

In Our Prayers

Micheline Zumbo, (friend of the Berlepschs)**Kristian Charron's friend's mom who is undergoing surgery**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 **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** 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 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

23 South Main Street, Wallingford, CT 06492

Church telephone: (203) 265-1691

Church Office Hours: Tues.– Fri. - 9:00am – 2:00pm

Email: officemanager@firstchurchwlfld.org (office)

pastormeredith@firstchurchwlfld.org (pastor)

gross7jeanette1@gmail.com (Minister of Music)

Website: 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



Second Sunday of Lent February 25, 2024

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

February 11, 2024

ORDER OF WORSHIP

+ Please rise in body or in spirit

PRELUDE *Medley from CALLED, the Musical* Mark Burrows

WELCOME

CENTERING MUSIC *I Hold You In My Heart* Mark Burrows

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: On your feet now - applaud God!

P: Bring a gift of laughter, sing yourselves into his presence.

L: Know this: God is God. God made us; we didn't make God.

P: We're God's people, God's well-tended sheep.

L: Enter with the password: "Thank you!"

P: Let's make ourselves at home, talking praise.

L: Thank God. Worship God.

P: For God is sheer beauty, all-generous in love, loyal always and ever.

L: Let us worship God with joy!

HYMN *Guide My Feet* NCH # 497

CALL TO REFLECTION

PRAYER OF REFLECTION

Kind and loving God, we are thankful for the many ways you let us know you are there. We are thankful for the sunshine, for the many ways water nourishes the earth, for time with our family and friends, and for time at church where we can learn about you and how to love and serve you with all our hearts. On those days when we get distracted by more fun and interesting things, forgive us. On other days when we want to be selfish with our time, talents, and money, help us to turn around and put you and your priorities first. We know you call each one of us to something that will make the world a better place. When we hold back our gifts, help us to unclench

our hands and hearts so that we might serve you freely and with joy. Amen.

MOMENT OF QUIET PRAYER

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST Da Ku O Nah

HYMN *What a Friend We Have in Jesus* NCH# 506
(vs. 1 & 2)

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.**

LESSONS FROM THE SCRIPTURE

Jeremiah 1:4-8 Ephesians 4:1-3

A MESSAGE FROM OUR YOUTH

"CALLED" by Mark Burrows

+HYMN *Called As Partners in Christ's Service* NCH# 495

COMMISSION AND BLESSING

RESPONSE *I Hold You in My Heart* Mark Burrows

POSTLUDE *Worthy from CALLED* Mark Burrows

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 loving memory of Christopher Benz by Bernie and Tony Annunziata.

Serving the church today: Bob Blakeslee, John Lenox, Bob Westervelt, Bill Zemina, Ushers; Rick Voelker, Chimes.

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

Change collected during "Called" will be donated to the Wallingford Animal Shelter. Please give generously. Your weekly offering may be placed in the offering plate or given to an usher as you leave the sanctuary this morning.

In preparation for the new Settled Pastor, we are updating our **Directory**. Please fill out the form in your bulletin, seek one from an usher, or fill out via the QR Code or link that will be found in the Spire.

We will be commissioning our **Sacramental Ministers** on March 10. Sacramental Ministers are a part of the Worship Ministry. Their call is to prepare and serve Communion and to prepare and help with Baptisms. Each of our new Sacramental Ministers is participating in training and conversation. If you are interested in learning more about Sacramental Ministry, please contact, Pastor Meredith at 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