

# Cross Road Crier



FIRST UNITED  
METHODIST CHURCH  
Stamford

2021 Autumn Issue  
August-November 2021

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**I am the church – you are the church – we are the church together!  
All who follow Jesus all around the world! Yes, we’re the church together.**

**The church is not a building; the church is not a steeple,  
the church is not a resting place, the church is a people.**

**We’re many kinds of people, with many kinds of faces,  
all colours and all ages, from all kinds of places.**

**And when the people gather, there’s singing and there’s praying,  
there’s crying and there’s laughing, all of it saying:**

**I am the church – you are the church – we are the church together!  
All who follow Jesus all around the world! Yes, we’re the church together.**

Words and Music: Richard K. Avery & Donald S. Marsh  
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A vital part of each and every faith community is the gathering of distinctive people who make up the congregation. The First United Methodist Church of Stamford is no exception. The people who **come together** to REACH + CONNECT + TRANSFORM + GIVE + SERVE God in Christ Jesus at First UMC are the best!

First UMC is distinctive because of our history, because of our beautiful facility and all of it’s constituent parts, because of our legacy of service to our local community and to the New York Annual conference of which we are a part; but by far the most distinctive characteristic of First UMC is the diversity of people who **come together** to form Christ’s body – The United Methodist Church in Stamford, CT.

As YOU step out of the pandemic, and seek to find and establish YOUR “new normal,” PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE, lean in to the tremendous collaboration of hearts and minds that **come together** to make up YOUR church. First United Methodist Church of Stamford has proven to be a SAFE PLACE where loving people **come together** to share their UNITY in the basic belief in God, Jesus Christ, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit as it is manifested in loving our neighbors as we love ourselves. First United Methodist Church continues to define itself by OPENNESS to many forms of DIVERSITY – including but not limited to diversity of opinion and diversity of expression. First UMC is a place for FELLOWSHIP and it is a place for YOU. You will notice that there are expanded opportunities for coming to know one another in the months ahead. **PLEASE COME TOGETHER!**

## Proposed WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Times and events ***IN THE BOLD PRINT*** may not begin until September 19th and thereafter

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

### Sundays

8:15am – A Service of Word and Table in the Chapel

8:30am – Bible Study on ZOOM – coordinates 847 3474 1487

10:30-11:30am – Gathered Worship in Main Sanctuary (outdoors on patio as weather permits)  
Worship will continue to Live Stream on the church website, and Facebook, every week.

NOON – Church Council Meetings August 8, September 12, October 17, and November 14.

5:00-6:00pm – Live Stream of Spanish Worship on August 22, September 19, and October 24.

### Mondays

6:00-7:00pm – Regular Weekly Youth Fellowship meetings begin Monday, September 20th.

### 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

6:30-7:15pm – Weekly VISION TEAM meetings begin Tuesday, September 21st.

7:30-9:00pm – Weekly Chancel Choir Rehearsal

### Wednesdays

10:00-11:00am – Mid Week Upper Room Bible Study and Prayer Meeting with Pastor Hewitt.

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

Topic: A Celebration of Discipline, by Richard J. Foster

The Classic Introduction to Christian Spirituality – Starts September 22nd, 2021

### Thursdays

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

### Fridays

6:30-8:30pm – First Friday Fellowship in McArthur Hall begins Friday, October 1st, 2021.

### Saturdays

5:00-6:00pm – Celebration Sanctuary - Informal & Contemporary Service of Word & Table

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

## Celebrations of Holy Communion

Communion is still celebrated on the first Sunday of every month

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

Holy Communion will be served weekly at the 8:15am Chapel Service beginning September 19.

## Spanish Language Worship Service

August 22, September 19, & October 24

Live Stream at 5:00pm

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.

**Autumn Seasonal Worship Calendar**  
**Worships themes for Services August 1st-November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

**Late Summer Theme: A Study of the Book of Ephesians**

July 11<sup>th</sup> – Ephesians 1 – *An Introduction to 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 Height and Depth, and Width and Breadth of God's Love*

August 1<sup>st</sup> – Ephesians 4.1-16 – *Simple Sustenance – The 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*

**September Theme: 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 – The Beginning of Wisdom

September 12<sup>th</sup> – Proverbs 11-20, Matthew 7.3-5 – Removing the Log from Our Own Eye

September 19<sup>th</sup> – Proverbs 21-31 – A Concert of Love and Light

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 Theme: The Five Practices of Fruitful Christianity**

*Based on Bishop Robert Schnase's book of the same title available in the church office*

October 3<sup>rd</sup> – WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY – *Radical Hospitality*

October 10<sup>th</sup> – *Passionate Worship*

October 17<sup>th</sup> – *Intentional Faith Development*

October 24<sup>th</sup> – *Extravagant Generosity*

October 31<sup>st</sup> – *Risk Taking Mission and Service (SCARY STUFF for Halloween!)*

