Epiphany, Holy Week, Easter, and Pentecost. Fall 2021 Festival Choir rehearsals begin Thursday, Nov. 11. Please reach out to Frank to learn more!

Directed by Dr. Frank Martignetti

203.259.8396 x 102

[fmartignetti@firstchurchfairfield.org](mailto:fmartignetti@firstchurchfairfield.org)





## Women's Spirituality

We will be meeting on October 27th from 6:30-8 pm in the church, (hopefully in the Eunoia room), and simultaneously via Zoom. an invitation with Zoom sign in particulars will be sent.

Readings for that session are continuing in the book 'Meditations of the Heart'

Continuing in the Section III titled- Living is Alive- reading numbers #11 "If i knew You"-thru to and including #18 Magic All Around Us"

Contact Amy-Alison for more information at amyaliward@gmail.com



## The Bible What Does It Mean Today?

Join David in this spiritual journey of revealing how God's word is still speaking and relevant to us, even today.

### Wednesday Study Group

"The Gospel of John"

Beginning on September 15 at 10 am on ZOOM

### Sunday Study Group

"The Letter to the Ephesians"

Beginning on September 19 at 9:15 am on ZOOM

Contact Cheri Evan for login information  
cevan@firstchurchfairfield.org  
or call the church office (203) 259-8396

**TRICK OR TREAT FOR  
OPERATION HOPE**

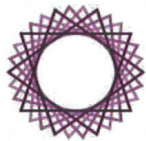
**OCTOBER 24 BEGINNING AT 6:00PM**

Help fill the shelves at Operation Hope!

Email Vanessa and our youth will come by  
and pick up your treats for Operation Hope

**VROSE@FIRSTCHURCHFAIRFIELD.ORG**

# CONNECT



## CONECT

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



## Parish Notes

### Baptism

September 19

Ryan Robert Conway

### Weddings

September 2

Cooper Simmons and Briana Maggi

September 25

Emily Mott and Bryan Inglis

## POWER, LOVE & JUSTICE:

*Introductory Community Organizing & Leadership  
Training for New CONECT Members & Newer Leaders*

Join leaders from member congregations or organizations in CONECT in learning together about effective organizing for concrete community improvement and change that is consistent with our faith traditions and values, around our common concerns, and for the common good.

### Three 2-hour Sessions on Zoom:

- Thursday, Oct 14<sup>th</sup> – 6:30pm to 8:30pm
- Thursday, Oct. 28<sup>th</sup> – 6:30pm to 8:30pm
- Thursday, Nov. 11<sup>th</sup> – 6:30pm to 8:30pm

*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.*

-- Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

### Attendance at all 3 sessions & registration in advance is required.

- Register here: <https://tinyurl.com/CONECTtraining>
- After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the training sessions.
- For more information, speak to your Clergy or Core Team leader(s) or to your CONECT organizer (Matt McDermott, 773-206-8292 or [matt.mcd9@gmail.com](mailto:matt.mcd9@gmail.com); Kristen Estabrook, 207-751-8212 or [Kristen.estabrook@gmail.com](mailto:Kristen.estabrook@gmail.com); Kirk Wesley, 917-225-0836 [kirkwesleymail@gmail.com](mailto:kirkwesleymail@gmail.com); or Ilana Ofgang, 203-460-2562 [iofgang@gmail.com](mailto:iofgang@gmail.com))

## Thank you!

Thank you to all the generous church members who donated school backpacks to Covenant to Care. Due to your ongoing support of this ministry, fifteen children started school with beautiful backpacks filled with school supplies! The children were very excited to receive these gifts which gave them the tools and the confidence to attend school well prepared. A special thanks to Rita Skog for signing up several church members at the early church service, and to Vanessa for the lovely Candle of Witness tribute to Covenant to Care.

Blessings to all.

Marilyn, Kim and Jessie



## Minute for Missions

### Neighbors in Need

Sunday, October 17

In 2021, Neighbors in Need "Unfailing Love" offering is focused on supporting organizations and projects that are serving homeless and immigrant neighbors or communities. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds of this offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to provide funding grants to UCC churches and organizations leading justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects in their communities.

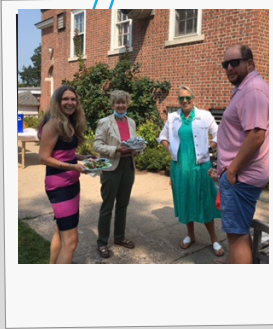




# MEMBERS

# CORNER

## Welcome Back Sunday



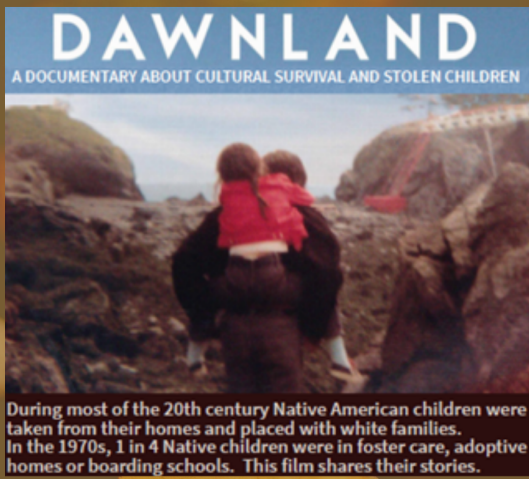
**Thank you to Joy Nazzaro and Elisabeth Pavlofsky for planning such a great event!**



**So great to be together again!**







UNCOWAY  
UN-ERASURE  
CEREMONY



Land Acknowledgement  
October 10 at 12 noon  
First Church Fairfield  
148 Beach Road  
Fairfield, CT

Emmy Award Winning  
Film Screening  
DAWNLAND  
7:00 PM  
Saturday, October 9  
Outside on the lawn  
at First Church Fairfield



Hosted by the Fairfield Education Association Anti Racism Committee  
with  
First Church Fairfield  
and  
Clan Mother Shoran Waupatukuay Piper



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