

THE PARISH POST

Monthly Newsletter of The First United Church of Christ
(Congregational), Milford, Connecticut

June-July 2018



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Kelsey Gamble x309

Office Administrator

Ashley Medina x300

Minister of Music

Daniel A. Brownell x308

Sexton

Mark Byers x306

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Clerk: Allison Britting x 305

Treasurer: Bob Rich x 301

Assistant Treasurers:

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Don Crowell, Paul Goglia &
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Judy Haley x 301

Church Historian:

Ardienne Damicis

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Robbie Silver & Gretchen Perrett

Diaconate: Michele Olsson

Trustees: Jeff Edmondson

Christian Education:

Tracy Hoppock

Music: Leslie Weaver

Christian Outreach:

Nina Kienzle & Linda Haas

Stewardship:

Dave Weaver & Kendall Alderman

Personnel: Marcia Cobain

Summer at First Church!

Fun & Games, Behind-the-Scenes Work; and Getting Ready for Journeys

God sustains life 365 days a year; in reflection of God's consistent grace and love, we as faith community worship God and grow all year-round, too!

Fun & Games: God calls us to have playful spirits, so this summer's worship will focus on the theme of Fun & Games. Almost every Sunday, we will integrate a game into the sermon. We may play the game during and after worship! For example, I am working on Tic-Tac-Toe, tag, and baseball-related sermons already. (Did you know that baseball was the first game played in the Bible? Genesis 1:1 reads: "In the big inning". Oh, it's "In the beginning"? Close enough!)

On Sundays when there is not a formal Sunday school session, children will either be invited to actively participate in worship or to play the game in Fellowship Hall with facilitators during the second half of the service. So there's every reason to bring the whole family to worship throughout the summer! Check out the church's website and social media throughout the summer for sneak peaks at the highlighted games. Also, this summer we will be experimenting with live streaming parts of Sunday worship on the internet, so even if you're out of town, you can still be with us in spirit!

Attic Project: During June, Kronenberger & Sons, Inc. will be reinforcing the trusses above the Sanctuary. The Trustees determined that while the trusses have done a great job for the last 194 years, they were built before modern engineers could calculate the optimal distribution of load (roof and potentially snow), so the contractor will remedy that and make the Sanctuary ready for another 194+ years. Besides the scaffolding, the only other impact of the work will be that we have to seal off the organ pipes and the organ console (where Dan plays the organ) so that any dust that might come from the plaster ceiling will not impact the organ. So it's piano music in June. But it should be quick and beneficial for a long time!

Preparing for 'Journeys': This summer we'll be getting ready to embark on the 2018-19 program-year theme of **Journeys**. I'm so excited that we will be studying the Bible's many forms of journeys, telling stories of our faith journeys, and going on physical and spiritual journeys together!

God's Peace, Adam

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Need Firewood?

The church has inherited some un-chopped firewood. If you are interested in picking up and taking away some wood for you to chop and use, please contact Sexton Mark Byers at the church at 203.877.4277, ext. 306, to arrange picking it up. The firewood is free although you're welcome to make a donation. First come, first serve.

Gulf Beach Sunset Service

Wed., June 6th, 8:00 PM—Bring a chair and your joy to celebrate God's creation on a beautiful evening. We'll gather by the lifeguard stand for a 20-minute service (rain date: June 7th, 8 PM).

Quack! Quack! Quack!

Please join us on June 9th as we support the United Way's First Annual Duck Race. **Volunteers are needed** in time slots from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Any time you can offer is greatly appreciated! Contact Michele Steinlauf to sign up (203) 258-8182 shelly7@optonline.net **To get your duck in the race to win over 80 prizes, go to www.milfordduckrace.com and make your purchase. Thank you!**

Bicycle & Motorcycle Blessing

Wed., June 20th, 6:30 PM, Church Parking Lot
Ride your way over to this special 30-minute service blessing our wheels, the riders, and those who share the roads with us. Invite your friends and neighbors to participate!

Become a Sponsor

Would you or your business like to sponsor our Parish Post Publication, our New Visitor's Publications or our Website? Speak with Rev. Ashley.

Shopping!!

Help support the Church! We are now registered with AmazonSmile and will receive .5% of the price of any eligible purchases you make! Before you purchase that new Kindle, go to the church's AmazonSmile link <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/06-0662116> feel free to share the link with your family and friends.

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Don't see your favorite store or restaurant listed? You can order cards today and we will have them for you in one to two weeks. See Sue Bernor for details or contact her at (203) 913-8616.

Senior Pilgrim Fellowship

Senior Pilgrim Fellowship—Wrapping up the Program Year & Getting Ready for Mission Trip to Houston, Texas

Karen Schlabach (www.episcopalchurch.org) writes: What is the Purpose of Youth Ministry? It strikes me that these are all things that are done, no matter the size of your congregation: Youth ministry is vital to helping teens integrate into the larger, intergenerational community of the church.



