



It goes without saying, Jesus’s ministry was successful. Mark 1:33-34 tells us, “And the whole city was gathered at the door. And He (Jesus) healed many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons.” But what Jesus did next surprised everyone: he stepped away. Mark tells us in the next verse Jesus rose early and departed to be with His Father.

When Jesus stepped away that morning, He focused on two things so He could emerge renewed in God’s mission for Him. First, Jesus wanted intimacy with the Father. He wanted to be face-to-face with His Dad. He needed, He craved time with Him—just the two of them. Second, Jesus wanted guidance from His Father. Whenever Jesus had to make a decision, He first looked to the Father. In this passage, Jesus wanted to know how to deal with the attention His ministry was creating; He wanted to know how to handle it. He wanted to make sure He continued following His Father’s plan above all, no matter what kind of earthly success He experienced.

After spending time with His Father, Jesus returned with a clear mission. He told Peter in Mark 1:38, “Let us go on to the next towns, that I may preach there also, for that is why I came out.”

I’m humbled and thankful you’ve given me the opportunity to step away as well. I’m looking forward to spending time with God and family. Can I encourage you to take some time this summer to step away from your normal routine as well? It could be for a long walk in the woods or an overnight to just be with Jesus. Your time with Jesus will be fruitful as the Holy Spirit does His transforming work in you.

*Blessings to you and I’ll see you in the Fall!*

—Pastor Deryk



*Have you ever driven by the church in the evening and wondered what it takes to change a light bulb way up in the steeple?*

*Well this past month, the light bulbs in the steeple were replaced and this is what it took. Many people passing by as well as our own Preschool children, enjoyed taking in the scene of this large and very impressive task. Can you imagine this job before there were hydraulic lifts?*

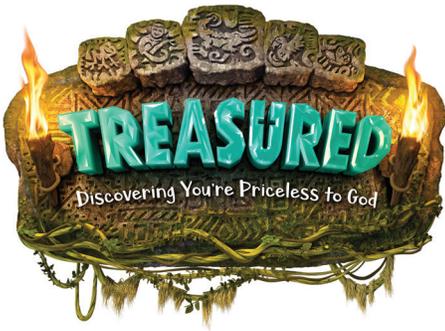
## FINANCIAL MEETING REMINDER— SUNDAY, JUNE 13

Our Annual Financial Meeting will be held in the Meetinghouse on **Sunday, June 13**. Both services will be at 10 AM with the meeting to follow. All members are urged to attend. Thank you!

## FINANCIALLY SPEAKING | Offerings — APRIL 2021

	Actual this year	Budget this year	Discrepancy
Month to Date	\$85,808	\$124,380	(\$38,572)
Year to Date	\$922,607	\$1,012,410	(\$89,803)

# UPCOMING CLASSES AND EVENTS — SUMMER '21



## VACATION BIBLE CAMP

Registration is underway for the return of **Vacation Bible Camp!** July 19 — July 23; we'll experience an amazing adventure called "Treasured!" **Children ages 4 through completed 5th grade** are invited to join in the fun. To register, visit our website at [www.firstchurch.org/events](http://www.firstchurch.org/events) and follow the links for "Treasured".

Older kids and teens are encouraged to join our leadership team. We'd love your help bringing this live event back to First Church. If you, or your older kids, would like to join our team, please contact me at [toddw@firstchurch.org](mailto:toddw@firstchurch.org). There are many other ways to support the camp, drop me a note, I'd love to get you connected. — **Pastor Todd**

## FOREVER YOUNG SENIORS SUMMER PICNICS ARE BACK!!!

Join us here at First Church, on the Morgan House Lawn on **Tuesday, July 13 and August 17 from 12 Noon–2:00 PM.** Please bring your own lunch and chair. (Rain dates will be July 20 and August 24 respectively.) If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact **John Wieder** at [860-316-5154 or jwiederiii@gmail.com](mailto:jwiederiii@gmail.com).



