



The Herald

September 2025



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Welcome Back Sunday
All-Church Potluck
Disciple & Middle Road Return
Feel the Warmth
Music in the Meetinghouse
Men's Retreat at Silver Lake
More Church News & Updates

*Deadline for Herald submissions for October is September 15.
The deadline for Weekly Word submissions is Wednesdays at noon.*

Pastor's Letter



The Rev. Vanessa Rose with Josie Van Arsdale at her beach baptism on Aug. 24.

It is such a joy to invite you to all of these wonderful ways of being a community! Thank you to all of you who are helping to create such wonderful offerings! In addition to praising God together, there are opportunities to serve, to build intergenerational friendships, to experience music, to learn and grow. Best of all, together we are a voice in the community that reminds people of God's expansive love for all people!

September is such an inspiring time of year. I hope you will consider trying something new. You are sure to be pleasantly surprised! See you there?

Peace,
Vanessa



Service & Event News



The Aug. 31 8:15 a.m. service at Sasco Beach will be the last of the 2025 summer season. Beginning Sept. 7 the 8:15 a.m. services will resume in the First Church sanctuary.

Welcome Back Sunday

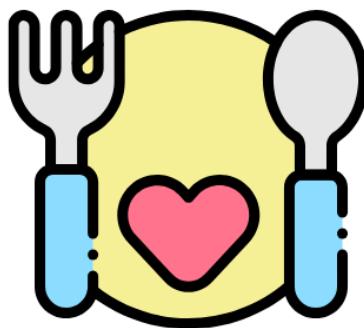
September 7



Join us to begin a new season of worship, faith formation and fellowship at our annual Welcome Back Sunday gathering. We'll be celebrating right after 10:15 a.m. worship with a visit from the Taco Loco Taco truck. They'll be offering a menu that includes tacos, a guacamole and salsa bar, fresh churros for dessert and fresh watermelon provided by church volunteers. Feel free to bring extra desserts if you would like to share!

All-Church Potluck Dinner

Sunday, Sept. 14 at 5 p.m.



Make plans to join us Sept. 14 for an evening of food and fellowship in Wakeman Hall

Use the QR code to signup:



The all-church potluck will feature delicious food and a chance to catch up with old friends and meet new ones. After we dine, we'll gather to watch some of pastor Rob Bell's NOOMA videos, which encourage viewing the world from the perspective of Jesus. The kids can join us or participate in a group activity.



**Disciple
ROAD**
FIRST CHURCH OF FAIRFIELD

Faith Formation News

Classes Begin on Sept. 7

We're Back! Disciple Road & Middle Road start up on Sunday, September 7 (during the 10:15am service).

We can't wait to welcome all our kids (and their grown-ups!) back for a fall that's full of faith, friends, and fun. Get ready for stories, games, artwork, songs, and a few new special events that will make this season unforgettable.

Also! -- I will schedule a 15-minute meeting with Disciple/Middle Road parents & grandparents sometime in September during fellowship hour.

I'm excited to share all that we have happening this season :) I'll be in touch with a date.
Let's kick off the year with big smiles and open hearts —see you very soon!!

Bright Blessings,
Kim Feeney
Minister of Children + Families



Creation Care Pathway Potluck

This volunteer committee, which leads church environmental and sustainability efforts, will hold a potluck on Friday, Sept. 5 at 6 p.m. The gathering at the home of Peggy and Dean Lindsey in Trumbull. Please bring a dish to share. Contact the church office for more details or RSVP .

Bible Study Returns Sept. 10



A new season of Bible Study begins in the Eunoia Room on Wednesday, September 10 at 10 a.m. Anyone is welcome to join The Rev. Vanessa Rose for this thoughtful study, which this season will focus on Paul's Letter to the Romans, and opportunity for reflection with fellow congregation members.

Bible Study meets weekly through June.

Save these Dates: Disciple & Middle Road

Coming Events

First day of Disciple Road & Middle Road:
Sunday, September 7

First day of Children's Choir rehearsal:
Sunday, September 14

Parent Meeting:
Sunday, September 21

Generational Connections
Potluck & Passions Project:
Sunday, Sept. 28

The Critter Caravan visits
Sunday, October 19

*Calling all Disciple Road &
Middle Road families!*

Connecting Across Generations: Potluck & Passion Projects!



You're invited to this creative & joyful **intergenerational event:**
a special afternoon where Disciple / Middle Road children, parents,
grandparents, caregivers, etc. come together for an afternoon of learning
about community passion projects, creativity, good food, and lots of FUN!

Sunday, September 28th at 4pm

The Webb Room @ First Church of Fairfield
148 Beach Road | Fairfield, CT 06824



Please bring a dish to share!

HOSTED BY THE BOARD OF CHILDREN + FAMILIES

Questions? Email Kim Feeney,
Minister of Children & Families -
kfeeney@firstchurchfairfield.org

Come Cook with Us!



We are so grateful that several church volunteers are regularly joining in our collaborative effort to help nOURish Bridgeport provide a hot meal to local residents in need and serve it every Thursday at the the Harrison Apartments in Bridgeport.

