

Since mid-April, I have joined with others in praying through the Psalms every weekday morning at 8:30 AM on Facebook live. What a blessing this has been for me. Some people are with me live at 8:30 AM and others pray with the video later during the day. We have had people from other churches and other nations join us. It has been helpful for all who have been involved.

I have learned a lot during this time. First and foremost, praying through the Psalms has expanded my prayer life. Too often I have found myself in a prayer rut where I pray and say things over and over again. The psalms have pushed me out of the rut. I'm praising God for different aspects of His character. I'm lifting up other concerns that the Psalmists have brought up. Honestly, the Psalms are teaching me how to pray in a new dimension and I find myself praying with more vibrancy and hope.

I have also been blessed by the community that has joined me in prayer. Many times, I have said an "Amen" to their prayers as they have brought forth things that have made me smile and think. I wish I could see them and hear their voice as their prayers have inspired me.

Yes, it's been a commitment to pray every day with others. That being said, the reward has been far greater. I think that is true about every spiritual discipline we do. It takes faithfulness but there is a treasure in that faithfulness.

There is always room for you. You can find us on the First Church Facebook page. You will see the live video link at 8:30 AM or you can pray with us later. It's not the same as praying physically with others but it's still special.

Maybe you can't join us. Can I encourage to spend time with God daily. God has blessings in store for you when you spend daily time with Him.

I hope to see you soon.

—Pastor Deryk



NEW WORSHIP SERVICE SCHEDULE



As the Deacons and Staff have met to coordinate the Worship Service Schedule, we have tried to balance two equal concerns: **safety** and **capacity**. We wanted to create an environment which was safe as possible and have enough services so that everyone who wanted to attend, could.

These concerns led us to adopt a four-service schedule during the Summer. We have learned a lot over these past few months about how to worship in this Covid time. We have learned who feels comfortable enough to come out and who doesn't. With all of this in mind, the Deacons have adopted on a new Worship Schedule.

Beginning Sunday, September 6, the service times will change to: Traditional: 9 AM and Wind: 10 AM.

Unfortunately, in keeping with state guidelines, there will be no Children's Sunday School or Childcare.

This arrangement will allow us to have enough capacity for everyone as well as maintain a safe environment. We appreciate your patience and understanding with all of the changes due to Covid-19. **We will get through this!**

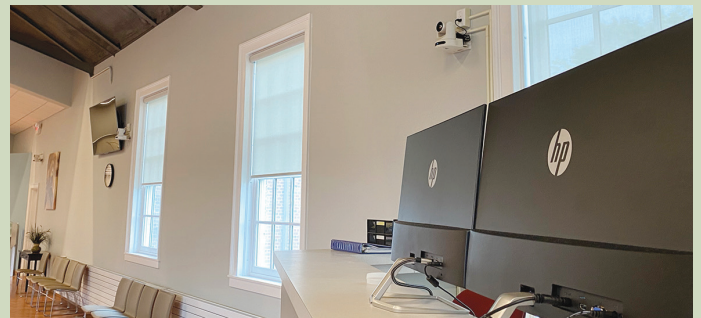
SUMMER PROJECTS WRAPPING UP



Over the summer, we have been working on two major projects—paving the parking lot and equipping KJH and the Meetinghouse for streaming.

Prior to paving, a new conduit was also laid under the driveway linking the Morgan House and Cadwell buildings, increasing our ability to extend our network in the future. Grading and drainage issues were also addressed and the trees and bushes in the islands have been replaced. At long last, we are happy to report the repaving of the church parking lot is completed.

A special word of thanks to **Rob Lundy** and **Ryan Spencer** for their invaluable help with getting streaming up and running. (Rob designed the system and Ryan is wiring the spaces.) We are nearly complete with KJH and will soon move into the Meetinghouse. We are on track to begin streaming services, beginning with the Wind service, very soon. When completed, both services will be available through our website. Keep an eye on FirstLook for the launch announcement. If you are not on our email list, please contact **Marilyn** at marilynd@firstchurch.org or at **860.529.1575 ext. 114** so you can be sure to get all the latest news and information of what is going on here at the church.



NEW TEAM TAKES PRESCHOOL HELM

Just about every aspect of life has shifted over the past few months—and the First Church Preschool is no exception.

From staffing to calendar to classrooms, many aspects are changing, but the mission remains the same. We are grateful to Vickie Anderson and Pat Gilbert for their diligent oversight of the school these past years. And we celebrate with them as they embark on the next season of life's adventure. In their place, a new team has stepped forward to address these difficult times.