We recently completed our third year of **Emotionally Healthy Discipleship (EHD)**. Although we gathered virtually, it was an incredible journey. I'm excited for our **next wave of EHD which will begin in late September.** The EHD course is more than a class; its a call to shape our

lives after the ways of Jesus. The first semester explores the rhythms of our lives and participants learn from Jesus how to slow life down for a deeper relationship with God. We also examine our emotional health and acknowledge the work that God longs to do within us. In the second semester, we learn and practice, eight skills which help us put into action Jesus' command to love others as we love God. Our hope and prayer is to see all of First Church take part in this experience. Look for registration to begin later this summer. Questions? **Email Pastor Todd** at [toddw@firstchurch.org](mailto:toddw@firstchurch.org).



God has been faithful in so many ways through the challenges of this past year. Three years ago, First Church partnered with **Mastering Motherhood** to create an intentional space for mamas, of all ages, where they could receive support, encouragement, friendship, great food, and childcare. Our first year and a half was incredible. The Marsh building overflowed with life every Thursday morning. Amazing stories of God's goodness emerged from this community of women. During the pandemic, they persevered. I'm so proud of the leaders who, under the direction of **Elissa Rader, Ashley Price and Stephanie**

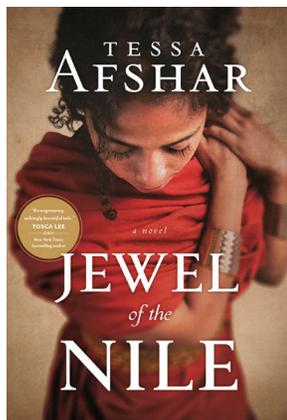
**Hathaway**, continued to seek creative ways of connecting with mamas. In **September, we'll re-launch Mastering Motherhood**, returning to in-person meeting on Thursday mornings in Keith Jones Hall with childcare. Under new leadership, **Nikki Monsonis and Meg Siracusa** have embraced the call to lead this next chapter. Please pray for them this summer as God prepares their hearts. There are also many ways you can help Mastering Motherhood take its next steps at First Church. If God has placed this ministry on your heart, please reach out to **Pastor Todd** at [toddw@firstchurch.org](mailto:toddw@firstchurch.org) or at **860.529.1575 ext. 120.**



## THREE-WEEK VIRTUAL BOOK AND A MUG CLUB WITH AUTHOR TESSA AFSHAR

Join us for a two-week Bible study based on Priscilla and Aquila, followed by a one-week book club of *Daughter of Rome*, Tessa's novel based on this beloved couple.

This virtual gathering is via zoom, and will be held on Tuesdays at 7:00 PM, starting on August 10 and finishing on August 24. To Sign-up, visit our website at [www.firstchurch.org/grow](http://www.firstchurch.org/grow) and click on the Book and a Mug link. Those who register for this study will receive a free devotional guideline called *Cultivating Faith: Lessons from Priscilla and Aquila* in preparation for the class.



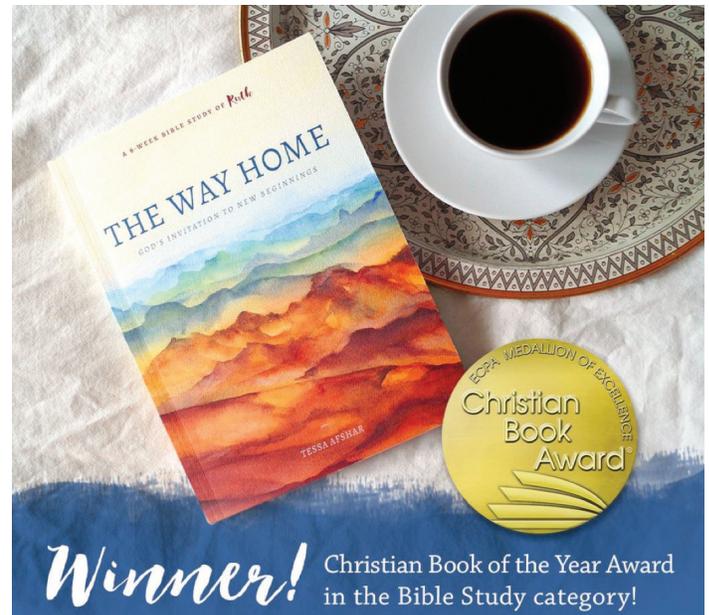
## JEWEL OF THE NILE RELEASE AND BOOK SIGNING

Tessa's latest novel, *Jewel of the Nile* is releasing on June 1.