There are lots of ways to get involved in the Feel the Warmth mission ranging from baking brownies in our kitchen to Thursday meal prep and joining us to help serve the meal.

New volunteers are always welcome and encouraged to sign up. Contact the church office for a volunteer link.



An Evening with Maurice Clerc

Sunday, Oct. 5 at 4 p.m. First Church Sanctuary



Music in the Meetinghouse, the concert series of First Church of Fairfield, and the Greater Bridgeport Chapter of the American Guild of Organists celebrates the 15th anniversary of the church's 2010 Klais organ with internationally known recitalist and recording artist Maurice Clerc, titular organist emeritus of Saint-Bénigne Cathedral, Dijon, France.

Clerc will perform music of Ortiz, Bach, Fleury, Dupre, Litaize, and Cochereau. This performance will be Sunday, October 5, at 4 PM. Seating is general admission, and tickets are available at the door: \$30 adults/\$20 seniors/\$10 students. For more information, contact office@firstchurchfairfield.org.



Join the Men's Group for Breakfast

Next Meeting: Sept. 27 @ 8 a.m.

Southport Diner

The First Church Men's Group meets one Saturday a month for good conversation and fellowship at 8am at the Southport Diner.

While we share a prayer to start the meal, it isn't Bible study or anything like that -- just a great time to connect with other guys in an informal way. Don't be concerned if you have limited time or need to find a way to work it into your schedule – Eric Treschuk works it into his long Saturday morning bike rides, arriving a bit late in his biking gear.

So, come as you are! We would love to share a meal with you. It is normally scheduled on the last Saturday of each month unless that falls on a holiday weekend. Our Saturdays for this church year are Sept 27, Oct 25, Dec 6, Jan 31, Feb 28, Mar 28, April 25, May 30, June 27, July 25 and Aug 29.

Contact David McKinnis (david@bethanddavid.org) or Eric Treschuk (eric.treschuk@gmail.com), for more information.
We hope you will join us!



Called to Be Friends

2025 UCC Men's Retreat

Nov. 14 to Nov. 16

Silver Lake Camp & Retreat Center
Sharon, Conn.

Men from Fairfield County UCC churches are invited to gather from 8 p.m. Friday, Nov. 14 until noon Sunday, Nov. 16 at the beautiful Silver Lake Camp and Retreat Center for an annual retreat.

The Rev. Todd Shipley, Pastor of Unity Hill United Church of Christ, will once again lead what promises to be a time to learn more about ourselves and grow closer to God. This year's theme is Called to Be Friends.

The retreat costs \$160/person, but those interested are welcome to attend regardless of how much they can afford to pay.

For more information contact David McKinnis at
davidmckinnis@optonline.net or 203-246-8138.

Labor Day 2025



Monday, September 1 is a holiday for Pastoral Team members and church offices will be closed, reopening Tuesday morning.



Seeking Bathing Suit Donations

Covenant to Care is currently collecting boys and girls bathing suits in all sizes. Please leave items in the box that will be placed in the sanctuary lobby. Any donations will be greatly appreciated.



The Store reopens after its brief summer hiatus for a new season on Tuesday, Sept. 3 and will resume accepting donations.

Come in to check out new goods just in time for fall! Thank you so much to all the congregation members who volunteer, donate and shop at the store, which helps First Church support its community missions!



The Interfaith Book club, which includes members of our congregation, Congregation B’Nai Israel and several other houses of worship, continues to read and meet and engage in meaningful interfaith dialogue together. New members are always welcome. To learn more contact David McKinnis at davidmckinnis@optonline.net or 203-246-8138.

There's Always Something Happening 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 affiliated with the congregation, their presence here helps support our mission through rental fees, while expanding our reach, impact and visibility in the Community.

Here are some ways we supported the community over the summer.

We welcomed the **Fairfield Basketball Association** for a summer clinic for boys and girls on our outdoor courts in July and August. The church received wonderful feedback from many families who appreciated the use of our grounds.

The **Octagon Performance Group** held a two week summer theater camp in Wakeman Hall which culminated in a performance of Disney's *The Descendants* at the FTC theater in downtown Fairfield.

The **Family Fellowship Church**, which has a tenancy here, hosted a beautiful Saturday evening wedding in July and is planning another one in October!

Local fitness trainer **Sara Holland** held a bike camp for little ones on our playground in July and August.

And Coming this Fall.....

- We are honored to host the annual gala for our nonprofit partner **Make the Road Connecticut** on Sept. 18 in Wakeman Hall. Tickets are available for this event. Contact the office for more information.
- We will welcome the **Greater Bridgeport Youth Symphony** to Wakeman Hall in September for its fall music retreats for talented high school musicians.
- **Maggie Taylor Yoga:** Continues to offer her popular gentle yoga classes in the Webb Room on Monday's at 10 a.m.
- We continue to host four **12-step groups** in our recovery room with meetings held every day.
- **Fairfield Center Stage Theater Company** will produce and stage the classic musical *Annie* in Wakeman Hall in November.
- **Dance with Susan** returns for another season of classes for little ones beginning on Sept. 22.