It has been a challenge trying to plan the new school year in this environment. Even now, there are still many unknowns about the coming school year. Over the summer, **Lisa Roncaioli** (above at left), accepted the position of Interim Director of the preschool. Lisa brings over twenty years of teaching experience to the position, most recently on staff with the Preschool. Lisa loves the “wow” moments young children have when they learn something new and her own children, now grown, were once students here as well.



Assisting Lisa with the administration of the preschool will be **Phoebe Ostergren** (above at right). A familiar face in our preschool, Phoebe will continue teaching some classes, but has taken up office duties to help keep everyone informed and things running smoothly. Rounding out the team is **Di Krause**, who will provide financial support for the school.

Lisa and her entire staff have developed plans consistent with State and CDC guidelines to re-open the school on schedule. They have addressed the many issues which just a few months ago were easy to overlook: what student pick-up and drop-off times will look like, how to maintain a clean and safe environment for the children throughout the day, and the countless “what if” scenarios. Please take a moment and express your appreciation to all our preschool staff when you see them, and keep them in your prayers.

UPCOMING EVENTS —SAVE THE DATES

We know during these last few months of living in a Pandemic, it's easy to feel alone and/or isolated. If you or anyone you know is interested in connecting through a men's, women's or small group please contact **Pastor Wayne** at waynel@firstchurch.org.



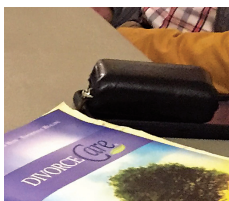
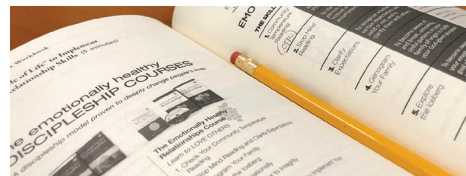
MASTERING MOTHERHOOD

Mastering Motherhood continues this fall at First Church. Although the gatherings will be a bit different than usual, they are still a great way to connect. Our leaders will be offering both virtual and in-person ways to connect with Mastering Motherhood small groups, including some evening options. There will also be a few special events scattered throughout the fall to bring women together. For more details visit the Mastering Motherhood page on the First Church website.

EMOTIONALLY HEALTHY SPIRITUALITY COURSE

A fresh wave of the Emotionally Healthy Spirituality course is coming to First Church this fall. We'll be offering EHS virtually through Zoom on Wednesday nights, **beginning September 23, from 7:00–8:30 PM.**

EHS is an incredible journey of discovery and building intimacy with God. Through the course, participants discover we cannot grow as disciples of Jesus without addressing our emotional health. We're introduced to rhythms of life that Jesus practiced, and we are reminded of our need to slow down so that we might love God and love others more fully. If you have any questions, please contact **Pastor Todd** at toddw@firstchurch.org. A registration link will be available soon on the First Church website at www.firstchurch.org/grow/emotionally-healthy-discipleship.



DivorceCare will begin a new 13-week online course on **Wednesday, September 9, from 6:30–8:30 PM.** All participants will be guided through the DivorceCare program online in the safety of your own home. Frequently, divorce is described as one of the most painful and stressful experiences in life. DivorceCare meets weekly to help you face these challenges and move toward rebuilding your life. For more information or to register contact **Caring Ministries** at **860.529.1575 ext. 117** or at care@firstchurch.org. Please provide your name and contact information.

Caring Ministries is hosting a **FREE** virtual webinar—**Screen Time and Mental Health: The Good, The Bad and The Ugly** on **Saturday, September 19, 10:00–11:30 AM.** From the comfort and safety of your own home, learn how gaming and screen habits impact the physical and health of children and teens, for good and for ill.

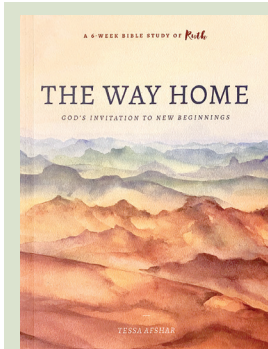
Learn from research and clinical practice, the tools and principals we need to guide our children to healthy lives in the digital age.

