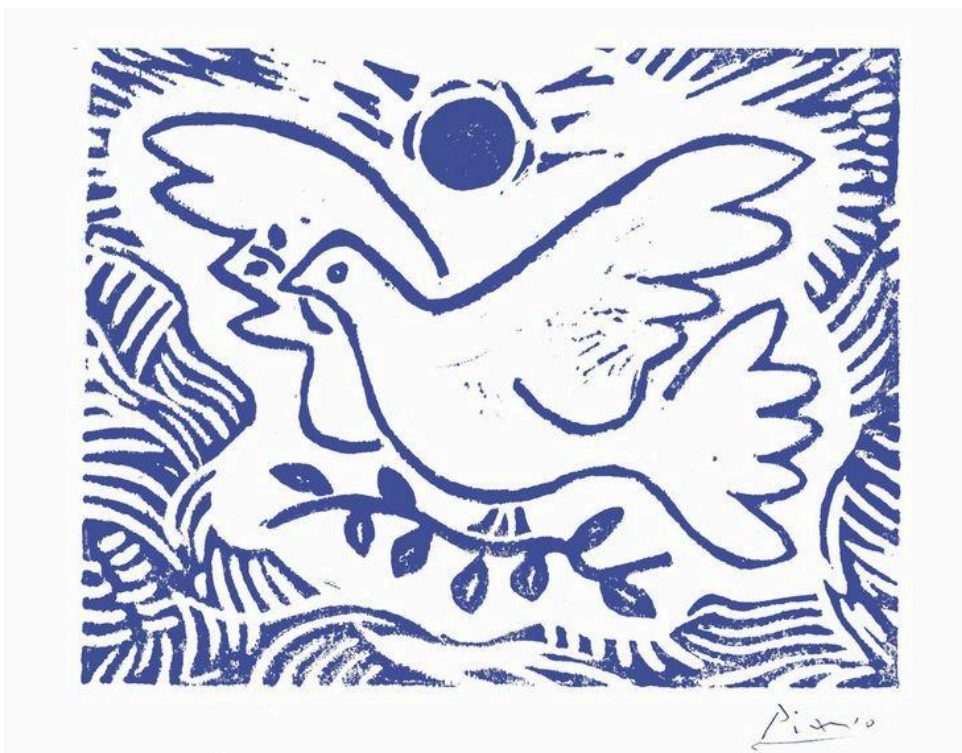




Est. 1639

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ



Blue Doves of Peace, Pablo Picasso

October 13, 2024
21st Sunday after Pentecost
10:15 A.M.

Welcome

Welcome to our guests! Thank you for being here. It is such a joy to worship with you. Please speak to any member of the Pastoral Team if you would like to explore how our church may become your spiritual home. As an **Open and Affirming** congregation we seek to extend the extravagant welcome of God to all people, all the time. Regardless of your race, class, ancestry, gender identity, marital status, ability, age, immigration status, or sexual orientation, you are always welcome at First Church. We affirm your inherent dignity as a child of God. God created you just as you are and loves you just as you are.
We do, too!

Children's Ministries: Babies are always welcome in the Sanctuary during worship. We also have a nursery (accessible through the "baby breezeway" in the back of the Sanctuary). First Church offers child care (for ages 3 months to 3 years) with professional nursery staff on Sundays @ 9:45am-11:45am. Sunday School classes are known as "Disciple Road" (age 4 through 5th grade) and "Middle Road" (6th grade and up). We also have a children's choir. Reach out to Kim Feeney (kfeeney@firstchurchfairfield.org) for more information about our children's ministries & faith formation programs.

We have a **hearing assist system** for those with Bluetooth enabled hearing aids available and also have receivers with earpieces available. Please speak to an usher for assistance.

Worship leaders speak the text in regular type.
All the People of God speak the text in boldface.

Italic Text provides explanation or instruction.

