

INSPIRE

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH'S BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



Dear Church Family,

Summer is coming! As our congregation continues to take steps out of pandemic life, below are a few First Church life updates and hopes for days to come.

- Our regular Sunday service will move from 10 a.m. to **9 a.m. Sunday, July the 3rd until Sunday, September the 4th.**
- Our search committee continues to interview for an associate minister. The Christian Education Committee is interviewing for the Director of Children and Family Ministries, and Pilgrim Fellowship Committee will begin interviewing soon.
- Our **communal garden** is sprouting. Please come by. The garden is off the church parking lot behind the carriage shed. Work the garden if you like and all please feed your household. We take food to Guilford Food Bank and share with Branford's Community Dining Room too.
- Our Stewardship Community is excited to provide committees and boards opportunities to talk about your ministries and what you love about First Church! Contact church office or Dick Harter by **August 14** if interested in highlighting your ministry through video.

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- We are planning a homecoming picnic on **September 11** after the service. We would like to branch out to **Second Sundays in the Chapel for service at 8:30 a.m. beginning October 9**. Thoughts? Please email the office. We are celebrating communion in the sanctuary together and hoping for **World Communion Sunday, October 2**, to celebrate without plastic containers for the elements.
- We are planning **Stewardship Month** in November and plan to have a celebration dinner. We are hoping Christmas concerts will return **December the 2nd and 3rd**. Our Christmas tree will be in the sanctuary and lessons and carols will return on **December the 11th**, Sunday school pageant on the **18th**; Christmas Caroling and Christmas Eve services on the **24th**; and a casual Christmas Sunday service on the **25th**.

As we look ahead, a few requests for now. **Housing**. If you or someone you know has a basement or garage apartment or separate entrance in your home, please consider renting or sharing. We have several folks in need of housing. Also, if you have space and the time to **foster-parent**, please do! Children and youth are in need. Again, if you can visit, write notes, make meals, or provide transportation to our church members, please contact Diane Weidmann or the church office.

We gather in church to foster our faith and we depart to live out our faith. May we do so.

Ginger



June/July Worship Notes

Sunday, June 19: Graduation Sunday & Father's Day Remembrance

9:30 a.m. Father's Day Remembrance - Memorial Garden

10 a.m. In-person Worship – Sanctuary

Sunday, June 26: 10 a.m. In-person Worship – Sanctuary. Children in grades K-3 are invited to an informal playtime after the 10:16 moment.

Sunday, July 3: Summer Worship Schedule Begins:

9 a.m. In-person Worship – Sanctuary.

More summer details:

- **Sundays, July 3 – September 4, 2022: In-person worship will take place Sundays at 9 a.m. in the sanctuary.** There will be no 8:30 a.m. or 10 a.m. service.
- July 3 – No children's program
- July 10, 17, 24 – Informal children's playtime for grades K – 3 after the 10:16 moment during the 9 a.m. worship service
- **July 31 – Celebration for Judi Wallace,** Children and Family Ministries and Pilgrim Fellowship Director. No K-3 playtime today.
- August children's programming: TBA

Deacon for June: Peter Palumbo

If you have questions or reflections about the spiritual life of the church, please contact Peter at 203-996-5040 or peter@palumbosautomotive.com.

Parish Care Team Contact for June: Karen Kalbfeld

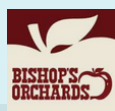
Please notify Karen (203-458-7990 or kkalbfeld23@gmail.com) if you have welcomed new family members or if anyone who may need a note of sympathy or encouragement or a prayer shawl.

Drivers Needed. If you'd be willing to provide transportation for a church member, either on a volunteer or reimbursed/paid basis, please contact Diane Weidmann, Parish Care Team, dianeweidmann@icloud.com or 203-668-3496. Thank you!



Do you like to cook? We are looking for volunteers to be added to our list of meal makers. If you would like to make and deliver a meal for someone going through a tough time, please call or email Pam D'Amico. Delivery can also be arranged. (860-338-4811 or damicopamela@gmail.com)

Grocery Cards to Benefit First Church. Don't forget to pick up your grocery cards to benefit First Church. \$100 by cash or check buys a Big Y, Bishop's, or Stop & Shop card; you receive \$100 of groceries and First Church receives 5%. Cards are available for purchase after worship in the narthex. Thanks to our grocery card team for making this possible!

**In the kinship of faith, we pray for:**

the communities of Uvalde, Texas, and Buffalo, New York, and all places shattered by gun violence;
the people of Ukraine,
the Pastoral Search Committee and the minister we seek;
John E.;
Kim P.;
Gloria H.;
Virginia B.;
Nina, niece of Nancy M.;
those impacted by natural and human disasters;
those who are ill or suffer;
those who are grieving,
struggling or awaiting diagnoses;
all healthcare workers;
family and friends of those who have completed or are contemplating suicide;
those living with chronic diseases, dementia, cancer, and their families;
those living with domestic violence;
families dealing with addictions;
peace and health for all.