To purchase a copy, please send an email to [care@firstchurch.org](mailto:care@firstchurch.org).

Please include your; name, if you want a general autograph or dedication to a specific person; and your contact information. The price for First Church people will be \$12. Please make checks payable to Tessa Afshar and send or drop off your checks to Caring Ministries here at the church. Individuals who purchase autographed copies of the book, will be notified when they will be available for pick-up at the church.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO TESSA AFSHAR** for winning the ECPA Christian Book of the Year Award in the Bible Study Category for her book *The Way Home: God's Invitation for New Beginnings*. Tessa and Diane Galloway led some of our women in a virtual study of this book last Fall. We are grateful to God as He pours His grace in seen and unseen ways in our midst!



## A WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEW STAFF MEMBERS!



We are excited to welcome **Mike Davis** to the staff of First Church. Mike serves as Property Manager and comes to us from the Atrium where he served in a similar capacity. Mike resides in East Hartford with his wife, Kiara and their two—soon to be three, children. A native of East Hartford, Mike knows the area and shares an

appreciation for the care necessary to maintain our historic campus. He takes over for Roger Willard, who is shifting to a part-time position this summer.

And welcome to **Nathan Scalise**, the new leader of the Wind Worship team. Nathan brings many musical gifts and talents and is currently a Doctor of Musical Arts student in Composition at the Hartt School. He has a deep, vibrant faith in Jesus and an outstanding character. His roots in the Christian faith run deep—he is the son, grandson, and great-grandson of pastors who all ministered in New England. He and his wife Zoe, live in Cheshire. We are looking forward to seeing what God will do in and through Nathan.



## BOOK OF LIFE

### BIRTHS

*Estelle Violet*, daughter of Ned and Veronica (Pierce) Gjino  
02/01/2021

### BAPTISMS

*Eva Berloe*, daughter of Matthew and Patricia (Morin) Berloe  
05/02/2021

### DEATHS

*John Post* 03/09/2021  
*Gayle Morgan Baldwin* 03/30/2021  
*Alan Birmingham* 04/21/2021  
*William (Bill) Jagel* 04/27/2021

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

## First Church

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST IN WETHERSFIELD

### CONGREGATIONAL

860.529.1575 | Fax: 860.721.7861  
250 Main Street, Wethersfield, CT 06109  
[firstchurch.org](http://firstchurch.org)

Email: [info@firstchurch.org](mailto:info@firstchurch.org)  
*The Spire* online: [firstchurch.org/spire](http://firstchurch.org/spire)

**FACEBOOK/FirstChurchPage**  
**IG/ first\_church\_wethersfield**  
**YouTube/ 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)

**BOTH Services are now LIVE on our YouTube Channel at:**  
**First Church Wethersfield**

**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](http://firstchurch.org) (the **ONLINE GIVING** tab).

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

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Connecticut

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## GRATITUDE AND THANKSGIVING



A special word of 'thanks' to all those who joined us for **WorkDay 2021** on **Saturday, May 8**. Numerous projects were completed, both inside and outside, to get our facility and campus ready for spring and beyond. We are blessed to have such a willing congregation to assist our staff in keeping up with seasonal chores. Your time and efforts are much appreciated, so Thank You!

If you missed out, don't worry. .WorkDay 2022 is just around the corner!

Please take a moment to thank the **Wind Worship Team**, as they transition to new leadership. They have done so well during this COVID season, faithfully leading us through challenging times. God has been doing great things through them and has drawn us all closer to Himself as a result of their leading **Thank You, Worship Team!**



*Check out these beautiful tulips planted by our Preschool classes out in the playground area. What a glorious gift and reminder of the beauty of our Lord, our Creator—Our Savior.*