



FIRST UNITED  
METHODIST CHURCH  
*Stamford*

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### Take Some Deep Breaths of Fresh Air

There is nothing quite so naturally exhilarating as the first deep breath of the fragrant and fresh air of spring. For those of us who have learned to enjoy riding the wave of the severe changes of the four seasons, from the frigid cold of winter to the blistering heat of summer, there is an innate joy and celebration that comes over us when we experience the truest revelation of each change; the smell of fresh cut grass, the glorious glow of October trees, the bright clarity of the sun’s beams on freshly fallen snow, and that first deep breath fraught with the intoxicating fragrance of renewal.

These changes are primitive, essential, and natural. Though we gripe about the bitter, grey days of late winter and moan over the stifling heat of summer, we have become accustomed to these throws and would miss them were they to cease. We might plan a regular occasional escape, or even move to a warmer climate, but overall – **learning to accept, embrace, and adapt to the changes is arguably the best plan of progress.** All the wishes in the world will not make the clouds go away, nor will they prevent the sun from rising on a new day.

Today is a new day. Resist it as we may, a better plan of progress is to accept, embrace, and adapt. This new day is different. This year, unlike any year before, is very different because *so much* of the world around us has changed. This year brings a more thorough prospect of positive change. As we enter these most fruitful days of the late spring, summer, and early fall this year, we have opportunity to radically adapt to the world around us in more extensive ways than ever before.

Ask yourself this question: “If I had opportunity to completely begin again, would I do things the same way that I have been doing them?” Because so much of our “normal” functioning has come to a halt in the midst of the pandemic, we can now truly start over. As we make our way back to the new normal, how will we accept, embrace, and adapt to the world around us in new, potentially better, ways?

Take a few deep cleansing breaths of fresh air as we draw near to the end of spring and burst into summer. Accept the new day, embrace it, and be open to explore new ways of adapting to the challenges that the new day brings. Things will never be same . . . but they can be different.

Changing for the simple sake of change is meaningless. Accepting, embracing, and adapting to inevitable change is necessary and potentially very meaningful. God’s love for you, and our love for each other, is unchanging, while the world around us is facing inevitable and extensive change.

**Let us accept each other, embrace each other, and adapt to the changing world around us.**

**Pastor Robb**

## Proposed WEEKLY SCHEDULE

*For non-recurring events, please see "seasonal church program calendar" on page #4*

### **Sundays**

9:00am - Bible Study on ZOOM - coordinates 847 3474 1487

10:30-11:30am - Gathered Outdoor Worship on the Patio (weather permitting)

Worship will Live Stream on the church website, and Facebook, every week.

5:00-6:00pm - Live Stream of Spanish Worship on May 2, June 6, July 11, August 1.

### **Mondays**

6:00-7:00pm - Regular Weekly Youth Fellowship meetings on the Patio starting May 17, 2021

### **Tuesdays**

7:00-8:00am - Men's Fellowship Bible Study on ZOOM

9:30-11:00am - Young Mother's Group meets in McArthur Hall

1:00-2:00pm - Worship Team Meeting on ZOOM - coordinates 203 914 7886

### **Thursdays**

7:00-8:30pm - Bible Study with Pastor Hewitt on ZOOM - coordinates 203 914 7886

Topic: **DISCIPLE BIBLE STUDY III - Remember Who You Are**

7:30-9:00pm - Boy Scout Troop 9 meetings in McArthur Hall {contact Roger Williams}

### **Saturdays**

5:00-6:00pm - Live Stream of Celebration Sanctuary - Informal service of the Word

## Celebrations of Holy Communion

**Communion is still celebrated on the first Sunday of each month**

Virtual Holy Communion is Live Streamed on Saturdays & Sundays the first weekend each month.

When we re-gather for worship, Holy Communion will be served hygienically on first Sundays.

### Spanish Language Worship Service

**May 2, June 6, July 11, and August 1**

Live Stream at 5:00pm

[fumcstamford.org](http://fumcstamford.org) - "streaming"

Having worked for Campus Crusade for Christ in his native country of Ecuador, our own Mr. Milton Vargas responds to a call on his life to be a vessel for God's Word. Join us Sundays as listed, at [fumcstamford.org](http://fumcstamford.org).