* Please stand if you are able

WE GATHER TO HEAR GOD'S WORD

Prelude *Chaconne in E Minor, BuxWV 160* Dieterich Buxtehude

Welcome and Announcements

Introit *And the Last Shall Be First* Frank Martignetti

***Call to Worship** (based on Psalm 90: 1-6, 13-17)

One: Lord, you have been our shelter and security from generation to generation.

All: You breathed creation into being, giving shape to mountains and form to the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

One: A thousand years in your sight are like yesterday to you, or like a brief moment in the night.

All: Turn to us, O God, for you alone are our hope. Have compassion on us we pray.

One: Help us to begin day after day focused on your steadfast love, so that each day will be filled with joy and gladness.

All: By your mercy and grace, O God, transform our afflictions into blessings and our wrongful ways into goodness.

One: Let your work be so visible among us that your glory will be revealed now and for generations to come.

All: May your grace, O God, enrich our lives and give meaning and purpose to our daily activities, as we worship you together.

***Hymn** *O God, Our Help in Ages Past* 25 *New Century Hymnal*

***Prayer of Invocation and the Lord's Prayer**

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever. Amen

Passing the Peace

One: May the peace of God be with you!

All: And also with you!

We greet one another with a sign of peace.

Sacrament of Baptism

Molly Sabrina Martignetti, daughter of Heather and Frank Martignetti.

Godparents: Heather Clark and Colin Gentle

Baptismal Prayer

We give you thanks, O Holy One, for this your child and for the grace acknowledged here today in water and the Holy Spirit. Embrace us all as sons and daughters in the one household of your love. Grant us the grace to receive, nurture, and befriend this new member of the body of Christ. Give to Molly strength for life's journey, courage in time of suffering, the joy of faith, the freedom of love, and the hope of new life; through Jesus Christ, who makes us one. Amen.

Hymn

Child of Blessing, Child of Promise

325 New Century Hymnal

Following the baptism, children may go to Disciple Road.

Candle of Witness

Charlie Grady, CEO & Founder of Hang Time

GOD'S WORD IS PROCLAIMED

***Hymn of Praise**

Gloria Patri

Glory to the Creator, the Christ, the Holy Spirit, Three in One;
as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen, Amen.

Scripture

Mark 10:17-31

Sermon

The Rev. Vanessa Rose

*Hymn

Let Streams of Living Justice



1 Let streams of liv - ing jus - tice flow down up - on the earth;
2 For heal - ing of the na - tions, for peace that will not end,
3 Your ci - ty's built to mu - sic; we are the stones you seek;



give free - dom's light to cap - tives, let all the poor have worth.
for love that makes us lov - ers, God grant us grace to mend.
your har - mo - ny is lan - guage; we are the words you speak.



The hun - gry's hands are plead - ing, the work - ers claim their rights,
Weave our var - ied gifts to - geth - er; knit our lives as they are spun;
Our faith we find in ser - vice, our hope in oth - ers' dreams,



the mourn - ers long for laugh - ter, the blind - ed seek for sight.
on your loom of time en - roll us till our thread of life is run.
our love in hand of neigh - bor; our home - land bright - ly gleams.



Make lib - er - ty a bea - con, strike down the i - ron pow'r;
O great weav - er of our fab - ric, bind church and world in one;
In - scribe our hearts with jus - tice; your way—the path un - tried;



a - bol - ish an - cient ven - geance: pro - claim your peo - ple's hour.
dye our tex - ture with your ra - diance, light our col - ors with your sun.
your truth—the heart of strang - er; your life—the Cru - ci - fied.

Joys and Concerns

The flowers are donated by Liz Buonicore in memory of her dear friend and neighbor, Justin Hudy. At the young age of 18, he lost his struggle to addiction 26 years ago. Wishing that he got a second chance.

Prayers of the People

Invitation to Offering

Offertory

The Summons

John Bell, arr. Tom Trenney

Will you come and follow me
If I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know
And never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown,
Will you let my name be known,
Will you let my life be grown
In you and you in me?

