



Est. 1639

The Herald

April 2025

Easter Service Schedule

Get Ready for the Egg Hunt!

Sustainable Supper this Weekend

Easter Flower Donation Time

**Holocaust Commemoration Celebrates 40th Anniversary
at First Church**

Lenten Organ Recital Series Hits a High Note!

Crop Walk 2025

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 noon.



Holy Week & Easter Services

Palm Sunday - 10:00am

Maundy Thursday - 7:30pm

Good Friday - 12:00pm

Easter Sunday

Beach Service - 5:45am

Sanctuary - 9:00am & 11am

All are Welcome!



Help Us Celebrate our 2025 Confirmants

Our annual confirmation service will take place on Sunday, May 4 during 10:15 a.m. worship. We hope you can join us to honor, celebrate and support the young people who have studied and prepared for this transformative and important moment in their faith formation.



2025 Easter Flower Donations

Members of the congregation are once again invited to donate flowers for our Easter Services. Besides making our sanctuary beautiful, proceeds will benefit the St. Luke's/St. Paul's Food Pantry and nOURish Bridgeport.

No need to buy anything. We take care of the details and purchase flowers in bulk to be placed in the church on your behalf.

To signup, please email the church office (office@firstchurchfairfield.org) Be sure to include the name or names of your loved ones and whether the gift is in their honor or memory. A list of these donations will be included in our Easter bulletin.

Please send donations to our Business Office and include "Easter Flowers" on your check or your donation envelope.



Sustainable Supper

Sunday, April 6 at 5 p.m.

The Creation Care Pathway (formerly the Environmental Justice Committee) will present its first Sustainable Supper, an eco-friendly potluck, on April 6. See last week's Weekly Word for a signup link and join the congregation for an evening featuring delicious earth-friendly foods, a round of Earth Jeopardy (prizes included!) and guest speakers from Sustainable Fairfield.

See last week's Weekly Word for links including recipe ideas and for signups or contact the church office with questions.



2025 Lenten Organ Recital Series Draws to a Close

We are so grateful to all who supported the [2025 Lenten Organ Recital Series](#): from the well over 200 people who attended, to the generous donors who fund the series at any amount, to those who helped get the word out, to our amazing performers, and those who cooked, served, and cleaned up the delicious luncheon each week. Thank you! We welcomed between 30 and 61 people to First Church for each recital, including many visitors.

The programs were varied and gave us the chance to experience our beloved pipe organ in many different ways!

We would also like the dedicated volunteers who helped us offer our guests lunch each week. They included Marilyn Lord, Suzanne Herlihy, Edite Weddle, Cathy Kane, Jim Meisner, John Herlihy, Patty Loh, Joy Nazzaro and Nancy Weber.

Next up: We hope to see you on Sunday, May 4 at 4 p.m. as the [Chris Coogan Trio](#) performs jazz favorites, bringing the 2024-25 season of Music in the Meetinghouse to a close.

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Covenant to Care Easter Basket Signups

Signups to create Easter Baskets for Covenant to Care continue this Sunday, April 6 after services. Baskets are due back to prepare for delivery to the children who will receive them by April 13. Please call Marilyn Henry with questions at 203-255-5296.



