



New Worship Service

ON SUNDAY, APRIL 14, at 6:30 p.m., a new evening service will begin. It will offer dynamic worship with a younger sound, interactive messages, and a developing community.

However, if I could describe the service, it would not be about what we will *do* but about *who we want to become*.

In the Book of Daniel, we meet Daniel and his friends Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. They were young, yet they struggled with a question: "How do we live faithfully in a world that doesn't know God?"

They didn't want to be part of the culture. They wanted to rise above it so that they could show off the greatness of their King.

As they prayed together, they sensed God was challenging them to be different from the rest. God wanted those who would stand up for Him.

Would they be willing to take up the call?

They embraced this mission from God. They made it their quest. They stood courageously for God.

Their actions, prayers, and worship transformed the culture they lived in. God worked through them to create a movement.

We want to become that movement that **radiates** out from our lives, **impacts** those around us with God's love, and **transforms** our culture for the glory of Jesus Christ.

If you want to be part of the movement, if you want to join this adventure with Jesus and one another, then this service might be for you.

—*Pastor Deryk*

SUNDAY MORNING MESSAGES

APRIL 14 • *Workplace Relationships*
Pastor Deryk — Text: Ephesians 6:5-9

APRIL 21 • *Build the Wall*
Pastor Deryk — Text: Nehemiah 1

APRIL 28
Message by Tom Walsh, candidate for
Associate Pastor of Men's Ministry and Mission



THE FAMILY STRUGGLE

EPHESIANS SERMON SERIES

MAY 5 • *Tobiah and Sanballat*
Pastor Deryk — Ephesians 6:10-12 and Nehemiah 2:9-20

MAY 12 • *The Enemies Scheme*
Pastor Deryk — Ephesians 6:12 and portions of Nehemiah

SUNDAY EVENING MESSAGES

Beginning APRIL 14
Pastor Deryk — A look at the Book of Daniel

I LOVE WALKING

around my gardens this time of year. New life is springing up and I don't want to miss it. This, coupled with the Resurrection, shifts my perspective of God's activity. God is moving, and He is moving *here*.



In this *Spire*, you will read about some exciting things that are on the horizon.

On Sunday, April 14th, we start a new evening service at 6:30, aimed at reaching a younger crowd. This is being done not only to deal with our capacity issue at Wind, but more importantly, it comes out of our desire to reach a younger generation. Also, we have found a men's minister, and I am excited for you to meet him (please see page 2).

It is natural to have questions at a time like this. I've wrestled with questions like these: How will we pay for this? Should we do this now? Yes, the future is uncertain, and that uncertainty can sometimes cause anxiety.

As I have prayed through these decisions with the Board, the deacons, the Servant Leadership Team and others, God has given me a peace and an excitement. God is up to something. New life is springing forth.

One of the blessings that we have received at the church are some bequests that have been given (see page 3). The Board

has decided to use these gifts to invest in the church's future rather than focusing them on our present financial situation. We believe these investments will pay off in the long run and make us stronger as a church, moving forward.

Yes, we are behind in our present giving, and we need to give more to support the present budget we approved. I believe God will be faithful to us in this.

The greatest blessing we have received in the last weeks is the reminder of who God is. In the weeks after that first Easter,

Jesus was present with His people in His resurrected body. He was—and is—a reminder of what God can do. Death has been defeated, and there is resurrection life springing forth all around us.

I believe God is calling us to move forward with the same hope that those disciples had in the days following Easter. God can do more than our wildest expectations. And I believe He wants to show us things that we could never have imagined.

—*Pastor Deryk*

Meet Tom Walsh CANDIDATE: ASSOCIATE PASTOR OF MEN'S MINISTRY AND MISSION

The Men's Search Team is excited to introduce the Rev. **Tom Walsh** as their unanimous candidate for the new position of **Associate Pastor of Men's Ministry and Mission**. The Board had similar enthusiasm during their interview and voted unanimously to bring him to the congregation for a **vote on Sunday, April 28**. Rev. Walsh will preach at all morning services, and a vote will be taken during the **Annual Meeting**, which will be held after the 10:30 services.

