

INSPIRE

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF GUILFORD'S SEMI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



Official Call to Special Meeting September 25, 2022

To the members of the First Congregational Church of Guilford, Inc.:

A Special Meeting of the First Congregational Church of Guilford, Inc., will be held on Sunday morning, September 25, 2022 at 11:00 a.m. In the Sanctuary, directly following the 10:00 a.m. service to:

1. Consider and act upon the recommendation of the Associate Minister Pastoral Search Committee to issue a call to the Reverend Reilly Paige to serve as Associate Minister for First Church.
2. To discharge the Associate Minister Pastoral Search Committee.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Caitlin, Clerk

Work has just been completed on the church's new labyrinth, above, offering a peaceful sanctuary for prayer and quiet contemplation in the center of our bustling lives, town, and church campus. It is with great appreciation that we recognize Bill Weidmann's spearheading of this project, and we pray for him as he recovers from surgery this week. Come walk an inward journey symbolic of the spiritual journeys taken by pilgrims across the centuries. Photo by Shirley Girioni.

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Greetings from the Associate Minister Search Committee!

Since last October, we have been working to seek another Associate Minister. We are pleased to announce that we have a candidate for presentation to the congregation.

Our candidate is Reverend Reilly Paige. The Search Committee reviewed all the profiles received and unanimously agreed on our candidate. Please see the following information on Reilly.

As noted in the tri-fold, we have scheduled two Meet and Greet sessions for Saturday, September 24 at 11 am and 2 pm as an opportunity to meet Reilly. Candidate Sunday will be September 25 with the service at 10 am, followed by a special congregational meeting for consideration of Rev. Reilly Paige as our Associate Minister.

We are excited for our congregation and look forward to that weekend. If there are any questions that may arise, please contact any member of the Search Committee.

Stephen Dudley, Chair
Search Committee

What People Say About Reilly

"Reilly is a community builder and connector like none other. She has the ability to make people feel seen and valued from the first time she meets them in a way that is both rare and precious. In an era when people are struggling with epidemics of loneliness and disconnection, I cannot imagine a better pastoral caregiver than Reilly."
—Heidi Heath

"Rev. Reilly is a gifted and effective communicator with people of various ages and levels of experience and comfort with church. She loves people and is deeply sensitive to the Christian value of serving and attending to the needs of those who have been marginalized." —Thomas Ryberg



Reilly (right) and her wife, Rachel

"Reilly is a gifted pastor, listener and provider of pastoral care. They have high levels of skills in communication and organization and is passionate around lifelong learning especially in the areas of anti-racism, equity, diversity, and the ongoing practice of de-centering whiteness in our ministry as a way of approaching the Gospel with fresh new expressions of discipleship." — Shannon Vance-Ocampo

Education

New Brunswick Theological Seminary,
Masters of Divinity

Calvin College, *BA in English and Communication Arts*

Family

Reilly and her wife Rachel have been married for about a year. Together they enjoy cooking, baking, traveling and knitting. They have a Pitbull named Clover.

Ministry Experience

Associate Pastor: Presbyterian-New England Congregational Church, Saratoga Springs, NY, 2017-2022

Pastor: State Street Presbyterian Church Schenectady, NY, 2012-2016

Youth Pastor: Rocky Hilly Reformed Church Rocky Hill, NJ, 2009-2012

Why We Are Excited About Reilly

In our first interview with Reilly, the search committee was impressed with her thoughtful responses, genuine nature and honesty. She immediately came across as mature, compassionate, smart and warm. We could tell she has a deep sense of spirituality and calling to the work of ministry. From this first conversation, it was clear that she is a "people person" who puts others at ease from the moment she meets them. We all commented afterwards that we noticed and appreciated her wonderful sense of humor.

Our in-person meetings strengthened our enthusiasm for Reilly. Her sermon was compelling, accessible and offered avenues for further thought and reflection. It was a blend of scripture and personal stories, woven together in a rumination on what prayer is. Our time together was relaxed, enjoyable, with smiles and laughter around the table. We learned more about Reilly's life journey and felt that a next chapter at First Church would be the right step for all of us. The committee unanimously agreed that, together with the fine staff we have in place, First Church will have a strong leadership team. We believe Reilly will be a caring, thoughtful, and positive presence in our community. We believe that she will inspire us with her sermons, and bring us together with new and interesting programs.

PLEASE FIND A LINK TO THE FULL PDF DOCUMENT
AT THE TOP OF THIS EMAIL

Homecoming Sunday & Potluck Picnic – Join us September 11, 10 a.m.

Reconnect with old friends and meet new ones at our 10 a.m. worship service – then share food and fellowship at our potluck picnic. If you are able, please bring a dish to share: Last name A-H: please bring a dessert. Last name I-Z: please bring a side dish or salad. First Church will provide a main dish including hamburgers, hot dogs, and vegan burgers.

Special PARTY for First Church Kids Saturday, September 10, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Let's celebrate! On the day before Homecoming Sunday, K-6 students and nursery care children and their families are invited to share food and fun with new Acting Director of Children and Family Ministries Deb Ruotolo and the Sunday school teachers. Please register/RSVP to Deb at deb@firstchurchguilford.org

Calling all Confirmation Students...