Will you leave yourself behind
If I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind
And never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare
Should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer
In you and you in me?

Will you let the blinded see
If I but call your name?
Will you set the prisoners free
And never be the same?

Will you kiss the leper clean,
And do such as this unseen,
And admit to what I mean
In you and you in me?

Will you love the 'you' you hide
If I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside
And never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found
To reshape the world around,
Through my sight and touch and sound
In you and you in me?

Lord, your summons echoes true
When you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you
And never be the same.
In your company I'll go
Where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow
In you and you in me.

*Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God for all that love has done.
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

***Hymn**

God of Grace and God of Glory

436 *New Century Hymnal*

***Benediction and Response**

God Be With You

God be with you till we meet a-gain; by good coun-sel guide, up - hold you,
With a shep-herd's care en-fold you; God be with you till we meet a-gain. A - men.

Postlude

Cwm Rhondda

Welsh, arr. Paul Manz

Leading Us in Worship

The Rev. Vanessa Rose, Pastor

The Rev. Kathy Williamson, Liturgist

Dr. Frank Martignetti, Director of Music & Organist

Chancel Choir

Nancy Weber, piano

Kim Feeney, Director of Disciple Road

Deacons: Greg Jefremow

Ushers: Amy-Alison Ward & Tom Croarkin

Please Hold in Your Prayers

Disciples at First Church: We pray for Christian Bassett; Chris Bernd; Sandy Bromer; LaNeil Brown, Sr.; Linda Corby; Betsy Dalling; Fernando Destruge; Charlotte Jefremow; Christy Jefremow; Nancy Jones and family; Cathy Kane, her brother Scott and great niece Amelia; Adelaide Kitchen; Jerry Krenke; Penny Stevens; Joann Van Esselstyn; Kathy Verdier; Andrea Wakeman; Elinor Wilber; and Edith Zambo. We hold in our prayers all those who face living with memory loss and Alzheimer's disease and we pray for their caregivers.

Serving in the military: James Classy, Sam Classy, Trevor Dawson, David Elmore, Andrew Holms, Charles Ikeda, Kelcy McKenzie, and Christopher Muschett.

Family and Friends: Connie Accomando (Jim's mom); Tracy Bloom (sister of Michael Traum); Diane Studwell Crawley; Brandon Deedon (Pertrinea Cash's son); Paul Douglas (Rita Skog's cousin); Lynelle Dupuis (sister of Bethany); Carter Faustini; Kimberly Fetteri (friend of the Gindek family); Anthony Gentile, Nate Gifford (Connie Sargent's cousin); Greenawalt and Darnall Families (Gindek family); Bill Fry (Penny Stevens' brother-in-law); David Green (friend of David McKinnis), Catherine Grover; Walter Haenn (brother of Madeline Lee); Yochai Harel, Melanie Rainbow-Harel and family (friends of Michelle Walker); Peter Hey (brother of Lin Clayton); Christina Holms (Connie and Bill Sargent's niece); Erol Kephelas (cousin of Rita Skog); Nancy King (Friend of Paul Cahill); Janice Klein and the family of Lillian Klein; Susan Labas (friend of Patty Bilotto); Peter Maloney; Verne Marble (Charlotte Dyslin's mother); Heather McNicholl (friend of Charlotte Dyslin), Dorothy Michalowski (friend of Connie and Bill Sargent); Andre Mirkine; Barbara Peterson (friend of Ted and Judy Andre); Artie Quinn; Dick Reese (father in law of Melissa Stanhewicz); Patty Roberts (cousin of Connie and Bill Sargent); Rosalie Rutkauskas (Jessie's Grandmother); Darlene and Bobby Scaia (Pat Bilotto's cousins); David Skog (son of Rita Skog); Danielle Taal, daughter of Joe and Lauren Strickland, and their five grandsons in Libya; Hayder, Nada, Ali, and Leith Tawfiq (friends of First Church), John Anderson (David McKinnis' uncle); Mark, Crystal and baby Selene (friends of Beth McKinnis.); and John Walsh.