**November Theme: Our Own Custom Made 30 Days of Gratitude Challenge!**

*From August through October, Pastor Hewitt will be collecting ideas for a 30 day challenge. Please call Pastor Hewitt at 203-914-7886 to share YOUR idea. A guidebook will be published and emailed or handed out from Sunday, October 24<sup>th</sup>-Sunday October 31<sup>st</sup>. Beginning Monday, November 1<sup>st</sup>, all willing participants will simultaneously, but individually, work out the challenge in their own distinctive ways using the published "Guide" as their facilitator. Part of our celebration of the Second Sunday of Advent, on Sunday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, will include testimony about one, or more, persons' experience of the 30 day challenge.*

November 7<sup>th</sup> – ALL SAINTS DAY Service of Communion, Remembrance & Celebration

November 14<sup>th</sup> – Organ and Tissue Donor Sunday

November 21<sup>st</sup> – Christ the King Sunday – Thanksgiving Sunday

November 28<sup>th</sup> – The First Sunday of Advent

## Autumn Seasonal Church Program Calendar – August-November, 2021

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

**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 – 5:00pm – A Memorial Service in Remembrance of 9/11

12<sup>th</sup> – Sunday – 10:30am – A Special Service of Holy Communion in Remembrance of 9/11

15<sup>th</sup> – Wednesday – Hispanic-American Heritage Month Celebrations Begin!

### A Celebration Weekend – Theme: Concerts of Love and Light

18<sup>th</sup> – Saturday, 9-11am – Monthly Stamford Stands Against Racism (SSAR) Meeting

6:00pm – Live Music on the Lawn – A Concert of Love and Light

Concerts of Love and Light – Invite your Friends & Neighbors – Special Music

19<sup>th</sup> – Sunday Worship Theme – A Concert of Love and Light

Sunday School begins gathering and meets simultaneously with 10:30am worship

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

1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> – Friday-Sunday – IGNITE 2021 – Wildwood Convention Center, NJ

**A Weekend for YOUTH – [ignitenj.org](http://ignitenj.org)**

**1st – 6:30-8:30pm – First Friday Fellowship Pig Roast and Live Music Church Family Celebration!**

3<sup>rd</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

22<sup>nd</sup> – Pastor Hewitt and Anthony Parenti away on Spiritual Retreat

23<sup>rd</sup> – Saturday, 2-4pm – Trunk or Treat

**November** – Winter Quarterly Newsletter distributed Sunday, November, 7<sup>th</sup>

**5th – 6:30-8:30pm – First Friday Fellowship Harvest Supper and Church Family Celebration!**

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

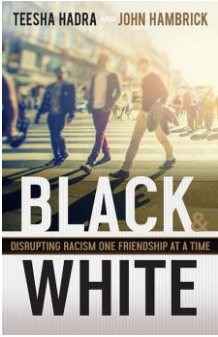
20<sup>th</sup> – Saturday, 9-11am – Monthly Stamford Stands Against Racism (SSAR) Meeting

# Recommended Reading for Autumn

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 8:15am, Men's Fellowship Tuesdays at 7:00am, Open Fellowship Wednesdays at 10:00am, or 7:00pm or on other upcoming occasions to be announced.

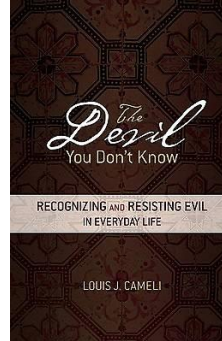
*Come be transformed by God's Word, safe small group fellowship, and mutual accountability.*



## Black and White

Disrupting Racism One Friendship at a Time

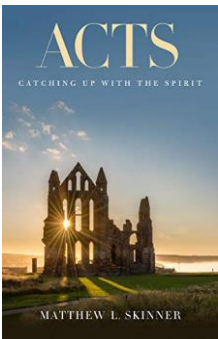
Most of us don't need to make speeches. We need to make friends. This is the core message of *Black and White* by authors Teesha Hadra, a young African American woman, and John Hambrick, a 60-year-old white man. **REQUIRED READING FOR ALL**



## The Devil You Don't Know

Recognizing and Resisting Evil

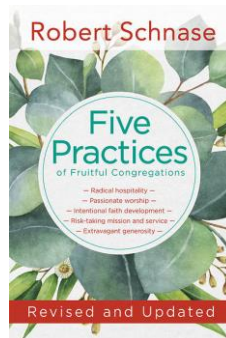
A book by Father Louis Cameli and a study on the theme of evil in our everyday lives.



## ACTS

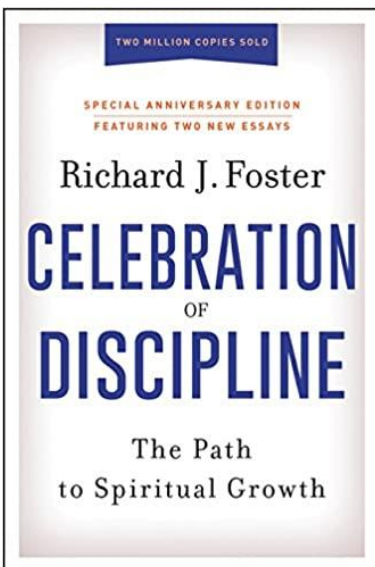
### Catching Up With the Spirit

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."



