

In Our Prayers

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 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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pastormeredith@firstchurchwlfld.org (pastor)

gross7jeanette1@gmail.com (Minister of Music)

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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 uplift 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



Fifth Sunday After Epiphany

February 4, 2024

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

February 4, 2024

ORDER OF WORSHIP

+ Please rise in body or in spirit

PRELUDE *I Call to You, Lord Jesus Christ* J.S. Bach
O Man, Beware Your Greivous Fall J.S. Bach
Fantasy: *"The Lord Will Come and Not Be Slow"* Brenda Portman

WELCOME

CENTERING MUSIC *Epiphany* Garth Edmundson

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Come, rejoice and sing! God's love is showered over you this day.

P: We gather to praise God and celebrate God's presence with us.

L: God shows compassion to all who are weak and downtrodden.

P: Jesus Christ offers healing mercies to our troubled souls.

L: Praise be to God who has called us here.

P: Thanks be to God for God's eternal love. AMEN.

+HYMN *God of the Ages, Who With Sure Command* NCH #592

CALL TO REFLECTION

PRAYER OF REFLECTION

How can we look at this world and not sing of your praises, O God? The beauty and majesty of the world is overpowering! Yet we have a tendency to take all that you do for us for granted. We treat the world with callous indifference, using its resources carelessly and with little regard to the future. We insist on war as solutions for problems rather than peaceful striving. We turn our backs on people in need, the weak and downtrodden go unnoticed in our midst. We always believe that someone else will care for those in need. How foolish we are, O God! How ignorant we have become! You have given to us all that we need. You have blessed us with the witness of Jesus Christ who came so that we might learn how you

would have us live, in honor and peace. Forgive us. Heal our hearts and spirits. Make us fully aware of all our blessings and our responsibilities. Give us again a spirit of joy in serving you. Help us be agents of peace and hope to others. For we offer this prayer in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

MOMENT OF QUIET PRAYER

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

COMMISSIONING OF THE SETTLED PASTORAL SEARCH TEAM

(see insert)

RESPONSE

**Here I am, Lord. Is it I Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.**

LESSON FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE Isaiah 40:21-31

ANTHEM *Thyself in Me* Craig Courtney

THE MESSAGE Perspective

HYMN *On Eagle's Wings* (insert)

PRAYER 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 *God's Gonna Set This World on Fire*
arr. Moses Hogan and Edwin Hogan

+DOXOLOGY Refrain from Angels We Have Heard on High

Gloria! In Excelsis Deo!

+PRAYER OF DEDICATION

THE COMMUNION

+HYMN *We Are Marching In the Light of God* NCH #526
Marching, Singing, Praying, Dancing

COMMISSION AND BLESSING

RESPONSE Refrain of *On Eagle's Wings*

POSTLUDE *Finale jubilante* Brenda Portman

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 for Andrew on his 30th birthday. Since the day you were born 30 years ago, you've been spectacularly special. Enjoy your day! Love, Mom (Heidi Bonassar) and Emma.

Serving the church today: Charmaine Craggs and Louise Zemina (8:00) Tony Annunziata, Ann Gygax, Russ Hinkley, Bernie Annunziata, Ushers; Marjie Martin, Holly Francke, Lori Fast-Minkema, Ken Minkema, Sacramental Ministers; Lori Folk Barron and Greg Whithouse, Liturgists; Debbie Clark, 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....

Did you know Ash Wednesday falls on Valentine's Day this year? We have the opportunity to combine the two observances as we share a **Love Feast, Worship and receive the traditional Anointing with Oil**. The Feast will begin at 6:30 and will include a light supper as we celebrate the Agape Meal. Reservations are requested. If you would be a part of the team to help set-up, cook, or serve this simple Agape meal, please speak to Pastor Meredith for more information.

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@firstchurchwlfed.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

***And He will raise you up on eagles' wings
Bear you on the breath of dawn
Make you to shine like the sun
And hold you in the palm of His hand***

The snare of the fowler will never capture you
And famine will bring you no fear
Under His wings your refuge, His faithfulness your shield

REFRAIN

You need not fear the terror of the night
Nor the arrow that flies by day
Though thousands fall about you, near you it shall not come

REFRAIN

For to His angels He's given a command
To guard you in all of your ways
Upon their hands they will bear you up
Lest you dash your foot against a stone

REFRAIN

And hold you, hold you in the palm of His hand

On Eagle's Wings

By Michael Joncas

You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord
Who abide in His shadow for life
Say to the Lord, "My refuge, my rock in whom I trust!"

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