Rev. Walsh comes to us with a wealth of experience, having been in ministry for over 22 years. He has successfully planted and developed two churches in greater Hartford. He is presently the pastor over the second church he planted, in 2001, Crossroads Community Church in Vernon. Tom continues to be overwhelmed by God's love for him, and he is passionate about mobilizing believers to share God's love.

The Men's Search Team, consisting of **Luke Adams, Peter Franzen, Ken Kittredge**, and **Wayne Plowman**, began their search in November. They re-

ceived many résumés and interviewed a few candidates. Ken Kittredge has this to say about him: "I believe God has anointed Tom with a number of gifts that will make him an ideal leader for the Men's Ministry at First Church. His experience in discipling men, coupled with his passion for the Lord, will be instrumental in helping men of First Church draw closer to God."

Tom has also seen great fruit in mobilizing believers to serve the greater community and share the love of God through word and action. His training was in the area of missions, and he will help us realize our vision as we strive to reach out effectively to central Connecticut. As the Associate Pastor of Men's Ministry and Mission, he will help empower all of us in this area.

God has blessed us not only with the opportunity to bring Tom on to our church family, He has also provided the financial means to begin this ministry and move it forward. **David Crosier's** generous bequest allows us to make this valuable investment in our church.



TOM WRITES: *Lisa (left), Josh, Emma and I are looking forward to being with you in a few weeks. We believe that our God is doing a great work in these days and certainly at First Church. We're looking for His wisdom and direction as we step into this next chapter of our ministry lives.*

I want to thank all of the fine church leaders I've had the privilege to sit with in this process, particularly Pastor Deryk. Under his leadership, First Church is a place bursting with Kingdom possibilities. We're excited that perhaps the Lord will allow us to invest with you, helping to energize a Kingdom movement outside the church walls, for His glory.

Notes from the Church Board

We on the Church Board have a few items we'd like to pass on to the congregation as we approach the close of our current church year.

Marsh Building Renovation Project

The ongoing **Marsh Renovation Project** is at a place where drilling is presently taking place to determine the water level around the foundation of the Marsh Building. This is necessary to realize the extent of work that will need to take place before the proposed renovation takes place.

Elder Board Proposal

The **Elder Board proposal** has been slowed down considerably, because after hearing the concerns and questions put forth by the congregation, both the Church Board and the sub-committee of the Board felt that more time is needed to address those concerns.

While the survey taken several months ago showed that the majority of the congregation was in favor of an Elder Board form of governance, it was the feeling of those involved that

more time is needed to process this issue. During this time, the bylaws will be examined to learn what issues need to be addressed.

Use of Bequests

We at First Church have been blessed recently by several generous **financial bequests**.

It is church policy that amounts in the excess of \$20,000 be brought to the Board for acceptance and designation.

This is a great cause for celebration, because with our current financial status, it affords us the possibility of moving forward in our ministry at First Church.

While fully aware that our budget is down, we as a Board feel that the monies received will, at this time, be of greater use for staff hiring, which will then be a vital investment in our future. There are needs we have as a Church, in connection with our vision, that will be best served by this decision.

We are grateful and thankful for all for these generous gifts to be used for God's work.

The following are the gifts. Some have designations, which we are honoring:

Claire Agee — To be used for Outreach.

David Crosier — A portion is designated for Women's Ministries, and a portion will be used toward hiring of new staff, including the new Men's Minister.

Val Mackas — Is being used for a College-Plus Outreach director, who is already on staff.

And a gift not yet received but for which a promissory letter has been received.

Church Administrator

At our last meeting, the Church Board directed Pastor Deryk to search for an **administrator**.

As we move forward as a congregation, we on the Board pray that all that we do will honor our Lord Jesus and that His will be done for the congregation at First Church. We serve you with joy.
—*Judy Franzen, Board President*

Meet HCM's Tom Kubiak

FIRST-EVER EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF HCM

In the March *Spire* I shared how God is working in the city of Hartford through **Hartford City Mission (HCM)**. Over the last 15 years God has been shaping this ministry throughout its many chapters.