## FEATURED STUDY FOR AUTUMN 2021

### CELEBRATION OF DISCIPLINE

#### *The Path to Spiritual Growth*

Hailed by many as the best modern book on Christian spirituality, *Celebration of Discipline* explores the "classic Disciplines," or central spiritual practices, of the Christian faith. Along the way, Foster shows that it is only by and through these practices that the true path to spiritual growth can be found.

Dividing the Disciplines into three movements of the Spirit, Foster shows how each of these areas contribute to a balanced spiritual life. The inward Disciplines of meditation, prayer, fasting, and study offer avenues of personal examination and change. The outward Disciplines of simplicity, solitude, submission, and service help prepare us to make the world a better place. The corporate Disciplines of confession, worship, guidance, and celebration bring us nearer to one another and to God.

## Small Group will meet

### Wednesday nights on ZOOM

*starts September 22, 7:00-8:30pm, 203 914 7886*

## AUGUST

1 Michael Brito  
2 Lily Carroll  
2 Christina Chann  
6 Shayna Colon  
6 Zoe Kennedy  
7 Kaiyra Greer  
8 Daniel Mac Dougall  
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 Gavin Steenbock  
18 Terran Whittingham  
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



## SEPTEMBER

1 John DeSouza  
1 Steve Brown  
5 Clifford Wells  
5 Valeria Wells  
7 Justin Kern  
8 Julie Free  
8 Julia Brown  
8 Dana Hill  
9 Sao Koroma  
10 Hayden Miranda  
12 Benjamin Liongson  
12 Nolan Fischer  
14 Matthew Mayfield  
15 Vanessa Carroll  
17 Rohini DeSilva  
17 Colin Skidmore  
17 Pam Drago  
18 Kevin McAdoo  
19 Charles Shepherd  
19 Twanda Bowers  
19 Frankida Fawunda  
21 Mattia Anderson  
22 Teresa Hatfield  
23 John Wachira  
25 Kimberly Nevers  
25 Warren Hayes  
26 John Carroll  
26 Kendra Welch  
26 Tammy Castelino  
26 Eli Shattuck  
28 Bill Rudolph  
30 Douglas Penn



## OCTOBER

6 Patricia Reed  
6 Corinn Williams  
7 Brad Hardisty  
9 Brandon Hardisty  
10 Laura Carroll  
10 Lauren Hanny  
11 Clarita Mac Dougall  
11 Brianna Hardisty  
14 Cameron Williams  
14 John Sileo  
15 Amy Steenbock  
16 Marsha Jerritts  
16 Maura Miranda  
17 Paul Welch  
21 Robert Sheck  
24 Larry McAdoo  
25 Eli McArthur  
27 Claire Anderson  
28 Drew Francique  
28 Griffin Cho  
30 Colin Joffrion  
30 Judith Hurwich  
30 Bridgette Jean-Jacques

## NOVEMBER

2 Julio Marin  
2 Lee Mayfield  
3 Julia Steenbock  
3 Jennifer Belton  
3 Karen Eiler  
4 Paul Whittingham  
9 Leola Cheney-Rosati  
11 Allison Garvey  
14 Stephanie Romano  
14 Barbara Jones  
15 Marge Skidmore  
16 Richard Coffey  
18 Meade Love Thomas  
18 Eileen Kelly  
20 Jill Jacobs  
21 Rachel Point DuJour  
22 Martha Sage Nowotarski  
25 Cheryl Lechok  
29 Patricia Rattray  
30 John Stoddard

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

# Happy Anniversary

August 1, Yvonne Powell & Osby McMillan  
August 1, Dianna & Mark Shattuck  
August 8, Vanessa & Cyril Carroll  
August 10, Cynthia & 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

September 1, Antonia & Carlton Thompson  
September 6, Bonnie & Brien Adams  
September 7, Eileen & Steven Swerdlick  
September 9, Lisa & Spencer Rankin  
September 19, Ann & Warren Hayes  
September 22, Valeria & Clifford Wells

October 5, Tara & Michael Wilson  
October 5, Viola & Russell Wright  
October 6, Elizabeth & Randall Outlaw  
October 10, Jennifer & John Sileo  
October 11, Lillian & George Lewis  
October 13, Elsie & James Ferraro  
October 16, Diana & Chris Boynton  
October 24, Vicki & Nolan Fischer  
October 27, Lisa & Ray Flaig

November 5, Debra & Edwin Cho

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6:00pm – **Live Music on the Lawn – A Concert of Love and Light**

Concerts of Love and Light – Invite your Friends & Neighbors – Special Music

19<sup>th</sup> – Sunday Worship Theme – **A Concert of Love and Light**

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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

### 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.