THANK YOU SO MUCH

Garden Spruce-Up Thank-You!

Thanks to all those who volunteered their time this past Saturday to beautify the church gardens! Thanks to Marti Carlson, Tom Finnegan, Barbara Johnson, Holly Langewisch, Nancy and Jon Leckerling, Kurt Linske, Peter Palumbo, Peter and Penelope Rebuzzini, Randy Siress and Peter van der Grinten. We weeded and moved 15 yards of mulch in just over two hours and the gardens look beautiful! -- Alison Linske, Business Committee

Graduation Sunday is June 19! Please join us Sunday, June 19, at the 10 a.m. service, where we will celebrate all who are graduating this spring! We will recognize our graduates during the service and share congratulations and refreshments afterwards.



Afghan Refugee Family Activities and Accomplishments

It's been almost six months now since our family arrived. First and most importantly, Zarin, the dad, has a job at Walmart working nights. He reports being comfortable working there. When we see him, he is all smiles and looks more relaxed as the burden of supporting his family of 11 has lifted slightly now that he is working. Next great news is that we have procured an attorney for him and his family. The attorney is now working on getting the family members legal residence and the much-desired green card. Since Zarin came here from Afghanistan with some very important documentation this project may not be as long as anticipated. The attorney seems quite optimistic. Zarin knows that this will take time, but now that the process has begun, he is quite pleased. So are we!

The children all had success this year in school. Tow will be graduating from 8th grade—a big event for the family. Next year there will be three in high school and four continuing at Barnard School. The two oldest daughters continue with their English classes at IRIS. This summer they will be attending the IRIS camp for seven weeks with other refugee children. This will be a fantastic way for them to practice English while enjoying some outside fun and games.

So much progress to report, lots of hard work, dedication and heart has gone into this family. They have adapted surprisingly well to life in the US but still have many worries for family left behind and for their future here. We will continue to support them in many ways to help them reach their goal of independence. Onward . . .

Claudia Buzzi and Gini King
Co-coordinators of Shoreline Interfaith Resettlement
Five Congregations Supporting the Afghan Refugee
Family



hello

A WELCOME MINISTRY: NAMETAGS!

Would you like to get to know the people who attend First Church? Volunteers are needed to greet people and hand out nametags on Sundays, beginning in the fall. We need people who are willing to distribute and/or collect nametags at Sunday worship. This is a great way to get to know our community! Please email or call the church office if you are interested. Thank you!
office@firstchurchguilford.org or
(203) 453-5249.

March on Washington. Members of the Environmental Ministry Team and Peace, Affirmation, and Justice committee will be attending the **Poor People's Campaign Moral March on Washington on Saturday, June 18, 2022.** For more information, please visit the march webpage: www.poorpeoplescampaign.org/june18/.



The Next Bellringing for Climate is Monday, July 11, 11 a.m., in front of the church steps. Please join the Environmental Ministry Team and UCC churches all over New England on the 11th day of each month to ring the church bells and to pray, reflect, and raise awareness.



**Guns into Garden Tools presented by Swords to Plowshares Northeast
Sunday June 26, 11:30 am, Christ Episcopal Church, Guilford. The event is free.**

Turning gun parts into garden tools and jewelry is a hopeful event, with families invited to take part in this creative and peaceful endeavor. "What we're about is transforming weapons into instruments and hope and joy," said Rev. James Curry, co-founder of Swords to Plowshares Northeast.

The Guilford Police Department collected 123 firearms during the department's third annual gun buy-back event in October 2021. "I love this program, taking instruments of death to instruments of life," Guilford resident Kristin Song said via text. That's what we're about," he added. "Breaking the cycle of violence."

The group makes two types of necklaces. One is the one made during the event that can be taken home and enjoyed by attendees, the other is a "high end" piece of jewelry, which is sold to support the work of Swords to Plowshares Northeast.

Onsite will be blacksmithing tools, gloves, safety glasses, and a portable forge. The finished products are donated to schools and community gardens, youth empowerment programs and violence interruption programs. You are invited to participate in making garden tools and a necklace you can take home.

A holy enterprise: "God shall judge between the nations; and they shall beat their swords into ploughshares (garden cutting tool), and spears into pruning hooks (haying tool); nations shall not lift up sword against nations; neither shall they learn war anymore." Isaiah 2:4. War no more. Violence no more. It's a message from God the Creator.

Bishop Jim Curry, co-founder of Swords to Plowshares Northeast and Jonathan Lee



Social Justice Children's Library Reopens!