Noah's

HCM has its roots in the 1998 launch of **Noah's Sidewalk Sunday School (NSSS)**, a ministry familiar to many of you. You might remember a colorful truck that, for many years, was often parked in our own First Church parking lot.

In the early years, the Noah's van would travel to Hartford's North End neighborhood on Saturday mornings, where a team of faithful volunteers from several churches—ours included—would lead a program for children and families in that neighborhood. The ministry developed over time, adding a program for teens and even drawing some volunteers to move into the neighborhood and become a more present part of what God was doing there.

In 2003 the supporting churches and volunteers that had been working in the North End began a new ministry called **Noah's After School**. This ministry was built upon the conviction that all aspects of the lives of individuals being cared for was of importance to God. Noah's After School continues to this day and provides a space for academic and spiritual mentoring to more than 30 children in Hartford's North End, four days a week.

The Vine

HCM was given the gift of a home, in 2004, through a generous donation. "**The Vine**," standing at 280 Vine Street, has become a home for many, a meeting space for even more, and a strategic hub for the further development of ministries that fall under the HCM umbrella.

Tom

Just a few weeks ago, HCM took a huge new step in the hiring of its first-ever executive director, **Tom Kubiak**. Tom comes to us

from Chicago, where for many years he served as the planting and lead pastor of a multi-ethnic inner-city church in Chicago's South Loop. With Tom's arrival, HCM now has an increased capacity to shepherd its growing staff and volunteer base. Tom also serves as a primary contact to bring more Hartford-area churches into partnership with the work of HCM.

Timing

Now is perhaps the best time ever to get plugged in to the ministry of HCM. Through God's strength, amazing things are happening—and the more voices that join the chorus, the more beautiful this ministry's song will become.

Vision

For more information on the history of HCM and its strategic plan, please visit the HCM website at hartfordcitymission.org. In the next issue of *The Spire*, I'll be sharing a bit more about the philosophy and vision of HCM and how it complements in a very profound way the emerging vision of First Church.

—*Pastor Todd*



TOM AND JOANNA KUBIAK

Annual Meeting Called

Notice is hereby given that our **Annual Meeting** will be held in the Meetinghouse on **Sunday, April 28**, at noon, following the 10:30 a.m. worship services. All members are urged to attend. Annual Reports will be on tables starting April 21.

Included in the business of the meeting will be the election of officers, a Moment of Memory, and other appropriate matters—as well as a vote on approving the Reverend **Tom Walsh** as **Associate Pastor of Men's Ministry and Mission** (see article and photo on page 2).

First Church

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST IN WETHERSFIELD
CONGREGATIONAL

860.529.1575 • Fax: 860.721.7861
250 Main Street, Wethersfield, CT 06109
Website: www.firstchurch.org
Email: info@firstchurch.org

Sunday Worship Times

Traditional Services in the Meetinghouse:
8:45 and 10:30 a.m.

Wind Contemporary Service
in Keith Jones Hall: 10:30 a.m.

Evening Contemporary Service
in Keith Jones Hall: 6:30 p.m.

[facebook.com/firstchurchpage](https://www.facebook.com/firstchurchpage)

Dial-A-Message: 860.529.1785

Uplifting Messages from Caring Ministries

What will you leave behind?

Please remember First Church in your will.

e-GIVING reduces paperwork and helps keep track of your yearly pledge. For info about contributing electronically via a monthly automatic withdrawal from your bank account, call the Finance Office, 860.529.1575, x218.

Atessa M. Afshar Associate Minister
J. Jey Deifell Jr. Minister Emeritus
Wayne E. Luman Director of Caring Ministries
Marcia J. McCann Dir. of Children's Ministries
T. Michael McDowell Associate Minister
Donald W. Morgan Minister Emeritus
Deryk P. Richenburg Senior Minister
David C. Spicer Minister of Music & the Arts
Patrick Sullivan Dir. of College-Plus Outreach
Todd E. Willard Associate Minister

OUR MISSION

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

SPIRE DEADLINE

Material for the April issue of *The Spire*, which will be mailed and emailed on May 8, must be submitted to Dave Gilbert by noon on Friday, April 26, at daveg@firstchurch.org or 860.529.1575, x225.