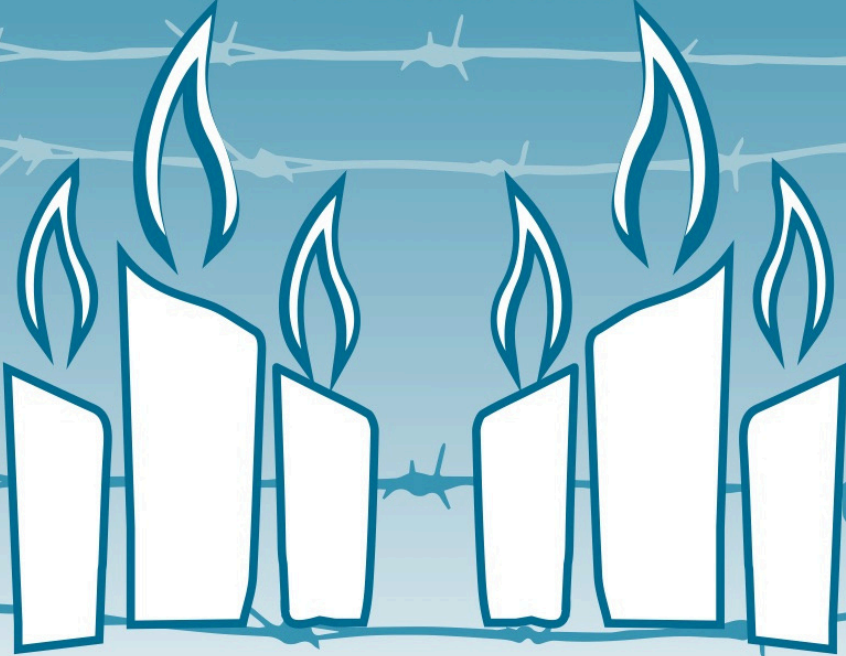
**Men's Breakfast
Saturday, April 26 at 8 a.m.
Circle Diner, Fairfield**

First Church is honored to host the town's annual Holocaust Commemoration for the 40th year. We hope you can join us for this meaningful Interfaith event which will feature guest speaker, author and Holocaust survivor Eugene Ginter.



TOWN OF FAIRFIELD
HOLOCAUST
COMMEMORATION
Wednesday, April 23, 2025
7:30 PM

**First Church Congregational
148 Beach Road**

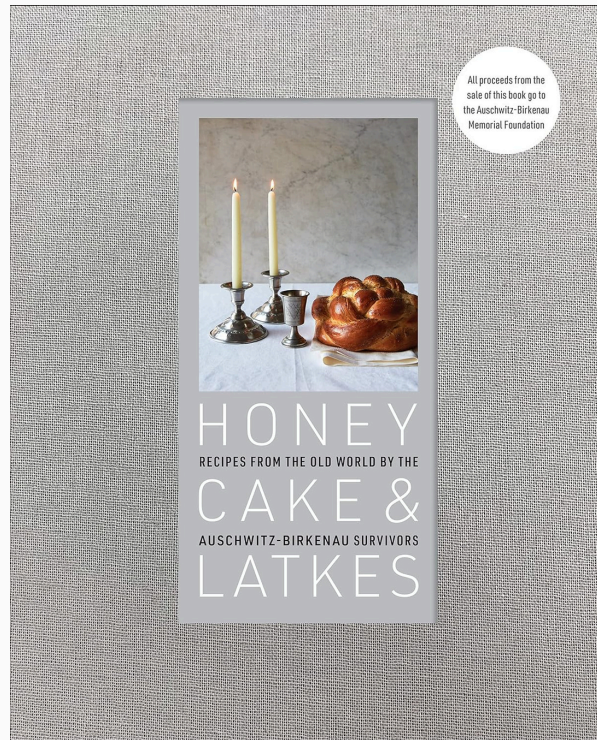


Facebook: @firstchurchfld
Facebook: Fairfield Holocaust Commemoration
<https://fairfieldct.org/holocaustcommittee>

Let's Bake Together

Tuesday, April 22 from 12 to 3 p.m.

Wakeman Hall Kitchen



In preparation for the town's 40th Annual Holocaust Memorial Commemoration here at First Church, please join our pastor, the Rev. Vanessa Rose, in the newly renovated Wakeman Hall kitchen to prepare some delicious cookies based on recipes from the cookbook *Honey Cake & Latkes*.

This beautiful cookbook was written by the 2025 event's keynote speaker, Eugene Ginter, who was liberated from the Auschwitz concentration camp at age six.

We hope to serve our baked goods to guests attending this year's commemoration ceremony which takes place April 23. Please email Vanessa at vrose@firstchurchfairfield.org if you would like to join her.

Adults and children are welcome.

Faith Formation News



We're looking forward to a spring filled with amazing programming for our Faith Formation students and the community.

SAVE



**Easter
Egg Hunt**

Easter Sunday, April 20

Begins @ 10:00am



**Memorial Day
Family Fun!**

Monday, May 26

*Lawn Games, Moon Bouncers,
Corn Hole, Cotton Candy & more!*

THE

DATES!