### Gathered Worship Services Outdoors on the Patio (Weather Permitting)

Great News! We will begin to gather again each Sunday for worship at 10:30am outdoors on the patio. Each date is subject to fair weather. On those occasions when it rains, the service will be a live stream instead. For those more inclined to follow the live streams, we will stream each outdoor service simultaneously. There is no need to pre-register, but masks must be worn, and social distancing must be observed. Come, and bring a friend!

**We pray to be able to move indoors when the weather changes again in the fall.**

**Summer Seasonal Worship Calendar**  
**Worships themes for Services May 2<sup>nd</sup>- September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

**A Study of the Book of I John** - (Easter Season continued)

May 2<sup>nd</sup> - I John - I John 3.16-24 - Love, Not in Words or Speech but in Action and Truth

May 9<sup>th</sup> - I John - I John 4 - God Is Love

May 16<sup>th</sup> - I John - I John 5 - Love the Parent - Love the Child

**PENTECOST**

May 23<sup>rd</sup> - Pentecost - "The Holy Spirit" Acts 2.1-21, Romans 8.22-27, John 15.26-27 & 16.4-15

May 30<sup>th</sup> - Peace w/ Justice Sunday - "Peace by Proactivity" Isaiah 6.1-8, Romans 8.12-17, John 3.1-17

**A Study of the Book of II Corinthians**

June 6<sup>th</sup> - II Corinthians 1, 2, & 3 - **An Introduction the Book of II Corinthians**

June 13<sup>th</sup> - II Corinthians 4-7 - **Treasure in Clay Jars**

June 20<sup>th</sup> - II Corinthians 8-9 - **Giving: A Biblical Precedent**

June 27<sup>th</sup> - II Corinthians 10-11 - **How to Know Who to Trust**

July 4<sup>th</sup> - II Corinthians 12 & 13 - **Parting Words of Wisdom & Concern**

**A Study of the Book of Ephesians**

July 11<sup>th</sup> - Ephesians 1 - **An Introduction the Book of Ephesians**

July 18<sup>th</sup> - Ephesians 2 - **From Death to Life, in Christ**

July 25<sup>th</sup> - Ephesians 3 - **The Long and the Short of It**

August 1<sup>st</sup> - Ephesians 4.1-16 - **Unity of the Body of Christ**

August 8<sup>th</sup> - Ephesians 4.17-5.2 - **The Old Life & The New Life**

August 15<sup>th</sup> - Ephesians 5 - **The Christian Household**

August 22<sup>nd</sup> - Ephesians 6 - **Shielded to Accomplish God's Work**

**Wise Counsel for Starting Fresh**

*Timely edicts for the challenges of the present moment . . .*

August 29<sup>th</sup> - Be doers of the Word and not merely hearers - **James 1.17-27 & Mark 7.1-8, 14-15, 21-23**

September 5<sup>th</sup> - **Proverbs 1-10**

September 12<sup>th</sup> - **Proverbs 11-20**

September 19<sup>th</sup> - **Proverbs 21-31**

September 26<sup>th</sup> - Whoever isn't against us is for us - **Esther 7.1-6, 9-10, & 9.20-22, Mark 9.38-50**

October 3<sup>rd</sup> - **WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY**

Job 1.1, 2.1-10

Hebrews 1.1-4, 2.5-12

Mark 10.2-16

## Summer Seasonal Church Program Calendar – May-September, 2021

*For weekly re-occurring events please see weekly calendar on page #2*

**May** – Summer Quarterly Newsletter Distributed Sunday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Saturday 3:00pm – NY / CT District Conference
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Sunday, 10:30am – Gathered Celebration of Holy Communion outdoors on the Patio
- 9<sup>th</sup> – Sunday, 10:30am – Gathered Celebration of Mother’s Day outdoors on the Patio
- 15<sup>th</sup> – Saturday, 9-11am – Monthly Stamford Stands Against Racism (SSAR) Meeting
- 16<sup>th</sup> – Sunday, Noon – Church Council Meeting on ZOOM
- 17<sup>th</sup> – Monday, 6-7:00pm – Re-gathering of church Youth Fellowship on the Patio
- 23<sup>rd</sup> – Sunday – Pentecost Sunday
- 24<sup>th</sup> – Monday, 7:00pm – United Methodist Women’s Meeting on ZOOM

