

The Herald

May 2025

Music in the Meetinghouse Season Finale

Vacation Bible School 2025

Memorial Day Observance Returns

Creation Care Sunday

Two Houses, One Home

Save the Date for Celebration Sunday!

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.*



Upcoming Service News

Help Us Celebrate our 2025 Confirmands

Our 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 three young people who have studied and prepared for this transformative and important moment in their faith formation.



Creation Care Sunday, May 11

The Rev. Dean Lindsay, a member of our Creation Care Pathway, will be the guest preacher at our May 11 services, which are devoted to celebrating blessings of our Earth and the natural world. Please join as at 8:15 a.m. on the grounds of Fairfield Audubon, at 2325 Burr Street, Fairfield. Our 10:15 a.m. service will be held in our sanctuary.

Save the Date: Two Houses, One Home

Come celebrate Pentecost Sunday on June 8 with our friends at First Baptist Church of Stratford as part of our annual Two Houses, One Home joint worship service. There will be no services at First Church on June 8.

Church Annual Meeting & Celebration Sunday

Join us for the church annual meeting on Sunday, June 1, immediately following the 10:15 a.m. worship service. Join us to elect a new slate of church officers.

Then, we'll gather for lunch and our Celebration Sunday event. We're happy to have the Fire Engine Pizza Company return to First Church with its vintage truck offering delicious pizza, Italian ice and fresh tossed salads.

Please feel free to bring a dessert!

The festivities begin right after the annual meeting.





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 \$ _____

Our final Music in the Meeting House concert event is this Sunday and jazz lovers are in for a treat. Chris Coogan has been called a “masterful pianist” by The New York Times and he has played and studied with a long list of jazz greats. Come celebrate a great 2024-2025 season of music in our beautiful sanctuary.



An Afternoon of Jazz featuring the **The Chris Coogan Trio**



**Sunday, May 4 at 4 p.m.
First Church of Fairfield
148 Beach Road**

Enjoy jazz favorites performed by the talented Chris Coogan, piano; John Mobilio, bass; and Jim Royle, drums.

Tickets: \$30, \$20 for seniors and \$10 for students available at the door.



Fairfield County Chorale

June 1 at 4 p.m.

First Church Sanctuary

First Church welcomes the talented **Fairfield County Chorale** to its sanctuary on Sunday June 1 for a 4 p.m. concert that will star our acclaimed 1st at Klais pipe organ! Dr. Frank Martignetti, our Director of Music & Organist, will serve as a guest conductor during the concert.

The chorale, together with two rising professional soloists: alto, Heather Petrie and baritone, Christopher Grundy, will accompany the organ in a selection of beautiful musical pieces by our favorite composers. The Klais organ was designed and built by Orgelbau Klais, a German company that also restores pipe organs. The company was founded in 1882 by Johannes Klais, senior. It is now run by his great-grandson Philipp Klais.

The chorale's program, titled *The French Connection*, includes beautiful music written specifically for organ by composers Durufle, Faure, Brahms, Mendelssohn and Messiaen. These composers wrote just before, during and just after the Impressionist period in France, and their use of the organ as the musical focal point is particularly expressive and moving.

Tickets are available at fiarfieldcountychorale.org and also from Chorale members. This is not a church produced program and tickets are not available on our website or through our office.



Wakeman Hall Kitchen Trainings

Wednesday, May 7 from 6 to 7 p.m.

Thursday, May 8 from 10 to 11 a.m.

Join our Facilities Manager Albert Faustini to learn the ins and outs of using our recently renovated kitchen. These trainings are *required* for anyone who wants to cook or bake there. Albert will give you a hands-on walk-through of using our commercial grade dishwasher and gas stove, along with review of our composting procedures.

Interested? Please RSVP directly to Albert at AFaustini@firstchurchfairfield.org and tell him which session you would like to join.

Faith Formation News



Creation Care Sunday Art

Creation Care Sunday will be celebrated on Sunday, May 11! And we would like to feature some artwork from the kids in the day's bulletin, based on this year's theme which is Magnify.

Parents, when reflecting on the theme "Magnify!" consider these ideas with your children:

The "bigness of God" in the smallest details of creation;
Encourage them to look closely at the details of God's creation and see God's love

Notice the small things

The parable of the mustard seed.

How do they see themselves playing a part in caring for God's creation and reflecting God's Love?

Art can be submitted in forms including drawings, sketches, and digitally. The more colorful the better!

Physical requirements: Please make images at least 8x8 and no bigger than 12x12.

Please submit to Kim Feeney, our Minister of Children and Families, by Monday, May 5.

