

## In Our Prayers

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)\*\* Bob Blakeslee, recovering from surgery \*\*Those impacted by nature's fury\*\*Joseph Tavares (cousin of Pam Tavares Savanelli)\*\*Deborah Masella (new cancer diagnosis\*\* 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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Church Office Hours: Tues. - Fri. - 9:00am - 2:00pm

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Website: [www.firstchurchwallingford.org](http://www.firstchurchwallingford.org)



## 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



Prayer 2024 Angu Walters Cameroon

## April 7, 2024

## First Sunday After Easter

**April 7, 2024**  
**ORDER OF WORSHIP**

+ Please rise in body or in spirit

PRELUDE *South African Trilogy* setting: Daryl Hollingert

WELCOME

CENTERING MUSIC *Let Us Break Bread Together*  
Trad. Spiritual/ arr. John Carter

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: This is the good news which we proclaim to you.  
P: Jesus Christ is raised from the dead!  
L: Walk in the light of his love.  
P: Live in the light of his teachings and healing mercies.  
L: Come, let us worship the One Who overcame death.  
P: Let us celebrate the triumph of our Lord.  
AMEN.

+HYMN *Siyahamb' ekukhanyen'kwenkhos'*  
NCH #526

CALL TO PRAYER

PRAYER OF REFLECTION

Patient Lord, you wait for us to understand. You wait for us to remove the blinders of prejudice, fear, unbelief, confusion. You have offered to us the greatest miracle of all time, the resurrection of Your Son Jesus Christ. We sang and celebrated last Sunday, but a week has passed and we have slid back into our old ways of perceiving your presence and love. Shake us up, Lord! Shake us up and cause us to look with new eyes on our Savior, who came that we might have life, abundantly serving all who are in need. Forgive our

stubbornness and our complacency. Reach out to us so that we may reach out with healing love to others, for we pray this in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

MOMENT OF QUIET PRAYER

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

ANTHEM *Yesu Kwetu Ni Rafiki*  
Mark Burrows

LESSON FROM SCRIPTURE

MESSAGE

Michele Tarantino

+HYMN *Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love*  
NCH #498

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 *The Commission*  
Cain  
Sarah Mather, solo

+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

THE COMMUNION

*This is the Table of the Lord and all who wish to receive here are welcome! You will receive the bread and then the juice. Please hold each as you receive them so that we might partake together. For those preferring gluten-free, we have rice cakes. For those who do not wish grape juice, we have water.*

+HYMN *What a Friend We Have in Jesus* NCH #506

+COMMISSION AND BLESSING

RESPONSE *God is So Good*  
Trad.

POSTLUDE *Jubilation Didn't My Lord Deliver Daniel?*  
Carleton Innis

**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 Chris Westervelt's 25<sup>th</sup> birthday by Bob, Lorraine, and Katie Westervelt.

**Serving the church today:** (8:00) Charmaine Craggs and Sarah Mather. Bob Blakeslee, Bob Westervelt, John Lenox, Bill Zemina: Bernie Annunziata, Chimes. Kathy Filkins, Lori Fast-Minkema, and Louise Zemina, Sacramental Ministers.

We welcome **Michele Tarantino** to the Pulpit this morning!

We look forward to **Welcoming New Members** into the life of the church on April 28. Two one-hour classes will be held to prepare for membership. If you would like to learn more to prepare for membership, speak to or email Pastor Meredith at [pastormeredith@firstchurchwlfld.org](mailto:pastormeredith@firstchurchwlfld.org)

In preparation for the new Settled Pastor, we are updating our **Directory**. Please have your photo taken if you haven't already.

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