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This week we begin our 2025 Pledge Season. Giving to the church is a spiritual practice and we encourage you to reflect on what God is calling you to share in the year ahead. You will be hearing from church members about what our congregation means to them and from members of the wider community affirming that this congregation makes a difference in the lives of our neighbors in powerful ways. Please look out for your pledge card in the mail and save the date for Giving Sunday, October 27th when we will present them in worship and celebrate what God is doing in this community of faith as we Imagine Together!

Please stay for Fellowship Hour
in the Webb Room following this
service of worship



All are welcome!



Candle of Witness Speaker: Charles Grady, CEO & Founder of Hang Time

First Church is honored to welcome **Charles Grady**, the CEO and founder of the nonprofit **Hang Time** and its sister organization, **Her Time**, to our service today. Mr. Grady is an accomplished law enforcement professional as well as the founder of these innovative programs which focus on empowering and reintegrating ex-offenders back into society and supporting family members of those who are incarcerated. Since their inception, Hang Time & Her Time have assisted more than 250 men, women and youth by helping them find employment, access housing and further their education, while providing many other supportive services to those in need.

A Connecticut native, Mr. Grady is a retired Hamden Police detective and former federal law enforcement task force member. Based on his vast professional experience, he was selected in 2015 to become the Connecticut FBI's first ever Community Outreach and Public Affairs Specialist. In this capacity he educates the community, law enforcement and members of the judiciary on ways to effectively build safer, more tolerant and diverse communities.

Mr. Grady is also a professional musician and accomplished stage, television and film actor, who has appeared in music videos and shows including "Guiding Light," "All My Children" and "Law & Order." His brief roles in films including "Breaking Point," "Waltzing Anna," "Mystic River," "Inside Game" and many more.



AN EVENING WITH RICHARD ROTHSTEIN

Join advocates and friends for an inspiring discussion with Richard Rothstein, co-author of *JUST ACTION: How to Challenge Segregation Enacted Under the Color of Law* and author of *THE COLOR OF LAW: A Forgotten History of How Our Government Segregated America*.

Richard also writes an occasional column to which you can subscribe for free at JustAction.substack.com. He is a Distinguished Fellow of the Economic Policy Institute, and Senior Fellow (Emeritus) of the Thurgood Marshall Institute of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund. He is the author of many other articles and books on race and education, which can be found at his web page at the Economic Policy Institute.



Richard Rothstein

**Friday, October 18th
7:00 PM**

**St. Paul's Episcopal Church
661 Old Post Road
Fairfield, CT 06824**

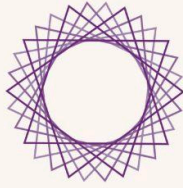
Scan to register for this free event:



Or visit: ctoca.org/evening_with_richard_rothstein

PARTNERS





CONNECT

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

FALL ASSEMBLY Building Power for democracy Monday, October 21st. 7:00PM

"BITES & BANTER" PRE-EVENT @ 6:15PM

LOCATION

FIRST CHURCH CONGREGATIONAL
BACK ENTRANCE
148 BEACH RD FAIRFIELD, CT 06824
LOOK FOR SIGNS

ACTION & UPDATES:

HOUSING RESEARCH
CRIMINAL LEGAL REFORM
GUN SAFETY

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS:

EARLY VOTING &
"SOULS TO THE POLLS"
WORDS FROM ELECTED
OFFICIALS



Our Mission:

- Build relationships
- Develop leaders
- Dismantle oppression
- Take action
- Lead change



SCAN OR CLICK LINK TO REGISTER
<https://forms.gle/uHf7wLaA3PA1xEUU6>

QUESTIONS/CONCERNS:
INFO@WECONNECT.ORG