DATED MATERIAL
Mailed April 10, 2013

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Festival of Hymns

Sunday, April 21 • 4 PM



Since the first such concert, in 2009, the **Festival of Hymns** has become a favorite of many. Concertgoers sing glorious hymns of

the Church, accompanied by **David Spicer** on our Austin pipe organ.

On **Sunday, April 21** (4:00 p.m.), Hymns will be selected from suggestions (*one per person, please*) submitted by April 18 to music@firstchurch.org or 860.529.1575, ext. 209; and from those in attendance at the concert, time permitting.

An offering will be received, to benefit our 2012-13 concert series. Childcare for those up to the age of 8 will be available. A delightful reception will follow this event. Invite your friends to join us in praising God by singing some of the great hymns of our faith!

New Chapel Organ

ORIGINAL ORGAN

We are grateful for the Baldwin Model 5, which has served us well since the 1940s. It was given by Mr. and Mrs. William Griswold Hart in memory of their son, Pvt. Gordon Standish Hart, who was lost in the sinking of USAT *Dorchester* on February 3, 1943.

VERSATILE NEW ORGAN

We are happy to announce that, through a generous anonymous gift, there is a new organ in our chapel.

During the Festival of Hymns on April 21, this new chapel organ will be dedicated and demonstrated.

We now have the capability to move the chapel organ into the Meetinghouse to wirelessly control, from the floor, our four-manual Austin organ in the balcony. In fact, this new Rodgers two-manual organ—which has its own wide spectrum of voices—can be



used to play both organs at once.

Shown above with David Spicer is John Rose of The Organ Music Corporation in Hartford, as they discuss this instrument's amazing digital capabilities.

SUPPORT YOUTH MISSION: BUY TICKETS FOR THE APRIL 14 ROCK CATS BASEBALL GAME

This summer's youth Workcamp mission will take place in New Jersey to help Hurricane Sandy victims. **Please help them** by purchasing tickets (\$10 each)—to use or give away—to the **Sunday, April 14, New Britain Rock Cats game** with the Portland Sea Dogs (Red Sox affiliate team). Stop at the reception desk during the week, or visit our table in the Wells Area on Sunday—in time for the 1:35 p.m. game!

SUNDAY NIGHT SERVICE DEBUTS APRIL 14

Please see page 1 of the April *Spire*.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY WITH TESSA & ANNETTE

Come and study the beautiful Book of Ruth with us! **Tessa Afshar** and **Annette Baser** will co-teach one of the loveliest books of the Old Testament, where we learn about God's gracious hand actively at work in our lives even when we can't see it. We will learn about the roots of our identity, our worth, and our hope. There will be small-group and prayer times, and no previous Bible experience is necessary. Newcomers are always welcome.

This study will meet on **Thursdays, starting April 18 and ending May 23**, from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m., in the Church Parlor. To register, please contact **Evelyne Castiglione** at 860.529.1575 or evelynec@firstchurch.org.

FESTIVAL OF HYMNS, APRIL 21

Please see page 4 of the April *Spire*.

ANNUAL MEETING CALLED FOR APRIL 28

Please see page 4 of the April *Spire*.

SPRING WORK DAY SET FOR MAY 4

Can you help us on our church grounds on **Saturday, May 4**? Projects will include weeding, mulching, window washing, power washing (foundation walls), and others. We start at 8:30 a.m., followed by a provided BBQ lunch at noon. Anyone able to bring a wheelbarrow for working on mulch will be twice blessed! There is a sign-up sheet in the Wells Area, or call **Bob Keleher** at 860.529.1575, x299.