Classes will be held on alternating Wednesdays from 7 to 8 p.m. beginning October 5.

Please contact the church office at office@firstchurchguilford.org or 203-453-5249 if you are interested.



New Members Received on August 28, 2022



Please welcome
Andrew Roulliard,
Brent Thomsen,
Michelle Brewster,
Alan Durnin and Ellen
Durnin to our First
Church Family



September

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Il are welcome! Please join us for in-person worship each Sunday at 10 a.m. in our beautiful sanctuary. Windows are open and masks are optional.

Sunday, September 11: Homecoming Sunday. First 10 a.m. service of the new program year. In the sanctuary. Potluck picnic follows service.

Sunday, September 18: Pride Sunday and first day of Sunday school for nursery through Grade 8. It all begins at 10 a.m. in the sanctuary. We will be joined by the Connecticut Gay men's Chorus.

Sunday, September 25: 10 a.m. service in the sanctuary, with candidating sermon and special congregational meeting following worship.

Baptisms

Welcome

Ethan Roy Peterson-Filley
Ethan Kerry Myers
Adalyn Rose Osga
Madelyn Morgan Schell

Deacon for August is Gail Etter. If you have questions about or reflections on the spiritual life of the church, please contact Gail at (203) 453-8818.

Parish Care Team Contact for August is Barbara Hazall. Please inform Barbara of births, adoptions, or anyone needing a card of encouragement or comfort, a prayer shawl, or a meal after surgery or a death in the family by calling (203) 640-3907 or via email at bhazall@icloud.com.

United Nations International Day of Peace
Wednesday, September 21, 2022
4 p.m. on the Guilford Green
All Invited · Family-friendly

For over 15 years, First Congregational Church has celebrated the International Day of Peace on the Guilford Green. The United Nations, with 193 member countries, established the International Day of Peace in 1981. Around the world, schoolchildren, families, faith communities, and community organizations participate in art projects, banner making, song, prayer, and reflections proclaiming PEACE IS POSSIBLE.

United Nations
PEACE PLEDGE

I believe that my own thoughts, words, and actions make a difference. I believe that we can build peace in our families, schools, communities, and the world. I

will

RESPECT all people,

REJECT violence,

SHARE with my neighbors,

PRESERVE the planet, and

WORK WITH OTHERS to bring PEACE ON EARTH.

2022 Justice Summit:
Creating Racial Equity in our Communities and
Congregations

Southern New England Conference, United Church of Christ
 Saturday, September 24, 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM
 First Church of Christ Congregational, Glastonbury, CT

Please join fellow UCC folks for this one-day gathering on devising strategies to confront racial inequity in local congregations and communities. Speakers are the Rev. Dr. Diane Schmitz and Bishop Yvette Flunder. Summit includes worship, presentations, workshops, lunch, and fellowship. Registration fee \$59. First Church's Peace, Affirmation, and Justice Committee can cover your registration cost. We will carpool to Glastonbury from the church.

For information, please contact Gini King - ginikingjr@gmail.com.
 To register or see schedule and workshop descriptions:
[https://www.sneucc.org/eventdetail/16394185?](https://www.sneucc.org/eventdetail/16394185?month=9&year=2022&day=1&display=m)
[month=9&year=2022&day=1&display=m](https://www.sneucc.org/eventdetail/16394185?month=9&year=2022&day=1&display=m)

ECO ECHO: Saving Marine
Creatures from Plastic Waste

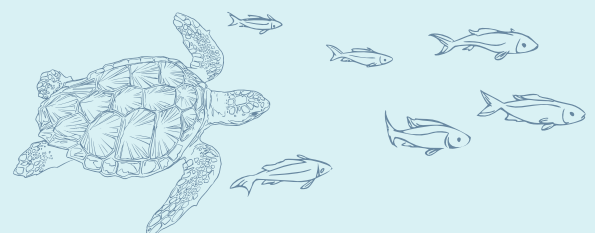
Earlier this year there was an article about how our plastic waste is impacting God's marine animals. This article is to raise awareness for which types of plastic waste are causing the greatest damage to marine animals. Our source for this article is taken from "Choked, Strangled, Drowned: The Plastics Crisis Unfolding in Our Oceans."

It is written for the nonscientist, and I encourage you to download it from the Ocean.org website. The biggest problem Oceana found was animals' consuming plastic, which can obstruct their digestion or lacerate their intestines, leading to an animal's starvation and death. Also, when animals become entangled in plastic, they can drown, choke to death, or suffer physical trauma, such as amputation and infection. Based on their study, Oceana made the following conclusions:

- Bags, balloons, recreational fishing line, sheeting and food wrappers were the most common types of identifiable plastics consumed by these animals.
- Plastic packing straps, bags and balloons with strings were the most common items entangling the animals.

When we look at the types of things that are killing and injuring marine animals, we realize that small changes in our buying habits and how we dispose of things can have a large impact on the health of our oceans.

