

## In Our Prayers

Gladys Wells, (David Well's mother)\*\*Fred Merrow (Dawn Charron's brother-in-law)\*\*Michael May, recovering from a hit and run\*\*Lisa Wigforss (Helen Hartel's daughter)\*\*Steve Knight, recovering from surgery\*\*Healing for Justin Weekes, son of Sandy Weekes\*\*Butch Ziacks (dear friend of Bob Blakeslee)\*\* Bob Blakeslee, recovering from surgery\*\*Jill as she begins a new medical trial\*\*Those impacted by nature's fury\*\*Joseph Tavares (cousin of Pam Tavare Savanelli)\*\*Deborah Masella (new cancer diagnosis)\*\*Family and friends of Claire Fowler\*\* Tina Caldwell\*\*Paul and Melissa Masi and friends mourning the loss of Hayden Steinhilper\*\*Kim Baldwin (Lori Folk-Barron's friend)\*\*Diane Geiss\*\* Shirley Breedlove (Tina Caldwell's mom)\*\*Sally Coleman\*\* Amanda Otfinoski, victim of a hit and run\*\* Megan Perkowski \*\*Alexander Karacsonyi \*\*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 Manuael 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



## First Sunday of Lent

### February 18, 2024

# FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

February 18, 2024

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

+ Please rise in body or in spirit

PRELUDE *Steal Away Op. 59, No.23* Samuel Coleridge-Taylor  
*Nobody Knows the Trouble I've Seen* Harry T. Burleigh

WELCOME

CENTERING MUSIC *Steal Away* arr. Marianne Kim

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: John baptized Jesus in the waters of the Jordan.

**P: God said: You are my Son, the Beloved.**

**With you I am well pleased.**

L: We are washed by the waters of our baptism.

**P: God says: You are my beloved children.**

**With you I am well pleased.**

L: We gather as God's beloved children  
to worship and to serve.

**P: Let us tell the good news of God's love!**

+HYMN *Crashing Waters at Creation* NCH #326

CALL TO REFLECTION

PRAYER OF REFLECTION

Loving, Creating God, you are in covenant with your people. You have pledged to be our God and ask us to be your people, trusting in you in all our ways. But we find many excuses to prevent us from really trusting you. Our time, obligations, energy, all become part of the bricks and mortar which fashion this barrier. We can give lip service to the journey; we can daydream about what it would be like to truly place our hands in yours and follow you. But when it comes to actually making the journey, our time constraints and weak commitments loom largely before us. Help us to tear down this barrier. Make us ready for the journey by replacing the fear in our hearts with a sense of joy and challenge of self-discovery and discipleship. Remind us that in service to you, helping others, we will also find our selves made more fully whole. As we have spoken the names of our friends, and family members, and others situations in which healing and comfort are needed, let

us remember that we, too, stand in need of prayer and healing. Make us ready to receive your good news and then to be witnesses to your love to all your people. AMEN.

MOMENT OF QUIET PRAYER

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN Sharing a Blessing

LESSON FROM THE CHRISTIAN SCRIPTURE Mark:1:9-15

ANTHEM *Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley*  
arr. Valerie Stephensen / Handbell Choir

THE BAPTISM OF MADISON LEE ASTORINO

LESSON FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE Gensis 9:8-17

THE MESSAGE Searching for Rainbows

HYMN *De Colores (Sing of Colors)* NCH # 402

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.**

INVITATION TO GIVE

OFFERTORY *I Want Jesus to Walk with Me* arr. Hal Hopson

+DOXOLOGY

+PRAYER OF DEDICATION

+HYMN *In the Midst of New Dimensions* (vss. 1,3,4,5)  
NCH #391

COMMISSION AND BLESSING

RESPONSE *Dona nobis pacem*

POSTLUDE *Down by the Riverside* arr. Marianne Kim

## 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 memory of my husband, Arthur Mansfield by Cynthia Mansfield.

**Serving the church today:** 8:00 Charmaine Craggs and Louise Zemina. 10:00 Tony Annunziata, Heidi Bonassar, and Bill Zemina Ushers; Debbie Clark, Chimes.

It is a joy to welcome the newest member of Christ's church, **Madison Lee Astorino**, daughter of Lindsey and Jacob Astorino. as she receives the **Sacrament of Baptism** this morning.

Our beloved church member, **Michael May**, continues to recover from the injuries he sustained in a hit and run accident January 24. The generosity of church members and friends allowed our Co-Moderators, Lori Folk-Barron and Greg Whitehouse to deliver Mike a special Valentine of \$4500 to aid in his recovery. Thank you one and all!

Next Sunday, February 25, will be a special opportunity to learn from our young people as they offer the **Youth Musical "Called"** by Mark Burroughs. Come, bring a friend, and a pocketful of change!

A new fund raiser is planned for Lent! **Homemade Peanut Butter and Coconut Easter Eggs** will be created and sold to benefit the ministries of the church! To volunteer to help with this fun and delicious project, speak to Pastor Meredith. We will need candy makers, wrappers, sales, publicity, supply procurement, and planners....

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)

Rev. Dr. Meredith Jeffers, Interim Pastor  
Dr. Jeanette Gross, Minister of Music  
Ms. Maureen Czentnar, Office Manager  
Mr. Tony Annunziata, Sexton  
Ms. Kayla Perkowski, Faith Formation Coordinator