Youth ministry resists the status quo, helping the church stay relevant.

Youth ministry focuses on inviting those who are not already part of the church into the deeper narrative of God's plan.

Youth ministry reminds the church that teens are not marginalized members of the body, but co-creators and conspirators in the divine work of the church.

Youth ministry helps the church focus on the way of Jesus, which goes beyond tradition, dogma, and work.

We keep these in mind as we plan to celebrate our year together and our graduating seniors. Hayley Byers, Dana Edmondson, Will Mauro, Kyle Shugrue and Abby Smith will graduate soon, along with Lydia Charron, and the SrPF wishes them well as they discern their next moves. We have enjoyed some wonderful times with them, even as they fit school, extra-curriculars, jobs and application processes into their schedule with youth group. Join us in offering special blessings for these folks.

Celebration is Sunday, June 3 from 5PM-8PM at Walnut Beach. Fun activities, Cook Out, Recognitions... Fun. Check you emails for details.

Mission Trip Preparations continue. Half of our group is traveling on June 23 and half on June 24. We are busy making connections to get logistics planned—like bedding and food, and schedules—like what are some can't miss opportunities that make this destination special? We will commission the Team on June 17 at the 10 AM worship service. And we will post return time social media on June 30 with the ETA in the late evening, for those who want to welcome us home at the Church Parking Lot.

SrPF Schedule June/July/August

June 2—Stewardship Day & afternoon delivery

June 3—Celebration 5-8 PM Walnut Beach—Hooray Seniors

June 10—Mission Trip Meeting 6:30 PM MANDATORY!

June 17—Commissioning 9:30 AM Worship

June 23,24—Leave for Houston

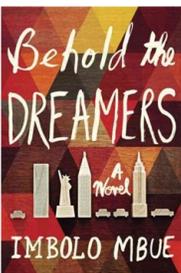
June 30—Return Home

July 8—Mission Trip Re-Group (back Plymouth Lawn) Cook Out & families welcome

TBA Hang Out Evenings

August 13—Evening Planning!

August 18—Oyster Festival Parking Lot (8:45 AM-5:45 PM)



Mission Trip Re-Group—July 8 at 6PM Campfire & Cookout on back Plymouth Lawn. This is an important opportunity to reflect and re-connect after our intense week of service.

A Good Book—Jende and Neni have recently immigrated to America from the city of Limbe in Cameroon, hoping to build a better life...Read more online.

Join us for our discussion at [Panera Bread](#) at 7 PM on Monday, June 4. If you have questions or want more information about our A Good Book offering, contact Rev. Ashley--203-430-0036.



June 7, 2018—Evening Pack & Party for Evening Packers. Check the Sign Up Genius Site and let us know that you are coming.

SrPF Continued...

Summer Opportunities

There are lots of opportunities for youth to get involved with church in the summer. Speak with Rev. Ashley or Kelsey about projects and helping out.

Milford Food 2 Kids

We are wrapping up the school year program the second week in June. Thank you to all of our volunteers! Chuck Huda recently received our Serving Spoon Award for all of his service and effort. We have delivered over 68,000 pounds of food since beginning our program. And now we are gearing up to offer a summer option for those with substantial need during the months away from school. Keep posted on Milford-food2kids.org or facebook or email us: Milfordfood2kids@gmail.com if you would like to spend some worthy hours shopping/packing/delivering this summer. We will be at the **Duck Race** on June 9. And we will also have a table at the **Oyster Festival** on August 18. Let us know if you can help on either occasion; there are signups through the website.

Faith formation & Junior Pilgrim Fellowship

(Opportunities)

Be a Sunday School teacher!!!

Our incredible Sunday School program would be impossible without the help of our amazing volunteers!! We would like to invite YOU to be one of them!! The only experience required to be a Sunday School teacher is experience loving God, Jesus, and the lessons taught in the Bible. We provide our teachers with a comprehensive curriculum, as well as the support of our Minister of Christian Education and Christian Education ministry, to help them succeed! If this sounds like something you are interested in, please talk with Kelsey Gamble, Tracy Hoppock, or any member of the Christian Education ministry. Kelsey can be reached at faithformationminister@firstchurchofmilford.org

Sunday School for 2018-2019 will begin on Sunday, September 9th

Join the Christian Education Ministry!