M.A.D. SEMINAR AT FIRST CHURCH ON MAY 4

Outreach is hosting an exciting lifestyle seminar with **Don Sunshine** (Glenn's brother), designed to help you make evangelism a natural part of your daily life, on **Saturday, May 4**, from 9:00 to 2:00 (lunch provided), in Keith Jones Hall. An offering will be received for the speaker. Sign up in the Wells Area starting April 14, or call **Marilyn** at 860.529.1575 x213.

How would your life change if you could naturally and easily share your faith with one person (or more!) every day?

How wonderful that so many of you memorialize loved ones by contributing to the beautiful flowers given for the Christmas and Easter seasons!

Recently, questions have been asked about changes in the distribution of the Memorial Flowers listings.

We are greatly blessed by newcomers and visitors on Christmas Eve and Easter, and we must give them our utmost.

They appreciate a focused service and a simple bulletin, neat and clean. And yet, we do want to accommodate all.

We've tried leaving the Memorial Flowers "inserts" only on tables, but not many parishioners were noticing them. Starting in December, we redesigned that publication and have been inserting them in the bulletins for the nearest Sunday prior to Christmas Eve and Easter.

The bulletin for our recent Easter service included a note about the beautiful new listings folder, mentioning that it had been distributed inside the Palm Sunday bulletins and was also available on tables throughout Holy Week and Easter.

Thank you for your participation! We believe these new inserts are truly lifting up the names of your loved ones in a meaningful and notable way.

PACK FOOD FOR STARVING CHILDREN ON MAY 4

The **Feed My Starving Children** food-packing event in Berlin on **Saturday, May 4**, has a time slot for those from our church who wish to help (other times also available May 3-4). Please help us nourish children who are **hungry in body and spirit!** See **Joyce McNamara** in the Wells Area on Sundays or contact her at jedanfor@juno.com or 860.436.2923. See much more at firstchurch.org/FMSC. Thank you all for supporting FMSC in other ways as well!

WOMEN'S LUNCHEON: ARTIST ANNETTE BASER

Women! On **Wednesday, May 8**, join us for our next **Women's Fellowship Luncheon**, featuring First Church member **Annette Baser**, who will speak about the life of an artist. Annette is a painter and is Teaching Director for the CBS (Community Bible Study) class in Avon. We will gather at noon in the Fireside and Worship Rooms. Sign up with **Evelyne Castiglione** at 860.529.1575 or at evelynec@firstchurch.org so we have an accurate count for the caterer. Please make sure your \$6 check (payable to the church) reaches Evelyne at First Church prior to the event. See more at firstchurch.org/WF.

ALZHEIMER'S ASSOC. WORKSHOP ON MAY 18

Stephen Ministry and **Seniors' Ministry** are sponsoring a workshop presented by the Alzheimer's Association: **The Basics: Memory Loss, Dementia and Alzheimer's Disease** on **Saturday, May 18**, from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. in Keith Jones Hall. Reservations can be made by calling **Caring Ministries** at 860-529-1575, x210, or by email at care@firstchurch.org.

More information will be in the May *Spire*. Plan to join us for this valuable informational workshop with a great speaker!

REGISTER NOW FOR VACATION BIBLE CAMP

A great VBC is set for **July 22-26**—start planning now! Our theme is **Kingdom Rock: Where Kids Stand Strong for God**.

- All from age 4 through completed grade 5 are invited to laugh, play, pray, celebrate, imagine, give, explore, and **rock!**
- All from completed grade 6 through adults are invited to join our team! Either way, pick up a 2-sided registration form at church or print both pages from firstchurch.org/VBC. If you have questions, call **Marcia McCann** at 860.529.1575, x206.

REGISTER NOW FOR A WEEK AT CAMP HOPE

Camp Hope on scenic Bantam Lake in the Litchfield hills is the place for one of the **best** weeks in the life of each who attends, **July 28 to Aug. 3**, for those entering grades 6-12. Water activities, new friendships, God's love, so much more. Register now! For links to the application and brochure, go to firstchurch.org/camphope, or call **Pat** at 860.529.1575.

Connect with **Pastor Todd** and get a clue about just how exciting this is!

A Note About the Memorial Flowers Listings