### **June**

- 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> – New York Annual Conference Virtual Sessions
- 12<sup>th</sup> – Outdoor Musical Concert on the front lawn: Theme: “The Message”
- 13<sup>th</sup> – Sunday, 10:30am – Annual Celebration of Ministry featuring “Church Yearbook”
- 19<sup>th</sup> – Saturday, 9-11am – Monthly Stamford Stands Against Racism (SSAR) Meeting  
5:00pm – Juneteenth – Special Tribute Commemorating the Emancipation of the Slaves
- 27<sup>th</sup> – Sunday – A Recognition of all Graduates  
NOON – Giving Review – Finance leadership review and ratify process of Financial Stewardship
- 28<sup>th</sup> – Monday, 7:00pm – United Methodist Women’s Meeting on ZOOM

### **July**

- 11<sup>th</sup> – Sunday, Noon – Church Council Meeting on ZOOM – Possible **Special Charge Conference**
- 17<sup>th</sup> – Saturday, 9-11am – Monthly Stamford Stands Against Racism (SSAR) Meeting
- 26<sup>th</sup> – Monday, 7:00pm – United Methodist Women’s Meeting on ZOOM

**August** – Autumn Quarterly Newsletter distributed Sunday, August 1<sup>st</sup>

- 8<sup>th</sup> – Sunday, Noon – Church Council Meeting on ZOOM
- 15<sup>th</sup> – Final Delivery of Back to School Supplies for Covenant to Care
- 16<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> – Summer Vacation Bible School
- 21<sup>st</sup> – Saturday, 9-11am – Monthly Stamford Stands Against Racism (SSAR) Meeting
- 30<sup>th</sup> – First Day of School in Stamford Public Schools
- 30<sup>th</sup> – Monday, 7:00pm – United Methodist Women’s Meeting on ZOOM

### **September**

- 11<sup>th</sup> – Saturday – Live Music on the Lawn with Food Truck & Mission Fund Raiser
- 12<sup>th</sup> – Introduction to Fall Small Group, Bible, & Faith Studies  
**Welcome Home Sunday** – Invite your Friends & Neighbors – Special Music
- 18<sup>th</sup> – Saturday, 9-11am – Monthly Stamford Stands Against Racism (SSAR) Meeting
- 19<sup>th</sup> – Sunday, Noon – Church Council Meeting on ZOOM
- 26<sup>th</sup> – Sunday, Noon – Financial Stewardship Campaign Planning Meeting
- 27<sup>th</sup> – Monday, 7:00pm – United Methodist Women’s Meeting on ZOOM



# Recommended Summer Reading

The following books (around \$10-15 each), are available in the church office.

If you are interested in studying God's Word in a small group, join us for Bible Study Sundays at 9am,

Men's Fellowship Tuesdays at 7:00am, or on other upcoming occasions to be announced.

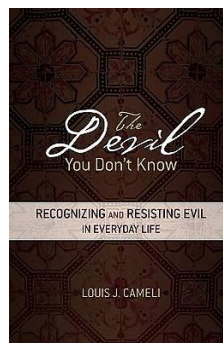
Come be transformed by God's Word, safe small group fellowship, and mutual accountability.