If you feel called to be part of the Christian Education Ministry (committee) that guides Faith Formation here at First Church, please let Tracy Hoppock or Kelsey Gamble know!!! Kelsey can be reached at faithformationminister@firstchurchofmilford.org and Tracy can be reached at Tracy.hoppock@yahoo.com. Our Christian Education Ministry guides everything from Sunday School to Junior Pilgrim Fellowship, Senior Pilgrim Fellowship, Bible Study opportunities, and beyond! If you believe part of the power of First Church in our community is the opportunities to learn and grow, this Ministry needs you!!!

Vacation Bible School - Godspell Jr - the week of July 9th

To register - please visit the First UCC website or Facebook page

Vacation Bible School (VBS) this year will focus on the teachings of Jesus through learning AND performing Godspell Jr! Godspell Jr is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. www.MTIShows.com

If you are interested in working with our youth for this week, please let Kelsey know. It's going to be fun and we will need lots of volunteers to make this adventure possible! We need assistance from adults (18+) as well as youth (going into 8th grade and up) to serve as Counselors or Junior Counselors for the week! Kelsey can be reached at faithformationminister@firstchurchofmilford.org

This summer we are excited to offer BOTH a half day (for younger youth) and a full day (for older youth)! Throughout the week, we will have both fun camp activities as well as rehearsal time to learn Godspell Jr! The cost to attend this week of camp is \$75 per child (lunch is not included in this cost). If the cost to attend camp is a barrier, please speak with Kelsey directly.

Faith Formation Continued.....

Fun in the Sun here at First Church!!!!

We have many summer opportunities coming up for folks of all ages!!!! If you have an idea of a summer Faith Formation program you would like to see happen (or help lead), please let Kelsey know!

Summer Faith Formation Highlights

June

- 6/5 - Tuesday - Bible and Brews at the Youngberg Barn - 6:30-8:30pm
- 6/7 – Thursday – Women’s Bible Study - 6-7pm
- 6/12 - Tuesday - Meditation in the Chapel - 7-8:30pm (additional dates to be determined)
- 6/21 – Thursday – Women’s Bible Study - 6-7pm
- 6/24 - Sunday - Story Sunday School, 9:30am service
- 6/26 – Tuesday – Bible and Brews - 6:30-8:30pm
- 6/27 - Wednesday - Messy Church - 6:30-8pm

July

- 7/8 - Sunday - auditions for older youth for Vacation Bible School
- 7/9-7/13 - Monday-Friday – Vacation Bible School
- 7/12 – Thursday – Women’s Bible Study - 6-7pm
- 7/13 - Friday - VBS final performance (open to all) - 6pm
- 7/22 - Sunday - Story Sunday School, 9:30am service
- 7/25 - Wednesday - Messy Church - 6:30-8pm
- 7/28 – Saturday – Movie night on the Plymouth Lawn (tentative)
- 7/29 - Sunday - Story Sunday School, 9:30am service

August

- 8/7 - Tuesday - Bible and Brews - 6:30-8:30pm
- 8/9 – Thursday – Women’s Bible Study - 6-7pm
- 8/19 - Sunday - Story Sunday School, 9:30am service
- 8/22 - Wednesday - Messy Church - 6:30-8pm
- 8/23 – Thursday – Women’s Bible Study - 6-7pm
- 8/26 - Sunday - Story Sunday School, 9:30am service

Schedule for the week

- *Half-day - for youth (ages 5 and up) going into Kindergarten, 1st, and 2nd grade
- *Full-day - for youth going into 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, and 7th grade

Sunday, July 8th - 11:30-12:30 - auditions for solo singing/speaking roles for any interested youth going into 5th, 6th, and 7th grade. We have a few roles that have more lines and music to learn which are open specifically to this group. There are solo lines and singing parts available to all ages as well!

Monday-Thursday - Regular camp day. Half day runs 9am until 1pm, Full day runs 9am until 4:30pm

Friday - Modified camp day. Half day runs as usual. Half day campers return at 4:30pm to set up for the show, have dinner with the entire camp, and perform. Full day runs from 9am through the show.

Our performance of Godspell Jr will be Friday at 6pm in the Sanctuary (ending at approximately 7pm)! This performance will be open to the public at no charge!

From Your Music Ministry

The summer worship scene is the perfect place to develop and share a hidden talent. We are looking for people to enrich our summer worship services with music. If you are such a person, please sign up in the Choir Room and/or talk to Dan (musicminister@firstchurchofmilford.org). All are welcome as soloists or in groups!

Summer Music Study at First Church!

Private Music instruction is available for children and adults this summer!

If you or your child has ever wanted to try an instrument, refine skills, and/or revisit music after a long absence, this opportunity is for you.

The following instruments are offered: flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon, saxophone, trumpet, horn, trombone, and percussion (Gr. 3 and up). Voice and piano study are offered from Gr. 1 and up, and organ study is also available upon request.

Contact Dan Brownell (see contact information below) to find out more information and to make schedule and financial arrangements. Schedule will be arranged on a case-by-case basis and consideration will be given on a first-come, first-served basis.