Questions? Contact Kim at kfeeney@firstchurchfairfield.org

We're busy preparing for our 2025 Vacation Bible School. This program is open to all children and we encourage you to invite friends and neighbors to register by June 1. Contact our Minister of Children & Families Kim Feeney at KFeeney@firstchurchfairfield.org



VACATION Bible SCHOOL



Disciple ROAD
FIRST CHURCH OF FAIRFIELD

June 16 - 20, 2025
(Monday to Friday!)
9am to 12pm

Register by:
Sunday, June 1

- story telling
- arts & crafts
- music
- cooking
- outdoor games
- service learning
- animal encounter
- & more!



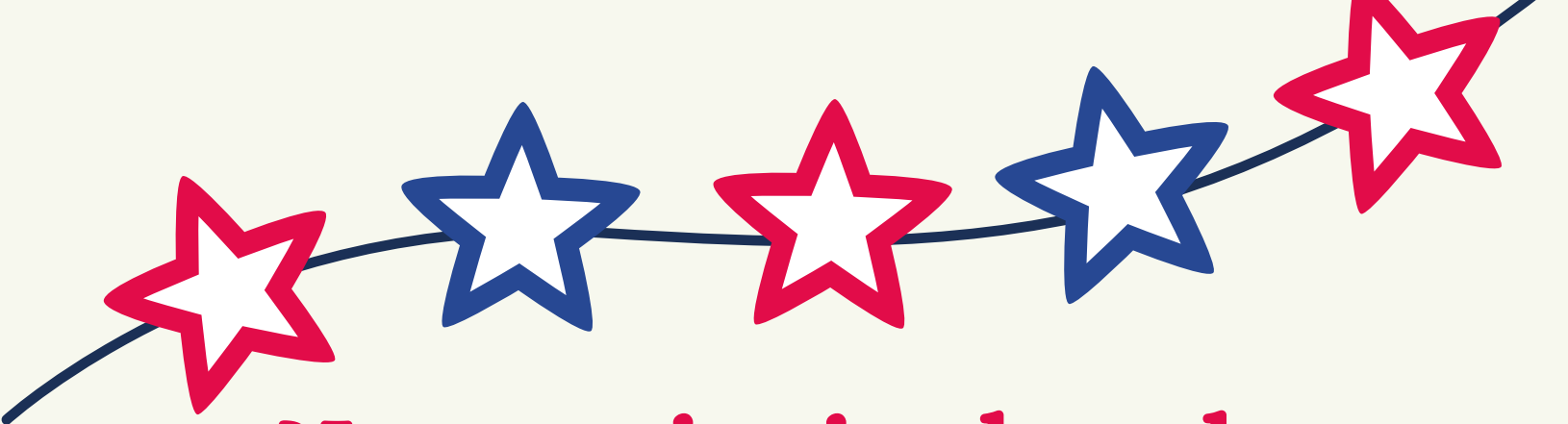
**faith,
fun &
creativity!**

**outdoor
activities!**

**First Church
of Fairfield**

148 Beach Road
Fairfield, CT 06824

Registration Fee:
\$50



You are invited to the
Memorial Day Parade Party
at First Church

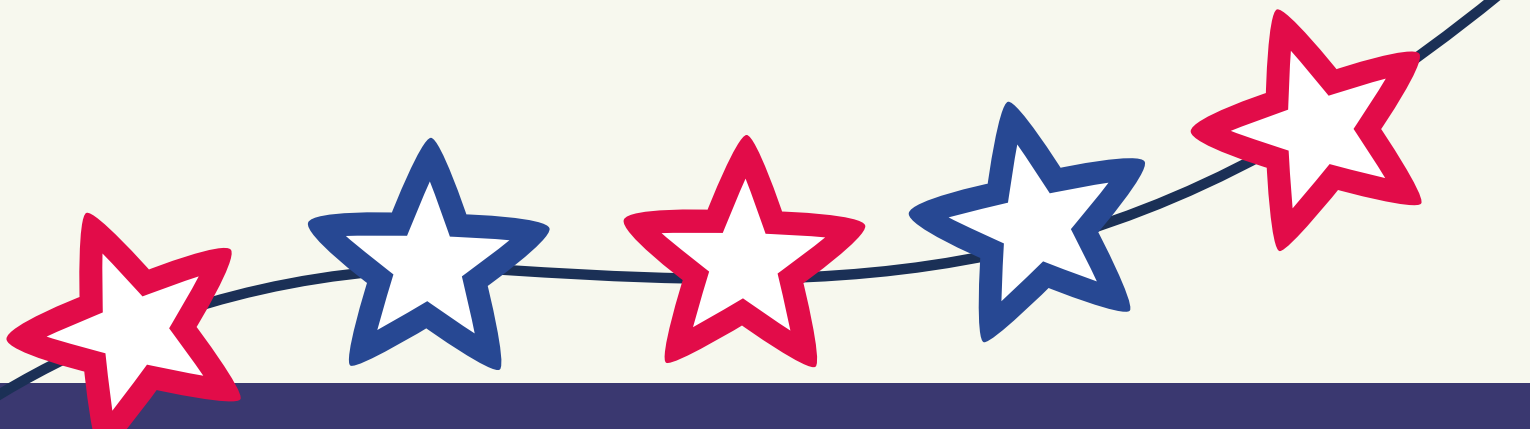
Monday, May 26 beginning at 9 a.m.

