

In Our Prayers

Those mourning the death of Fran Rice** Pastor Rich (cancer)**Andrew (brain cancer)** Friends of Cynthia Bruestche** Keith Charron (kidney failure)**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 Tavare 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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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.

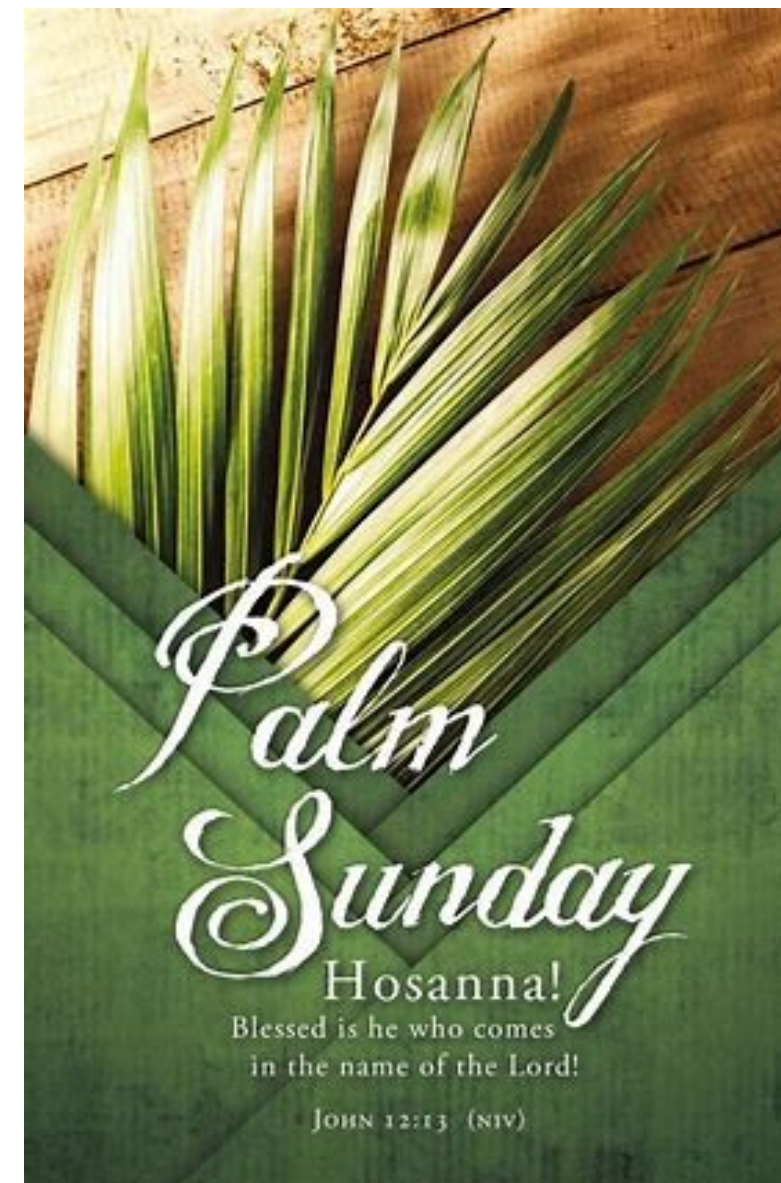
Mission

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



**Palm Sunday
March 24, 2024**

Palm Sunday
March 24, 2024
ORDER OF WORSHIP

+ Please rise in body or in spirit

PRELUDE *Hosanna, Loud Hosanna* Setting by
John Carter

Entrance to Jerusalem

Brenda Portman & Wes Cameron / Handbells and
Chancel Choir

WELCOME

CONGREGATIONAL INTROIT *The Palms*

Jean Faure
Congregation, Children and Chancel Choir

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Cry out, people of faith! Rejoice and praise
God!

All: If we did not sing praise, the very stones
would cry out!

One: Cry out, people of faith, for your Savior
draws near
to Jerusalem.

All: Hosanna! God saves! Blessed is the One
who comes in God's name!

One: Blessed is Jesus Christ, who did not turn
back for fear of the cross. Let us praise the God
who loves us, sharing Christ's sufferings, and facing
with courage out path of faith.

All: Hosanna! God saves! Blessed is the One
who comes in God's name!

+HYMN *All Glory, Laud, and Honor*

NCH #216

CALL TO PRAYER

PRAYER OF REFLECTION

We love parades! We love the excitement, the colors, the noise! Today we celebrate Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. His followers have stripped branches from the trees and wave them in the air. They have thrown their cloaks in the path of the donkey that his steps might be cushioned. And the scene is wonderful. But there is a reality here. The reality is that although we wave our branches and shout "Hosanna!", we have not always behaved as disciples. Too often we have wandered from the path of Christ and stumbled along on our own, believing our way to be superior. We have turned from those who have needed help, because it wasn't convenient for us to be of help of service. We have done and said things that are not worthy of disciples. Yet, here we stand, in the parade route, waving our branches. Forgive us, Lord. Help us to turn our lives around and truly serve you. Help us to really mean "Hosanna! Blessed is the One who comes in the Name of the Lord!" Let Jesus enter our hearts and transform our lives today, for we ask this in his holy name. AMEN.

MOMENT OF QUIET PRAYER

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

LESSON FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE Psalm 118:1-2,
19-29

ANTHEM *Ride on, King Jesus* arr.

Larry Shackley

LESSON FROM CHRISTIAN SCRIPTURE Mark 11:1-11

MESSAGE When Will We Ever Learn?

+HYMN *Lead Us From Death to Life*

NCH #581

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 BLESS OTHERS

OFFERTORY *Who Is He?* Ruth Elaine
Schram

Jen Wood, Clarinet

+DOXOLOGY O How Glorious Full of Wonder (melody)

O how glorious, full of wonder is your name o'er all the earth
God who wrought creation's splendor, bringing suns and stars
to birth!

Rapt in reverence we adore you, marveling at your mystic
ways.

Humbly now we bow before you, lifting up our gifts in praise.

+PRAYER OF DEDICATION

+HYMN *Ride On Ride On in Majesty*
NCH #215

+COMMISSION AND BLESSING

CROSS PROCESSION *Via Dolorosa* Billy Sprague and Niles
Borop

Jessie DePonte, Soloist`

John Perkowski and Lori Folk-Barron, Cross Bearers

POSTLUDE *O Sacred Head, Now Wounded* arr.
Robert Leaf

Jen Wood, clarinet

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 Martha
Gilben Schofield by Marilyn Colandrea.

Serving the church today: Roy Cannon, Louise Zemina, Kathy Filkins, Rick Voelker: Rick Voelker, Chimes.

Pre-ordered Homemade Peanut Butter and Coconut Easter Eggs are available for pickup today in Congregational Hall following worship.

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

In preparation for the new Settled Pastor, we are updating our **Directory**. Please fill out the form in your bulletin, or fill out via the QR Code below. We need this information today! (please)

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