Daniel Brownell
musicminister@firstchurchofmilford.org

Report on May 20, 2018, Special Congregational Meeting

A quorum was reached at the May 20th meeting that was called with the single purpose of the church voting whether to authorize the Trustees to sell the 260 North Street property that was donated to the church in late December 2017. The vote was unanimous to authorize to try to sell, which means that the Trustees will look into putting the house on the market in the next months. Please speak with a Trustee or Rev. Adam if you have further questions.

Connecticut Conference UCC Annual Meeting—Saturday, June 16th, Springfield, MA

Our tradition, the United Church of Christ, is grouped into geographical areas, into smaller Associations (we're in the New Haven Association) and larger Conferences (often state-wide; we're currently in the Connecticut Conference).

Each spring, conferences hold their annual meetings to give direction to conference staff and to speak to the world and each other about how we feel God calling us to follow Christ. This year, the UCC's Connecticut, Rhode Island, and Massachusetts Conferences are having meetings in the same place on the same day and will be voting separately on whether to merge the three southern New England conferences.

This is a significant vote for UCC churches in our region. We are allotted three non-clergy delegates but currently only have one who can go. Please speak with Rev. Adam or Deacon chairperson Michele Olsson before June 10th if you're interested in serving as a delegate. Delegates will meet at the church before 8 AM and may not get back to southern CT until dinnertime.

June/July, Ministry/Committee Meetings

Members are welcome to attend regular meetings of our ministries/committees (with the exception of Personnel Committee). Most meetings take between one and two hours and their times are subject to change.

Tuesday, June 12

6:00 PM—Outreach—L

6:30 PM—Faith Formation—Classroom

7:00 PM—Trustees—P

Monday,

7:30 PM Deacons

Thursday, June 21

7:00 PM—Church Board—Fellowship Hall

First UCC Milford FOOD CLOSET NEEDS

Did you know our food closet serves nearly 20 families per month? We offer this service with NO qualifications of income etc. During the Easter season, the Outreach Ministry offers bags of food to those in need for the upcoming holiday.

As you're walking out today, take a peek in the closet and see if there is a shelf that God is calling you to fill! We are most in need of: ****Tuna, Mayonnaise, Salad Dressing, Meat & Veggie Soups and Condiments.**

Please check expiration dates as we cannot use expired items. Any money donations will be used to purchase grocery store gift certificates for fresh meat and produce.

Thank you!

Christian Outreach Committee

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This issue of the Parish Post is sponsored by the following businesses and individuals. We thank them for their ongoing support of our Church programs and ministries. Please support the Businesses that support us.

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We pray for these our members, friends, and family members:

Care Ministries—We pray for these our members, friends, and family members:

Bruce Aldrich, Andrew Blackwood, Cheri Cerrone, Elizabeth Classy, Don Crowell, Ardienne Damicis, Jack Fiorillo, Richard Gillian, Susan Gilbert, Judy Kraft, Peter Lasse, Melissa, Frank Mossman, Wendy Riling, William Ross, Colleen Satterlee, Nancy Somohano, Catharine Trueman, David Wheaton, Leonore Wilhelm, Charles Yagielski

**The First United Church of Christ
(Congregational)
34 West Main Street
Milford, CT 06460**

Return service requested.

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SUNDAY SERVICES

Sunday, June 3

8 AM worship—C
10 AM worship—S

Sunday, June 10

Communion Sunday

8 AM Worship—C
10 AM worship—S

Sunday, June 17

Fathers Day

Baptisms

8 AM worship—C
9:30 AM worship—S

Sunday, June 24

8 AM worship—C
9:30 AM worship—S

Sunday, July 1

8 AM worship
9:30 AM worship—S

Sunday, July 8

8 AM worship—C
9:30 AM worship—S

Sunday, July 15

8 AM worship—C
9:30 AM worship—S

Our 8 am service takes place in the Chapel and our 10 am service and Sunday School are held in the Main Church Building at 34 West Main Street.

On June 17th we will shift over to our Summer Schedule program 8 am worship & 9:30 am worship.

Sunday nursery care is provided from 8:45 –11:45 AM in our nursery below the Sanctuary.

Please be aware the entrance door next to the Nursery will now be locked 10 minutes after Worship begins.

HIGHLIGHTED EVENTS

June 2—White Elephant sale, Plymouth Lawn

June 4—A Good Book, Panera 7:00 PM

June 5—Bible & Brews

June 6—Sunset Gulf Beach service, 8-8:20 PM

June 7—Womens Bible Study, 6:00PM

June 10—Scholarship Sunday

June 17—Mission Trip Commissioning

June 20—Bycical Blessing, 6:30 PM