Our Speaker **Dr. Paul Weigle** is a board-certified Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist and has authored numerous scientific articles on the effects of computer habits on the mental health of youth. He is Co-chair of the American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry's Medical Committee and



UNDERSTANDING ADDICTION

Co-chair of the National Scientific Advisory Board for the Institute of Digital Media. This webinar is open to anyone seeking to know how screen habits may be impacting your life. **Registration is required by September 17, by emailing: care@firstchurch.org.**



VIRTUAL WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Join in on Tessa Afshar's new weekly Bible study, ***The Way Home: God's Invitation to New Beginnings***, beginning on **Thursday, September 24, from 7:00–8:15 PM.** Discover how the grace of God can turn pain and loss into hope and redemption. During this seven-week virtual webinar study, Tessa will share the story of Ruth's remarkable tale of courage, calling and divine provisions. Participants will uncover timeless principles, learn to trust God as Ruth, Naomi, and Boaz did; and embark on a journey that unlocks the door to the future. It is a journey of healing—a journey to a new life. The workbook ***The Way Home*** by Tessa Afshar is required and can be ordered on Amazon. **To register contact Marilyn Danileson at marilynd@firstchurch.org or at 860.529.1575.**

BOOK OF LIFE

BIRTHS

MacKenzie Jade,
daughter of Leo and Jessica (Elmore) Cieri
Eva Grace,
daughter of Matt and Patti (Morin) Berloe
Ace Jackson,
son of Desmine and Nicole (Hertle) Smith

ENTERED ETERNAL LIFE

Janis Anderson, January 22, 2020
Terrie Peterson, February 5, 2020
Betty Woodward, February 5, 2020
Richard Lasher, February 23, 2020
Richard Geikie, April 15, 2020
Virginia Baer, April 16, 2020
Kathryn Popowycz, April 18, 2020
Julie McLean, April 21, 2020
Deane Felter, May 4, 2020
Mac Harper, June 27, 2020
Barbara Graves, August 24, 2020

*We rejoice with those who rejoice and
weep with those who weep. ~Romans:12:15*

First Church

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST IN WETHERSFIELD

CONGREGATIONAL

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250 Main Street, Wethersfield, CT 06109
firstchurch.org

Email: info@firstchurch.org

The Spire online: firstchurch.org/spire

facebook.com/FirstChurchPage
[IG/ first_church_wethersfield](https://www.instagram.com/first_church_wethersfield)

OUR MISSION

*We are a community of Jesus
followers who love God, love one
another, and make disciples.*

WORSHIP SERVICES

Traditional Service:

9 AM

(the Meetinghouse)

Contemporary "Wind" Service:

10:00 AM

(Keith Jones Hall)

GIVING—For info about **e-giving**—
contributing via a monthly automatic
withdrawal from your bank account—
call the Finance Office, 860.529.1575 x221.
You can also **give online**, at firstchurch.org
(the ONLINE GIVING tab).

Jey Deifell.....Minister Emeritus
Diane Galloway.....Director of Caring Ministries
Wayne Luman.....Associate Minister
Sean McCarthy.....Director of Music
Deryk Richenburg.....Senior Minister
Lisa Roncaoli.....Interim Director of Preschool
Andrew Shattuck.....Church Administrator
Todd Willard.....Associate Minister

DATED MATERIAL
Mailed Sept. 2, 2020

PERIODICAL
POSTAGE PAID
at Hartford,
Connecticut

The Spire (USPS 441-830) is published four times a year, August, December, March, and May,
by The First Church of Christ in Wethersfield, 250 Main Street, Wethersfield, Connecticut 06109.

POSTMASTER — Send address changes to: The Spire, 250 Main Street, Wethersfield, CT 06109-1893

WE HOPE YOU WILL JOIN US IN WORSHIP!



Whether in person or online,
we hope you have joined us
for our summer sermon series
based on Jesus's Sermon on
the Mount from Matthew 5–7.

This sermon series will run
through November 22.

Visit our website, www.firstchurch.org
for weekly
sermons and devotionals.

THANK YOU FOR 47 YEARS!

Nearly 47 years ago, **Bob Keleher** began a new chapter of life. He joined the staff of First Church in the fall of 1973. Over the years we have had the privilege of Bob's steady hand overseeing the buildings and property at the corner of Marsh and Main. There have been four senior ministers, four major construction projects, and countless HVAC and plumbing crises during his tenure.

Come the end of October, Bob will begin yet another chapter, this one titled "Retirement." All of us will greatly miss Bob's humor, his poetry, and his steadfast presence. Personally, I will miss the vast historical wealth of knowledge of the campus he holds in his head. Thank you, Bob for your many years of service.

May the coming years bless you as you have blessed us!

—Drew Shattuck