## Black and White

Disrupting Racism One Friendship at a Time

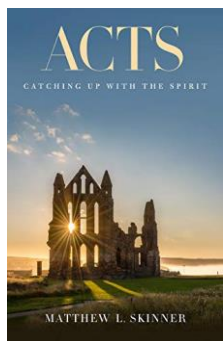
Most of us don't need to make speeches. We need to make friends. This is the core message of *Black and White* by authors Teesha Hadra, a young African American woman, and John Hambrick, a 60-year-old white man. **REQUIRED READING FOR ALL**



## The Devil You Don't Know

Recognizing and Resisting Evil

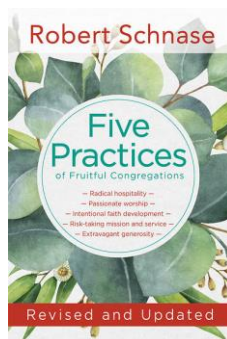
A book by Father Louis Cameli and a study on the theme of evil in our everyday lives.



## ACTS

### *Catching Up With the Spirit*

Through this book Professor Matthew L. Skinner calls us to a daring life, risking not so much mere stormy seas, snakebites, or magicians, but real daring, risking following the Holy Spirit into deep (even sacrificial) care of neighbor, transformative hospitality expansive inclusion, and "generous unity."



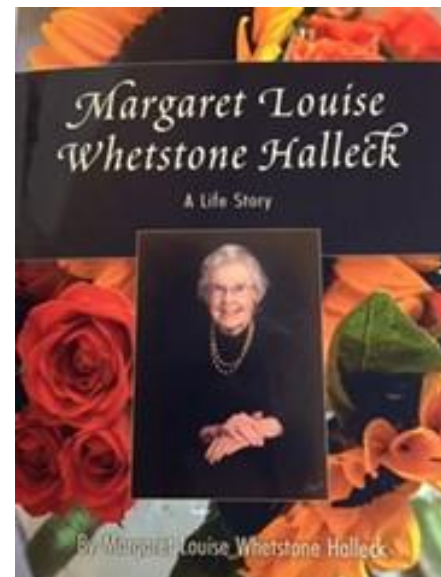
## Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations

In this revised and updated version, Bishop Robert Schnase shares how churches expanded the principles, and offers practical advice on how to go about implementing them. This book will help your take your ministry to the "next level."

Margaret "Peggy" Halleck has written and published her memoir entitled **Margaret Louise Whetstone Halleck: A Life Story**. It's a wonderful book, filled with stories of her family, her travels and her faith. Peggy has given a copy to the congregation and it is available to borrow. If you would like to read it, you can obtain it from Administrative Assistant, Eileen Kelly, in the church office Monday through Friday from 9am - 1pm. We ask that you borrow it for just a week.

Peggy has inscribed it:

"To the congregation of First United Methodist Church which since 1943 has given me much guidance and shared their wisdom and Christian faith with me. I'm eternally grateful."





### MAY

- 1 Daniel Johnston
- 5 Kathy Harrison
- 5 Randall Outlaw
- 6 Paul Bisset
- 7 Marilyn Johnston
- 7 Jeanne Courter
- 7 Carla Wells
- 9 Cynthia Richardson
- 9 Gaylen Nowotarski
- 10 James Lavelle
- 10 Dylan Koby Ofori
- 13 Yvonne Carmen Powell
- 14 Samuel Palmer
- 14 Elaine Pope-Joffrion
- 14 Donna Taber
- 14 Gabriela Brito
- 15 William Abreu
- 15 Noah Cheruk
- 16 Annmarie Austin
- 16 Susan Johnson Kinder
- 17 Bob Pantalone
- 17 Meredith Outlaw Kircher
- 17 Stewart Menking
- 17 Mark Shattuck
- 18 Danielle Basore
- 19 Johnathan Palmer
- 19 Pastor Robb Hewitt
- 20 Elfreda Fawundu
- 22 Jackqueline McLean Markes
- 23 Joe Drago
- 25 Allison Wilson
- 26 Deborah Harris
- 30 Maureen Nevers
- 31 Debra Jagodzinski

### JUNE

- 1 Aba Laryea Adjei
- 2 Louise Parenti
- 3 Kayonne Markes
- 5 Elsie Ferrara
- 6 Richard Free
- 7 Ann Hayes
- 7 Brianna Pierre
- 8 Geoffrey Basore
- 10 Madeleine Liongson
- 11 Zhenya Nalywayko
- 13 Debbie DeBrisco
- 17 Andrew Thompson
- 18 Kathryn Outlaw
- 20 Carol Townsend Ross
- 21 Fred Stunkel
- 23 Edward Chirongo
- 24 Sharon Menking
- 24 Cynthia Wicker Williams
- 26 Naiya Phipps
- 29 David Swerdlick

