



The SPIRE

SUMMER CLASS

Be Still

Wednesday Evenings | Wells Area
Beginning June 24th | 7:00 PM

BAPTISMS

Sunday, June 7th
Following the 10:00 AM
Combined Service

SUMMER BBQ'S

Wednesday Evenings
Beginning June 17th | 5:30 PM
\$5 per person/\$15 per family

Leadership matters. One of the first leadership axioms I learned came from John Maxwell who observed the following, "everything rises and falls on your leadership." Leadership in the Church matters. Jesus' leadership strategy centered around the development of a certain type of leader: a leader whose practices were modeled after His; a leader who was committed to the kingdom culture that Jesus imparted. Jesus' capacity to see leadership potential in the least likely of individuals amazes me, and it is good news for all of us today.

Based on the calling of Jesus' own disciples and many examples from Scripture, it is clear that we are called to Kingdom leadership. Through Scripture, we can observe the following succinctly:

Jesus' leadership style made people a priority. He invited, He listened, He challenged, He served, He sacrificed, He empowered, He loved. The Apostle Paul sums it up well, "let us look not only to our own interests but also to the interests of others."

Jesus' leadership was balanced. He gave time to the crowds and He withdrew to quiet places to pray. Though the fullness of God was within Him, He lived with limits. He both healed many and delegated that responsibility to others.

Jesus' way of leadership was led by the Spirit. His leadership wasn't driven by a bottom line. Consider the time He passed through Samaria. After His encounter with the woman at the well, He willingly lingered in that village for a few more days. He knew that the Father was up to something in that unlikely place.

Do you view yourself as a leader? Why or why not? Where do you draw your primary leadership lessons from? What leadership opportunities is God inviting you to step into in this season? How is Jesus shaping the way you think about, and approach, those opportunities? As the author of Hebrews exhorts, "Let us hold unwaveringly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds."

Pastor Todd

Love God. Love One Another. Make Disciples.



We thank God for an amazing Easter celebration here at First Church.

Connecting with the Ascent Movement



In March, Pastor Todd along with Lisa Roncaioli (First Church Preschool Director) and Terry Shook (Board Member and Long-range Planning committee chair) spent a short week at the inaugural summit of the Ascent Movement in Falls Church, Virginia.

Here are Terry's reflections as he thinks back on his time at the Ascent Summit.

Q: How would you describe the Ascent Movement, its purpose, and the value of our being connected as a congregation?

Terry: The Ascent Movement is a gathering of like-minded churches and leaders from different denominations networking together for the purpose of re-evangelizing North America. Ascent is not a denomination. Ascent provides a space for sharing resources, ideas, and co-learning with other church leaders. One of the core values of the Ascent Movement is the primacy of the local church. This

means that each church maintains their own identity and determines the degree to which they will participate in Ascent.

The core values of the Ascent Movement are consistent with the vision and core values of First Church. They are:

The Gospel of the Kingdom; The Primacy of the Local Church; The Global Witness of the Gospel; The Centrality of Evangelism and Disciple-Making; The Power of the Spirit; The Foundation of Prayer; The Riches of Our Collective Inheritance; and The Mutual-ity of Women & Men in Church Leadership.

I firmly believe that connecting with the Ascent Movement will strengthen our own vision and connect us with the resources that will help us to honor our past while moving into our future and God's call to us.



Q: What were the highlights of your time at the Ascent Gathering?

Terry: The presence of the Holy Spirit throughout the gathering was evident. Those who presented were rooted in scripture, prayerful, and spoke with hope for the future of the Church.

We began our week by attending the Vital Preschools Initiative (VPI). VPI is a cohort of churches that see the preschools they operate as key missional opportunities. It became clear to me what a valuable resource we have in our preschool program and how critical this ministry is for the future of our church.



I was encouraged by conversations around discipleship. I learned from other church leaders how they have developed clear discipleship pathways that have moved discipleship from words to a lifestyle.

Conversations around the execution of the church's mission prioritized the need to listen to, and understand, the community we are serving rather than simply adopting arbitrary projects.

To learn more about the Ascent Movement, visit their website at www.ascentmovement.org.

A LOOK AHEAD!



Freedom Prayer

Do you frequently find yourself responding to the same fears and anxieties over and over again? Do you wonder whether God is aware of your concerns, or how you can draw close to Him in trust? Do you know with assurance that God, your Father, knows you and longs for a relationship with you?

Freedom Prayer is a scripture-based, personal prayer ministry, designed to help you recognize and resolve any hindrances that may keep you from a close relationship with God and others. The Freedom Prayer model is designed to identify and pray through hindrances created by wounding and trauma, entanglements such as addictions, unhealthy ties to people or things, and false beliefs which you may have formed about God. It offers an opportunity to share your most sensitive heart-issues in a safe setting, where you can trust that all information shared will remain confidential.