—Kurt Linske, Environmental Ministry Team (EMT)



Welcoming New Pilgrim Fellowship Director Diana Dart Harris



First Church is pleased to welcome Diana Dart Harris as Director of Pilgrim Fellowship, First Congregational Church of Guilford's nondenominational youth service program. Diana holds a Bachelor of Arts in dance education from Goucher College and a Master of Science in exercise physiology from Southern Connecticut State University. She has been an educator for over 30 years, enjoying her work with students ranging in age from 3 to 93. Her experience in the classroom includes teaching at various private studios, teaching creative movement at Madison Montessori, teaching dance at VISTA, working as a permanent substitute at Calvin Leete Elementary School, and teaching in the dance and theater departments at Naugatuck Valley Community College and University of New Haven. Diana has also served as a choreographer for numerous musicals, a college freshmen advisor, and an arts advocate at Shoreline Arts Alliance. She enjoys writing and spending time hiking with her husband, Mark; her children, Rachael and Caleb; and her dog Percy. She can be reached at diana@firstchurchguilford.org.



O CHRISTMAS TREE, O CHRISTMAS TREE!

If you have a tree on your property that you would like to donate for the church's annual Christmas tree, please contact Kurt Linske at kurt.linske@gmail.com.

The desired tree height is 12 to 16 feet. First Church's Christmas Tree Committee will come to your home, cut down the tree, then transport it and set it up in the church's sanctuary.



Buy a Grocery Card - Benefit First Church

Our grocery card program is an easy fundraiser for the 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:

all the lives, families and communities shattered by guns and violence;
the people of Ukraine;
the Search Committee and the minister we seek;
David and Marjorie C. on the death of his sister, Pam;
the family of Gloria H.;
the Alan and Ellen D. on the death of Alan's father;
David K.;
John V. and family;
Eva E.;
Cliff C.;
Charles, father of Bill S.;
Susan, sister of Mary Jane P.;
Wendy, friend of Peter P.;
those impacted by the wildfires and flooding;
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, and cancer, and the families who care for them;
those living with domestic violence;
families dealing with addictions;
peace and health for all.

September 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 Narth--Narthex Out- Outside Sanct- Sanctuary SJCL- Social Justice Children's Library	In-person 12-step Groups: Sun 7:15a AA-GH Sun 2p NA-GH Tues 7p AA- Rm. 9 Wed 10a Al-Anon - FH	Wed 7p AA-GH Thurs NA 7:30p - GH Fri 7:30p AA- FH Sat. 7:30a AA- GH
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
				1 Noon 30 Minutes of Joy-Sanct	2	3	
4 9a Worship with Communion (first Sundays)	5	6 12:15p Staff-FH 7p—Deac.-Narth. 7p-Meditation-Zoom	7 9a-Meditation-Zoom	8 Noon 30 Minutes of Joy-Sanct 6:30p BSA-FH 6:30p-EMT 7:15p-Sr. Choir - CR	9	10 11a-Sunday School Kids'/Families Party-church lawn	
11 10 a.m. Worship Homecoming Sunday & Potluck Picnic 11a – Bell ringing for climate 6-8 p.m. PF Leadership Team Retreat	12 7p-Business-Narth 7p-PCT-FH	13 12:15p Staff-FH 7p Church Council 7p-Meditation-Zoom	14 9a-Meditation-Zoom 2:45p-Children's Choirs-GH/FH/Sanct/Narth	15 Noon 30 Minutes of Joy-Sanct 6:30p-BSA-FH 7:15p-Sr. Choir - CR	16	17	
18 9-9:35 Sunday School Teachers' Training 10 a.m. Worship PRIDE Sunday CT Gay Men's Chorus 10a Sunday School N-8 6-8 p.m. PF Lead'p Tm.	19 INSPIRE Submissions deadline	20 12:15p Staff-FH 7p-Meditation-Zoom	21 INSPIRE published 9a-Meditation-Zoom 2:45p-Children's Choirs-GH/FH/Sanc/Narth. 4p-International Day of Peace Observance-Guilford Green	22 Noon 30 Minutes of Joy-Sanct 6:30p-BSA-FH 7:15p-Sr. Choir - CR	23	24 9-4 SNECC Justice Summit in Glastonbury	
25 10 a.m. Worship with Candidating Sermon 11 a.m. Special Congregational Mtg. 6-8p PF Opening Picnic	26 7p Fin. 7p PF Committee	27 12:15p Staff-FH 7p-Meditation-Zoom	28 9a-Meditation-Zoom 2:45p-Children's Choirs-GH/FH/Sanct/Narth	29 Noon 30 Minutes of Joy-Sanct 6:30p-BSA-FH 7:15p-Sr. Choir - CR	30		

InSpire Submissions

Please keep in mind the following guidelines and deadlines.

InSpire Guidelines: Please limit articles to 250 words. Articles are copy edited. We do our best to include as much as possible in each issue. At times, articles may be delayed to the next issue due to space constraints.

Monday, Sept. 19, noon for Sept. 21 issue



Jean Young and Family

InSpire ***September 2022***

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