### JULY

- 3 Debbie Francique
- 3 Gabe Shuford
- 3 Lindsey Penn
- 6 Emily Garvey
- 6 Tyler Austin
- 7 Sharon Purdy
- 8 Greg Chann
- 11 Shelley Case
- 12 Peggy Halleck
- 13 Meridith Bauer Hardisty
- 15 Elyce Brown
- 15 Claudia Moses
- 15 Sean Rogers
- 16 Joyce Gordon
- 17 Clemon Williams
- 17 Rafael Silva Terry
- 18 Osby McMillan
- 19 James Barnum
- 21 Benjamin Hewitt
- 24 Sarah Shattuck
- 25 Christopher Mayfield
- 26 Alice Graseck
- 26 Douglas McArthur
- 26 Lorna Pausig
- 28 Barbara Slutz
- 29 Heidi Anderson
- 30 Cecily Christian
- 31 Fiona Lavelle
- 31 Lillian Cho

### AUGUST

- 1 Michael Brito
- 2 Lily Carroll
- 2 Christina Chann
- 6 Shayna Colon
- 6 Zoe Kennedy
- 7 Kaiyra Greer
- 8 Daniel Mac Dougall
- 8 Sabine Sawyer
- 9 Carole Hall
- 9 Sylvia Stunkel
- 9 Mark Hanny
- 12 Viola Wright
- 13 Ryan Reed
- 14 Stephanie Wilson
- 14 Gail Hanny
- 17 Duane Hill
- 18 Terran Whittingham
- 18 Gavin Steenbock
- 18 Julian Miranda
- 19 Robert Slutz
- 21 Roland Rosati
- 23 Joshua Pantalone
- 24 Michelle Drago
- 24 Jennifer Sileo
- 24 Jonathan Swerdlick
- 24 Gina Rudolph
- 24 Eileen McArthur
- 24 Evelyn Brito
- 24 Vaneese Thomas
- 25 Lee Hill
- 26 Daniel Palmer
- 26 Lillian Lewis
- 28 Alicia Bingham
- 28 Chimelum Okonkwo
- 28 Sarah McLaughlin-Tapper
- 30 Sandy Abreu
- 31 Faith Donaldson
- 31 Colvin Rogers

Your celebrations are important to your church. For corrections to be made to the birthday and/or anniversary lists, please contact Eileen Kelly in the church office at [admin@fumcstamford.org](mailto:admin@fumcstamford.org) or by calling 203.324.1323



May 1 Fiona & William Lavelle  
 May 5 Gina & William Rudolph  
 May 5 Dianna & Mark Shattuck  
 May 16 Elyce & Steve Brown  
 May 18 Susan Johnson & Randy Kinder  
 May 20 Cheryl & Mark Nowotarski  
 May 22 Patricia & Michael Reed  
 May 25 Evelyn & Osvaldo Brito  
 May 26 Debbie & Greg Chann  
 May 30 Shelley & Philip Case

June 1 Danielle & Stephen Polizzi  
 June 4 Stephany & John Palmer  
 June 5 Rohini & Luke DeSilva  
 June 8 Eileen & Steven Swerdlick  
 June 8 Sylvia & Fred Stunkel  
 June 9 Joan & Charles Shepher  
 June 17 Clarita & Dan Mac Dougall  
 June 23 Gail & Mark Hanny  
 June 23 Meridith & Brad Hardisty  
 June 23 Marilyn & Steve Johnston  
 June 24 Sheila & Val Liongson  
 June 25 Pat & Paul Bisset  
 June 28 Likeu & Lum Lee