Five church members have been trained in the Freedom Prayer process, and more in-house training will be offered soon to those who are interested in being on the Freedom Prayer team. To schedule an appointment in advance, please fill out a Freedom Prayer Intake form on the First Church website, www.firstchurch.org/prayer.

Heatwave 2026! August 2nd-August 8th

Join us this Summer at Camp Berea for a week of fun and fellowship! Register at <https://bera.campbrainregistration.com>. Be sure to select Heat Wave "Jr/Sr High #4" during your registration and also choose First Church of Christ - Wethersfield when asked if you are coming with a group! Questions? Contact Josh at youth@firstchurch.org.



Vacation Bible Camp 2026: Rainforest Falls! July 20th-24th | 9:00 AM-12:00 PM

Join us in the tropical rainforest for a fun week 'Exploring the Nature of God!' With a focus on the book of Psalms, we aim to grow together in faith and also enjoy some tropical-style adventures along the way. This wonderful summer event includes daily non-stop fun, with children moving from station to station, guided by loving leaders, visiting the Imagination Station, Wild Games, Sticky Scripture, Rooted Bible Adventures and Treetop Treats. The kids will also have a mission project to participate in! Invite your neighbors, friends, and family for a week of fun!

VBC is for children who have COMPLETED PK3-5th grade. The cost is \$50 for the week with a sliding scale for larger families. The price increases after July 1, and scholarships are available!

Visit www.firstchurch.org/children to sign-up to attend or volunteer! Keep a look out for other ways to help. Decor crafting sessions will be happening and we will be looking for donations to support the week's snacks and activities.

Book of Life

ENTERED ETERNAL LIFE

John Wallace, February 4, 2026
Linda Jackson, February 11, 2026
Margaret "Peg" Wallace, April 5, 2026
Thad Hasbrouck, April 14, 2026

PERIODICAL
POSTAGE PAID
at Hartford,
Connecticut

Sunday Worship Times

First Sunday of the Month—combined service at 10:00 AM with communion in the Meetinghouse.

All other Sundays:
Traditional Service: 9:00 AM
in the Meetinghouse

Contemporary Service: 10:30 AM
in Keith Jones Hall

Both services are LIVE on our Youtube Channel at First Church Wethersfield.

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

FIRST NOW—If you would like to receive our weekly email First Church Now, email marief@firstchurch.org.

GIVING—Giving can be done online at firstchurch.org.

Staff Listing

Kerry Alleyne.....Custodian
Josh Arcata.....Director of Youth Ministries
Brigitte Bean.....Preschool Assistant
Eddie Cruz.....Custodian
Marilyn Danielson.....Executive Assistant to Senior Pastor
Mike Davis.....Property Manager
Marie Fabian.....Communications
Diane Galloway.....Director of Caring & Women's Ministries
Jackie Hoswon.....Church Accountant
Megan Ettlinger.....Director of Children's Ministries
Rob Lundy.....Director of Technology & Production Services
Paula Mazo.....Finance Assttant
Sarah Penn.....Evening Receptionist
Lisa Roncaioli.....Director of Preschool
Nathan Scalise.....Contemporary Worship Leader
Todd Willard.....Senior Pastor

First Church of Christ

IN HISTORIC WETHERSFIELD
CONGREGATIONAL

860.529.1575 | Fax: 860.721.7861
250 Main Street, Wethersfield, CT 06109
www.firstchurch.org
Email: info@firstchurch.org
The Spire online: firstchurch.org/resources

The Spire (USPS 441-830) is published quarterly, February, May, August, and November.
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

CAMPUS UPDATES!

Steeple Committee

You may have noticed the activity around the steeple lately. The finials have been removed in order to have them duplicated in preparation for the renovation beginning next April. A few bricks are also being sampled to send for analysis for color and composition for a good match. This is done to ensure availability when work begins.

Fundraising is coming along as you can see by the display in the connector; one million 600 thousand has been raised with the generous giving of the congregation so far.



Efforts are being made to continue to pursue grants and the GoFundMe account. One grant in particular (The Congressionally Directed Spending Request) looks promising. Continued support of the congregation over the three year pledge period is anticipated as well. The most important aspect of this campaign is that we pray, both individually and as a congregation, for its success. God is good and He will provide.



Morgan House Renovation

Recent repairs and renovations have been made to our Morgan House garage. Exterior boards that were suffering from wear have been replaced on both the front and back sides of the garage. New trim work has been installed around both bay doors. Later this spring, both sides will be painted for a proper restoration of this valued space.