Join us on the church lawn for games, refreshments and so much fun as we continue our annual tradition of watching the Town of Fairfield's annual Memorial Day parade from the best viewing spot in town. The parade kicks off at 10 a.m.

Featuring: Yard games, bake sale, kids treats & more!

Volunteers & Bakers Needed

If you make it, we'll take it. Contact church office if you can help.



Refugee Programs News



We're Going on a Field Trip!

On May 13, First Church will partner with nOURish Bridgeport's ESL class to take its English 1 learners on a grocery store visit. We need volunteer drivers who will also serve as grocery store guides, teaching the students vocabulary. This is a great opportunity to get to know our immigrant and refugee neighbors.

Signup using the link below which you can cut and paste into your browser.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0E4FA9AD2FA6FF2-56551440-nourish>

Donate Children's Books for World Refugee Day!

First Church will be hosting a craft booth at World Refugee Day in June. We will be making a bookmark with the kids and each child will get to select a book to take home. You can begin donating books at the May 4 Sunday services. Look for the donation box near the sanctuary. Leftover books will be donated to nOURish Bridgeport's free library.

Save the Date!

June 24 Barbecue at nOURish Bridgeport

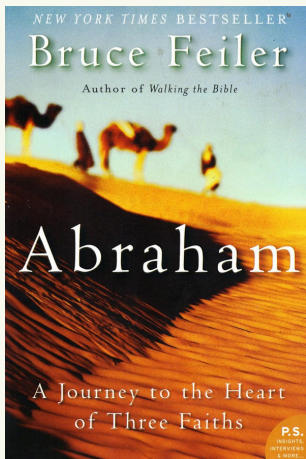
On June 24, our congregation will host a BBQ at nOURish Bridgeport to help its ESL learners celebrate a year of hard work learning English. We will need helpers to cook and serve food and lead activities for the kids. More details to come.



Summer Beach Services

Our 8:15 a.m. Sunday services will resume at Sasco Beach beginning June 22 and continue through Labor Day weekend. Once again, we will share this summer worship tradition with our friends at Southport Congregational Church. See our service schedule in the next edition of *The Herald*.

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. The book discussion begins at 7 p.m.



New Hours at *The Store*

Our thrift shop recently changed its hours.
The store is now closed on Mondays.

The new schedule is as follows:
Tuesday-Friday: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Saturdays: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The store is a volunteer-led church outreach that provides the community with quality goods at a discount price, while generously supporting several church missions. Donations are accepted during its hours of operation.

Thank You, from Covenant to Care



Dear First Church Family: Thank you to all who donated Easter baskets to Covenant to Care in April. Due to your ongoing generosity, we were able to distribute 23 Easter baskets to children in need. Your dedication to this ministry has always been deeply appreciated by the children we serve.

**Blessings to all,
Marilyn, Kim and Jessie**



May Service Flowers Needed

Flower donations are needed to decorate the sanctuary during our Sunday services throughout May. We currently have commitments for May 4 and 11 only. If you are interested in making a donation to our later May services please contact the church office.



Monthly Men's Breakfast

Saturday, May 31 at 8 a.m.

Circle Diner, Fairfield

More 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 Community.

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.

Our own Dr. Frank Martignetti will be making a very holy guest cameo during the opening night performance on Friday, May 9 and on Sunday, May 18th's finale performance.

Come support him as he takes his bows! 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.

Inclusive Education Practices: Offers private one-on-one tutoring to students in elementary in middle school who need learning support.

The Mill River Wetlands Committee, which educates the community about the value of the town's watershed and runs a number of environmentally-focused education programs for the town's students, will hold a special event honoring its founder, Joy Shaw, in Wakeman Hall on Thursday, May 22.

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.

The Octagon Performance Group will offer its annual summer theater camp for kids here for two weeks in July.

We will welcome the **Greater Bridgeport Youth Symphony** to Wakeman Hall in September for its fall music retreats for its talented high school musicians.

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.