

In Our Prayers

Jeff Clay (progressive throat cancer, Tina Caldwell's brother in law)
Gladys Wells
Doug Jameson (friend of Bob Blakeslee)
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)
Those impacted by nature's fury
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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pastormeredith@firstchurchwlfld.org (pastor)

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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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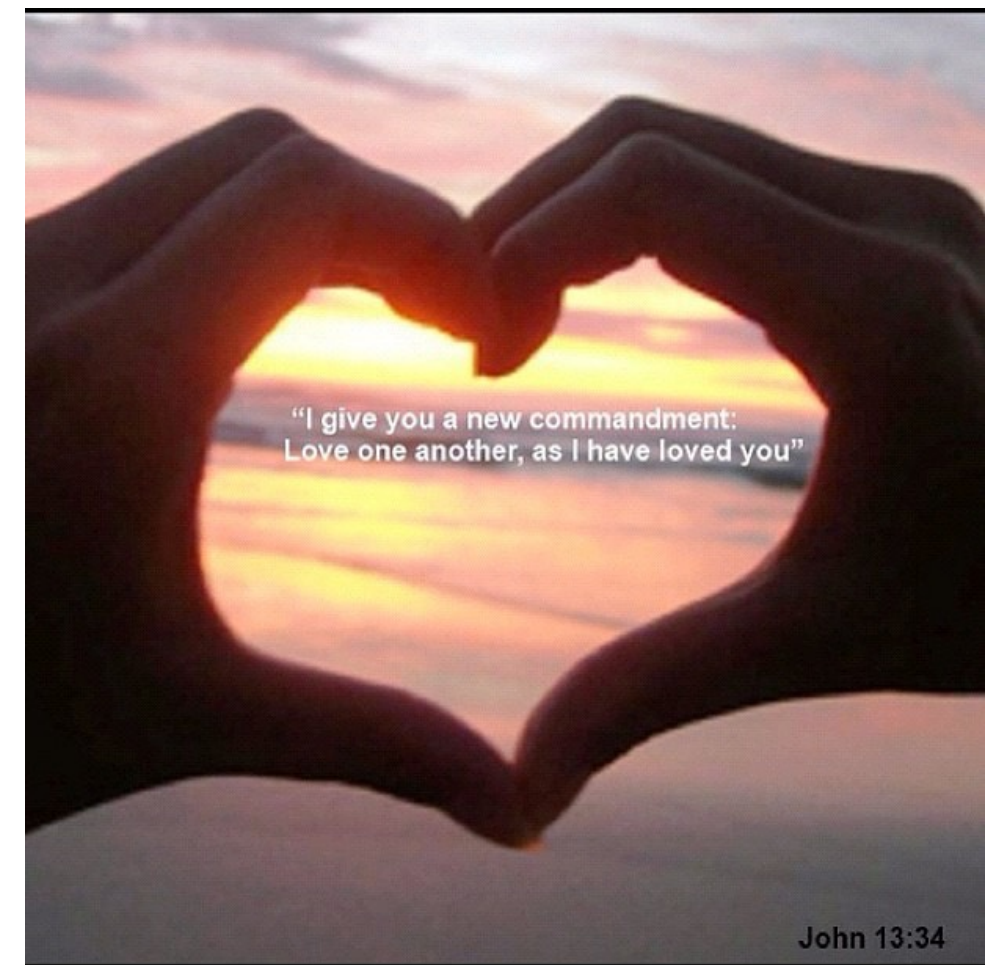
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First Congregational Church Wallingford, CT



May 5, 2024

Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 5, 2024
ORDER OF WORSHIP

+ Please rise in body or in spirit

PRELUDE *Fantasy on "Ubi caritas"*
Brenda Portman, Tune: UBI CARITAS

WELCOME

CENTERING MUSIC *The Summons* KELVINGROVE,
Scottish
Traditional Adapt. John L. Bell/arr. Mark
Hayes

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Sing to the Lord a new song, a song of hope and
rejoicing!

P: Praise God for wonderful acts of mercy and
kindness!

L: God has remembered God's faithful ones.

P: God has poured blessing upon blessing upon us!

L: Praise the Lord, all the earth, shout your praise!

P: Rejoice, for God is truly with us. AMEN.

+HYMN Sing Praise to God, Who Has Shaped

NCH # 22

CALL TO PRAYER

PRAYER OF REFLECTION

There are several ways to look at vines, O Lord. Some of us look at vines as tangled messes of wood and fiber, twisted, battered, hopelessly knotted. Others of us see vines as delightful reminders of the many ways in which we are connected and interwoven to the main trunk of the plant. Jesus proclaimed "I am the true vine." The source of our life stems from Jesus. All that we do or say, the directions in which we go, all reflect our anchor in our true vine. But far too often we have failed "the vine"; we have chosen the gnarled and knotted existence of anger, alienation, and bitterness. We

have twisted the words of caring into words of self-preservation and self-interest. O great vine grower God, prune this bitter direction from our lives. In your forgiving love, heal our tendency to strike out on our own, thinking that we have all the answers. Help us to exhibit new growth and strength of character, that we may faithfully serve you. AMEN.

MOMENT OF QUIET PRAYER

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

LESSON FROM SCRIPTURE John 15:9-17

ANTHEM *How Beautiful* Twila Paris/arr. Craig

Courtney

MESSAGE

CALL TO GENEROSITY

OFFERTORY *For the Beauty of the Earth*
John Rutter

+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

COMMUNION HYMN As We Gather at Your Table NCH #
332

COMMUNION

This is the Table of the Lord and all who wish to receive at this Table are
welcome! You will receive the bread first and then the juice. Please
hold each until all are served so we might partake together.

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.

+HYMN God Speak to Me, That I May Speak NCH
#531

+COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

RESPONSE *Live in Charity*
Jacques Berthier

POSTLUDE *Rondeau* Jean
Joseph Mouret

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 our parents, Buell Hunt and Sandy Doolittle Hunt by Jordan Hunt and Allison Hunt Lehman.

Serving the church today: Roy Canon, Louise Zemina, Kathy Filkins Rick Voelker, Ushers. Ann Gygax, Liturgist. Bob Westervelt, Chimes.

Join us next Sunday, May 12 at 10 AM, to welcome our Area Conference Minister, the Rev. Margret Hofmeister. It is Rev. Hofmeister's job to support Congregations and Pastors in their ministries. She is the Southern New England Conference resource for our Settled Pastor Search Team. Stay for Coffee Hour to greet her!

Next Sunday, on May 12, we will continue to the tradition of collecting funds to purchase **Blankets through Church World Service.** In 2023, 32,785 blankets were shipped to provide comfort and warmth to refugees, the homeless, and survivors of natural disasters in the United States and around the world. \$10 buys a blanket that can save a life! \$60 buys a Blanket Bundle. \$300 buys a case of 30. Be a part of the movement to Blanket the World With Love!

Give yourself the gift of a fantastic **Renewal Weekend** with Footsteps in the Sand. Info: 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