



The Herald

Summer 2025

Two Houses, One Home on June 8

Summer Beach Services Begin June 22

Celebration Sunday

Sustainability in Practice

Vacation Bible School

Refugee Ministry June Events

More Church News & Updates

The Herald does not publish in July and August. Deadline for Herald submissions for September is August 15.

The deadline for Weekly Word submissions is Wednesdays at noon.



Upcoming Service News

Two Houses, One Home on Sunday, June 8

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. The Rev. Vanessa Rose will preach at this 10:30 a.m. service at the church, located at 1301 Stratford Ave. The church is the oldest African-American congregation in Fairfield County.

Reminder: There will be no services at First Church on June 8 as we join our friends at First Baptist Church of Stratford.

The Rev. Vanessa Rose's Summer Vacation Schedule

Vanessa will take her summer vacation during August this year. Our Pastor Emeritus, The Rev. David W. Spollett, will lead Sunday services and offer pastoral care to those in need during her time away. Please reach the church office if you need to contact David during August.

Church Annual Meeting & Celebration Sunday

We thank everyone who joined us on June 1 for worship, our All-Church meeting and the Fire Engine Pizza Truck catered picnic that followed. We look forward to our next large church gathering: Welcome Back Sunday in the fall.



Nurturing a More Sustainable Life



Following our May Creation Care Sunday services led by The Rev. Dean Lindsay, members of the congregation shared their ideas for incorporating sustainable practices into their lives. Rev. Lindsey shared some of their suggestions on behalf of our Creation Care Pathway committee which included:

- Eating more vegan and vegetarian foods and eat only two meat-based meals per week! Or, give up meat for a month!
- Compost! (And teach your friends to do the same)
- Don't buy fast fashion/shop your own closet instead!
- Use cold water to launder clothes and cut back on water use.
- Pull weeds by hand to avoid herbicides and plant native and pollinator plants.
- Bring old electronics and toxic chemicals to town drop-off events
- Drive less and walk and bike more!
- Turn off lights, heat and air conditioning when not needed.
- Teach and inspire others to respect Mother Earth
- Use less water
- Reuse boxes and containers
- Investigate using solar panels
- Calling local and state representatives to advocate for eco-friendly laws and policies.



First Church Part of New Fairfield Cultural District

First Church is honored to be included in the new Fairfield Cultural District which will be formally introduced to the community on Tuesday, June 10 during an 11 a.m. service on the Sherman Green. (In the event of rain, the ceremony will be moved inside to the SHU Community Theater.)

An initiative of the Fairfield Arts Commission, the new district highlights the many organizations, venues and artists who contribute to the town's rich cultural life.

First Church, which has long maintained a tradition of producing, hosting and supporting musical and theatrical events, is thrilled to be part of this district.. Lt. Gov Susan Bysiewicz, Liz Shapiro, Director of the Connecticut Office of the Arts and Fairfield First Selectman William Gerber will all be on hand for this event.

Refreshments will be served. We hope you can join us on Sherman Green to celebrate.



Thank You for Supporting

Hunger Walk 2025

Debby Dwyer and The Greater Bridgeport Crop Hunger Walk Board of Directors, on behalf of Church World Service, would like to thank all of the our First Church members who made generous donations to the May 4, 2025 Hunger Walk. As you know these funds help support eleven of our local food charities which come to the aid of our needy neighbors in our area as well as help rescue people from natural disasters. Debby is always so thankful and proud of our congregation which immediately offers assistance to these type of programs. We are truly an outreach church. Thank you, again.



Faith Formation News

There are still some spaces available for our 2025 Vacation Bible School. This program is open to all children ages four and up and we encourage you to invite friends and neighbors to register. Contact our Minister of Children & Families Kim Feeney at KFeeney@firstchurchfairfield.org to register.



VACATION Bible SCHOOL



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

Refugee Programs News



Congregation members have two opportunities to help our friends and neighbors who are new arrivals to our communities during June through our partnerships with CIRI and nOURish, Bridgeport.

World Refugee Day on Saturday, June 21:

First Church will be sponsoring this event at Seaside Park in Bridgeport. Volunteers are needed to help with a kids' craft. We are also accepting donations of kids' books for this project.

nOURish Bridgeport Barbecue, Tuesday, June 24

Help us host an end-of-year barbecue for nOURish's ESL students. We need volunteers to help run games and serve food.

Please contact the church office if you are interested in attending any of these events.



The Store has reopened on Mondays

Our thrift shop recently changed its hours.

The store is now open again on Mondays.

The new schedule is as follows:

Monday-Friday: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Saturdays: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Please follow the stores social media as well as the *Weekly Word* for news of the The Store's August hiatus.

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.

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.

We will welcome the **Fairfield Basketball Association** for a summer clinic for boys and girls on our outdoor courts on Mondays and Tuesdays in July and August.

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,, held a special event honoring its founder, Joy Shaw, in Wakeman Hall on Thursday, May 22. More than 50 people came to the hall to honor Shaw.

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 readplaylovet@gmail.com to learn more.

The Octagon Performance Group will offer its annual summer theater camp here this 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.

Maggie Taylor Yoga: Continues to offer her popular gentle yoga classes in the Webb Room on Monday's at 10 a.m.

Fairfield Center Stage Theater: Will produce and stage the classic and beloved musical *Annie* in Wakeman Hall in late fall.

12-Step Recovery Groups: Several 12-step groups, including Alcoholics Anonymous and Al-Anon, meet on a daily basis in our downstairs recovery room.

Fairfield County Chorale Performs to a Full House



The church welcomed the talented voices of the Fairfield County Chorale to our sanctuary on Sunday, June 1. The concert, which showcased our historic Klais organ. The chorale's program, titled The French Connection, included beautiful music written specifically for organ by composers Durufle, Faure, Brahms, Mendelssohn and Messiaen. Our Director of Music, Dr. Frank Martignetti, was a guest conductor for one of the pieces featured during the performance. We are always honored to share our magnificent sanctuary with the community to showcase our organ and celebrate the arts.

Kitchen Trainings



Trainings for our new kitchen in Wakeman Hall were held last month and very successful. Our Facilities Manager Albert Faustini is shown above sharing the ins and outs of using our commercial stove with educators from the Fairfield Public Schools, who hold a life skills class here with special education students once a week. Albert also had training sessions for congregation members. Anyone interested in using the kitchen must attend a required training. Please contact Albert at afaustini@firstchurchfairfield.org to schedule a time.