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The Herald

March 2025

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More Church News & Updates

The deadline for Herald submissions is the 15th day of the preceding month.

The deadline for Weekly Word submissions is

Wednesdays at 12 p.m.

A Note from our Pastor Emeritus, The Rev. David W. Spollett:



Last Sunday I felt the Spirit moving among us as we considered how to respond as disciples of Christ in this troubled time. What should do, how would we cope? As I have continued to ponder these questions, i came across this reflection by the inestimable Toni Morrison.

“There is no time for despair, no place for self pity, no need for silence, no need for fear. We speak, we write, we do language. That is how civilizations heal. I know the world is bruised and bleeding, and though it is important not to ignore its pain, it is also critical to refuse to succumb to its malevolence.”

Morrison encourages me and reminds that we must live in hope, not “succumb to the malevolence.” Times are bad, yes, but we must not lose hope and allow ourselves to be overcome with despair and fear. We must gird our loins, follow Jesus who is our pioneer, follow him to bring into being his view of an alternative reality. This is our time to speak, write, and act so that “justice may flow down like the waters and righteousness like an ever flowing stream!”

Living in hope, we will follow Jesus on the road of life and justice.

Onward!

Ash Wednesday Services



**First Church will observe
Ash Wednesday on Wednesday, March 5 at
7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary.
Please join us as we begin the
Lenten season.**



Let's Celebrate

FAT *Tue* **SDAY**

Come one, come all! Join us for Fellowship Hour in Wakeman Hall after the 10:15 a.m. worship service on Sunday, March 2 as we celebrate Fat Tuesday (a little early) with cake, cookies, and all things delicious.

Church Budget Update

We regret that information provided in last week's Weekly Word on our 2025 budget was incorrect. The accurate information on resolutions adopted by the congregation follows.

We did not approve \$150,000 to be used in 2025 and we did not approve an additional \$20,000 for the kitchen overage. Instead, \$88,000 was approved for the kitchen overage and \$93,000 for additional capital projects. This \$93,000 includes monies designated for a new fire alarm system as well as capital improvements up to \$50,000.



Men's Breakfast

Saturday, March 29 at 8 a.m.

Circle Diner, Fairfield

Oct 7th Survivor Testimony

Join us to bear witness to the massacre as we hear the harrowing but ultimately empowering story of a brave father who defended his family and home from Hamas for 30 hours, and how he has persevered ever since.

MARCH 11
7:00 PM

Venue Location
Provided Upon Registration
Fairfield, CT

REGISTER HERE!
No Fee
Thanks To Our Sponsors

Advanced registration is required
No walk-ins will be permitted

Email FJAC203@gmail.com for
more information



Gal Cohen-Solal
Kibbutz Re'im



FACES
OF
OCTOBER SEVENTH

First Church is honored to join in co-sponsoring this community event presented by Sacred Heart University's Jewish Student Club.

Gal Cohen-Solal is a father of three and a survivor of the Oct. 7 attacks on Kibbutz Re'im, near the Nova Music Festival and the Gaza border.

The event is free, but registration is required. The location for Cohen-Solal's appearance will be provided upon registration. There are no walk-ins. Identification is also required for admission.

Register at: shalomct.salsalabs.org/October7thTestimony

The Racial Justice Committee of First Church Presents:



Kimberly Wilson in “A Journey”

Musical One-Woman Show

Saturday, March 22 at 7 p.m.

In celebration of Women’s History Month come see acclaimed performance artist Kimberly Wilson bring historical women including Harriet Tubman, Sojourner Truth, Rosa Parks and more to life. Witness their journey through song, movement, dialogue and audience participation. Join Wilson for a talkback session following the performance.

Tickets are \$25 and available at firstchurchfairfield.org.

Please contact the church office at office@firstchurchfairfield.org with any questions.



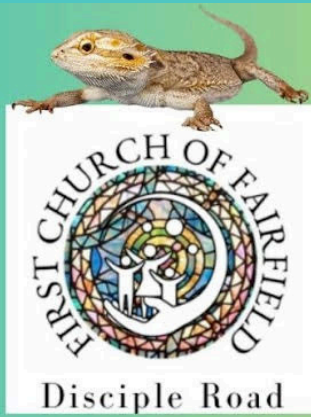
Faith Formation News



During February our Disciple Road students discussed how with God, all things are possible! WE talked about Jesus walking on water, his many healing miracles and Peter's test of faith. We're excited about the many things we have to look forward to during Lent, including a visit from the Critter Caravan and of course, our popular Easter Egg hunt!

Save the Dates

- **Easter Egg Hunt, April 20 at 10 a.m.**
- **Vacation Bible School, June 16 to 20**



Critter Caravan

visits Disciple Road!

Sunday, March 16

During Sunday School!



Join the joy of a
snuggly meet n greet
with God's cuddliest,
scaliest, softest,
& spikiest creatures!