After two years covered over in storage, the Social Justice Children's Library is now open for summer reading. You are invited to bring your children and grandchildren—summer is a perfect "reading time." The collection has over 90 books for preschoolers to teens. Located in an inviting corner of Fellowship Hall where you can browse and check out books, the library is open after Sunday worship and over the summer, June 27 – August 19, from 2:00-6:00 p.m. on Tuesdays and 3:00-6:00 p.m. on Thursdays, as the door will be open during these hours for the music school. Reading to your children or grandchildren is a great family activity. And you may want to read some of the books yourself! As a way for our children to understand the diversity of people in Guilford and the world, the Sanctuary Congregation Team and Christian Education developed the library with categories of African American, Antiracism-One World, Bible Stories-Images of God, Care of the Environment, Children and Teens Speak Out, Global Refugees, LGBTQ, and more.

A list of books identified by category and suggested age of readers is available for reference in the library.

Enjoy summertime reading! – Gini King



A few photos from Confirmation Sunday



Zoom Meditation—Summer Schedule Notes

Please note that meditation will NOT meet on the following dates: Tuesday session: June 28, July 12, July 19, and August 2
Wednesday session: June 29, July 6, July 13, and August 3

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
June 15, 2022- July 16, 2022 First Congregational Church of Guilford			Abbreviation Key CH-Chapel CR-Choir Room FH-Fellowship Hall GH-Griswold Hall MEB-Moore Ed. Bldg MG-Memorial Garden	ML-Minear Library Narthex Out- Outside Sanct- Sanctuary	In-person 12-step Groups: Sun 7:15a AA-GH Sun 2p NA-GH Tues 7p AA- Room 9	Wed 10a AIAnon FH Wed 7p AA-GH Thurs NA 7:30p-GH Fri 7:30p AA- FH Sat. 7:30a AA-GH
			15 June 9a Meditation-Zoom Noon—Lunch Grp 5:00 p Women's Fellowship Picnic 6p EMT	16 June Noon 30 Minutes of Joy-Sanct. 6:30p BSA-Chapel 7:15p LAST Adult Choir rehearsal till fall-CR	17 June	18 June
19 June Juneteenth Graduation Sunday 9:30a Father's Day Rem. MG 10a In-person Worship-Sanct. 7p Pilgrim Fshp. - Outside	20 June	21 June	22 June 9a Meditation-Zoom	23 June 9a-12p Vac. Bible School Noon 30 Minutes of Joy-Sanct. 6:30p BSA-FH	24 June 9a-12p Vac. Bible School	25 June
26 June 10a In-person Worship	27 June	28 June Noon Staff-Sanct.	29 June	30 June Noon 30 Minutes of Joy-Sanct. 6:30p BSA-FH	1 July	2 July
3 July Summer Worship Schedule begins 9a In-person Worship	4 July Church Offices Closed	5 July Noon Staff-Sanct. 7p Meditation - Zoom	6 July	7 July Noon 30 Minutes of Joy-Sanct. 6:30p BSA-FH	8 July	9 July
10 July 9a In-person Worship	11 July 11a Bell Ringing for Climate – Church steps	12 July Noon Staff-Sanct.	13 July	14 July Noon 30 Minutes of Joy-Sanct. 6:30p BSA-FH	15 July	16 July

New Submissions Process for InSpire - Please send submissions to InSpire by Monday noon of the first and third weeks of the month to Linda Mahal at office@firstchurchguilford.org, who will forward to Tarren Bailey for inclusion in the newsletter.

InSpire

Articles due by Monday noon of the first & third weeks
of the month emailed to office@firstchurchguilford.org.

First Congregational Church Clergy and Staff

The Rev. Dr. Ginger Brasher-Cunningham, Lead Minister
ginger@firstchurchguilford.org

William C. Speed, Director of Music Ministries
bill@firstchurchguilford.org

Judi Wallace, Director of Children and Youth Ministries
judi@firstchurchguilford.org

The Rev. Dr. Sandra Wiens, Prison Ministry Coordinator
sandra@firstchurchguilford.org

Penelope Rebuzzini, Ministry Assistant
penelope@firstchurchguilford.org

Jon Ort, Ministerial Intern

Linda Mahal, Office Administrator
office@firstchurchguilford.org

Mark Twombly, Sexton
sexton@firstchurchguilford.org

Annemarie Alexa, Bookkeeper/Data Manager
financeoffice@firstchurchguilford.org

Tarren Bailey, Communications Specialist
communications@firstchurchguilford.org

Carlo Pappolla, Sunday Sexton

Officers of the Church

Anne Godsey, Chair of Church Council
council@firstchurchguilford.org

Paul Kuehn, Treasurer
treasurer@firstchurchguilford.org

Mary Jane Potter, Financial Secretary
financialsecretary@firstchurchguilford.org

Barbara Catlin, Clerk
in care of office@firstchurchguilford.org