

## In Our Prayers

Gladys Wells\*\* Doug Jameson (friend of Bob Blakeslee)\*\*Carolyn Keehan (in Hospice)\*\*Bob Kaden (having neck surgery)\*\*Lucille Blakeslee (recovering from a stroke)Those mourning the death of Fran Rice\*\* Pastor Rich (cancer)\*\*Andrew (brain cancer)\*\* Friends of Cynthia Bruestche\*\* Keith Charron (kidney failure)\*\*Micheline Zumbo, (friend of the Berlepschs)\*\*Fred Merrow (Dawn Charron's brother-in-law)\*\*Michael May, recovering from a hit and run\*\*Healing for Justin Weekes, son of Sandy Weekes\*\*Butch Ziacks (dear friend of Bob Blakeslee)\*\*Those impacted by nature's fury\*\*Joseph Tavares (cousin of Pam Tavare Savanelli)\*\* Tina Caldwell\*\* Kim Baldwin (Lori Folk-Barron's friend)\*\*Diane Geiss\*\*Sally Coleman\*\* Amanda Otfinoski, victim of a hit and run\*\* Megan Perkowski \*\*Cousin Jean Farrell and Aunt Joyce Gorsky (the McKenna Family) \*\*A Friend Diagnosed with Pancreatic Cancer\*\* Mark and Lynn Bailey (friends of John and Sherry Perkowski)\*\* Tim Keogh\*\* Charmaine Craggs\*\* Ashley Sibley (Bernie and Tony's great-niece)\*\*Tom Jastermsky\*\* Connie Ferrara (Sue Keogh's mom)\*\* Gabe and Jude Heidenis (Bernie and Tony's grandsons)\*\*Jack Grotti (friend of Sally Coleman)\*\* Wendy Riddle, sister of Sandy Weekes \*\* Cathy Kovi\*\* Holly Arce (Daughter-in-law of Manuel Arce and Deborah Sinon)\*\* Sandy McCume\*\* Betsy-Sue Eisenman\*\*Anne Stevens (Ken's mother)\*\*Janice Frey\*\*David Lick\*\* Beverly Lastig\*\* Those around the world who live in areas of conflict and war.



The First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ

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To make a gift to First Church



**At the First Congregational Church, UCC of Wallingford, CT, we have discerned the following vision and mission for our faith lives together:**

### Vision

**Our faith – rooted in the compassion and teachings of Jesus Christ – is the foundation of our love for one another and service to the world around us.**

We offer a home for those seeking deeper meaning or purpose in their lives through the exploration of Jesus Christ's teachings. The love and compassion found in those teachings commit us to up lift each individual and celebrate our shared humanity.

### Mission

**We will foster spiritual growth, loving communication, and mutual care, thereby empowering us to confront issues that impact our community and the world, including poverty, isolation, and exclusion.**

We commit to developing a nurturing environment where all are loved, valued, and inspired to meaningful participation in the life of the church. Through our Christian faith, compassion, and service, we will dedicate ourselves to making a positive impact on the lives of people in our community and beyond.

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# First Congregational Church Wallingford, CT



**April 28, 2024**

**Fifth Sunday of Easter**

**April 28, 2024**  
**ORDER OF WORSHIP**

+ Please rise in body or in spirit

PRELUDE *Music for a Musical Clock* G.F.  
Handel

WELCOME

CENTERING MUSIC *This is My Father's World*  
Joel Rainey

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.

**P: Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.**

L: And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

**P: Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.**

L: Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.

**P: And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.**

+HYMN From All That Dwell Blow the Skies

NCH # 27

CALL TO PRAYER

PRAYER OF REFLECTION

God of compassion and mercy, you sent us your Son as the savior of the world, and told us to love one another as much as you loved us. Yet, we struggle to love each other. We have a hard time loving those who are not like us, who disagree with us, or who ask us to face the truths about ourselves. You told us to love one another, because love is from God. And we often do not love those we think are dirty, hungry, lost, or undesirable. It is written that perfect love casts out fear, and yet we are afraid. Afraid for our safety, our wallets, and how others perceive us. Forgive us, God, and show us how to love thy way you command us to love. Release us from our judgment and our fear. Open our hearts so that they might receive your perfect love for us, and offer it to the world.

MOMENT OF QUIET PRAYER

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

TIME WITH THE YOUNG PEOPLE

LESSON FROM SCRIPTURE John 15:1-8

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

*Millie Kabel, Gina Phillips, and Jackie Wadelin*

CHORAL RESPONSE *Welcome to the Family* Debby

Kerner

ANTHEM *Let All Things Now Living*

Handbell Choir

ASH GROVE, Trad. English Melody/ arr. Bob Burroughs

MESSAGE

CALL TO PRAYER Sweet Hour of Prayer

NCH # 505

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

CALL TO GENEROSITY

OFFERTORY *Go Into the World*

Natalie Sleeth

Chancel Choir

+DOXOLOGY

melody NCH #780

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God all creatures here below;  
Praise God for all that love has done;  
Creator, Christ, and Spirit One.

+PRAYER OF DEDICATION

+HYMN Thank You God for Sisters, Brothers NCH  
#397

+COMMISSION AND BLESSING

RESPONSE *Bind Us Together* Bill  
Gillman

POSTLUDE *Toccata in A Minor* Jan  
Sweelinck

**Announcements**

**Welcome to the First Congregational Church of Wallingford!** If you are visiting with us this morning, we extend a special welcome and greeting to you. First Church is a part of the United Church of Christ. No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!

**The flowers** on the altar are given in honor of our new members, Welcome!

**Serving the church today:** Tony and Bernie Annunziata, Ann Gygax, Russ Hinckley, Ushers. Ken Minkema, Liturgist and Steward. Lori Folk-Barron and Greg Whitehouse, Liturgists. Rick Voelker, Chimes.

**It is a joy to receive new members this morning!**

Millie Kabel, Gina Phillips, and Jackie Wadelin.

Give yourself the gift of a fantastic **Renewal Weekend** with Footsteps in the Sand. Info: [footsteps-sand.org](http://footsteps-sand.org) or Bob and Lorraine Westervelt. Women's Weekend May 31-June 2, 2024. Men's Weekend June 7-9, 2024.

Rev. Dr. Meredith Jeffers, Interim Pastor

Dr. Jeanette Gross, Minister of Music

Ms. Maureen Czentnar, Office Manager

Mr. Tony Annunziata, Sexton

Ms. Kayla Perkowski, Acting Coordinator of Sunday  
School and Youth