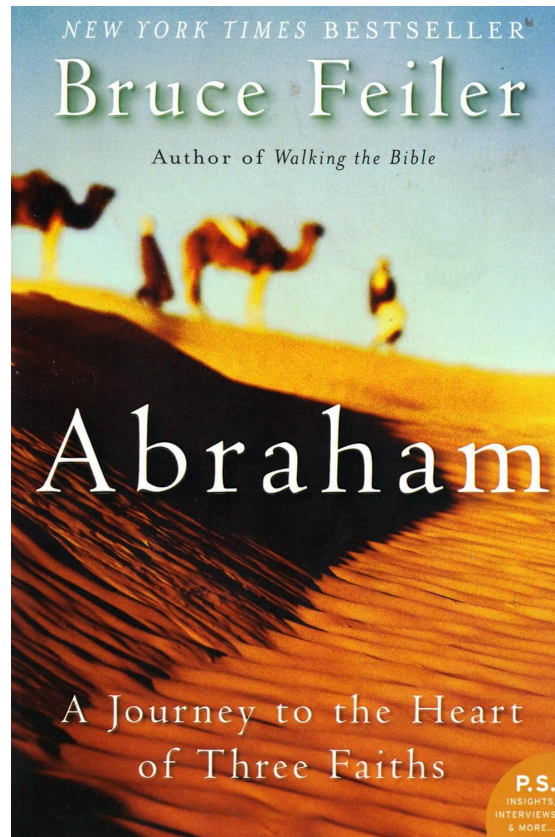
Questions?

Contact Kim Feeney,
Minister of Children & Families
kfeeney@firstchurchfairfield.org



InterFaith Book Group News

Next Meeting at First Church on March 12



The Interfaith Book Group, which includes members of Congregation B’Nai Israel, St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, and Greenfield Hill Congregational Church, held its first meeting here last month. The group chose the book *Abraham* by Bruce Feiler as its first collective read. The group will meet again at First Church on March 12 at 7 p.m. in the Eunoia Room. Members will gather for an informal dinner before the meeting at 6:30 p.m. Anyone who signed up to participate and was unable to attend the first meeting --as well as those who would still like to be involved-- are welcome to attend. Please contact the church office with any questions.



LENTEN ORGAN RECITAL SERIES

**Wednesdays during Lent
from 12:15 to 12:45 p.m.**

First Church Sanctuary
Light lunch to follow

March 5: Ted Babbitt

March 12: Ethan Haman

March 19: Dr. Frank Martignetti

March 26: Craig Scott Symons

April 2: Sándor Szabó

Music in the Meetinghouse, the concert series of First Church of Fairfield, presents the 2025 return of our beloved Lenten Organ Recital Series, showcasing our renowned Klais pipe organ. Occurring Wednesdays in Lent from 12:15-12:45 p.m., the series includes a light luncheon afterward. General admission; free-will offering. Note that we begin a week early this year, on Ash Wednesday (March 5).

We are pleased to welcome this year's artists:

Connecticut native **Ted Babbitt** (Mar. 5) is a rising star in the organ world, studying music education and organ at Mercer University in Macon, Georgia. He is also Music Director-Organist at All Saints Episcopal Church, in Warner, GA. San Francisco native **Ethan Haman** (Mar. 12) is Staff Accompanist for the Yale Institute of Sacred Music and Director of Music for the Episcopal Church at Yale. He is also the Organist and Assistant Director of Music at Noroton Presbyterian Church in Darien, CT, and Staff Accompanist for the Greater New Haven Community Chorus. Ethan studied at USC and Yale. March 19 we highlight our own **Frank Martignetti**. **Craig Scott Symons** (March 26) has been Minister of Music at First Congregational Church of Greenwich since 2016. A graduate of Interlochen Arts Academy, Wayne State, and the University of Michigan, Craig is a prolific choral conductor and recitalist. **Sándor Szabó** (Apr. 2) of Sacred Heart Church, Dobbs Ferry, NY, is an active conductor, organist, pianist and harpsichordist domestically and internationally. A native of Yugoslavia, he is also Music Director of the Oratorio Society of New Jersey and Organist and Choir Director and Organist at Temple B'nai Abraham, Livingston, N.J.

Souper Bowl of Caring



Before



After

Thank you to everyone who donated nonperishable food items during our Souper Bowl of Caring initiative last month.

As you can see, we were able to restock the blessing box outside the church so those in urgent need of food items can quickly access them. Special thanks to our Middle Road students who took the lead in the efforts to tackle hunger. While this drive has ended, you can donate items to the box at any time and they are greatly appreciated. We continue to see people accessing the box, created as an Eagle Scout project by Joseph Drew, on a regular basis.



Covenant to Care Easter Basket Signups

Sundays, March 30 & April 6

Please consider volunteering to make an Easter basket for a child in need to make their holiday special. Signups will take place after the 10:15 a.m. services on March 30 and April 6.

Baskets will be due for drop-off on April 13.

Questions may be directed to Marilyn Henry at 203-255-5296.