July 1 Cynthia & Clemon Williams  
 July 1 Tara & Michael Wilson  
 July 3 Martine & Alex Flaig  
 July 4 Tammy & Heath Castelino Harte  
 July 14 Debbie & Dean Francique  
 July 14 Julie & Richard Free  
 July 18 Donna & Patrick Tyson  
 July 18 Carol Townsend & Gerald Ross  
 July 29 Mary Ann & David Kennedy

August 1 Yvonne Powell & Osby McMillan  
 August 8 Vanessa & Cyril Carroll  
 August 10 Cindy & Don Richardson  
 August 17 Leola & Robert Rosati  
 August 19 Pam & Joe Drago  
 August 19 Eileen & Doug McArthur  
 August 19 Elfreda & Franklyn Fawundu  
 August 30 Tazula & Bernardo Phipps  
 August 31 Jackqueline Mclean & Walter Markes

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## Proposed Calendar for July-December 2021

### July

- 11<sup>th</sup> - Sunday, Noon - Church Council Meeting on ZOOM - Possible **Special Charge Conference**
- 17<sup>th</sup> - Saturday, 9-11am - Monthly Stamford Stands Against Racism (SSAR) Meeting
- 26<sup>th</sup> - Monday, 7:00pm - United Methodist Women's Meeting on ZOOM

### August - Autumn Quarterly Newsletter distributed Sunday, August 1<sup>st</sup>

- 8<sup>th</sup> - Sunday, Noon - Church Council Meeting on ZOOM
- 15<sup>th</sup> - Final Delivery of Back to School Supplies for Covenant to Care
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- 30<sup>th</sup> - First Day of School in Stamford Public Schools
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### September

- 11<sup>th</sup> - Saturday - Live Music on the Lawn with Food Truck & Mission Fund Raiser
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**Welcome Home Sunday** - Invite your Friends & Neighbors - Special Music
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- 19<sup>th</sup> - Sunday, Noon - Church Council Meeting on ZOOM
- 26<sup>th</sup> - Sunday, Noon - Financial Stewardship Campaign Planning Meeting
- 27<sup>th</sup> - Monday, 7:00pm - United Methodist Women's Meeting on ZOOM

### October *September 15<sup>th</sup>-October 15<sup>th</sup>*, Hispanic-American Heritage Month

- 4<sup>th</sup> - Sunday, World Communion Sunday  
Noon - Mission Planning for Thanksgiving, Christmas, Operation Warm, and e/o/y contributions.
- 16<sup>th</sup> - Saturday, 9-11am - Monthly Stamford Stands Against Racism (SSAR) Meeting
- 17<sup>th</sup> - Sunday, Laity Sunday  
Noon - Church Council Meeting on ZOOM
- 23<sup>rd</sup> - Saturday, 2-4pm - Trunk or Treat

### November - Winter Quarterly Newsletter distributed Sunday, November, 7<sup>th</sup>

- 7<sup>th</sup> - All Saints Sunday - Reading of the Names of the beloved departed. Daylight Saving Time Ends
- 14<sup>th</sup> - Sunday, Noon - Church Council Meeting, or Charge Conference, on ZOOM  
preparation of the Thanksgiving Food Baskets
- 20<sup>th</sup> - Saturday, 9-11am - Monthly Stamford Stands Against Racism (SSAR) Meeting
- 21<sup>st</sup> - Sunday - Fruition of Financial Stewardship Campaign

### December

- 1<sup>st</sup> - Wednesday - Annual World Aids Day Interfaith Worship
- 5<sup>th</sup> - Church Council Meeting on ZOOM
- 11<sup>th</sup> - Saturday, 2-4pm - Nativity Family Fun
- 12<sup>th</sup> - Sunday - **Annual Christmas Musical Celebration**  
Final Delivery Date of Christmas Gifts for Covenant to Care
- 18<sup>th</sup> - Saturday, 9-11am - Monthly Stamford Stands Against Racism (SSAR) Meeting  
2-4pm - Rehearsal for the children's Nativity for Christmas Eve Family Service
- 24<sup>th</sup> - Friday - 5:00pm - Family Christmas Eve Service Featuring Children's Nativity and Candlelight  
10:30pm - Late Christmas Eve Candlelight Service of Lessons & Carols with solo musicians.