**Vacation
Bible School**

June 16–20, 2025

9am - 12pm

Live from the Wedding at Cana



Attending a wedding at Cana with his mother and friends, Jesus performed the first of his many miracles. When the celebration ran out of wine, Jesus told the servants to fill stone jars with water, which he then transformed into the finest wine at the request of his mother, Mary.

Our faith formation students each chose a character from the story and developed a character background and personality to help bring the wedding at Cana to life! Ms Kim assumed the role of a red carpet reporter, interviewing wedding guests and getting their reactions to the miracle!

This first of Jesus' miracles revealed his divine power and began his public ministry, showing that God cares about the ordinary moments of our lives.

We are delighted to sponsor
the 2025



BEACH BUNNY 5K

FAMILY FRIENDLY 5K & ANNUAL EGG SCRAMBLES!

SATURDAY, APRIL 12, 2025
JENNINGS BEACH 8:00AM - 11:00AM

JOIN FAIRFIELD PARKS & RECREATION
FOR A HOPPIN' GOOD TIME!





CROP Hunger Walk No. 51 - Sunday, May 4, 2025
1:30 – 4:00 pm (rain or shine) 2+ or 1+ mile walk
United Congregational Church, 2200 North Avenue in Bridgeport

This is the **51st year** for our local interfaith **CROP Hunger Walk** in the Bridgeport area. It is the Community Appeal of Church World Service. It fights hunger, locally, nationally and internationally, and emphasizes self-sustaining agricultural practices. 75% of the money collected will be used by Church World Service projects and 25% remains here supporting 11 local agencies that support our vulnerable neighbors here in the Greater Bridgeport area. Contributions are tax deductible.

Agencies we are helping this year are: in Bridgeport, Bridgeport Rescue Mission, Daughters of Charity Rescue Mission, Inc., King’s Pantry, Thomas Merton Center’s “Eat Smart Marketplace”, Nourish Bridgeport, in Fairfield, Operation Hope Food Pantry & Meals, in Stratford, Stratford Baptist Church Shepherds Food Pantry, in Trumbull, Trumbull Social Services, in Shelton, Spooner House, in Monroe, Monroe Food Pantry, and in Milford, Beth El Center.

Walk Registration: We encourage all participants to **register on line** before the walk at the following website www.crophungerwalk.org/bridgeportct and to **fundraise online** with the CROP Hunger Walk Website. **You can also register in person on the day of the walk on May 4th at 1:30 pm at the United Congregational Church, 2200 North Avenue, Bridgeport, CT.** However, if you are **unable to walk, but would love to support us with your donation you can do it online or by mailing a check with the form below to our First Church member Debby Dwyer who is the Fairfield Recruiter on the Greater Bridgeport Crop Walk Board.** Questions call her at 203-255-8835.

51st Annual Greater Bridgeport CROP Hunger Walk - May 4, 2025
Donation Form - Send in before June 1, 2025

Donor Name _____ Telephone _____
(optional)

Address _____
street town state zip code

Your Church/Organization/Personal _____
town

Address if different from above _____

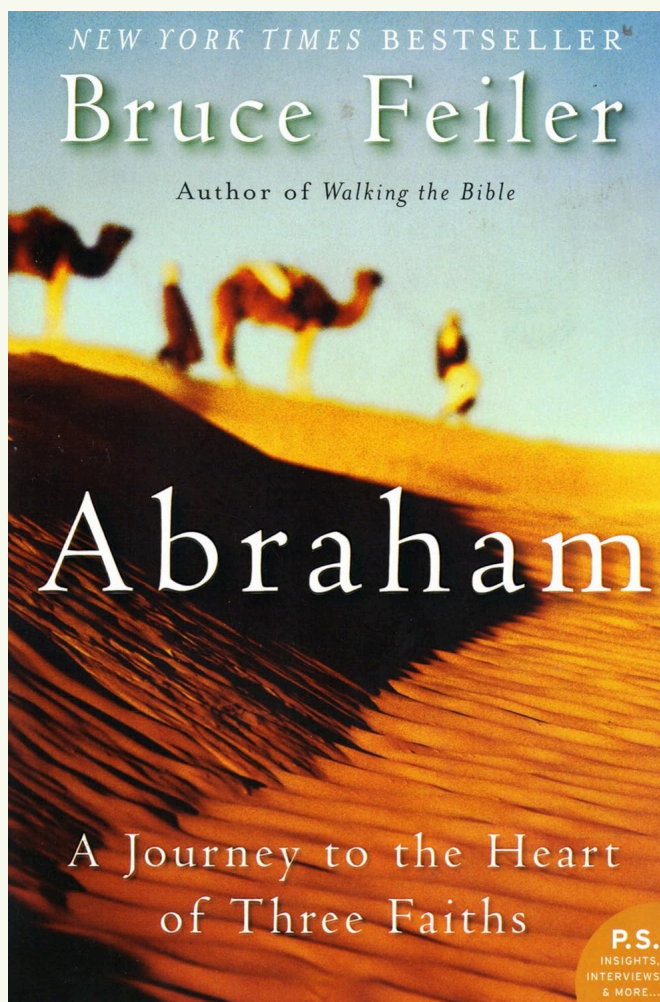
Send your check & form to Fairfield Recruiter: Debby Dwyer, 2607 Congress St. Fairfield, CT 06824 or you can hand it to her in church or drop it off to her at her house, but call her first to make sure she will be home.

Make your check payable to CWS/CROP and put the PIN # E25CT10081 on the memo line.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR DONATION Amount of Donation \$ _____

InterFaith Book Group Meeting

May 7 at Congregation B’Nai Israel



The Interfaith Book Group, which includes members of our congregation, Congregation B’Nai Israel, St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, and Greenfield Hill Congregational Church, will continue its ongoing discussion of *Abraham* by Bruce Feiler at its next meeting. Group members will gather on Wednesday, May 7 at Congregation B’Nai Israel, 2700 Park Ave., Bridgeport. An informal, bring-your-own dinner gathering starts at 6:30 p.m. and the book discussion begins at 7 p.m.

Happenings at First Church

First Church is proud to open its doors to many independent organizations and nonprofits who rent our spaces to bring a variety of engaging programs to the community. While these groups are not directly affiliated with the congregation, their presence here helps support our mission through rental fees, while expanding our reach, impact and visibility in the greater Fairfield Community. In coming weeks, we'll be hosting some of the following programs and special events.

Maggie Taylor Yoga: Maggie's gentle and popular classes meet Mondays at 10 a.m. in our beautiful sanctuary. Please reach out to Maggie at maggieltaylor@gmail.com to inquire about classes.

Fairfield Center Stage Theater presents Sister Act in Wakeman Hall.

FCS brings this popular musical to our stage for weekend performances that begin Friday, May 9 and continue through Sunday, May 18. Visit FairfieldCenterStage.org for a full performance schedule and use the code **FCCFRIEND** for a \$10 discount just for church members on all ticket purchases.

Alcoholics Anonymous: First Church now hosts daily meetings in its Recovery Room. We also host a regular Al-Anon meeting. See the church calendar on our website for meeting times.

We are excited to welcome **Read, Play, Love** a literacy-based parent/child interactive play group for the preschoolers which will launch here this summer with regular sessions on Monday and Thursday mornings. Email program founder Shannon Mason, an experienced elementary school teacher, at readplaylovect@gmail.com to learn more.

Chess Club: This group for the older elementary and middle school set meets Tuesdays and Thursday in Wakeman Hall. Reach out to the church office for contact information.



Show love for your neighbor...with socks!

Sock Drive for Refugees

The multi-congregation team that sets up apartments for incoming refugee families has been idle for the past few months while we wait for the refugee resettlement program to restart. During this pause, our friends at the Connecticut Institute for Refugees and Immigrants have asked all interested congregations to support existing refugee families through collecting much-needed items. First Church will be collecting new socks this spring for refugee families. We need all sizes for boys, girls, men, and women. A donation box will be located near the sanctuary starting April 1. Please contact the church office for more information. Thank you for your support!